

# Media NEWS

## News 2021

### 1. 5 must-have experiences in 2021

#### 1. Admire ephemeral works of art while out hiking in the Vaud Alps

##### ***AilyosArt Nature, Leysin, from July to end of October 2021***

Created in 2018, the Ailyos Art et Nature concept is installed every summer in the splendid setting of the Vaud Alps and gives them an artistic face that is both impressive and poetic. Integrated into an alternative environment deep in the countryside, this open-air art gallery promotes the work of local artists invited to let their imagination run wild on the valleys, lakes, buildings and landscapes of the Aigle, Leysin and Col de Mosses region. Extraordinary artworks are chanced upon in the course of a walk or in the company of passionate guides. Ailyos is more than an unusual art trail: it is a profound experience that makes sense of the bond between art, nature, the environment and the individual. This fourth edition is entitled Transformation. It's a theme in keeping with the times and 2020 in particular, one that allows each artist to offer their own personal interpretation. From July to the end of October 2021. [www.ailyos.com](http://www.ailyos.com)

#### 2. Discover the secrets of a former site of national defence

##### **Opening of the Fort de Chillon**

Opened in December 2020, Chillon Castle is the first 'amusement park' in Switzerland to combine a visit to a military fort with the opportunity to discover the Swiss National Redoubt. Built deep into the rock in 1941, exactly opposite Château de Chillon, this former military site, which was classed as a "secret defence" until 2001, promises total immersion in the astonishing history of a former place of national defence. A genuine military construction, the museum allows visitors to plunge into a labyrinth of galleries at the heart of the mountain. The use of augmented reality and virtual reality shows what life was like in the fort. All this as part of a fun, interactive and educational space designed to encourage a participatory and visual approach. It features spectacular projections, experiences and discoveries as well as games of strategy and augmented reality. Other amenities awaiting visitors include a cinema, temporary exhibitions, a refreshment bar, and a shop. There is also the added bonus of being able to organise private

and public events as soon as health regulations allow. Open Wednesday to Sunday. [www.fortdechillon.ch](http://www.fortdechillon.ch)

### **3. Savour a culinary experience at the Historical Restaurant of the Year**

#### ***La Bavaria* receives the ICOMOS Award for 'Historical Restaurant of the Year 2021'**

The Brasserie *La Bavaria* is a haven of conviviality and a genuine Lausanne institution. Following major renovation work on the building in which its premises are located, it reopened in June 2019 and has just been rewarded with the ICOMOS Award for 'Historical Restaurant of the Year 2021'. *La Bavaria* is widely regarded as a precious contemporary testimony to a type of public establishment that has now almost disappeared in Switzerland. In awarding this prize, the ICOMOS jury pays tribute to the renovation of the building in general, the restoration of its façade and the interior décor of the brasserie in particular, and last but not least, the running of this café-restaurant in keeping with the culinary tradition it has maintained throughout the 20th century. The dining room now meticulously restored is an important social meeting place of the highest architectural quality. [www.icomos.ch](http://www.icomos.ch)

### **4. Treat yourself to a leisurely day discovering Vaud wines**

#### **Open wine cellars, special edition 2021**

In this extraordinary year, the 'Caves Ouvertes Vaudoises' event is going *à la carte*. The aim of the event remains the same: to enable wine lovers and experienced oenophiles to meet with the winemakers, taste their wine and being able to buy some nice bottles from them. The visitors just have to order the package for CHF 30.- which then allows them to book tastings with the partner winegrowers. The icing on the cake: the package includes a prepaid card worth CHF 30.- to be used for a bottle of wine purchase. Until August 2021. [www.mescavesouvertes.ch](http://www.mescavesouvertes.ch)

### **5. Spend a night in the heart of nature**

#### **A night under the stars**

Who hasn't dreamt of spending a night out in the open air under the stars? It's an experience that's now available with family or friends in the Vaud Alps, the Jura, and the Vaud Plateau. Organised with the environment and the current regulations in mind, these bivouacs are supervised by an accompanying guide with a wealth of local knowledge to share with the participants. There are six experiences on offer in total, each one addressing a different theme: from spotting wildlife to forest legends and marvelling at the splendour of the night sky. This product is in response to the current demand for outdoor activities and a desire on the part of many visitors to reconnect with nature. Each night is a genuine micro-adventure beneath the starry skies and an invitation to enjoy an experience that's as exceptional as it is out of the ordinary. [www.region-du-leman.ch/etoile](http://www.region-du-leman.ch/etoile)

