

## Ticino news 2022

### Scudellate transformed into an Albergo Diffuso

At the southern end of Ticino lies the Muggio Valley, and right at the end of that lies Scudellate, a picturesque village located at an altitude of 900 m a.s.l. The small village hamlet in Ticino is opening its doors as an “Albergo Diffuso”, offering a total of 60 beds distributed across four different buildings. The epicentre of the village’s activities is the Osteria Manciana, which acts as both reception and dining room for its guests, and the love for the region becomes clear in the different events organised by the “Albergo Diffuso”: with the help of cooking courses, wine tasting sessions and cultural excursions, the hosts bring together their guests with the cultural and gastronomic specialities of the region. [osteria-manciana.ch](http://osteria-manciana.ch), [ticino.ch/scudellate-ostello](http://ticino.ch/scudellate-ostello), [ticino.ch/scudellate-manciana](http://ticino.ch/scudellate-manciana), [ticino.ch/scudellate](http://ticino.ch/scudellate)



### 75 years of the Locarno Film Festival

At the beginning of August, the Piazza Grande in Locarno will be converted into the “most stunning cinema in the open air”. During the film festival, a whiff of Hollywood blows through the town located at the upper end of Lake Maggiore, and 2022 sees the 75th anniversary of this leading cultural event in Switzerland. As well as famous actors and directors, the event held every year in August also brings together experts from the industry and cinemagoers from all over the world. Hundreds of films are shown every year, with the highlights projected onto one of the world’s largest screens located in the Piazza Grande. The 75th Locarno Film Festival will take place between 03/08 - 13/08/2022. New from 2022: visitors to the region with a Ticino Ticket will receive 20% off day tickets for the festival (except for Fridays/Saturdays) which permits entrance to all showings in halls and on the Piazza Grande on the selected date. [Locarnofestival.ch](http://Locarnofestival.ch)



## Valle Bavona in the Global Vision Awards of Travel & Leisure

The Travel + Leisure [Global Vision Awards](#) aim to identify and honor companies, individuals, destinations, and organizations taking strides to develop more sustainable and responsible travel products, practices, and experiences. Not only are they demonstrating thought leadership and creative problem-solving, they are taking actionable, quantifiable steps to protect communities and environments around the world. What's more, they are inspiring their industry colleagues and travelers to do their part.



**Valle Bavona** In the 1950s, the residents of this valley in the Swiss Alps turned down the opportunity to connect to the country's electrical grid. The reason they gave was straightforward: they wanted to keep things as they were. The result is a stunning glacial landscape that looks much like it did centuries ago. Though living in [Val Bavona](#) can be challenging – the winters are harsh, so residents pass December through March in warmer climes – the community is driven to maintain a simpler, and greener, way of life. Today they rely on solar panels and natural gas to provide some of their energy. Visitors can experience it on a six-mile walk through all 12 of the region's villages, passing pastures dotted with cows, stone houses, and churches that date back to the 16th century. At the head of the valley, a return to modern technology awaits: [San Carlo's cable car](#) links Bavona to Robiei (and the national grid).

## Conca Bella – the first wine hotel in Ticino

The Conca Bella Boutique Hotel & Wine Experience is located right at the heart of the vineyards of the region of Mendrisio and has belonged to the Montereale family for 37 years. The hotel is currently run by mother and son team Ruth and Michele Montereale, and has a wine cellar containing around 4,000 bottles and over 1,000 local and international labels. The pairing of wine with the very best in cuisine (the restaurant currently has 14 Gault&Millau points) has always been key at the Hotel Conca Bella, and is one of the main reasons why the boutique hotel has decided to highlight the world of wine as part of its rebuild. In the 17 newly renovated rooms and common areas, wine is clearly the common theme – and the same is true, of course, for both the wine lounge and wine store. In addition, the hotel enjoys a close working relationship with the leading wineries of the area making it the perfect place for enjoying the very best in wine and food. [www.concabella.ch](http://www.concabella.ch)



