

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad  
**Herausgeber:** Organisation of the Swiss Abroad  
**Band:** 4 (1977)  
**Heft:** 2

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# The Canton of Vaud

## Biographical note on the authors

Both are Vaudois, Marcel Ney is Director of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad and Lucien Paillard is his Deputy.

Without numbers are the foreign visitors who, for centuries, have fallen victim to the beauty and the charm of the Vaudois Riviera, that unique landscape on the Northern shores of the blue Léman, the Lake of Geneva. Let us mention but a few, the beautiful Madame Récamier living in an aura of scandals, the English poets Lord Byron and Shelley, Chateaubriand, the South African Boer Leader Ohm Krueger and the Finnish Field Marshal von Mannerheim. And even a few years ago, the Spanish Ambassador in Berne, the Duke of Baëna, many times over a Spanish grandee, aesthetic poet and well-versed traveller, wrote in a diplomatic periodical that there was no more charming view anywhere in the world than the one of the vineyards of Lavaux and the majestic lake on coming out of the tunnel at Chexbres. Incidentally, the vineyard immediately outside the tunnel has been called in the vernacular of many generations the «ticket vineyard» on account of the many return-tickets thrown out of the train windows by German-speaking compatriots on arrival in the beautiful Vaudois country. Yet this impressive panorama has also another aspect. Only too easily does it imprint on the visitor from outside an image of the Canton, and he forgets that the *Pays de Vaud*, fourth-largest Canton of Switzerland, consists not only of the sunny wine-growing villages of Epesses, of Riex and of St-Saphorin, just to mention a few amongst all the idyllic villages between Lausanne and Vevey with their imposing and incomparable view of the Léman. The proud Savoy mountains rising on what is already French territory and the

picturesque Dents du Midi which, however, form part of the Canton of Valais.

The gentle hills of the Jorat and the harmonious Prealps of the delightful Pays d'Enhaut, also known as the Valley of Château-d'Oex, belong likewise to the Canton of Vaud, just as does the rich delta of the Rhone, the salt-mines and the spas of Aigle and Bex, the terraces of Villars and Leysin culminating in the Alpine valleys of Les Diablerets and the Grand Muvran, wild and at the same time romantic.

The Canton of Vaud also comprises the extensive territory of La Côte, the Valley of the Joux, the wide vales of the Broye, the Venoge and the Orbe, not forgetting the peaceful hills which lead us to the Lake of Neuchâtel whose vineyards are a modest repetition of those of Lavaux. The Yverdon region, too, forms part of the Canton, that centre known since time immemorial for its market, its industries and its baths, which for a long time gave the Lake of Neuchâtel the name of «*Lacus ebredunensis*» (Lake of Yverdon). The adjoining heights of the Jura and the valleys well above the mists of the plain belong to Vaud as much as the forests to which the Vaudois owe their name right back to the Celts: «*Pagus Waldensis*» (the people of the forests).

All these different regions have their characteristic traits and their own particular charm.

In our capacity as enthusiastic Vaudois we have asked ourselves during the studies of early history of our Canton of origin whether all these beauties were possibly the cause why, as opposed to all neighbouring regions, there is no trace of cave-dwellers. Why indeed should one hide oneself under the earth when everything is so lovely outside! On the other hand, traces