

P R E S S
P A C K
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WELCOME TO MORGES REGION!



From the blue waters of Lake Geneva to the green forests of the Jura, by way of vineyards and golden countryside, Morges Region offers varied landscapes and a wide range of activities encompassing culture, nature and the art of living.

In an idyllic setting crowned by the majestic Mont-Blanc, occupying a wonderful geographical location on the shores of Lake Geneva, the region is a mix of lake, mountains, vineyards and countryside. Amongst these varied landscapes, a whole host of activities and discoveries await the visitor.

There are countless cultural highlights, ranging from jewels of architecture to the region's many museums and theatres. While culture is much to the fore at all times, nature lovers will also have their fill of enjoyment. There are breathtaking views to discover along hiking paths, footpaths and cycle tracks. Not forgetting the region's flower shows, which visitors are sure to enjoy (Tulip Festival, Lakeside Dahlias, Iris Garden)!

Morges Region is also a land of authentic vineyards and is home to grape varieties that promote the renown of La Côte AOC (controlled designation of origin). Discover local specialities when you visit vineyards, where you can enjoy a glass of fruity rosé, delicate red, or the region's famous white wine (Chasselas).

Welcome to a region of multiple facets, where without a doubt you will enjoy an unforgettable stay!

CULTURE AND HERITAGE



Between old towns and castles

Morges



Baron Louis of Savoy had the castle built between 1286 and 1291. In the 14th century the castle was often the residence of counts and dukes of Savoy, before becoming a bailiff's court in 1536 following the conquest of Vaud lands by the Bernese. At the time of the Revolution, the castle became the property of the State of Vaud, which turned it into an arsenal in 1803. Today it houses the Vaud Military Museum, the Artillery Museum, the Swiss Museum of Historical Figurines, The Vaud Police Museum and the new Paderewski Museum.

La Sarraz



La Sarraz is located to the north-east of Morges on the watershed between the Rhone and Rhine basins, which earned it its nickname of "Middle of the World". Perched on its rocky outcrop, La Sarraz looks onto the Alps and dominates the plain and its lush fields of wheat, sunflower and rape. Its castle, built in the 11th century, was the residence of the lords of La Sarraz and their descendants until 1948. Today it is privately owned and no longer open to the public.

Saint-Prex



This medieval town built in 1234 is particularly remarkable for its Clock Tower, its old fortified wall, its Roman church and its different fountains. Saint-Prex also has a number of beaches, with separate bathing for women and men. In the 19th century, workers came here to bathe. Two separate bathing places were introduced from a sense of propriety.

CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Vufflens-le-château



Vufflens Castle, which dates back to the 15th century, is the most striking example of a small group of strongholds in French-speaking Switzerland which date from the end of the Middle Ages, characterized above all by the fact that they are brick-built. This impressive edifice with its 60 meter tall donjon is a private property which can be admired from the outside only.

Aubonne



The famous round white tower of Aubonne Castle dominates the medieval town with its picturesque storied houses and magnificent narrow streets. Not far from here, the Aubonne Valley Arboretum presents a collection of 3,000 species and varieties of trees and shrubs from every continent.

Cossonay



The town of Cossonay stands on the edge of a plateau overlooking the Venoge valley 130 meters below. Its church, its old town and its nature reserve at the "Étang du Sépey" are well worth a visit.

L'Isle



L'Isle is the village where the Venoge river, made famous by the Vaud poet Jean Villard-Gilles, has its source. Its 17th century castle stands proudly alongside the famous river. In addition, the region of L'Isle offers around 120 km of signposted paths.

CULTURE AND HERITAGE

The region's museums

The region of Morges is lucky to be able to count on a wealth of varied cultural attractions. In 2015, the museums of Morges teamed up to promote their activities jointly. The proximity of museums does much to enhance the attractiveness of the historic centre of Morges. Visitors can walk from one place to another in just a few minutes and discover exhibition spaces offering a rich and varied cultural landscape.

