SWISS NEWS IN ENGLISH

Bimensuel gratuit N°29 • 3 July 2014 - Summer issue **Lake Geneva region**

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Stiffer customs allowances

Regional News

Toxic Americans

Insiaht

The ultimate lake tour

Lifestyle

Up, Up and **Away**

Cracking Up



Roman Switzerland offers today's population some interesting lessons on living with diversity.

NYON Apart from having left Switzerland with an exceptional archaeological legacy, the ancient Romans are also a reminder for both Swiss and EU citizens of just how culturally diverse and open to trade and migration their empire was.

"I don't wish to romanticise, but Roman society was incredibly mixed with Romans, Greeks, Berbers, Frisians, Gauls...," said Véronique Rey-Vodoz,

curator of the Roman Museum located in the remnants of a first-century-AD basilica in Nyon, one of Switzerland's most important Roman colonies.

"The Romans knew how to manage this huge region from the Balkans to North Africa. Colonia Iulia Equestris - with its administrators, soldiers, traders, mercenaries, farmers, slaves, fishermen - was very much a microcosm of this diversity," she added, using Nyon's old Roman

name. Also known as Noiodunum, the colony was founded between 50 and 44 BC for retired cavalry officers. But Julius Caesar also wanted to open - and protect - the crucial Rome to Gaul trade route through the Alps.

As amply illustrated by its museum, Nyon saw its heyday as a bustling commercial, administrative and legal centre in the first century AD.

Continued on page 2





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Swiss Brief

Swiss International Airlines has decided to introduce cheaper tickets to European destinations in order to compete with low-cost airlines. The new ticket prices, starting from as low as CHF 89 one way, apply to flights to cities such as Paris, Berlin, Barcelona and Amsterdam. The new campaign launches on 9 July.



Skiers looking forward to the 2014/15 ski season will be disappointed to learn that the **one-ticket**, multi-resort ski package usually offered in the Four Valleys Ski Area is to be scrapped. Because lift operators in these resorts, including Verbier and Nendaz, could not agree on how to share the revenue fairly, skiers will have to buy one ticket per resort.

The fatal Belgian bus crash in Sierre in 2012 that killed 28 people, including 22 children, is set to be reconstructed by a Dutch investigation firm. Parents of the victims have asked the Valaisian authorities to reopen the investigation because they believe that the bus driver, who was taking anti-depressants, may have committed suicide and that the crash may not have been an accident

Switzerland may be out of the World Cup after a nail-biting match against Argentina, but according to a new study, its national team (known as "La Nati") has more foreign connections than any other World Cup team. The players have a total of 21 connections with other countries through their parents, grandparents or their country of birth.

Top executives earn more than 230 times the salary of their lowest-paid employee, according to a new study released by the Travail Suisse union. Its study of 27 **Swiss companies** suggests that the **pay gap is widening**, despite legislation mandated by a national referendum (the **Minder** initiative) to stop "abusive" pay in the country's boardrooms

A great legacy

Continued from page 1

While trade had flourished well before the Romans, lake barges transported goods, such as olive oil from southern France, cereals from Spain, or wines from Greece. Similar to other Roman towns, Nyon had its forum, temple, and amphitheatre, the latter discovered on a construction site in 1996.

While Roman Switzerland may not offer as many well-preserved monuments as France or Italy, it does lend exceptional insight into how the Romans lived. Most Swiss ruins are in the countryside and easily accessible to archaeological shovels and brushes. Some 5,000 Mediterranean amphora and 4,000 garbage remains found in Augst (Augusta Raurica) near Basel, indicated that it was the Romans who discovered Nouvelle Cuisine.

By sifting through household wastes, one could determine eating habits. Switzerland's original inhabitants, the Celts, lived off the land and cooked with animal fat. Under the Romans, they started using olive oil

and embraced other customs. During the three-century existence of Augusta Raurica, 12 generations of townsfolk consumed a variety of victuals, notably oysters, dates, fish, snails, frogs, blackbirds and hares. They also indulged in empire-wide import and export.

Other sites, such as Martigny (Octodurus) in the Rhone Valley, also reveal a golden age: mosaics, roads, canals and even central heating. Excavations are constantly ongoing, detailing more and more how the Romans lived, With much of Nyon's past concealed by urban infrastructure, noted Rey-Vodoz, "we can only surmise how the city developed - and succumbed." What is known is that Roman farms, villages and villas extended along the lake and into the Pays de Gex with an aqueduct channelling water from the springs of Divonne. By the second century AD, however, Geneva had become the main city. While Nyon was gradually abandoned and its buildings destroyed, its Roman influence remains. Edward Girardet

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Front Page: Swiss army gains favour



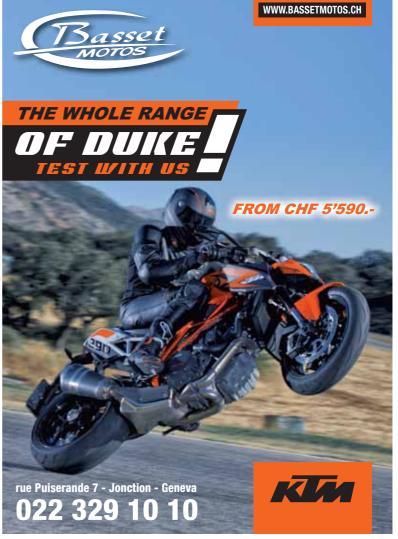
Editor's comment: Cross border driving: A lousy information job



Humour: Robyn Goss explores her husband's efforts to get their kids interested in sports. With football in the air, he may stand a chance.



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Regional

le News

Editor's comment

Identity and the cost of living abroad



The Independence Day celebrations for Canadians (1 July) and Americans (4 July) are reminders about identity. This is not always easy, particularly if one's family consists of different nationalities with kids born in different places or attending school in

Did you know?

