



## Einsiedeln puts Switzerland on the Summer Ski Jumping map

For the first time in the 12-year history of the FIS Ski Jumping Grand Prix competition, Switzerland hosted an event, when a completely new Ski Jumping site at Einsiedeln set the scene for the second competition of the Grand Prix series on 13<sup>th</sup> August.

Einsiedeln offers four different Ski Jumping hill facilities (HS 117, HS 78, HS 50 and HS 27) for seniors and juniors which has been built at a cost of 12.2 million Swiss francs funded in partnership by the Swiss state, the Swiss Olympic Committee and the Schwyzer Cantonal Bank. The idea for the facilities was fostered already ten years ago and today the site offers perfect conditions and high safety measures for the competitors. During the summer Ski Jumping competitions, athletes will begin their descent on a wet ceramic trail, land on green PVC brushes and finally break on a superb grass turf surface.

The monastery of Einsiedeln today hosts the Swiss National Training Centre for Nordic Combined as well as Ski Jumping. Priest Lorenz Moser was therefore invited to give his official blessing of the facilities before the start of the competition on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August that was visited by 2500 spectators. You may find the results of the Saturday's competition here: <http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/604/610.html?sector=JP&raceid=1989>

## FIS Ski Jumping Grand Prix at Courchevel (FRA) – An event to remember

Athletes and coaches had only little time to rest on their laurels in Einsiedeln before the next competition in Courchevel (FRA) – 450 km west of Einsiedeln - began next morning at 09:00. The competitors certainly weren't short of inspiration as 8'000 spectators, despite wet conditions, turned up for the event which was organized at 1300 metres. In addition to an exciting ski jumping competition, the spectators were treated to a spectacular base jumping show, featuring among others the former French ski jumper Lucas Chevalier.

The popular French resort which hosted one of the stages in this year's Tour de France cycling race, offers two hills (HS 132 and HS 96). The site was originally built for the 1992 Olympic Winter Games in Albertville (FRA). 52 jumpers from 14 nations took part in this year's prestigious event which has been part of the FIS Summer Grand Prix series since 1997. You may find the results of the Sunday's competition here: <http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/604/610.html?sector=JP&raceid=1977>

## Fresh snow brightens mood in Australia and New Zealand

Recent heavy snowfalls in New Zealand and Australia have been welcomed by event organisers, competitors and sponsors with a number of FIS competitions set to start in the middle of August. Last season New Zealand's mountain resorts experienced the best snow conditions in ten years which also saw visitor numbers rise to new records. Indeed lower airfares, increased flights, good weather and plenty of infrastructural improvements are helping New Zealand attract more and more skiers to their

mountain resorts. In addition, the demand from elite skiers to prepare for the upcoming season on high-quality snow has seen some of the world's top alpine racers as well as snowboarders move their training camps to New Zealand.

In Australia, Mother Nature delivered the goods when it was most needed to allow Perisher Blue, Perisher Valley, Mt.Hotham and Mt.Buller (all sites which will host FIS competitions in the near future) to offer perfect snow conditions for skiers and snowboarders of all levels. Snow even fell down to sea levels on August 11<sup>th</sup> to give about 6500 Tasmanian children an unexpected holiday as 25 schools were closed after falls of up to 30cm (a foot) in the state's south, southeast and west. In several southern areas snow settled on beaches thanks to a blast of cold air from the Antarctic.

### Three Olympic villages to host athletes

5,000 people will be accommodated in three Olympic villages during the upcoming 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Turin (ITA). The Olympic Villages in Turin, Bardonecchia and Sestrière will be operating 24 hours a day, providing accommodation and services for the Olympic athletes, coaches, officials and members of the National Olympic Committees. The Turin village is the biggest and will host no less than 2500 people. The Bardonecchia village will host the Snowboard, Biathlon and Freestyle teams. This structure has been renovated and can house up to 700 people. After the Olympic Games it will become a residence.

At Sestrière, the Olympic Village spreads out over three different structures, connected by a shuttle bus and pedestrian pathways. The village of Sestrière will house athletes for Alpine Skiing, Bobsleigh, Skeleton, Nordic Combined, Luge, Ski Jumping and Cross-Country Skiing. A total of about 1,700 people will stay in this village. The three villages will open officially on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006.

Dear Friends of FIS,

Should you have any feedback, comments, you are most welcome to send them to me at: [frandsen@fis.ch](mailto:frandsen@fis.ch). "FIS Newsflash" will not only be distributed via e-mail but also be published in the News section of the FIS Website.

Best regards

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