

Montreux

Canton of Vaud · Switzerland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Montreux is a lakeside town on the eastern shore of Lake Geneva, at the foot of steep, green hills. The climate is mild, and palm trees grow along the promenade. The area is known as the Swiss Riviera.

The town is famous for its jazz festival and for its link with the band Queen. Most visitors stay one or two nights. The main sight, Chillon Castle, is a short trip along the lake.

When to visit

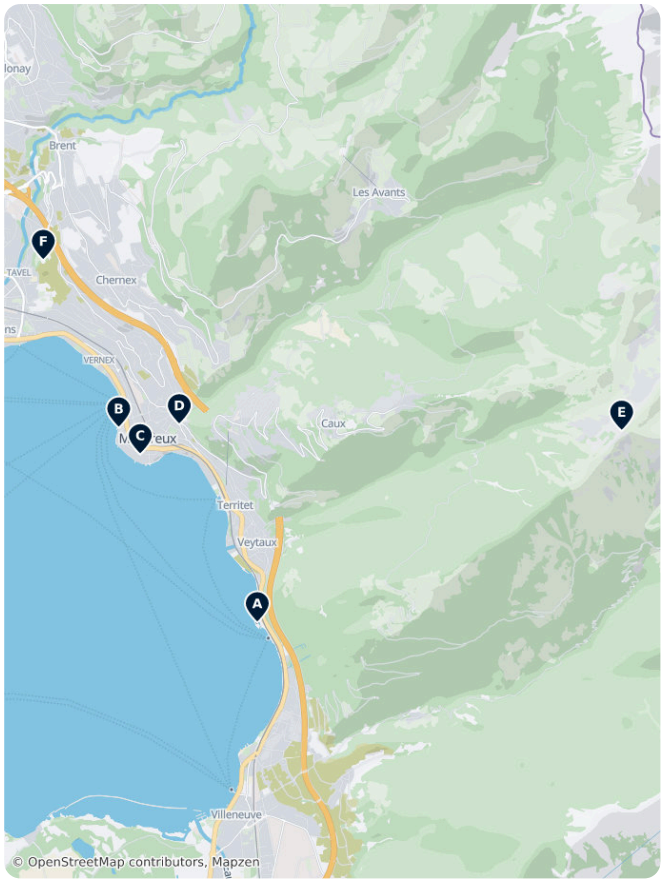
May to September is the best time for the lakeside, boat trips and mountain views. July is busy because of the Montreux Jazz Festival. The Christmas market in late November and December is popular. Winter is often grey and wet by the lake, with snow on the hills above. Rain is common in late spring.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for watersports	5° / 11° Feels like 2°	-2° / -9°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for watersports	7° / 14°	-2° / -8°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Fair Fair for hiking	10° / 18°	1° / -5°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for hiking	14° / 22°	5° / 0°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 26°	9° / 4°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 30°	13° / 9°	19 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 31°	15° / 11°	18 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 31°	15° / 11°	17 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 26°	12° / 6°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for hiking	17° / 23°	8° / 3°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Poor Poor for hiking	10° / 18°	2° / -6°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for watersports	6° / 11°	-1° / -9°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Chillon Castle is a medieval castle on a rock at the edge of the lake, about 3 km from the centre. It is one of the most visited historic sites in Switzerland.
- B Freddie Mercury is the bronze statue of the Queen singer on the lakeside promenade.
- C Queen - The Studio Experience is an exhibition in the casino building about the band's recording sessions in Montreux.
- D Vieille Ville de Montreux is the older part of town on the hill, with narrow lanes and views of the lake.
- E Rochers de Naye is a peak above the town, reached by cogwheel train. The top has wide views of the lake and the Alps.
- F Château du Châtelard is a small castle in the hills north-west of the centre.



