

# le News

SWISS NEWS IN ENGLISH

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Lake Geneva region

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# Drivers beware hefty fine

Fines are calculated as 10% of the value of the car in customs costs plus 19% import tax.

**BERN** It would appear that ignorance of the law in a foreign country is still no defence and the unwitting can suffer disproportionate sanctions.

A bizarre case has Swiss and foreigners alike scratching their heads. A hapless German pensioner recently visiting his daughter in Switzerland drove his son-in-law's Swiss-registered car across the

border to go to his daughter's holiday home in Austria. Stopped at customs, and unable to provide appropriate documentation, Dieter Johann von der Heide was hit with a whopping fine of CHF 17,900 – 10% of the value of the car in customs costs and 19% import tax.

Apparently, there is an EU regulation stating that anyone domiciled in the EU must apply for a customs clearance and registration document before entering the EU

with a car that does not have an EU registration. It is a cautionary tale for anyone residing in Switzerland who might wish to allow a friend or relative visiting from the EU to drive their Swiss-registered car across the border – even for a day trip.

There is an exception that allows residents living in Switzerland to enter the country twelve times a year with a foreign-registered car.

Continued on page 2

Next edition Simon Hardy's best Burgundies Part 2



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## This Week in Switzerland

The commission fighting against **undeclared workers** in the **restaurant business** has published its annual report. A total of 241 companies throughout Vaud were inspected and the status of 3,425 employees verified. Half of the checks were random, the others as a result of denunciations. There was a slight increase over last year, when 147 companies committed offences under the Labour Act.



Lausanne is bidding to host the 2020 **Winter Youth Olympic Games**. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will announce its decision in July 2015 on whether the Games will take place in **Lausanne** or **Brasov** in Romania. The Youth Olympics are much like the Olympics but with one small exception, the Olympians are between 14 and 18 years old. The first Games were held in Singapore in 2010 followed by Innsbruck, for the first winter games.

Switzerland is known for its boarding schools and now the first **all-boys boarding school** since 1970 will open in **Gstaad** next year. The Surval Gstaad school aims to educate international students from ages 13 to 19. It will open with 25 students. Yearly fees will be about CHF 90,000. Headmaster and former army officer Tim McConnell-Wood said, "Critically for boys, not having the distraction of girls gives them the freedom to express themselves as individuals."

High-profile Geneva lawyer Charles Poncet thinks **FIFA**, the world football body headquartered in Zurich, should no longer be based in Switzerland because it is "doing considerable **harm to the image of Switzerland**, all the more so because its head, Sepp Blatter, is Swiss." FIFA is under fire for **alleged corruption** in the choice of Qatar to host the 2022 World Cup. Its ethics committee is investigating.

Lausanne is renewing its backing for the **Béjart Ballet**. The city has signed an agreement to extend support to the Béjart Foundation for five years. By boosting the city's image and promoting tourism in the region, the ballet is perceived as an excellent ambassador for the city.

## Drivers beware hefty fine

**Continued from page 1**

That may not be much comfort for frontiers who must rely on the fact that the law is honoured more in the breach than in the observance.

*Take care if you lend your car to visitors who wish to travel across the border.*

A similar Swiss law states that "Persons resident in Switzerland are generally not entitled to use a foreign matriculated vehicle in Switzerland," although there are exceptions for rental and professional use. Walter Pavel, the communications officer for the Federal Customs Office (AFD) in Bern, said the rationale behind the law is to control automobile smugglers and those trying to avoid paying import duty on a new car.

Since ignorance of the law is no defence, the question remains, who has the obligation to inform car owners residing in Switzerland about the problem of allowing friends or relatives to drive their Swiss-registered car across the border? Representatives of the Swiss Touring Club (TCS) and the Cantonal Service of Automobiles would only say that, if asked, they advise customers to check with the country in question. Lukas Reimann, a Swiss People's Party (UDC) MP in St Gallen, said, "What happened to the German pensioner could happen to other innocent parties who have never heard of this law – which is probably the majority of people in Switzerland. People here cross the borders all the time, to shop, to work, to holiday and normally there is no problem. Customs officials on our borders know what to look out for and it isn't a 73-year-old man on holiday."

*Pamela Taylor, pamela@lenews.ch*

## Le News online



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**Front page** – Lowest unemployment in Switzerland in 25 years



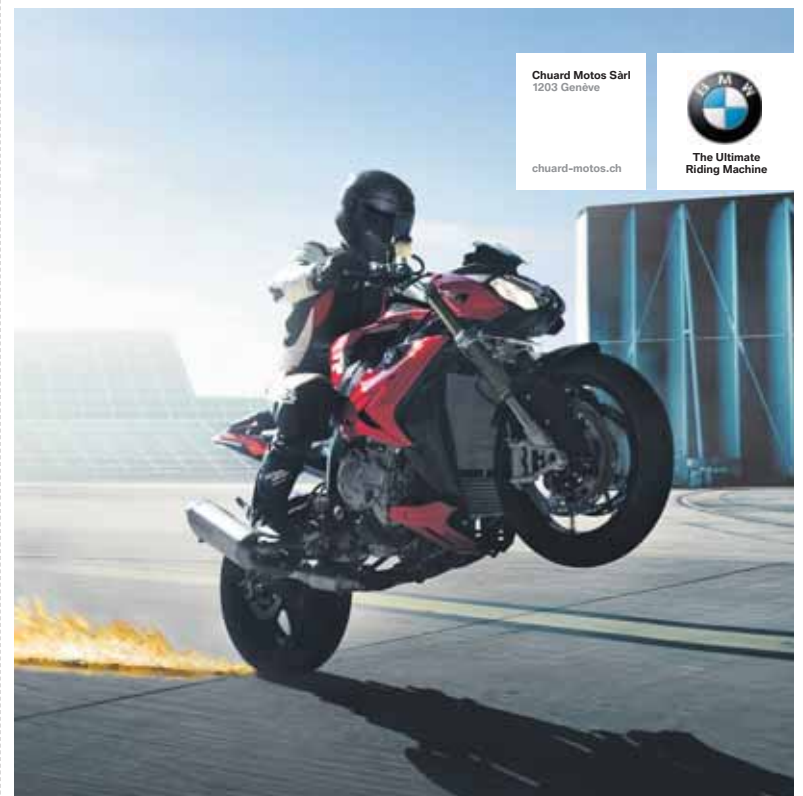
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## National

## Tax on “dirty” power?

## GLAND

World Wildlife Fund-Switzerland (WWF) and Pro Solar, an initiative of Swissolar, have launched a joint petition calling for a levy of CHF 0.10 per kWh on electricity produced from non-renewable energy sources. The organizations believe that this would help reduce impact on the environment without putting undue pressure on households and the wider economy.

