



# Suomenlinna

NEWSLETTER

SUOMENLINNA NEWSLETTER NRO 2 / 3 | 2008

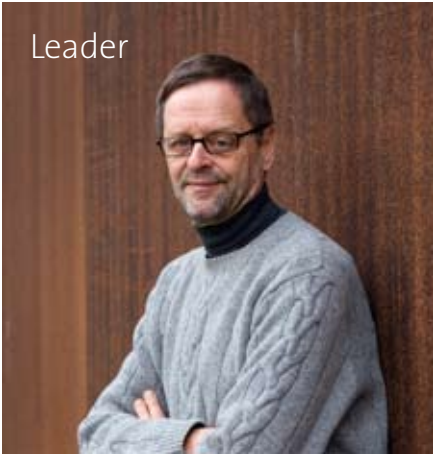
## Meet the man who runs the church

Suomenlinna  
maps online

The historic  
Gunpowder  
Magazine is an  
excellent venue



## Leader



## Jaakko Antti-Poika

DIRECTOR, GOVERNING BODY OF SUOMENLINNA

At the beginning of March, twelve tourism operators on Suomenlinna entered a one-year quality training programme called QUALITY 1000. The purpose of this training is to improve professionalism, employee satisfaction and customer satisfaction.

In a place like Suomenlinna, it is vital for all operators in the area to work together and to pay special attention to the quality of their services. After all, the casual visitor does not know who specifically produces each service and who is responsible for which things: the museums, cafés and ferry traffic are all seen as parts of the same entity, and visitors with queries tend to turn to the nearest employee, whether that be a tourist guide or a maintenance worker. On Suomenlinna, praise and blame are shared equally by all parties.

The QUALITY 1000 project was launched on the initiative of the Finnish Tourist Board as an effort to improve the quality of Finnish tourist services to a level commensurate with their price. Quality is not self-evident; it must be measurable and controllable. Being a World Heritage Site, Suomenlinna is in an excellent position to convey the image of Finnish expertise to the world.

It is encouraging to see how actively operators on Suomenlinna are participating in the training. All the restaurants are involved, and even individual entrepreneurs have found time to participate. The City of Helsinki is supporting the effort, so participation is not a cost issue but simply requires the will to improve. We hope that this enthusiasm will persist.

# Suomenlinna maps online

The map portion of the Suomenlinna website has been upgraded. There are now six maps, each with a slightly different focus. There is a map for tourists and those requiring conference facilities, along with an address map, a satellite photo map and an interactive aerial photo map. The building-history map is an interesting addition. Created to highlight the history of individual buildings in the fortress, the map provides information on the construction and renovation of buildings available by clicking on the number of a building. There are also drawings and photos of the buildings in their past and present guises. There are some 200 buildings on Suomenlinna in all, and the majority of these are now included on the map. The address map lists the numbers of all buildings and the access routes which maintenance vehicles may use — motor vehicles are otherwise prohibited on

Suomenlinna. The map is easy to print out from the website. The tourist map highlights the major attractions and services along the main tourist route from the ferry quay on Iso Mustasaari island through Susisaari island to the tip of Kustaanmiekka.

In addition to the museums and cafés, the tourist map indicates the location of such points of interest as tunnels and gun emplacements. The conference and party venue map shows premises available for hire from the Governing Body of Suomenlinna and some of the principal services. The map also shows the shortest walking routes to each venue.

The satellite photo map and the interactive aerial photo map show a bird's-eye view of Suomenlinna. Drag the mouse to move from one island to the next.

*Säde Loponen*



## Suomenlinna house wine honours the designer of the Archipelago Fleet

The new Suomenlinna house wine, Campuget, celebrates the work of master shipbuilder Fredrik Henrik af Chapman at Viapori in the 1760s. The names of the vessel types of the renowned Archipelago Fleet designed by af Chapman survive to this day in the names of the vessel types of the Finnish Navy. The wine is a red wine from the Campuget estate in the region of Nîmes. The label was designed by Erik Bruun, a graphic artist decorated with the Pro Finlandia award who lives on Suomenlinna.

