



Outlook for Mountain Resorts in Valais: Challenges & Opportunities

Prof. Christophe Clivaz UNIL – Institute of Geography and Durability, Site of Sion.

christophe.clivaz@unil.ch

Association Verco R2, Vercorin, 19.04.2019

| le savoir vivant |

UNIL's Site of Sion, Bramois









UNIL | Université de Lausanne

Verco R2

9.04.2019

UNIL's Site of Sion

- Culture and Nature of Tourism Research Group, Institute of Geography and Gurability (IGD).
- Interdisciplinary Research Center on Mountains (CIRM)
- Masters in Studies on Tourism
- CAS « Tourism, Innovation, Durability »



Presentation Outline

1. Past Evolution:

- Globalization of tourism
- Historical evolution of resorts
- Evolution of urbanization in the mountains

1. The Current Determinants:

- Socio-demographic evolution
- Evolution of customers' expectations
- Digitalization of the economy
- Regulatory framework
- Climate change

2. Challenges and Opportunities for the Future:

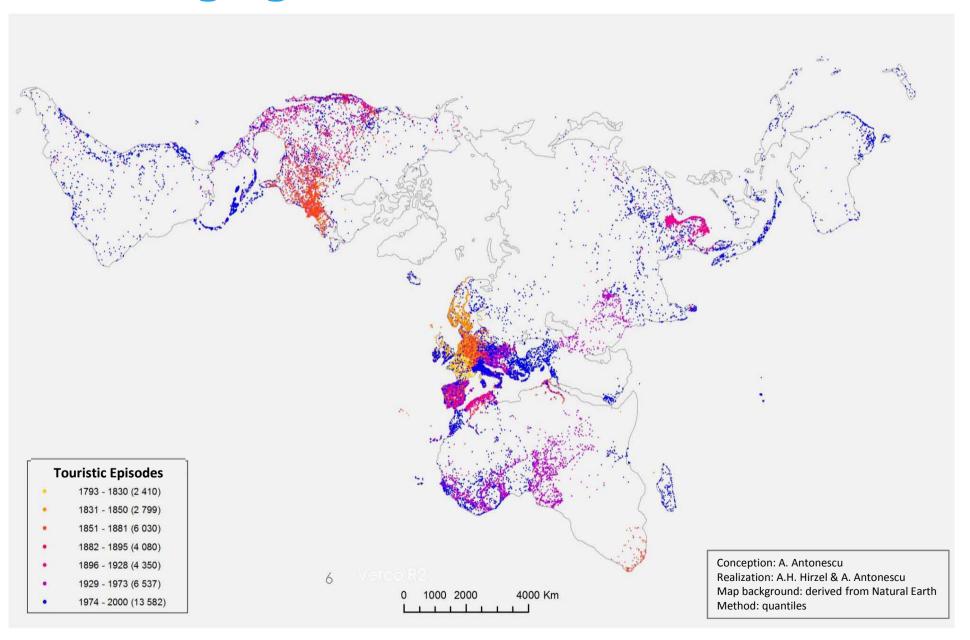
- Diversification of what is on offer
- Tourist accommodation
- Landscape
- Mobility
- Governance framework



1. Past Evolution

- Globalization of tourism
- Historical evolution of resorts
- Evolution of urbanization in the mountains

Emerging Touristic Sites over Time



Project "Between abyss and metamorphosis. An interdisciplinary approach to the development of tourist resorts"

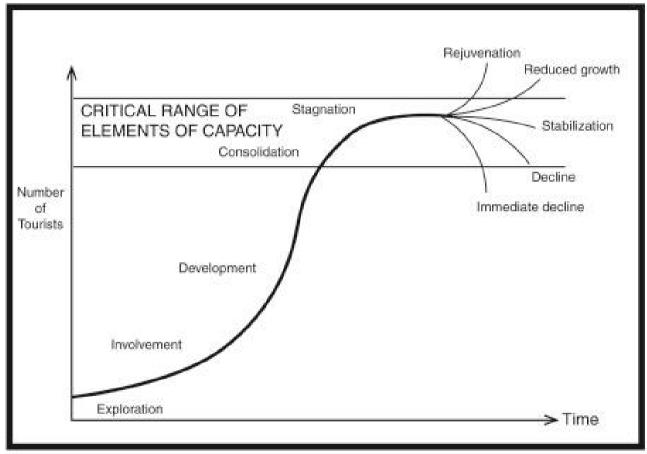




«It appears that we have not been sufficiently aware of the achievement of a site maintaining its touristic appeal, meaning maintaining it over decades or even over centuries of social change» (Knafou, R. (1996). The Transformation of former touristic sites. Méditerranée 84 (3), p. 3)

The « Butler » Model

TOURISM LIFECYCLE



Source: Butler, R.W. (1980). The concept of a tourist area cycle of evolution: implications for management of resources, Canadian Geographer 24, p. 7

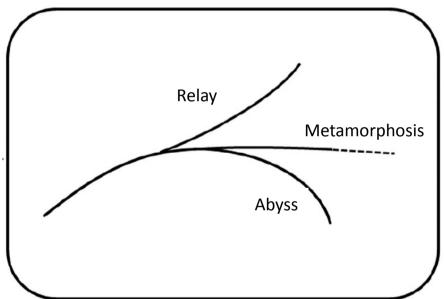
Baller, A. W. (1986). The cancept of a fractal area cycle of evolutions implications for management of resources.

The Garantien Geographes La Geographe Canadien, 24(1), 5-12.



Three Ideal-Typical Trajectories

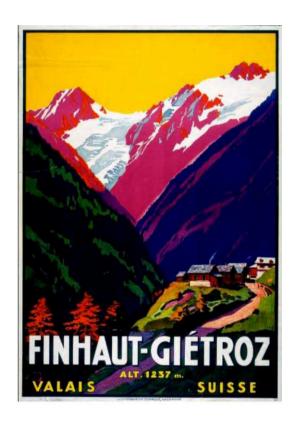
- Relay: the capacity of a tourist resort to maintain its appeal over the mid to long term.
- Abyss: the weakening, or the disappearance of the touristic function, without any alternative economic model.
- Metamorphosis: transformation of the tourist resort into a place which derives its income from sources other than from tourism.



Three Case-Studies







Finhaut – The Abyss

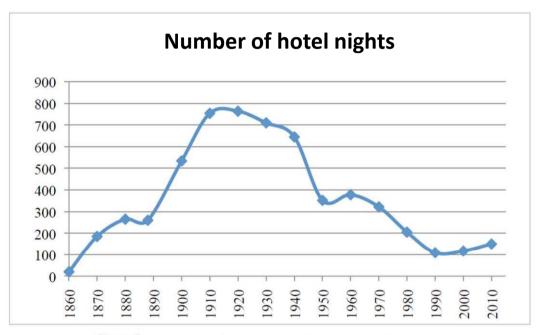
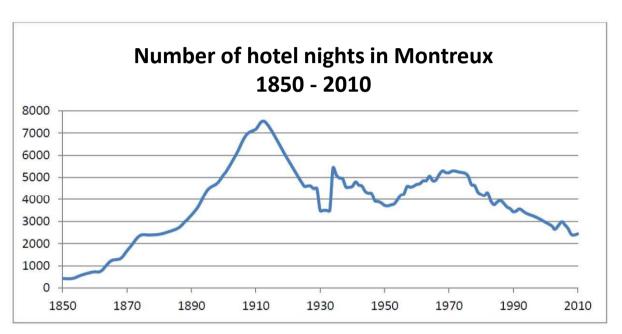


