

Summer 2019



# Press pack



**châtel**  
Portes du Soleil

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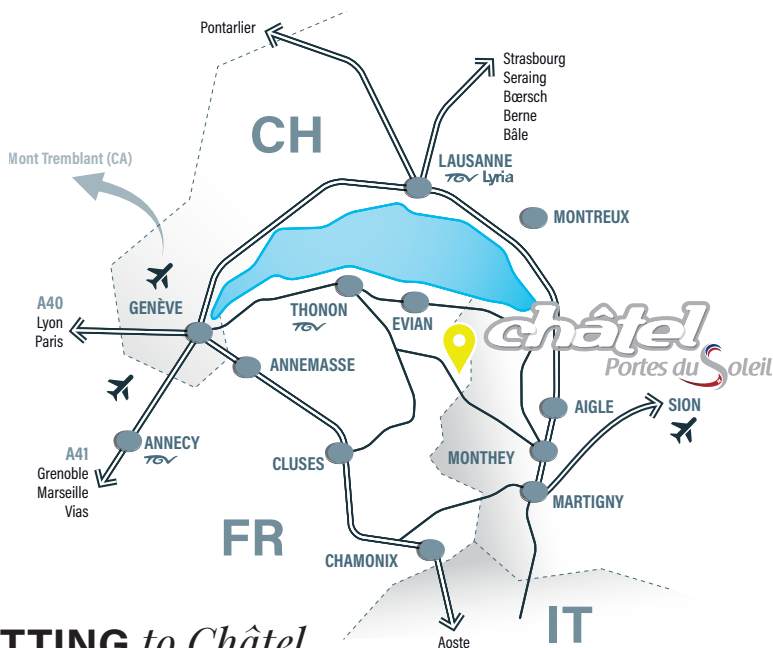
## Châtel tourisme

### Opening hours

- › **Mid-December to April:** open daily 8.30am to 7pm.
- › **May and June and September to Mid-December:** Monday to Friday 9am-12pm and 2pm-6pm. Saturday 9am-12pm and 2pm-5pm. Closed on Sundays and public holidays.
- › **July and August:** open daily 9am to 7pm.

### Contact

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## GETTING to Châtel

Located in the heart of the Portes du Soleil between Lake Geneva and Mont-Blanc, Châtel is just 20 minutes from the Swiss motorways, 30 minutes from Aigle railway station, 1.40 hours from Geneva Cointrin international airport and 45 minutes from Thonon-Bains railway station.

### GPS coordinates

Latitude: 46.269966  
Longitude: 06.840753

### By road

From France: follow signs for Geneva, exit the autoroute at Annemasse, continue to Thonon then follow signs for Vallée d'Abondance/Châtel.

From Switzerland: follow signs for Monthey - Grand Saint Bernard, exit the autoroute at Monthey (Portes du Soleil exit) then follow signs for Morgins.

Car sharing: the Haute-Savoie Council has set up a website that enables people travelling to Châtel to find a car-sharing partner just a few clicks!

› [www.covoiturage.cg74.fr](http://www.covoiturage.cg74.fr)

### By rail

From France: Thonon railway station is the closest to the resort, with connecting taxi and bus services.

From Switzerland: there is a daily rail service between Geneva airport and Aigle. Transfers between the station and resort are by taxi.

› [www.oui.sncf](http://www.oui.sncf)  
[www.cff.ch](http://www.cff.ch)

### By air

Geneva Cointrin international airport is only 1.40 hours from Châtel. Travel to Châtel is by train to Aigle or Thonon then by bus or taxi.

# Summertime...

Summer is here and Mother Nature has returned in all her glory revealing the vast diversity of beautiful landscapes and spectacular panoramic views.



Châtel is a traditional mountain village that has embraced its evolution as a resort, welcoming the daily quota of tourists and willingly sharing its mountain summits, farms, chalets, alpine pastures, footpaths, herds of Abondance cattle, sheep, forests, hamlets, streams and rivers with visitors.

There is something here for everyone. With numerous sporting events, offers and leisure activities available with the Portes du Soleil Multi Pass, pedestrian/MTB chair lifts open in summer and a diverse, fun-packed activity programme including shows, performances, visits and outings, the stage is set for a memorable summer holiday in the mountains with friends or family!

## AGRICULTURE

Although an established holiday resort, Châtel has retained its primary identity as an agricultural village, with 30 farms raising Abondance cattle, ten of which make Abondance (AOP) cheese every day of the year.

