

Lavaux  
Express



LUTRY • CULLY

# MINI GUIDE

# LUTRY

Tour de Gourze



Grandvaux



Aran

Les Echelettes



Lutry



Villette



## 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



[www.lavauxexpress.ch](http://www.lavauxexpress.ch)

[info@lavauxexpress.ch](mailto:info@lavauxexpress.ch)

Tél. 0848 848 791



## LUTRY



### Lutry Harbour, is the starting point of our scenic loop

The municipality of Lutry extends from the banks of Lake Geneva to the woods of the Jorat several kilometres above.

Already mentioned in Roman times by the name of "Lustriacum", Lutry has a rich historical past. It is characterized by its medieval buildings and defense structures. The town attracted national attention due to its encircling wall of fortified houses, **the tower, the castle and the church** with its Romanesque church porch and beautifully decorated vaults unique to Switzerland. In addition, a row of **23 standing stones or menhirs** dating back to Middle Neolithic (2500 BC, AD) were discovered in 1984.



As we leave behind the village with its picturesque streets and alleys, we come upon **the Berthold tower** and its vineyards. The tower was erected by the Bishop of Lausanne, and used from the 14th century as an outpost to defend the town. After the Bernese conquest in 1536, it lost its military function and was sold to the town of Payerne, which already owned vineyards in the area and became the headquarters of a large winery.

On its climb the train passes through the railway tunnel giving way to the vineyards under **the appellation Villette**. The Lavaux landscape was 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 monks (mainly Benedictines) 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 **"Petite Corniche"**, this gigantic mosaic and living landscape unfolds before you – unique in the world.

## GRANDVAUX



Here and there are the small hamlets with their narrow houses: Montagny, Chatagny, Aran and Grandvaux. **Grandvaux**, with its narrow and winding streets, has kept its architectural heritage intact. Surrounded by vineyards, old and tightly packed houses were built in such a fashion to adapt to the slope.



## ARAN

The LAVAUX EXPRESS continues to climb its way towards the hamlet of **Chenaux** located just above Cully, before descending to the village of **Aran**.

Here there will be a short stop at one of the most beautiful viewpoints above Lake Geneva, Les Echelettes. Here you will be able to see at a glance almost all of Lake Geneva and the surrounding Swiss and French Alps. Below lies the town of **Villette** with its church steeple made of octagonal shape, common in the Rhone Valley, but quite unusual in this part of Switzerland.

The terrain of the vineyards with its steep slopes is characteristic of the area and gives **the Lavaux wines** a 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.

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 along with other varieties such as the Gamaret, Garanoir or the Merlot which are also used for blends.

And now back to Lutry. Take time to have a drink at one of the pretty shaded terraces along the lakefront or at the local "caveau des vigneronns" located in the Grand-Rue (open year round from 5.00 p.m. Tuesdays to Saturdays).

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