
International Alpine Music Festival Saas-Fee, Valais

Yodelling, landler and Alpine folk music in the glacier village

From 8 to 11 July 2010, the popular International Alpine Music Festival will take place in Saas-Fee. Yodellers, Alpine horn players and folk music groups from all over Switzerland and Austria, including the successful Müntzaler folk band, will be performing.

This will be the sixth year that the International Alpine Music Festival has celebrated all things folk. Surrounded by a magnificent mountain panorama featuring thirteen 4,000 metre peaks, the beautiful glacier village of Saas-Fee will provide an authentic backdrop for genuine Alpine landler music and popular German folk songs, also known as *schlager*.

The 2010 festival will be a colourful mix of folk, landler and schlager music, yodelling and local folklore. Visitors can also look forward to soaking up the fantastic atmosphere and warm hospitality in the friendly glacier village. During the festival, musicians, singers and musical societies will perform in the village festival hall and various restaurants, and on the streets and the village square. From Thursday to Sunday, the whole village will become a stage, and its awe-inspiring mountain backdrop is sure to provide the musicians, as well as the audience, with plenty of inspiration.

Four days of music

The festival will kick off on Thursday in the festival hall with an evening of entertainment by local music societies, after which Gersau-based band the Smashing Potatoes will turn up the tempo and get everyone dancing. Anyone in Saas-Fee during the day will also be able to enjoy the first summer market of the season. This will take place on the village high street between 2 and 6 p.m. On Friday night landler groups will welcome guests during a joint concert on the village square. The musicians will then give their first performances in the village's restaurants. On Saturday and Sunday there will be more joint concerts on the square, as well as more individual shows in local restaurants. This year one group will also perform in residence in one of the many mountain restaurants. There, guests and locals will be able to enjoy the music along with stunning views of the surrounding mountains and the village below. The Lörtscher-Wyss yodelling duo with Ernst Dubi will be returning for the 2010 festival, and newcomers the AlpPan Duo will entertain audiences with their unusual Alpine

horn and panpipe duets. The two groups will move through the streets, stopping to play at various points around the village.

A fantastic night of folk music with the Mürztaler

A great night of folk music has been planned for Saturday, too. The landler groups, the yodellers, and the AlpPan Duo will all be up on the stage to wow the crowds again. However, the main act of the evening will be the Austrian band the Mürztaler, who are sure to have everyone dancing to folk and schlager music until the early hours of the morning. Over their 20 years together, the Mürztaler have enjoyed great success. When they were placed first on the Austrian shortlist for the 1995 Grand Prix of Folk Music, they caught the attention of the famous Austrian presenter and entertainer Karl Moik. They then went on to play at 15 Musikanten Stadl concerts all over the world and Moik made the group his backing band for live performances. The Mürztaler have always stood out for their professionalism, diversity and absolute love of music. It therefore comes as no surprise that their long career has seen them accompany many other big names in the world of folk, such as Roy Black, Waltraud Haas, Tommy Steiner, Bernd Clüver, Gunter Gabriel and Hias. The group has notched up over 250 television performances and has reached the final of the Grand Prix of Folk Music five times!

The International Alpine Music Festival in Saas-Fee is a great mix of tradition, folklore and folk and schlager music, and is bound to put everyone in a good mood. This is the perfect place to dance, let your hair down, meet up with old friends and make new ones. It's not often that concerts let you get this close to the musicians, so what are you waiting for? Put it in your diary!

You can find further information on the Festival as well as the current programme by going to: www.saas-fee.ch/iamf or direct by phoning the Tourist Office Saas-Fee/Saastal: 027 958 18 58. Ask about our special festival packages.

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Further information at Saas-Fee/Saastal Tourismus (tourist office), Anja Roy, PR & Events, events@saas-fee.ch or 027 958 18 67 (direct).

Photos under www.photopress.ch/image/saas-fee (free of charge)