## 2. Highlights 2021

### Know-how of the Sainte-Croix/L'Auberson region at UNESCO

Since 16 December 2020, the 'craftsmanship of mechanical watchmaking and art mechanics' has been listed as part of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The listing commends a centre of excellence in trades associated with the arts and crafts: music boxes, automata, songbirds, antique clocks, station clocks, unique pieces, and small watchmaking series. Thanks to its many craftsmen, Sainte-Croix continues to nurture a cutting-edge know-how based on stringent quality requirements. Each of them preserves, develops and transmits knowledge and skills associated with technical precision and mechanical sophistication while cultivating values such as inquisitiveness, creativity, perseverance, patience, but also a spirit of collaboration, openness, and innovation. The UNESCO listing, while helping to showcase their craft, is also a reminder of the need to preserve and pass on their expertise.

That expertise is also on show at the Museum of the Centre International de Mécanique d'Art (CIMA), which features a historical collection of music boxes and automata as well as a mechanical workshop of the kind that existed at the turn of the 20th century, displaying a number of authentic machines. In addition, the Baud Museum at Auberson features a collection of early mechanical musical objects such as music boxes, automata and orchestrions. What's more, the company REUGE SA based in Sainte-Croix have successfully perpetuated the tradition of manufacturing precision mechanical movements with modern and prestigious creations, much appreciated by heads of state and royal families around the world. [www.musees.ch](http://www.musees.ch)

### New Musée Atelier Audemars Piguet in the Vallée de Joux

Retracing over 145 years of watchmaking history, the Musée Atelier opened its doors to the public on 25 June 2020. It invites members of the public to enjoy an immersive experience at the heart of the past, present and future cultural universe of the brand. Situated in Le Brassus, in the heart of the Jura mountains in Vaud and the cradle of Audemars Piguet, it stands out for innovative museography and contemporary architecture designed to showcase two centuries of watchmaking history.

Echoing the blend of tradition and forward thinking at the heart of Audemars Piguet's craftsmanship, the Musée Atelier presents some 300 watches, including masterpieces of miniaturisation, technical complexity and avant-garde design. Conceived as a space of live crafts, the Musée Atelier also reveals some of the manufacturer's watchmakers and artisans at work in their transparent workshops. By integrating traditional ateliers at the centre of the museum, Audemars Piguet pays tribute to the passionate craftspeople who have given life to Audemars Piguet, generation after generation. The visitors will discover rare timepieces, such as the Universelle—the most complicated watch crafted by Audemars Piguet in 1899—as well as a wide selection of emblematic models including many Royal Oak, Royal Oak Offshore and Royal Oak Concept.

The Musée Atelier can be visited from Monday to Friday by guided tour only and by reservation. Price: CHF 20 [www.museeatelier-audemarspiguet.com](http://www.museeatelier-audemarspiguet.com)

In 2021, a 4\* hotel is due to open its doors next to the Musée Atelier.

## 3. Culture and Heritage

### **Freddie Mercury Tours in Montreux**

"Freddie Tours" offers a guided tour of Montreux and its rich musical past by following in the footsteps of the unforgettable Queen singer (1946-1991), who had close links with the region. This educational trail lasts for around one hour and starts at the covered market in Montreux, within walking distance of the statue of the musical icon, leads along the flower-lined quays of which the artist was so fond, passes in front of the façade of the apartment bought by Freddie and visits the Mountain Studio, located in the casino, where the group recorded six albums. This venue is now the Queen Studio Experience, a museum dedicated to the famous group. The guided tour costs CHF 29. It can be held on any day of the week on request and is led by a guide who speaks French and English. [www.freddie-tours.com](http://www.freddie-tours.com)

