

LOCAL TREASURES



BAGNES THE CAPITAL OF RACLETTE 23 & 24 SEPTEMBER

This is one of the largest events celebrating local products and, of course, cheese, and it all happens in Le Châble! More than 15,000 foodies from all walks of life gather for a weekend to indulge in cheeses and raclettes that come from local producers in the Bagnes valley and Entremont district. On Sunday, the original producers of these cheeses are in the spotlight - the "queens" (both horned and dairy cattle) from various mountain pastures parade the streets accompanied by their own folk dance and music troupe.

www.bagnesraclette.ch



ALPINE PASTURES & BUVETTES

Not to be missed! Alpage du Lein, Col des Planches, Alpage du Tronc, these enchanting mountain pastures and their refreshment stands (buvettes) have given the Entremonts Valley its reputation. Locals and visitors meet in these modest places to enjoy simple but tasty pleasures. In the comfort of nature and to the sound of the Hérens bells, you can taste artisanal products and typical local dishes (cheese, charcuterie, croûte au fromage, assiette Valaisanne) in a friendly atmosphere. There's only one left to do: ENJOY YOURSELF!

ROCKLETTE (5-14 AUGUST) & ELECTROCLETTE (19 & 20 AUGUST)

Rocklette is a high-altitude gathering for fans of music, cheese and mountains, and promises exceptional concerts set in magnificent alpine scenery! The festival in the heart of nature, accessible on foot, by bike, by cable car or by bus, is staged in several different locations throughout the valley.

Head for the hills of Verbier for Electrocllette, a high-mountain rendez-vous between electronic music and raclette at 2,200 m above sea level. The programme includes a breathtaking view of the Grand Combin massif, a dozen AOP raclette cheeses, a hundred or so Valaisan wines and a top pick of essential DJs.

www.palpfestival.ch



SARREYER FARMERS' & CRAFTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION: BREAK FROM THE PAST!

Head for Sarreyer and discover the work of the members of the first Slow Food Community in Switzerland. At a bend in a steep alleyway, meet the village's chocolate maker, known for flavouring their creations with unusual local delicacies. A little further on, walk through a garden with the plant grower who cultivates aromatic and medicinal herbs. Continue to the mill, still in operation, and you will see the artisanal distillery where massage oils and liqueurs are produced. Below, you can watch the cows and sheep of the Glariers farm wander around.

While meeting, discussing and tasting, you will uncover the subtle link between man and nature in Sarreyer.

www.sarreyer-decouvertes.ch



FROM THE MINES TO THE FLAVOURS OF THE ALPINE PASTURES

Overlooking Martigny, Mont-Chemin (1,808 m) has all the qualities of a hill and is home to fascinating flora and lush vegetation. Beneath its surface, the geologically rich subsoil contains at least 150 identified minerals. To help uncover the mysteries of this site, Kobold - the mine dwarf - guides walkers on a winding path through larch forests and alpine meadows with magnificent views of the surrounding peaks and the Rhône valley. As well as 11 display panels along the way, discover abandoned tunnel entrances from which iron has been extracted for 15 centuries, and more recently, in the 20th century, lead, silver and fluorite. Get ready to venture into the tunnels, equipped with a head torch and helmet.

Don't miss: the weekly event "From the mines to the flavours of the alpine pastures", a guided tour of the Mont-Chemin mine with mountain cheese tasting (50% discount with the VIP PASS).

The 4.3-km loop is easily accessible starting from the Col des Planches (about 1 hr 30 mins)

www.verbier.ch/summer/offers/from-the-mines-to-the-alpine-flavours-verbier-en-summer-3038500

BELLOWING DEER IN THE ARBI VALLEY

At night, in the heart of the forest in the Vallon d'Arbi, a phenomenon takes place which sends shivers down your spine: the sound of stags bellowing. In silence and total darkness, the guide describes the distinctive characteristics of the stag, its way of life and the reasons why it makes this particular sound during the rutting period. With minimal disturbance, visitors can catch a glimpse of this usually discreet animal and witness this spectacular scene in a wild valley.

Dates: September and October

www.latzoumaz.ch

THE HERITAGE HOMES

There are five Heritage Houses belonging to the Bagnes Museum scattered across the valley. The Oreiller Forge and the Ancienne Demeure family home in Villette, the Maison de la Pierre Ollaïre soapstone house in Champsec, the Saw and Sawmills in Sarreyer, and the Maison des Glaciers ice house in Lourtier: the Heritage Houses take visitors on a journey through the history of Alpine society and the Val de Bagnes. Although these sites are spread out, they are all connected in summer thanks to the Combins train, which travels through the valley accompanied by heritage guides.

www.museedebagnes.ch



DID YOU KNOW? Hérens cows...

With their attractive black coats, Hérens cows are the pride of their owners and the people of the Valais. Every summer, these 'ladies' fight to decide which cow will be crowned queen of the mountain pasture. This natural phenomenon is typical and instinctive of the breed and has given rise to regional queen fights that attract numerous breeders and passionate spectators from the Valais, the Aosta Valley and the Mont Blanc region. The first battles in the Alps take place in June during the Inalpes festival.

www.raceherens.ch