More than half of Switzerland's electricity comes from coal, nuclear power, or natural gas. The petition proposes that the full cost for such energy be borne by those who use it, and not the whole community. Citizens who continue to use “dirty power” would pay CHF 25 more per month for their electricity.

“With a tax on dirty power, we introduce the principle of polluter-pays,” says WWF's CEO, Thomas Vellacott. President of Swissolar, Roger Nordmann, who is also a National Council member, believes that the government “simply wishes to replace Swiss nuclear power by purchasing foreign dirty power”. The proposed tax would rake in CHF 1.1–1.8 billion and could be used to promote renewable energies as well as help households move towards cleaner energy.

Le News



## The honey bee controversy

Europe and the US have lost 45% of their bees.

Given that 80% of Switzerland's crops and wild plants rely on bee pollination, there is growing concern about the continued decline of Europe's bee populations. Greenpeace and the European Alliance to Save Bees and Agriculture maintain that excessive use of highly toxic pesticides is largely responsible. The chemical companies, notably Bayer and Syngenta, beg to differ.

Switzerland has 20,000 beekeepers with 170,000 hives, many in urban areas where declines have been less serious, even non-existent. This, they say, is because town or suburban hives are not affected by industrial pesticides. “I have had no problems but my bees roam nearby gardens, not farms,” said one amateur beekeeper in Lausanne. It's a different story in the countryside.

Last December, based on the European Food Safety Authority's ruling that neonicotinoid pesticides, or neonics, pose huge risks to bees, the European Commission imposed a two-year ban on three products. Switzerland has proposed



“Bees are essential to one out of three bites of the food we eat, and two thirds of global food crops.” *Friends of the Earth*

similar restrictions. Germany's Bayer and Basel-based Syngenta have lobbied against the move, arguing that the EU's research has shown no real evidence. Instead, factors such as loss of habitat, diseases, viruses and nutrition have caused the declines. Their PR operations say they are working with farmers to reverse the loss of bees on a sustainable basis, a claim Greenpeace considers dubious. The reality is that governments need to come up with the science to clearly explain what is causing our bee populations to die, and what needs to be done.

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## Regional

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## Editor's comment

## Mountains, bees and books



As long as the Swiss and many expats have their teams still in play, the World Cup is impossible to ignore. So it's refreshing to have outdoor enthusiasts, such as the two Lausanne women, one who climbed Everest, the other who base-jumped off the Matterhorn, to remind us about other things, notably mountains. Sophie Lavaud set out to climb the world's highest peak, as reported in a previous issue of Le News, and not only succeeded but also raised funds for Norlha, an NGO supporting mountain communities.

Switzerland has one of the most advanced approaches to sustainable alpine development. This is where its expertise needs to be activated internationally, whether helping mountain villages abroad, or initiating projects that will protect the environment with a more intelligent use of local resources, including water.

Bees are another issue. Europe and North America are facing a severe threat of not having enough pollinators, particularly for fruit trees. Here, urban beekeeping, however, is doing well. Basel has too many bees competing for pollen, so residents are being asked to plant more flowers and go easy on the insecticides.

And finally, books. The repossession of Payot, Suisse romande's leading book chain, by Pascal Vandenberghe is good news for Swiss publishing, local authors and readers. But the challenge remains: how to inspire young people to read?

*Edward Girardet, editor@lenews.ch*

## Schumacher moved to CHUV

**LAUSANNE** Formula One champion Michael Schumacher has been transferred to the CHUV in Lausanne. His family report that the 45-year-old is no longer in a coma. The German champion driver was placed in a medically induced coma to help reduce swelling in his brain after he sustained a serious head injury in a skiing accident in the French Alps in December.

"Michael has left the CHU Grenoble to continue his long phase of rehabilitation. He is not in a coma anymore," Schumacher's manager, Sabine Kehm, said in a statement on behalf of his family on Monday. There was no mention, however, as to whether he was able to speak or otherwise communicate.

Schumacher, who retired from F1 in 2012 following a record-breaking 19-year career, had been skiing off-piste with his son when he fell and hit his head against a rock. Monday's statement was the first substantial update on Schumacher's condition since early April when his manager reported that he was showing "moments of consciousness and awakening".

*Le News*

# Radioactive waste blame

**BIENNE** For the past 18 months, Swiss authorities allegedly have been covering up the presence of highly radioactive material, which in some areas emits radiation of well over 100 times the permitted amount. According to Le Matin, 120kg of highly radioactive radium-based paint, originally used by the watchmaking industry to make watch faces visible at night,

found in an old dump near the town of Biel/Bienne.

Le Matin reports that cantonal and local authorities kept the radioactive waste



secret so as not to worry the town's 50,000 inhabitants. Exposure to the substance for more than three hours would be equivalent to the total amount of time allowed for radioactive exposure per year.

Radium has been banned since 1963 because of its high levels of radioactivity. An infamous case in the 1930's illustrated the dire effects of radium exposure. The

"Radium Girls", a group of women in the US who painted watch faces, later suffered serious health effects including bone cancer after they ingested radium by routinely licking their brushes to give them a finer point. François Bochud, president of the Federal Commission in charge of monitoring radiation maintains that he had not been informed

authorities. For their part, these officials say that the Swiss Federal Department of Public Health should have informed residents. The OFSP has announced that over the next year, it will be inspecting former watchmaking workshops in the Jura region for radioactive contamination.