### **Reopening of the Abbatale de Payerne**

After more than 10 years of building works, the Abbatale de Payerne, a masterpiece of Romanesque art in Switzerland, has reopened to the public. The discovery trail at the Abbatale is unique. It offers a new perspective on the history of the largest Romanesque church in Switzerland and its original characters. The bold scenography, consisting of 20 points of interest with an immersive and interactive audio guide, reveals to visitors the secrets enclosed within its walls and offers an experience that can be enjoyed by the whole family. [www.abbatale-payerne.ch](http://www.abbatale-payerne.ch)

### **Plateforme 10 – Lausanne's brand-new arts district**

#### **Permanent exhibition at the Fine Arts Museum (MCBA): "Come and see here what you won't see elsewhere!"**

"Come and see here what you won't see elsewhere!" – that's the enticing motto for the future permanent exhibition. About 300 works on two floors help visitors understand the special character of Vaud's art collections, as they move through time from the 18th century to the present day.

To display the mcb-a's historical collections to best advantage, several rooms are dedicated to single artists. Examples include Louis Ducros, Charles Gleyre, Félix Vallotton, Théophile-Alexandre Steinlen, and Louis Soutter. Other rooms illustrate major artistic trends with works acquired after World War Two. These exhibits feature drawings and paintings of the second Paris School, geometric abstraction, neo-Fauvism, and new media such as video and installation art.

The works on display will be gradually rotated in future years. [www.mcba.ch](http://www.mcba.ch)

#### **Upcoming temporary exhibitions:**

- 'Matières en lumière. Sculptures de Rodin à Louise Bourgeois' until 16 May 2021  
Sculpture is taking over the MCBA's temporary exhibition gallery with its overhead lighting. Major works from private Swiss collections (some of which will be on public display for the first time) are to go on show alongside pieces from the museum's own collections.
- 'Maurice Denis. Amour' until 6 May 2021  
A friend of Édouard Vuillard and Pierre Bonnard, Maurice Denis (1870-1943) was a key painter and theorist of French modern art at the turn of the 20th century. The

exhibition - the first in Switzerland in 50 years - focuses on the beginnings of his career.

*PLATEFORME 10 is the new arts district next to Lausanne rail station. It will be home to a galaxy of cultural attractions: the Cantonal Museum of Fine Arts (mcb-a), the Elysée photography museum and the Museum of Contemporary Design and Applied Arts (Mudac). The Toms Pauli and Félix Vallotton foundations will also relocate to the new site. Each institution focuses on a specific discipline – but by bringing them together, Plateforme 10 aims to transcend the boundaries between them. The rival collections in this constellation will generate a strong spirit of place that is sure to emanate a magnetic attraction for visitors. The first stage of Plateforme 10 was inaugurated on 5 October 2019 with the opening of the mcb-a. The Elysée photography museum and the Mudac will open there in 2021. [www.plateforme10.ch](http://www.plateforme10.ch)*

## **A new walk in the footsteps of Audrey Hepburn and Paderewski in Morges**

Audrey Hepburn (1929-1993), actress and exceptional woman, made a lasting impression not just on cinema history through her talent, but also on the region's past through her status as resident, for almost 30 years, at Tolochenaz, near Morges, where she rests today. From the Hôtel-de-Ville in Morges where she was married in 1969 to the market she would often frequent, the Dumas grocery shop whose back door she would use to escape the paparazzi, Audrey Hepburn certainly left her mark on the town and its inhabitants with her elegance, simplicity and kindness.

Ignace Paderewski (1860-1941) was a renowned Polish pianist and statesman and spent more than half his life in Morges. His indelible legacy includes the unique setting of his estate in Riond-Bosson where the whole world would visit him, memorable concerts from Geneva to Vevey, not forgetting Lausanne and Fribourg.