For the holidays, make sure your car has summer tyres if you

are thinking of driving into Italy. Until 14 October, the Italian

government has declared it illegal to drive on Italian roads

with winter or all-year-round tyres, in order to minimize road

repair costs and ensure the durability of roads. The

Automobile Club of Switzerland is therefore encouraging

drivers to equip their cars with the correct tyres as soon as

possible. Anyone found breaking this law is risking a fine of

between CHF 511 and CHF 2,054. Italian officials consider

contravention to be a serious offence and warn that it could

even lead to potential vehicle confiscation.

Switzerland or France.

How does one explain what it means to be Canadian or American? Or Australian, South African, Ugandan, or Argentinean? All expatriates share the same challenges with children often having little idea where "home" really is.

As highlighted by Pam Taylor's article on Toxic Americans, it is becoming increasingly difficult to operate as a US citizen abroad. At least 3,000 have, abandoned their nationality

because of Washington's double taxation laws. The burden has simply become too onerous

The Fourth of July is supposed to be about "no taxation without representation". Yet, despite the efforts of lobbying groups and even the IRS's own attempts to streamline the process, Congress does not consider double taxation a priority. Nor does it recognize its detrimental impact on US business globally. Overseas Americans are perceived to

be living high on the hog. While some have companies cover educational fees and other bills, most do not. For middle-class families, travelling, schooling and integration, come at a far heavier cost that many imagine. Edward Girardet, ed@lenews.ch



Tighter customs allowances

Swiss Customs has introduced new regulations for personal importation of food and other goods. This is vaguely good news for true carnivores and pet owners, but bad news for lovers of delicatessen. Whereas a person used to be able to bring 500 grams of fresh meat or fish and 3.5 kilos of other meat products across the border, now people can only bring in one kilo - regardless of the type of meat. Pet food doesn't count.

The limits for some classes of alcoholic drinks have increased. People over the age of 17 may now bring up to five



Now people can only bring in one kilo of meat into Switzerland.

litres of wine, beer or any other beverage with an alcohol content of less than 18%.

But take care: bring in more than CHF 300 worth of goods and duty is applied to the whole amount, not *just to the excess!*

The limit for spirits and reinforced wines, such as port, is still one litre per person. The maximum value of goods eligible for import without being subject to value-added tax

remains the same as before: CHF 300 (including any alcohol and tobacco). But take care: bring in more than CHF 300 worth of goods and duty is applied to the whole amount, not just to the excess! And be aware that allowances cannot be combined. While each adult family member may still bring in up to CHF 300 worth of goods duty free, the members cannot combine their allowances to bring in a single item worth more than CHF 300. The Swiss Customs Service has published the new regulations in English on ezv.admin.ch

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IMPRESSUM

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National

Swiss lead among small arms exporters



According to the latest worldwide Small Arms Survey, Switzerland ranks sixth among exporting countries, following the US, Germany, Austria, Italy and Brazil. The annual survey by Geneva's Graduate Institute of International Studies said Swiss exports amounted to USD 191 million (CHF 172 million) compared to the US lead of USD 917 million.

Survey authors said that the small arms trade has increased significantly over the last decade, from USD 2.3 billion in 2001 to USD 4.5 billion in 2011. It noted that some of these weapons have ended up in conflict zones and that Switzerland shared a responsibility in at least three cases. Swiss howitzers shipped to the United Arab Emirates were discovered in Morocco in 2004. Swiss ammunition found its way from Qatar to Libya in 2011 and hand grenades exported to the United Arab

Emirates in 2003 ended up in Syria after transiting Jordan. The survey nevertheless praised Switzerland for its high level of transparency compared to other countries.

The survey authors noted that while many countries, including Switzerland, have so-called "non-forwarding" clauses to guard against small arms being deviated to third countries, "the best prevention is to deny an export licence to countries that may transfer weapons further on." They also recommended that mechanisms such as buy-back schemes for guns, strengthening export controls, codes of conduct and ammunition marking must be assessed continually so that best practices can be passed on from region to region.

Pamela Taylor, pamela@lenews.ch

Insight

Toxic Americans

Worldwide, a total of 3,000 Americans gave up their citizenship last year in the wake of new regulations compelling banks to provide information to US tax authorities on all American accounts. Embassies will not reveal the breakdown by country, but a disproportionate number are believed to be in Switzerland as it is the country hardest hit by the US effort to track and tax money held in offshore bank accounts.

"Americans are toxic now," said Ron Banks of the American International Club (AIC) in Geneva. "Banks no longer want us, but who can blame them? US Internal Revenue Service (IRS) reporting requirements are just too onerous."

Marsha and her husband Larry*, who have lived overseas for nearly 50 years and are now retired in Canton Vaud, gave up their passports in 2013 after struggling for several years to bring their affairs into compliance with FATCA (the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act) and paying thousands of dollars to tax attorneys in the process. "Up until 2008 there was a tax treaty between Switzerland and the United States and we paid no tax," said Marsha. "But in 2010, we got all our papers in order, paid over 100,000 francs in back taxes, but our lawyer also

advised us to participate in the Voluntary Disclosure Program, to report all foreign bank accounts. The process took more than two years."

Marsha said they realized they had inadvertently "become a part of the US criminal justice system in joining the Voluntary Disclosure Program. There may have been valid reasons for the US government to start this process to track down criminals," she said, "but it has ended up treating ordinary citizens as criminals while the real criminals are finding ways to continue hiding their money. No Swiss bank will any longer invest your money if you're an American or even an ex-American. You can only put it in a savings account at no interest."

This story is not unique. Martin*, a retired businessman in Geneva, wanted to refinance the mortgage on his home but was told this was no longer possible for Americans. Then he learned that his US retirement account is taxable in both countries. Marylee*, a divorcee who has lived over 20 years in Prangins, had a similar experience. "When I was told I had to pay taxes in both countries, I decided to renounce my citizenship, become Swiss and never speak English again or reveal my



3,000 Americans gave up their citizenship last year in the wake of new tax regulations.

origins." The US is the only country in the world, apart from Eritrea, that taxes citizens legally residing overseas.

Americans may also be persona non grata in the work place. "Americans working for companies with signatory authority over the company's bank accounts would have to declare these accounts under FATCA," noted Banks. "And this goes for all foreign companies, churches, clubs, etc."