*Emily Theytaz, Emily@lenews.ch*

## Moon walker to visit Switzerland

US astronaut, Edgar Mitchell, lunar module pilot on his mission (Apollo 14) and the sixth man ever to have walked on the moon, is coming to Switzerland to address a public conference in Tramelan, on 7 July at 20h00. Mitchell will be accompanied by Swiss astronaut, Claude Nicollier and Prof. Johannes Geiss, former professor at the Institut de physique at Bern University. The conference has been organised by the Jura Bernois Chamber of commerce and Swissapollo. Space enthusiasts are welcome! Mitchell will also be giving a press conference at the Club Suisse de la Presse in Geneva on 4 July.

**GENEVA** Switzerland's 2-1 win over Ecuador last Sunday is an encouraging start, so let's take a look at the country's chances of going far in the World Cup.

Noting how well the Swiss are now playing, it's hard to believe that it was only two decades ago that the team came out of an extended dry spell. It had previously failed to qualify for any World Cups between 1966 and 1994. Switzerland is now number six in FIFA's World

## Hop Suisse! Hopp Schwiiz! Forza Svizzera!

Rankings - and a quiet favourite among other Europeans.

In the 18 international matches Switzerland has played over the past two years, it has only lost one. The Swiss have a team to be reckoned with and it is the top-seeded country in Group E.

Switzerland's chances rely heavily on star player Xherdan Shaqiri, a talented winger and from its captain, Gökhan Inler. Inler had a big part in Switzerland's qualifying campaign.

Switzerland's next game against France on 20 June at

21h00 is likely to be a challenge that will demand full-on effort from the entire team. Hop Suisse!

*Emily Theytaz*



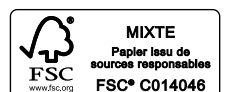
### IMPRESSUM

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## Business & Economy

# Glencore under wide attack

The debate on corporate responsibility in Switzerland is heating up

Zug-based mining and commodities giant Glencore is facing fierce, detailed criticism of its operations and financial dealings in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

*Concerns for Switzerland's reputation grow, amid claims of asset washing and human rights abuses*

Swiss NGOs Bread for All and Fastenopfer, and UK human rights watchdog RAID have issued an exhaustive report accusing the company of allegedly polluting drinking water,



Glencore's CEO Ivan Glasenberg

evading tax, opaque financial transactions, human rights violations, sanctioning use of disproportionate force by its security contractors, and illegally operating in a nature reserve. While the NGOs' report quotes responses from the company, Glencore's management has not been slow in bringing its formidable public relations and lobbying machinery into play. The company issued a statement on 17 June intended

to refute each allegation, and CEO Ivan Glasenberg briefed Swiss parliamentarians over lunch.

Calls for better regulation of commodities companies by centre and left-wing politicians have increased as concerns for Switzerland's reputation grow, amid claims of asset washing and human rights abuses by foreign companies based here purely to exploit the country's lack of regulation. *Le News*

### EY Global Fraud Survey

An EY Global survey of 50 Swiss executives highlights that unethical behaviour persists, with 36% of executives feeling that it is justified to survive an economic downturn.


Emerging risks are not being taken seriously enough with more than half of Swiss respondents considering cybercrime a low risk, suggesting that executives may not have a proper appreciation of cybercrime.

The survey found that while only 4% believe that bribery and corruption are widespread in Switzerland, 58% of Swiss executives attended anti-corruption training, despite nearly every company (94%) having an anti-corruption policy in place.


### Payot MBO

Bookshop chain Payot and sister company Nature & Découvertes have been sold by Lagardère Services to management for an undisclosed amount. Pascal Vandenberghe is now in charge of the newly independent company.

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## Insight

# Salafists in Switzerland

**GENEVA/LAUSANNE** Local Muslims are concerned by stalls in Swiss streets promoting Ansar al-Sharia, a Salafist group on the US terrorist list.

Distributing the Koran may seem harmless enough, but Arab speakers reported they were also attempting to recruit fighters for Syria. Early this month, one kiosk appeared in Geneva's Place du Molard, and others were spotted in Lausanne and elsewhere, prompting local Muslims to contact the media. RTS sent a TV crew to Lausanne and a young Tunisian contacted the Tribune de Genève wondering why a permit had been issued to a group banned from Switzerland since 2012.

City officials admitted they had been duped by someone claiming to be the Imam of an Albanian cultural centre in Fribourg. But Albinfo, a Lausanne-based information website

for the Albanian Diaspora, published a denial. Its director, Bashkim Iseni, said he did not know who had requested the permit. "We even spoke to the union of Imams in Switzerland, who denounced the use of an Albanian name to promote an extreme ideology."

*It is vital for moderate Muslims to speak out about the reality of Islam.*

"The interesting thing about using an Albanian name," said Iseni, "is that they realized Albanians are known for having a very liberal approach to Islam, so... would not draw the attention of the authorities. It's a warning to all of us." The Salafist movement, a 100-year-old Sunni sect, became more radical with the Arab Spring, conducting a violent jihad to impose its strict interpre-



tation of Shari'a law in Libya and Tunisia. It has recently begun recruiting fighters in Germany, the UK and Switzerland.

Albinfo is one of several Swiss organizations serving as a bridge between Islam and other religions. In January, a new Arab institute was opened in Geneva by former mayor Patrice Mugny and Alain Bittar, owner of the Arab-language bookstore L'Olivier in Pâquis. With a name grander than its premises, the Institute of Arab and Mediterranean Cultures (ICAM) seeks dialogue with other religions, but also to bring various strands of Islam together. "The problem is that there is not one Muslim community.

*Ansar al-Sharia has recently begun recruiting fighters in Switzerland.*

There are many types of Muslims. Here in Switzerland we have Turkish Muslims, Albanian Muslims, Arab Muslims." Egyptian-born Bittar seems uniquely positioned. Of Syrian-Lebanese family origin, he arrived in Switzerland 54 years ago on a Sudanese passport to attend boarding school.

Following 9/11, Bittar became increasingly concerned as Western eyes viewed Islam as linked to terrorism rather than a religion with different faces. "It is important to show that in this Arab world there is great diversity. It is not uniform, it has a rich and ancient culture – not just oil," he said. ICAM holds monthly discussions at L'Olivier, beginning with a prayer by a Sufi Imam to show diversity. "Then we have a dialogue involving a priest, a rabbi, a Buddhist and a Muslim," he

explained. "These meetings have been very well received and revolve around different themes, such the social and religious origins of fanaticism."