## Dancing in harmony with nature

The Innerwalk Project helps visitors discover new hiking routes and places of power in Ticino in a completely new way through practices such as yoga, ecstatic dance, sound design and guided meditation. Innerwalk Project founder Michela Di Savino is a certified Anukalana yoga teacher and ecstatic dance facilitator and she leads participants through some of the most beautiful locations around Lake Maggiore on bookable exclusions. Each visitor then listens to specifically chosen music for each location through headphones and is free to move as he or she wishes in harmony with nature. Food is either a picnic or a meal in a grotto. [www.innerwalkproject.ch](http://www.innerwalkproject.ch)



## A visit to Ticino's very first malthouse

The Masseria Ramello in Cadenazzo looks like a farm from a picture book. This bio-farm has been running for over a century on the Magadino Plain, and is surrounded by barley, wheat, corn and soy fields with Adrian Feitknecht the third generation in his family to run it. Just like his father before him, he runs the farm 100% organically. Since 2021, the old farm building has housed the very first malthouse in Ticino. Together with his childhood friend Manuel Bolliger, Feitknecht got the project up and running and now produces 500 kg organic brewing barley in its futuristic stainless-steel facilities on site per week. As they only produce organic barley, local breweries are able to use it to make fully organic beers and real Ticino whiskey. As a qualified beer sommelier, Manuel Bolliger wants to bring together organic production and promote a real beer culture. The Malteria Ticinese offers beer tasting sessions with 6 different types of beer and introduces visitors to the secrets and flavours of beer from Ticino. The Masseria Ramello is just the place for enjoying rural life, visiting the fields and premises and finding out more about the senses, beer types, brewing techniques and breweries in general. [Malteriaticinese.ch](http://Malteriaticinese.ch), [ticino.ch/malthouse](http://ticino.ch/malthouse)



## The Azienda Bianchi in the Val Mara goes organic

Organic growing and innovative ideas are what make the Azienda Bianchi in the Mara Valley stand out from its competitors. The organic business was started in 1998 by Marcy and Alberto Bianchi, with sons Gabriele and Martino taking over the reins 8 and 7 years ago, respectively. Wine, grappa and honey are some of Bianchi's specialities. But it's one of their grandmother's old recipes that has helped the brothers conquer the local gastro scene: Sambì is the name of the fermented elderflower drink with 4.2% alcohol they produce – a tradition from the Region of Mendrisio that the Bianchis have brought back to life. [ticino.ch/aziendabio](http://ticino.ch/aziendabio)



## Monte Tamaro adventure mountain celebrates its anniversary

Once a skiing area, the Monte Tamaro near Lugano now calls itself an adventure mountain: with its cableway and coaster bob, adventure park, zip line and much much more, fun and adventure are guaranteed for the whole family. For outdoor types, the mountain offers both hiking routes and mountain bike trails. For the more culturally minded, the Santa Maria degli Angeli Church, designed by star architect Mario Botta, is an internationally recognised monument to love. A cultural trail and other cultural events round off what the mountain has to offer. 2022 will see the adventure mountain's 50th anniversary with the intention to be fully energy self-sufficient in the future, fully reflecting its commitment to sustainability. [Montetamaro.ch](http://Montetamaro.ch)



## Sleeping close to nature on the Monte Generoso

Spend the night on the Monte Generoso in an elegant wooden cabin with a glass roof: The "Momò Bellavista" micro-habitat is surrounded by nature at an altitude of 1,202 m a.s.l. and visitors can take in the night sky through the glass roof from the comfort of a double bed nestled on a mezzanine. The huge windows with its views out onto the forest and the glass door offer guests a panoramic view fully immersed in nature. Breakfast is supplied by the nearby Osteria La Peonia, and approx. 20 m away lie the bathrooms, showers and private parking area for guests. [ticino.ch/momo-bellavista](http://ticino.ch/momo-bellavista)



## Starry skies on the Monte Gambarogno

The Monte Gambarogno is a spectacular place to see the sun-kissed eastern shores of Lake Maggiore at dusk. The mountain enjoys a truly privileged location for visitors to take in a romantic sunset over the lake. And the perfect place to do just that is either “Lüf” or “Falchett”, two new StarsBoxes set up for nature-lovers and romantics to enjoy the night sky. Each one has a comfy bed, window and hinged roof to enjoy the shimmering stars once the lights go out. Perched on the peak and with a 360° panorama, they are just 45 minutes by foot from the Alpe di Neggia. [ticino.ch/starsbox](http://ticino.ch/starsbox)



