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Xenophobe's Guide to the Swiss

Paul Bilton

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Paul Bilton : Xenophobe's Guide to the Swiss before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Xenophobe's Guide to the Swiss:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Xenophobe's Guide to the SwissBy Rose Marie BovonThis book is being read in an English speaking Group and I must admit that Mr. Bilton's way of describing the Swiss could be quite funny. Otherwise, there are things that cannot be said true in nowadays economical life. There are things that

changed e.g. the way of living since modern things are being implemented and sort of clashes with tradition. Otherwise, it is a good thing that there are still a lot who holds on to the Swiss values and traditions. Modesty aside, I can judge this since I am a Filipina married to a Swiss for the past 43 years and living in Switzerland. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A nearly perfect summary of Swiss culture By Wilmington I have read most of the books in the series about Western Europe, and I agree with other reviewers that this one is among the best, along with those about England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland (the publisher's home turf). My only criticism is that the author doesn't seem to know well enough other European countries and often describes as typically Swiss things that are in fact exactly the same in other Germanic countries or even in France. This is the case of recycling (p.29-30), disposable fees for household electric items (p.31), gutters that are made of not in plastic but in metal (p.33), or high-quality bus stops (p.34). Other things are an extension of the German system, like gardening or washing the car prohibited on Sunday (p.18), or baths prohibited between 10 pm and 7 am (p.80). 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. What makes a Swiss tick? By Edmond C Schaefer I'm proud of my Swiss heritage and just as proud to look in the mirror and laugh at my idiosyncrasies. The book was recommended to me by a "Swiss fan" and I really thank him for the excellent read. I chuckled and truly enjoyed the book. I'll have to obtain some "hard" copies to give to my friends. Ed Schaefer

Mountain mentality Swiss farmers are tough, independent, hard-working, resilient, well-prepared for every kind of natural disaster, and above all staunchly conservative. These characteristics have been passed on to Swiss town-dwellers, who go about their day as if they too were farming a lonely mountain cliff. We can do better The Swiss stubbornly refuse to believe they are doing well and will even dispute the figures that prove it. So, like the poor donkey chasing the carrot, they pull their collective cart along ever faster, chasing the goal they passed years ago. Peak performers The perceptions of the Swiss being dull, staid, and boring while at the same time displaying a talent for ruthless efficiency and a limitless capacity for hard work are uncomfortably close to the truth. Likewise the clichéd impressions of high mountains, watches, cheese, chocolate bars, and gold bars are genuine. Degrees of unease The diversity of the Swiss is apparent in the degree to which they worry. The German-speakers do little else. The French-speaking Swiss are great visionaries and philosophers with noble thoughts and global dreams. They worry that their Swiss-German compatriots do not share these dreams. The Italian-speaking Swiss are less interested in the solid values of work and have a terrible tendency not to worry nearly enough.

"The opening paragraphs of a "Xenophobe's Guide to the Swiss" set the tone for the rest of an irreverent, amusing and highly informative portrait of the Swiss people." --"Arts Culture section at www.swissinfo.org" "An enlightened new series, good natured, witty and useful. The Xenophobe's Guides to different nations deserves a real cheer." --"The European "From the Back Cover" The diversity of the Swiss is apparent in the degree to which they worry. The German-speakers do little else. The French-speaking Swiss are great visionaries and philosophers with noble thoughts and global dreams. They worry that their Swiss-German compatriots do not share these dreams. The Italian-speaking Swiss have a terrible tendency not to worry nearly enough. Xenophobia is an irrational fear of foreigners, probably justified, always understandable. Xenophobe's Guides - an irreverent look at the beliefs and foibles of nations, almost guaranteed to cure Xenophobia. (4 1/4 x 7, 64 pages) About the Author Born in Southport, Lancashire, Paul Bilton recently became what is known somewhat unaffectionately as a ζpaper Swissζ. (First marry a Swiss, then live in the country for five years, fill in forms, wait another 18 months, and finally hand over several hundred Swiss francs in cash for the paper which grants you Swiss nationality to the local postman when he delivers your mail.) A short career in magazine publishing was preceded by an even shorter career in advertising (ζFerguson's Fertilizers Fertilize Fasterζ). In the 1980s he launched a business to manufacture plastic products under his own patent, and later left both the business and Britain to become an Ausländer in Switzerland. His book The Perpetual Tourist - in search of a Swiss role is published by Bergli Books of Basel, and between writing, broadcasting and giving talks about Swiss life, he gives odd English lessons. He tries hard to worry more, but still cannot understand why it is frowned upon to redecorate his nuclear shelter himself. He and his Swiss wife live an idyllic life by the Zurich lake-shore where he collects coffee creamer tops while she embroiders car cushions. They enjoy a near perfect diet of muesli and Rösti, but never on the same plate.