

CHÂTEAU  
DE CHILLON®  
VEYTAUX /  
MONTREUX  
EXPOSITION  
29.4. –  
21.8.2016

1816 | 2016

2016:  
The year  
of Byron  
at Chillon  
Castle

Press kit  
April 2016

BYRON

...IS BACK! LORD BYRON, LE RETOUR



CHILLON

 SWISS CULTURAL  
HERITAGE

CHILLON CASTLE  
FOUNDATION

Avenue de Chillon 21  
CH – 1820 Veytaux  
[www.chillon.ch](http://www.chillon.ch)

# 2016 : The year of Byron at Chillon Castle

**Culture :** This year, Chillon Castle is celebrating the bicentenary of English poet, Lord Byron's visit to the castle. From 29 April to 21 August, a selection of activities will pay homage to the Brit who made Chillon Castle even more famous than it already was.



The year 2016 marks the bicentenary of Lord Byron's visit to Chillon Castle. To mark this occasion, the Castle team has prepared a myriad of activities to celebrate this anniversary, including an

exhibition, various workshops, a book festival and the list goes on.

What's more, all the castle's events such as the Mother's Day Brunch on 8 May or the Night of the Museums on 21 May will be tinted with a hint of Romanticism to pay homage to this emblematic figure.

## Lord Byron at Chillon Castle

As a libertine, a dandy and an adventurer – Lord Byron (1788-1824) left his mark on the generation of the Romantics. During a trip to Switzerland from 20 May to 10 October 1816, he visited Chillon Castle on 25 June.

He was so moved and profoundly touched by the story of François Bonivard – who was imprisoned in 1530 for opposing the Duke of Savoy – and by his visit to the underground passages, that he wrote the famous poem “*The Prisoner of Chillon*”.

The bicentenary of poet, Lord Byron's visit to the castle will be celebrated from 29 April to 21<sup>st</sup> August 2016. And it all begins with the launch of the temporary exhibition “1816-2016 Byron is back!” with Byron's trip to Switzerland acting as the focal point throughout. Organised under the patronage of the Ambassador for the United Kingdom in Switzerland, this unique exhibition displays documents, objects, archives and rare publications, with a plethora of visual aids to set the scene that will plunge visitors deep into the year 1816, which was marked by dramatic weather conditions. It makes for a memorable visit where we learn exactly how important a role Byron played in the prestige afforded to Chillon, the region surrounding Geneva and Switzerland in general.

But that's not all ! Byron will take centre stage in a programme rich in activities that will take place throughout the four months of the exhibition. The agenda will be peppered with “Travel Journals” (drawing and creative writing workshops), a “Dark Romanticism” themed Night of the Museums, the Romantic Book Festival in collaboration with the Geneva Salon du livre et de la presse (Book and Press Fair), guided tours on Sundays and the “Byron is Back!” event day on 26 June 2016.

The opening event for the “1816-2016 Byron is back!” will take place on Thursday 28 April at 5:00 pm in the Hall of the Coats of Arms at Chillon Castle. The press are more than welcome to attend this event.

**CHILLON CASTLE  
FOUNDATION**

Avenue de Chillon 21  
CH – 1820 Veytaux  
[www.chillon.ch](http://www.chillon.ch)

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

Contact :

**CLAUDE RUEY**

*President of the Foundation*

Tel. : 079 210 84 13 / [info@claude-ruey.ch](mailto:info@claude-ruey.ch)

**MARTA DOS SANTOS**, Manager

Tel. : 021 966 89 10

Mobile : 079 944 87 66 / [marta.dossantos@chillon.ch](mailto:marta.dossantos@chillon.ch)

**CLAIRE HALMOS**, Assistant manager

*Museography Manager*

Tel. : 021 966 89 27 / [claire.halmos@chillon.ch](mailto:claire.halmos@chillon.ch)

