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# HELVETIA

MAGAZINE OF THE SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

**OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2019** 

**YEAR 85** 

# Highlights

- Basel Fair
- Walter's Story
- Amy's School Experience
- Swiss Wine

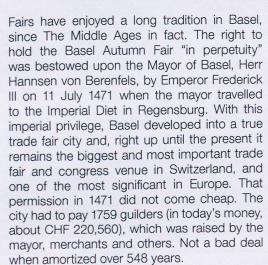
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# **Basel Autumn Fair**







Today the Basel Autumn Fair, or "d'Mäss" as it is known in Swiss German, is Switzerland's biggest and oldest funfair and, with its long tradition and special customs, forms part of the city's living heritage. It is rung in at precisely 12 noon on the last Saturday of October by the bell of St. Martin's church and lasts 15 days. As a traditional inner-city fair that spreads itself through Barfüsserplatz, Petersplatz, Münsterplatz, Messeplatz, Rosental, Claraplatz and Kaserne and beyond reaching into the



surrounding region, where France, Germany and Switzerland all meet attracting around a million people to Basel each time. Games, rides, amusements and food stalls are all located side by side. In addition to the offerings in the exhibition halls.

As previously stated The Basel Fair offers many different forms of entertainment including a Medieval playground (swords and shields provided) which allows kids to take flights of fancy while their parents go gift-shopping. A children's theatre run by the Anthroposophical Society provides messages with a meaning.

The atmosphere in the City Lounge, which forms part of the hall complex designed by Basel architects Herzog & de Meuron, is unmatched anywhere in the world. Its location in central Basel and its perfect public transport links make Basel's trade fair ground into a popular meeting point for young and old alike, and not just during the Autumn Fair but throughout the year as a whole. Ultimately, it is thanks to the good and successful working relationship enjoyed with the public authorities that major events attracting several hundred thousand visitors can be held on Exhibition Square every year.

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