

A STAY IN A SWISS PALACE INDULGE YOUR INNER 'ROYAL'

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When you enter the Beau-Rivage Palace Hotel in Lausanne, Switzerland you know you have entered an enchanted place. You could have stepped into a time capsule, whisked back to the 1800s when the palace was built. But no, you're here in the present and sense, this is going to be something special.

It is as if you can breathe in the luxury from the very first moment, the hushed quiet of reception, then the respectful, 'Bonjour Madame.' You take in the giant floral arrangement and the chandeliers that sparkle from the high ceilings as you walk down the hall, savoring the pleasure of being in a real palace.



You have booked yourself into this palace for five nights and six days, to experience its luxury, its restaurants and spa and to explore the riches of the surrounding area. There are nearby towns to explore, vineyards, castles and gardens to discover and local cuisine to taste and enjoy, including, of course, delectable Swiss chocolate.

You settle into your luxurious room, opening the French doors to your balcony, which looks out over the manicured gardens to the glimmering waters of Lake Geneva. Sailboats drift past and a steamer ferries visitors across the lake to Montreux and other interesting towns. You breathe in the fresh, clean air and soak in the joy of being in what feels like the magical kingdom of Switzerland.

Donning your plush terry cloth robe, you walk downstairs to the palace's Cinq Mondes Spa to float in the pool, visit the sauna and steam room and then savor a relaxing massage. Later, refreshed from your travels, you and your partner enjoy a romantic dinner at the hotel's two-star Michelin restaurant, Anne-Sophie Pic. To celebrate, you choose a bottle of wine from the 75,000 bottles in the cellar of the hotel, another reminder of the wonders of staying in a palace.



View from the balcony in Beau-Rivage Palace Hotel
Opposite: Front of Beau-Rivage Palace Hotel



Day 2:

The next morning, after a free, private walking tour of Lausanne, including a visit to the majestic Gothic Art Cathedral in the Old-Town, you walk to the train station for the quick (14 minute) train trip to the town of Morges. In Morges, a short walk from the train station takes you to Independence Park, where, in the spring, The Tulip Festival displays 140,000 tulips of all colors, red, purple, yellow, pink, and orange. As you stroll among the creative displays of tulips, the clear blue waters of Lake Geneva sparkle in the morning sun.

Known for 'slow tourism,' Morges offers a variety of ways to slow down and savor the moment. Stop for lunch at one of the many sidewalk cafes, then, staying with the 'royal' theme of this trip of castles and lavish gardens, take a taxi to nearby Vullierens Castle.

Wander through the castle's expansive gardens, which display over 110,000 flowers, from more than 400 different varieties, featuring Irises and daylilies. As you admire the gardens, take in the more than 90 modern art sculptures that are sprinkled throughout.

Do not miss the giant (3.50m in diameter) kinetic, metallic, chimingsculpture, the Big Bang, by Etienne Krähenbühl, which pulsates and chimes eachday at 2:30 pm. After a coffee or snack in the castle, head back to the train station and the short trip back to Lausanne.

Back at the Beau-Rivage Palace, relax in your room, then stroll downstairs to the Miyako Japanese restaurant. You will feel like you have been magically transported to Japan, as you enjoy light and fresh sushi and sashimi and other Japanese specialties.

Day 3:

Ferry trip to Montreux, another Castle and then Wines of the region. After breakfast in the Beau-Rivage, hop on the morning ferry for the beautiful trip across Lake Geneva to Montreux. Walk along the shaded promenade of Mon-



Tulip Festival in Independence Park, Morges!
Opposite: floral arrangement in the Beau-Rivage Palace Hotel

treux, taking your time to appreciate the Belle Époque buildings, abundant flowers, and sculptures.

Visit the nearby famous Chateau de Chillon, a medieval castle treasure. Admire the furniture, weapons and armor on display, the 14th century murals in its chapel and the elegant formal halls and ramparts. After a leisurely lunch along the lake in Montreux, you will be taking the train back to Lausanne, stopping in the nearby town of Vevey. There, you will enjoy the Unesco World Heritage Lavaux vineyards, which cover 2,050 acres between Montreux and Vevey.

