



The theme for this winter in the Canton of Vaud is going to be relaxation and well-being. The resorts may be getting ready to host the 2020YOG, but they're also encouraging visitors to take some time for themselves; for example, to discover the wellness center at the Grand Hôtel des Rasses, in the Vaud Jura, which has recently had a face-lift. Plus, there are the Lavey-les-Bains and Yverdon-les-Bains thermal centers to enjoy as well as many wellness centers. The eating and drinking art of the Middle Ages are also being given special attention, with an exhibition at the Chillon Castle, the Christmas Markets and foodie trips on the train or on snowshoes. These offers will be soon available on the website.

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# Media NEWS

## A FORETASTE OF THE 2020YOG

In a bit more than one year, the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) will be held in the Canton of Vaud. The region's resorts are already getting ready to host this major event in the world of sport.

Between 9 and 22 January 2020, from Lausanne to the Alps via the Jura, the whole area will switch to Olympic time with the 2020YOG. This major event is the highest-level international competition for athletes aged between 15 and 18. The Nordic skiing challenge will take place in the Vaud Jura, in the Vallée de Joux, while in the Vaud Alps, Leysin will host the free-style skiing and snowboarding ones (Half-pipe and Slopestyle), Les Diablerets the downhill skiing and finally Villars the ski and snowboard cross contests as well as ski mountaineering.

pean cup) from 11 to 13 January 2019 as well as the World Ski Mountaineering Championships from 9 to 16 March 2019. Same approach in the Vallée de Joux, at Les Grandes-Roches, where the OPA Games – a cross-country skiing competition – will take place on 2 and 3 March 2019. Finally, in Leysin, the construction work on the half-pipe has begun. These new additions will add to the winter delights of the different ski areas, which offer already a wide panel of winter activities. In Les Diablerets for example, Glacier 3000 welcomes skiers from October on. Other



The resorts are getting ready for the event. This winter, Les Diablerets ski area will be dotted with a brand new 10-seater gondola carrying 2,500 passengers per hour. Christened the "Diablerets Express", it will carry walkers and skiers/riders to the Meilleret area in 6 minutes and 30 seconds. This will also delight the sledgers since it will make the sledge run more accessible. The ski area will also propose a floodlit run and a 100 m carpet lift for budding skiers. To make the most of all these new and existing installations, various activities are on offer, including night skiing and sledging evenings every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 21 December to the end of March. Villars is testing out the events side by organising a FIS ski cross competition (Euro-

activities like the Peak Walk, glacier hikes or dogsled rides are also offered during the winter. In Leysin, visitors can have a go at tobogganing and ice climbing, experience the snow village or relax in Le Kuklos, the famous revolving panoramic restaurant. The Château-d'Œx Balloon Festival is a must and the Pays-d'Enhaut is also ideal for skijoring and snowshoeing. Finally, in the Vaud Jura in the Vallée de Joux, winter fans can choose between a walk on the frozen lake and night skiing at L'Orient. Saint-Cergue, for its part, offers visitors a chance to explore the region at night, with snowshoe and fondue or night skiing packages. All of these winter offers will be soon available online, on the website

 [hiver.region-du-leman.ch](http://hiver.region-du-leman.ch)

## DINNERTIME IN THE MIDDLE AGES AT THE CHILLON CASTLE

The new exhibition at the Chillon Castle is dedicated to the art of the table as well as practices and customs of the Savoy Court.



Until 28 April 2019, the exhibition entitled "Mouth-watering: eating and drinking in the Middle Ages" will give the public a glimpse of the recipes of Mestre Chiquart, the Duke of Savoy's chef. Visitors can also find out why children used to drink wine and what the different classes of society used to eat. They will discover a whole host of historical objects, from dishware to recipes and kitchenware. The focal point of the exhibition is the reconstruction of a banquet in a stateroom. Conferences and events will offer a more in-depth view of this theme, along with guided tours, organised on the first Sunday of every month (booking required), offering a chance to sample Mediaeval specialities, washed down with a flavoured drink made with wine from the castle. Chillon has in fact been producing its own wine again since 2011. A Chasselas and a blend of red grapes (Gamaret and Garanoir) are bottled at the castle. The barrels are aged in the first underground room where Bonivard, the hero of Byron's famous poem, was held in chains.

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

## WINTER AT THE VILLARS PALACE

The Villars Palace, a luxury hotel dating from 1914, is opening its doors in the Vaud Alps resort for one season.



From December 2018 to April 2019, this elegant hotel will welcome tourists in its 200 vintage chic rooms, in the heart of the village, at 1300 m high and only 60 km away from Lausanne. The Villars Palace has stunning views on the alpine peaks. It offers direct access to the ski slopes and has a snow garden with a slope and ski lift. For relaxation, in addition to the lobby with a fireplace, guests have the choice between two restaurants, a bar with a terrace, a spa with an outdoor heated pool, hammam, sauna, gym and six massage rooms. Music is also on the agenda, in the theatre dating back to 1894, with jazz and pop as well as electronic music.