On a recent visit to Geneva, Marylouise Serrato, executive director of American Citizens Abroad (ACA), which lobbies the US Congress about American expatriate problems, said a lot of US citizens overseas are breaking the law without knowing it. But she said some relief is at hand. Last month the IRS released its Streamlined Foreign Offshore Procedures (SFOP) to simply the process of tax compliance. Details can be found on the ACA website www.americanabroad.org.

*names changed

Pamela Taylor

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Property

Why people are leaving Verbier

VERBIER An increasing number of avid skiers are choosing to purchase or rent an alpine retreat away from the busy, hard-core party and ski scene of Verbier. The reasons for moving go beyond Verbier's high prices.

Over the last decade many local business owners in Verbier have moved "down the valley". Instead of working and living in Verbier, they have chosen to separate work and home life and reside elsewhere. This trend has caught on and now an increasing number of visitors are choosing to do the same. Those who have made the move attest to many advantages.

A Swedish doctor, who travels to Verbier every year to ski, loves the vast winter opportunities and decided earlier this year to purchase his first alpine abode in Cries (Vollèges) instead of Verbier. "I really love the fact that I can come here to relax and be away from it all, but still have the proximity to a large ski area, great restaurants and nightlife in Verbier and go there if I choose to.

There are a lot of Swedes who come to Verbier on a regular basis and some are also my patients. This can make it difficult to escape my work. Also when I am on holidays with family and friends I prefer to be low-key socially."

Kathleen Fletcher, a long-time resident and business owner in Verbier, purchased land and built a chalet in Le Levron three years ago. She was the first Australian property owner in Le Levron, which was and still is a village with few foreign residents. She says that not only have property prices increased, but there are now also a couple of British bankers who have invested in properties up there.

A practical advantage of living below Verbier is that you can catch the lift from Le Châble at the bottom of the valley and connect directly with the vast Verbier–4 Vallées ski area, bypassing the queues at the busy Medran stop in Verbier. You are also closer to the numerous smaller resorts accessible from the valley. Vichères in the



Verbier is one of the most attractive resorts for foreign visitors to Switzerland.

Entremont valley and Crévacol in Italy are highly appreciated for their groomed pistes, absence of queues and vast off-piste skiing opportunities, as well as the possibility of a delicious Italian-style lunch. These resorts offer equally exceptional possibilities in spring, summer and autumn for hiking,

biking, rock-climbing and paragliding.

I am an interior-architect who recently transformed an old barn in the sunny picturesque village of Cries into three high-end contemporary dwellings using quality local materials. The village has a more constant, less transient population. There is a yearround, thriving community here that feels real. You can relax, go ski touring or walking in untouched nature and get away from a work environment and recharge. It's only a 20-minute drive from Verbier, so not a long commute, and it's also closer to Italy and Geneva airport.

The idea of moving away from the busy atmosphere of Verbier has been popular with locals for many years now. Tourists and recurring visitors also are realizing the advantages of choosing a more peaceful setting away from the crowded streets of Verbier for both winter and summer holidays. Deciding where is best for you really depends on what you are seeking.

Lena Truusoot Interior22.com



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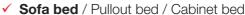
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Chez Vous

More golden slopes of Burgundy

Part 2 of Simon Hardy's informative article on how to find the best Burgundies.

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.

As with all great wines, they demand a certain patience as they improve with age. The appellations of Premier Cru wines feature the village together with the name of a specific vineyard plot known as a 'climat', for example Meursault Les Perrières Premier Cru or Gevrey-Chambertin Les Corbeaux Premier Cru. The catch is that these 'climats' exceed 600 in number! To make life more complicated still, there are several 'lieux-dits' in each village, which can appear alongside the village name on the wine label even though the vineyard is not designated Premier Cru.

The jewels in the Burgundy wine crown sit at the very top of the pyramid.

The prized and pricey Grand Cru wines represent just four percent of the entire region's production but produce some of the most elegant and sensual wines that money can buy. The appellations simply refer to the single vineyard such as Corton or La Romanée and make no reference to the village in which they are located. It is not hard to understand why the villages concerned chose to rename themselves in the 19th century, for instance Aloxe becoming Aloxe-Corton or Vosne becoming Vosne-Romanée.

All the Grand Cru and Premier Cru vineyards are located in the Côte d'Or, which divides into the Côte de Nuits, renowned for its Pinot Noir red wines, and the Côte de Beaune, whose reputation is built more on Chardonnay white wines as well as some outstanding great Pinot Noir red wines. This reality is reinforced by the quality classifications since all the white Grand Crus are in the Côte de Beaune and all the red Grand Crus are in the Côte de Nuits (with the exception of the various Cortons in the Côte de Beaune).

In case you are beginning to make sense of Burgundy wines, you need to know one other slight complication. A single vineyard does not necessarily mean a single owner or producer. Whenever this does occur you can expect to find the word 'Monopole' on the label. But, in most cases, several different producers can make wine from a single vineyard. For instance, the Clos de Vougeot, the largest single vineyard in the Côte d'Or, is divided between more than 80 separate producers. As a result, even though it is a Grand Cru appellation, the quality of wines labeled Clos de Vougeot can vary substantially according to the care, skill and practices of the particular producer. Unfortunately the prices vary much less as they all try to benefit from the vineyard's Grand Cru status. Therefore, it is not enough to know which are the best wines based simply on the appellation. You also have to know which producers to look for.

It may be hard to believe that Burgundy as a whole accounts for just half of one percent of the world's wine production as this in no way reflects its influence and importance in the rest of the wine world. The region's five percent share of all the wine sold in the world each year gives some indication of the demand for the top quality wines that far exceeds the supply. Difficult vintages bring lower yields (though sometimes higher quality), which simply aggravates further this imbalance in supply and demand, and results in correspondingly higher prices.