You can walk along trails to the vineyards or hop on a tourism train. Soak in the fresh air and the dramatic views of Lake Geneva as you sip the dry, aromatic Chasselas wines of the region. Then back on the train to Lausanne to enjoy dinner in one of the many cafes along the lakefront.

Day 4:

More Royal experiences, Castles, and Wine. Take the 40-minute train journey to Nyon, then head over to the nearby Castle of Prangins, a five-minute taxi ride.

The castle holds the distinction of being the



Ferry to Montreux
Right: Modern art in the gardens of Vullierens Castle
Left: A diningroom in the Castle of Prangins





largest 18th century castle that is open to the public in the country. Once there, stroll through the 5,500 square meters of gardens, featuring 200 species and varieties of plants, fruits, and vegetables, all grown organically and replicating the region's 18th century gardens.

After your tour, sip a glass of local wine on the terrace of the castle's restaurant as you enjoy lunch, overlooking the extensive grounds. Feel the royal sense of savoring such beauty, all there for your pleasure.

Back in the town of Nyon, travel back further in time, to the days of Julius Caesar, who founded Noviodunum, the Roman name for Nyon, 2,000 years ago.

Explore Nyon's Roman roots with a visit to the excellent Roman Museum and view Roman ruins as you discover the town.

Complete your day at the Castle of Nyon. The Romanesque fortress dates to the 12th cen-

tury. After you tour the castle and its exhibition of local porcelain, stop into the wine cellar, where you can taste Chasselas, Gamay and Pinot Noir local wines. On certain days, the cellar offers a selection of local appetizers to enjoy with your wine.

Day 5:

This is your last full day in the Beau-Rivage Palace and in Lausanne, so take the time to slow down and savor it.

Lausanne holds the title of "The Olympic Capital" and right next door to the hotel, the Olympic Museum offers fascinating exhibits on three floors. Showcasing over 1500 objects, including Olympic torches, medals and equipment, the museum honors and captures the spirit of the Olympic games.

Then for another step back in time, visit Blon-



del Chocolates, where they have been making delectable chocolates since 1850. Savor the aroma, taste, and decadence of the artisan chocolates from this famous company. They use sustainable practices in their creation, so buy some for gifts and to relish later.

For your last dinner at the hotel, watch the sunset as you dine on the terrace of the Café Beau-Rivage. Sample the varied dishes in this French brasserie, as you toast the amazing experiences you have had in your 'royal' holiday.

Day 6:

Depart after brunch in the hotel.

Settle back and relax during the scenic train ride to Geneva, where you connect to the next destination on your trip. Switzerland rests in the heart of Europe, so France, Italy, Germany—are all easy connections. You will continue your journey, rested and refreshed from your 'Royal' interlude.

IF YOU GO

To book your free walking tour of Lausanne: <https://internationalgreeter.org/destinations/lausanne>

Beau-Rivage Palace hotel information: <https://www.brp.ch/accueil/>

The Morges Region: <https://www.myswitzerland.com/en-us/destinations/morges-1/>

<https://www.morges-tourisme.ch/en/>

Vullierens Castle:

<https://chateauvullierens.ch/en/>

Montreux:

<https://www.myswitzerland.com/en-us/destinations/montreux-riviera/> <https://www.montreuxriviera.com/en/>

Lavaux Vineyards:

<https://www.myvaud.ch/en/Z14278/lavaux-unesco>

Nyon:

<https://www.myswitzerland.com/en-us/destinations/nyon/>

<https://www.lacote-tourisme.ch/en/P807/tourist-office-nyon> Some options to get to the Castle of Prangins from the Nyon train station: a 25-minute walk, or a 10-minute bus ride, (TPN bus No 805 or 811 from the railway station) or hop on a self-service bicycle, available in the station. And of course, there is always a taxi for the 5-minute ride. Take advantage of the RailAway CFF discount (20% off public transport and museum entry).

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Opposite: Wildflowers in the Nyon town walls
Above: Roman ruins in Nyon