

Den økologiske dal

The Organic Valley



Højt oppe i De schweiziske Alper ligger Valsertal - **Vals-dalen**. Dalbunden ligger 1.250 m over havet, og de omkringliggende bjergsider strækker sig stejlt op gennem trægrænsen til den evige sne. Kølhederne og det allesteds risende og brusende smeltevand giver dalen en helt særlig lydkuppel, som rundes af duften fra de frodige græsser, hvor man på en tidlig juledag finder et utal forskellige blomster. Ikke så svært, at dalens mælk og ost har en ganske særlig smag.

Valsertal har i dag lige omkring 1.000 indbyggere og på årsbasis omkring 400 overnattende gæster pr. døgn. Selvom turismen således i dag er Vals' vigtigste indtægtskilde, er bjerglandbruget stadig kernen i dalens fundament dagligdag og **selvforståelse**. Man værner om sin tradition, som danner basis for de mange gæster, som året rundt kommer for at opleve stedets stilhed og storlæde natur.

I 1986 bad man den i dag verdensberømte arkitekt Peter Zumthor om at tegne **Therme Vals**, et termisk bad, som har gjort stedet kendt over hele verden. I Vals er der således masser af inspiration til en **revitalisering af de landdistrikter**, som i dag synger hen mange steder i verden som følge af bylivets tiltrækningskraft.



Vals - et bjergsamfund i De Schweiziske Alper

Mange steder i verden hensygnr landsbysamfund som følge af store migrationer til byen. Men det er lykkedes det lille bjergsamfund Vals at etablere sin niche med økologisk landbrug, verdensberømt arkitektur og en naturturisme, som tiltrækker besøgende året rundt.



High in the Swiss Alps lies **Valsertal** - Vals Valley. The valley is located 1,250 m above sea level, and the surrounding hillsides are stretching steeply up through the tree line to the eternal snow.

Cowbells and the ever-present rippling sounds of melting water gives a unique sound dome rounded with the smell from the verdant pastures where, on an early day of June, you'll find a myriad of different flowers. No wonder that the taste of the valley's milk and cheese is unique.

By and large, agriculture in Valsertal today is operated the same way it has been for centuries, in **deep harmony** with the site and its conditions. Grazing, foresting, picking and harvesting takes place everywhere, but no more than securing that the balance is maintained year after year.

Depending on season, livestock is moved up and down the hillsides, where small barns with animals downstairs and hay for long snowy winters upstairs are distributed. Vals is famous for its **quality products** and years ago the valley as a whole turned into **organic farming**.

Through centuries, life as a Valsertal **mountain peasant** has been a continued challenge, and at the end of the 1800s the small community considered **emigrating** collectively to America with its vast uncultivated prairies.

Today, Valsertal has around 1,000 inhabitants and annually about 400 overnight guests per day. Even though today tourism is Vals' most important source of income, agricultural tradition remains the core of the daily life and the **self-understanding** of the valley community. The valley guards its traditions and has managed to thrive with its many guests, which all year round come to experience the place of **quietude** and **magnificent nature**.

In 1986, the later world renowned architect Peter Zumthor was asked to design **Therme Vals**, a thermal bath, which has made the place known around the world. Thus, in Vals there is much inspiration for **revitalization of rural areas** that are currently in decay many places around the world.



Vals - a Mountain Community in the Swiss Alps

Villages around the World are decaying due to migrations to the city. However the mountain village of Vals has managed to establish its niche of existence through ecological farming, World-famous architecture and a nature tourism that attracts visitors throughout the year.