

# Media NEWS

## EUROPE'S LARGEST FRESHWATER AQUARIUM TO OPEN IN LAUSANNE

"Aquatris" should be ready to receive its visitors by the end of this summer. A dive into the waters of five continents, also creating a public awareness for the challenges faced by this precious resources.



As of the end of the summer, Aquatis Aquarium-Vivarium should be able to welcome its first visitors in Lausanne-Vennes. It will be the largest freshwater aquarium in Europe on a surface of 3,500 m<sup>2</sup>. Some 50 individual aquariums, vivariums, and terrariums will accommodate close to 10,000 fish and reptile species. Thanks to innovative technological features, the animals can be observed in an interactive and immersive environment. The aquatic fauna and flora of five continents will be presented on two floors. On the first floor, the visitors travel in time and space along the Rhone river, from its glacial origins to its mediterranean delta. The second floor invites to take a trip to the other continents, from the large African lakes with their crocodiles and colorful fish to the Amazon, where arapaimas and piranhas abound, or the Mississippi with its alligator gars. The voyage also leads through the Asian mangroves and rice-and-fish cultures, all the way to Oceania and the Australian Pioneer River which flows into the Great Barrier Reef. Aquatis has been designed to be a cultural center as well as a museum, offering entertainment and encounters between the general

public and the world of science. Another important aspect is the topic of prevention, since the idea is also to educate the visitors about environmental and water-related issues. The building itself has been constructed with particular care in order to function in a most efficient way: rain waters are collected, and the heating and cooling systems are sustainably sourced. Its renowned Richter & Dahl Rocha architects designed it to blend in perfectly with its surroundings. The facade is covered with 100,000 aluminium discs which reflect the color of the sky. With a bit of imagination, one can see them as dancing waves or even fish scales. Aquatis can be reached easily, as it is situated close to a highway exit, the M2 metro, and one hour from Geneva International airport. The center offers 1,200 parking spaces, available since 2010. A 3 star superior hotel with 143 rooms and conference halls, opened in 2015, is linked to it as well. With 1,000 expected visitors per day, Aquatis might well become one of the must-sees of the region, next to the Olympic museum and Chaplin's World.

 [aquatis.ch](http://aquatis.ch)

## SWIMMING AND RELAXING WITH A VIEW IN VILLARS

The famous resort in the Vaud alps expands its sports center, adding a wellness facility with panoramic views, and a new swimming pool.



The outdoor pool is heated to 36°C and equipped with water jet massage seats, from where one can admire the Dents-du-Midi from a relaxed position in the warm water. Indoors, there's a 25 meter swimming pool with a temperature of 27°C, and more options for perfect relaxation, such as a panoramic bio sauna, the first of its kind in Western Switzerland with a moderate temperature of 60°C, a hotter (80°C-100°C) Finnish sauna an ice-cold water well. A steam bath and an oriental hammam (45°C) complete the offer together with a resting room. The ambiance is sober and rustic, favoring stone and rough wood, in contrast with the building's modern glass facade. The interior part of the new sports center of Villars as well as the outdoor wellness pool are open to the public as of April. Other works being executed in the outdoors part, such as a pool with a 100 m long toboggan, should be completed by this summer. The entire site is accessible to people with reduced mobility.

 [villars-diablerets.ch/en](http://villars-diablerets.ch/en)

## THREE NEW OENOTOURISTIC HIKING TOURS LEAD THROUGH THE CANTON OF VAUD

As of the end of this summer, these routes will complement the four already existing and invite the visitors to explore the region's vineyards and sceneries with a smartphone for a guide.

The playful and interactive hiking routes are found on the free app Vaud:Guide. Alone or in a group, the visitors are guided on their walks by their smartphone, on a route seasoned with questions, challenges, and anecdotes. As they proceed they will discover the different landscapes, the history and the local artisans of the region. As of the end of the summer, three completely new routes beckon to explore the Pays-d'Enhaut at the heart of the regional natural park Gruyères Pays-d'Enhaut, the Côtes de l'Orbe, one of the six winegrowing regions of the canton, and the Vallée de Joux situated in the regional natural park of the Vaud Jura. They complement the already existing circuits in Morges and its surroundings, Vully, Lavaux, and Chablais. The routes are all described in a completely updated version of the application. An ideal way of immersing oneself in these wonderful landscapes while learning about them and having fun.