The house wine is available at all restaurants on Suomenlinna. Described as rounded, toasted and elegantly fruity, the wine is mainly made of Syrah grapes, with other varieties added to make it lighter and more complex than a pure Syrah. The wine will be available at Alko shops on order from May, but it will also be on the shelves of the Alko shop at the Old Market Hall in Helsinki. Campuget is the fifth Suomenlinna house wine; the tradition was established in 1998 to mark the 250th anniversary of the fortress.



# Keimo Ahokanto, military camp commander

Two hundred years ago, in May 1808, Viapori surrendered to the besieging Russian forces after a sporadic trading of shots during the spring. In June this year, a military encampment will be re-enacted on Suomenlinna by seven history associations from all over Finland. Nearly 100 enthusiasts wearing period uniforms will camp out on Garrison Square on Susisaari island. Civilian period costumes will also be featured, and the Les Lumières Enlightenment culture festival running at the same time will introduce costumes of the nobility. Keimo Ahokanto, a member of the 18th-century history association in Loviisa, will be the camp commander. He is already a 'veteran' of the 200th anniversary of the Russo-Swedish War of 1808-09, having participated in a re-enactment of the Russians' historical crossing of the border at Ahvenkoski in February. The participating military history associations are from Turku, Oravainen and Kauhajoki, together with the Wanha Waruswäki (The Olde Militia) of Helsinki, Haminan hyvät

asukkaat (The Good Citizens of Hamina) and Aseseura 93 (Weapons Society 93), which focuses on the Russian era. There will be public demonstrations of exercises, artillery firing and skirmishing on the weekend of 14-15 June on Susisaari island and Kustaanmiekkä.

Keimo Ahokanto owns two period outfits, a Swedish Army uniform from the time of the Russo-Swedish War of 1808-09 and a Swedish 'Carolinian' uniform from the era before that. Describing his 1808-09 uniform, he says: "It's damned difficult to fight wearing this stupid hat. No wonder that the Carolinian three-cornered hat survived until the reform of Gustav III."

The East Indiaman Götheborg arriving in Helsinki in a parade of sailing ships in early June will be received with a gun salute fired by the Oravainen gun crew along the Kustaanmiekkä straits. Actually, though, this replica of an 18th-century merchant schooner of the Swedish East India Company has nothing to do with the 1808 celebrations



as such except for its country of origin; the original vessel sank off Gothenburg in 1745, returning from its third voyage to Asia.

An exhibition on the events of and background to the Russo-Swedish War of 1808-09 from the perspective of Suomenlinna, entitled The Surrender of Viapori – C.O. Cronstedt's darkest hour, will be opened at the Suomenlinna Museum in May.

*Suomenlinna Museum, 2 May to 30 September, daily from 10.00 to 18.00.*

*Historical festival and military encampment Suomenlinna, 13 to 15 June, combat re-enactments Sat-Sun. Sailing ship at the main quay of Suomenlinna, 13 to 15 June.*

*Themed guided tours, The Surrender of Viapori Wed and Sat at 15.00, tel. (09) 684 1850, Ehrensvärd Society*



## The men who built the fortress

### Gustav IV (1778-1837)

Gustav IV became King of Sweden when he came of age in 1796. He appointed Rear Admiral C.O. Cronstedt to the post of Commandant of Sveaborg (or Viapori, as Suomenlinna was then known). Cronstedt, an adjutant in the King's inner circle, viewed the appointment as a demotion. The King personally visited the fortress in 1802. He cut down on the funds allocated to improvement and armaments, and this was one of the reasons why the fortress was unable to survive being besieged by the Russians in spring 1808.



Twelve tourism operators on Suomenlinna are involved in the QUALITY 1000 training. Values and visions were on the agenda at Pajasali in late March.

# Meet the man who runs the church

Jouko Terävä, the verger of Suomenlinna Church, meets bridal couples and tourists alike and also plays the trombone when the fancy strikes him.

