



LE MUSÉE DE LA VIGNE DU VIN DE L'ÉTIQUETTE CHÂTEAU D'AIGLE

VISITOR GUIDE

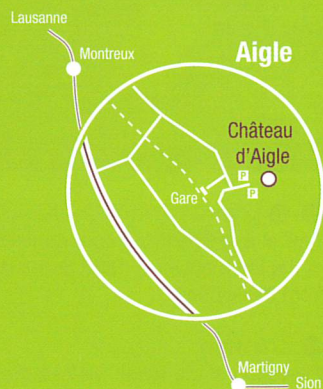
CHÂTEAU D'AIGLE THE VINE AND WINE MUSEUM

April to October: Open from
Tuesday to Sunday, 10:00-
18:00. Closed Monday.

During July and August: open
daily from 10:00-18:00.

Novembre to March: Open
from Tuesday to Sunday,
10:00-17:00. Closed Monday.

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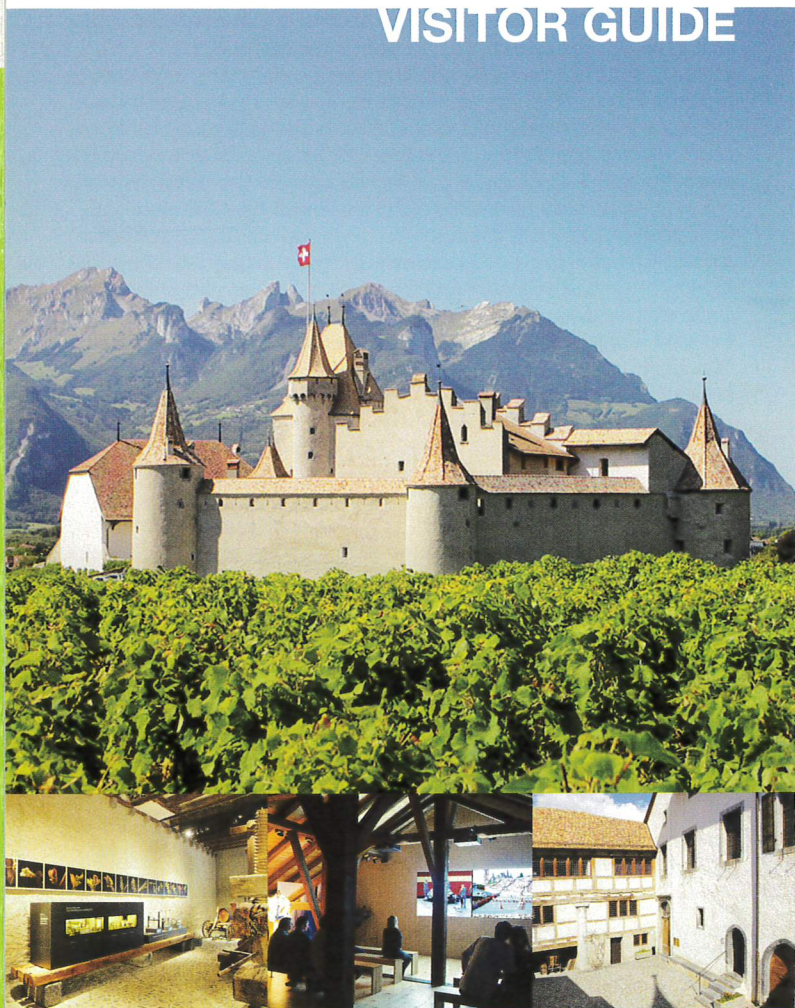


CHÂTEAU D'AIGLE ROOMS FOR BANQUETS, RECEPTIONS, WEDDINGS CONFERENCES

Information and
bookings:
Tél. +41 (0)24 466 21 30
www.chateauaigle.ch

RESTAURANT LA PINTÉ DU PARADIS

Tél. +41(0) 24 466 18 44
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Château
d'Aigle
VIN / CULTURE
GASTRONOMIE

www.chateauaigle.ch

CHÂTEAU D'AIGLE VINE AND WINE MUSEUM

The oldest part of Château d'Aigle was probably built at the end of the 12th century by the Chevaliers d'Aigle family, the Milites de Allio.