Iseni shares similar views. "Religion does not occupy the same place in the identities of Albanians, Bosnians or Turks. Arab Muslims define themselves through Islam because they come from societies where Muslims are in a clear majority." In the Balkans, he added, they are a minority with religion kept private.

Iseni considers it vital for moderate Muslims to speak out "about the reality of Islam, which is a pacific, tolerant religion". The Tribune de Genève reported an incident similar to the one on the Place du Molard in May at the Plainpalais flea market, where someone noticed pro-Jihad banners. The City of Geneva had also granted the group a permit. An investigation is now underway.

Pamela Taylor



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## Lifestyle

# Show jumping at Villars-Gryon

This year's showjumping trials at Villars-Gryon take place on 3-10 July and there's plenty on offer for those interested in equestrian sports amid spectacular Alpine scenery. This free event, which brings together both

regional and national as well as pony competitions, serves as a qualifier tournament for the Swiss Grand Prix Championship Elite 2014.

If you're unfamiliar with showjumping, it's one of the most visu-

ally exciting and elegant equestrian events. The competitors in full finery are challenged to complete a circuit jumping over high fences and other obstacles. Riders are penalized if they knock down, stop at or circumvent a fence, so there is enormous pressure on horse and rider to be technically precise and frankly, brave. If they can complete a clear round, they go through to the jump-off. This is a shortened, timed course that they must complete as fast as possible. The horse and rider judged with the least faults and the fastest time, win.

From 3-6 July, events will be held for licensed riders only. Monday 7 and

On Friday 11 July, there is the spectacular six-bar event (riders jump six fences set in a straight line). The top billed event, the Grand Prize and championship qualifier, Swiss Elite 2014, is held on Sunday 13 July. The four winners will compete as wild cards at the Concours Hippique Internationale de Genève (CHI) - one of the world's most prestigious equestrian competitions - on 12-15 December in Geneva.

Last year's show jumping competition was a melting pot of nationalities and hosted an array of European equestrian stars. These included Irishman Trevor Coyle, winner of the prestigious Aix-la-Chapelle Grand



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Tuesday 8 July, however, are open to ponies and unlicensed riders. The events include training test runs to qualify for regional licenses. Also on 7 July, French equestrian artist Pierre Fleury will perform with his famous pony show. From Thursday 10 until Sunday 13 July, competitions are being held for national and international riders.

Prix; Norwegian Eva Ursin; and the Swiss Olympian Pius Schwizer, winner of a bronze medal at the 2008 Beijing summer games. Last year's winner and wild card attendant at the CHI in 2013 was Genevoise Julie Jucker.

For the full programme, please see: [www.jumping-villarsgryon.com](http://www.jumping-villarsgryon.com)

Emily Theytaz

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## Education & Technology

# Are schools ready for the future?

As the world of business, science and technology is changing around us, school education must follow suit. But do our schools prepare the citizens of tomorrow's world adequately? The question is all the more pertinent now that China is taking over as a leading economy with a completely different take on education from most Western countries.

Comparing education systems has its pitfalls. One must be careful what factors are taken into account; cultural and social contexts are often disregarded and skills such as problem solving or creativity are hard to measure. Still, a recent report compiled for Pearson by the Economist Intelligence Unit has shown the UK in the top 10 and second in Europe, leaving China far behind. This is in contrast with last year's PISA report issued by the OECD, in which China was way ahead. This can be partly explained by the fact that Pearson looked at the rate of students continuing into higher education.

If British students are more likely to go into higher education, it can be argued that the UK makes it easier to

get there. Switzerland, by contrast, imposes a Maturité (its version of the Baccalaureate) that few manage to complete. Perhaps we need to look more at how education equips students to enter the world of high-level academia and careers. The British favour specialization and individual achievements over broader and standardized curricula.

Nowadays, it may not be as important to memorize facts and figures but rather to come up with innovative IT solutions for dealing with global social, political and environmental issues. Maybe the best education systems are the ones that produce the problem solvers of tomorrow, not people simply capable of repeating acquired knowledge. The skill set required to be successful is different from one generation to the next.

One day we may see oral communication rewarded at the same level as essay writing, while more assessments will be based on projects rather than just exams. Given that policies and politics on these issues tend to fluctuate, parents and students need to voice their



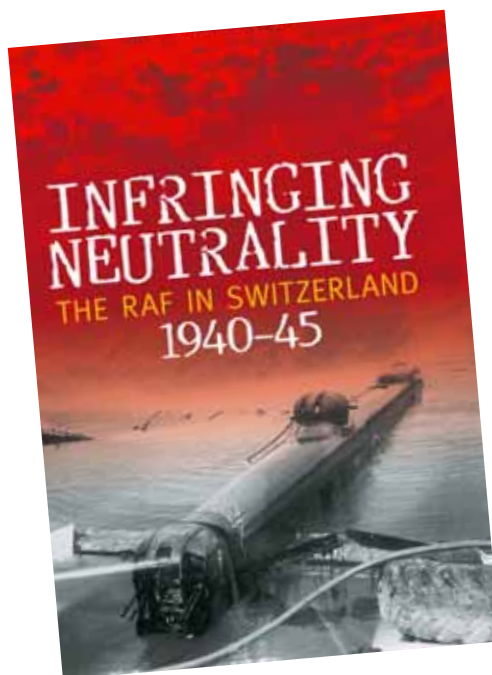
Are schools preparing students properly for the super competitive world of tomorrow?

wishes by selecting schools and curricula more adapted to delivering such training for later life.

Other than the British system, the IB curriculum, from primary to diploma, also prepares students for social and professional interactions in the technological and global societies of the future. Unfortunately, however, it

does not always appear in ranking surveys as it is not attached to any particular country. The realities of today suggest that more than ever, innovation, adaptability, creativity and problem solving stand out as the new!

