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This and That Corner

Canton Geneva

Geneva (in French Geneve; in German Genf), the city of Calvin and centre of the Reformation, lies in the extreme western tip of Switzerland at the South West end of Lake Geneva (in French Lac Lemman). The town is built on morainic hills of varying height on either side of the swiftly flowing Rhone, which here flows out of the lake and is joined on the South West side of the town by its tributary, the Arve, coming down from the Savoy Alps. Lying between the Jura to the North West and the limestone ridges of Mont Saleve and the Voirons to the South East, Geneva enjoys a magnificent situation on the largest of the Alpine lakes, within sight of the majestic peak of Mont Blanc.

As a hub of European cultural life in which Frenchsavoivre and Swiss solidarity are happily combined, the venue of international meetings on the highest level, as well as conventions and exhibitions of all kinds, and not least as a major financial, commercial and industrial city, Geneva has a lively and cosmopolitan atmosphere which makes it perhaps the most attractive town in Switzerland and the one that attracts the greatest number of visitors. Evidence of its dynamic growth during the past few decades is provided by the large amount of new building in the city itself and in the surrounding area where a number of residential suburbs and satellite towns of considerable size have grown up.

Most of the international organisations have their headquarters in the northern part of the city, in spacious park-like grounds. Geneva is capital of the smallest Swiss canton, the Republique et Canton de Geneve. It is almost entirely surrounded by French territory (free trade zone) and is connected to the rest of Switzerland only by the lake and a narrow corridor along the North West shore of the lake. It has two small enclaves around Celigny in the canton of Vaud.

The Palais des Nations (United Nations) has a total of some thirty conference rooms and 1100 office rooms, its own printing office with many photocopiers and offset machines, restaurant, a snack bar and a number of refreshment bars. The interior is comfortable and equipped with the most modern technical services. The large assembly halls have simultaneous interpretation facilities, enabling speeches to be translated into and out of the five official languages of the United Nations (English, French, Spanish, Russian and Chinese).



United Nations Building

The decoration of the various halls and rooms - usually lavish - was donated by different countries.

Canton Geneve, as stated previously, is the smallest canton in Switzerland. The industries of the canton started with the reformation. Geneva quickly became a refuge for a big number of protestants from France. They brought their skills, their tools and often their wealth. Expensive watches and jewellery are a good income earner for canton Geneva.

Trout with a Geneva Sauce

One big or two small trout
White wine to half cover the trout
20 gr butter
1 onion
lemon juice

Sauce : 50 gr butter, 50 gr flour, 1-2 egg yolks, about 5 mls milk

Fry onion in butter until golden. Add trout, salt, wine and lemon juice. Cook on very low heat. Put on a warm dish and keep warm in oven.

Sauce

Warm butter and add flour, stirring until golden. Add the juice that you have cooked the trout in and let cook for 2 - 3 minutes. Thicken the sauce with the beaten egg yolk and milk. Whisk until the sauce boils. Pour over fish.

Cheese dish from Geneva (for four people)

2 tbsn butter
4 tbsn flour
4 egg whites
4 egg yolks
¼ litre milk
salt and pepper
160 gr grated tasty cheese
buttered dish

Warm oven to 190°C and butter dish. Fry flour until golden in butter. Add cold milk, salt and pepper. Cook until sauce thickens. Add cheese to sauce and mix well. Add the egg yolks one by one and mix well. Add well-beaten egg whites and mix very carefully. Bake for 20 minutes at 190C and 8-10 minutes at 230°C. Eat as soon as you take the dish out of the oven.

*Bon Appetit.
Lisette*

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