



Image: Emilien Itim

Image: Maude Rion

Set amongst belle époque palaces, scenic promenades and coiffured flowerbeds, a super-eclectic music festival takes over the town of Montreux, Switzerland, situated on the north shore of Lake Geneva. Globally known as the Montreux Jazz Festival (29 June to 14 July), this year's line up has been announced and the 52nd edition is set to feature jazz and rock heavyweights, delicate folk, and new R&B, hip-hop, and even electronic sensations.

Eclectic Line Up

Though originally focussed on jazz, the festival's line up has been applauded for its diverse music selection, with this year offering a particularly rich line up. From Massive Attack to N.E.R.D, Nine Inch Nails to Van Morrison and Nick Cave to Billy Idol, the eclectic line-up is impressive and vast; even hard rock pioneers Deep Purple will be featuring. Indeed there was no way they could undertake their 'Long Goodbye' tour without passing through Montreux, the place that sparked inspiration for their song 'Smoke on the Water', which was named after the smoke smouldering across Lake Geneva when the Montreux Casino caught fire during a 1971 Frank Zappa concert. Arab influences include Faraj Suliman, a composer and pianist who combines the Arab rhythms and melodies of his childhood with jazz and tango.

The Music Scene

Set over three venues throughout Montreux, including the world's most famous Montreux Jazz Club, the festival even gets a fine rhythm going on a train, which journeys into the mountains. The program especially chosen for a unique rail journey, accompanied by brassy, New Orleans style jazz. The crystal clear lake, Lac Lemman (as the lake is known to the local residents) provides the set of yet another memorable music scene. Set onboard, these crazily animated boats weigh anchor in the afternoon offering a music and dine experience of live salsa, jazz, blues, or samba—a unique way to dive even deeper into the idyllic Montreux setting.

Montreux, centre stage

True to its location, Montreux offers the finest of festival backdrop with mountain peaks in the background, grassy lawns in the palace gardens and splendid gastronomy throughout. Montreux is located in the Canton of Vaud, which enjoys a privileged geographical location in Switzerland. Situated right in the heart of Europe, tucked between the Alps and Jura mountains, flanked by the heritage UNESCO site Lavaux, and nestled along the pristine shores of Lake Geneva.

All that Jazz

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by Laura Brown

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