## The Swiss Oberammergau - Holy Week Processions in Mendrisio – UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

Enjoy the historical Easter Processions of Mendrisio – a truly impressive tradition. In 2019, the UNESCO added the Processions to its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. They take place every year on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Onlookers flood from far and wide to see Jesus carrying the cross through the town. The biblical characters taking part in the procession all come from the area, and wear costumes which were acquired from La Scala in Milan. The old town is decorated with so-called “trasparenti” which are made using a specific painting technique which was a decisive element in the UNESCO decision to award the Processions the honour. [www.processionimendrisio.ch](http://www.processionimendrisio.ch), [ticino.ch/processions](http://ticino.ch/processions)



## With the Centovalli Railway into the Valley of a Hundred Valleys

In 1923, the Centovalli Railway steamed from Locarno to Domodossola for the first time. The journey takes just under two hours and takes you over impressive viaducts, past deep gorges and thundering waterfalls, through chestnut forests. On the 52 km long route, the Centovallina (also called “Vigezzina” in Italy) crosses 83 bridges and 34 tunnels. The panorama train not only connects Ticino with Italy, but is also an excursion train and is ideal for short or longer hikes, which can be started at one of the stops. The region around Intragna, where the highest bell tower in Ticino is located, is considered a hiker's paradise. On the way, idyllic villages invite you to visit, combined with lunch in a typical grotto. [www.centovalli.ch](http://www.centovalli.ch)



## Free Travel with the «Ticino Ticket»

With the “Ticino Ticket”, tourists will be able to use all public transport free of charge as well as being granted special rates for various leisure activities during their stay in the southern canton. This offer is for visitors who stay overnight in hotels, youth hostels and on camping sites. You are given the “Ticino Ticket” upon arrival and it is valid until the end of your day of departure. Another plus are the discounts on admission to the most important leisure facilities as well as the mountain railways and shipping companies in Ticino. The Ticino Ticket is also valid for numerous cultural attractions in the region. These include museums, which include the large ones such as the LAC Lugano Arte e Cultura, as well as the small local museums in the valleys. Parks and botanical gardens are also included, as well as attractions in the theatre and music categories. [ticino.ch/ticket](http://ticino.ch/ticket)



# Ticino - Facts & Figures

## Holidays in the South of Switzerland

Ticino is a Swiss Canton with an unusual personality. It is, in fact, the only Canton situated entirely south of the Alps. It is also the only Canton where Italian is the only official language. The variety and quality of the accommodation on offer, the range of products and the quality of its services make Ticino a first-class tourist region.

## History

Up to the 14th century the history of Ticino is interwoven with that of Lombardy, of which it was a part. But from the time at which the first nucleus of Swiss cantons began form and consolidate, possession of the St Gotthard road became indispensable: first as far as Bellinzona, then to Locarno and beyond the Monte Ceneri. Ticino owes its incorporation into the Swiss state to the old Confederation's policy on the St Gotthard, pursued with extraordinary tenacity, considerable sacrifice and bloodshed. Shortly after 1500 Ticino was under the dominion of the sovereign cantons north of the Alps and so it remained until the end of the 18th century when it emerged from the revolutionary Napoleonic period as an independent and free Swiss Canton (1803). Right from the first years of its independence, the Canton of Ticino was greatly aware of the danger of isolation. The Canton made financial sacrifices to open the passes, but it was clear they would remain closed during the long winters. At last, in 1882, the opening of the St Gotthard railway tunnel made it possible to maintain contact with the rest of the country all year round. Economically speaking, Ticino came to life with the railway.

## Population

356363 Inhabitants (4.3% of Switzerland's population)

## Main cities

Lugano	63.583 inhabitants
Bellinzona, capital	43.900 inhabitants

Locarno 15.968 inhabitants

Mendrisio 14.938 inhabitants

## The smallest place

Corippo 12 inhabitants

## Official language

Italian

## Currency

Swiss franc

## Position

The canton of Ticino has roughly the shape of an upsidedown triangle with its base facing north and vacking ono the Alps whilst the southern tip extends into Italy to a point about 50 kilometres from Milan. The triangle is 100km long as the crow flies with a surface area of 2,800 km<sup>2</sup> 7% of the Swiss territory.