Farming is very much alive; the average age of today's farmers is between 35-40 years old. The rhythm of farming life follows the seasons. After over-wintering in the village, the farmers and their herds return to the mountains at the end of May or beginning of June (depending on how the snow melts). The cattle delight in the summer pastures bursting with fresh grass, spring flowers and in the delicious alpine air. Not surprisingly, the cheese produced in summer has a stronger flavour reflecting this rich diet of fresh grass, flowers and mountain herbs.

As summer progresses, the herds head even higher up the mountains to find good quality pasture. Then, in the autumn, with the arrival of the first snow, the cattle return to the village where they will remain safe and warm for the next five months.

During the summer certain farmers with properties on the hiking trails welcome walkers and offer traditional lunches and snacks. Visitors leave refreshed and revitalised, ready to continue their exploration of new landscapes, unspoilt countryside, villages and hamlets. It is also possible to have dinner in a mountain farm, returning (with a guide) after dark, beneath the velvety star-lit sky – an unforgettable experience.



## Portrait

### *Michel and Béatrice Cruz*

and their family have been farming for generations. They return their cattle to the summer pastures at Mouët, 1800m up the mountain on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June. Friends and neighbours come to help, or simply to enjoy this joyous celebration of summer. Cows are decorated and a party atmosphere fills the air. Throughout the summer, the family welcomes walkers and visitors to their mountain farm to enjoy delicious local dishes like Berthoud, a local Abondance Valley dish, made from the famous cheese of the same name – which is, of course, made on site!

And... in winter, from 15<sup>th</sup> December, intrepid snow-shoers are also welcome at the farm to try the local gastronomy. Well earned – after the effort of the climb!

# Rise *above it!*

Anything's possible: without chair lifts or with chair lifts - made even easier with the Portes du Soleil Multi Pass - with a mountain guide or by yourself!



## HIKING

With 90kms of marked hiking trails in Châtel, two nature reserves in the Abondance Valley (Mont de Grange and Cornettes de Bise - both 2,432m high) and around 850kms of trails in the entire Portes du Soleil, hikers are spoilt for choice!

Additionally, for those looking for shorter or specifically themed walks, the 'Discovery paths' are the perfect answer. There is the Morclan path (accessed by ski lift with the Multi Pass), the Water path (between Vonnes and Morgins lakes), the Bird path (at the Col de Bassachaux), the Dranse river path (for walkers or cyclists and suitable for pushchairs) and the audio walk 'In the footsteps of smugglers' (affiliated to the Old Customs House which follows the French/Swiss border).

And of course there is the UNESCO world Géopark; the Chablais Géopark, of which the Col de Bassachaux (Châtel), Les Cornettes de Bise (La Chapelle d'Abondance) and the Plagnes Lake (Abondance) in the Abondance Valley are part. 'Discovery Activities', for visitors to learn more about the area, are scheduled throughout the summer.



## *The Portes du Soleil* MULTI PASS

For 2 euros per person, per day of your stay - when staying with an affiliated host (from 8<sup>th</sup> June to 8<sup>th</sup> September), holiday-makers can enjoy unlimited access to over 30 activities throughout the 12 Franco-Swiss resorts in the Portes du Soleil.

There are pedestrian mountain lifts, swimming pools and lakes, tennis centres, ice rinks, mini-golfs, little tourist trains, inter-resort mini buses, cultural sites, hundreds of hiking trails and the permanent trail running tracks!

For other activities, present your Multi Pass to benefit from exclusive reductions from our partners.

In Châtel the activities included in the Multi Pass are; the 4 open mountain lifts, 3-hour access to the Forme d'O aquatic centre with various swimming pools, the tennis courts, mini-golf, little tourist train and the Columbus inter-resort minibus. Partner activities are: Châtel Adventures, Fantasticable, bob-luges, compact 6-hole golf, the Old Customs House and the cinemas.

## *Lionel Vuarand*

Native of the region, is a mountain guide in summer and ski instructor at the French Ski School in Châtel during the winter.

Hiking with Lionel, learning about the local flora and fauna, the local mountains and Abondance Valley summits, is an unforgettable foray into this unspoilt countryside.



Portrait



# Ancient heritage *to discover*

#CHÂTEL

## *Pays d'Art et d'Histoire* **CERTIFICATION**

The Abondance Valley has held the Pays d'Art et d'Histoire accreditation since 2003. The valley, in which agropastoralism plays an important role, includes six villages, three of which, including Châtel are holiday resorts.

This national accreditation is designed to promote and recognise the quality of the villages' architectural, religious and heritage sites and the diverse choice of guided activities and visits available.

