

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 77 (2011)
Heft: [3]

Artikel: Lavaux - a UNESCO world heritage site
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943349>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 09.02.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

A famous Vaudois: General Henri Guisan

To this day Guisan has something of a cult status. His presence is everywhere; just check the maps of major Swiss cities: Almost all have a Guisan Street, an Avenue General Guisan or a Place General Guisan. And it is very probable that the general's portrait still hangs prominently in some old village bars.



Guisan Inspection Jura 1940

No fewer than 300,000 people attended the general's funeral in Lausanne in 1960, the biggest attendance at a funeral in Swiss history. Swiss television broadcast the funeral live and in its entirety.

To mark the anniversary of the Swiss army chief's passing, a 55-minute film, simply entitled "The General", was shown in all four language regions last year.

The film did not attempt to rewrite Switzerland's role during the Second World War, but to show the journey of a man. Some of the material featured is unique, using unpublished archives. "The General" retraces the footsteps of Henri Guisan on a path from a country bumpkin from the canton of Vaud to that of army chief and legendary Swiss figure.

The image of the general emerging from this documentary is overwhelmingly positive. It is that of a man close to his troops at a time when military commanders still preferred to keep a certain distance from their subordinates.

Politically, it is also the image of a patriot determined to defend his country against the Nazi threat. To this end, he came up with the "Réduit" strategy, a concept of using the Alps as an impregnable defence and a way of controlling transalpine roads and rail links.

However, the documentary is not a eulogy to Guisan's glorious past. Historians and eyewitnesses also pick apart his actions during this turbulent period.

Documents found by the Germans during the defeat of France in spring 1940 put Switzerland in a delicate position. Research has shown that risky secret agreements between the general and the French side were in place. And in March 1943 he would meet Walter Schellenberg, head of espionage against the SS, on Swiss territory without informing the government.

from swissinfo

Lavaux – a UNESCO World Heritage Site

The Lavaux Vineyard Terraces, stretching for about 30 km along the south-facing northern shores of Lake Geneva from the Chateau de Chillon to the eastern outskirts of Lausanne in the Vaud region, cover the lower slopes of the mountainside between the villages and the lake. Although there is some evidence that vines were grown in the area in Roman times, the present vine terraces can be traced back to the 11th century, when Benedictine and Cistercian monasteries controlled the area. It is an outstanding example of a centuries-long interaction between people and their environment, developed to optimize local resources so as to produce a highly valued wine that has always been important to the economy.



Lavaux Vineyard Terraces

Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the region encompasses 14 municipalities and six certified winemaking sites - Lutry, Villette, Saint-Saphorin, Epesses&Calamin, Dezaley and Chardonne. Lavaux greatly contributed to the development of the city of Lausanne and its surrounding areas. Yet, this creeping urban sprawl would leave the region vulnerable. The measures that were introduced to protect Lavaux and the committed backing which they received from the local community were exemplary.

internet

