

Europa-Sportregion an ideal terrain for international elite / World Cup training of many winter sports pros on Kitzsteinhorn

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They travel thousands of kilometres, some of them even jet half around the globe. Some leave behind the Appalachians and the Rocky Mountains, others turn their backs on the Urals and Lake Baikal - for their training conditions have to be absolutely perfect. They all have one destination in common: the snow-covered expanse of the 'Europa-Sportregion Zell am See-Kaprun'. Now, in autumn, when the best winter sports athletes from Canada, Cyprus, or Russia prepare for the approaching winter season, nothing is left to chance. That is why so many of the top athletes have once again come to the slopes of the Kitzsteinhorn glacier - where they can be absolutely sure of having enough snow - to do their personal preparations.

Training conditions in the limestone massif of the Alps, at an altitude of 3,203 metres are perfect already in October. The stars of the winter sports scene meet on the glacier to test their form just a few days before the start of the World Cup series. The team from the Alpine republic has the shortest journey of them all to get to this Mecca of winter sports: Renate Götschl, Fritz Strobl and Marlies Schild are just three out of a total of nine Alpine athletes who start under the red-white-red flag. And Mario Fuchs and Hans Jörg Unterrainer are two pros from the Austrian Skiing Association (ÖSV) who have come to Salzburg's coolest mountain to put the finishing touches to their skills on the snowboard.

The requirements may be very varied, but the pistes of Kitzsteinhorn meet even the highest demands. For super-G, giant slalom, or slalom: as early as in October the local mountain of the 'Europa-Sportregion' offers everything that trainers and athletes in the Alpine disciplines can possibly expect from a skiing area. Even Poland's ski jumpers around their star Adam Malysz have come here to train in previous years. Apart from the flaky white snow on the glacier that can be run on all year round, the infrastructure of the region fulfils all expectations of the professionals. 18 state-of-the-art lifts and cable cars are only waiting to help with a comfortable ascend and there are shuttle buses down in the valley to take the athletes to their accommodation.

These advantages are bound to drive the Austrian athletes to their best performances. The speed queen from Styria, Renate Götschl, intends to add a World Cup victory or two to the 38 she has achieved so far. Where the men's competitions are concerned, the Austrian hopes are pinned on Fritz Strobl. And for Fuchs and Unterrainer the motto on Kitzsteinhorn is, 'Give everything so that you may soon be able to surpass your own best as shown in the snowboard cross competition in Furano in Japan!'

More information on winter sports in the 'Europa-Sportregion Zell am See-Kaprun' can be found at www.europasportregion.info on the Internet.

Contact Europa-Sportregion
Europa Sportregion Marketing GmbH
Guest Service
Phone +43 (0)6542 - 770 0
welcome(at)europasportregion.info
www.europasportregion.info

Press contact
knoefler-journalist | media and communications
Mr. Benjamin Knöfler
Phone +49 (0)6028 - 80729 0
esr(at)knoefler.de
www.knoefler-journalist.de

General Information:

With its 14,000 beds and two million overnight stays a year, the 'Europa-Sportregion Zell am See-Kaprun' is one of the most important holiday regions in Austria. More than 40 activities like rafting, golf, and walking are offered during the summer months. In the cold season of the year rides in horse-drawn sleighs or snowshoe walks provide a welcome change. 56 chair lifts and cable cars take skiers to thick powder snow on 132 kilometres of pistes - snowboarders find an ideal terrain at the Snowpark on the glacier plateau of Kitzsteinhorn, 2,600 metres above sea-level. Here, skiing and snowboarding is possible even in summer. Moreover, the renowned German publishing house of 'Falk Verlag' has named Zell am See and Kaprun as the most family-friendly holiday region in Europe.

[You can find this press release here](#)