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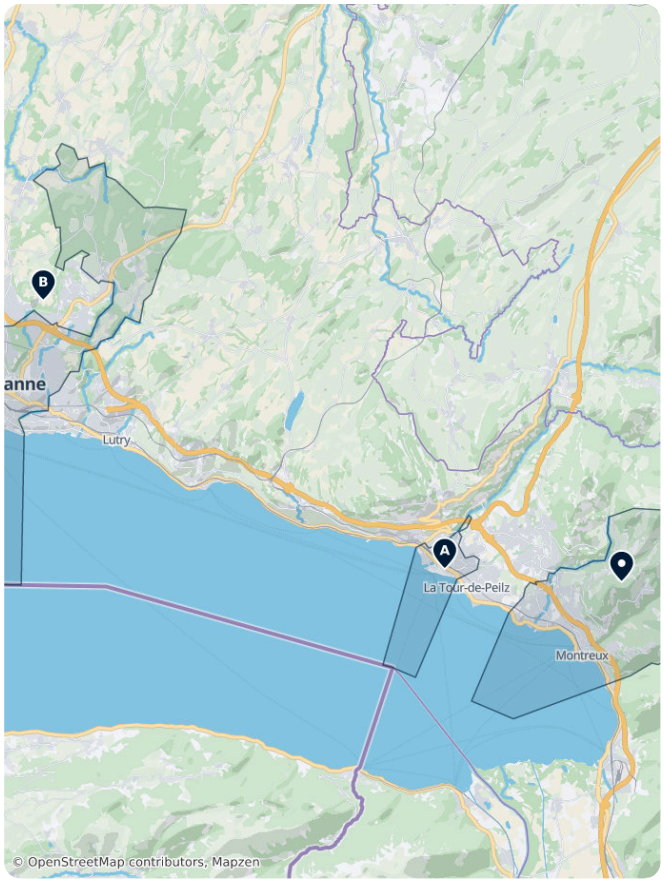
What to experience

- Walk the lakeside promenade from Montreux to Chillon Castle. The path takes about 45 minutes.
- Take the cogwheel train up to Rochers de Naye for the view.
- Visit the Christmas market by the lake in winter.
- Hear a concert during the Montreux Jazz Festival in July.
- Take a lake cruise to Chillon or across the lake to France.
- See the marmots at Marmottes Paradis near the top of the cogwheel line.

Day trips

- A Vevey is a lake town with a market and a statue of *Charlie Chaplin*. It is about 10 minutes away by train.
- B Lausanne is the largest city on the lake, about 30 minutes away by train.
- The Lavaux vineyards, a UNESCO World Heritage site, lie between Vevey and Lausanne.
- The Golden Pass panoramic train runs from Montreux up to the Alps.



Where to explore

- Vevey and Lausanne are the nearest larger towns on the lake.

Getting there

- By air: Geneva Airport is the main gateway. Direct trains reach Montreux in about 1 hour 15 minutes.
- By train: Montreux has direct trains from Geneva, Lausanne and Bern, and further trains toward the Valais. Check times on SBB.
- By boat: lake boats run from Lausanne, Vevey and Chillon in the warm months.

Getting around

- The promenade and the centre are easy to walk.
- Buses and trolleybuses go to Chillon Castle and the villages above town. Buy tickets before you board.
- Local trains link Montreux with Vevey and with Veytaux-Chillon, the station next to the castle.
- Boats connect Montreux with Chillon and other lake towns.
- Hotel guests in the region usually receive a free local transport card. Ask at check-in.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The lakefront promenade is flat. The town climbs steeply up the hillside.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

The lakeside path is flat, but the town and the hills behind it are steep.

Driving

- A car is not needed in Montreux. Trains, boats and buses reach most places.
- Parking in the centre is limited and costly.
- Traffic can be heavy on the lakeside road in summer.

Food & drink

Try cheese fondue or raclette. Perch fillets from the lake are a local dish. White wine from the nearby Lavaux and Chablais vineyards goes well with both. Chocolate and cheese from the region are good to bring home.

Restaurants along the lake are costly. A picnic by the water is a cheaper choice.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Birchermüesli
A raw-oat, fruit, and yogurt breakfast invented by a Zurich doctor around 1900, now standard on breakfast buffets.

LUNCH

Rösti
A fried, shredded-potato cake, originally a Bernese farmer's breakfast, now a national side dish.

DINNER

Cheese Fondue · Fondue
Melted Gruyère and Vacherin cheese in a shared pot, eaten by dipping bread cubes on long forks.

Raclette
Cheese melted tableside or under a grill and scraped over boiled potatoes, pickles, and onions.

Zürcher Geschnetzeltes
Sliced veal and mushrooms in a creamy white-wine sauce, traditionally served with rösti.

