

Rex-Royal AG

Engineering Meets Espresso: Coffee Expertise on the GoldenPass Express



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Since December 2022, the GoldenPass Express has been a highlight of Swiss railway history.

It's the first train service to offer a seamless journey from Montreux to Interlaken without a change, thanks to an automatic track gauge change system. The train, a collaboration between the MOB and the BLS, operates four daily round trips, linking three major tourist hubs: the elegant lakeside town of Montreux, the chic resort of Gstaad, and the picturesque mountain village of Interlaken.

A New Golden Age for Rail Travel: The GoldenPass Express

According to Frédéric Delachaux of MOB's management, the GoldenPass Express fulfils a long-held dream. The new route makes travel more comfortable, especially for groups, by eliminating the need to switch trains. The technical marvel that makes this possible was developed by MOB in partnership with Alstom. At Zweisimmen, the train's bogies automatically switch between the MOB's metre-gauge track (1000mm) and the BLS's standard-gauge track (1435mm). While



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the locomotives and crew change at this point, the dedicated catering team remains with the passengers for the entire journey.

The train itself is designed to make the journey an experience. The interior features panoramic windows that frame the stunning landscape, and the Prestige class offers rotating seats for maximum comfort and views. The onboard catering is another key feature, with a menu that highlights the flavours of the region. Passengers can enjoy local specialties like Alpenkaviar from sturgeon raised in mountain spring water, wines from the UNESCO-listed Lavaux terraces, and charcuterie boards with cheeses and meats produced along the route.

High-Quality Coffee on the Move

An important new addition to the onboard experience is the freshly brewed coffee. Replacing the previous instant coffee, the train now serves barista-quality cappuccinos, espressos and lattes. The coffee is prepared using a Rex-Royal S2 Railway CST coffee machine, a specialised full-automatic machine designed specifically for use on trains.

Christoph Staubli, Project Manager Railway at Rex-Royal, explains the unique challenges of creating a coffee machine for trains. Following a tragic train fire in 2000, safety standards for train equipment were significantly tightened. This meant Rex-Royal had to

completely redesign their machines to meet stringent new requirements. The S2 Railway, conceived and produced in Dällikon, Switzerland, uses non-flammable, non-toxic plastic components and features shock- and vibration-resistant mounting frames to ensure maximum stability. This design process is ongoing, with continuous adjustments made to meet evolving standards.

The S2 Railway also boasts clever solutions for the practicalities of train operation. It has an integrated self-sufficient water supply to maintain constant



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Enrico D'Herin, Head of Catering at MOB, and Frédéric Delachaux both praised Rex-Royal's professional approach. After testing various providers, Rex-Royal was able to deliver a machine that met all the specific requirements, including the challenge of working with two different power systems. The fact that Rex-Royal is a Swiss brand also made it a perfect fit for the 'Swiss-made' train.

The GoldenPass Express is part of a long tradition of scenic Swiss rail travel. The original railway line was electrified by 1905, and the introduction of the first dining car in 1906 and elegant Pullman coaches in 1931 established a reputation for style and luxury. In 1976, the MOB pioneered the first panoramic car on narrow-gauge tracks, an innovation that drew global attention, even hosting Queen Elizabeth II. The new GoldenPass Express, with its technological advancements and refined onboard experience, continues this legacy, offering passengers a memorable three-hour journey that connects three cantons, two languages and two distinct cultures.



pressure, which is crucial given the limited water on board. Maintenance is also simplified by a slide-in platform system that allows the machine to be easily disconnected and serviced outside the train's tight galley space. Another innovative feature is the frost protection system, which automatically drains the water to protect the machine from temperatures as low as -40°C.



A collaboration based on mutual respect (from left): Christoph Staubli, Project Manager Railway, Enrico D'Herin, Catering Manager at MOB, and Marco Schwarzenbach, Marketing Manager at Rex-Royal AG © Aniela Lea Schafroth Photography