Figure 5. Evolution of the number of hotel nights from 1860 to 2010





Montreux: Metamorphosis









Zermatt – The Relay



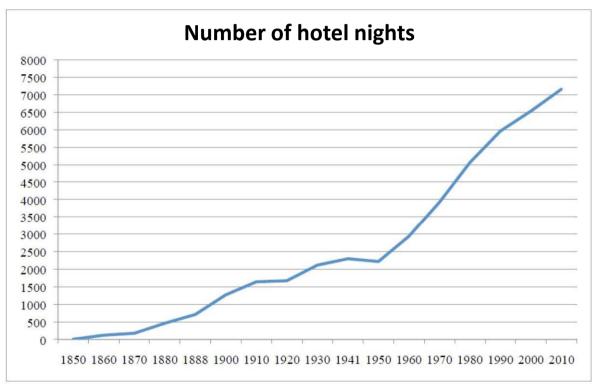
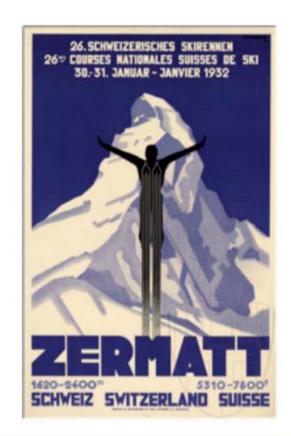


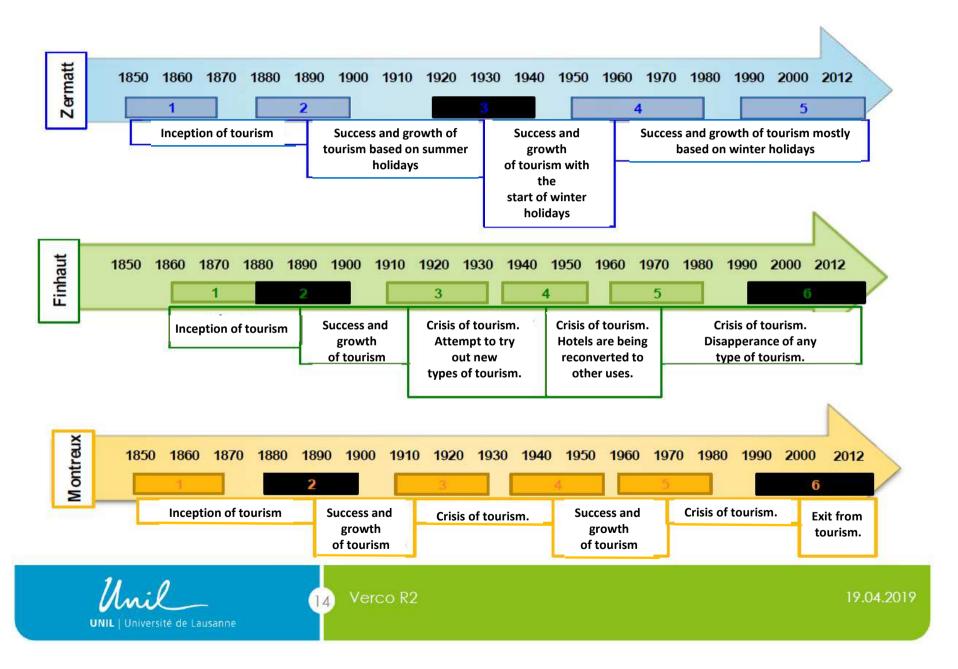
Figure 4 Evolution of the number of hotel nights from 1850 to 2010



Unil Université de Lausanne

Verco R2

Trajectories of the Resorts' Development



Verbier in 1950



Source: http://www.tdg.ch/geneve/actu/fous-genevois-fait-verbier-2010-07-13



19.04.2019

Verbier Today



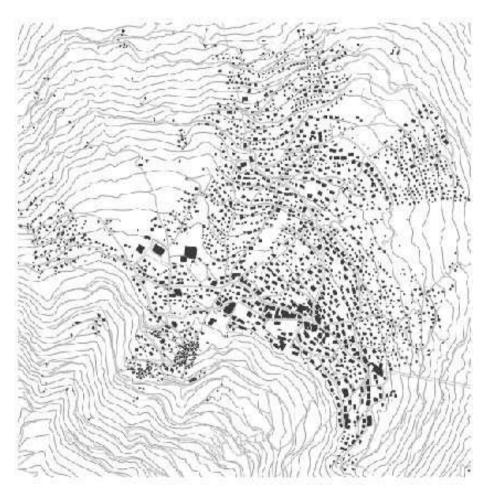
http://www.swisscastles.ch/aviation/Valais/verbier.html



Map of Verbier in 1930 vs. 2014



Verbier around 1930 (before the industrialization of skiing)



Verbier in 2014

Source: Pia 2016, p. 15

Vercorin Around 1920



www.notrehistoire.ch/medias/51690



Vercorin Today



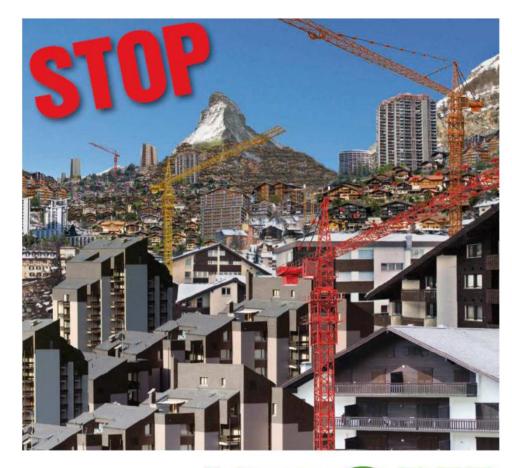




2. The Current Determinants

- Socio-demographic evolution
- Evolution of customers' expectations
- Digitalization of economy
- Regulatory framework
- Climate change





Halte aux constructions envahissantes de résidences secondaires



- Popular initiative «To put an end to the invasive construction of second homes»
- Maximum of 20% of second homes per municipality
- The initiative was accepted on March 11th 2012 by 50.6% of voters (the initiative was rejected by 73.8% in the Canton of Valais)
- Entry into force of the Federal Laws on second homes on January 1st 2016

