

## Report of the VercoR2 President – AG of Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> 2025

I welcome the presence of Mrs Sylvie Masserey Anselin (President of the Municipality), accompanied by Mr Olivier Chanson, the new Municipal Councillor in charge of tourism

Ms Anne-Laure Vaudan, chair of the Board of Directors of the company Télécabine de Vercorin SA, and Ms Martine Perruchoud Hofstädter

Mr Arthur Clivaz, director of the 'Destination Vercorin'

Mr Michel Minnig, chair of the Société de Développement de Vercorin (SDV).

By way of introduction, I would like to emphasise that 'Vercorin is on the move', that changes are being felt, that a good dynamic is in place, whether among the various companies, associations, or political authorities. In this political, social, and associative microcosm, we must take into account the priorities and constraints inherent in any change, knowing that we can be the driving force, but that we have no decision-making power.

As a reminder, one of the missions of the VercoR2 Committee is to ensure that the amount of tourist tax paid by second home residents is fairly distributed according to the Municipality's tourist tax regulations and the Cantonal law, which stipulate that the proceeds of the tourist tax must be used **in the interest of those subject to it**. It **contributes to financing tourist** expenses, in particular:

- a) The operation of an information and reservation service
- b) Local events
- c) The creation and operation of tourist, cultural or sports facilities.

The use of the tourist tax is a matter for the Municipality, as is its distribution, which is carried out in accordance with municipal regulations, without taking personnel costs into account.

It should be noted that neither the law nor the regulations mention the obligation to provide direct services to taxpayers.

In addition to their contacts with the Municipality, the R2s are represented in local entities: the R2s have a seat on the board of directors of Vercorin Tourisme SA (VTSA), of which we are shareholders, as well as a representative on the committee of the Société de Développement de Vercorin (SDV).

You will easily understand the importance of having good relations with the political, tourist and cultural authorities, in order to be recognised as a partner association that brings a constructive dialogue for the tourist development of the Vercorin destination.

The VercoR2 Committee, which has met four times since the last general meeting, has made significant efforts in 2024 to support cultural projects, strengthen local infrastructure and promote the interests of second home residents.

Here is a summary of the actions undertaken by the VercoR2 Committee during the year 2024:

### **1. Financial Support and Facilities:**

- A contribution of CHF 500 to the Plouf Festival 2024. This event, which is the envy of the region, must be supported so that it remains in Vercorin. For the VercoR2 Committee, it is important and strategic for the image of Vercorin and allows it to reach a 'young' audience.
- Funding for a 3.5-metre larch bench at the start of the Tour du Mont
- Support for the green wall in the school playground.

### **2. Initiatives and projects:**

- Discussions with the Municipality on the revision of the regulations on taxes on wastewater and drinking water, with a lesser weighting for VercoR2
- Participation in various sessions on mobility on the left and right banks of the Rhône. A test project for a digital guest card for regional transport is planned for the autumn of 2025.
- Discussions concerning the future of the bakery. The Municipality, through its economy and trade commission, has been in contact with the current operator of the bakery in order to find a solution to keep this small business open. Unfortunately, no solution has been found yet.

### **3. Leisure:**

- Monitoring of developments at Creux du Lavioz in collaboration with the SDV (The analysis of the SDV and VercoR2 Committees, confirmed in the results of the satisfaction survey carried out by 'Destination Vercorin', confirmed the lack of offers at Lavioz, especially in summer. This site, with its high potential, must become a priority for future investments. Le Lavioz is relatively disconnected from centres of activity, especially in summer. In fact, there is no real centre of activities for families, young people and tourists in Vercorin (mini golf, playground, sports activities at Le Lavioz).

In a constructive and partnership-based spirit, the SDV and VercoR2 have formulated the needs expressed by parents in order to implement ideas that will increase the number of visitors to the site and the restaurant and will bring a tangible improvement in the satisfaction of all users, winter and summer. A site plan has been submitted to the VTSA and the Municipality. This project was prepared by Baptiste Neurohr (SDV committee) and Stéphane Favre (VercoR2 committee) – both of whom I thank.

We look forward to hearing the decisions that will be made and the schedule for implementation, bearing in mind that not everything can be done in the short term (10 years given the significant investments and priorities to be defined).

#### 4. Significant Events:

**The meeting between the members of VercoR2 and those of the SDV on Saturday August 17<sup>th</sup> 2024**, with a guided tour of the Vallet Foundation, was a great success with the participation of more than 120 people. In future, there are plans to provide more support for cultural events, such as the Vallet Foundation, which is planning to organise concerts in the museum next year with the participation of Marc Aymon and Milla.

- The date for the R2-SDV get-together (apéro-raclette) has been set for August 16<sup>th</sup> 2025; we will give you more details in the next President's newsletter.
- Les Saveurs du Monde took place on December 28<sup>th</sup> 2024. Four R2 members volunteered to distribute and collect the recyclable crockery. The event was very well attended. Many thanks to the Cornaz family and to Isabelle Luthier and her husband who were present at the stand. Your committee is always looking for volunteers to support us in our activities.

#### Other tourist attractions in Vercorin:

- **Mountain bike trails:** Verco R2 is pleased to note the completion of mountain bike trails with a route open to all and to families from the intermediate station of Sigeroulaz, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> route for experienced mountain bikers between the summit of the Crêt du Midi cable car and Sigeroulaz. These are beautiful trails that attract young people from far and wide and further enhance Vercorin's image as a destination.
- **Ice rink and winter activities:** In the survey on the usefulness of an ice rink in Vercorin, the R2s voted overwhelmingly in favour of the natural ice rink with a score of 86% (120 R2s responded). We thank the Municipality for investing in a natural ice rink with free admission for the 2025 season.

**Renewal of the guest card for winter 2025:** unfortunately, this offer has come across as unsuitable and overly complicated to us. This will be reviewed for the next season.

#### In Conclusion:

I would like to emphasise the excellent spirit among all the tourism stakeholders in Vercorin. '*Vercorin bouge*' is developing in a healthy way, in a participatory spirit, with the aim of satisfying everyone.

The satisfaction survey, in which a large number of VercoR2s participated, demonstrates real potential for improvement with its strategic indicators. This study, which will be presented to us at the end of the AG meeting, is an opportunity for the future of 'destination Vercorin'. Together we can achieve great things; please feel free to send us your opinions or comments via our website [info@vercor2.ch](mailto:info@vercor2.ch)

I would also like to thank the Committee as a whole for the work carried out throughout the year, the SDV for its collaboration and the political authorities for their attention.

Thank you for your attention,

Olivier Gétaz, February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2025