
Ice Climbing World Cup & European Youth Championships 2010 in Saas-Fee

Ueli Steck and Ines Papert at the Ice Climbing World Cup in Saas-Fee

**The world's finest ice climbers will again gather in the glacier village of Saas-Fee from 15 to 23 January 2010! In a new development this year, one whole week will be entirely devoted to ice climbing: from presentations by Ueli Steck and Ines Papert about the European Ice Climbing Youth Championships, right down to the annual World Cup and the Swiss Masters.
One week of pure action!**

The legendary ice climbing competitions will captivate athletes and fans alike for a full week in January 2010. For the first time, the programme of supporting events has been expanded to include presentations by top climbers such as Ueli Steck and Ines Papert, a European Ice Climbing Youth Championship, a climb for young people with instruction by professionals, and a night-time ski touring race. The newly revamped programme promises plenty of excitement, variety and all kinds of action for fans of ice climbing both young and old.

Ines Papert: FOREVER

In her lecture entitled FOREVER, Ines Papert tells the tale of a transient world: "Experiences are fleeting. They are captured in photos and videos. Stories keep them alive", says Papert in her press release. FOREVER consists of stories devoted to extreme climbing; stories that capture the moment; amazing images and evocative film material that lives long in the memory. Papert takes her audience on a journey to Icefall Brook Canyon in Canada, where, together with three other women, she achieved ten first ascents in ten days. Or she takes her listeners to Nepal, where, after a few setbacks, she finally managed to conquer a mighty Himalayan peak. On the one hand, FOREVER is about challenge, risk and doubt – on the other, it is about incredible happiness and passion.

Ines Papert, born in Saxony (Germany) in 1974 and now resident in Bayerisch Gmain, is a 4-time World Champion and multiple World Cup winner in ice

climbing. In 2006, Papert, a qualified physiotherapist, retired from competition in order to completely focus her attention on new projects. These days it is high mountain faces and exposed peaks that work their magic on her. During her expeditions, she has explored the most far-flung locations in the world. Surprisingly, her childhood was more influenced by music than sport. It was only when she left home after completing her education in 1993 and came to Berchtesgadener Land to work that she discovered her love of the mountains. Climbing soon became her *raison d'être*. After the birth of her son Emanuel in 2001, she won the overall World Cup in ice climbing for the first time and launched a successful professional career.

Ines Papert lives out her dreams between rocks and ice – and she does so as the mother of a nine-year old boy. Time and again, she is tempted out into the world and into the mountains, to go forth and then return, to dream in order to live.

Ueli Steck: Achieving maximum performance through perfection

Ueli Steck, born in 1976 in Langnau in Emmental (Switzerland), is without doubt one of the best extreme climbers in the world. Solo climbing is Steck's greatest passion. He is often to be found climbing with no ropes or backup: "Solo climbing is the purest and most extreme form of climbing and is incredibly enjoyable." (www.explora.ch) Steck is also fascinated by ice climbing, alpine expeditions and sport climbing. A qualified carpenter, Steck played ice hockey intensively in his youth before discovering climbing. His exceptional talent soon marked him out on the climbing walls and by the age of 17, he was already climbing peaks with a difficulty rating of 9 (UIAA). At 18, he climbed the north face of the Eiger, followed by the famous Bonatti Pillar in the Mont Blanc massif. He subsequently enjoyed further successes such as climbing the Eiger, Mönch und Jungfrau in just 25 hours, his solo climb of the north face of the Cholatse (6,440 m), and the east face of the Tawoche (6,505 m) in the Himalayas. And Steck still holds the record for the fastest ascent of the Eiger. In 2007, he scaled the north face of the Eiger in just 3 hours and 54 minutes, only to break his own record a year later, in February 2008, by conquering the north face via the Heckmair route in just 2 hours and 47 minutes. The secret of his success: very detailed preparations and precise risk assessment. And yet Ueli Steck still has dreams and goals aplenty,

the south face of Annapurna being one of them. He has already made two unsuccessful attempts: in 2007, a falling rock struck Steck on the head while he was climbing the south flank. Unconscious, and with his helmet smashed, he plunged 200 m. Luckily, he only sustained minor injuries and was able to climb down to base camp unaided. In 2008, he once again abandoned his climb, this time so that he could come to the aid of a Spanish climber. A third attempt will surely follow. As Ueli Steck himself writes on his website: "My ambition remains intact, my head full of ideas, my thirst for action unquenched."

Ueli Steck's lecture "Höchstleistungen durch Perfektion – Speed Trilogie: Eigernordwand, Grandes Jorasses & Matterhorn" ("Achieving maximum performance through perfection – Speed Trilogy: Eiger North Face, the Grandes Jorasses & the Matterhorn") takes place on 15 January in the Simplonhalle in Brig. Ines Papert invites the guests on the 17 January to the eventhall "rainbow" (Hotel Ferienart Resort & Spa) in Saas-Fee. Admittance in each case is from 19:00, with the presentation starting at 20:00. Entry is 20 CHF for each presentation. Children up to 16 years pay 10 CHF.

The programme at a glance...

- 15/01: Presentation by Ueli Steck, Brig
- 16/01: European Ice Climbing Youth Championships, Saas-Grund
- 17/01: Ice climbing for young people, with instruction by professional climbers, Saas Grund
Presentation by Ines Papert, Saas-Fee
- 20/01: Night-time ski touring race, Saas-Fee
- 21/01: UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup, Starting number distribution, Saas-Fee
- 22/01: UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup & Swiss Masters, Saas-Fee
- 23/01: UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup & Swiss Masters, Saas-Fee

Additional information available from:
www.iceclimbingworldcup.ch or www.saas-fee.ch.
ar/sf (07.01.2010)

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For further information please contact:

IWC Organisation, Kurt Arnold (OC president), +41 79 433 15 64 or: arnold.kurt@moutain-life.ch
Saas-Fee/Saastal Tourismus, Anja Roy, 027 958 18 67, events@saas-fee.com or visit www.saas-fee.ch

Photos: www.photopress.ch/image/saas-fee

Live stream (only during the event): www.saas-fee.ch