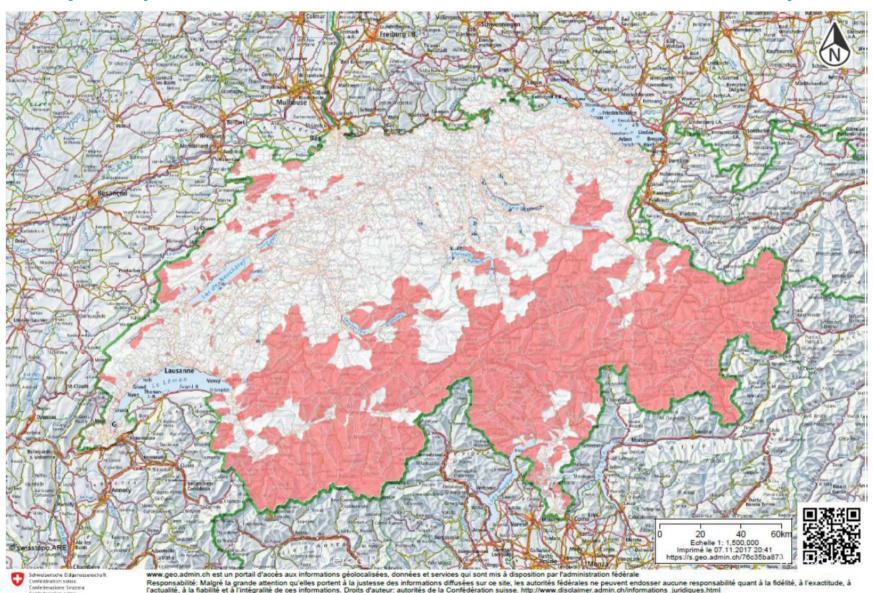
initiative-residences-secondaires.ch

Fondation Franz Weber & Helvetia Nostra

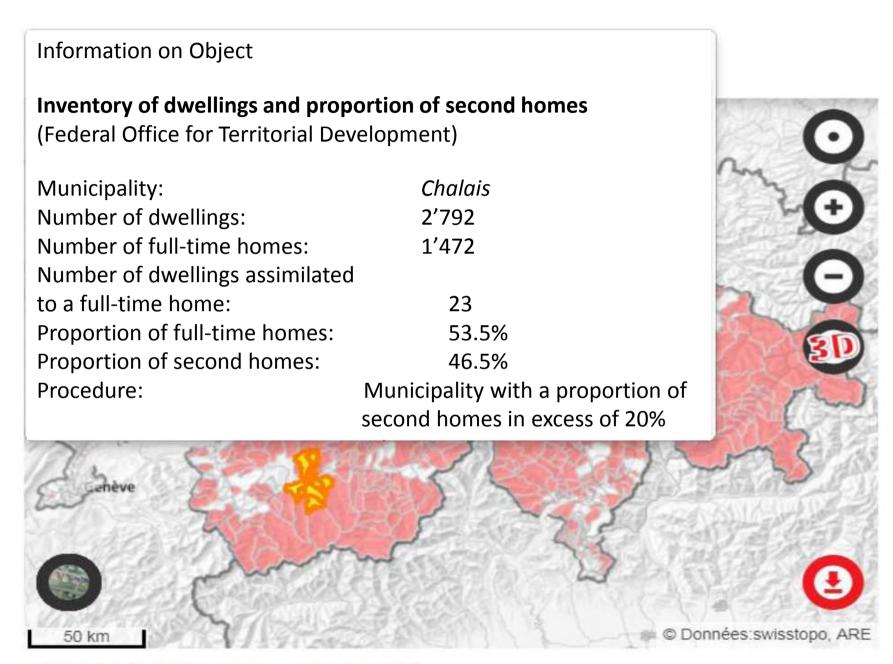
19.04.2019

In Pink: Municipalities Affected by the New Law

(Municipalities that are in excess of the 20% second home threshold)

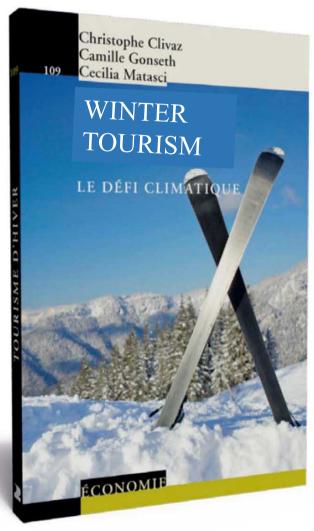


Confederazion seizra In colleboration with the centures



Climate Change





Global Land–Ocean Temperature Index

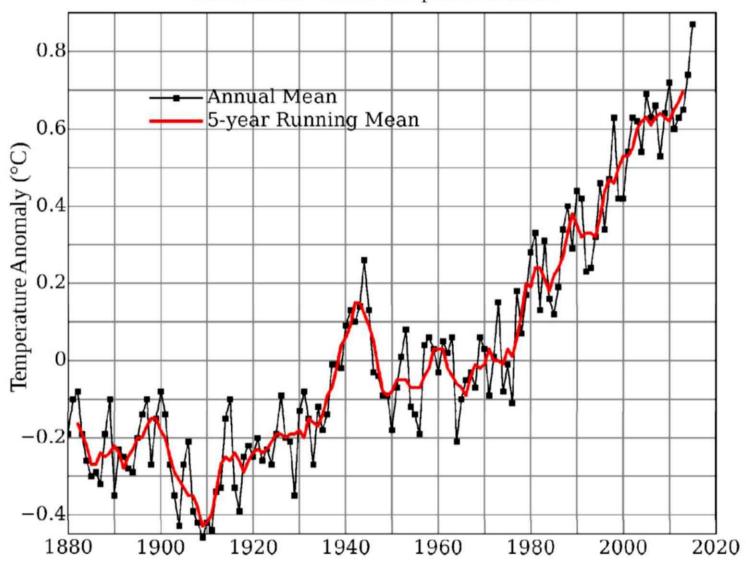


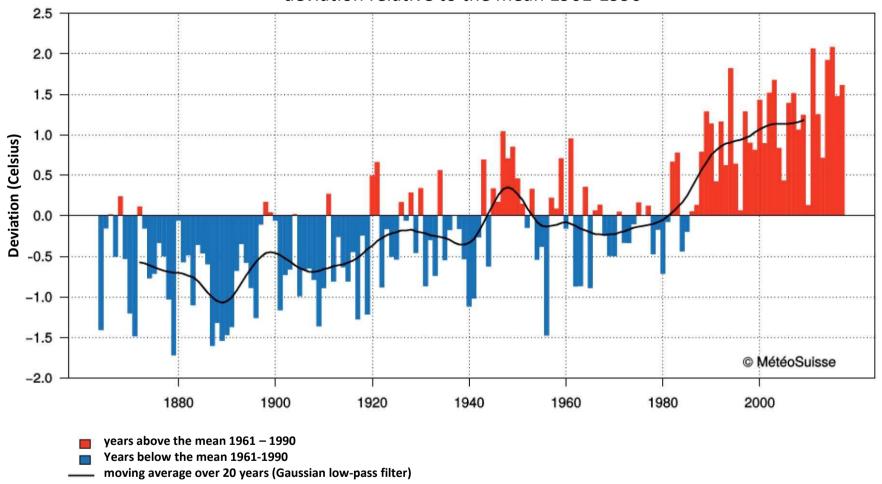
Figure 1: Deviations in temperature (anomalies) relative to the norm 1961-1990, measured for the entire surface of the earth.

Source: NASA (2016)

http://data.giss.nasa.gov/gistemp/graphs_v3/ (consulté le 26.09.2016)

Annual temperature – Switzerland 1864-2017

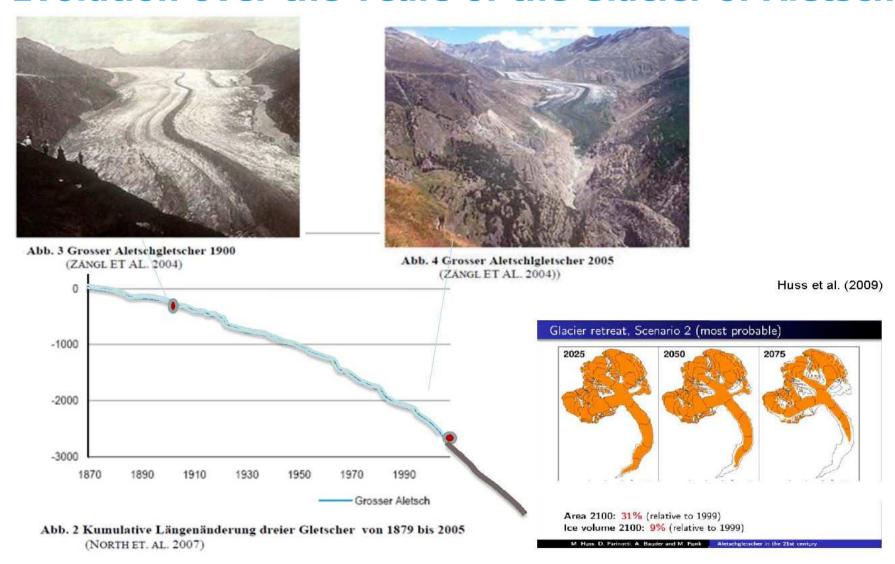
deviation relative to the mean 1961-1990



Mer de Glace (Chamonix): How far One has to Walk down Today to Glacier from Cablecar Built in 1988



Evolution over the Years of the Glacier of Aletsch



Unil_

Verco R2

Problems Linked to Climate Change in the Alps

- Permafrost
- Heatwaves, drought
- Altered landscape
- Increase in the frequency of extreme weather events





Probability of Snow Cover in Winter

Table 1: probability of snow cover in various ski areas under current and future climate conditions.

