



Veytaux, 17 September 2025

PRESS RELEASE

Exhibition at Chillon Castle: A journey through archaeological discoveries and heritage purchases

Chillon Castle Foundation unveils its latest temporary exhibition – *Dissecting/Dressing Chillon: A story told through our collections*. A unique opportunity to encounter two takes on heritage, from archaeological detail to evocative staging.

From 18 September 2025 to 26 April 2026, Chillon Castle will house an original exhibition inviting visitors to explore the many ways in which this iconic fortress has been perceived, studied and staged for over a century.

How do you tell the story of a thousand-year-old monument? Do you strip it back to its bare architectural bones built up over the centuries? Or instead adorn it with atmospheric objects and stories?

The exhibition spotlights the burgeoning tension between these two approaches – dissecting or dressing – which have shaped the very face of this medieval fortress. Throughout the history of Chillon Castle these two approaches, which were long considered incompatible, have crossed paths, sometimes clashed, and at times even complemented one another.

Pioneering archaeological digs led by visionary architect and archaeologist Albert Naef unearthed hundreds of objects and fragments – from delicate stem glasses to cannonballs and arrowheads – each offering a glimpse into the site's noble, medieval past. From the 1890s work at the castle paved the way for a new type of restoration, built on respecting these traces of the past.

In parallel, the exhibition highlights a growing infatuation with historical evocation from the early 20th century onwards. Carefully selected tableware and furniture were put on display (or sometimes overzealously piled up!) right at the heart of the castle.

Now, around 400 of these objects will be venturing out of the Musée cantonal d'archéologie et d'histoire, where they have been carefully stored. Room after room, visitors can discover how these collections came about and how they were restored and studied, each uncovering a brand new chapter in the monument's story.

At the crossroads between archaeological research and evocative staging, *Dissecting/Dressing Chillon* is an invitation to reflect on both our relationship with our heritage and the role played by objects in the story of an iconic location.

NB: Chillon Castle belongs to the State of Vaud and is one of the best-preserved medieval castles in Europe. It welcomes more than 400,000 visitors annually and hosts over 40 events.

Photos and videos available to the press at <https://www.chillon.ch/de/medien/>

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#Chillon #ChateauChillon #SchlossChillon #schweizerischekulturstätte

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Objet : Cuivre
Période : 18^e siècle
Matériau : Cuivre

Disséquer / Habiller Chillon

*Les collections racontent
le château*

18 septembre 2025 – 26 avril 2026

Objet : Céramique
Période :
Époque moderne
16^e-17^e siècles
Matériau :
Céramique, plâtre

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divaud

En partenariat avec :

mcah

Musée cantonal
d'archéologie et d'histoire
Lausanne

Avec le soutien de :

24 heures

VHCV

Exhibition poster – Graphic design Terry Fernandez – Photos of the items: © Musée cantonal d'archéologie et d'histoire, Lausanne / Photos : Mathieu Bernard-Reymond, 2025

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Photograph of the temporary exhibition— © FCC Jérôme Renevey



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