

After a lengthy bicycle tour (1995 - 1997) from Vancouver, Canada to Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, Eva and Tom Buschor, both Swiss, have resolved to face a new challenge in Chile. They wanted to realise their own ideas. After buying land in the area of Malalcahuello/Curacautín, they set out to build with help of friends the necessary infrastructure for their plans. Since the setting of the first stone in 1998, Suizandina has become a successful hotel enterprise offering complete services for our guests. Together with local employees and trainees from Europe we try to satisfy our guests with an offer that is unique to the region. Our guests' needs and suggestions motivate us to constantly improve the infrastructure and services in and around the house.

An overview

When starting in 1998, there were no concrete plans. The idea to offer a place for overnight-stay and meals came naturally. At this point, tourism was largely unknown in the valley. The fact that Suizandina started to offer such services went virtually unnoticed. In the beginning (1999 - 2000) reconstructing the very old farmhouse was top-priority as there was no running water or electricity. Finding water and laying the water pipes was challenging. The works were all done by the owners and their friends themselves. Thus, a lot was learned through trial and error. Within two years the dining room and the sleeping quarters were at the point where first guests could be welcomed. However, continual improvement and enlargement was a necessity as demands grew. More room in the kitchen was necessary and other needs came to the forefront. Hence, a wine and a vegetable cellar, a new kitchen as well as a new dining room were all built during the winter of 2002. In 2003, building a private house was unavoidable as the family Buschor had grown. Consequently, one of Tom's dreams became a reality: Experience had shown that good insulation and wind proofing were indispensable. Thus, in his view, the best solution was a straw house with a grass roof. As there was no time for building during summer, the house had to be built during the wintertime. This, in itself, was a great challenge as the straw bails had to remain absolutely dry! The construction was a success despite the fact that there is room for improvement for next time. Accommodation for people travelling on a low budget and for those who preferred to cook on their own soon fell short. As a result, the guesthouse Brunner was constructed in the winter of 2004. In this guest house there are for rooms with cabin beds and private bath surrounding a kitchen for common use as well as a living room. After six years of building, the team had quite a lot of experience. As a result, everything from the planning to the house's completion in November took only five months. Since March 2009 the straw house called Caba Techo Verde can also be rented as a caba. Consequently, there needed to be built a new house for the manager of Suizandina. Slightly higher than the rest of the establishment and on the sunny side a new, modern concrete house was built within a few months only. It has a wonderful view onto the volcano Lonquimay. The facade of the manager's house "Roccabella" is a fresh variation to the other houses mostly held in natural materials. Next to many other works to improve the services and infrastructure, the history of Suizandina is continually written with each guest that visits us. We love to write another chapter together with you here in the Araucan Andina, Chile