



# Chez Lilly & Felix

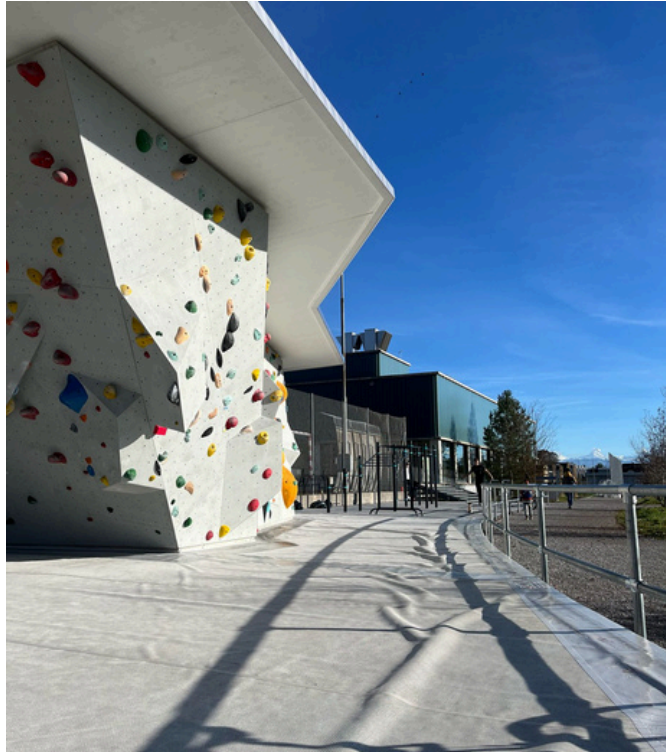
Fall 2025 | Vol 2

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# Travels in Zermatt

**With Lilly's summer internship complete, it's time to celebrate! Off we go to one of our most anticipated icons of Switzerland!**

BY LILLY

Writing this article now, months after completing this adventure, I have to admit this was an absolutely perfect time to go to Zermatt. It truly surpassed my expectations.

It started during the train ride, when we slowly gained elevation as we went through a stunning mountain pass. We were constantly looking to spot the Matterhorn as we got closer to our destination. Once we reached Zermatt, I was quickly charmed by the cute car-less town. The Matterhorn thwarted us as it was blanketed in clouds. Nonetheless, we had a great afternoon visiting the gear and chocolate stores.

On our second day in Zermatt, we started off with an amazing breakfast at a local bakery. It was an early and cold morning but our spirits were high after we had our sourdough pastries: a croissant, a cinnamon bun and a cardamom bun. They were honestly some of the best pastries I've ever had and were really unique! Then we went on our hike!



It was absolutely magical to get our first view of the Matterhorn! It felt like every time we stopped the view kept getting better and better. Soon, we reached the golden larches! The larches were the most unexpected but pleasant surprise - I had always wanted to see them in nature and had not realized they would be in Switzerland! And to make things even more picturesque there was a bit of snow throughout the hike!

Our last day in Zermatt was just as lovely, we ate delicious food and enjoyed another day hiking.

Zermatt was a highlight of my time living in Switzerland. I am really happy we chose to visit in the fall, it was even better than I could have expected.



Cozy cafe vibes reading *Murder on the Orient Express*



Golden Larches + our first snow of the season = an amazing hike!



We had to stop at Lindt for a little post hike snack

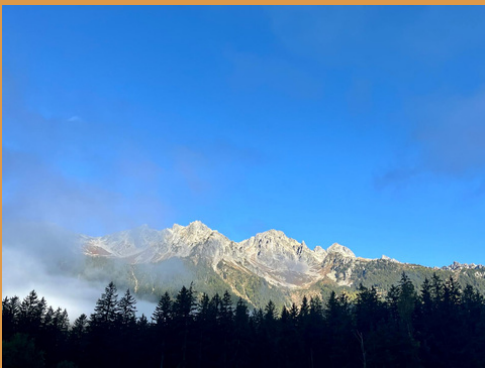
# Chamonix: 4805

BY FÉLIX & LILLY

**After seeing the Matterhorn, we were off to visit the biggest massif in Europe: Mont Blanc!**

The town of Chamonix has the most prominent outdoor culture we have ever seen. No matter where we went in the town, we saw hikers, runners, climbers, gear stores, and a view of the Alps. All this to say, it is an outdoor lovers' paradise.