Morges Castle and its museums



Morges Castle, the town's oldest edifice, is an architectural treasure. Within its four towers brimming with history, the curious can visit the the Vaud Military Museum, the Artillery Museum, the Swiss Museum of Historical Figurines, The Vaud Police Museum and the new Paderewski Museum.

www.chateau-morges.ch

Alexis Forel Museum – Morges



In a beautiful 16th century building in the old town of Morges four permanent collections await you, each with its own distinctive flavour: from the world of dolls and toys to the curiosity boxes of Marie d'Ailleurs and Russian icons, explore the cultural heritage of Morges. Several temporary exhibitions are held throughout the year.

www.museeforel.ch

Expo Fondation Bolle - Morges



Through temporary exhibitions, the museum presents a selection of pictures of the region's cultural heritage. A permanent room is entirely dedicated to Audrey Hepburn, the famous icon of the cinema who lived in our beautiful region.

www.fondationbolle.ch

CULTURE AND HERITAGE

House of Press Caricatures - Morges



This exhibition space provides an opportunity to follow or revisit topical issues in a humorous context. Several exhibitions are held during the year.

www.maisondudessindepresse.ch

Theatres



Every year the theatres of "Beausobre", "Trois P'tits Tours" and "Pré-aux-Moines" host varied and eclectic shows. With theatrical plays, music, comedy, dance and circus, there's something for all tastes and all ages.

www.beausobre.ch
www.troispetitstours.ch
www.preauxmoines.ch

NOT TO BE MISSED



Fondation Jan Michalski in Montricher

Nestling in Montricher at the foot of the Vaud Jura is a cultural space dedicated to literature and writing. Its stunning architecture is the setting for temporary exhibitions, a library and, in the future, residences for writers.

www.fondation-janmichalski.com



CULTURE AND HERITAGE - FAMOUS GUESTS



The English actress **Audrey Hepburn** (Ixelles 1929 - Tolochenaz 1993) lived for nearly 30 years (1965 to 1993) in Tolochenaz, a village not far from Morges. In her 16,000m² property, she lived here as a family with her two children and her last companion, the Dutch actor Robert Wolders. Today a private property, "la Paisible" is not open to visitors.

A person of stunning charisma, described by locals as a humble, simple person, full of humanity. She left her mark on her times, not only those she was close to but also the general public, who knew her through her film adaptations and performances.

From Morges Town Hall, where she married in 1969, to the different places where she did her shopping and drank her coffee, as well as Tolochenaz where she lived for nearly 30 years and where her bust looks out on the Place Audrey Hepburn, come and walk in the footsteps of Audrey Hepburn!

Ignacy Paderewski (1860-1941)

In 1898, he purchased land at Riond-Bosson, just outside Morges; after spending the summer there, he made it his home. At that time, Paderewski was a rich man and lived somewhat extravagantly. But he was also known for his generosity, particularly for the Polish cause.

The tranquillity of Riond-Bosson, his fine property overlooking Morges, enabled him - between triumphal tours - to compose his finest works, in particular the opera *Manru*.

A statue of Ignacy Paderewski can be found between the Place St-Louis and the Rue du Docteur Yersin, as well as a museum dedicated to him at the Place du Casino 1.

Alexandre Yersin (1863-1943)

A doctor and biologist who lived and studied in Morges, known for his discovery of the plague bacterium. He also distinguished himself through his work at the Pasteur Institute and his devotion to Indochina.