*Sabine Hutcheson, Academic Director and Educational Consultant at TutorsPlus*



## Book Review

This 255-page book by Lake Geneva-based author Roger Anthonie is more geared to military or history buffs, and makes a fascinating read for those intrigued by the role of Allied forces in Switzerland during World War II. As a neutral country, Switzerland was obliged to intern all Allied and Axis personnel, regardless of nationality, who ended up on Swiss soil. This included shot down British, American and other Allied pilots as well as German pilots who managed to cross over or crash land in Switzerland. Many were interned in Swiss resorts ranging from Davos to Adelboden. Escaped Allied soldiers also made for Switzerland from German or Italian POW camps.

Switzerland, however, was used as a shortcut for the Allies en route to bomb enemy facilities in northern Italy and using Lake Geneva and other known landmarks for guidance. RAF bombs sometimes

landed in Switzerland, particularly around Basel or Schaffhausen, because bad weather or blackouts made it hard to discern the border between Switzerland and Germany, which pressured the Swiss to cut their lights as well. Swiss soldiers and civilians alike died in such attacks. Propaganda balloons designed to drop leaflets also regularly drifted into Switzerland, sometimes with comic results.

*Infringing Neutrality*, which includes rare photographs, is the second book in a trilogy; the third will explore the role of the United States Air Force. Anthonie's detailed research covers daring escapes, stories of survival and the tragedies of war.

*Edward Girardet*

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## Property

# Trusting a stranger with your home

With summer holidays around the corner, many people will soon be heading off to exotic holiday destinations. Many holidaymakers will pay to stay in expensive hotels and resorts while leaving their homes in the beautiful Lake Geneva region empty. There is, however, a way to put your empty home to good use, save money and enrich the cultural experience of travel.

Back in the 1950s, as part of a project to improve cultural exchange, the Swiss and Dutch Teachers' Unions started the home-exchange revolution, according to Intervac International, a home exchange service. With globalization and the expansion of the Internet, this revolution has accelerated and looks set to stay.

Early movers such as Intervac International, HomeLink and HomeExchange have been joined by Internet upstarts such as Love Home Swap, Airbnb and Knok. Innovations, such as social media verification, now help an increasing number of people to take the leap and exchange homes with someone on the other side of the world whom they have never met.

The most common form is a "simultaneous exchange", where you stay in your exchange-partner's home while they stay in yours. There is also a "non-simultaneous exchange", where second homes are swapped.

In a 2013 study entitled "My Home is Yours", professors Francesca Forno and Roberta Garibaldi from the University of Bergamo profile users based on data from HomeExchange.

It turns out that this new generation of home-swappers is not that new. Some 94% are 34 or over and close to 50% have children. And while saving is a key motive, home-exchangers are not penny pinchers. Nearly 50% choose expensive holiday options such as staying in resorts and hotels when not home swapping.

So what are the main drivers? Interest in cultural heritage is top of the list at 98%. Ducking down to the local market to collect ingredients for cooking at home is not far behind at almost 70%. Not surprisingly trust is a key ingredient. A reassuring 75% say people are trustworthy. This could be the result of the positive feedback that comes from participation in civic organizations undertaken by nearly 60% of those surveyed.

For many, however, trusting people they have never met with their most prized possession is the greatest hurdle. Exchange services use a range of features to try to reduce these risks and help you get to know the other party. Verification of email addresses, phone numbers and social media accounts are the main ones. Reviews of those



Swap the calm of your chalet for the buzz of a Hong Kong flat.

who have exchanged in the past are also important. It helps that the risk runs in both directions when making a simultaneous exchange.

A quick search reveals that Swiss residents are no strangers to modern home exchanges. HomeLink lists several hundred. For example, there is a three-bedroomed house on the shores of Lake Geneva complete with a Ford Mustang available anytime. A home to swap in Australia, USA, Brazil or Canada is the other side of the bargain. One Geneva family did a simultaneous exchange with one from Chicago, each

leaving the other information packages of where to go, what to do, and how to deal with any potential house problems, such as a blown fuse. Another exchanged their secondary residence, a chalet in Les Diablerets, for an ocean-view house in Martha's Vineyard.

So if you're community minded, like soaking up foreign culture and can get over the hurdle of trusting a stranger, then home exchanging could be for you.

Go to [lenews.ch/property](http://lenews.ch/property) to share your home exchange experiences.

Le News

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#ForPeopleOnTheMove

## Chez Vous

# Lausannoises at the extremes of endeavour

While Switzerland is holding its breath for its national team playing in the world cup in Brazil, two Swiss women from Lausanne have made the country proud by establishing two new records – at the top of mountains.

A few weeks ago we reported on Sophie Lavaud getting ready to climb the North face of the Everest. And she has made it. She reached the summit on 25 May together with the alpinist and filmmaker François Damilano. Sophie is the first Suisse-romande woman to summit the North side of the world's highest mountain. "The hardest part was the wind. At this time of the year it was supposed to have already passed, but it was still there, blowing strong and cold. This made it hard for us having a weather window of only 10 hours when you usually need at least five days. It was at its worst during the

night of our push for the summit". The wind forced them to limit their enjoyment at the top to just a few minutes since they had to rush back down, walking for 23 hours non-stop. "Even if you are tired, you have to be very careful. Any mistake can be fatal. It is the nature of the sport, and that's what I love about it. You have to adapt" says Sophie who is now enjoying a rest. Sophie's endeavour was not only to achieve a record, but to fund-raise for Nohrla, an organization that assists the populations of mountainous regions such as the Himalayas. She sold each metre ascended through a crowd founding website.

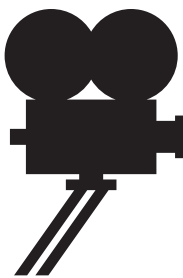
Géraldine Fasnach, also from Lausanne, set a world record a few days ago by climbing to the top of the 4,478-metre Matterhorn and jumping down the mountain. It took eight hours to



Sophie Lavaud - the first woman from Suisse romande to scale the North face of Everest

climb from the Hoernli way-station. Then, equipped with the newest and most advanced wingsuits, she and Julien Meyer jumped from the east face of the iconic mountain, flying around the peak and landing on the north face. "Preparation was crucial. I had flown

my plane around the peak to find the best place to jump." said Géraldine. While the two record-setting girls are taking a break, they already have new ventures in mind. Doubtless it won't be long before Switzerland again hears from its super women. *Cristina Odero*



## FILM REVIEWS

By Neptune

### EDGE OF TOMORROW

★ ★ ★ ★

From romance, we turn to a quality action flick with the perennial Tom Cruise, who keeps coming back with a vengeance, and good for him. He has been repeatedly maligned because of some silly couch-jumping declaration of love or because of his beliefs (none of our business...), but he's like that battery bunny, running on overload. And he does it with style, whether in *A Few Good Men*, *Jerry Maguire*, *The Last Samurai* or *The Mission Impossible* franchise (with the last, filmed in Dubai and all over, being the best).