Älplermagronen
Alpine herder's macaroni gratin with potatoes, cheese, and cream, often topped with fried onions and served with apple sauce.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Cervelat
Switzerland's best-known sausage, usually grilled and often called the country's unofficial national dish.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Swiss Chocolate · Schweizer Schokolade
Switzerland pioneered milk chocolate in the 19th century; look for small-batch chocolatiers alongside the big national brands.

Basler Läckerli
A dense, spiced honey-and-candied-fruit biscuit from Basel, traditional around Christmas.

DRINKS

Swiss Wine · Vin Suisse
Mostly consumed domestically rather than exported; Valais and Vaud, along Lake Geneva, produce the best-known Chasselas whites.

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Safety & health

- Montreux is very safe.
- Watch your bags on busy promenades and boats.
- Tap water is safe to drink.
- Streets in the old town are steep and can be slippery in wet weather.

History

Montreux grew from three small villages on the lake. In the 19th century writers such as *Lord Byron* made the lake and Chillon Castle famous. Grand hotels were built when visitors arrived by rail.

The jazz festival started in 1967. In the 1970s and 1980s the band Queen recorded here, and *Freddie Mercury* lived nearby. The statue on the promenade remembers him.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Switzerland at a glance:

CURRENCY
CHF CHF

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



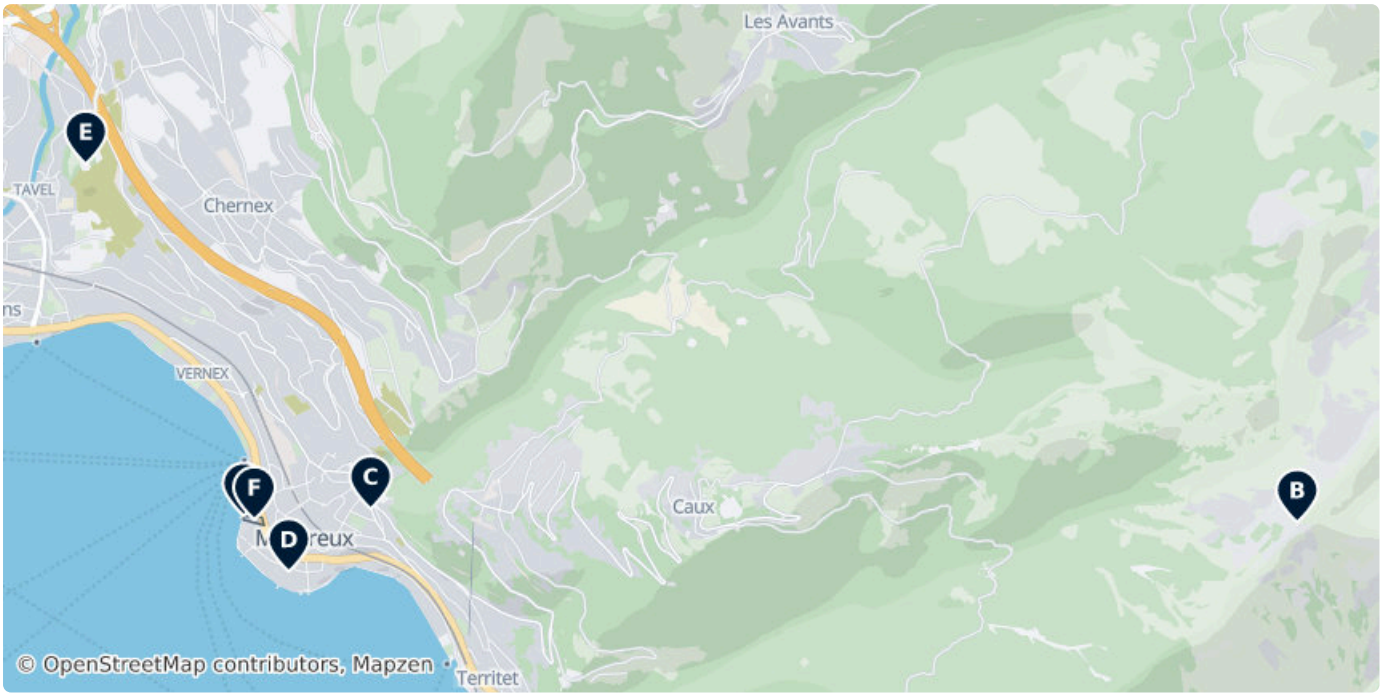
Type C / Type J
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German, French, Italian, Romansh