This spring Morges is launching a new walk in Tolochenaz (next to Morges), the village where the two artists lived. It offers an opportunity to discover the many traces they left in this delightful village, for instance the houses where they lived, their gardeners' houses, the parks they enjoyed, and many other surprises. The itinerary is available on the Morges:Guide app, which provides a guided tour and information along the way. [www.morges-tourisme.ch](http://www.morges-tourisme.ch)

## **New temporary exhibitions at Prangins Castle, Swiss National Museum**

**GAMES** from 20 March to 10 October 2021

Who hasn't heard of Fortnite, Mario Bros. or Minecraft? With more than 2.7 billion players worldwide and a turnover of almost USD 160 bn, the video game industry is now become larger than Hollywood's. At its temporary exhibition entitled GAMES, Prangins Castle showcases the history of video games from their beginnings in the 1970s to the present day. GAMES tracks the way in which video games have evolved from a historical as well as a technical point of view and invites visitors to try their hand at *Asteroids* and *Space Invaders* at its arcade terminals, alongside video games developed in Switzerland. The exhibition also takes a more in-depth look at topics such as the Swiss video game industry, the addiction to video games among young people, and scenes of violence featured in certain games. Throughout the exhibition run, Prangins Castle will organise theme-based evenings, gaming afternoons, and other events. [www.chateaudeprangins.ch](http://www.chateaudeprangins.ch)

### **Indiennes: a fabric takes the world by storm** From 7 May 2021

Building on the success of the temporary exhibition presented in 2018, Prangins Castle has created a unique *indienne* centre featuring the permanent exhibition entitled *Indiennes: a fabric takes the world by storm*, complete with study area and a programme of workshops on plant dyes. Weaving the strands of local and global history together, the exhibition invites the public to follow the spread of these fabrics around the world. [www.chateaudeprangins.ch](http://www.chateaudeprangins.ch)

### **Prangins wins the Swiss Heritage Society's Wakker Prize 2021**

Situated in the Côte vineyard region and neighbouring the town of Nyon, the Municipality of Prangins is home to the French-language headquarters of the Swiss National Museum. And it has just been awarded the Wakker Prize for its promotion of the current architectural and landscape qualities of the municipality as a whole. In the words of the Swiss Heritage Society, 'Prangins has chosen to anchor its development on values that have emerged over the course of its history and to strengthen and develop them further. Its aim is to blend population growth with high-quality housing. To this end, the municipality is a trailblazing model for land-use planning. Each year, the Swiss Heritage Society awards the Wakker Prize to a political municipality or, exceptionally, to organisations or associations that boast a high-quality urban development policy. Prangins represents the fifth time that the Wakker Prize has been awarded to the Canton of Vaud in almost 50 years. [www.patrimoine-suisse.ch/wakker](http://www.patrimoine-suisse.ch/wakker)

### **Virtual visits of the Canton of Vaud**

Thanks to [virtual.myvaud.ch](http://virtual.myvaud.ch), multimedia content on the Canton of Vaud can now be accessed on a single platform. Videos, podcasts, virtual exhibitions have all been grouped together to facilitate information retrieval. Browsing online, users have the opportunity for instance to re-immerses themselves in the convivial atmosphere of the *Fête des Vignerons* by listening to its main topics, to discover African freshwater habitats thanks to an immersive visual experience at the Aquatis Vivarium; and to admire the works of art from the Hermitage Collection. This ever evolving platform offers a wide choice of subject matter guaranteed to satisfy a broad spectrum of interests. [Virtual.myvaud.ch](http://Virtual.myvaud.ch)

### **Chaplin's World celebrates 80 years of "The Great Dictator"**

Chaplin's World will be hosting a temporary exhibition until 29 August 2021, featuring hitherto unpublished photos, details of deleted scenes and behind-the-scenes activity that elucidate the links between fiction and History.

Co-produced by Rencontres d'Arles, Roy Export S.A.S. (which holds the rights to Charlie Chaplin's intellectual property and heritage), Institut pour la photographie de Lille and The Charlie Chaplin Museum Foundation, Chaplin and 'The Great Dictator' – Story of a Little Fish in a Shark-Infested Ocean features unpublished on-set photos by Chaplin's Assistant Director, Dan James, and sheds light on the context in which Chaplin's first "talkie" was made, produced and distributed.

The exhibition (with plates and captions available in English, French, and German) opens with a synopsis of the film in vintage photographic prints – a barber wounded during the WWI returns home after twenty years within hospital walls. His shop is full of cobwebs and dust, but it is the hateful graffiti on the shop window that takes him totally by surprise. Hynkel, the tyrannical dictator, and his henchmen persecute the barber, and the rest of the Jewish community, including the beautiful Hannah...