In this one he shows how well-tuned his seldom used comedic talents are, starting out as a shallow coward, who has to rise to the situation – of possible annihilation. It's the future, the world is being attacked by an alien mechanism, and the only renowned-



hero here is actually a heroine, played by the versatile Emily Blunt (she's come a long way from the little secretary in *The Devil Wears Prada*). She will become his teacher, in his strange repetitions of coming back to life – art mimicking reality? Directed by Doug Liman (of the Bourne films), this is a blockbuster that's perplexing and exciting. (Photo – FOX-WARNER)

### LA RITOURNELLE

★ ★ ★

Ah, for the rare romantic drama/comedy that is actually a hymn to both marriage and new encounters. How much more French could you get? Minus any vulgarities and stupid situations so à la mode these days, this film by Marc Fitoussi is a modern look at the French wisdom: "Vive la difference!" Rarely has Isabelle Huppert been so 'normal' and utterly feminine (it seems age becomes such fine actresses as she, Deneuve and

Ardant). And Jean-Pierre Darroussin as her husband is his usual decent self – discrete and loyal. From bucolic life in Normandy to an escapade in Paris, they embody ageless desires and doubts. Despite a few glitches, this is a lovely, gentle moment of pleasure, with just the right dialogue, direction and music that makes a film to discuss as a couple or ponder on your own, with a smile. And to remember.

(Photo – FRENETIC)



## Chez Vous

# Best Burgundies

Switzerland lies at a wine-making crossroads in Europe. Not only is it home to a diversity of wonderful wines and stunning vineyards, but it also borders some of the richest and most varied wine regions in the world. In this second of a series of articles to learn more about our wine-producing neighbours we head to the world-famous Burgundy region of France.

Few wine regions in the world can conjure up such a reputation for great taste in so many different ways. Think classic cuisine such as Coq au Vin, Boeuf Bourguignon, Poulet de Bresse and Escargots de Bourgogne, fabulous cheeses like Epoisses and Cîteaux, tasty ingredients like Moutarde de Dijon and Crème de

Cassis liqueur, not to mention the refreshing Kir aperitif.

Then there are the wines themselves. This is the spiritual home of Chardonnay white wines and Pinot Noir red wines. Burgundy wine producers pride themselves on producing pure expressions of each of these great grape varieties. The marginal climate in this region can create significant variations in quality from vintage to vintage so blending with other varieties would make their lives easier. But they see themselves as the guardians of a winemaking tradition that dates back several generations. The fact that many of the almost 4,000 wine estates bear the family name is the best evidence of this. However, most are relatively small



in scale and quite the opposite of the much larger and more anonymous châteaux in the Bordeaux region.

The entire Burgundy wine region is much larger than many realise. It actually encompasses Chablis to the north and Beaujolais to the south (though this is often considered a quite separate area). In between you find the Mâconnais, home to Pouilly-Fuissé, and the Côte Chalonnaise. This helps to explain why almost two-thirds of the wines produced in Burgundy are white.

However, it is the remarkable vineyards of the Côte d'Or that are the true source of Burgundy's reputation for fine wine. Indeed, the villages that mark the route heading south from Dijon read like a wish list of some of the world's best wines: Gevrey-Chambertin, Chambolle-Musigny, Vosne-Romanée, Aloxe-Corton, Pommard, Meursault and Chassagne-Montrachet.

The wine growers also take credit for the singular concept of 'terroir', which is now spreading far and wide throughout the world of wine. 'Terroir' is best translated as the interaction of soil, climate and topography that defines the unique characteristics of a wine from a particular place. For this we have to thank the Benedictine and especially the Cistercian monks who owned and cultivated the Burgundy vineyards in the Middle Ages. They kept detailed records of how the 'terroir' affected the taste of the different wines they made. Now centuries later this intimate knowledge of the vineyards and its wines lies at the heart of the system of 'appellation d'origine contrôlée'. As a result Burgundy has 100 different appellations, which

account for a sizeable 20 percent of all the wine appellations in France. It is hardly surprising that this degree of complexity can be rather daunting for many wine drinkers, as it requires a considerable level of understanding.

The simplest way to make sense of the Burgundy appellations is to imagine a pyramid divided into four levels with increasing quality but ever decreasing quantity of wine the higher you go.

At the bottom are the so-called regional wines, which feature the word Bourgogne in the name of the appellation, for example Bourgogne Rouge. The grapes for these basic wines can be grown anywhere in the defined Burgundy region. At the next level are the village or communal wines, which are made from grapes grown specifically within the defined limits of the village named on the label, for example Nuits-Saint-Georges or Pommard. In all, there are 44 village appellations.

The top two levels of the pyramid are reserved for the better terroirs, namely Premier Cru and Grand Cru, which as the names suggest make the finer wines.

More information at [www.bourgogne-wines.com](http://www.bourgogne-wines.com) and [www.climats-bourgogne.com](http://www.climats-bourgogne.com)

*Simon Hardy holds a Diploma in Wines & Spirits. He is the founder of Fitting Wines, which provides a range of personalised wine services in Switzerland. For more information please write to [contact@fittingwines.com](mailto:contact@fittingwines.com).*

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## Travel

# Bergamo, Italy: Dolce vita around the corner

Need a dolce vita fix? Located 50km away from the hustle and bustle of Milan, Bergamo is a city full of old-world charm.