He originally volunteered for the job. “I lived here and used to do odd jobs for the verger, who was a friend of the family. I also played music at church events. In 1991, I retired from my job in the Guards Band.” Captain (ret.) Terävä was not content to rest on his laurels in retirement, however, and when the post of verger became vacant in 2002, he applied for it and was hired.

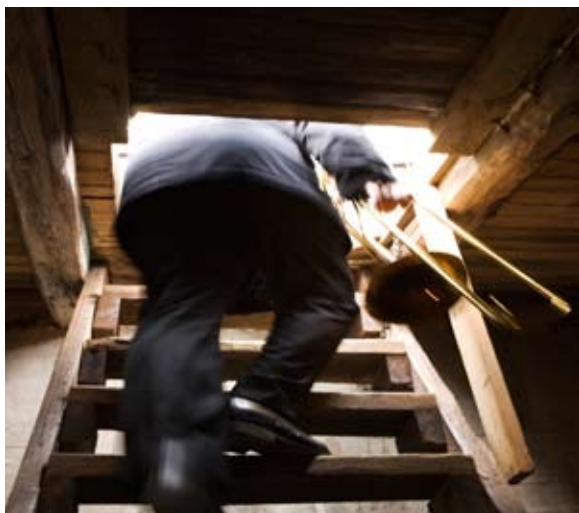
## From garrison church to tourist church

The silhouette of Suomenlinna Church dominates the southern horizon of Helsinki. Its tower contains a lighthouse whose beacon guides both ships and air traffic.

“The church is actually the tallest lighthouse in Finland, 54.2 m from sea level. Whenever you leave Helsinki by ship, en route to Sweden or elsewhere, you cannot help but notice the church.” Terävä is thoroughly acquainted with all the nooks and crannies of the church as well as its history. The church was completed in 1854 as a centralized five-cupola church for the Russian garrison occupying the islands at the time. After Finland became independent, the church was converted from an Orthodox church to a Lutheran one. The main cupola was replaced with a square tower, and the bases of the four smaller cupolas (which had been removed earlier) were roofed over. No major alterations have been made inside the church except for the addition of pews, the organ and the vestry and the removal of the iconostasis. The church used to have a reverb of nine seconds, but this has been brought down to five seconds with acoustic fabrics. Audibility is now excellent, and there is a PA system for speaking and singing. The oldest artefacts in the church are the metal cross above the pulpit and the floor, which is made of Reval limestone from Tallinn.

The church used to have no heating, and there is an interesting anecdote about how the place was warmed up. “The story goes that a few hours before each service, two





companies of soldiers were ordered into the church to stand around, warming up the space with their body heat. I cannot vouch for the truthfulness of this, though." Today, there is a modern heating system supervised by the verger. Terävä ensures that all events progress smoothly and that the church stays in order. As he himself says, he virtually runs the place single-handedly.

"Hundreds of thousands of people visit Suomenlinna every year. If even only one in ten out of those people stop by the church, it amounts to a huge number. I have to have the vacuum cleaner out all the time on muddy days."

### The trombone shall sound

The handsome bell which now hangs in the church yard was cast in Moscow in 1885. It is a fine example of 'swords into ploughshares', as it was cast from metal obtained from decommissioned artillery pieces. Guns of the same type were also used as fence posts for the chain fence around the church. The bell has an electric striker fitted for ringing, but it can still be rung manually too if necessary.

"Some years ago, a church service was taped for the radio. They found that the sound produced by the electric striker cracked on the tape, and the bell had to be struck manually to get a good sound for the recording." The clapper of the bell alone weighs about 1,000 kg, and the bell as a whole weighs a massive 6,683 kg, making it the heaviest church bell in Finland. Terävä admires the heavy chain fence that surrounds the church.

"This is incredible workmanship, all forged by hand. No casting seams." Terävä is a man who is more often heard than seen: in addition to the church bells, he plays the trombone, and on summer nights just before 9 pm he climbs up the church tower to play his trombone high over the islands. This evening music is a tradition which is observed daily from the beginning of June to the end of August.