NATURE

La Maison de la Rivière



La Maison de la Rivière awaits you in the heart of the forest, a stone's throw from Lake Geneva. At once an exhibition space, nature centre and research laboratory, this is a unique place where you can discover the life of aquatic habitats. An enjoyable stopover on the "Sentier de la Truite", La Maison de la Rivière also offers a programme of activities for all the family and guided tours subject to prior booking.

www.maisondelariviere.ch

Aubonne National Arboretum



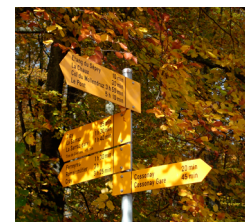
Along the meandering course of the Aubonne, footpaths will lead you to a majestic world of trees, home to 3,000 varieties from every continent. It's a golden opportunity to familiarise yourself with this fascinating arboreal world and its seasonal transformations. A number of signposted paths make it easy to discover the Arboretum.

www.arboretum.ch

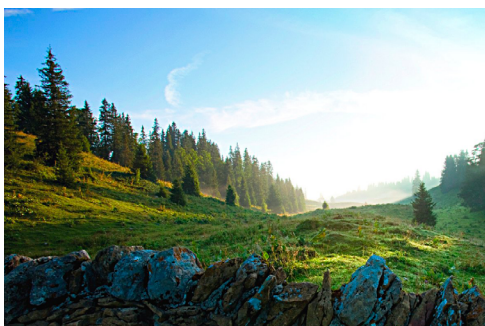
Walks



Whether you're an experienced walker or new to the region's footpaths, discover the many hiking trails offered by Morges Region.



Parc Jura vaudois



Thanks to its wonderful natural heritage, the 'Parc Jura vaudois' invites you to discover rich and varied landscapes. A wealth of new experiences awaits hikers, mountain bike enthusiasts and devotees of snowshoe walking or cross-country skiing.

www.parcjuravaudois.ch

NOT TO BE MISSED



Flower shows of Morges and the region

From April to October, Morges Region offers an impressive palette of colour that's guaranteed to impress visitors. Between the Lake Geneva and the forests of the Jura, by way of vineyards and golden countryside, Morges invites you to journey through the Land of Flowers.



Tulip Festival, from 26 March to 8 May

For a month and a half, 120,000 tulips, narcissi and hyacinths vie with one another for elegance, filling the superb Parc de l'Indépendance with colour by the shore of Lake Geneva, behind Morges castle. Nearly 300 varieties of tulips belonging to different existing species are yours to discover. To extend the blooming period, the assortment also includes early and late tulips.

Iris Garden, from 30 April to 12 June

From the month of May and for six weeks, fields of irises flower at Vullierens Castle, a fortress converted into a stately home in 1706.

It was the lady of Vullierens manor, the American Doreen Bovet, who ordered the first iris plants in 1950 from the famous Swiss hybrid specialist Schreiner, established in the United States. From 1955, she opened her garden to the public. Planting continued without interruption: in all more than 600 species.



Lakeside Dahlias, from 15 July to 31 October

Lakeside Dahlias, access to which is completely free, is a unique event in French-speaking Switzerland. This exhibition and sale is designed to highlight the varied facets of this summer flower.

At the next edition of this very colourful event, the public can discover nearly 100 varieties stretching the length of an idyllic promenade which can be enjoyed either on foot or aboard the Little Train.



ART OF LIVING



Subtle, hearty and full of flavour, the local produce of Morges Region takes the form of an appetizing range of cheeses, some with AOC appellation, succulent meat specialities ("boute-fas" stuffed pork sausage, cabbage sausage, Vaud sausage) and pastries to die for! The region also boasts renowned restaurants, including a Relais & Châteaux establishment meriting 19 points on the Gault & Millau index. Winegrowers in the Morges region will be delighted to welcome you to their estates, where you can sample their fine vintages.

La Côte, a wine-growing region



The gentle hills of La Côte AOC (controlled designation of origin) play host to a great diversity of grape varieties. Here, enthusiastic winegrowers make the inimitable Chasselas, fruity rosés and delicate or spicy reds. Discover Switzerland's largest wine-growing region by visiting winegrowers for a wine tasting, or taking a stroll along the famous Wine Route. Morges wines encompass 38 wine-growing communes, making it the biggest producer in the canton of Vaud. www.vinsdemorges.ch

Fine dining



Bernard Ravet's L'Ermitage with 19 pts from Gault & Millau and 2 Michelin stars.