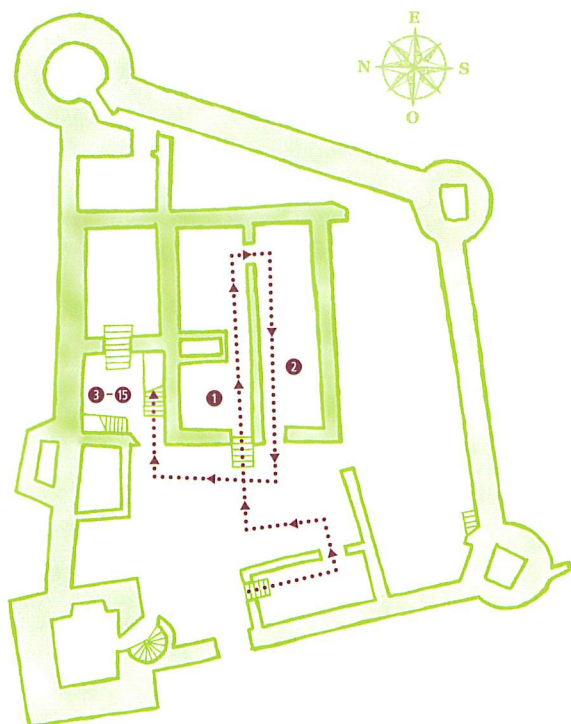
The castle, partly damaged by the Bernese when they conquered the region in 1475, was largely rebuilt by them a few years later as a challenge to all the enemies of their powerful republic and a prestigious residence for their Governors. Many changes since then finally produced the shape it has today.

After the 1798 Vaud Revolution, which ousted the Bernese and saw Vaud Canton proclaim its independence as part of Switzerland, the castle was acquired by the town of Aigle. From 1804 to 1972, it was the location of the court and the prisons. The castle also served as the town's poorhouse from 1804 to 1916.

Since 1976, it has housed the Vaud Vine and Wine Museum, together with three rooms for receptions, banquets and conferences.

CORPS DE LOGIS

The original core of the castle, which must have been built at the end of the 12th century. It has undergone many changes through the ages. It now forms part of the north perimeter wall.



1 STOREHOUSE

During the time of the Bernese, the lower rooms were probably used as storerooms, one of which would be the granary, and as stables. The beam in front of you bears the date of 1644. On the wall to the right, numerous counting marks in red.

Nature and the landscape: terrace cultivation of vines

Model of the castle as it is now and presentation of its history.

Panoramic view from the highest tower of the castle.

Film show on the landscape and grape-picking in the Chasselas triangle (Geneva-Bienne-Sierre).

Start of film: on the hour and every 15 minutes.

2 PRESS HOUSE

The wine press is of fundamental importance because it enables the extraction of the grape juice that will become wine once it has fermented. Display of old wine presses.

Beneath the series of photographs illustrating the life cycle of the grape, model of a Roman wine press and wine cellar and working models of the main types of wine press in existence today.

Close to the exit, on a cart, a 'bossette', a large, elongated pinewood barrel used, until the 1970s, to take the grapes to the press.

3-15 CORPS DE LOGIS

Before entering the main building or corps de logis, take a look at the tall column, near the fountain, with a wheat sheaf at the top. This is the coat of arms of Marquard Zehender, the Bernese Governor who in 1584 built the wing between the Square Keep and the Corps de Logis. The two escutcheons over the Governor's coat of arms bore the mark of the Republic of Berne, a bear, and were hammered out during the Revolution of 1798.