## **LA VIEILLE** *Douane*

The mountain contraband information centre in Châtel is a Multi Pass partner and a favourite with visitors, taking them back to a time when black market trading was a thriving business, helping improve the harsh daily life of this frontier zone.

Chocolate, tobacco, matches, cigarette papers, pork and more... the procurement of these black-market products was extremely risky. The theme of this year's temporary exhibition is White Gold and Black Gold.

## **Don't miss!**

The Crépy saw mill, the Très-les-Pierres Chapel and numerous other religious sites and shrines which also form part of Châtel's history.

These, together with Eric DRESCO's fascinating book "Châtel, in the footsteps of the Pioneers" provide a raft of fascinating information for historians and culture vultures!

Rise above it! | Ancient heritage to discover



# Take the high roads *and the low roads of Châtel!*



## TRAIL *running*

Châtel has 4 circuits which link to the Portes du Soleil, making a total of 54 circuits. The circuits are located in 3 areas, including the Abondance Valley and cover a total of 400kms, with 5 different levels of difficulty.

The Portes du Soleil Multi Pass gives access to the starting points on any of the 21 "pedestrian" lifts open during the summer.

The "Trail Running Portes du Soleil" app. gives runners GPS access to routes, live web-cam weather updates and can transmit exact locations to rescue services if needed.

The Trail and running facilities in Châtel are located in the Tenne / Barbossine/Super-Châtel area where there are two marked circuits: the VITA circuit and the 10kms 'Trail' circuit with a positive height difference of 700m!

## MOUNTAIN *biking*

The top spot for biking connoisseurs is the bike-park at Pré-la-Joux, with 20 downhill tracks for all abilities and a variety of activity areas.

There are 6 shore zones, Kid's Shore and Drop Zone with a Live Park where riders can film and share their antics! Maintained by 9 bike patrolers, the bike park forms part of the Pass'Portes du Soleil MTB rally, during which MTB riders cross the park on a dedicated track.

### **Bike Park and Pierre Longue and Rochassons chair-lift opening:**

- › Weekends of the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> June and 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> June, then every day from 28<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> September depending on ground conditions.
- › Super-Châtel bubble and Morclan chair lift open every day from 29<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> September.



## MTB

**Lessons and guides are available for all levels and disciplines; beginner, advanced, enduro or downhill!** Four companies offer lessons and/or guided rides. There are also 6 MTB and electric MTB rental shops in the resort. There are 3 electrically assisted mountain bike routes and 4 altitude battery recharging points in Châtel.



## Rendezvous

### *The Pass'Portes du Soleil MTB*

The Mountain Bike season kicks off with the Pass'Portes du Soleil MTB rally and the MTB show in Châtel from the 28<sup>th</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> June.

This is followed by the Châtel Reboul Jam, organised in collaboration with our partner Team Scott. A Freestyle MTB event, it takes place at Pré-la-Joux below the Bike-Park from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July. Riding demonstrations from professional riders, concerts and entertainment are planned!



## ROAD CYCLING

**The first Châtel Chablais Léman Race will take place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July.**

This road cycle event will be sponsored by Greg LEMOND who has participated in 3 Tour de France and 2 World Championships. The route will cross the French and Swiss Chablais, the Abondance Valley, the Col du Corbier ascent and the towns of Evian, Aigle, Champéry... The total prize pot to be distributed among winners is €40,000 and includes 2 cars!

**There will be two circuits:**

**A long race of 151kms with a 2631m positive height difference.**

› Circuit: Châtel > Col du Corbier > Evian-les Bains > Aigle UCI-Champéry > Châtel.

› Open to both licenced and non-licenced riders over the age of 18 in 2019.

**A shorter race of 60kms with a 1693m positive height difference.**

› Circuit: Aigle UCI > Montée des Rives > Champéry > Châtel.

› Open to both licenced and non-licenced riders over the age of 16 in 2019.



This is an exceptional region for road bike races of this calibre and, more informally, for the many cyclists wishing to conquer a mountain pass. They can enjoy the incredible views, train on the vertiginous descents, draw breath on the flat and start all over again!

Top cycle teams appreciate the benefits too, coming to the area to train or relax before saddling up to compete in the world's top road cycling events.



**New this summer!**

Châtel now has the "Accueil velo"- "Cyclists Welcome" quality mark further demonstrating its commitment to developing two-wheel facilities in the resort.

Already renowned for its road-bike racing, Châtel organises the Montée de Bassachaux race, equipped with a TIMTOO timing system and is an experienced host of large local, regional, national and international events.