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Montreux Must-Sees

Montreux, situated on the shores of Lake Geneva, combines musical heritage with Alpine scenery. The town houses the Queen Studio Experience, where the band recorded several albums, and a bronze statue of Freddie Mercury overlooking the water. Historic sites include the 15th-century Château du Châtelard and the steep, cobblestone streets of the Old Town. For panoramic views of the Swiss and French Alps, a cog railway ascends to the 2,042-meter summit of Rochers-de-Naye.





A Freddie Mercury Statue

Take a pic with a statue of the famous singer which was unveiled on the shore of Lake Geneva in 1996. He wrote several songs in Montreux.

Place du Marché, 1820 Montreux, Switzerland (46.43212, 6.90917)

freddie-tours.com/statue/



B Rochers-de-Naye

The Rochers de Naye is a mountain of the Swiss Alps, overlooking Lake Geneva near Montreux and Villeneuve, in the canton of Vaud.

1824, Switzerland (46.43182, 6.97605)



C Montreux Old Town

Historic district featuring narrow cobblestone alleys and 16th-century buildings set on the slopes above the lake.

9 Avenue du Midi, Montreux 1820, Switzerland (46.43242, 6.91723)



E Châtelard Castle, Vaud

Châtelard Castle is a castle in the municipality of Montreux of the Canton of Vaud in Switzerland.

1 Chemin de Planchamp-Dessous, Montreux 1815, Switzerland (46.44749, 6.89915)

D Queen - The Studio Experience

Located in the former Mountain Studios inside the Montreux Casino, this museum documents the years Queen spent recording here between 1978 and 1995. It features original instruments and handwritten lyrics.