The section on Chaplin at work features behind-the-scenes footage, scenes of Chaplin directing his actors, deleted scenes, and stories behind the special effects used in the film. These insights into his filmmaking process also show how his studios operated, and reflect the wealth of historical research conducted by his team. Hynkel's jacket, which turned up in a private Swiss collection in early February of this year, will be displayed in the exhibition. [www.chaplinsworld.com/en](http://www.chaplinsworld.com/en)

## **The Château de la Sarraz is soon to reopen!**

A new permanent exhibition is also opening on April 24th. On the occasion of its reopening, the public will be able to discover the new permanent exhibition of the castle entitled "The keys of the castle are yours, 900 years of dynasties".

After more than two and a half years of work, the Château de la Sarraz will reopen its doors on April 24, 2021 with a new itinerary and a complete overhaul of its exhibits. The idea is to give visitors, for the duration of their visit, "the keys to the Castle" to (re)discover the history of the place, the collections of the castle, the owners, as well as the artistic and cultural historical heritage they left behind. The tour of the exhibition promises to be both immersive and interactive and will be offered for the first time in English, French and German.

The castle's showcases are made up of seven collections that have been updated to be presented in the new 2021 exhibition. According to the current state of inventories, the castle is home to approximately 13,000 objects. It has some of the finest collections of furniture and paintings in Switzerland. Gathered with talent throughout the history of La Sarraz, they are representative of the heritage of the de Gingins family, which was one of the most important families of the Vaud aristocracy. This family died out for lack of descendants during the 1930s, leaving a practically intact heritage behind.

Built in 1049 by the House of Grandson, the Château de la Sarraz has nearly a thousand years of history to absorb. It is also one of the three Swiss sites that have been awarded the European Heritage label because of its important historical, artistic and cultural value in European history. <https://chateau-lasarraz.ch/>

## **4. Gastronomy**

### **Vaud cuisine excels in the 2021 Gault&Millau**

A hundred or so restaurants in the Canton of Vaud have received accolades in the 2021 edition of the Gault&Millau food guide, with special mentions for excellence for several chefs, too. Despite the current situation, the food guide is publishing a new and almost normal edition. In 2021, 10 new establishments have joined the award-winning rankings of Vaud restaurants promoted in the Gault&Millau food guide. Among them, a new chapter has begun for the Fleur de Sel in Cossonay (formerly run by Carlo Crisci) with François Gautier and Romain Dercile at the helm. And while the dining room is as elegant as ever, a new feature is the show kitchen for a glimpse of the chefs at work. The establishment makes its debut in the guide with 17/20 points. La Sardine in Lausanne (12/20), l'Ulivo in Nyon (13/20), A la Demi-Lune à Chardonne (13/20), Ô Bistro de Lavaux at La Conversion (14/20), among others, have all made their entry in the guide.

11 establishments in the Canton of Vaud have improved their score compared with the 2020 edition. Among them are the Auberge de l'Abbaye de Montheron, located above Lausanne. Thanks to Chef Rafael Rodriguez's 'all home-made' approach, it has gained an additional point

for the second year running and now boasts 16/20. Likewise, Les Ateliers in Vevey, Au Gaulois in Romainmôtier, and the Restaurant de l'Hôtel de Ville in Avenches have all garnered an additional point.

Elsewhere, on a different note, the Lausanne brasserie La Bavaria (13/20) has picked up the ICOMOS prize for historic restaurant of 2021. The prize is in recognition of the renovation and restoration project as a whole and acknowledges the efforts undertaken to preserve the culinary traditions typical of the early 20th century.

The title for 'Discovery of the Year' and 'Pastry Chef of the Year' have both gone to establishments in the Canton of Vaud. The erstwhile Table d'Edgar at the Lausanne Palace has been renamed La Table. Franck Pelux and his partner are at the helm, serving a cuisine that transcends borders. They make their entry in the guide with 16/20 points and are named 'Discovery of the Year'. As for the 'Pastry Chef of the Year' award, that goes to Christophe Loeffel at the Pont de Brent, working alongside Chef Stéphane Décotterd. Incidentally, the establishment has retained its 18/20 points by promoting only local produce.