**Highest point** Peak Adula 3.402 m

**Lowest point** Brissago Island on Lake Maggiore 193 m (At the same time the deepest point of Switzerland)

**Highest Village** of Ticino is the Walsdorf Bosco Gurin, a German language island in the Italian-speaking Ticino.

**The southernmost point of Switzerland:** Pedrinatte village, belonging to Chiasso than is located at the border with Italy, is the Switzerland point southernmost.

## Climate

The territory of Canton Ticino is equidistant from the North Pole and the Equator, in the middle of the temperate zone. In the region of the lakes the average annual temperature is 12°C, and temperatures are rarely recorded below zero or above 30°C. Ticino is a particularly sunny region. Locarno, in an average year, has 2,1545 hours of sun, 56% of the possible maximum number of hours. This compares with Zurich which has only 1,482 hours of sunshine and 1,618 in Turin. Moreover the amount of cloud cover is minimal: 50% in Lugano compared to 67% in Zurich 65% in Milan.

## Landscape

Ticino offers an extraordinary variety of scenery. To the north, in the middle of the Alps, are the imposing mountains with valleys deeply carved out by the ice and rivers which flow south like the fingers of a gand and then join to empty into the basin of Lake Maggiore. In the centre and south are the regions of the lakes Verbano and Ceresio: a clear and mild atmosphere, hotels, squares and gardens, villages spread out along the water's edge or peeping down from the hills and bell towers stretching upwards in the sun. The southern end of the triangle – the region of Mendrisio – is called the Tuscany of Switzerland because of its gentle and airy landscape, its gently rolling hills dotted with houses and smallholdings and its reddish sunset on mild October evenings.

## Canton territory

Total	2812 km <sup>2</sup>	
Wooded area	1426 km <sup>2</sup>	18 natural forest reserves
Agriculturarea	364 km <sup>2</sup>	
Water surface	118 km <sup>2</sup>	

160 km shore on Lake Maggiore and lake Lugano  
About 130 mountain lakes, which enrich the landscape  
4.000 km hiking trails, cycle paths available

## Culture

Ticino's past and present are characterized by a cultural and artistic life which has had an impact on Europe and the wider world. Ticino hosted some of the most famous European cultural celebrities during the 19th and 20th centuries. Among them, the winter Hermann Hesse, who moved to Montagnola in 1929, where he wrote some of the books that made him famous throughout the world. It was in architecture that Ticino made a name for itself well beyond the cantonal borders, following the Second World War. In the past Ticino had successfully exported the genius of its designers, sculptors and craftsmen to major European capitals. Today modern architecture has made Ticino a center of major interest for avant-garde and innovative art, especially thanks to Mario Botta's works. Ticino is also internationally regarded for art and the performing arts: for example, Daniele Finzi Pasca, actor, choreographer and theatrical director. In theatre, Ticino has a pearl of originality in the Theatre and in the School founded by the great clown Dimitri.

At last, the three UNESCO world heritage sites in Ticino: the Mount San Giorgio with its fossils and the three medieval Castles in Bellinzona and since 2020 the processions of the Holy Week in Mendrisio

## Economy

**Gross domestic product per capita** 80.339 Swiss franc

**Service Sector:** Lugano is the third financial market in Switzerland, while in Ticino the full-time employees in the services sector are 130,102 (72% of the labor force).

**Tourism:** Ticino counts 438 with 19,139 beds, over 30,000 accommodation options in holiday homes and dwellings, lodgings, mountain huts and youth hostels. The tourism sector occupies 13,275 employees.

**Industry:** Ticino counts 2,034 industrial companies that employ 28,295 workers. The main sectors are the clothing industry, electronics, metallurgy and mechanics with the presence of prestigious companies.

**Agriculture:** Ticino counts 1187 agricultural, forestry and fishery companies. Some of its products are very appreciated, in particular alp cheeses, local cold cuts and the Merlot wine

For more information:

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