*Take the high roads and the low roads of Châtel!*

# A Paradise *for families*



## ACTIVITIES *for everyone*

Considered an aspect of great importance to the resort, Châtel has always focused strongly on providing a warm welcome with services and infrastructure adapted to the needs of families.

The Multi Pass is an ideal passport giving parents and children easy access to a wide choice of sport, leisure and cultural activities. In addition, the weekly activity and event programme is bursting with fun, interesting ideas...

**In fact, there are over sixty sport and leisure activities on offer each week!**

- › **Châtel Aventures**, at the top of the Super-Châtel bubble has 7 exciting tree-top circuits to explore,
- › **the Fantasticable** has two flight lines strung up to 240m high above Plaine Dranse thrilling visitors with speeds of between 80 and 100kms/h,
- › **the Forme d'O aquatic centre** with its indoor/outdoor swimming pool and well-being areas,
- › **fishing at Vonnes lake in the village and at the Mouille lake in Super-Châtel,**



- › **bobluge, devalkart and rollerbe** at Pré-la-Joux,
- › **mini-golf and compact 6-hole golf** for beginners,
- › **farm visits and local food tasting.**
- › **the activity Rivari trail** in Super-Châtel,
- › **the little tourist train** for visiting the local hamlets,
- › **age-specific workshops, children's shows...**
- › and more...

**Newly opened at Christmas 2018, is the exciting children's indoor play area: C L'Aventure Châtel.**

Located opposite Forme d'O, this fun-filled playground for children from 2yrs-12yrs, has ball ponds, slides, a small sledge run, trampolines, climbing nets...

There is a restaurant and reading area and for parents... they'll even organise your children's birthday parties! What more could you want?



### A FAMILY *treat*

For the third year running, a week-long festival specifically planned for children "Châtel returns to its childhood" will take place from the 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> August.



### Special holiday memories

- › **The Club des Petits Montagnards** provides daytime care for children of 4yrs to 14yrs during the school holidays
- › **The Garderie Les Lutins des Neiges** takes children from 2.5mths to 4yrs old throughout the year.





**Irresistible!**



## ACCOMMODATION + *Forme d'O* aquatic centre

**FITNESS OR RELAXATION?  
YOUR CHOICE!**

**7 NIGHTS' ACCOMMODATION IN  
AN APARTMENT AND 6-DAY FORME D'O  
ENTRANCE PASS**

**Relaxation option with "Liberte" entrance,  
giving unlimited access to:**

- > Swimming pools (indoor and outdoor pool)
- > Well-being area (Jacuzzi, saunas, steam rooms)
- > Cardio area (100m<sup>2</sup> gym area with cardio-fitness equipment)

**Fitness option with "All Inclusive" entrance,  
giving unlimited access to:**

- > all activities: Aquabike, Aquabalance, Aquapalmes, Aquabuilding, Aquafit, Aquaforme...
- > Swimming pools (indoor and outdoor pool)
- > Well-being area (Jacuzzi, saunas, steam rooms)
- > Cardio area (100m<sup>2</sup> gym area with cardio-fitness equipment)

Price: from **€122\*** per person

\*Indicative price only; per person/per week/ based on 4 people sharing a studio apartment rented from a private landlord.

INFORMATION AND BOOKING:

> **Châtel Réservation**  
Tel. +33 (0)4 50 73 30 22  
info@chatelreservation.com  
[www.chatelreservation.com](http://www.chatelreservation.com)

## *Escale* HOTEL

**AT THE TOP OF THE SUPER CHÂTEL  
BUBBLE (1,650M ALTITUDE), THE  
ESCALE HOTEL OFFERS AN OVERNIGHT  
WALKERS' REFUGE PACKAGE DURING  
THE SUMMER.**

**It is ideally located near Châtel Aventures with its  
7 tree-top circuits suspended through the forest.**

There is easy access from the hotel to Switzerland, Morgins or Torgon. The Swiss border is only 50ms from the door!

There are **tracks down to Châtel village or up to the summit of Mouët!**

**The Morclan chair lift** to the top of Morclan (1,970m) leaves from just below the hotel giving speedy access to the summit in 20 minutes!

**An orientation table** at the top of the chair lift displays the vast array of surrounding French and Swiss mountains.

**Beautiful views** for those choosing these high altitudes!

Price **€49\*** half-board per day  
/per person

\*Based on 2 people sharing a room.

> Tel. +33 (0)4 50 73 64 38  
réservations@escalechatel.com  
[www.escalechatel.com](http://www.escalechatel.com)

A Paradise for families | Irresistible!



