

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1981)

Heft: 1780

Rubrik: Swiss Holiday Scene

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: 18.04.2026

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

Swiss Holiday Scene



Four-in-line . . . the impressive spectacle of the quadriga race

When the horse reigns . .

ON the high plains of the Franches-Montagnes, in the new Swiss canton of the Jura, the horse has long been honoured. Among the high pines which separate the pastures situated at some thousand metres above sea-level, breeding horses is one of the great activities of the region. The breed called Franches-Montagnes produces a robust, light draught-horse of about 15 hands which adapts easily to all climates.

Every year on the second weekend of August, Saignelégier, the major town of this district full of traditions, is the centre of a great popular event — the “Marché-Concours national de chevaux”.

The programme begins on the Saturday with the presentation of 400 horses to be judged and classified by a highly competent jury. In the afternoon there is a parade of the highest rated horses as well as a number of

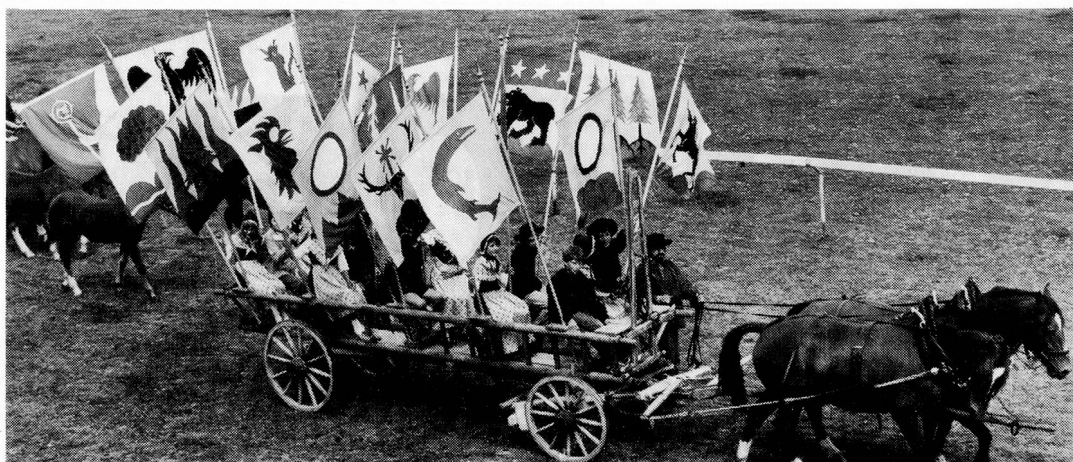
other attractions, such as a rural quadrille presented by four master drivers and eight girls riding native horses without saddle and stirrups, and several trotting and hurdle races.

On the Sunday, after another showing of the rural quadrille which is always greatly

applauded, there are diverse presentations of the breeders' syndicates. In the afternoon a traditional pageant, racing with native horses and carriage-races, notably those of the quadrigas, brings the day to a colourful and fascinating end.

From all over Switzerland as

well as neighbouring countries, Saignelégier welcomes on these days a crowd of between 25,000 and 30,000 people. In this region of the Jura with its rough climate, the panorama opens into France, but hospitality makes no distinction between visitors from all horizons.



The communal flags are proudly displayed

Air-rail link is augmented

THE 1981 "Fête des Vendanges" of Neuchâtel will take place on September 26 and 27.

The weekend's events include a children's procession in costumes, a parade of orchestras and bands at the Maladière stadium by the lake, and dancing in the streets and in front of the town hall. Orchestras and bands will play in the streets and restaurants stay open all night.

Further information from: Official Tourist Office, 1 Place Numa-Droz, 2001 Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

Congress Centre gets face-lift

ZURICH'S Congress Centre is to be extensively modernised. An upper storey is to be built on the Garden Hall for use as a congress foyer able to accommodate 650 people, and the main congress hall, the congress and concert foyer, chamber music room etc. will be thoroughly renovated.

The Congress Centre will continue to operate almost as normal during the three and a half year period needed to carry out the renovation work.

Special package at Silvaplana

SPECIAL packages are on offer that include six days at Silvaplana in the Upper Engadine and one day at the Hilton International Hotel in Zurich, with prices starting from Sfr. 310.-- including breakfast.

Silvaplana is known for its wind-surfing and sailing on Lake Silvaplana. Summer ski-ing is

IN order to meet peak demand around midday, Swissair has introduced a train between Basle main station and Zurich airport to supplement the existing midday flights. This TEE train unit, chartered from Swiss Federal Railways, provides 168 first class seats. Up to September 26 the train runs once daily in each direction Monday to Friday, and every day from September 27 until the end of March 1982. Journey time is a little over one hour.