(Source: Abegg & al. 2007)

Region	Number of resorts	Probability of snow cover			
1130.311		Today	+1 °Ca)	+2 °Ca)	+4 °Ca)
Alps VD & FR	17	100%	65%	53%	6%
Bernese Oberland	26	96%	85%	62%	12%
Central Switzerland	20	90%	75%	55%	20%
Eastern Switzerland	12	83%	58%	58%	8%
Graubünden	36	100%	97%	97%	83%
Valais	49	100%	100%	100%	80%
Ticino	4	100%	75%	50%	0%
Switzerland	164	97%	87%	79%	49%

a) Time horizon: +1 °C, years to 2020; +2 °C, years to 2050; +4 °C towards the end of the century



Shorter snow cover duration since 1970 in the Swiss Alps due to earlier snowmelt more than to later snow onset

Geoffrey Klein 1,2 · Yann Vitasse 1,2,3 · Christian Rixen 3 · Christoph Marty3 · Martine Rebetez1,2 Received: 12 May 2016 / Accepted: 4 September 2016 / Published online: 21 September 2016 © Springer Science+Business Media Dordrecht 2016 19.04.2019

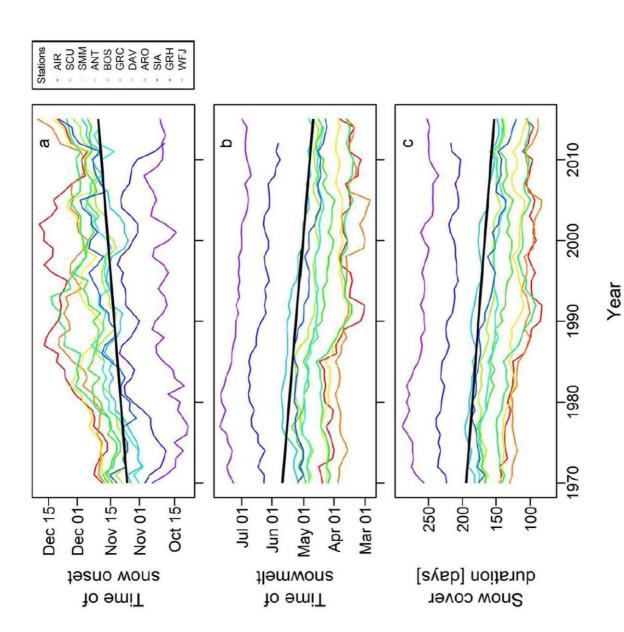
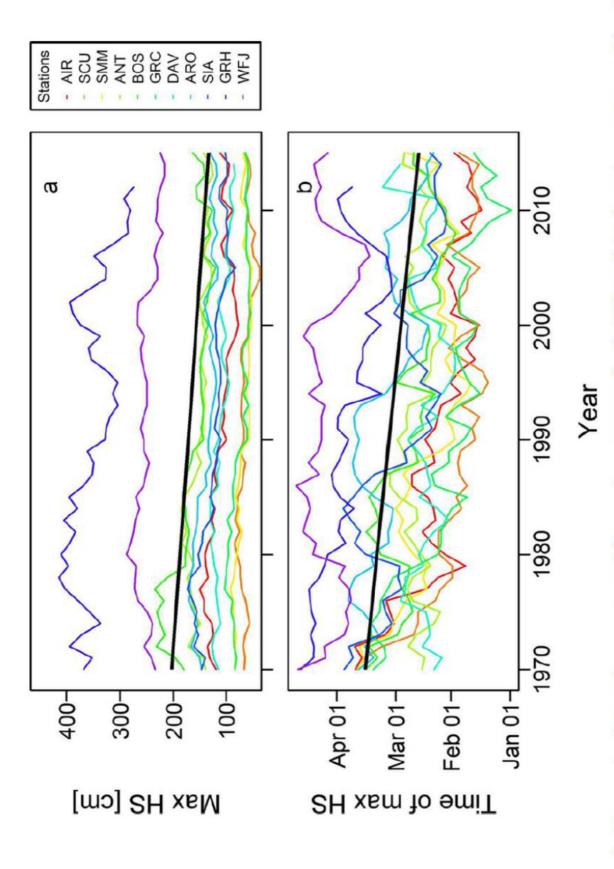


Fig. 1 7-year simple moving average of the snow onset, snowmelt dates and snow cover duration of the eleven study stations over the period 1970-2015 (with half-windows on both edges). The bold line corresponds to the mean Sen slope of the eleven stations and was calculated by averaging all annual values across stations and then, computing the slope of the mean series. For station names, see Table 1, for individual slope values, see Table 2



Sen slope of the eleven stations and was calculated by averaging all annual values across stations and then, computing Fig. 2 7-year simple moving average of the maximum snow depth (HS) and its day of occurrence of the eleven study stations over the period 1970–2015 (with half-windows on both edges). The bold line corresponds to the mean the slope of the mean series. For station names, see Table 1, for individual slope values, see Table 2

How much can we save? Impact of different emission scenarios on future snow cover in the Alps

Christoph Marty¹, Sebastian Schlögl^{1,2}, Mathias Bavay¹, and Michael Lehning^{1,2}

¹WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF, 7260 Davos, Switzerland ²École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), School of Architecture, Civil and Environmental Engineering, 1015 Lausanne, Switzerland

«Researchers of SLF and of the EPFL indicate in their study that the snow cover in the Alps could diminish by 70% before the end of the century. The snow cover will be thinner at all altitudes and under all scenarios of carbon dioxide emissions. However, sites below 1'200 meters above sea level will be the most affected. Even above 3'000 meters, one should expect the snow cover to shrink by 40%. However, if the world's temperature does not rise in excess of two degrees Celsius, then the shrinkage of the snow cover could be limited to «only» 30%»



9.04.2019



Opportunities

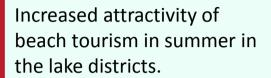
Increase of mountain tourism in summer thanks to cooler air at higher altitudes

Risks

Loss of attractivity of Prealps because of insufficient snow cover in winter

2030: Swiss tourism in the context of climate change.