## Châtel VILLAGE

- > 1,282 permanent residents
- > 23,000 visitors beds
- > 21 hotels
  - (1 \*\*\*\* hotel NN, 7 \*\*\* hotels NN,
  - 9 \*\* hotels NN, 4 hotels)
- > 3 \*\*\*\*NN Holiday apartment complexes
- > 1 \*\*\*NN Holiday apartment complex
- > 1 Holiday apartment complex with hotel services
- > 11 Hotels for groups, holiday centres
- > 1 winter/summer camping and caravanning site \*\*\*\*
- > Other accommodation: 1 Gite \*\*\*, 1 other accommodation \*\*\*\*NN, 5 Bed and Breakfasts, 2 Youth Hostels
- > 60 restaurants (including hotel restaurants)
- > A wide variety of shops



*Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June*

### Return to the Mouët Summer pastures

A farming tradition still followed by numerous farmers in Châtel when cattle return to the summer pastures.

*Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June*

### Ecolovie Day

Clean-up of the ski pistes and Dranse river banks to clear the pastures for farmers and preserve the local environment.



*Friday 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> June*

### Pass'Portes du Soleil MTB rally and MTB exhibition in Châtel

This Franco-Swiss MTB event kick-starts the summer season in the Portes du Soleil welcoming over 7,500 participants during the 3 days. Local produce and refreshments are provided along the route. Come and enjoy the numerous activities, tastings, electric MTB promotions, the pedestrian Pass'Portes...

*Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July*

### National Holiday

Fireworks at Vonnes Lake followed by dancing in the Place de l'Eglise

### Châtel Chablais Léman Race

The first edition of this road cycle race sponsored by Greg LEMOND. The exceptional course passes through the French and Swiss Chablais via the Abondance Valley, the Col du Corbier mountain climb, Evian, Aigle, Champéry...

*Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July*

### Châtel Reboul Jam

THE MTB event of Châtel in collaboration with resort partner Scott: Freestyle Mountain Bike shows, concerts, BBQ, great atmosphere and fun...

*Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August*

### Sailing course

Sailing in the mountains - why not? Adults and children can learn or improve their sailing skills at the bucolic Vonnes Lake. Among the activities proposed are; a free introduction to sailing on Monday afternoon, family paddle boarding on Tuesday, with a tutored session from 6pm-7pm, after work paddle on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday (board rental available from 5.30pm to 7.30pm).





*Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August*

### Fête de la Saint-Laurent

Float parade through the village streets, music group performances and evening party in the Place de l'Eglise...



*Monday 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August*

### 'Châtel returns to Childhood' Festival

A week dedicated to families and children. A wide variety of games, workshops and shows are scheduled each day in the village centre...

*Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August*

### Vonnes Lake Fete

Mixed water activities are once again planned for this popular day of family fun. Fishing competition, water games, traditional wooden games...

*Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August*

### La Belle Dimanche Market

Local farmers and artisans showcase their work. A relaxed traditional local market accompanied by music in the Place de l'Eglise.



*Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August*

### La Belle Dimanche

The 43<sup>rd</sup> edition of this traditional herdsmen' fair at Plaine Dranse which dates from the time when a priest would be called to bless the cattle. There will be an outdoor Mass, animal show, prize giving, craft fair, cheese making, s'naillles fair, folk groups, traditional games... not forgetting delicious food and drink... A fun-filled day for what is considered to be one of the most popular traditional fairs in the region!

*Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>  
and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August*

### The Thomas Voeckler Cyclo by Matra

**4 routes - 2 types of bike for one competition.**

Both routes are suitable for both electric and muscle-powered bikes!

**24<sup>th</sup> August**

87km Ride: Morzine  
> Avoriaz/Champéry

**25<sup>th</sup> August**

116km Ride: Champéry/  
Morzine > Avoriaz

Riders will pass through Châtel in both races.

*Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August*

### 1861 Mountain Film Festival

The 1861 Châtel Hostel presents its third mountain sports film festival. The festival is predominately a showcase for local Portes du Soleil and Haute-Savoie athletes and producers, but will also feature films from further afield...

**Programme:**

From 7pm: stalls, barbecue and bar...

Around 8pm: open-air projection in the garden...

11pm: results and DJ to close the evening.



*Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>  
and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September*

### Historic Climb

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual classic sports car rally on the Col de Bassachaux road... The road will be closed for the procession of these historic vehicles.

The categories will be: vintage cars registered before the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1985, "Young Timer" cars from 1986, prestige cars, rare and collector cars and cars of historic interest.

A day guaranteed to bring back memories...!

# CHÂTEL

*L'intégrale des saisons*



## Service Presse Communication Châtel Tourisme

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