 [ete.myvaud.ch/balades-oeno](http://ete.myvaud.ch/balades-oeno)



In the canton of Vaud (Lake Geneva Region), summer equals variety. Numerous festivals bring rhythm to the most beautiful season of the year, featuring visual arts, entertainment, and music. A host of annual events should not be missed either, such as Lausanne à Table! which has become a favorite among the lovers of excellent food. Visitors will find countless opportunities to immerse themselves into culture, creativity and regional flavors in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere. On the other hand, the touristic offer keeps expanding and adding new propositions. In Villars, a new sports center with wellness facilities has opened and so should Aquatis, the largest freshwater aquarium-vivarium in Europe, at the end of the summer season.

Andreas Banholzer  
CEO, Lake Geneva Region  
Tourist Office

## Representation in the markets

The Lake Geneva Region Tourist Office and its partners participate in dozens of promotional activities throughout the year. Here is a list of these events:

**1 to 9 June 2017** | Swiss Meeting Design Moscou | Lake Geneva Region

**5 to 8 June 2017** | IILTM Shanghai | Lake Geneva Region, Royal Savoy

**9 to 16 June 2017** | Sales Calls Tour Winter China | Guangzhou | Shenyang | Beijing | Taipei | Lake Geneva Region

**27 to 28 July 2017** | MICE India & Luxury Travel Congress (MILT) | Mumbai | Lausanne Tourism

**21 to 25 August 2017** | STE Japon | Lake Geneva Region

## News in brief

### ☆ A playful manner of discovering Lausanne

From the Mon Repos park to Ouchy, an app takes adults and children on a circuit of approx. 1.5 hours where they take on the role of coach of a pedalo team that needs to be cured of aquaphobia.

→ [lausanne-tourisme.ch/en](http://lausanne-tourisme.ch/en)

### ☆ Nyon and the castle of Coppet honor the memory of Madam de Staël

Until the month of July there are conferences, concerts, performances, and a host of other activities in honor of Madam de Staël who disappeared two centuries ago and had lived at the family castle of Coppet for many years.

→ [festivaldestoel.ch](http://festivaldestoel.ch)

### ☆ The best of the Vaud alps for free

From May to October, the Free Access Card offers over 30 free activities to visitors staying overnight at the Villars-Gryon-Les Diablerets resorts, among them the new swimming pool in Villars as well as the climbing walls.

→ [villars-diablerets.ch/en](http://villars-diablerets.ch/en)



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 **Events calendar**

**11 June to 23 September 2017**

40<sup>th</sup> edition of Lausanne Estivale  
[www.lausanne-tourisme.ch/en](http://www.lausanne-tourisme.ch/en)

**22 June to 2 July 2017**

14<sup>th</sup> Lavaux Classic  
Cully-Vevey-Lavaux  
[www.lavauxclassic.ch](http://www.lavauxclassic.ch)

**30 June to 15 July 2017**

Montreux Jazz Festival  
[www.montreuxjazzfestival.com/en](http://www.montreuxjazzfestival.com/en)

**2 July 2017**

SlowUp Vallée de Joux  
[www.slowup.ch](http://www.slowup.ch)

**7 to 9 July 2017**

Climbing World Cup  
Villars  
[www.villars-diablerets.ch/en](http://www.villars-diablerets.ch/en)

**18 to 23 July 2017**

42<sup>nd</sup> Paléo Festival Nyon  
[www.yeah.paleo.ch](http://www.yeah.paleo.ch)

**29 July to 6 August 2017**

Land of Children Festival  
Château-d'Œx  
[www.aupaysdesenfants.ch/en](http://www.aupaysdesenfants.ch/en)

**9 to 13 August 2017**

Rock Oz'Arènes  
Avenches  
[www.rockozarenes.com](http://www.rockozarenes.com)

**26 August to 2 September 2017**

Montreux Riviera Classic –  
Septembre musical  
[www.septmus.ch/en](http://www.septmus.ch/en)

**BEX TURNS INTO A CONTEMPORARY SCULPTURE CAPITAL FOR A SUMMER**

The triennial festival Bex & Art takes place once more in the Szilassy park.

Bex & Art is the most important openair exhibition of contemporary art in Switzerland, open from 4 June to 15 October 2017. The most renowned Swiss sculptors of the contemporary artistic scene take part in this event which is organized every three years. This summer, some 30 artists from all over the country exhibit their work. They all present their own interpretations of this year's theme, energy. From coal to atoms, from water to wind, from joule to tesla, the options are almost

unlimited. All the works displayed in the openair art gallery, which extends over 7.4 hectares of land, are for sale. The exhibition takes place in the Domaine de Szilassy, a magnificent English country garden which forms a natural balcony looking out over the village of Bex and the Rhone valley with a great view of the alps. Some 20,000 visitors are expected, and a book about the event's 33 years of existence will be published as well.