"Three musicians from the Guards Band perform this duty on a rota. First we play a folk song or some other suitable piece, and then the taps of the Finnish Army." [Taps is he traditional bugle call signalling soldiers to

return to barracks from evening leave.] This marks the lowering of the flag at the Naval Academy and on Kustaanmiekkä. Music has always been both a hobby and a profession for Terävä. He has been conductor of the Viipurin Työväen Soittajat (Viipuri Workers' Band) for 34 years, and he often plays for churchgoers too.

"I like to play at weddings and church services, not necessarily as a gig but just because the trombone sounds so good in the church."

### Marriages from as far as Canada

Suomenlinna Church is an extremely popular venue for weddings. At the time of writing this story, as so often, the church yard is littered with rose petals and rice, which are casually disposed of by the birds living around the church. The high season for weddings is of course the summer, but according to Terävä, winter weddings are becoming more popular. Bookings for summer weddings are made up to several years in advance.

"In the summer, the demand is far greater than what we can cope with. We book weddings at one-hour intervals, and you cannot really time it any tighter than that. There are some 120 weddings per year. Almost all couples married here are from outside Suomenlinna, some even from abroad. In the case of international weddings, one half of the bridal couple is usually Finnish and the other foreign — Canadian, English or Swedish, for instance. The church seats 400 people. From the number of guests invited, Terävä can instantly deduce where the wedding reception will be held.

"There are lots of places to choose from if you want to have your wedding reception on Suomenlinna: Pirunkirkko, tennise von Fersen and the Gunpowder Magazine are among the possibilities. If you have more than 200 guests, however, then you have to organize the reception on the mainland." Terävä recalls one curious occasion when the priest officiating the wedding missed the ferry. "The winter timetable was still in force, so the ferry only ran once every hour. It was a sunny Saturday, and there were a lot of tourists en route to Suomenlinna. The

priest arrived at the Market Square in time, but the ferry had already departed because it was full. He was obliged to wait for the next ferry.

"But everything turned out all right. The best man announced to the guests that they would take a one-hour coffee break. The guests went out and walked around, enjoying the lovely day, until the priest finally arrived and the ceremony could get under way." The ferries generally run reliably, and Terävä has no transport complaints. "When I moved here in 1974, the trip to the mainland seemed very long, but it is only about 15 minutes, after all. The ferry can run even in icy conditions, and it never gets caught in traffic. By comparison, if you take a bus from, say, the district of Haaga to the city centre of Helsinki, you can never know how long exactly the journey will take."

### Living in a front-row seat

Terävä and his family were attracted to Suomenlinna by the prospect of a spacious apartment. Both Terävä and his wife are employed by the Defence Forces and were thus eligible for housing let by the Ministry of Defence. The Teräväs have two sons. The younger of them, Pekka, is currently doing his military service in nearby Santahamina. His older brother, Juha-Pekka, is medium disabled and has a sheltered-employment job in the city. The family also includes the eight-year-old dog named Papageno who is familiar to all the children on Suomenlinna.

"Whenever we are out for a walk, someone comes up to say hello to Papageno." Terävä feels that living in Suomenlinna is like living in a front-row seat. The fortress is a World Heritage Site, and everyone in Finland knows of it and would like to see at least once in their life.

Tourists are attracted by the rich history of the fortress.

"In the 19th century, the fortress had twice the population of the town of Helsinki. In fact, Helsinki was little more than a suburb of Suomenlinna, as it was through the garrison that new trends and influences came to Finland."