The bottom line is to sample the delights of Burgundy's wines (and the rest of the region's gastronomic traditions) but beware making them too much of a habit or else rapidly revisit your wine budget. While the rest of the world dreams of being in Burgundy, we have the good fortune to find ourselves less than three hours' drive away from one of the finest fine wine paradises on the planet. The region is applying to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site (and join the Lavaux and nine other Heritage wine-growing areas in Europe) so make sure you visit before it starts to attract even bigger crowds. Anyway, for a region that has so much to offer, one visit will never be enough!

More information at www.bourgogne-wines.com and 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

Top 10 best selling books of the week							
Rank	Title	Author	Published by	Genre			
1	The Goldfinch	Tartt, Donna	Abacus	Fiction Paperback			
2	Hard Choices	Clinton, Hillary Rodham	Simon & Schuster Uk	History			
3	Inferno	Brown, Dan	Corgi Bantam Paperback UK	Thriller			
4	The Fault in Our Stars. Film tie-in	Green, John	Penguin Books	Fiction Teenage			
5	Sycamore Row	Grisham, John	Hodder and Stoughton Ltd	Thriller			
6	The Silkworm. Cormoran Strike: Book 2	Galbraith, Robert	Little Brown UK	Thriller			
7	The Girl Who Saved the King of Sweden	Jonasson, Jonas	Fourth Estate Ltd	Fiction Paperback			
8	The Truth about the Harry Quebert Affair	Dicker, Joel	Quercus Publishing	Fiction Hard Cover			
9	The Kill List	Forsyth, Frederick	Corgi Bantam Paperback	Thriller			
10	Just One Evil Act	George, Elizabeth	Hodder and Stoughton Ltd	Thriller			



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Lake Geneva: The ultimate qui

MARTIGNY It is easy to look at Lake Geneva (Lacus Lemannus in Roman times) as little more than a pleasant extension of Geneva or Lausanne. Taken as a whole, however, the lake constitutes a feast in itself, an elegant, amazingly diverse buffet of possibilities with jewel-like villages, stunning vistas, proud and complex heritages and cultural delights. Its international importance dates back to the time of Julius Caesar, when it served as an important frontier and crucial commercial transit point from Rome to ancient Gaul and Britain.

Most visitors begin exploring this 73km-long lake in Geneva, but we begin our tour in Martigny, 35km south of where the Rhône estuary flows into the lake's northeastern end. Much of the region has red-marked Switzerland Mobility (www.veloland.ch) signs for safe cycling for those who wish to tour by bike. The French side has some "voies vertes", or cycle routes, but the lack of marked lanes along some of the roads means they can be risky. And if it's hot, you can also swim in the lake which is clean, with at least 28 species of fish plus exceptional birdlife and numerous small nature reserves. Virtually every town, village or port has its own public beach.

Flanked by dramatic mountain peaks, the Rhône Valley with its small industrial towns, fruit orchards and vineyards has lent Martigny a strategic and commercial importance since Roman times. A medieval fortress, the Bâtiaz, overlooks the city, and offers an impressive array of ancient siege machines, including wooden catapults dating back to the 12th century.

Martigny's most notable current attraction, however, is an exhibition of more than 100 Renoir masterpieces, many from previously inaccessible private collections, at the Fondation Pierre Gianadda. This world famous institution was created by Léonard Gianadda in honour of his brother, Pierre, who was killed in a plane crash while returning from an expedition in

Egypt. Originally, Léonard Gianadda had been engaged in real-estate development in Martigny. Gianadda decided to shift his efforts to the foundation in his brother's memory. The effort earned him a place of honour in France's Académie française.

Not to be missed is the garden behind the museum, which offers a leisurely lunch or picnic amidst a priceless collection of modern sculpture by Moore, Francois-Xavier Henry Lalanne, Niki de Saint Phalle and others. Nearby, you can visit Gianadda's dazzling collection of vintage automobiles, with dozens of eccentric prototypes of 19th- and early 20th-century horseless carriages. Heading from Martigny to the lake at Montreux, you will spot a tiny island with a single tree. This was offered as a gift to Queen Elizabeth II, but the British monarch returned it when she realized that the Swiss expected her to pay taxes. Continue on a bit, and you come to the Château de Chillon, the medieval stronghold of the Dukes of Savoy. The castle is worth visiting, to see not only its amazingly intact fortifications, but also its collection of early manuscripts, some of the first financial records of trade on the lake. The castle's other intriguing feature is its dungeon, made famous by Lord Byron's poem The Prisoner of Chillon. François Bonivard, who inspired Byron's poem and campaigned fiercely for Swiss independence, was imprisoned in the châ-

teau for six years until the Bernese liberated him. Byron's signature is carved into the stone walls of the dungeon. Over the summer, Montreux's main focus is music. The world famous Montreux Jazz Festival occupies the city for most of July. Freddie Mercury, former lead singer of Queen, was so swept away by Montreux's calm and loveliness that he created his Mountain Recording Studio here. Mercury's statue overlooks Montreux's famous

lakefront promenade. But even before Queen and other groups such as Deep Purple and the Rolling Stones discovered Montreux, the city, with its unique microclimate and grand hotels, had gained a reputation as a convenient substitute for the French Riviera. Moving along either the lake road or the winding Route de Vignobles, you come to sun-drenched Lavaux, which produces some of Switzerland's finest wines. The terraced vineyards, painstakingly carved into the steep mountain

slopes in the Middle Ages, are

quantities produced are too small for export, true appreciation depends on experimentation and exploration. Starting at CHF 15, you can book a guided tour and visit the vineyards and wine growers in person. If you have small children, the Lavaux Express, a small tourist train on rubber wheels, leaves from the villages of Lutry and

Cully, and costs CHF 15 for adults and CHF 6 for children. For a no-frills tasting, visit the Vinorama in Rivaz, a modern exhibition



Heading west, one comes to Lausanne, often referred to as the true capital of Suisse Romande. A bustling cultural centre with a youthful and relaxed ambience, Lausanne has invested heavily in higher education. EPFL, the Swiss Federal Technical Institute, rates among the top three

tivity to soil, climate, and the winemaking process that completes them.