3 ENTRANCE, INN SIGNS

Old inn signs. The earliest, in wood, dates from the 16th century and represents a man's head. The sign with a crown surrounded by a sun and a moon indicates that The Crown establishment is open day and night; it dates from the 18th century. The two-headed eagle was the sign of the Adler Hotel in Lucerne from 1779.

Plaque naming the donors whose support and generosity enabled the museum to be redesigned.

4 WINE CELLAR

Typical wine-grower's cellar and wine-tasting area.

Traditional large oak vessels. Their round, oval or oblong shape and their capacity are adapted to suit the space available, the size of the wine-grower's estate and the area occupied by the various cultivars he grows. Rectangular cement and ceramic vat often called a 'Borsari', after its inventor and dating from the end of the 19th century. Above, a curious little barrel with thicker staves: wine-growers used these for their own sparkling wine. A small round monoxylous barrel, hollowed from the trunk of a tree.

In the display cases, objects associated with wine-tasting and the work traditionally done in the wine cellar.

Go back up to the entrance, take the staircase on the right to the

5 AUDIENCE CHAMBER

The superb Moorish-patterned ceiling, painted around 1588, is the work of painter Andreas Stoss. This artist also worked in Berne, Moudon, Lucens, Lausanne and Chillon.

Recreation of an 18th century drinking hall, with windows and tiling copied from models of the period.

On the walls, old pictures, all with wine drinking as their subject.

Return to the hallway and take the straight staircase which in 1738 replaced a spiral staircase, traces of which can be seen in the wall of Room N°6.

6 ARMOURY

By the entrance on the left, the rounded shape of the wall is the only evidence of the spiral staircase that predated the straight staircase.

Whether they have been painted, drawn or etched, sometimes by the world's greatest artists, a wine label is as unique as a person or a signature. Labels, special bottles, billboards, interactive touch screens, all feature in "Labels in all their glory – Facets of wine".

7 ANTECHAMBER

Moulded ceiling from the mid-18th century. The large three-section cupboard was already in the castle before the 1798 revolution and is said to have held the archives of the Bernese Governor.

The *Salle des Communes* (8) was formerly part of the Governor's apartments.

9 ARMORIAL HALL

The Armorial Hall, which was subdivided into several smaller rooms at the end of the 17th century. It was returned to its original size during the restoration work of the 1970s.

On the walls, the coats of arms of the Bernese Governors who were in charge of Château d'Aigle between 1475 and 1685, and numerous graffiti dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries. Close to the window to the right of the chimney breast, a graffiti representing a bear.

17th century furniture lent by the Bourgeoisie de Berne and by Berne History Museum

10 STOVE ROOM

Great Chamber with a ceiling painted at the end of the 16th century.

Numerous traces of successive layers of decoration. Ancient graffiti and other rebuses, including, in red, between the stove and the window, a coat of arms representing a foot, and dated 1595.

Go upstairs via the corridor and staircase behind the glass wall.

11 SERVANTS' QUARTERS

Rooms intended for personnel during the Bernese period.

Long live the Environment!

Six interactive laboratories offer fun experiments to help the visitor to understand the work done by the wine-grower on the vine and in the cellar. Illustration of how the wine-growing country of Lavaux, between Lausanne and Vevey, has changed from the original uncultivated land to the current pattern of cultivation. Vines and biodiversity.

Around the staircase, curiosity cabinet with precious or symbolic objects and documents connected with the themes dealt with in this room.



12-13 LIVING QUARTERS FOR THE POOR

Typical apartment, comprising kitchen and bedroom, given to the poor of the town between 1832 and 1916. The stove in the bedroom was fed from the kitchen.

12 KITCHEN

Evocation of the terroir, various growing environments. The climate (sun, wind, rain), types of soil (stony, sandy, clayey), the lie of the land and finally the wine-grower's own knowledge - all this together makes every wine different.

13 BEDROOM

Sense of sight, sense of smell, sense of taste. Three senses are solicited in the appreciation of wine, but also of all other beverages and the world around us.