Still at the top of the list are the Hôtel de Ville de Crissier near Lausanne and the Ermitage des Ravets in Vufflens-le-Château, both of which have retained their exceptional score of 19/20. Overall, 94 establishments in the Canton of Vaud have scored 1,310 points in the 2021 edition of the Gault&Millau. [www.gaultmillau.ch/fr/restaurants](http://www.gaultmillau.ch/fr/restaurants)

## **Canton of Vaud garners two new stars in the 2021 Michelin Guide**

In this 2021 edition, eleven establishments have been awarded one to three stars. With its 3 Michelin stars, the Hôtel de Ville de Crissier retains its place at the top of the rankings for the French-speaking part of Switzerland.

Among the newcomers, two Vaud establishments have received their first star. La Table du Lausanne Palace, with Franck Pelux and his partner at the helm, makes its entry into the Guide for the first time, a fitting reward for the quality of the cuisine and service on offer. In Vevey, the restaurant Les Ateliers – a nod to the former stainless steel workshop once located behind the station – stands out by virtue of its brasserie fare and exquisite dishes inspired by market produce.

The Auberge de L'Abbaye de Montheron in Lausanne sees Chef Rafael Rodriguez's 'all home-made' approach rewarded with a MICHELIN Green Star, highlighting a dining policy that places the environment at the heart of his cuisine.

Eleven establishments throughout the Canton of Vaud have been awarded a BIB Gourmand, including the Fleur de Sel in Cossonay. This accolade showcases restaurants that offer the best value for money with a complete menu for a maximum of CHF 70. <https://guide.michelin.com/ch/en>

## **Edgard Bovier takes over Le Cerf restaurant in Rougemont – New chef at Lausanne Palace**

A truly charismatic figure and emblematic of the city-centre Palace, the award-winning chef and winner of 18/20 Gault & Millau points was a guarantee of exceptional cuisine inspired by Mediterranean culture, which he elevated to sublime levels over the course of 16 years. La Table d'Edgard restaurant has closed its doors but Edgard Bovier can now be found at his Le Cerf



restaurant in Rougemont, an elegant establishment with an authentic chalet-style charm. [www.lecerfrougemont.ch](http://www.lecerfrougemont.ch)

Operations will continue under the leadership of Franck Pelux and his companion Sarah Benahmed, who will be in charge of the flagship fine-dining restaurant at the Lausanne Palace. They will take care to perpetuate the heritage of Edgard Bovier in a spirit of transmission and continuity. The young couple are charting a bold course together and will unveil their new menu from September as a true ode to the journey and to Swiss terroir. They will shine a spotlight on local producers and artisans with the promise of unforgettable moments of gastronomic delight. [www.lausanne-palace.ch](http://www.lausanne-palace.ch)

## **Café Byron at the Chillon Castle**

The "Jardin anglais" (English Garden) redevelopment project consists of a pavilion-cafeteria surrounded by historic flora as well as the upgrading of the old, cobbled pilgrimage route to Italy. The highlight of the renovation scheme is the new "Café Byron" catering space. Open since June, the new pavilion-restaurant allows members of the public to admire the splendid views of the Château de Chillon through its bay windows while enjoying a break for refreshments at any time of the year. [www.chillon.ch](http://www.chillon.ch)

## **5. Wine tourism**

### **Wine tourism offers – bookable online**

Wine tourism offers opportunities to explore a region and savour its products – and to meet the people who make them. One example: visitors to Bex at the foot of the Vaud Alps can sample very fine dry or sweet wines from *Domaine de Luissalet*, winner of numerous Swiss and international awards. Like 20 other estates in the region, this winery offers a package comprising a tour of the cellar hosted by the vintner, who presents the estate and the winemaking process with a wine tasting and a bottle as a memento. There are also versions of these authentic outings to suit gourmets. At *L'Etivaz*, for instance, visitors can taste the famous cheese as they learn about its production and the secrets of its flavour during a tour of the ripening cellars. Right now, about 150 wine-themed activities throughout the canton: cellar tours and tastings hosted by winegrowers, cruises with fine dining, unusual means of transport, recreational workshops, gourmet walks, and many more chances to discover local products. All these offers can be booked online at [myvaud.ch/offers](http://myvaud.ch/offers)