MySwitzerland.com



Decrease of people who practice winter sports because of lack of winter atmosphere in the plain

Improved competitive advantage of Swiss winter sports resorts internationally thanks to better snow cover at higher altitudes Increased investments required to adapt the offer to the new climate conditions (e.g. installing air conditioners in the cities)

Improved competitive advantage as a result of climate change when compared to near abroad (e.g. Mediterranean too hot)

Increased costs to manage the risks to protect oneself against natural disasters

Increased attractivity of Swiss cities in summer («mediterraneanization») Loss of atractiveness because of changed landscape (shrinking glaciers)





Fig. 9: Evaluation of perspectives as a result of climate change

Customer frequency in summer					
Alps		+++			
Prealps		++			
Lake districts		++			
Cities	→ /	+			
Customer frequency in winter					
Alps	\rightarrow	0			
Prealps	>				
Lake districts	\rightarrow	0			
Cities	\rightarrow	0			
Turnover/sales in relation to tourists' attendance					
Domestic market		++			
Near abroad market*		++			
Far abroad market**	\rightarrow	0			

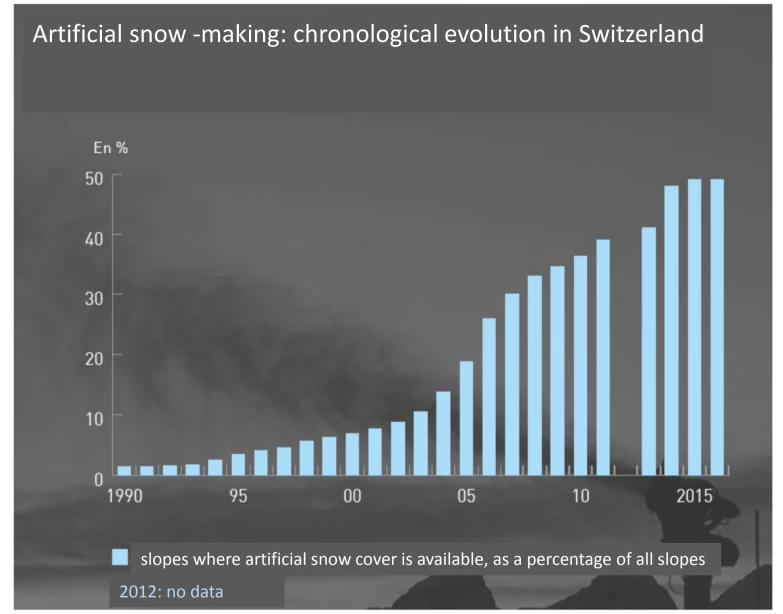
^{*} Near abroad accessible by car/train
Priority markets: CH, D, I, NL, UK
Actively growing markets: Belgium, Lux, Austria, Hungary, Nordics, CZ, Poland, Spain

** Far abroad

Priority markets: USA, Japan

Actively growing markets: China, India, Gulf States (GCC), Russia, Canada









Visual Impact on Landscape of Artificial Snow-Making



3. The Future Challenges

- Diversification of what is on offer
- Tourist accommodation
- Landscape
- Mobility
- Governance framework



5 conférences-ateliers pour secouer le tourisme valaisan

témoignages d'experts, pistes d'action et message







Proposed Classification of 25 adaptive measures put in place by Swiss cable-car / resort companies along three adaptive strategic axes: listing by popularity

adaptive strategic axes. listing by popularity	
Strategic Axis	Percentage of cable-car / resort companies
Adaptive Measure	which have adopted this measure
1. Guarantee the ability to ski	
Increased use of artificial snow-making	66%
Reshaping of terrain for ski slopes	46%
Organizing winter sports competitions	45%
Improved maintenance of ski slopes	30%
Ability to function with less snow	22%
Alternative activities besides skiing	21%
Cover surfaces with snow and ice	7%
Further develop high altitude slopes	7%
Open up new high altitude skiable domains	6%
2. Diversification	
Trails for hiking in winter	63%
Trails for hiking in summer	62%
Favor development of luging in winter	52%
Snowshoe hiking	51%
Didactic / thematic trails	46%
Develop gastronomy	38%
Develop winter events (e.g. concerts)	37%
Develop mountain bike trails	36%
Develop "fun "and "adventure" sports	33%
Develop summer events (e.g. concerts)	29%
Build luge track for use in summer	9%
3. Improve attractiveness and profitability,	
together with capacity to finance develop	
Cooperation among local stakeholders of tou	
Cooperation with other ski resorts	25%
Merger with other ski resorts	16%
Subsidies for operation of ski-lifts by Municip	
Subsidies for operation of ski-lifts (private loc entities)	cal 3%

Diversification of what is on offer

Source: Clivaz et al., 2015, p. 80

Source : adapté de Abegg (2011a).



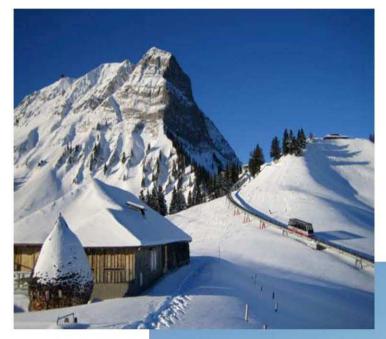
Main Adaptive Measures Implemented By the Cable-Car / Resort Companies

- Increased use of artificial snow-making: 66%
- Develop and maintain winter trails: 63%
- Develop and maintain summer trails: 62%
- Favour the practice of luging in winter: 52%
- Develop and maintain snowshoe trails: 51%
- Reshaping of terrain for ski slopes: 46%
- Develop didactic / thematic trails: 46%
- Organizing winter sports competitions: 45%
- Develop gastronomy: 38%
- Develop winter events (e.g. concerts): 37%

Source: as per Abegg 2011)



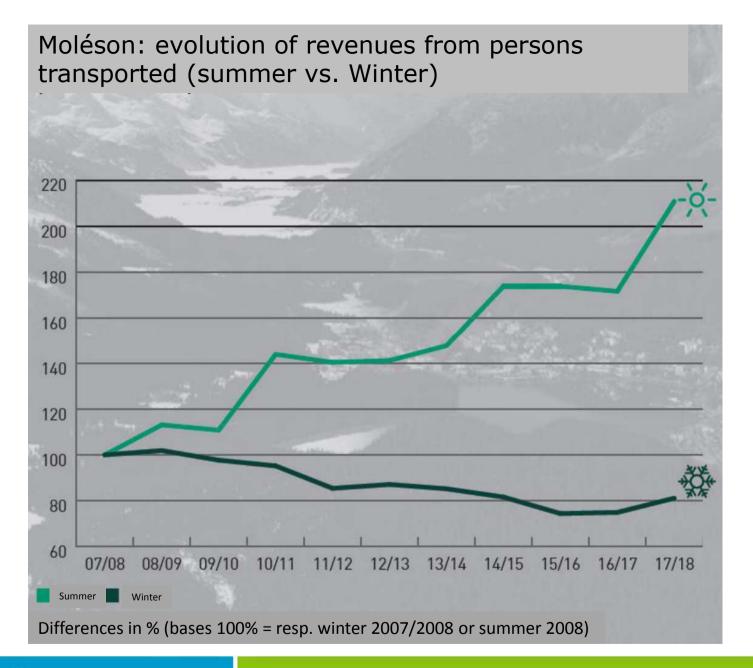
Moléson: From Winter to Summer Resort













Verco R2

Example of Alternative Use of a Mountain Site





√ Verco F

Birth of the «Magic Pass» (season ticket for multiple resorts)



http://canal9.ch/399-francs-pour-plus-de-30-domaines-accessibles-ete-hiver-le-magic-pass-surfe-sur-son-succes-hivernal-pour-devenir-annuel/

Touristic Lodging

The Lex Weber as a Catalyst of a New Business Model for Mountain Resorts?