9 Rue du Théâtre, Montreux 1820, Switzerland (46.42967, 6.91203)

mercuryphoenixtrust.com/studioexperience/

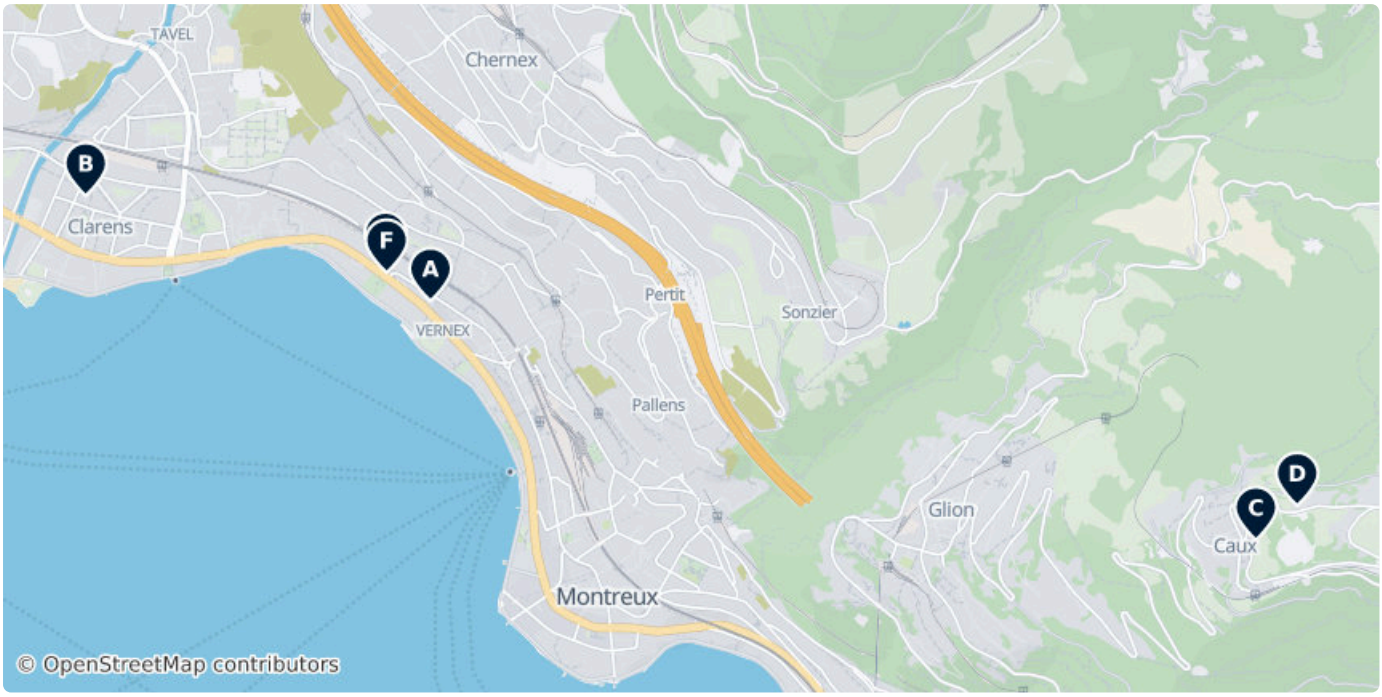
F Place du Marché

The town's central lakeside square, dominated by the historic Marché Couvert, a covered market hall built between 1891 and 1892.

8 Place du Marché, Montreux 1820, Switzerland (46.43194, 6.90985)

Montreux Religious Sites

Montreux's religious landscape features a variety of Christian denominations reflected in its architecture. This collection includes the German Evangelical Reformed Church and the Catholic Ste-Thérèse in Clarens, alongside smaller chapels in the heights of Glion. These sites serve the local Protestant, Catholic, and New Apostolic communities, offering insights into the spiritual heritage and social fabric of the Swiss Riviera.



A Evangelisch Reformierte Kirche

German-speaking Evangelical Reformed church located in the Clarens district.

(46.43912, 6.90606)

kirchemontreux.ch, +41 21 331 58 76

B Ste-Thérèse

Catholic parish church serving the Clarens community.

(46.44198, 6.89249)

C Chapelle catholique

Catholic place of worship situated in the heights of Glion.

127 Route de Caux, Caux 1824, Switzerland (46.43265, 6.93854)

D Chapelle protestante

Protestant chapel located in the Glion area.

7 Chemin de l'Impératrice, Caux 1824, Switzerland (46.43358, 6.94017)

E Église Néo-Apostolique

Place of worship for the New Apostolic Church congregation.

(46.44010, 6.90429)

