

Fête des Vignerons 2019

in vevey, switzerland



Fête des Vignerons is a unique celebration that takes place only once a generation in Vevey. This Festival has been organised since 18th century by the Confreie des Vignerons. It is People's Festival highlighting the traditions of an entire region through a show as modern as it is exceptional. Festival is listed by UNESCO amongst humanity's intangible cultural heritage since December 1st, 2016

This year, Festival was held from July 18th to August 11th. I participated in this festival along with His Excellency Mr. Zahedi, Ambassador of Montreux on 21st of July, and spent almost 4 hours to watch the spectacular show on a very hot Summer day. Because of the heavy traffic the officials



President Ueli Maurer

sent two police officers to Ambassador Zahedi's house to escort him to the arena. At the entrance Honorabale Mr. Francois Cardinaux one of the member du Grand Council, welcomed Amb. Zahedi and accompanied him to his seat. The first thing that attracted my attention was the young beautiful girls who sprayed the water on the people to deal with the heat

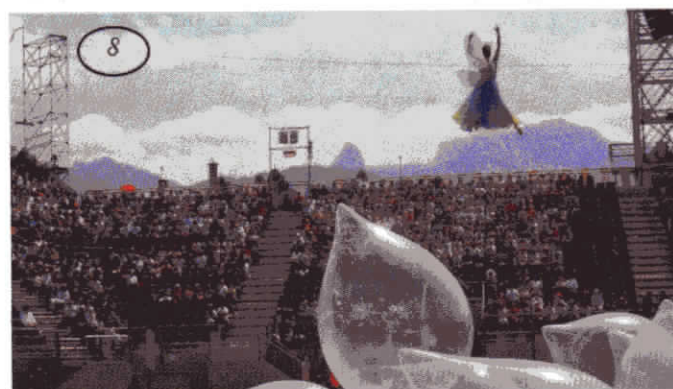


***Elina Leimgruber,
Mayor of Vevey***

and make it tolerable for them. President of the Swiss Confederation described Fête des Vignerons in his message as follow: "The Fête des Vignerons is not a celebration of the universally appreciated end product, that is to say a good wine in a beautifully labelled wine bot-







- 1- Panoramic image from one of the scenes of the show,
- 2- One of the girls spraying sunscreen on the people's skin to prevent sunburn, poses with H.E.Zahedi
- 3- Under the sun your skin is safe at the Festival.
- 4- There are many restaurants and shops selling foods to spectators.
- 5-Parade of Cantonal flags at the Festival.
- 6- Many spectators who knew H.E.Zahedi gave him hugs.
- 7- Some performers socializing with the people before starting the show.
- 8- One of many exceptional scenes at the show.

All pictures by: Azadi Monthly Magazine



Francois Cardinaux, Member of Grand Council welcomes H.E. Zahedi at the entrance

tle. We are celebrating what is behind it, the hard work in all weathers, the great knowledge passed down from one generation to the next, the dynamic winemaking culture. In our fastmoving times, the festival with the folkloric costumes and

when people unite in a spirit of passion, determination and creativity. Let us celebrate this unique craft in the summer hot spot of Vevey and prove to the next generation that tradition is an inspiration for something new." President of the Vaudois



the work of the men and women who glorify our vines and wines..." She added: "Our Society needs such rituals to preserve and renew its cohesion". Elina Leimgruber, Mayor of



Two policemen escort H.E. Amb. Zahedi from his place to the Arena

Vevey, said in her message: "It is a responsibility to live up to the values that this festival has perpetuated, generation after generation, since 1797. It is above all this heritage and its links between a people and its environment that UNESCO recognises with its inclusion amongst the world's intangible heritage.

Mr. Frederic Hohl Executive Director of the Fête des Vignerons, describes some facts about the Festival: "The real

songs may seem a little outdated to some. But it is traditions like these that have reminded us over the centuries that something unique can emerge

council of State, Nuria Gorrite, also wrote: "The first Swiss tradition to become part of the world's intangible heritage, the Fête des Vignerons highlights



from left, Mr. Yves Cornaro, Hon. Francois Cardinaux member of Grand Council, H.E. Zahedi at the entrance of arena. Many officials and people of Vevey wanted to get pictures with H.E.Zahedi



Hon. Mr. Laurent Wehrli, Mayor of Montreux at the show.

The Facts About Festival.

- * Fête des Vignerons is being held every 25 years or once a generation. This year's Festival however took place after 20 years.
- * Everyday more than 20,000 spectators come to see the show.
- * more than 80 million Swiss Francs was spent to build only technical devices for arena.
- * More than 5,000 actor-performers and nearly 900 choristers, sing the songs, dance the choreographies and perform the dialogues created by Daniele Finzi Pasca's artistic team.
- * This year's show tells the cycle of the vine's seasons through about twenty scenes and dialogues between a little girl and her grandfather.
- * Eight 30-meter-tall speaker masts provide a sound that envelopes every spectator.
- * There are five stages including a 1000 square meter central stage and a world first, the largest screen ever built!

feat is organising a festival area of 180,000 square meters within the urban fabric of such a small town, our arena itself can accommodate the entire population of Vevey. Imagine building a 2 million seat arena in Paris!" There are 65 pop-up restaurants, 1000 toilet cubicles, 9 stages, dressing rooms for 5500 actor-performers, information points, shops, around a hundred waste sorting bins and dish recovery stations, logistics areas and dozens of other places of all kinds. According







to Executive Director of the Festival, "80% of the activities are free for visitors and most of the Ville en Fete is for the Cantonal Days. All the cantons take part with processions, shows and promote their local products, tourism, and above all their friendship. The capital of Switzerland this summer will clearly be Vevey."

I conclude my report about Fête des Vignerons, with many thanks to Hon. Francois Carдинаux and Mr. Yves Cornaro for helping me to prepare this report and I am grateful for the hospitality of festival officials and good people of Vevey. Do I have a chance to participate in next generation Festival here? Who knows. Maybe.



Ambassador Zahedi and Laetitia Roch