**ELVIRE KÜENZI**

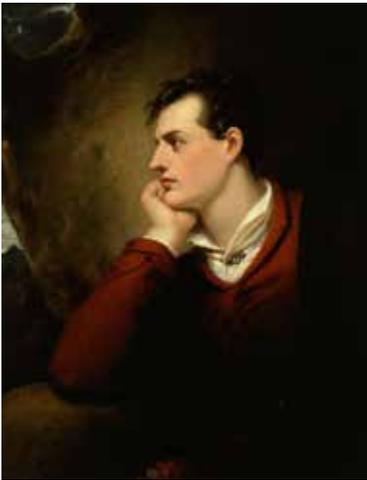
*Communication and Media Relations*

Tel. : 021 966 82 45 / [elvire.kuenzi@chillon.ch](mailto:elvire.kuenzi@chillon.ch)

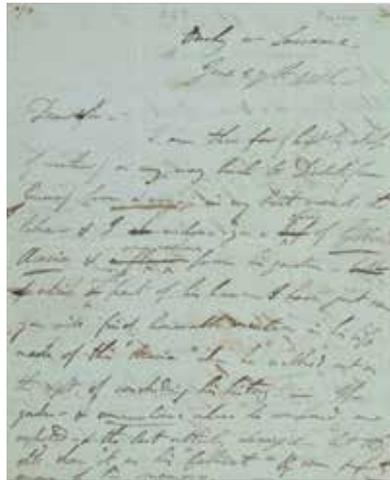
## Appendix:

free use of news brief and photo

*Culture: This year, Chillon Castle is celebrating the bicentenary of English poet, Lord Byron's visit to the castle. From 29 April to 21 August, a selection of activities will pay homage to the Brit who made Chillon Castle even more famous than it was. A temporary exhibition, workshops, the Night of the Museums, the Romantic Book Festival and a Byron day on 26 June are all on the agenda. Information: [www.chillon.ch](http://www.chillon.ch)*



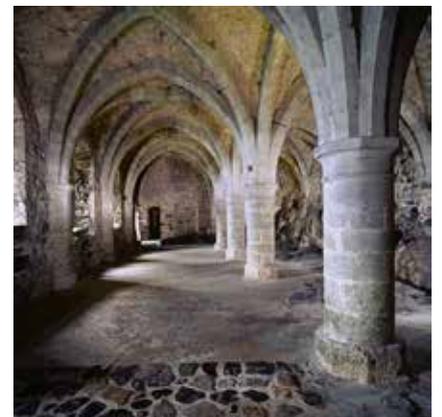
**Richard Westfall**  
*George Gordon, Lord Byron*  
*Portrait of Lord Byron*  
1813 / National Portrait Gallery,  
London



*Letter from Byron*  
*to his editor, John Murray*  
27 juin 1816 / National Library  
of Scotland, John Murray Archive



*Chillon Castle in the Storm*  
1826 / Musée historique de Lausanne  
© Atelier de numérisation de la Ville  
de Lausanne



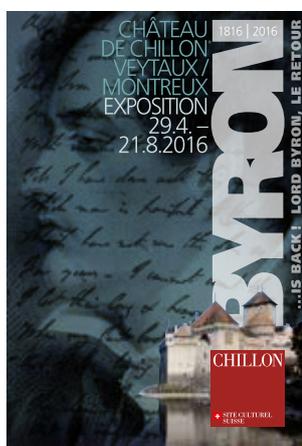
**CHILLON CASTLE  
FOUNDATION**

Avenue de Chillon 21  
CH – 1820 Veytaux  
[www.chillon.ch](http://www.chillon.ch)

# Temporary exhibition

## “1816-2016 Byron is back!”

« *Meillerie – Clarens & Vevey & the Chateau de Chillon are places of which I shall say little because all I could say must fall short of the impressions they stamp* » Lord Byron, Letter to John Murray, Ouchy, 27 June 1816



Lord Byron's trip to Switzerland from 20 May to 10 October 1816 will be the focal point of the temporary exhibition that will be on from 29 April to 21 August 2016 at Chillon Castle. This will be the first time this theme has been covered by a temporary exhibition in Europe

The numerous jaunts, discoveries and people involved in Byron's trip, and which had a major influence on his literary work, will all be in the spotlight, as will the impact his five-month stay has had on tourism in Switzerland, from the beginning of the 19th Century until today. The first steps will therefore take us through all of Switzerland's memorable "Byron" locations. Byron was one of the region's greatest tourism promoters!