The train operates under Swissair flight numbers, and normal airline reservations and ticketing procedures apply. Only air tickets are accepted for travel on the train, either for local trans-

port between Basle and Zurich airport or for air travel via Zurich.

A Swissair hostess is on board each train to collect flight coupons and provide information. Passengers continuing beyond Zurich by air check in for their connecting flights at Zurich airport.

Customs and immigration formalities take place at Zurich. Therefore, passengers with Basle as final destination can register baggage only as far as Zurich.

For Basle passengers transiting Zurich the normal and special through air fares from and to Basle apply. Local travel on these trains between Basle and Zurich airport costs Sfr40. single, Sfr80. return.

also possible on the nearby Corvatsch Glacier.

Further information from: Official Tourist Office, 7513 Silvaplana, Switzerland.

Film comedy festival

THE first International Festival of Film Comedies will be held in Vevey from August 17 to 22. The programme includes some of the best brand of short silent features of Charlie Chaplin, who moved to the Vevey area and lived there until his death.

Further information from:

Official Tourist Office, Place de la Gare 5, 1800 Vevey, Switzerland.

Horse riding in the Haslital

PACKAGES for both horse riding and trekking weeks are available in the Meiringen-Hasliberg area.

Riding packages include hire of horse, instruction, and demipension in the Hotel Sherpa, Meiringen, and are available for either one or half a week, starting from Sfr. 280.--.

Horseback Trekking weeks cost Sfr. 650.-- and are held until

October 4.

Further information from: Reitzentrum Haslital, Reisebuero CIS, 3860 Meiringen, Switzerland.

Motoring in Switzerland

THE wearing of seat belts for motorists and the wearing of crash helmets for motorcyclists are compulsory in Switzerland.

Further details on Swiss traffic regulations are available from the Swiss National Tourist Office in London.

Music festival at Ascona

FROM August 26 to October 15 the 36th International Music Festival will be held in the Church du Collegio Papiro, Ascona, and the Church de San Francesco, Locarno.

Details are available from: Official Tourist Office, 6612 Ascona, Switzerland.

City stopover packages

SWISSAIR is offering special "A Date with Switzerland" stopover packages in Zurich, Geneva and Basle from as little as Sfr. 32.--, including overnight stay, 24 hours public transportation, free admission to various establishments and a lot more.

Arrangements can also be made in conjunction with a rental car or Swiss Holiday Card, and bookings can be made through Swissair or travel agents.

Events of the month

Aug 1	Brunnen	Floodlighting of Axenstrasse	Aug 16	Grindelwald	Männlichen: Costume festival
Aug 1	Einsiedeln	Willerzell: 12th lake night festival	Aug 16	Lauterbrunnen	Grütsch fête
Aug 1	Leukerbad	Floodlighting of Gemmi wall	Aug 16	Lötschental	Wiler: Procession and parade of «God's Grenadiers»
Aug 1	Neuhausen	Floodlighting of Rhine Falls	Aug 16	Rigi	Kaltbad: Lorenz festival, ascent of cattle to the high pastures, herdsman's games
Aug 1	Walenstadt	Firework display on the Zustoll peak	Aug 16	Zermatt	Costume rally and parade
Aug 1/2	Gryon- Barboleusaz	Taveyannaz: «Mi-été», midsummer festival	Aug 22	Arosa	10th Arosa country music rally
Aug 2	Kandersteg	Gastern religious service	Aug 23	Samedan	«Charreda de Samedan», horsedrawn vehicle trip
Aug 5	Bettmeralp, Meglisalp, Rigi, Zermatt	«Maria zum Schnee», chapel festivals	Aug 24	Val d'Anniviers	Blessing on the Alm
Aug 7	Vercorin	Alphorn blowers' concert	Aug 28	Solothurn	500th Anniversary of Canton Solothurn: Solothurn Day
Aug 7-10	Geneva	«Fêtes de Genève»	Aug 28/29	St. Gall	«Sanggaller Fäscht» (festival)
Aug 8	Champex-Lac	Rose festival	Aug 28-30	Basel	«Fähri-Fescht» (festival)
Aug 8/9	St. Moritz	«Dumengia bella», woodland festival	Aug 28-30	Moutier	6th «Braderie», popular festival
Aug 8/9, 14-16	Schaffhausen	Rhine Festivals and pontoneers' contests	Aug 28-30	Schwyz	«Schwyzer Gmeindsfäscht», festival for homesick Schwyzer
Aug 9	Kandersteg/ Leukerbad	Gemmi: Shepherds' festival	Aug 29/30	Montreux	«Bénichon», ancient custom
Aug 14	Vercorin	Accordion concert	Aug 30	Lötschental	Blatten: Procession and parade of «God's Grenadiers»
Aug 14/15	Evolène	Midsummer festival			