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ck tour

schools of its kind in Europe and is frequently compared with MIT. The main building, the Rolex Learning Centre, designed by Japanese architects Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa, won the Pritzker Prize - architecture's most prestigious award - in 2010.

> From Lausanne, it is a mere 45-minute drive to

> > Geneva,

passing through extremely scenic lake towns such as Morges, Rolle and Nyon. Again, whether by car or by bike, you can take the lake road or meander through the countryside and small villages along the Route de Vignobles. A surprisingly accessible city in contemporary urban terms, Geneva remains one of the world's most important

of a major international capital.



Martigny

financial centers with the cachet

Lausanne Lutry Cully Rivaz Vevey Montreux Chillon

St. Gingolph



Evian

Rounding the lake and heading back east, one passes through Cologny, where the World Economic Forum (famous for its annual gatherings of the planet's financial and political elite at Davos), has its headquarters. It is also where you find the

Fondation Bodmer, the repository for one of the world's finest collections of antique manuscripts, including an original edition of the Gutenberg Bible and the quartos of Shakespeare. The

building is a modern masterpiece, designed by the Swiss $architect\,Mario\,Botta.$

Passing into France while continuing up the lake, you arrive at the medieval fishing village of Yvoire. These days, Yvoire tends to be overrun by tourists,

Caesar destroyed the bridges across but an equally beautiful and less crowded ancient village, Nernier, a the Rhône here to keep the Helvetics, who now refer to themselves as Swiss, from crossing into ancient Gaul, currently France. In one of those eternal ironies, Swiss nationalists now campaign against non-Swiss frontaliers moving in the opposite direction.

Geneva is nonetheless host to the United Nations and CERN, the world's most advanced centre for research in high-energy physics. It is also home to the European headquarters of more than 40 leading multinationals. It will soon open a global research centre into the human brain. The city may look low-key and relaxed, but what happens here is often intense and of crucial planetary importance.

kilometer to the south, can prove a delightful place for a leisurely lunch. Further along the lake is the French town of Thonon-les-Bains, a bustlingly charming fishing and yachting port, and just beyond is the spa town of Evian. A world famous spa during the early 20th century, this is where France signed the accords ending the Algerian War. It is remembered more today for the pink-labeled bottles of Evian mineral water that circle the world from New York to Beijing. In the final analysis, appearances can be deceiving. It's possible to drive - or even cycle around the lake in a single day, but unlocking the essence of over 2,000 years of vibrant history and culture... that can take a lifetime.

William Dowell, a former TIME magazine correspondent, is a journalist and writer based in the Lake Geneva region. wtdowell@gmail.com



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The Domaine des Faverges a bit of Fribourg in Vaud

Villeneuve

In an ironic twist of fate, the largest of the roughly 200 vineyards in Lavaux belongs to the neighbouring canton of Fribourg. The Domaine des Faverges, originally cultivated by Catholic monks, found itself isolated in Protestant Vaud when, during the 1847 Sonderbund War, Fribourg and several other Catholic cantons briefly resisted incorporation into the Swiss Confederation. "Like many things in Switzerland, it was a small war," says Gérald Vallélian, who manages the vineyard today. While the war ended with minimal violence, the Jesuits who had backed the rebellion were asked to leave, and the monks who cultivated the Domaine were given a few hours to vacate the premises.

Nevertheless, the land and its precious vines remained in Fribourg hands. The Domaine, which occupies 15 hectares overlooking the lake, produces a wide variety of exquisite white Chasselas wines. Roughly 30% of the production consists of red wines from Pinot Noir and Syrah grapes. The wine is aged in giant oak casks dating back to the 1870s. The aging process produces a special microoxydation. Vallélian, who is mayor of a nearby village, is currently exploring the advantages of a more biologically natural production, which he says produces a gentler taste, although smaller volumes. The amazing diversity of the Domaine's production - it turns out some 140,000 bottles a year - makes it difficult to know which bottle to choose. "It is not a question of quality," says Vallélian. "It is really one of taste."

William Dowell

Brighten up with antioxidants!

We have all been encouraged to consume more foods that are rich in antioxidants for optimal health and wellness. But what are antioxidants?

Oxidation is a natural process that occurs in our body when we convert what we eat into energy. When oxygen is metabolized, it creates highly unstable molecules called "free radicals". Free radicals can attack and damage healthy cells – a major factor in the development of problems such as cancer and heart disease and accelerating the aging process.

Eating plenty of antioxidants, such as fruits and vegetables, is one of the best ways to prevent oxidative stress. They are our first line of defence against free radical damage. They are natural compounds capable of stabilizing or neutralizing free radicals before they cause damage.

The best antioxidant sources are in the skin of fruits and vegetables (especially those with bright, distinctive col-



ours). Some antioxidants are also found in beverages, notably wine and tea. The most common antioxidants are vitamins A, C and E, beta-carotene, selenium and lycopene.

So, the best way to improve your diet is to brighten it up and eat a rain-

bow of at least five to seven portions of fruits and vegetables.

Antioxidants are also available as dietary supplements. However, there is increasing evidence that antioxidants are more effective when obtained from whole foods.

This is better than taking a supplement alone, or with a limited amount of other substances or, even worse, one that is synthetically produced. Furthermore, some supplements at high doses can actually increase the risk of cancer in some individuals.

We should include at least five, or according to the latest research even seven, daily portions of fruits and vegetables. One portion is a medium-sized piece of fruit or 120ml (half a cup) of vegetables. It is important to remember that to be effective, protective antioxidants and phytonutrients from vegetables, legumes and fruits need to be consumed consistently throughout our lives from an early age.

Dr. Irina Schurov

Eat more fruits and vegetables. Start today!

- Grab a piece of fruit in the morning, along with your roll and coffee.
- Add some berries to your morning cereal.
- Try having a fruit salad for dessert.
- Take chopped-up vegetables or some fruit to work for a snack.
- Include vegetables with every main meal.
- Add different vegetables to your scrambled eggs to make them tasty and colourful
- Top your sandwiches with lots of fresh vegetables to make them fresh and crunchy.
- Avoid juices made from concentrate; if possible, make your own juices and fresh-fruit smoothies.
- Make that first course a colourful mixed salad.
- Serve raw vegetables and a light dip with drinks instead of crisps, chips or peanuts.