*Säde Loponen*

# The historic Gunpowder Magazine is an excellent venue

Only three of the original gunpowder magazines on Suomenlinna have been preserved. The powder cellar on Susisaari island was built in 1776-1778 as a place to protect gunpowder from damp and from enemy shelling. The cellar has also been used for storing potatoes in its day. Used as a venue for functions and parties for

several years now, the Gunpowder Magazine (Ruutikellari in Finnish) has recently undergone a light renovation. Its style and location make it excellent for wedding receptions and similar functions. In the summer, guests can enjoy the sea view outside. The venue is windowless and accessed through an old, narrow defence corridor whose mood can be

enhanced by candlelight. The cellar itself has a brick-vaulted ceiling seven metres high and wonderful acoustics. The technical installations and electrical wiring are concealed under the wood floor. Customers renting the venue are expected to arrange the tables and chairs themselves, but at an extra charge this can be done by Suomenlinna staff beforehand. There are ten tables each seating six people, and 60 chairs. A tiny kitchen is fitted into the other defence corridor. Customers can order catering from a catering service or bring their own food, drink and tableware. The Gunpowder Magazine is located about 1 km from the ferry quay, but between May and September the JT-Line shuttle boat to Tykistölahti bay cuts the walking distance by half. Some of the walkways on the island are paved with cobblestones, which is worth bearing in mind if there are disabled persons among the guests. Suomenlinna is only a 15-minute boat trip away from the city centre of Helsinki. For further information, booking details and prices, see the Suomenlinna website:

[www.suomenlinna.fi](http://www.suomenlinna.fi) > Conference and banquet facilities > Gunpowder Magazine

*Rebekka Lehtola*



## Events

12.1.–31.5	Weekend guided tours in English	Viapori), dramatized tour	9.5.–1.6	Final exhibition of the Free Art School, Jetty Barracks Gallery	
7.5.–30.8.	Commandant Cronstedt – hero or traitor? Dramatized tours and puppet shows, Suomenlinna Museum	9.7.	Ehrensvärd Museum theme day	19.5.–21.9.	The Secret of the Enchanted Vault, illustration exhibition, Piper Café
26.5.–10.8.	Jatkuvasti paikattavien housujen arvoitus (The mystery of the trousers that constantly needed mending), SuLaKe theatre	2.–3.8.	Linnanportti concerts	20.5.–31.8.	Women in Customs, Customs Museum
1.6.–31.8.	Daily guided walking tours	16.8.	Viaporin Tuoppi sailboat race	5.6.–25.6.	From the depths, Jetty Barracks Gallery
4.6.–23.8.	The Unknown Soldier, Suomenlinna summer theatre	27.8.–30.8.	Pirveli ja Pyhimys music theatre performance, Ballast Room	18.6.–30.9.	Souvenirs from 18th-century Helsinki and Viapori, Ehrensvärd Museum
7.6.–9.8.	The Secret of the Enchanted Vault, children's adventure tour	27.8.–30.8.	Viapori Jazz	1.7–27.7	Keeping with the times, Jetty Barracks Gallery
13.6.–15.6.	Visit by the sailing ship Götheborg	29.8.–30.8.	Author: unknown, music theatre performance, Ballast Room	1.8–24.8.	Oulu Artists' Association –63, Jetty Barracks Gallery
13.6.–15.6.	Les Lumières — Festival of the Enlightenment	5.–6.9.	Archaeology seminar – Tracing the rich past of Suomenlinna, Suomenlinna Museum	29.8.–21.9.	Marja Friberg, Timo Partanen, Irma Tonteri, Jetty Barracks Gallery
14.6.	MeriViapori, wooden sailboat event			26.9.–19.10.	Finnish Academy of Fine Arts, final exhibition, Jetty Barracks Gallery
1.–31.7.	Viaporin arvoitus (The mystery of				

## Exhibitions

3.5.–28.9.	Birthday exhibition of Martta dolls, Toy Museum
7.5.–31.12.09	The Surrender of Viapori — C.O. Cronstedt's darkest hour in spring 1808, Suomenlinna Museum

# Events on Suomenlinna

The summer programme of the island fortress includes theatre for children and adults, music, and nautical events. For more details, see the calendar at the Suomenlinna website, [www.suomenlinna.fi](http://www.suomenlinna.fi).



## The Secret of the Enchanted Vault, 7 June to 9 August

Viapori is in danger! King Gustav III must find the way to the enchanted vault to save his fortress. He is helped by a lady-in-waiting named Rosalind and the Royal Lifeguards, who accompany children and their parents on a time trip into the depths of Viapori. Along the way, there are puzzles to solve and historical persons to meet, from Ehrensvärd to Chapman.