In parallel, we mustn't forget Byron's fascinating, complex and versatile personality, which will be gradually revealed, room by room, as you head around the castle.

## The "Byron" experience

The tour is set to be an emotional one. Chillon Castle will be paying homage to this man, who marked his era with his talent and the immediate success of each of his publications. Byron was a real star 200 years ago, as big a star as David Bowie was for this generation!

The exhibition has original and exceptional documents and objects on display that have been lent to us by various prestigious institutions. Among these objects, we find the manuscript of "*The Prisoner of Chillon*", copied out by Claire Clairmont, the first edition, as well as numerous original editions written by Lord Byron. The main documents being exhibited have come from, amongst others, the National Library of Scotland, Archives d'Etat de Genève (State of Geneva Archives), Archives cantonales vaudoises (Canton of Vaud Archives), Bibliothèque cantonale universitaire de Lausanne (Canton of Lausanne University Library) and numerous private collections.

With the "Alpine Journal" as their guide, the public will set off retracing Lord Byron's footsteps, on a quest for new emotions while discovering Alpine landscapes, and will put themselves in the shoes of those first tourists who were enchanted by all the things there were to discover in Switzerland.

**CHILLON CASTLE  
FOUNDATION**

Avenue de Chillon 21  
CH – 1820 Vevey  
www.chillon.ch

The exhibition will be in French, English and German. The exhibition has received generous support from the following donors:

 Sandoz  
SANDOZ-FONDATION DE FAMILLE

ERNST GÖHNER STIFTUNG

 FONDATION  
JAN MICHALSKI  
POUR  
L'ÉCRITURE  
ET LA  
LITTÉRATURE

 B FONDATION CASINO  
BARRIÈRE  
MONTREUX

 cP  
Centre Patronal

# The Byron Cuvée

To commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lord Byron's visit to Chillon Castle, and in keeping with the temporary exhibition "1816-2016: Byron is back!", we have two exclusive wines on offer. Unique and limited edition.

## White Chasselas

The effect on the palate is fresh and invigorating, accompanied by a subtle and elegant mineral touch.

Chasselas, AOC Lavaux 2015, 750 ml  
Boutique/Bazar sales price 16.50 CHF

## Red Blend of Pinot noir and Gamay

The bouquet contains notes of raspberry and cherry; the effect on the palate is pure and invigorating, embellished with fragrances of violet, blackcurrant and blueberry.

Blend of Pinot noir and Gamay,  
AOC Lavaux 2015, 750 ml  
Boutique/Bazar sales price 16.50 CHF



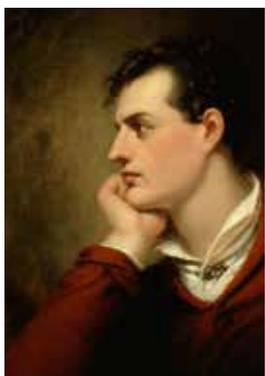
**CHILLON CASLTE  
FOUNDATION**

Avenue de Chillon 21  
CH - 1820 Veytaux  
[www.chillon.ch](http://www.chillon.ch)

# Romantic events

## from 29 April to 21 August 2016 at Chillon Castle

The castle's four-month exhibition will be punctuated with various events.



**1 – Guided tours:  
“In the footsteps  
of the Romantics”**  
Every Sunday between  
1 May and 21 August

Every Sunday at 3:15 pm, castle visitors will have the chance to take a romantic tour in French

and in English (entry must still be paid). A tour guide dressed in period costume will take visitors around the castle and the temporary exhibition.

**2 – Mother's Day –  
Spring Brunch**

8 May at 10:30am

This year, the traditional brunch will be given a touch of Romanticism to mirror the temporary exhibition. What's on the agenda? Little poems on the tables, a workshop for children where they can package their own sachet of English tea, ambient music. This lovely morning will be topped off with a guided tour, retracing Byron's footsteps in the company of our guide, who will be in period dress.

