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PRESS RELEASE

Chillon Castle to reopen in new surroundings on Monday 8 June

From 8 June 2020, the doors to Chillon Castle will be open once more. Visitors will be able explore the ancient fortress safely and securely while discovering a series of new features, most notably the English Garden and the new cafeteria. Café Byron will be open for lovers of local, seasonal cuisine to enjoy a tasty pit-stop in front of the historic site. The castle's opening hours will be temporarily limited to enable Chillon Castle Foundation to keep its running costs down indefinitely.

Following the easing of lockdown measures, as decreed by the Swiss Federal Council, Chillon Castle Foundation (FCC) has adopted and implemented health measures in line with the standards set for key associations, in preparation for Chillon Castle's reopening on 8 June. This protection plan will protect the public and FCC staff while also ensuring comfortable conditions for visitors.

The reopening of the fortress will coincide with the unveiling of several new features. After 15 years of planning, projects and work, the exterior landscaping works on the English Garden have finally come to an end. Claude Ruey, President of the Chillon Castle Foundation said, *"We have reached the culmination of a goal that we had been working towards for many years to help improve our hospitality offering and meet the requirements of a major site such as Chillon Castle."*

From 8 June, the new Café Byron will also open its doors. Visitors to the castle, as well as locals residents, will be invited to discover local, seasonal cuisine in this new, perfectly situated restaurant space with a view over the castle, lake and mountains. Café Byron, which will be managed by *Novae Restauration SA*, will open its doors to the public for a tasty pit-stop throughout their day.

Thanks to the English Garden concept developed by the *DREIER FRENZEL ARCHITECTURE – COMMUNICATION* architectural firm and implemented alongside landscape architects *L'Atelier du Paysage*, the Chillon site itself has also been given a makeover. The exterior landscaping work will bring back the 'ancient art' of strolling, offering somewhere people can wander at their leisure. Marta Sofia dos Santos, Director of the Chillon Castle Foundation states that, *"From now on, our visitors and anyone passing through Chillon can wander around the gardens, learn about the castle's history and stop by Café Byron. We now have the chance to offer a full visitor experience and reach our goal of being the ideal day trip."*

As a private foundation that is over 95% self-funded through ticket sales, souvenir sales and private room hire, the FCC has been heavily impacted by the global crisis and, hence, must temporarily reduce the castle's opening hours. Visitors will be welcome at the castle every day from 10am to 6pm (last entry at 5pm).

To help users find information more easily and safely prepare for their trip, the FCC has also launched a new website. The platform most notably helps visitors prepare for their trip, buy tickets online, book guided tours or workshops, and download the Chillon app or itinerary brochures in over 17 languages. The website also contains information on the health measures in place.

Chillon Castle Foundation is eager for service to resume very shortly. The management team and all other staff are delighted to be welcoming the public once more and would like to invite everyone to come and (re)discover the fortress this summer.

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[Photos available to the press](#)

Practical info:

Chillon Castle

Opening hours from 8 June:

Open every day from 10am to 6pm (last entry at 5pm)

Tickets:

We recommend booking your tickets online at www.chillon.ch and downloading your visitor materials in advance.

- You can download our PDF visitor brochure (available in 17 languages) onto your phone or print it at home
- Our visitor app is available in 9 languages in the Apple Store or on GooglePlay
- You can also print the children's brochure at home

Visits to the castle must be facilitated as much as possible, ensuring a safe environment, with no crowding. Hence, groups are now limited to 15 people (+ castle guide). If a group of more than 7 adults (aged 16+) wishes to visit the castle, they must book in advance at www.chillon.ch or by emailing info@chillon.ch

Safety measures

Please see our [protection plan](#) online.

Café Byron

Opening hours from 8 June:

Open every day from 10am to 6pm

[The Menu](#)

[Presentation videos](#)

Contact: www.cafebyron.ch / info@cafebyron.ch

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