To make the most of this exceptional, temporary offer, there are several packages available, at 3\* hotel rates, for example: ski pass and full board from CHF 189.-/day/person, Family ski pass and full board from CHF 559.-/day for 2 adults and 2 children or Wellness package from CHF 149.-/day/person.

 [villars-palace.com](http://villars-palace.com)

### News in brief

#### ☆ Distinctions for Vaud wine tourism

For the second Swiss Wine Tourism Awards, the "Pintes ouvertes" (open restaurant days), with their 100% locally-sourced menu, has won the "Event" category and the discovery programme of Cave Emery in Aigle has been awarded the "Local Artisans" prize.

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

#### ☆ Franck Giovannini takes up the reins at the Hôtel de Ville de Crissier

With three Michelin stars and elected chef of the year 2018 by Gault&Millau, he's taking over from Benoît Violier at this famous gastronomic restaurant on the hills above Lausanne.

 [restaurantcrissier.com](http://restaurantcrissier.com)

#### ☆ Chocolate in Charlie Chaplin's kitchen

At Chaplin's World, in the old family kitchen, there's a new shop selling Cailler chocolate as well as retro kitchen utensils and honey produced by the bees of the Manoir de Ban.

 [chaplinsworld.com](http://chaplinsworld.com)

### Representation in the markets

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


**11 to 17 November 2018 |**  
Market Development Tour South East Asia | Manila, Ho Chi Minh City, Penang, Surabaya  
Lake Geneva Region Tourism Office

**19 to 23 November 2018 |**  
Roadshow SCIB | Jakarta, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore  
Lake Geneva Region Tourism Office

**3 to 5 December 2018 |**  
Extravaganza | Toronto, Vancouver, Los Angeles  
Lake Geneva Region Tourism Office, Fondation Genève Tourisme & Congrès, Valais Promotions (LGMR)

**13 to 16 December 2018 |** Asia Pacific Workshop GCC | Lausanne Office, Lausanne Tourism, Montreux – Vevey Tourism

**4 to 8 March 2019 |** STE Asie du Sud-Est | Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta et Singapore  
Lake Geneva Region Tourism Office

**More news on our Media Corner:**  
 [media.lake-geneva-region.ch](http://media.lake-geneva-region.ch)

 *Events calendar*

**28 November to 3 December 2018**

Montreux Comedy Festival  
montreuxcomedy.com

**18 to 23 December 2018**

Béjart Ballet Lausanne (BBL)  
bejart.ch

**22 December 2018 to 2 March 2019**

50<sup>th</sup> Music & Snow Festival  
Les Diablerets  
musique-et-neige.ch

**26 January to 3 February 2019**

41<sup>st</sup> International Balloon Festival  
Château-d'Œx  
festivaldeballons.ch

**3 to 10 February 2019**

47<sup>th</sup> Prix de Lausanne  
prixdelausanne.org

**10 to 11 February 2019**

Leysin Freestyle open  
aigle-leysin-lesmosses.ch

**26 February and 9 March 2019**

Isenau Unplugged  
Les Diablerets  
diablerets.ch/isenau-unplugged

**28 February to 3 March 2019**

Festival Les Hivernales  
Nyon  
lacote-tourisme.ch

**2 to 3 March 2019**

49<sup>th</sup> MARA  
Les Rasses  
ski-mara.ch

**9 to 16 March 2019**

SKIMO – World Ski Mountaineering  
Championship  
Villars-sur-Ollon  
skimo-villars.ch

**WINTER WELLNESS**

The cold season isn't just for skiing: it's also an ideal time to chill and relax.

And the Canton of Vaud has lots to offer in this regard. The Yverdon-les-Bains thermal bath, known for its sulphur spring, has a more urban feel in the heart of the town, while the Lavey-les-Bains one, the hottest thermal bath in Switzerland, offers its visitors a more natural setting. Still in the Vaud Alps, the Bains de Villars invites its guests to relax in a heated outdoor pool with views on the Dents du Midi. For the Jura, the Grand Hôtel des Rasses added a whole new spa area with hammam and sauna in the summer 2018. Finally, various 5\* hotels also have a spa area, such as

the Cinq Monde Spa at the Beau-Rivage Palace, the Spa of the Lausanne Palace as well as the Spa du Royal at the Royal Savoy in Lausanne. The Dr. Burgener Switzerland Care & Spa at the Grand Hôtel du Lac and the Puressens Spa at the Hôtel des Trois Couronnes are in Vevey; the Spa Givenchy at the Mirador Resort & Spa in Mont-Pèlerin; the Willow Stream Spa at the Fairmont Le Montreux Palace in Montreux and the Spa at the Chalet RoyAlp is in Villars-sur-Ollon, in the Vaud Alps.

 lake-geneva-region.ch/well-being



**DECEMBER, THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS MARKETS**

During the Advent time, these events are a chance to discover the region in a variety of ambiances.