Cracking up

Up, Up and Away

I've never understood sport. I don't mean the rules - although, quite honestly, whoever invented cricket must have been insane. No, I mean I've never understood the appeal of sport; never understood why supporters go so far out of their way to have their hopes crushed and their hearts broken. Take the World Cup for example: thirty-two teams competing and only one winner. That makes for a lot of losers, and their devastation is terrible to see. Everywhere you look after a game, you see supporters clutching their heads and crying their painted flags off. How is this fun?

"Why do you do it to yourself?" I once asked my husband after South Africa lost a rugby World Cup, and he and his friends spiralled immediately into a depression that they only came out of eight years later.

Of course, your team may win and that's very nice. But most teams never have and probably never will, and their supporters still go and paint the flags on and cry when they lose.

No. Sport seemed to me to be a pit of despair and I didn't understand it. Until my five-year-old fell in love with a balloon.

From the minute she handed her pocket money over and took possession of a giant horse-shaped helium balloon, I knew it was going to end in tears. Of course it was. There's no good end for helium balloons, is there? Either they slip their moorings and float away, or they slowly deflate into some sad thing bobbing around the house, that you can't believe you paid all that money for.

But as far as the child was concerned, it was the world's best toy. She played with it all morning – feeding it paper-grass, stroking it and telling it how much she loved it; and of course, taking it outside, to run up and down the driveway with it flying behind her.

It came as a surprise to absolutely no one but the child herself when the balloon eventually slipped from her grasp and floated away. I'll spare readers a description of the scene that followed but ... it was bad. So you'd think that, when the bigger child handed over her cash the next week, for a similar balloon, she would've taken every precaution to keep it safe.

"Let me tie something heavy to it," I



offered. "Then it can't float away."

"No thanks," she answered. "If it can't float away ... it's not really a balloon."

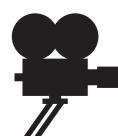
"Ah ha," I thought. "Perhaps this explains sport." No, actually, I didn't think that at all. What I really thought was, "Why the hell does no one in this house ever listen to me?" But some time later I was musing on what she'd said, and then I thought, perhaps this explains sport. Could it be that the threat of losing a balloon (or football game) isn't a deterrent at all? Could the threat of losing actually make it all more exciting? Could it sweeten the time spent running up and down the

driveway (or painting on flags and cheering from the stands) with a big, beautiful, horse balloon (or a big, beautiful World Cup trophy) floating overhead?

I put the idea to my husband, who was settling in on the couch, beer in hand, for a rugby game: "Would you enjoy watching as much if your team always won?"

But strangely, he didn't feel like philosophising just then. I'll have to wait until the game is over and he's stopped crying, and ask again.

Robyn Goss is a South African writer, recently moved to Switzerland. You can read her blogs at www.robyngoss.com.



FILM REVIEWS By Neptune

Transcendence $\star\star\star$

If this is the future, beware! This film by Wally Pfister (The Dark Knight, Inception) is a complex science-fiction thriller with Johnny Depp as a brilliant scientist who is working on a master computer that may somehow duplicate the human mind. Heavy stuff this, especially for those who believe nothing can or should replace a higher being or the soul of a man. It goes from rational, academic discussions to some bizarre futuristic antics, but Depp brings it his usual intense yet cool interpretation, with Rebecca Hall, Paul Bettany and Morgan Freeman giving convincing performances. These vast technological possi-



bilities may be coming closer as the future looms. This thought-provoking film leaves us each with our own interpretation of right and wrong. (photo – Ascot Elite films)

The Two Faces of January $\star\star\star$

Remember *The Talented Mr. Ripley?* Well, this film has the same ambience and mystery, but then the story is by Highsmith and the script by Iranian/British director Hossein Amini. In this one, a moneyed American couple (played by Viggo Mortensen and

Kirsten Dunst) meet a compatriot (Oscar Isaac) in Greece who ends up becoming their guide and finally their accomplice in some shady business. The mood is the 60s again and the tale takes us from romance and glamorous surroundings to a desperate cat-and-mouse game with the European police. (photo – Impuls)



Le rating \star = Lukewarm $\star \star$ = Average $\star \star \star$ = Very watchable $\star \star \star \star$ = Excellent

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Chez Vous

Ten things to do with kids over the summer

Summer has arrived and before your kids complain of boredom, Le News has drawn up a guide to summer activities to keep them busy and happy.

Outdoor swimming: When temperatures soar, there's nothing better than taking the kids to the pool. There are dozens of outdoor pools from Lausanne to Geneva including Piscine de Bellerive-Plage, Piscine de Montchoisi and Piscine de Colovray.

Zoos: Basel, Bern and Zurich are top zoos, and all differently. Bern is better known for its Bear Park. Basel Zoo features a wide variety of indigenous and exotic animals. Zurich Zoo boasts over 4,000 animals in habitats designed to be natural where the animals can roam freely. Closer to Geneva and Lausanne are smaller, more specialized zoos.

P'tit Train: While exploring on foot can be tiring an alternative is taking a P'tit train to visit Nyon or Geneva.

Parc Aventure/Forest Land: For adventurous kids, rope courses are a great summer activity full of tree-top fun. Locations around the area can be found in Aigle, Bougy-Villars, and Divonne in the Pays-de-Gex.

Foxtrail: Families in Lausanne get the opportunity to act as a team to discover the city's most charming nooks and crannies. Foxtrail is followed by deciphering messages and interpretingclues.

Lake Geneva Boat Trips: The CGN now sells family tickets for its lake trips, so why not take a day trip to Yvoire, where the journey by boat is half the fun?

VitamParc/Aquaparc:

Switzerland's water parks have something to offer for everyone. Vitam Parc in France has everything from indoor and outdoor water parks to a spa, and a climbing wall. Aquaparc near Villeneuve is known for its thrilling adrenaline-fuelled rides.

