

IPCBA WORLD CONGRESS 2018

The XII Pinzgauer World Congress was held in Austria on 26 April 2018. It was the first time since 1998 that it was hosted by Austria and the event raised huge interest amongst Pinzgauer breeders and farmers worldwide. Apart from local breeders and farmers, delegates from Slovakia, USA, Canada, South Africa, Australia, Italy, Germany, Switzerland and Luxembourg attended the congress. As has become tradition, the congress was coupled with a tour of the host country including visits to local Pinzgauer breeders.

Before going into more detail regarding the itinerary, I would like to reflect on a few general observations made during the tour:

1. Pinzgauers in Austria

Being the country of origin of this great breed, it is clear that the Pinzgauer is held in very high esteem in Austria – almost to the point of treating it as a loved pet! It is part of the culture of Austria and is very closely associated with tourism in the sense of agritourism. A Pinzgauer against the backdrop of a green Alpine pasture is the default touristic picture of Austria.



It seems that farming with Pinzgauers is a family activity as all the breeders we met were closely assisted by their wives, children and even the grandparents!



Even among the general public the Pinzgauer seems to be respected. Despite other breeds being more in numbers, the Pinzgauer is slowly clawing its way back in terms of popularity and numbers. In Austria it is mostly used for milk production but the versatility of this dual purpose breed makes it very suitable and adaptable to be used all over the world.

2. The worldwide Pinzgauer family

All Pinzgauer farmers and breeders are family! This was very clear in the relationship and actions that manifested between tour members and delegates right from the word go! People who knew each other from previous congresses greeted each other like old friends and new lifelong friendships were established in a very short time. It seems that the love for the Pinzgauer attracts like-minded people with similar value systems. Quality attracts quality!

3. Austria: A first world country and proud of its heritage

Austria is a first world country par excellence. Road infrastructure, train services and public transport, cities, hotels, communication systems etc are of the very best! It is clear that the art of road and tunnel building has been fully mastered by



Austrian engineers. The discipline, courtesy and friendliness of the people are remarkable. Austrians have a huge heritage in terms of history and culture and they are not ashamed of it. This manifests in the obvious comfort and pride with which they don their national attire across all generations, and in the way that they maintain historical buildings and sites. Toddlers, primary school pupils, teenagers, adults and grandparents will gladly take part in folkloristic dancing and singing,



Music plays a huge part in Austria – as we experienced with every farm that we visited and with Corinthian choral singing and Strauss and Mozart in Vienna!

4. Austrian efficiency and hospitality

Everybody agree that the whole event, i. e the tour and the congress, were organised and presented in the most efficient way. The hospitality of the organisers and their fellow Austrians was unsurpassable. From the “city” hotel Falkensteiner Margareten to the old seat of a Catholic bishop, i.e. Schloss Segau, to the 5-star Schlosshotel Velden and to the



family owned hotel Zur Post in Goldegg, the accommodation and warm atmosphere at the hotels were first class! We were treated like royalty!

Thank you to all personnel and waiters for their friendliness, efficiency and gracefulness. Thank you to our bus drivers for driving us safely on our amazing journey.

But most of all we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Mathias Kinberger, Christian Dullnig, Hans Scharfetter and their team for an unforgettable time and experience. You have lifted the crossbar once again and we are forever grateful and appreciative to you.

5. Highlights of the tour

Instead of giving a detailed day-by-day description of the itinerary, I rather would like to note a few highlights of the 11 days that we have spent together:

- The welcoming dinner at the restaurant Plaschutta in Vienna, eating the traditional dish “Tafelspitz” (boiled aitchbone) and making new friends.
- A visit to the Spanish Riding School in Vienna in a venue that reminds one of an opera theatre.
- Tour of the Vienna city centre by foot; eating lunch at restaurant Gmoakelder; visiting Schönbrunn Palace.
- Attending a concert of works by WA Mozart and Johann Straus at the Kursalon (a definite highlight for me!)
- Visiting Volcano Ham World in Styria (agritourism at its best) as well as the Gölles Vinegar and Schnapps Distillery (modern agritourism).
- Tour of Schloss Segau, former seat of two Catholic bishops at once, and a special wine tasting in a cellar with the thickest walls imaginable. The “happy vibe” at the event made it even more special!
- Farm visit to the farm Jaklbauer of the Schnitzer family; little Mathias Schnitzer welcoming us with his marvellous