 [bexarts.ch](http://bexarts.ch)



 **Event**

**THE 13<sup>TH</sup> AVENCHES TATTOO HAS THE ARENAS MARCHING IN STRIDE**

This music, song and dance festival will unite some 500 military and civilian musicians from all over Europe and even the USA.

It is the second most important event of its kind in Switzerland, and a big turnout is expected on the weekend of 31 August to 2 September 2017. The "Commandant's Own Marine Drum & Bugle Corps", the official orchestra of the American army, will make its first appearance in Europe. The famous Swiss military band "Swiss Army Central Band", and the "Massed Pipes and Drums" with musicians from Scotland, Ireland, and Switzerland, will also participate in the show. In short, close to 500 musicians will see to it that the arena of Avenches resounds with this spectacle of rhythms and colors. The guest of honor, Tyrol,

will provide the musical contributions before and after the main show, along with beer and pretzels for the visitors.

 [avenchestattoo.ch/en](http://avenchestattoo.ch/en)



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**LAVAU CELEBRATES ITS 10 YEARS OF UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE**

This listing has put the famous terraced vineyard, a recognized cultural landscape, into the limelight.



The terraced vineyard of Lavaux has been listed as UNESCO world heritage since 28 June 2007, propelling this region to a place in the forefront of the touristic scene and attracting the interest of visitors from all over the world. Several events are organized on the occasion of this anniversary. The first, a naval parade, takes place in Cully on 21 May. There on the lake of Geneva, right in the middle of the Lavaux region, a fleet of Belle Epoque boats of the CGN company will be on show, the most prestigious of their kind in the

world. The highlight of the festivities is planned for the weekend of 9 and 10 September with "Lavaux Passion". On the occasion of this popular event, some 40 winegrowers will present their products which can be tasted on site or during one of the seven cruises, an opportunity to enjoy the panoramic views from the lake. In 2018, a landscape interpretation center will open its doors. A first temporary exhibition of photographs will be shown until 11 August, the permanent exhibition will be open as of spring 2018.  [lavauxpassion.ch/en](http://lavauxpassion.ch/en)

 **Event**

**DIGITAL ART IN ALL ITS FORMS IN YVERDON-LES-BAINS**

The second edition of the Numerik Games festival presents different aspects of digital art, from culture to economics on to games.

From 25 to 27 August 2017, Yverdon-les-Bains welcomes a wide public to this entertaining event. Music, with Swiss and international DJs, video games from the past and the present, video performances and interactive programs as well as a cosplay contest and a Sunday brunch await the visitors, whether they be confirmed fans or simply curious. Four exhibitions illustrate the multiple facets of this dynamic culture, and tailor-made workshops for children introduce them to this exciting world in a playful manner. Free access to the exterior areas,

CHF 10.– entrance fee to the interior part.

 [numerik-games.ch](http://numerik-games.ch)



*Package deals*

**TO THE MOUNTAINS FOR A MAGICAL PRICE**



Now you can access the mountain railways and ski lifts of 24 resorts in French-speaking Switzerland all winter long and for an unbeatable price by purchasing the Magic Pass.

The pass includes some 1,000 km of slopes in skiing regions of the cantons of Vaud, Valais, Fribourg, and the Bernese Jura, offering a wide choice of winter activities. In the period from 1 November 2017 to 30 April 2018, the Magic Pass entitles to unlimited transport in the partner resorts. It can be easily purchased online from anywhere in the world. It is available while stocks last, starting at CHF 359.– (CHF 249.– for a child). The prices increase as stocks diminish. A complementary option with guaranteed snow on Glacier 3000 is offered at CHF 200.– (CHF 100.– for a child).

 [magicpass.ch](http://magicpass.ch)



*Top tip*

**FROM MARCH TO OCTOBER, LAUSANNE WINES AND DINES**



The association "Lausanne à Table!" tickles the tastebuds of gourmets in the capital of Vaud and its environments.

Until October, over 80 culinary events await the lovers of good food to participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of *Lausanne à Table!*. The mixture of traditional dishes and latest tendencies, fondue and street food, artisanal know-how and gastronomic experiments is certain to open new gustatory horizons to the visitors. Hikes, brunches with sports activities, cooking workshops, tastings of regional products, artisanal beers, and wines, there will be something for everyone's fancy. A great opportunity to discover the local flavors in a convivial atmosphere.

 [lausanneatable.ch](http://lausanneatable.ch)