Report on the Weber Initiative, 2008

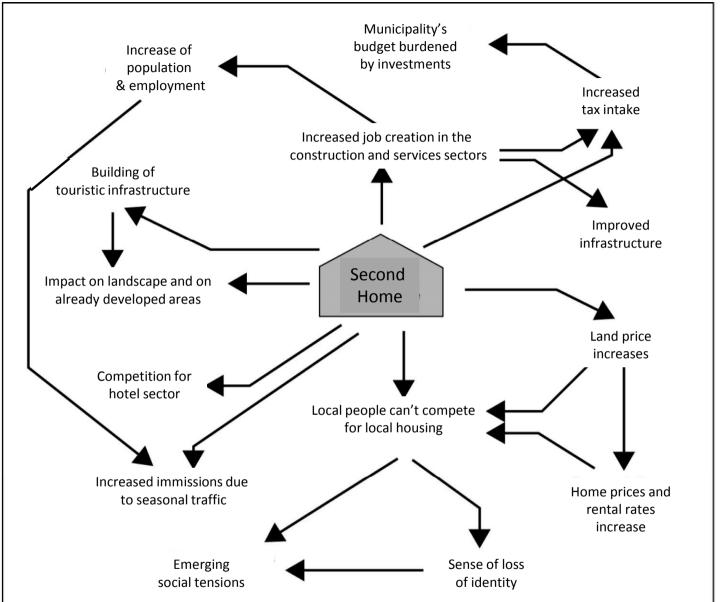
«Over the long term, the future of very touristic areas is not at risk because of the limitation of second homes. Tourist resorts will certainly face some economic challenges over the short-term, but the limitation of the development of second homes should even have positive consequences over the long term». (Rütter & Partner, 2008, p. 13)



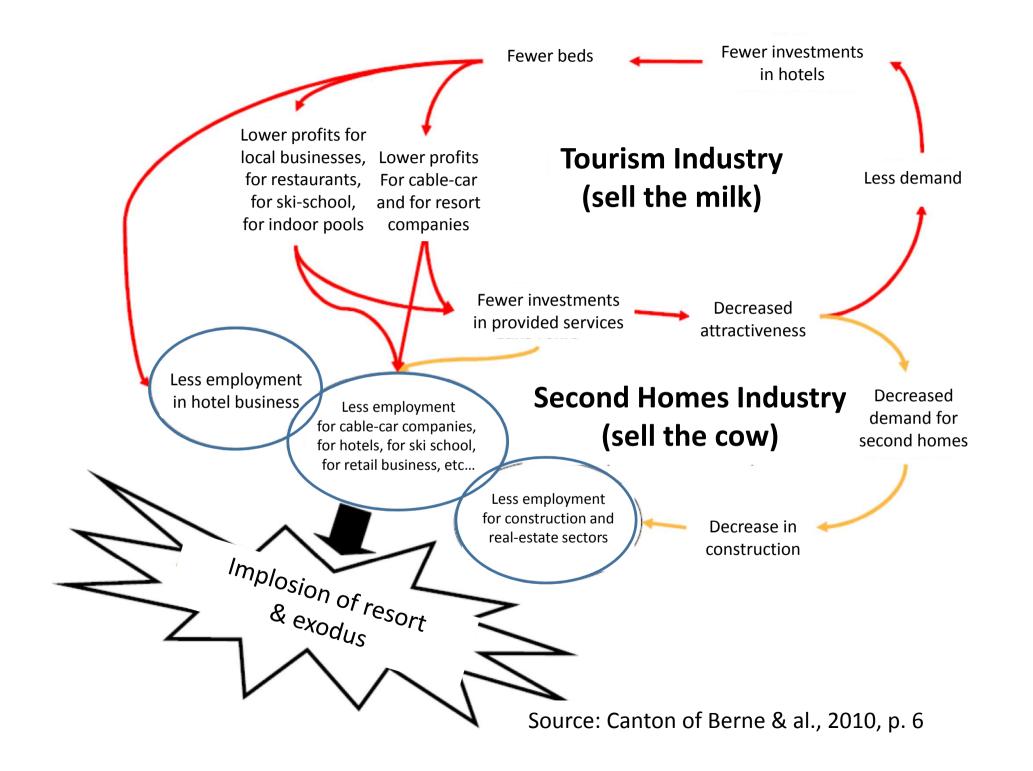
Even though the renewal of touristic constructions is equally essential for the success of Swiss Alpine resorts, one should issue building permits very prudently. This renewal of touristic constructions should occur in zones that are already developed and, if possible, in the form of replacing or transforming existing buildings. This does not only concern hotel buildings but also to a large extent the other infrastructure, specifically holiday apartments. Without prudent urban planning, tourism destroys its own future. For alpine tourism, pristine nature and an untouched landscape are important factors. To preserve the environment, political action is necessary. Political leaders need to adopt urban planning measures and they need to set limits to the development of realestate projects. This is still an unachieved task. This can be clearly seen via the sprawl of second homes in alpine resorts.

Source: Crédit Suisse 2011b, p. 39

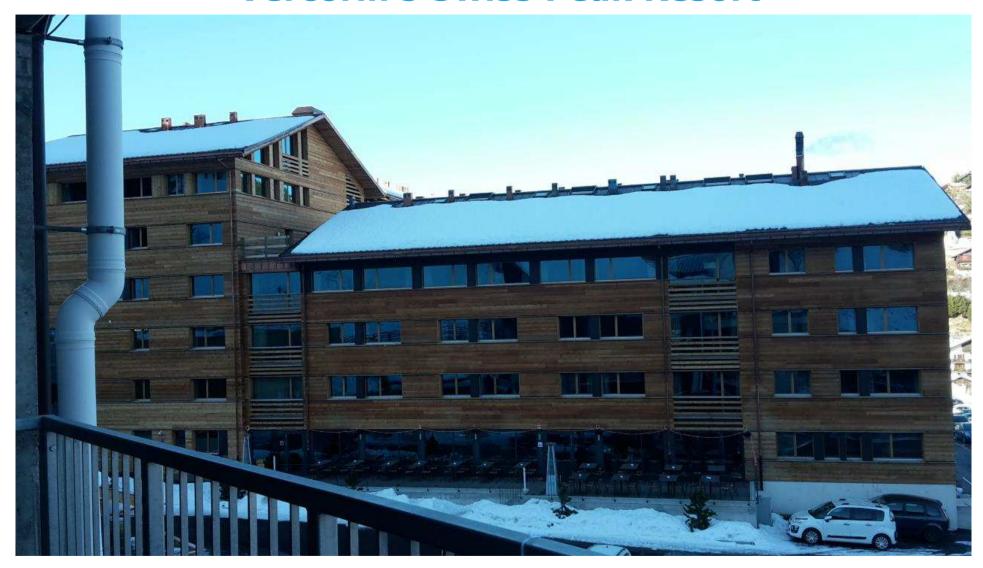




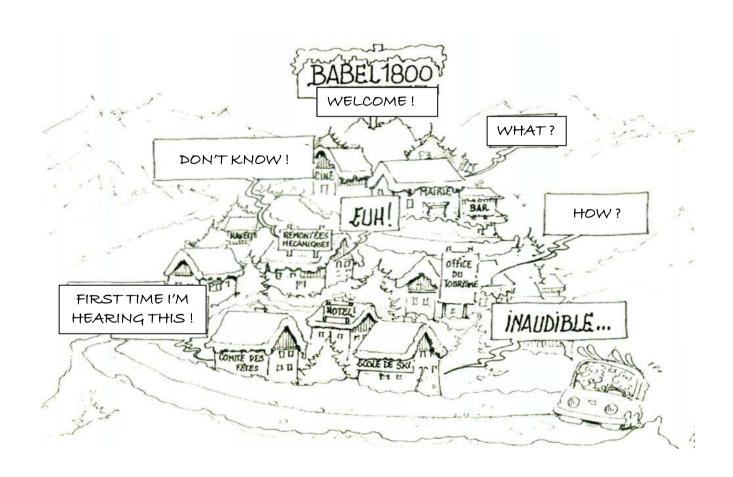
Source: ASPAN (1993)