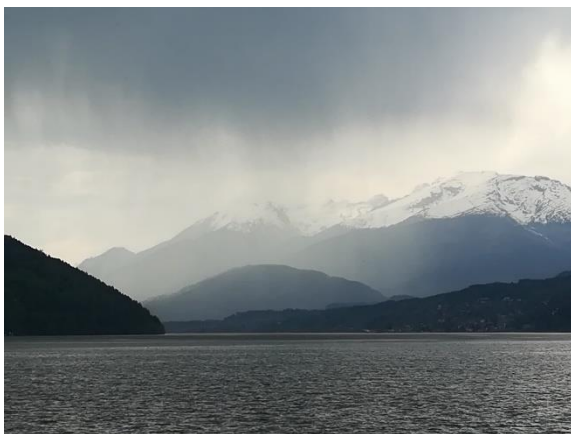


accordion playing; folkloristic dancing by children and teenagers; walking amongst the beautiful Pinzgauer cattle; cake and coffee (which turned out to be much more than only cake and coffee) to the extreme (and this was true at all the farm visits!).



- Our “grand” 5-star hotel on the shore of Lake Wörthersee I,e, Schlosshotel Velden; dining and wining like high society; performance of traditional Carinthian songs by the men’s choir of Villach.
- Visit to the farm high up in the mountains of the family Gleissner in St Lorenzen; black Pinzgauers; traditional lunch in restaurant Nockstadel.

- Cruising on the Millstätter See under a grey sky with snowclad mountains in the background and colourful houses on the shore.



- Agricultural School Litzlhof parading their Pinzgauers; cheese buffet and fruitmilk.
- The farm Jandlbauer of the Riepler family in Wagrain; the beautiful homestead; the beautiful Pinzgauers in their first class stable; scrumptious coffee break – like all the others!
- Our home away from home – Hotel Zur Post in Goldegg! Here we truly felt at home and like family with food that tasted like your mother’s!



- Travelling by foot through the centre of Salzburg and the Domquartier; official welcoming function by the local government and girls from the Agricultural School Bruck serving us the food and drinks; lunch at the famous Gasthof Gastagwirt in Eugendorf with Pinzgauer meat; visiting their Pinzgauer steers,

free range chickens and pigs (in accordance with the new trend that people like to see where what they eat come from).



- Attending the XII Pinzgauer World Congress in Schloss Goldegg. All speakers were well prepared and they covered very applicable and interesting topics. The translation facilities were excellent. The reports from the member countries present (Austria, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, South

Africa, and Australia) were very interesting and to the point. Everybody were happy and excited with the new board that was elected and fully trust them to promote and manage the Pinzgauer cause in the most effective manner. Once again congratulations to Mathias Kinberger and his team for a well organised congress.



- Visit to the Agricultural School Bruck; excellent multi-gender marching band in traditional attire welcoming us with girls serving schnapps; parade of animals by trained handlers; guided tour through the school's facilities; well-mannered and friendly learners; excellent lunch served by learners in traditional attire.

- Visit to the farm Lackenhof of the family Dick in Maishofen; brass quartet welcoming us on the farm playing Alpine music; beautiful scenery of Pinzgauer cattle against an Alpine backdrop; little girl Johanna leading her sheep Sissi (sometimes the other way around!).



- Bus drive through the scenic Gastein Valley and a visit to Bad Gastein and the waterfall.

- Gala beef dinner at the Weitmoserschlossl of re-elected IPCBA-president, Hans Scharfetter; visiting Hans's Pinzgauer herd; folkloristic band making music and folkloristic dancing by the group Taxenbacher Schuhplattler.

- Traditional lunch at Schloss Kammer where Mathias had family ties; unexpectedly finding out that some of the first Pinzgauers that were exported to South Africa, was bought on the same farm.

- Going 3000 meters up in 3 cable cars to the top of Kitzsteinhorn and a glacier where thousands of skiers were enjoying the last ski days of the season; walking through a tunnel to the other side of the





mountain spectacular scenery on the adjoining national park; drinking coffee in a restaurant halfway up the mountain.



- Pinzgauer Cattle Show in Maishofen; arena fully packed both days; international representatives with national flags at opening ceremony; focus on young breeders and rewarding their achievements; auction of elite stock; competitions in all possible categories;

Austrians in traditional attire and jovial atmosphere in the marquee tent with big screen and food stalls.



- And finally, some more impressions: green pastures; blossoming cherry and apple trees all along the roads and in gardens; brightly coloured flower beds and pots; snowclad mountains; gushing streams coming from the mountains where the snow is melting; beautiful churches; old buildings that are well cared for; tunnels galore and lots of castles. Truly: God is great and alive in His creation!