We enjoyed many hikes around the beautiful Chamonix valley. Since we came during the shoulder season, the gondolas and ski lifts were closed. So instead of hiking alpine trails, we got to enjoy hikes in the woods including the Petit Balcon Sud.



We were spoiled with amazing French pastries and viennoiseries to fuel our adventures. Across the street from our AirBnB was the bakery "Chalet 4810". Felix had the best croissant of his life at this bakery! And only for 2.50 euros! Coming from Switzerland, we could not believe we could get such good food for so cheap - it was an entirely different level.



Our trip to Chamonix was very inspiring! We are already looking forward to returning for a longer stay and exploring more of what Chamonix has to offer! Maybe we will get to complete the TMB in the future too!

# Christmas Markets - Ranked



BY LILLY

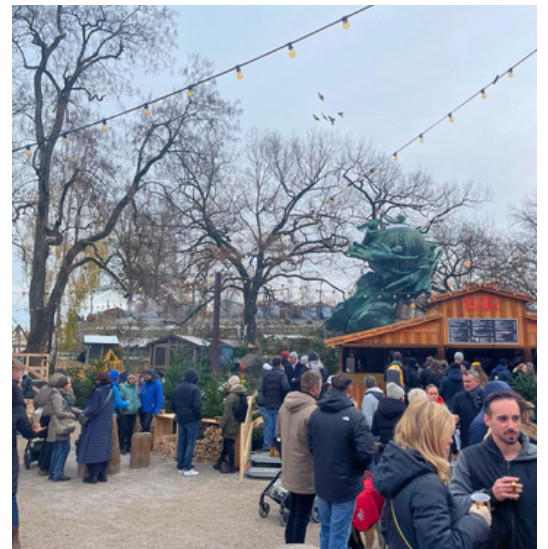
This year we visited our first European Christmas Markets together! We visited markets in both Switzerland and the Netherlands so we thought it would be fun to rank them!



## Bern:

The first markets we went to were in Bern. These markets were smaller with one market dedicated to food and the other to shopping. **Unfortunately, these were our least favourite markets.** Both were extremely crowded and poorly laid out- we could barely walk as the alleys were narrow! We also could not find the end of the lines for the food stalls due to the crowds so we did not try anything.

A lot of the items at the market were being resold. We were hoping to see more local companies and Christmas crafts!





## Zurich:

**Zurich wins for the best food** from all of the Christmas markets we visited! There were so many delicious looking food options. We enjoyed fresh handmade dumplings, dutch fries, and churros. All of the markets also had a mix of food and shopping stalls. These stalls had local artisans too!

The crowds were also very large at these markets, but they were much better organized with wide alleys.



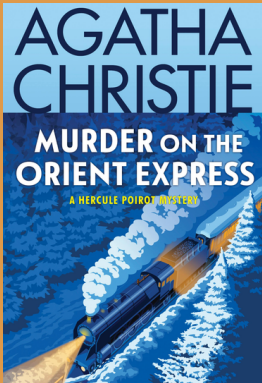
## The Hague:



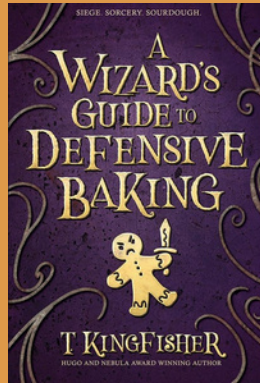
The Hague was a fun market to visit! We tried oliebollen (a traditional deep-fried ball of dough), split-pea soup, and gluhwein here. **The prices were also (unsurprisingly) cheaper than in Switzerland.**

Similar to Zurich, the market was well organized for large crowds with a huge street closed off. That being said the crowd had a faster current so it was more difficult to navigate.

