

Schweiz. Vereinigung von Petroleum-
Geologen und –Ingenieuren

Association Suisse des Géologues et
Ingénieurs du Pétrole



Associazione Svizzera dei Geologi
e Ingegneri del Petrolio

Swiss Association of Petroleum
Geologists and Engineers

77th CONVENTION 2010

JUNE 19 - 21
Stresa, Italy, Hotel La Palma

PROGRAMME

Summary:

Saturday, June 19: Travel to Stresa, Lunch at Hotel La Palma
Afternoon: General assembly and scientific presentations
Afternoon: Partners' programme (Isola Bella)
Evening: Apéro and dinner Hotel La Palma

Sunday, June 20: Geological excursion to Val Sesia
outcrops of volcanics, Upper and Lower Crust and Mantle (peridotite),
cross-section of a continental crust.
Lunch at Sacro Monte di Varallo (UNESCO world cultural heritage
site)
Return to the Hotels in Stresa

Monday, June 21: Geological excursion to the Val d'Ossola, visit of a marble quarry at
Candoglia. The marble of this site was used to build the cathedral of
Milano and is still used for current repairs. We have a special permit
by the owner, the archbishop of Milano for this visit. Lunch at the hotel
Due Palme in Mergozzo. Further outcrops of Lower Crust and the
Insubric Fault line.
Return to the Hotels in Stresa.

Detailed Programme

Saturday, June 19:

- 12.00h: Lunch at Hotel La Palma (optional)
- 14.00h: General Assembly Hotel La Palma (in German, agenda will be available at the hotel)
- 14.30h: Scientific presentations (in English)
- Dr. Peter Brack: The Permian of the Southern Alps: A unique transect through the Earth's crust
 - Dr. Werner Leu: Noville-1: First results of a deep exploration well at the alpine front in Western Switzerland.
 - 16.00h: Coffee break
 - Prof. Dr. Harry Doust: Petroliferous basins, the relationship between their evolution and petroleum system development
 - Dr. Peter Burri: The revolution in unconventional gas - fuel of the next century?
 - Dr. Bernhard Gunzenhauser: Details of the Excursions
- 17.45h: End of meeting
- 13.45h: **Partners' programme:** visit to the Isola Bella of the Borromean islands by boat, guided tour in English and German.
- 17.15h: Return to the Hotel La Palma
- 19.00h: Apéro Hotel La Palma
- 20.00h: Official dinner Hotel La Palma

Sunday, June 20:

- 08.00h: Departure by bus for Val Sesia, Outcrops in Grignasco (volcanic breccia, overview geology, 400 m walk), Crevacuore (obsidian, rhyolite, 200 m walk), Varallo (lower crust, folded kinzigite gneisses, marbles, diorite, 500 m walk)
- 12.30h: Lunch in Varallo (Sacro Monte), Rest. Pellegrino
- 14.00h: Continuation of excursion: Isola (layered gabbro, 700 m walk), and Balmuccia (peridotite of the mantle, 200 m walk)
- 18.00h: Return to the Hotels in Stresa

Monday, June 21:

- 08.30h: Departure by bus for Val d'Ossola, Outcrop at Mont'Orfano (intrusive granite in upper crust, 200 m walk), Candoglia (marble quarry of the diocese of Milan, kinzigite gneisses, pegmatites, folds of the lower crust, transport by local minibuses).
- 12.30h: Lunch in Mergozzo, Rest. Due Palme at the lake side.
- 14.00h: Continuation of excursion: Outcrops in Rumianca (petrography of special metamorphic rocks like Stronalite and garnet amphibolite, possibility to collect a souvenir, 300 m walk) and Loro (mylonite of the Insubric Fault, lower crust, 400 m walk). Overview by Prof. Dr. Stefan Schmid.
- 16.50h: Return to the Hotels in Stresa.

End of the Convention

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Hotels (see attached table)

You are requested to make your own hotel reservation by means of the attached list. You are equally requested to settle the hotel bill yourself at the latest on Monday. We are lodged in five different hotels:

Hotel La Palma****: main hotel for the conference, presentations, cocktail and official dinner, Hotel Boston***, Hotel Da Cesare***, Albergo Sempione**, Hotel Fiorentino**, for location see city map.

The contingent of rooms is reserved until **15th of April**. Afterwards the rooms are open for other guests. It is therefore recommended to make the hotel reservation **before 15th of April**, otherwise there exists a risk that rooms are not available anymore. Reservations are made directly to the corresponding hotel (see attached list).

2. How to reach Stresa

Stresa is connected directly to the Swiss railway system. Main access is from Bern. There are direct trains from Basel/Bern to Stresa. The fastest direct train departs from Bern 07.35 and arrives in Stresa 09.38.

By car there exist two main options from Switzerland:

- St. Gotthard pass to Bellinzona-Süd, Ascona and in Italy along the Lago Maggiore (difficult road, slow progress) to Stresa.
- Lötschberg (tunnel transport) and Simplon pass to the Val d'Ossola and on the Italian motorway directly to Stresa.