## **6. Wellness**

### **New Cinq Mondes Spa at the Beau-Rivage Palace**

The Beau-Rivage Palace has opened its new spa facility featuring a new aesthetic and architectural dimension, illustrated in particular by a patio area finely crafted like a work of art, a

haven of exceptional sensory experiences. The architectural project was entrusted to Alexandre Pierart of Suprem Architectures, whose approach revolves around a journey of initiation filled with new discoveries, physical sensations, and visual emotions. Added to this voluptuous setting are new features that include an exceptional double suite with refined ceremonial, a reinvented relaxation space, and a yoga and meditation studio designed to accommodate group classes. The new Cinq Mondes Spa at the Beau-Rivage Palace is the first mainstay of the Wellness Experience concept devised by Nathalie Seiler-Hayez, Managing Director, its global essence set to resonate throughout the hotel premises by the end of 2021. [www.brp.ch](http://www.brp.ch)

## 7. The Canton of Vaud: cycling heaven

With its varied landscapes, adapted accommodation and services specially designed for cyclists, the canton of Vaud is ideal for bike and mountain bike excursions of one or several days. About twenty marked Switzerland Mobility routes take bikers and mountain bikers across undulating landscapes: soothing lakes, demanding mountain passes as well as vineyards and the countryside. The region is also a major attraction for world cycling since it is home to the headquarters of the International Cycling Union (UCI) and regularly hosts stages of the Tour de Romandie and the Tour de Suisse. Indeed, bicycle hire and accommodation packages are available throughout the canton.

### Gran Fondo Suisse UCI from 17 to 19 September 2021

The UCI Grand Fondo World Series is a series of UCI-approved races staged around the world. The top 20% in each age category during the qualifying events automatically qualify to take part in the UCI Grand Fondo World Championships and compete for the coveted UCI rainbow jersey. The series aims to promote high-level competition for amateur cyclists worldwide. The Gran Fondo Suisse UCI is a magnificent course that starts at Villars-sur-Ollon and takes in the Col de la Croix (1,776 m), the Col du Pillon (1,546 m) and the Col des Mosses (1,445 m) before tackling a second ascent of the Col de la Croix and a summit finish. With a length of 108 km and 2,591 metres of difference in elevation across four ascents, the Gran Fondo Suisse UCI is the ideal challenge for an early summer competitive cycling event. [www.ucigranfondosuisse.ch](http://www.ucigranfondosuisse.ch)

### Downhill-Bikepark Leysin

On the downhill from the top of Berneuse back to Leysin village, riders negotiate a dramatic 700m drop on this steep descent. From tracks with differing scalabilities to a terrain designed to accentuate the adrenalin rush, it all adds up to make for a breathtaking ride. Leysin has already made a name for itself in the world of mountain biking and offers the real deal for all enthusiastic riders. The natural makeup of Leysin's mountain terrain means mountain biking can be tackled in all its forms : cross-country, descent, enduro and « dirt ». [www.aigle-leysin-lesmosses.ch](http://www.aigle-leysin-lesmosses.ch)

### A tour of the Vaud Alps in 4 days

With or without a guide, the tour of the Vaud Alps by road bike is a testing challenge for the more proficient cyclist. From the vineyards of the Chablais to the foot of the Diablerets Glacier, the itinerary is a wonderful way to discover the Vaud Alps, their distinctive chalets, green pastures and snow-covered summits. The package includes: 3 nights in a hotel, breakfast, bike room, luggage transport, log book, gpx files for downloading onto a GPS device, 24-hour telephone assistance by a local cycling guide during the tour. Available from CHF 415. Supplement for half-board in hotels. 4-day bike rental available on request, from CHF 320 per person. [www.villars-diblerets.ch/en/Z12239/tour-des-alpes-vaudoises-cycling-tour-4-days](http://www.villars-diblerets.ch/en/Z12239/tour-des-alpes-vaudoises-cycling-tour-4-days)