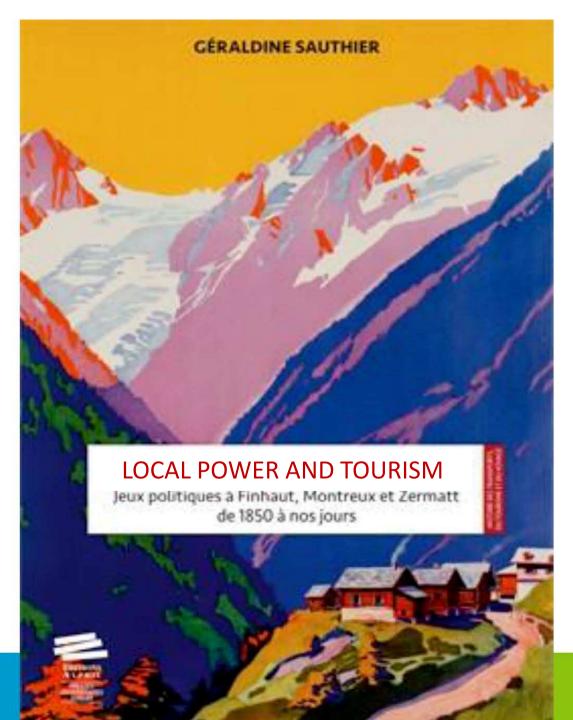


Vercorin's Swiss Peak Resort



Governance







Project Abyss and Metamorphosis

Results – Key Success Factors:

- Importance of key actors at the time tourism is started (often not local people)
- Importance of collaboration among public and private local actors (common vision and objectives)
- Importance of linking touristic and territorial development projects (prioritizing tourism over other lucrative and/or rent-seeking alternatives)



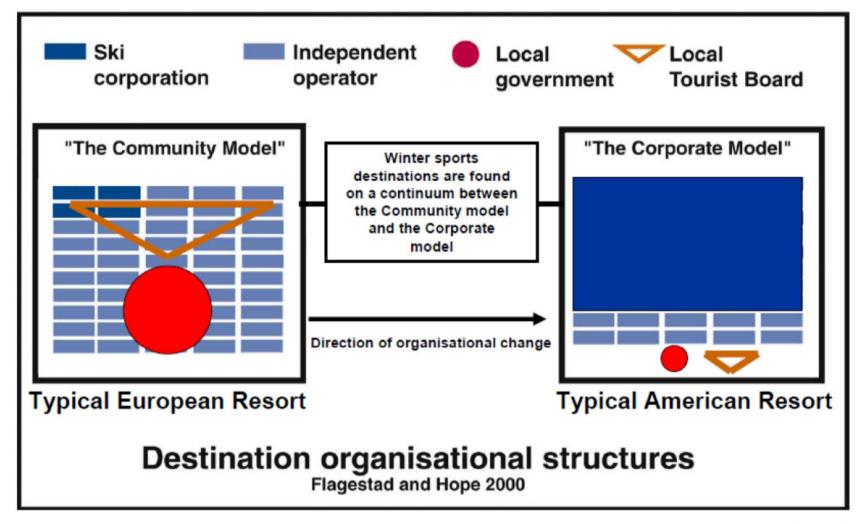
Project Abyss and Metamorphosis

Results – Key Success Factors:

- Strong innovative environment backed by a political coalition / consensus favouring the development of tourism.
- Controlled land development, prioritizing the use of land as opposed to to focusing on the land's commercial value.
- Importance of brand-building (goodwill), so that the resort's name is associated with a clear message.
- Connection to multi-scalar networks (ability to obtain financial support from Cantonal or even Federal bodies).



Community-Oriented Model vs. Integrated Model



Source: Flagestad (2007: 22)



Example of Montana-Crans, as Reported by the Press



Radovan Vitek met la main sur près d'un quart du marché de gestion et de gérance immobilière du Haut-Plateau, SACHA BITTEL

Radovan Vitek Leader of Real-Estate **Management in Crans-Montana**

TOURISME Le milliardaire tchèque achète une importante régie immobilière. Cette opération concrétise sa volonté de faire une station «intégrée».

CMA Immobilier devient le lea- tion dont le montant n'a pas «Nous ne pouvons pas avait été vendue pour un monchetée par Radovan Vitek en fin d'année dernière.

La société vient d'acquérir la Régie du Rhône à Investis, un important groupe immobilier de l'arc lémanique dirigé par Stéphane Bonvin, originaire du Haut-Plateau. Par cette transac-

der de la gestion d'immeubles été communiqué, CMA Îmdu Haut-Plateau. Ironie de mobilier aura 180 copropriél'histoire, cette société a long- tés, plus de mille appartebiens seront loués avec des sertant surévalué en 2016, puis ra-vices hôteliers à forte valeur nioutón.

Radovan Vitek concrétise ainsi sa vision d'une station qui intègre toute la chaîne touristique. A Crans-Montana, le client pourra se parquer, s'équiper, skier, manger et se loger sous le

tout contrôler»

«Nous ne faisons pas ca par vocation philosophique, c'est temps agité la station. Elle ments, en gérance; 346 de ces une façon de remplir la station et d'avoir une clientèle qui dépense» Président du conseil d'administration de CMA, de CMA Immobilier et. dès la fin du mois, de CMA Hospitality, Philippe Magistretti rappelle que cette acquisition fait partie du plan directeur de Radovan Vitek. Le milliardaire projette un hôtel à 350 lits depuis plu-

sieurs années. De façon générale il entend doper la fréquentation durant les périodes creuses, et ce produit tout en un lui donne la flexibilité pour le faire. Avec cette nouvelle force de frappe Radovan Vitek pourrait ne laisser que des miettes à ses concurrents du Haut-Plateau. Certains magasins de sports souffrent déjà. «Crans-Montana est trop grand, nous ne pouvons pas tout contrôler. Ce serait ingérable, rassure Philippe Magistretti. AB

NF du 7 février 2019

LE NOUVELLISTE www.lenouvelliste.ch

Radovan Vitek's CHF 200 Million **Hotel Project has Been Approved**

Who runs the Resort?

CHERMIGNON Le projet du milliardaire tchèque au pied de la télécabine de Cry d'Er est relancé. La bourgeoisie de Chermignon a accepté vendredi soir la nouvelle mouture du droit de superficie signé avec CMA en 2013.

PAR ALEXANDRE.BENEY@LENOUVELLISTE.CH



Soirée faste pour la bourgeoisie

La migration vers le sud du projet de Radovan Vitek a libéré une parcelle de 3860 mètres carrés au nord. Elle sera mise à disposition de la société CM Resort SA. à travers un droit de superficie de nonante-neuf ans pour 330 000 francs par année. Elle viendra gonfler le projet Six Senses, un autre complexe hôtelier, plus haut sur la piste de Chetzeron. La société devra en outre construire une salle polyvalente de 300 mètres carrés qui appartiendra à la bourgeoisie de Chermignon.

nées huitante et la bourgeoisie de Chermignon est déjà liée à Radovan Vitek. En 2012, elle a accordé à CMA un droit de superficie de 15 000 mètres carrés, à condition que l'entreprise construise un hôtel quatre étoiles minimum et avec 600 places de parking.