The closest international airport is Milano Malpensa (46 km distance).

3. Parking

Parking is generally a problem close to the hotels in Stresa. Some hotels offer parking space for free (see city map). Public parking is available at cost.

4. Comments on Partners' programme

The partners' programme of the Saturday afternoon will go to the "Isola Bella" with its baroque palace, built by Carlo III Borromeo for his wife Isabella, and its unique Italian formal gardens. A guided tour in English and German will be available.

5. Comments on excursions

Theme of the excursions is the earth's continental crust with visits to worldwide very rare locations, where - through alpine movements - a sequence is exposed from upper crustal parts with volcanics down to mantle rocks. **On Sunday** we will visit "Val Sesia" west of Stresa. Starting with originally near-surface magmatic rocks of Permian age (volcanic rocks: ignimbrites and rhyolites; plutonites: granite and diorite) we follow a series of gneiss and amphibolite of the upper crust ("Serie dei Laghi") and the 'stratigraphically' deeper rocks of the lower crust ("Ivrea-Verbanò Zone"). The latter consist mainly of high-grade metamorphic metapelites (kinzigite, strombolite) and basic magmatic rocks (diorite, gabbro). At the end of the day we shall see outcrops of peridotites from the sub-continental upper mantle.

It is worth mentioning here that we will have lunch on "Sacro Monte" (holy mountain) at Varallo. This is the oldest and most impressive holy mountain of the Piemonte-Lombardy region. Its origin in the 15th century goes back to a friar from Milano, Bernardo Caimi, who had spent many years in Palestine. Upon his return he decided to build a new Holy Land depicting the stations of Christ's life in Varallo. The monastery has been classified as Unesco world cultural heritage.

On Monday we will have another opportunity to study south-alpine upper and lower crustal rocks, now in the section of “Val d’Ossola”. Of special interest is a visit to the marble quarry of Candoglia. For centuries this has been used exclusively to furnish building materials, excavated and worked, for the Duomo of Milan. Access to this quarry requires a special permit from the offices of the archbishop of Milan. We will have to split in three groups to visit the quarry, the work shop and the block yard. Transport within the quarry area will be by a minibus.

The last stop of the excursion is at the chapel of Loro, half of which lies on the gabbros of the south-alpine “Ivrea-Verbano-Zone” and the other half on strongly deformed rocks of the “Insubric” fault zone. In addition, one has an impressive view from here onto the course of the “Insubric Line”, this marked border that bounds the Southern Alps to the northwest, towards the Central Alps. Stefan Schmid, a co-leader of this excursion, will enlighten us on the significance of the “Insubric Line” at the end of the excursion.

6. Bad weather programme

Given the fact that no walks are planned and because we will stay always close to the buses, no special bad weather programme was established. The programme will be followed regardless of the weather. It is advisable, however, to carry an umbrella and/or jacket along.

7. Field guides

On Sunday we will be guided by Dr. Peter Brack and Prof. Dr. Peter Ulmer, both from the ETH. On Monday the two Gentlemen will be assisted by our member Prof. Dr. Stefan Schmid.

8. Invitation for Student Members of VSP

The convention is an expensive trip for students. In order to promote participation of student members, the committee has decided to invite them free of charge with respect to the excursions, the official dinner on Saturday night and the convention fee. Student members are still required to pay the hotel, the journey to and from Stresa. They are of course free to select other, cheaper accommodation if they so desire (own booking).

9. Sponsoring of Students of the University of Zurich/ETH (non VSP members)

The sponsoring of students, which was started in 2007, was a limited success in 2009. Still the committee wishes to continue this programme also in 2010.

Considering the age distribution of our association, it would be highly desirable to increase the number of student members. Our conventions are, however, quite costly for a student’s budget and we know that several young members have not attended the excursions for this reason. The programme entails payment of the entire convention costs for students, except the travel to and from Stresa. The students are, in turn, required to become members of the Association. **We would most appreciate your support** for this programme. Payments can be made on the occasion of the registration for the next Convention to any bank account mentioned on the registration form. Please mention the reference “student sponsoring”. The committee pledges to use the funds in a well focused way and will report on this initiative at the General Assembly.

The committee thanks all members for their generous support. You help us ensure and guarantee the future of the VSP-ASP.

10. Special comments

This programme has been prepared early 2010. It might be that changes will occur because of different time tables or other unforeseen circumstances. Those changes

will be communicated by Dr. Bernhard Gunzenhauser on the occasion of his presentation on Saturday afternoon. Please take due note of such modifications of the programme.

New rules: In order to cope with larger numbers of participants of the convention and to simplify the administration, the committee has adopted the following new rules on the occasion of the meeting held in Basel on 1st of November 2008:

- No cash payment at the convention
- All payments have to be made in advance to one of the VSP accounts
- Registration is valid as soon as the payment has been received
- Refund regulations (see registration form)