## **Jura vaudois nature park bike tour**

The Nature Park in the Vaudois Jura extends from the summit of La Dôle to the medieval monastic town of Romainmôtier. To the north, the Joux Valley (Vallée de Joux), to the south, the beech and spruce forests give way to the villages at the foot of the Jura hills. All of which provides a particularly attractive backdrop for hiking, cycling and mountain biking enthusiasts. The route of the Jura vaudois nature park bike tour can be covered by bicycle or e-bike and is 120 km long in total. Local produce is available at the cheese dairies and alpine eateries, village grocery shops and restaurants along the way. The Eurotrek agency proposes to discover this route from Nyon with a package including 2 nights with breakfast, as well as luggage transport. From CHF 435.- per person. [www.eurotrek.ch](http://www.eurotrek.ch)

## **Route verte in the Jura vaudois nature park**

From Schaffhausen to Geneva in seven stages, the brand new Route Verte takes you through the six regional nature parks of the Jura Arc. This new e-bike itinerary allows you to discover the magnificent landscapes of the Jura vaudois nature park, dedicated personalities, and delicious regional produce. To make the most out of the experience and get away with ease, you have the option of booking the entire route complete with luggage transport or 4 to 5-day leisure variants with luggage pick-up along the way. You can also customise your stages to suit your needs and ride along at your own pace. The [www.larouteverte.ch](http://www.larouteverte.ch) website has all the practical information you need to personalise your trip and make this adventure a unique experience. Package available from CHF 1,065: 7 nights with breakfast, daily luggage transport, detailed travel documents, provision of GPS data, and hotline assistance.

# **8. Nature**

## **50<sup>th</sup> Tulip Festival - Morges, March to May 2021**

Each year, the 'Morges Fleur du Léman' Association welcomes the return of spring with its Tulip Festival in the Parc de l'Indépendance. For its 50th edition (originally scheduled for 2020), the Tulip Festival will celebrate this milestone in style with numerous events and a party. A potters' weekend, a barrel organ festival, a flowering fountain competition, and sound and light shows projected onto the Castle are some of the events designed to highlight the history of the tulip and its 190,000 bulbs scattered throughout the grounds of the park.

The Tulip Festival is part of the World Tulip Society, an association whose aim is to bring together all those involved in celebrating the tulip in parks and festivals around the world, as well as the distributors and artists for whom the flower has been an inspiration. The Morges Tulip Festival was commended with the "2019 World Tulip Destination Worth Travelling For" award in order to highlight its 50th edition. And while the majority of such festivals may be larger in size, the Morges Tulip Festival is certainly one of the oldest festivals in the world. [www.morges-tourisme.ch/fr/GP2111/fete-de-la-tulipe](http://www.morges-tourisme.ch/fr/GP2111/fete-de-la-tulipe)

## **Narcissi in bloom in Montreux Riviera – April to June**

Wild narcissi bloom between April and June and transform the meadows above Montreux and Vevey into immaculately white, perfumed landscapes. As soon as the snow melts, the leaves of the narcissi (*narcissus radiiflorus*) shoot out of the earth and unfold the energy stored in their bulbs to burst into bloom precociously, a phenomenon called «May Snow». Numerous paths enable you to stroll across fields of narcissi. They can be viewed on the site [www.narcisses.com](http://www.narcisses.com). There is also a weather forecast for the narcissi, indicating when the flowers bloom. Finally, the “Narcisses Riviera” association offers you guided tours.

## **9. Festivals**

The Montreux Jazz Festival reinvents itself for the 55th edition! The 55th Montreux Jazz Festival is set to go ahead, from 2 to 17 July 2021. The format of the 55th Festival will be more intimate, based around its core values of conviviality and musical excellence, set among the lake, mountains and Belle Époque architecture of Montreux. Taking into account the current guidelines of the Swiss authorities and the uncertainties surrounding this year’s summer season, the Festival has completely reimagined its format. In a Festival first, a stage will be constructed entirely on the lake, with a maximum capacity of 600 seats. Three other stages with a smaller capacity, located in the event spaces and gardens of the Fairmont Le Montreux Palace hotel, will host jazz concerts, jam sessions, workshops and more.

The line-up will be announced in May, along with access and ticketing details. [www.montreuxjazzfestival.com/en/](http://www.montreuxjazzfestival.com/en/)