Caverns of Vallorbe: The caverns add a bit of underground exploration to your children's holidays. The round-

trip tour leads visitors along the subterranean course of the river to stalactites, stalagmites, dripstone and galleries. An impressive sight that's great for rainy-day boredom.

Fun Planet: With centres in Villeneuve and Bulle, Fun Planet has bowling lanes, a go-karting track, mini golfing, and an arcade.

Grass Scooters: For an adrenaline kick, Chateau-d'Oex offers Grass Scooters, letting you speed down hills while enjoying the great mountain views.

Emily Theytaz, emily@lenews.ch



Edgar Mitchell, one of only 12 men ever to walk the moon, will be speaking about his lunar experiences (in English, with simultaneous translations into French and German). He will be accompanied by Swiss astronaut, Claude Nicollier and by Prof. Johannes Geiss, former professor at the l'institute de physique, at Bern University.

The conference is free and is limited to 1000 participants. See swissapollo.ch for more information.

Monday 7 July 2014 at 20h00 Salle de la Marelle, Tramelan











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LES ARTS

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If you are looking for a gift or souvenir of Lake Leman or a Swiss region, then come and visit us at ARTISWISS ART GALLERY in 28b Grand Rue in Coppet. We offer a great choice of paintings by various Swiss artists. Meet the artist, Rita Mancesti, who paints on-site and who can explain her work to you. Also available; tailor-made projects. Opening hours: daily 9.30-12.30 except Wed/Sun, Sat open + upon appt. www.artiswiss.ch Tel: 079.216.55.99.



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LE MISCELLANEOUS

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Home help wanted

Looking for experienced cleaners in the Nyon, Coppet and Morges area. Valid working permit and at ease with internet. Sign-up for free on www.serviceathome.com Tel: 022 346 76 33.

LE PROPERTY

Beautiful houses for sale in Aïre, 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



LE PROPERTY

House for sale Charming house of Provencal expression located in the center of the village of Dardagny (GE). Terraced garden with automatic watering system, living space approx. 220 m2 + operating space approx. 110 m2. Living space consisting of 7 rooms 8 2 bathrooms. Operating space consisting of a laundry fully equipped with cupboards, a wine cellar and an underfloor space. The living room of 50 m2 as well as the kitchen /the dining room offer big volumes. Directly from the owner. Price CHF 2.275.000

Mobile: 076 558 10 58 Email: robertfdubois@hotmail.com



Apartment for sale

Modern spacious T4 apartment in prime location, Cessy 01170, Pays de Gex, France. 2nd floor, small co property built 2006, 95m² surface loi Carrez plus 11.5m² habitable surface under the roof. Large open, living & dining area 47m² with fully equipped kitchen. Magnificent views of Mont Blanc, the Salève and the Jura. 3 bedrooms, parental ensuite, bathroom, separate wc. Underfloor electric heating. Garage. Close to all amenities 3 min walking distance to Cessy centre. On the Geneva F bus line, 15 min to Geneva Airport & autoroute. €439,000. No agencies svp. Contact Mia 0766129712



LE MOTOR SELL

Motorbike for sale:

Yamaha Fazer 600 cc - Silver - 30,500 km. 1st registered May 2008, expertise in Dec 2011. Price: CHF 1,950. Tel 021 323 9828 lan@scotskirklausanne.ch



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Regional Events



WWW.LENEWS.CH/ REGIONALEVENTS



Lausanne. Festival de la Cité "En Ville"

8-13 July, with prelude events 3-7 July

Lausanne's Festival de La Cité is a celebration of street performance, music, mime, theatre and FUN. Events in the Parc de Mon Repos are from 16h to 20h, au Coeur de La Ville from 19h to 22h. Prime Time at 20h30 and Autour de la Cité from 20h to 1h. Every day at 12h15 there is a theatre performance in a restaurant accompanied by a paid. Various locations around Lausanne Free entry, but you need to book for some events in advance. See website for details www.festivalcite.ch **©Pierre Estournet**



Pays-d'Enhaut. Festival au Pays des Enfants

26 July - 3 August

This nine-day festival, is non-stop entertainment for children of all ages and fun for the whole family. Entry to the festival is free, including workshops and street artists' performances; only the shows, such as ABBA Revival, require paid tickets. On 1 August, to celebrate Switzerland's national day, enjoy brunch featuring mountain specialities.

Château-d'Oex Tourisme 1660 Château-d'Oex Tickets for the shows are available online www.aupaysdesenfants.ch



Geneva. Fêtes de Genève

17 July - 10 August

This year's programme, brimming with new ideas, is based on all-new music listings and exceptional events. As always, a host of stands offering a variety of flavours and fragrances will allow visitors to discover products and crafts from around the world. Meanwhile the funfair will take up residence around the perimeter of the Harbour, making it the largest free tourist event in Switzerland with more than 2 million visitors.

Jardin Anglais and around the Harbour www.fetesdegeneve.ch © Geneva Tourism



Bulle. Folk Markets

Every Thursday, 3 July - 21 August, 07h30 - 15h00

Markets are one of the best ways to discover a region and its inhabitants. It's a great opportunity to shop for fresh fruit and vegetables and, of course, fresh local produce, including meringues and double cream from nearby Gruyères! In addition to the farmers' market, there is a craft market and secondhand book stalls. With traditional music playing on the market square, there is plenty of atmosphere.

Place des Alpes 26 1630 Bulle www.la-gruyere.ch © Sandra Mumprecht



Carouge. Fête de La Tomate

11-12 July

Discover tomatoes in all their glory at this year's festival. Come enjoy tomato bread, sauce, absinthe, macarons and gazpacho. Participate in cooking workshops, visit the night market which has over 50 stands. During the day there is a great kids' program: pony rides, sheep dog demonstrations, balloon animals, clowns and face painting. So be sure to check out all these free events at the Fête de La Tomate.

Rue Blavignac 1227 Carouge Free www.umg.ch



Lausanne. Treasure Hunt

13 July, from 9h30 - 11h30

A treasure hunt led by Caroline and Pierre Corajoud. Explore the streets of Lausanne with your family and solve riddles by looking around you and being observant - you will see the city in a new light! Treasure hunt material will be provided (but bring something to write with.) Admission is free and advance registration is not necessary. The treasure hunt lasts about an hour.

