



Nik Hartmann

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Nik Hartmann, born in 1972 in Burgdorf, went into journalism after dropping out of law school. He started out as a presenter and editor at Radio extra Bern and Radio 24. After that, he worked for Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen. Since July 2020, Hartmann has been joint head of in-house productions for TV National at CH Media, where he is responsible for the "Sing meinen Song" ("Sing my Song") format, among others. He is also studying for a bachelor's degree in jazz flute at Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, and he takes private piano and saxophone lessons. He's a busy man, but he tries his best to balance his job, studies and family life. He lives with his wife Carla and their three sons in Buonas.



Scan the QR code and discover why Nik loves Zug.

The promise of the Ennetsee

TV professional Nik Hartmann is definitely a country guy. He grew up in rural Hünenberg and has lived with his family in the municipality of Risch for over 20 years. He's head over heels for his local area.

Ennetsee – it has a romantic sound to it and seems full of promise. But people in Zug tend to associate this lake with a particular drawback.

There is no sunset to watch in the evening here.

Well, it's all a matter of perspective. It's just that here in Buonas, the sun doesn't spectacularly disappear behind Lake Zug in the evening. Instead, it disappears behind the Lindenberg. On the plus side, our location here means we get very early morning sun. But for me, the most beautiful moment isn't the sunrise but the time just before it, the dawn. That's when I look out the kitchen window at the sleepy Lake Zug, illuminated by a yellow light shining from the east.

Are you speaking as a fan of the Ennetsee who grew up in Hünenberg and – after a brief time in Zug – settled down again on this side of the lake with his wife and children?

The Canton of Zug is really too small to divide up geographically, but yes, it's true, I really like this area. I only have to step out of the front door and, five minutes later, I'm standing in front of a yellow hiking trail sign. I live in the middle of a local recreation area and love being out and about in nature. One of my favourite walks is to the nearby Chilchberg forest in Risch.

Is that the forest with the mysterious man-made stone monument?

Exactly. This "Little Stonehenge" is made of 220 crystalline blocks that were left behind after the retreat of the Reuss Glacier. At some point, they were arranged in a palisade-like row by people. There have been many attempts to explain their purpose. Some think it might have been a place of worship, others think it was a boundary wall, while others think it was a wall for a pasture. It has also proven difficult to date the monument. Archaeologists estimate that it is from either the Middle Ages or the modern era.

When you live in a place and become familiar with it, it's common not to value its famous sights very much. Is that the case with you?

No, I'm aware of how privileged I am to live here. I appreciate the gems all around me and I seek them out time and again. One of those gems is the Chapel of St. German, a baroque building from the early 17th century. It's just a stone's throw away from Buonas' lakeside promenade. There is another great architectural sight to see here: the historic

wooden changing huts built in the 1930s. The Zweiern bathing area is also a special treat. It's a small lido with a pebble beach, jetty and pontoon. I should also mention the Michaelskreuz. I know it from my cycling tours. I always get that "foothills of the Alps feeling" on this hill, which is almost 800 metres high. It's because it has magnificent views of the Bernese, Uri and Glarus Alps, and even the Black Forest.

We haven't even mentioned Freudenberg Castle, which is located on the old country road between Buonas and Cham and was built around 1930. Would you also call this a gem?

I would, and more besides! Former British Prime Minister Margret Thatcher used the estate as a summer residence for many years. I remember it well! When Thatcher went there to visit her friend Lady Glover, a black state limousine escorted by several police mopeds drove past my parents' house in Hünenberg. We were so impressed and we tried to catch a glimpse inside the limousine. But it was no use! It had tinted windows. The castle and park are still privately owned today and are not open to the public. It's a shame, because I would really love to visit the estate and its orangery.

What about Buonas Castle at the very tip of the beech-covered peninsula that gave Buonas its name?

Unfortunately, this castle is also privately owned. But they do open the castle park to the public twice a year. Every May, they have an "Open Park Day", when you can go and see the blooming rhododendrons, the water-lily pond and the nursery. In October, there is a "Sam Fuin" (Samhain) celebration – the Celtic summer solstice festival. The event is a huge success and, judging by the car registration plates, people travel from all over Switzerland to attend. I too have been caught up in the mysticism of the festival and immersed myself in the world of burning torches, jugglers, mulled wine, bagpipes, kilts and Celtic sounds, chestnuts and pumpkin soup. I have to say, the atmosphere was amazing!