

Lavaux
Express



LUTRY • CULLY

MINI GUIDE

CULLY

Tour de Gourze



Tour de Marsens



Chemin du Dézaley

Dézaley

Commune de Puidoux

Epesses

Rieux

Cully

Welcome aboard the LAVAUX EXPRESS!

What a legacy to inherit! Dating back some nine centuries, the terraced vineyards of Lavaux well illustrate the will and determination of people in their constant search for the very best. For generations, many winegrower families have patiently built and maintained the ancient stone walls which still allow them to cultivate grapes in one of the most spectacular geographical sites of Europe. As a result, Lavaux has been part of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites since 2007.

Lake Geneva



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CULLY



“Place d’Armes”, is the starting point of our scenic loop

The **Cully** Bay formed by nature long ago is well known to all. Roman lakeside settlements and edifices have been discovered here. Known as “Cusliacum” in 967, the village later belonged to the kings of Burgundy, the Besançon chapter. Hands changed when the village was sold to the Bishop of Lausanne in 1246. The region was later conquered by the Bernese in 1536 who imposed the Reformation upon the Vaudois. Thus started the domination by Bern.

Thanks must be given to our local hero from Cully, **Major Davel**. He initiated the liberation of the canton with 600 soldiers in 1723. Unfortunately, he was considered a traitor at the time by the reigning government in Lausanne and was later beheaded for his act. However, Vaud was finally liberated from 250 years of Bernese rule in 1798. The obelisk Davel and the Tree of Liberty, a mighty and magnificent plane tree on the “Place d’Armes”, honour this episode in our history.

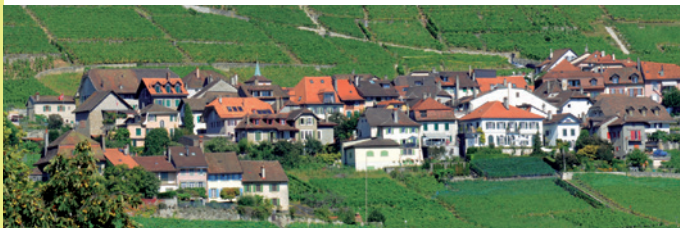
An internationally mixed population lives in the small town of Cully. Everyone enjoys living or at least spending some time here. The warm and welcoming community consists of winegrowers, artisans, and city dwellers, all deeply attached to the land or to this little corner of paradise. They invite you to linger a bit in the streets, stop in the shops, or just take a walk on the promenade with its breath-taking panorama.

On its climb towards the vineyards, the train passes through the railway tunnel giving way to **the Lavaux topography** formed during the last deglaciation (20,000-11,500 BC). The Rhone glacier carved and created a moraine of steep hills later covered only by vegetation. The steep slopes made the land unsuitable for agriculture. Thanks to Cistercian monks who in the 12th century cleared, planted and laboured these slopes, the wine saga began... They built stone walls forming successive terraces to support and level the terrain. As we chug along on the winding road of **the “Corniche”**, this gigantic mosaic and living landscape unfolds before you – unique in the world.

RIEX



The first village we cross is **Riex** where an impressive grapevine leaf stands proudly to greet you at the entrance. This small village has preserved its vintner character as well as its age old tightly packed homes. We are on **the appellations Epesses and Calamin**. Passing through the village, take note of the beautiful 19th century octagonal basin which is the pride of the village.



As we leave Riex, a spectacular and one of the most famous views in Switzerland meets the eye. Is there any need to comment on its beauty?

The neighbouring village is **Epesses** which has also retained its vintner character so typical of the area. Here too the age old homes are joined together tightly yielding to the importance of the vineyards and thereby leaving little space for the village itself.

EPESES



Slowly we begin our descent, the steep incline of the slopes give the impression that both heaven and earth meet here. **The Dézaley vineyards** surround us. Below we discover two very prestigious estates belonging to the city of Lausanne: the Clos des Moines and the Clos des Abbayes.

At the end of the path on the Dezaley way where, a break is an absolute must. Step down and admire and enjoy the stunning lake (lac Léman) below surrounded by the Swiss and French Alps. From this fabulous viewpoint the stretch of vineyards is very impressive.

The terrain of the vineyards with its steep slopes gives **the Lavaux wines** its very distinctive character, strong with a blend of aromas and tastes. It is said that in Lavaux, the grape has **three suns** to ripen and increase its sweetness: the one shining in the sky; the one reflected in the lake like a mirror and, during the evening, the one coming from the heat stored in the stone walls during the day.

The Chasselas is the typical local white grape variety in Lavaux (approximately 75% of the total production). It is appreciated for its fruity aroma and subtle nature. In this climate it thrives and has adapted well to the Vaudois terroir. It is the wine considered a must for every aperitif. Other local varieties such as the Pinot Gris, Chardonnay and Viognier are also produced and vinified in the area, but in lesser quantities.



Pinot Noir and Gamay are the main red grapes and make up 20% of the production, along with other varieties such as the Gamaret, Garanoir or the Merlot which are also used for blends.

The LAVAUX EXPRESS resumes its route back towards **the “Corniche”** and returns to Epesses. A magnificent square tower rises above the road, **the Tour Marsens**. One of the first stone towers built in the twelfth century in case of defense, for observation and for signaling in the area.

And now back to Cully. Take time to have a drink at one of the most beautifully located terraces along the lake or at the local “caveau des vigneron” just around the corner of the Place d’Armes.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR VISIT AND WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN ON OUR OTHER LOOP LEAVING FROM LUTRY!