

— TRAVEL —

Find a little bit of paradise in Eigenthal Switzerland



Hammer Hotel & Restaurant. Hammer Hotel Room lower right corner. Photo Credit: courtesy

by Diana Saenger
 After staying in several hotels in Germany and Switzerland it was a pleasant surprise to have a booking at The Hammer Hotel in Eigenthal located 1,030 meters above sea level at the foot of Mount Pilatus. Owner Mrs. Hammer welcomed our group as if we were old friends. She made a point of offering just the right room from several choices for all of us, and we had free Wi-Fi.

the sunny panoramic terrace with a view that would take our breath away. The lush green mountains surrounded us like a comfortable blanket. The view of the pristine white Swiss Alps felt like watching an XMAX film; you just wanted to reach out and touch it.

Coffee, tea, others drinks and delicious pastries were offered on the patio, which sufficed us until we went in for dinner. We had several choices of entrees and desserts of Swiss specialties from market-fresh,

regional products as well as vegetarian pleasures. This was only outdone but a huge breakfast spread. Their drinking water comes from their own spring.

Some of us took walks, some naps and some just enjoyed the scenery or hearing about how the Hammer came about. The Hammer Hotel began with Anton Hammer in 1901, and the history of how it can be is quite mystifying.

"The Hammer Hotel is a Power Place in a natural paradise and a landscape of national importance," Mrs. Hammer said. "In this incomparable setting we are happy to provide our guests with hospitality

and accommodation. You are guaranteed an unforgettable stay under a shimmering starry sky, surrounded by marvelous mountains. Prepare for pure relaxation!"

The Swiss Government officially acknowledged the Pilatus and the Eigenthal to be worthy of preservation in 1977. The area beneath the Mount Pilatus has a big natural diversity on different altitudes including an upland moor and pinewoods. Especially the lime stones that allow a rich flora.

One morning we were awakened by the sound of Swiss Cow bells. These are important in the mountain areas as cows might wonder off, so they wear a cow bell so their owners can find them.

This morning Mrs. Hammer stood on the terrace with a larger cowbell over her head swinging it back and forth. She said, "Watch! This hotel will be like a cuckoo clock." And as she rang the bell someone would pop their head out the window above then go back in as a head would pop out of another window. We all laughed at her charm and grace.

Anyone looking for a heavenly place where splendid treatment can be found should check out the Hammer Hotel and Restaurant, whether vacationing, or for conferences or seminars. The Hotel can be reached by car or bus from Lucerne city center in half an hour by car, or Zurich in an hour and from train in 40 minutes. The



Mrs. Hammer ready to ring her cow bell. Photo Credit: Gene Henselmeier

Right: Swiss Cow Bell. Photo credit: courtesy



hotelier can arrange transfers from the Lucerne Train Station at reasonable rates. For more info visit info@hotel-hammer.ch or call +1 (0) 414975205.

We couldn't wait to go on



The view from the hotel.

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