## The mystery of the trousers that constantly needed mending, 26 May to 10 August

Patti-Katja, the strongest girl on Suomenlinna, and her friend Kaakao-Tommi encounter strange things on their archaeological dig. Why do holes keep appearing in Patti-Katja's trousers? And what is hidden under the flowery knoll in the garden? All this and more will be revealed in the music-filled play for the whole family performed by the SuLaKe theatre in the garden of the Toy Museum.

## Les Lumières – Enlightenment culture festival and visit by the sailing ship Götheborg, 13 to 15 June

For one weekend only, Suomenlinna returns to the 18th century with the sixth edition of the culture festival entitled Les Lumières. The theme this year is 'Le Grand Tour de Gustav Mauritz Armfelt', and the programme includes a picnic concert and a grand ball for young princes and princesses. At the same time, the Götheborg, a replica of an 18th-century sailing ship, will be visiting Helsinki, and the Wanha Waruswäki (The Olde Militia) will be staging a re-enactment of a military camp on Susisaari island. Visitors will be able to visit the ship and to witness 18th-century military exercises, gun salutes and dance performances.

## The mystery of Viapori, dramatized tour, 1 to 31 July

A dramatized walking tour for adults interested in historical events and the imposing fortress milieu, focusing on the events of spring 1808.

## Author: unknown, 29 to 30 August

A musical performance of settings of love poems by Finnish male poets by the Author: unknown ensemble. Tommy Tabermann and Arno Kotro will read their poetry with the ensemble at the Ballast Room — Tabermann on Saturday 29 August and Kotro on Sunday 30 August. The music will be performed by Jarmo Julkunen, Mikko Perkola and Max Lilja. Max Lilja.

## Focus: Tourism operators on Suomenlinna

Introducing tourist services on Suomenlinna  
Opened in 1998, the Suomenlinna Museum is located at the Suomenlinna Visitor Centre. It is one of the museums run by the National Board of Antiquities, and it details the colourful history of the island fortress from the 18th century to the present day. In addition to the permanent exhibition and widescreen presentation, the museum houses changing historical exhibitions and, in the summer, a programme for the whole family. Visitor numbers have been steadily increasing throughout the Museum's existence. Soile Pietilä is the Museum Assistant responsible for running the museum: customer service, exhibition and programme coordination, and other planning and organization. Camilla Hanganpää in Suomenlinna marketing is now on maternity leave, and her substitute is Rebekka

Lehtola, who came to this marketing coordinator job from the Helsinki City Tourist and Convention Bureau. She is in charge of marketing Suomenlinna to tourists and to organizers of conferences and functions, and is also

responsible for organizing visits for representatives of the media and of the tourism industry. She is also a graphic designer and will be managing layout and design for brochures, newspaper ads and posters.



Soile  
Pietilä



Rebekka  
Lehtola

Military encampment, 13 to 15 June



The mystery of Viapori, dramatized tour, 1 to 31 July



Sailing ship  
Götheborg visits  
Suomenlinna,  
13 to 15 June



#### SUOMENLINNA VISITOR CENTRE

Open every day from 2 May to  
30 September, 10.00 to 18.00

Suomenlinna Visitor Centre,  
Governing Body of Suomenlinna  
Suomenlinna C 74, FI-00190 Helsinki, Finland  
(+358 9) 684 1880, [info@suomenlinna.fi](mailto:info@suomenlinna.fi),  
[www.suomenlinna.fi](http://www.suomenlinna.fi)

The Suomenlinna newsletter is published  
three times a year. For the online version in  
Finnish, Swedish and English, go to  
the Suomenlinna website at  
[www.suomenlinna.fi](http://www.suomenlinna.fi).

Published by the Governing Body of  
Suomenlinna, edited by Synnöve Vaari, layout  
by Teerenhovi, printed by Lönnberg Print Oy,  
ISSN 1458-1590.