**3 – Night of the Museums**  
21 May from 5:00pm to Midnight

Not to be missed by night owls, this event will see the Association des Musées de la Riviera Vaudoise (Vaud Riviera Museum Association) open its museums for one night full of discoveries...

This year at Chillon, the event will be inspired by Dark Romanticism in honour of Lord Byron and the famous night when he suggested a ghost story competition to his friends.

Throughout this exceptional night, there will be a poetry reading by two actors playing Lord Byron and Percy Shelley, acting out a few light-hearted scenes, with chamber music and guided tours of the exhibition.

**4 – “Travel Journal”  
Workshops**

Every Saturday from 28 May at 2:00pm

To learn about the castle, just like writers would have done in the past, Chillon Castle is organising an introduction to drawing with Nicolas Imhof, professor and visual arts teacher at the Ceruleum Art School in Lausanne. With sketch book and pencil in hand, participants will be able to draw the castle's old stones and let their creative juices flow.

**CHILLON CASTLE  
FOUNDATION**

Avenue de Chillon 21  
CH – 1820 Veytaux  
[www.chillon.ch](http://www.chillon.ch)

## 5 – The Romantic Book Festival

3 and 4 June

For the first time in the castle's history, a book festival will be setting up shop, nestled among the castle's story-filled stones. Produced by the Swiss Fondation pour l'Écrit (Writing Foundation) and organised by the Salon du livre et de la presse de Genève (Geneva Book and Press Fair), this festival will host authors around round tables to honour Romanticism in the literature of yesteryear and today.

## 6 – “Travel Journal” Workshops

Saturday 25 June at 2:00pm

To pay tribute to the memory of Lord Byron and to give the public a taste for writing, Chillon Castle is organising a writing workshop with Elvire Kuenzi, a young writer from the Lake Geneva region. Exercises and challenges will be set throughout the tour to help build on the participants' creativity.

## Contacts

Do you need further information for your articles? Would you like to come and visit the exhibition? Please contact us:

ELVIRE KÜENZI

Communication and Media Relations

Tel.: 021 966 82 45

elvire.kuenzi@chillon.ch

PRESSE LOGIN: [http://www.chillon.ch/fr/espace\\_media/banque-images-et-logos/images-medias](http://www.chillon.ch/fr/espace_media/banque-images-et-logos/images-medias)

USERNAME: forteresse PASSWORD: savoyarde

 FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/ChateauChillon/](http://www.facebook.com/ChateauChillon/)

 TWITTER: [www.twitter.com/chateauchillon](http://www.twitter.com/chateauchillon)

 WORDPRESS: [www.chateauchillon.wordpress.com/](http://www.chateauchillon.wordpress.com/)

 INSTAGRAM: [www.instagram.com/chateauchillon/](http://www.instagram.com/chateauchillon/)

# LordByronisback

# ChateaudChillon

# Chillon

## 7 – Byron is Back

Sunday 26 June from 9:00am to 6:00pm

To celebrate Lord Byron's visit to Chillon Castle, there will be a day event that will transport visitors 200 years into the past. Actors from the Geneva English Drama Society will perform readings of “*The Prisoner of Chillon*” in English. A reading in French will be performed by Jacques Roman.

A marathon reading of translations of the various poem into ten languages will also be organised. “La Demoiselle”, a 19th-century boat, will take the public for a short cruise on the lake. For the more curious among them, there will be yet more surprises. Save the date for Byron!

The Martin Bodmer Foundation, the Brocher Foundation and the Chillon Castle Foundation are all commemorating Percy & Mary Shelley and Lord Byron's stay on the banks of Lake Geneva in the summer of 1816. There will be a combined ticket on sale for the exhibitions “Frankenstein: creation of darkness” (Bodmer) and “1816-2016 Byron is back!” (Chillon).

1816 | 2016



FONDATION  
Martin  
Bodmer



**CHILLON CASTLE  
FOUNDATION**

Avenue de Chillon 21  
CH – 1820 Veytaux  
Tel.: +41 (0)21 966 89 10  
Fax: +41 (0)21 966 89 12  
Email: [info@chillon.ch](mailto:info@chillon.ch)  
[www.chillon.ch](http://www.chillon.ch)