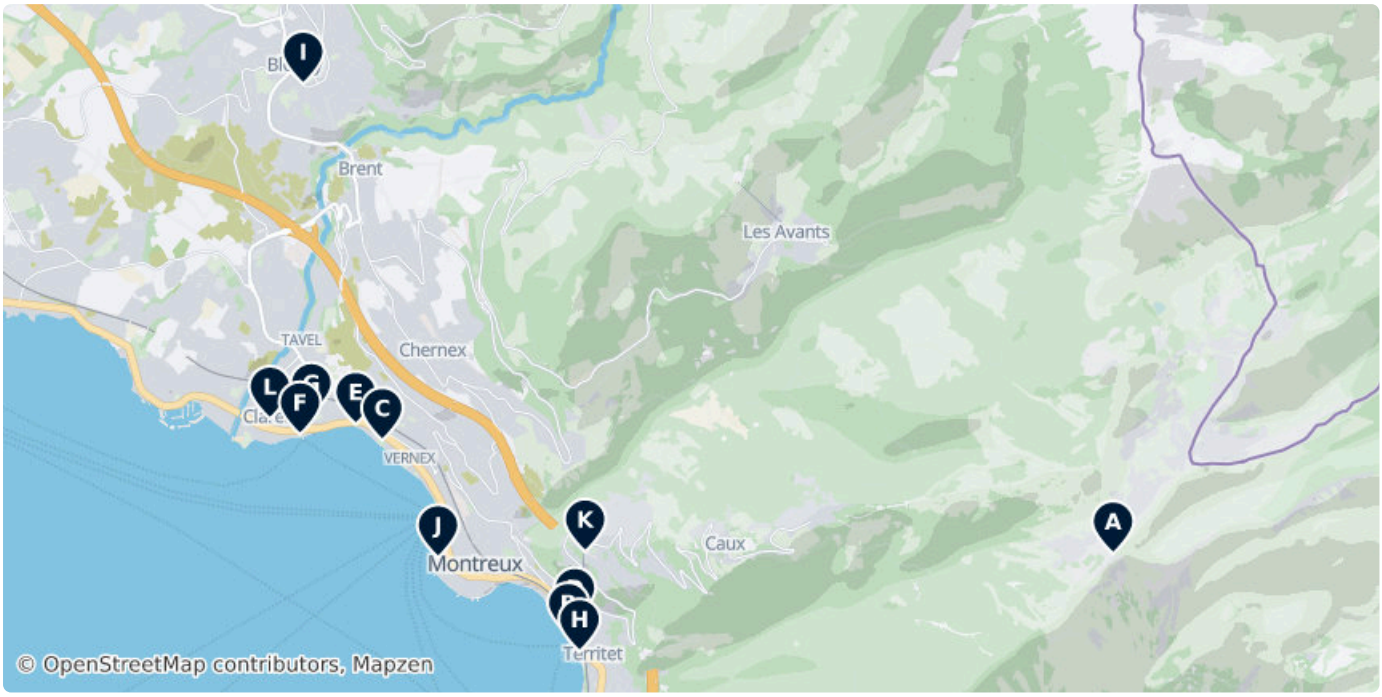
F Eglise Néo-Apostolique

Place of worship for the New Apostolic Church congregation.

(46.43989, 6.90433)

Montreux Parks and Nature

Montreux's landscape ranges from the floral lakeside promenade to the 2,042-meter summit of Rochers-de-Naye. This collection features manicured rose gardens and parks dedicated to historical figures like Marshal Mannerheim and poet Jean-Villard Gilles. Many of these green spaces, such as Parc de Verte-Rive, are situated along the waterfront, offering views of the Savoy Alps and access to local eateries with outdoor terraces near the Territet and Clarens districts.





A Rochers-de-Naye

The Rochers de Naye is a mountain of the Swiss Alps, overlooking Lake Geneva near Montreux and Villeneuve, in the canton of Vaud.

1824, Switzerland (46.43182, 6.97605)

B Parc Mannerheim

Memorial park dedicated to Finnish Marshal Carl Gustaf Emil Mannerheim, who resided in Montreux for health reasons during the late 1940s.

3 Rue de Bon-Port, Montreux 1820, Switzerland (46.42628, 6.92223)

villesfleuries.ch/liste-des-villes/montreux/parcs/parc-man...

C Parc de Vernex

Lakeside lawn located adjacent to the Montreux Music & Convention Centre, frequently used as a central venue during the Montreux Jazz Festival.

(46.43954, 6.90386)

D Parc des Roses

Small botanical garden in the Territet area featuring various rose species and views of Lake Geneva.

(46.42730, 6.92289)

E Parc Jean-Villard Gilles

Waterfront park featuring a monument to the Swiss singer and poet Jean-Villard Gilles, located along the lakeside promenade.

(46.44064, 6.90123)

F Parc de Verte-Rive

Public park in Clarens located on the grounds of a historic villa where composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky once stayed.

(46.43994, 6.89572)

G Parc du Vieux-Clarens

Neighborhood green space situated in the historic center of the Clarens district.

(46.44124, 6.89684)

H Café Restaurant Tennis Club

Dining venue located at the Territet Tennis Club, one of Switzerland's oldest tennis facilities, established in 1896.

(46.42518, 6.92334)

I Au Brignol

Bakery and café specializing in artisanal breads and regional pastries, located in the hills above the city center.

(46.46378, 6.89605)

Tu–Su	06:00–18:30

boulangerie-patisserie-pasini.ch, +41 21 943 11 50

J Pizzeria Molino Montreux

Italian restaurant on the main thoroughfare featuring a large lakeside terrace and wood-fired pizzas.

(46.43158, 6.90937)

molino.ch/fr/nos-restaurants/montreux.html

K Buffet de la Gare

Traditional restaurant located at the Glion-Territet funicular station, offering views of the lake from its outdoor seating area.

(46.43197, 6.92389)

L L'Harmonie

Local brasserie in the Clarens district known for traditional Swiss cuisine and a shaded outdoor terrace.

6 Avenue des Pléiades, Montreux 1815, Switzerland
(46.44100, 6.89275)

Mo–Sa	06:30–19:00, 07:30–17:00
Su	Closed

+41 21 964 56 85

DATA SOURCES

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