A festive atmosphere, little wooden chalets, local products, clothing and crafts; this is the recipe for the Christmas markets which take place all over the Canton of Vaud. But each one has developed its own unique atmosphere. For example, the "Bô Noël", which brings the whole centre of Lausanne alive, plays the urban card. And the seventh Lausanne Lumières festival, which will take place alongside, will illuminate the city with about a dozen surprising light installations located in unusual places in the city centre. The theme for Montreux is tradition: Santa arrives there in his

sleigh against the backdrop of Lake Geneva and the Alps. Visitors can also come and say hello to him in his house at Les Rochers-de-Naye. At Chillon Castle, they're invited to travel in time and experience Christmas as it was in the Middle Ages. There's also a historical setting in Yverdon-les-Bains, where the event occupies the town's paved streets lined with 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings. And in Morges, there'll be a magical atmosphere at the castle, bringing this 13<sup>th</sup> century monument to life, from the gardens to the cellars.

 lake-geneva-region.ch/christmas-markets

 *Event*

**TAKE TWO FOR THE RENCONTRES DU 7<sup>E</sup> ART DE LAUSANNE**

Founded by the Swiss actor Vincent Perez, this annual event celebrates the history of cinema.

Between 7 and 11 March 2019, this event includes a large number of screenings and meetings between the public and professionals, including actors, producers and directors, but also with important personalities of 7<sup>th</sup> art who will share their experiences and knowledge of the sector. Last year, big names like Michel Hazanavicius, Thierry Frémaux and Léa Seydoux

made the journey to Lausanne. There's also a chance to (re)watch some classics and find out about new filming techniques, including virtual reality or 4DX. The event is organised with the support of the Cinémathèque suisse, whose aim is to preserve and showcase film archives from around the world.

 r7ol.ch



Picture credits: LT Regis Colombo diapo.ch • Fondation du Château de Chillon • VillarsPalace • Lavey-les-Bains • OTV L. Ryser • MBC Pays-d'Enhaut Tourisme • OTV V.Dubach • Confrérie des Vignerons • Pierre Vogel

 *Special "Winegrowers' Festival"*



**THE VINEYARD HAND, KING OF THE FESTIVAL**

From 18 July to 11 August 2019, the Winegrowers Festival will pay tribute to the winemaker.

Since the first time it was held in 1797, this famous and important festival celebrates those who work on the vines: vineyard hands. The event is organised by the Confrérie des Vignerons de Vevey, which visits 270 hectares of plots in the region three times a year. Marks are awarded for plant and soil care and harvest management. Every three years, the best vineyard hands are given awards and every 20 years the Winegrowers Festival is held to recognise their dedication to their work as part of the Winegrowers Festival.

Tickets are already on sale. A package including accommodation is offered until 31 March 2019. It includes a ticket for the show, one night's accommodation, the Montreux

Riviera Card – which offers free use of the public transport – as well as a whole host of discounts on activities in the region and cancellation/postponement insurance.

 fetedesvignerons.ch




*Package deals*

**FONDUE ON THE TRAIN**

Known as "the cheese maker train", this offer is a feast for the eyes and the taste buds.

Hop on one of the retro trains of the Morges Bière Cossonay (MBC) transport company and enjoy a feast, on Sunday 28 October, 11 November and 2 December 2018, as well as 10 February 2019. Between Morges, located 15 minutes from Lausanne, and Bière in the inland, passengers can soak up the beautiful scenery and enjoy a typically Swiss meal. On the menu: a fondue with Gruyère PDO and Vacherin Fribourgeois PDO, following by double cream and meringue. The excursion (return trip, food and non-alcoholic drinks included) costs CHF 55.- for adults and CHF 40.- for children.

 morges-tourisme.ch




*Top tip*

**SAVOUR SOME LOCAL SPECIALITIES ON SNOWSHOES**

Held on 23 February 2019, in Château-d'Œx, the Rallye du Goût showcases regional products and the people who make them.

When night falls, visitors will set off on the discovery of local delights on snowshoes. The 3 km gourmet hike along the Sarine will be dotted with more than ten tasting stations. Illuminated by lanterns and moonlight, producers will offer their various specialities: cheeses, cold meats, honey, organic herb teas and syrups, all made in the region. At the end of the circuit, participants will be offered a soupe de chalet (local soup speciality) and dessert. Snowshoes will also be provided free of charge. Booking required.

 chateau-doex.ch

