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## PRESS RELEASE

# New features to mark the safe re-opening of Chillon Castle from 8 June 2020

It is with great pleasure that Chillon Castle announces it will be opening its doors on 8 June after a two-month period of closure in line with the guidelines from the Swiss public health authority and Vaud Council. In addition to new measures put in place to guarantee people's wellbeing and safety, visitors will be able to explore the castle's brand-new outdoor area, complete with re-landscaped gardens and the *Café Byron* restaurant pavilion.

Chillon Castle Foundation (FCC) announces that the ancient fortress will re-open its doors to the public from Monday 8 June. This re-opening will coincide with the unveiling of the *Café Byron* restaurant pavilion and the exterior landscaping works. This new catering space and garden makeover will enable Chillon Castle to boost its offering, and further enhance and prolong the visitor experience.

The healthcare measures in place will make the castle experience both enjoyable and safe for members of the public. In order to protect our employees and ensure that all visitors get a pleasant and safe visit, all our visitor and tour services – individual, family or group – will be conducted in line with the measures put in place by the Swiss public health authority.

Financially speaking, the FCC has been running at a loss since the beginning of the year. With around 75% of its visitors coming from overseas, Chillon Castle's visitor numbers usually follow the curve of the hotel industry in Switzerland and, hence, the organisation has been heavily affected by the coronavirus crisis. As a private-law foundation that is over 95% self-funded, the FCC, like many other players in the sector, has experienced an unprecedented crisis. Since the castle's temporary closure was announced, the FCC has had to resort to short-time working measures. Despite the re-opening being set for June, a drastic drop in visitor numbers has been forecast over the next few months and so these measures will have to remain in place for some employees.

Given the circumstances, events scheduled for June have had to be postponed, including the temporary exhibition *Living like a princess? The women of the House of Savoy (13th to 16th century)*. Sunday guided tours, on the other hand, will continue as normal. From Sunday 14 June, you can explore the castle and uncover its hidden secrets with a costumed tour guide.

Given the current climate, FCC is pleased to be able to welcome visitors from 8 June and to be in a position to offer them the ideal day out, combining history, heritage, food and romantic strolls along the banks of Lake Geneva.

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