The city's defining feature is the ancient hilltop Città Alta surrounded by the Mura, over 5km of well-preserved Venetian walls. A wander through the cobblestone streets leads to several wonders of medieval Renaissance and baroque architecture. The Piazza Vecchia, the old central square, features the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore and the Colleoni Chapel. Head up to the top of the Campanone tower for breath-taking panoramic views of the Alpine foothills and southern plains. A funicular connects Città Alta with the more modern Città Bassa that includes the Via XX

Settembre shopping district and the Accademia Carrara and Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea. A highlight of any trip to Bergamo is indulging in the regional Lombard cuisine. Try an aperitivo of Valcalepio wine and Taleggio cheese on the outdoor terrace of Al Donizetti, named after famed 19th century composer Gaetano Donizetti. At the Trattoria La Colombina you can sample local dishes including casoncelli alla bergamasca (a slightly sweet ravioli stuffed with sausage, fruit and spices and topped with chopped pancetta and sage) and polenta taragna con funghi (cornmeal and buckwheat porridge with cheese and mushrooms). No trip to Bergamo would be complete without sampling the gelato. The winner of the 2014 best artisanal gelato competition in Bergamo was the Artigel Gelateria located just outside of the town center in



Piazza Vecchia, Bergamo Alto

Azzano San Paolo – ask for the “I tre ori” flavour that contains the “three golds” of the local area: wildflower honey, saffron and ground cornmeal. Also, “stracciatella” flavour – a mix of creamy gelato and fine chocolate shavings – was created by Enrico Panattoni at the popular La Marianna gelateria in Città Alta.

Bergamo's rich heritage of art and history, outstanding culinary traditions and vibrant modern culture make the city a great weekend getaway right around the corner!

To find more information, go to [www.turismo.bergamo.it](http://www.turismo.bergamo.it)

Le News

## Cracking up

### Pet peeve

So we're talking a lot about pets again, in our household. It seems the children are not content with four fat goldfish, three layabout guinea pigs, a geriatric cat and a Furby that will not shut up (I'd take the batteries out but what if it goes all Chucky on me and keeps talking?).

No. None of these are thrilling enough. What they really want – what their little hearts are aching for – is, of course, a puppy.

“Not going to happen,” I tell them over and over. No fence, rental property, itinerant status, B permit, already bankrupted by the cat, blah blah blah.

But they live in hope. And, in the meantime, they're exploring every other option because, as I heard them whispering the other day, “You just never know what she'll say yes to”.

So hardly a week goes by without some pet-related request from the bigger child, escalating in weirdness.

A while ago it was, “I must have a pony or I will die.” Well, she didn't get the pony and I'm pleased to report that she has not succumbed to lethal Pony-Craving. Although it was touch-and-go for a while.



A few weeks later, “There's a stray cat at the school. It's got one eye, no ears and it might have rabies. Can we bring it home?”

And then yesterday, “I know where I can buy a toilet-trained monkey. Let's go there right now.”

Their longing has become so acute that they spent much of last Sunday debating which pets they'd be prepared to swap their father for. After much discussion, the verdict was: a frog, no; a

cat, maybe; a puppy, most definitely, yes. I didn't join in because a) I've already explained why we can't have a dog and b) I didn't think it was an appropriate discussion to have on Father's Day.

Anyway, the thing they don't know is that I totally understand. I remember so clearly the anticipation of getting a new pet, and the delight of finally meeting it. I remember all the lovely, tumbly puppies; the mist-grey

kitten with the green eyes; I particularly remember a white mouse that gave an enormous squeak and deposited 10 tiny pink babies in her nest, one right after the other. I was thrilled. I thought I'd scored the deal of the century: my parents had agreed to one white mouse and I'd landed up with 11! Actually I landed up with none because my mother marched the whole lot right back to the pet shop and demanded a refund. So I also understand the agony of having a grown-up stomp all over your fluffy pet-dreams with their big, sensible feet and their limited thinking.

Quite honestly, I'm appalled that I've become that grown-up. Which is why I've finally agreed that, at some point in the future, when we have a house with a fence and a bigger garden... we might consider getting another Furby.

*Robyn Goss is a South African writer, recently moved to Switzerland. You can read her blogs at [www.roblyngoss.com](http://www.roblyngoss.com).*

*Robyn@lenews.ch*

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## LE PROPERTY

### Beautiful houses for sale in Aire, Geneva

This project is composed of three villas on a large garden plot in the center of a quiet residential area. Only two left for sale. Each villa consists of three bedrooms, kitchen open on the dining room and living room, two bathrooms. 140 m2 of living space, 64 m2 cellar, 190m2 private garden and terrace, 450 m2 total land plot. 5 min walk from schools, high energy efficiency, Plan sale 1,650,000 CHF. Contact Mattias Innocenti 022 839 73 83



### House for sale

Segny, France. Charming house (120 m2) for sale close to Geneva. 3 bedrooms, study, living room, open kitchen and 2 full bathrooms, mezzanine, garage, terrace and garden. Solar panels. Close to F bus. CHF 715,000 Contact Kasia Phone: 078 683 85 97



### Apartment for sale

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## LE PROPERTY

### Property for rent

House to rent in Chambesy CHF 12,500 p/m - From August Recently renovated, light house of 305 m2 space with 1200 m2 garden surrounding. On 2 levels. 5 beds, office, salon, lg. open kitchen, verandah, second kitchen on lower level. 2 WC / showers and 1 WC / Bathroom. Garage for 2 cars, parking. Private road, views of lake/ Alps. Secure, green, quiet (no aircraft/rd noise) not overlooked & gd for kids. Excellent access for internat. schools, airport, UN. Access to Chambesy private beach, tennis / pool club. Low monthly bills. Close to rail /bus. Contact Lucy, Phone: 079 438 34 73 Location: Switzerland, Geneva



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## LE MOTOR SELL

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## Regional Events

# le News

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### Cully. Music Festival. Festival Cully Classique

20–29 June

The Cully Classic Festival explores the theme "Vienna". Austria's capital city has played an important role in the history of western music, with musicians from all over the world staying there for long or short periods, making Vienna an international capital of classical music and of culture more generally. Don't miss 10 days of festival, 21 concerts and 50 internationally renowned artists in 4 concert halls. Rue du Temple 24 1096 Cully [www.cullyclassique.ch](http://www.cullyclassique.ch) © Anne-Laure Lechat