Esplanade de la Cathédrale 1005 Lausanne www.balade.wordpress.com



Geneva. Open-Air Screenings. Cine Transat

10 July - 17 August

Projections of great movies under the stars in one of the most beautiful places in Geneva. In addition, there are giant karaoke nights, when the whole crowd sings together, theme nights, and more. The film screenings are all free. All non-Francophone films are in English. Movies begin at dusk, when it is dark enough to be able to start screeing. In August the movies include The Artist, Notting Hill, Invictus, Back to the Future 2, Mamma Mia and more.

Parc de la Perle du Lac www.cinetransat.ch



Avenches. Opera Festival

4-6, 8, 11-12 July

Tens of thousands of spectators flock to the Opera Festival every year, thrilled by the dramatic open air amphitheatre. This year Carmen is making a comeback to the Avenches Arena. This production set in Spain of the '60s, promises to be dramatic and entertaining. Enjoy a bite before the show, from 18h. At 19h there is a free introduction to the opera in the Théâtre du

Avenches Opéra Place du Montauban 1 1580 Avenches Ticket prices from CHF 80 to 180 www.avenchesopera.ch



Geneva. Lake Parade

12 July, 14h00 - 03h00

Making its way along the shores of Lake Geneva, the Lake Parade is all about Swiss and international techno. An unmissable event for those who love to listen and dance to this music, put together by those who love to produce it! This year features Ferry Tayle, Eco Webradio, Sean Tyas and Sam Mitcham, among others. The parade starts at Parc Mon-Repos and culminates in the Parc des Eaux-Vives with Lake Sensation . It's party time!

Geneva Lakefront www.lakeparade.ch



Geneva. Triathlon

18-20 July

The races which start on the shores of Lake Geneva, follow a stunning course through the centre of Geneva before winding out into the countryside with stunning views of the Alps in the background. There are five races that will make up this triathlon. The main one being the ETU Triathlon European Cup (2 laps in the Geneva lake (1500m), 6 bike laps (40km), 3 running laps (10km)) with prize money of €12,500. There are also smaller triathlon's for juniors and kids.

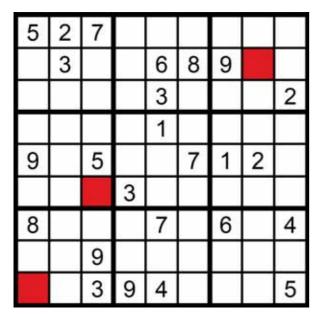
Quai du Mont-Blanc and Quai Wilson Geneva www.tig.ch





WWW.GUITARE-EN-SCENE.COM

Puzzles



SUDOKU

Easy

Mediur

Enter numbers into the blank spaces so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

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CODEWORDS

Each letter has been replaced by the same number throughout the puzzle. Simply decide which letter is represented by which number and complete the puzzle. To start off we're given you the first three letters.

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Spotlight

Paléo



Rock band The Smashing Pumpkins perform on the Grance Scène. © Paléo / Pierre Descombes

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Tarant.

Enter numbers into the blank spaces so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

SUDOKU

fabulously vibrant, boasting an amazing variety of artists every year. Held in fields just above Nyon, it is the annual rock festival of the region. What started as a small and eclectic get-together by the lake in 1976, has become one of Europe's leading open-air music festivals. Over 230,000 music lovers attended last year to watch performances on seven stages.

The Paléo Festival de Nyon – Paléo – is

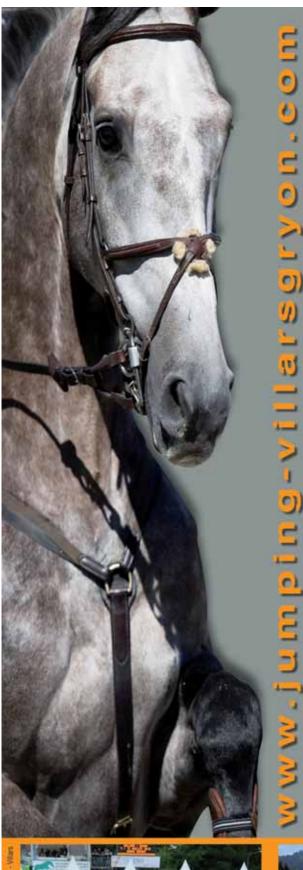
The festival lasts six days from 22 to 27 July, and the final main stage concert is preceded by a firework display with music. Elton John, Stromae, The Black Keys, James Blunt, M.I.A, The Prodigy, Placebo, Thirty Seconds To Mars, Woodkid, Détroit, The National, Jack Johnson, Maxime Le Forestier, Vanessa

Paradis, Julien Doré, Bernard Lavilliers, Zaz, Shaka Ponk and Youssou NDour will be amongst this year's line-up. There is also an area specially dedicated to street theatre and circus arts called 'La Ruche', an open space that includes some original and raw surrealist art exhibitions to entertain crowds across the site.

Over 100 food stalls to satisfy every food craving from Mediterranean to Asian are located throughout the grounds. The bars offer a wide range of drinks and, if that isn't enough, there are six on-site restaurants. Tickets for the festival cost CHF 65 per day. Four, five and six-day passes are available. For the full programme please visit: www.paleo.ch

Win!

Sudoku: Send us the three numbers in the shaded squares for a chance to win CHF 10.00. The first correct answer drawn every second Monday will win. Email: prizes@lenews.ch **Codeword:** Send us the three letters in the shaded squares for a chance to win CHF 10.00. The first correct answer drawn every second Monday will win. Email: prizes@lenews.ch





- 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
 - 15h30: N145 competition
 - 18h: National six-bar competition
- Saturday 12 July
 - 11 h: Official apéritif and procession of vintage cars
 - 16h30: N145 competition
- Sunday 13 July
 - 14h: Commune of Ollon Grand Prix Qualification for the Swiss Elite Championship 2014

