Le Cerf - Carlo Crisci with 18 pts from Gault & Millau and 2 Michelin stars.

Hostellerie Le Petit Manoir with 15 points from Gault & Millau and one Michelin star.

Artisans



Morges Region has a rich local heritage and authentic know-how that our craftsmen invite you to discover.

ART OF LIVING - NOT TO BE MISSED



Sévery Oil Mill

Sévery Oil Mill, built in the 13th century, has belonged to the same family for six generations. A unique experience and a chance not only to discover artisanal know-how, but also to take home some delicious regional products!

www.severy.ch



La Fromagerie Gourmande

With its demonstration workshop, a shop selling dairy products and local specialities, plus a space for cheese tasting and snacks, the "Fromagerie Gourmande" has a thousand ways to introduce you to the delights of Gruyère cheese. www.fromageriegourmande.ch

Markets

The traditional markets of Morges Region offer a huge selection of local produce and artisanal objects. Rendezvous Wednesday and Saturday mornings on the Grand-Rue in Morges, or Friday mornings on the Rue des Laurelles in Cossonay. In summer, the folk market welcomes you on the Place de l'Eglise. The Christmas market will be garlanded with lights to welcome you in December.



NOT TO BE MISSED



Servagnin

Introduced to the region of Morges 600 years ago, Servagnin was the first Pinot Noir grown in Switzerland. After rescuing it from near extinction, Morges winegrowers have restored its prestige of bygone years.

Because of his love of Pinot Noir, Philippe le Hardy, the Duke of Bourgogne, banned the cultivation of Gamay in the Côte d'Or in 1395. His daughter, Marie de Bourgogne, married Amadeus VIII, Duke of Savoy. She thus became the lady of the manor of Morges, the second home of the Savoy.

In 1420, Marie, expecting a child, fled the plague and sought refuge in Morges and Saint-Prex. To thank the people of the region for their hospitality, she is said to have made a gift of several SERVAGNIN vines (synonymous with Pinot Noir), a variety as close to her heart as it was to her father's. And so for the first time, Pinot Noir was grown in Switzerland. Thanks to the quality of its wine, its cultivation spread throughout the canton for many years under the name SALVAGNIN. However, at the turn of the last century it began to lose ground to more productive varieties and its cultivation became less widespread, to the point of virtually disappearing in the 1960s.

It was then that Vaud winegrowers adopted the Salvagnin moniker to use as a generic name for Vaud red wines generally, regardless of grape variety.

From the last two vines existing in Saint-Prex, where the grape was first introduced, a handful of inspired winegrowers in the Morges region patiently replanted the grape and are now determined to restore it to its former glory, under the name of SERVAGNIN DE MORGES.

www.vinsdemorges.ch

ACTIVITIES AND DISCOVERIES



Signal de Bougy

The "Signal de Bougy" is a relaxing leisure park ideal for young and old alike and offers panoramic views of Lake Geneva and the vineyards of "La Côte". With golf and minigolf, farm animals, a playground and the Adventure Park with its acrobatic courses and zip lines, lots of leisure activities are waiting for you!

www.signaldebougy.ch

Galley "La Liberté"

The galley, built from a 17th century model, is 55 metres long and is the only seafaring galley in the world. It is the biggest sailing boat on Europe's lakes and makes regular cruises in the summer. 600 people were involved in its construction, a project initiated in 1992 by trade unionist Jean-Pierre Hirt to restore pride and dignity to craftsmen made jobless by the economic crisis of the 1990s.

www.galere.ch



CGN

CGN's Belle-Epoque fleet comprises eight boats sailing on Lake Geneva, with ports of call at Morges, Geneva, Lausanne, Evian and Montreux. The company offers cruises throughout the year.