### Geneva. Music. L'AMR aux Croupettes

25–29 June

28 concerts will be offered in the Parc des Croupettes. AMR is an association that promotes jazz music and improvisation. On Wednesday 25 June, experience modern jazz at 18h30, and a saxophone and guitar duo at 21h30. On Thursday 26 June a performance by Country Cooking which combines African-American jazz with Latin and South African traditional music. Other acts include Italian jazz trio Zatar on 28 June and Valaisanne quartet ELMO 4. Parc des Croupettes Rue Baulacre, Geneva [www.amr-geneve.ch](http://www.amr-geneve.ch) Free entry



### Geneva. British School of Geneva Summer Fete

21 June, 12h00–14h30

A fun way to start off the summer, for children of all ages. Attractions include facepainting and nail art, crafts, Splat the Rat, Roll a Penny, Beat the Goalie, Treasure Island, Hoopla and many more games! There will also be a second-hand book and toy stall. Enter the raffle with great prizes including theatre tickets, summer camp vouchers, language lessons and a HealthFirst first aid course. Food and drink stalls to satisfy every taste and craving. British School of Geneva 95A Avenue de Chatelaine 1219 Chateleine +41 22 795 75 10



### Coppet. Theatre. Festival Autour de Mme de Staël

23–27 June

The Château de Coppet celebrates the life of French writer Germaine de Staël, who lived here after being exiled from Paris by Napoleon. This year the focus is on 1814, the bicentennial of Napoleon's abdication and flight to Elba. Other noteworthy theatre productions include Romeo and Juliet and Les Précieuses Ridicules. Free talks at 18h, plays at 20h, food and drink available on site. Château de Coppet [www.autourdemmedestael.com](http://www.autourdemmedestael.com) Tickets: +41 79 451 64 06 CHF 60 and 50 © Yves Perradin



### Villars. Motorcycle gathering. Villars Easy Riders.

27–29 June

Villars Tourisme is proud to present Villars Easy Riders, a large gathering for Harley Davidson fans, with the launch of the new 2014 range, stands dedicated to motorcycle culture, concerts, bike shows, games and food. On 27 June the official opening at 15h will be followed by a concert by Dog Days at 18h30. The next few days are filled with concerts from Bad Factory, John Guster & The Rhythm Storms and bike shows on 29 June. Place du Rendez-Vous 1884 Villars-sur-Ollon [www.villarseasyriders.ch](http://www.villarseasyriders.ch) Free



### Lausanne. 2014 CEV Beach Volleyball Tournament

26–29 June

The Lausanne volleyball tournament, has prepared a special night on 26 June with an exhibition volleyball match reuniting the Swiss bronze medal winners of the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, Stefan Kobel and Patrick Heuscher. Over the next few days, teams will battle it out for the top prize of €10,000. The area can accommodate 900 people, including seating for 660.

Place de la Navigation 1006 Lausanne [www.beachvolleylausanne.ch](http://www.beachvolleylausanne.ch) Free © Vanessa Cardoso



### Geneva. Theatre. Title and Deed.

3 July, 19h30

Irish touring company Gare St. Lazare presents Title and Deed, a provocative new work from American playwright Will Eno. Eno has crafted a powerful experience with a character whose word play and charm might answer almost as many questions as he asks. Where fewer people can claim to be "from here", this play searches for the possibility of connection. Lutheran Evangelical Church 25 Rue Verdaine, Place Bourg-de-Four, Geneva, CHF 25/15 Reservations: [info@theglas.org](mailto:info@theglas.org) [www.theglas.org](http://www.theglas.org) © Joan Marcus



### Lausanne. Boat Ride. Lausanne à Table "Chocolac"

29 June, 18h

Discover the lake while enjoying some chocolate. Spend two hours on Lake Geneva on a solar boat, while artisan chocolatier and confectioner Olivier Fuchs takes you on journey to discover exceptional chocolate flavours from a host of different places. You will learn about the 3,000-years of chocolate, from the first growers to the creation of "grands crus". A unique ride that combines wine and chocolate. Lausanne-Ouchy/Solar boat boarding point CHF 45/35 Reservations: +41 79 754 05 35



### Lausanne. Landing -- Lausanne Jardins 2014

June to October

Wandering around Lausanne over the summer, you might be surprised to find a new garden on a roof, "roots" growing out of the municipal building in Chauderon, 21 "bubbles" landed on a lawn down from St François, an alpine garden in the cathedral, a pick-your-own flower garden in the Place de la Riponne. No effort has been spared to bring greenery into the urban fabric in this cultural festival that blends landscape design with reflections on the city. Locations around Lausanne [www.lausannejardins.ch/en](http://www.lausannejardins.ch/en)



### Geneva. Royal Opera House Live Screening – Manon Lescaut

24 June, 19h30

This Puccini masterpiece makes a welcome return after an absence of over 20 years, in a new production by Jonathan Kent. This is a much anticipated production, and Kent's vision of a young girl who faces temptation in the big city will surely resonate with today's audience. In Italian, with French subtitles.

Cinema Les Scala 23 Rue des Eaux-Vives 1207 Geneva CHF: 28/24/20 © ROH / Bill Coope



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3 to 13 July 2014



- **3 to 6 July**
  - > Regional and national competitions
- **Friday 4 July – Banque Migros Day**
  - > 18h: Regional six-bar competition
- **Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 July**
  - > Equestrian show: Pierre Fleury
- **Monday 7 July**
  - > 19h: "Balloch" grand equestrian show presented by Pierre Fleury  
Villars Vanguard Jazz Orchestra in concerta
- **7 and 8 July**
  - > Competitions for pony and non-licensed riders
- **10 to 13 July**
  - > National competitions
- **Friday 11 July**
  - > 15 h 30: N145 competition
  - > 18 h: National six-bar competition
- **Saturday 12 July**
  - > 11 h: Official apéritif and procession of vintage cars
  - > 16 h 30: N145 competition
- **Sunday 13 July**
  - > 14 h: Commune of Ollon Grand Prix  
Qualification for the Swiss Elite Championship 2014



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