200 millions de francs d'investissements

Bourgeois de Chermignon, mais absent de l'assemblée afin d'éviter un conflit d'intérêts, le président de CMA, Philippe Magistretti, se dit très satisfait du résultat: «Ce projet est bon pour toute la sta-



Missing Actors of local **Governance?**





Grace a ses contacts a Saint-Luc, Vittorio a pu trouver un empioi pour sa sœur Elisa (a droite) et sa cousine Lesile. Tous sont Bretons, et tous travalilent en tant

In winter, Saint Luc Relies on Labour from Brittany



SAISONNIERS 1/4 Indispensables aux stations de ski, les saisonniers sont les premiers visages rencontrés par les touristes. Cet hiver, une quinzaine de Bretons travaillent dans les établissements de Saint-Luc. Parmi eux, Elisa, Leslie et Vittorio, Rencontre.

plus favorables que dans ver l'accueil qui leur a été ré l'Hexagone. Elisa ne se le cache servé. S'ils revendiquent fière pas. Tout comme Leslie, an- ment leurs origines bretonnes cienne responsable d'un maga- drapeau à l'appui, ils s'atta sin à Lorient, qui travaille à la chent à découvrir quelques tra buvette Tsigère depuis quinze ditions locales. La raclette et la jours. La jeune femme de viande séchée n'ont d'ailleur 28 ans explique que son salaire plus aucun secret pour eux. «E fixe de l'époque était inférieur puis, il y a ces sublimes paysa à celui qu'elle touche au- ges montagneuxo, lance Vitto isund'hui en tant aug saison, rio Mais l'océan et les place

Missing Actors of local **Governance?**

 Second home Residents

09/04/19

LE NOUVELLISTE www.lenouvelliste.ch



The Second Home Tax, Cause For Some Teeth-Grinding

PAYS DU SAINT-BERNARD La présentation de la taxe touristique forfaitaire aux propriétaires de résidences secondaires a suscité de vives réactions.

PAR SOPHIE DORSAZ@LENGUVELLISTE.CH

Bernardse sont attelés cate. Devant 150 personnes, résidences secondaires, ce noumajoritairement des propriétouristique désormais forfaichaine génération», a insisté tuellement à 180 francs multien préambule Julien Moulin, président du Pays du Saint-Betnaid, conscient que les réactions seraient vives.

735 000 francs de recettes supplémentaires

Pour s'inscrire dans la moyenne

endredi soir, les repré- destination du Pays du Saint- de recettes supplémentaires 60 et non plus à 4 fr. 50 comme res (R2), ils ont détaillé la ménage et le taux d'occupation. d'une vision à long terme pour Orsières, ce forfait passera donc pliés par les unités de logement, soit 900 francs par année pour un 5 pièces. Quant aux hô-3 fr. 60 par nuit effective.

Si la taxe forfaitaire représente blée. Si les échanges sont res- par nuitée et de la garder à son Joachim Rausis, président et Bourg-Saint-Pierre décideune hausse drastique pour les tés sereins sur le ton, les propropriétaires et les hôteliers, priétaires de R2 ont fait Mais là où le bât blesse, c'est ces derniers soient exclus du sidents et hôteliers seront cantonale etéviter le coulage, la elle engendrera 735 000 francs entendre leur mécontente- que les résidents secondaires vote, mais a relevé l'importaxés.

sentants de la destina- Bernard, propose d'augmenter dévolues au tourisme. «Le but tion du Pays du Saint- la taxe deséjour de 1 fr. 80 à 3 fr. est de développer les infraà une tâche extrêmement déli- initialement présenté. Pour les Jacquemettaz, président de la commission finances de la desyeau montant sera ensuite mul- tination. Et de citer en exemtourisme au col du Saint-Berdeuxième mouture de la taxe Ce dernier a été fixé à 50 nuits nard, la rénovation du restaupour Orsières, à 30 nuits pour rant de la Breya, un meilleur taire et obligatoire, «Il s'agit Liddes et Bourg-Saint-Pierre, A enneigement mécanique, le laisser un héritage à la pro- de 54 francs par personne ac- «Autant de projets nécessaires pour garantir un avenir touristique à notre région»

Coûts de base « excessifs»

tels, ils devront s'acquitter de A la suite de la présentation, la priétaire aura la possibilité parole a été donnée à l'assem- d'encaisser la taxe de séiour Champex.

balisage d'itinéraires VIT, etc. eau puis ce nouveau forfait, les primaires, Est-ce un processus vous n'utilisez pas la piste de location, soulignant que le pro-

ment sur la forme. «Avec la n'auront pas le dernier mot. Le tance du développement touhausse des taxes poubelle et forfait sera voté en assemblées ristique de la région. «Même si coûts de base de mon chalet démocratique? Nous n'avons fond ou le sentier suspendu. deviennent excessifs.» Un simplement pas le choix. Per- ces infrastructures apporteconstat partagé par Didier Jac- sonnellement, je n'utilise que ront de la valeur à la destinaquemettaz qui encourage à la peu ces infrastructures mais tion et donc à votre bien imserai obligée de finances, s'est mobilier.» Une intervention exclamée une résidente de applaudie qui a clos la soirée.

d'Orsières s'est dit désolé que ront en juin à quelle sauce ré-

Les citovens d'Orsières, Liddes



taires de résidences secondai-tiplié par le nombre d'unité par ple la création d'un office du Les recettes de la taxe touristique serviront à rénover des infrastructures comme le restaurant au s du télésfège de la Breya à Champex. DAYS DU SAINT-BERNARD



Conclusion

Visitor Numbers of Other Alpine Countries

Evolution of visitor ski-days using the season 2004/2005 as starting point; in %



Switzerland

19.04.2019

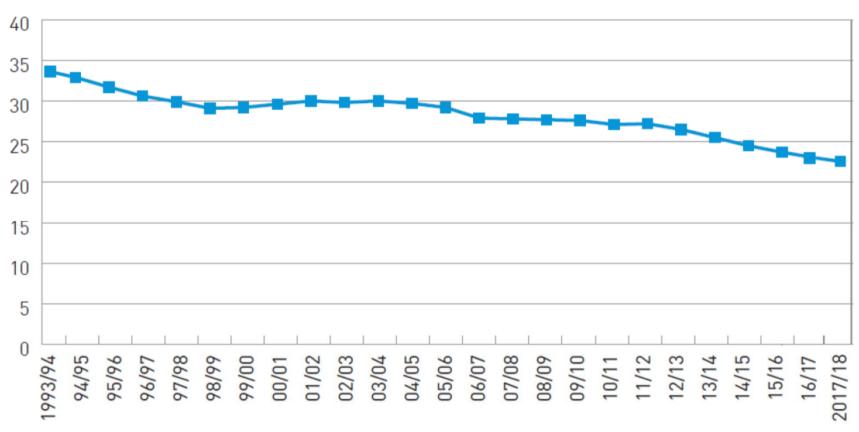
Austria

France

Conclusion

Evolution of the Five-Year Moving Average

Evolution of five-year moving average of visitor ski-days: clearly in decline over past 25 years



Conclusion

- Difficulty for local actors to change their mindset from the «business as usual» model (exit from the «myth» of only cable-cars & skiing)
- Exit from «schizophrenic» ways of thinking (meaning, to try to adapt by opting for «solutions» which actually speed up global warming)
- Diversify touristic offer across the four seasons (prioritize development of autumn tourism and further build out summer tourism)
- Position each resort of Valais along targeted client segments (stop just copying your neighbour)
- Organize tourism at the right level (across Municipalities) and in a more integrated manner.
- What roles for seasonal workers? What role for second home owners?
 How do they interface with local entities?
- Does the new generation still want to work in the tourism sector?



Thank You for Your Attention!