# Books!



Lilly ★★★★★  
Felix ★★★★★



★★★★★  
★★★★★



★★★★★  
★★★★★



★★★  
★★★

## Quarterly Buddy Reads

We had a very successful reading quarter! On average, we gave them a 4.19/5 star rating! We couldn't decide which book was our favourite this quarter, but these are our top 2:

We loved *A Wizard's Guide to Defensive Baking* for its sourdough puns and cozy atmosphere. This novel is a middle grade fantasy that is about a girl who has a magical knack for dough with which she has to save the kingdom from crumbling.

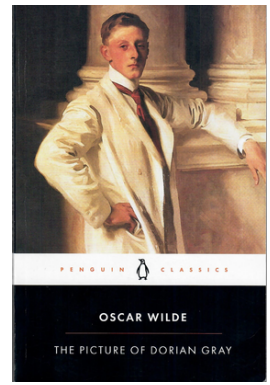
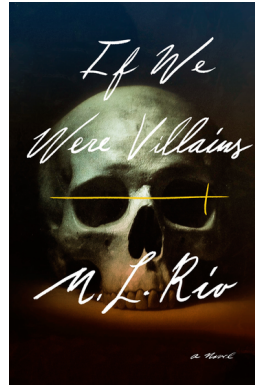
*Into Thin Air* is an impactful memoir about the 1997 disaster on Mount Everest. The account highlights the potential dangers of high-altitude mountaineering. We witness how minor decisions can have large consequences and how the author deals with both the guilt and grief of these decisions and the disaster as a whole.

For more information about the books we've read, check out our library section on our website!

# Books

## End of the year stats

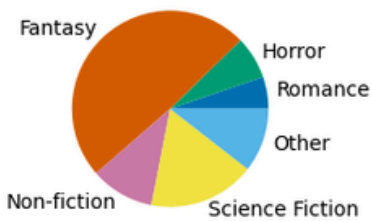
Lilly's Top 3:



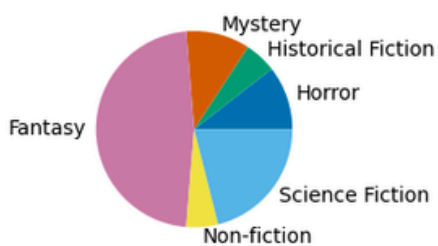
Felix's Top 3:



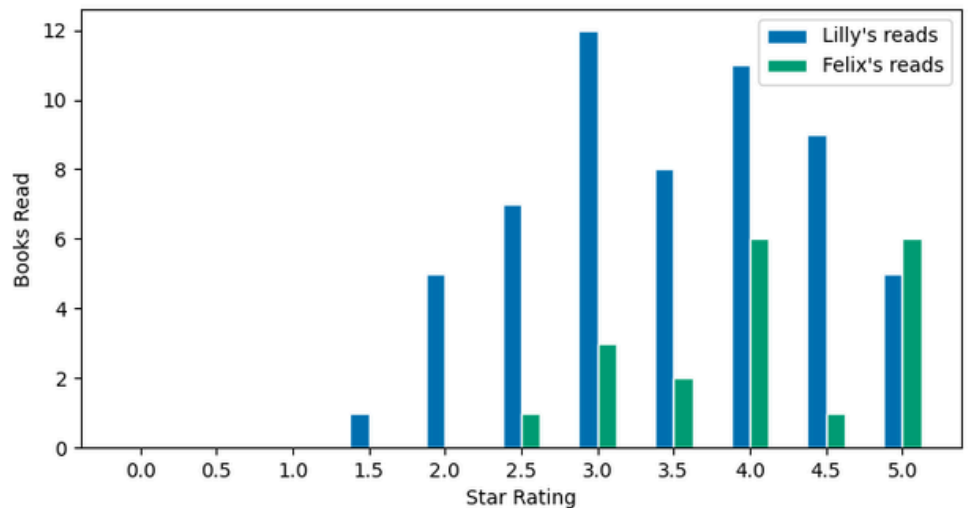
Lilly's Genres



Felix's Genres



Our rating distribution:





*Our visit to the Keukenhof tulip fields in the Netherlands.*

# **Chez Lilly & Felix**

<https://felixbelair.ca>