www.cgn.ch

NOT TO BE MISSED



City Golf - Morges-Préverenges

Citygolf is a healthy and fun way to explore the region all year round, thanks to an 18-hole course between Morges and Préverenges. It's the perfect opportunity to discover charming places and even enjoy a dip in the lake if your ball ends up in the water!

www.golf-en-ville.ch



Little Tourist Train - Morges

The Little Train carries you by the side of Lake Geneva and to the heart of the old town of Morges from Easter to the end of September. It also lets you discover the countryside and vineyards of Morges Region, and can be hired for private events.

www.morges-tourisme.ch

BAM Railway

Between Lake Geneva and the foothills of the Jura, the Bière – Apples – Morges and Apples – L'Isle railway invites you to discover the authentic heritage of the region. On the "Voie des Sens", meet craftsmen or enjoy a stroll or a bike ride to admire nature. And if you want to mix the magic of the train with the pleasures of the table, the "BAM Saveur" welcomes you aboard for a relaxing time.

www.mbc.ch



STORY IDEAS



Below are some anecdotes about the region

The Tulip Festival was organised for the first time in 1971, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Lake Geneva branch of the Vaud Horticultural Society. Planned originally as a one-off event, shopkeepers and the development company decided to hold it again the following year, and the festival has now been a regular feature for more than 40 years!

Igor Stravinsky and Coco Chanel

May 1913. Théâtre des Champs-Élysées. The first meeting between Igor Stravinsky and young fashion designer Coco Chanel was at "The Rite of Spring", a ballet created by the Russian composer. The avant-garde show, choreographed by Nijinsky and orchestrated by Pierre Monteux, caused a scandal. The work by Igor Stravinsky was not understood by its conservative and traditionalist audience. However Coco Chanel was totally enthralled by the music of Igor Stravinsky, which failed to impress her companion and great love of the time, Boy Capel.

It was another seven years before the paths of Coco Chanel and Igor Stravinsky crossed again. The famous fashion designer had scarcely recovered from the death of Boy Capel when she decided to invite Igor Stravinsky, exiled in Paris as a result of the Russian Revolution, and his family to her home in Garches. This marked the start of a short but intense liaison. Coco financed a new production of "The Rite of Spring", the score of which was in her possession. The work by Igor Stravinsky was performed by the Ballets Russes. Today it is considered to be the manifesto of modern music, foretelling the violence of coming wars.

During their affair, Coco Chanel and Igor Stravinsky made great headway in their creative spheres. It was during her relationship with Igor Stravinsky that Coco Chanel hit on the recipe of her famous perfume, Chanel N°5. For his part, Igor Stravinsky finally won critical acclaim and success.

The story of Coco Chanel and Igor Stravinsky was recently adapted for the cinema. In the film, Coco Chanel is played by the alluring Anna Mouglalis, while Mads Mikkelsen takes the role of Igor Stravinsky.

...STORY IDEAS



The riddle of the Euripus

Legend has it that the Euripus phenomenon caused the death of Aristotle who, moved to despair by his inability to explain it, threw himself into the tumultuous waters of the Euripus. Twenty-three centuries later, the Morges scientist François-Alphonse Forel solved this enigma...

In the Euripus Strait separating Greece from Euboea (the largest island in the Aegean Sea), the current changes direction several times a day. As far back as Antiquity, this phenomenon intrigued observers, who noticed that wind-mills bordering the channel turned sometimes in one direction, and sometimes in the other.



Solution of the Morges scientist F-A Forel:

François-Alphonse Forel helped to solve this riddle with his scientific study of lakes (=limnology) and the discovery of local variations in lake levels (=seiches).

The study by Forel was based on his observations of Lake Geneva in the port of Morges, where a plaque commemorating the event can be seen today.

The fluctuation from side to side of the surface of lakes is also linked to tides.

In this way he solved the riddle of the Euripus and showed that it was a seiche, oscillating along the channel, which changed the direction of the current.



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