Interactive experiment: discover the flavours in wines.

14 DIAMOND-PATTERN ROOM

On the wall, the diamond-point pattern wall paintings date from the 14th century. At that time, the present floor did not exist, and what is now the Armorial Hall (Room No.9 below) reached up to the ceiling of Room No.14. It was probably the Great Hall, Aula Magna, where the Suzerains of Aigle received their guests, the only remaining fragment of which is this diamond pattern.

Humorous tales

The humour associated with vines and wine. Lithographies by Honoré Daumier.

15 ATTIC

Post-frame construction, 1669.

Fine festivals, beautiful costumes

Celebrating wine: audiovisual show. A Ressat of the Confrérie du Guillon (Guillon Brotherhood) at Chillon Castle, followed by: Images, music and costumes from the 1999 Fête des Vignerons (Wine-growers' Festival)

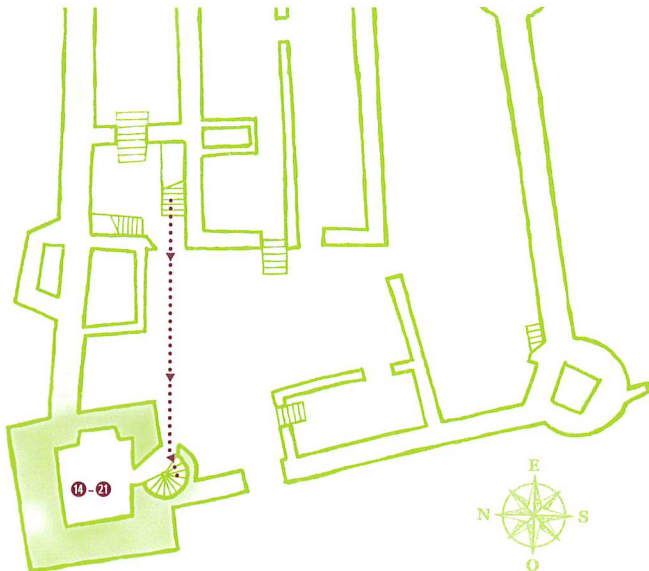
The first showcases the wines of Vaud in a seasonal gastronomic banquet. The second is a reward for the good wine-growers who look after their vines.

Start of the show: on the hour and every 20 minutes.

Go back down to the entry courtyard and walk towards the great square keep.

GREAT SQUARE KEEP

Built at the end of the 15th century. Known as the marble keep, its imposing size symbolised the power of Berne, the new master of the region. It is accessed via a spiral staircase turret in the southern facade.



16 GUARDROOM

Former guardroom with extremely thick walls, with four meurtrières or murder-holes showing that it was intended for defence. It has a vaulted ceiling and a monumental fireplace on one wall dating from the end of the 15th or the beginning of the 16th century.

Hall reserved for temporary exhibitions

17 ARCHIVE ROOM AND WAR CHEST CHAMBER

This is embellished with a very fine fireplace dating from the end of the 15th or the start of the 16th century.

Iron Archive Chamber door, 1764.

Hall reserved for temporary exhibitions

18 COURTROOM

Former room used by the Investigating Judge in the 19th century.

Hall reserved for temporary exhibitions.

19 SAINT MAGDALEN

This living room, once equipped with a stove, has large cross-bar windows. On the walls, traces of the numerous applications of decorative paint between the 16th and the 20th centuries.

Hall reserved for temporary exhibitions.

20 SAINT LAZARUS

This very light room and former habitation is the biggest in the Keep. It was more modestly decorated than the rooms below.

Hall reserved for temporary exhibitions.

21 TORTURE CHAMBER

The roofspace, made into a torture chamber at the end of the 16th century, reveals its superb frame without a vertical structural beam. It incorporates part of the machicolations of the tower and the staircase.

Do not miss the admirable view of the surrounding countryside through the meurtrières.

Go back down via the chemin-de-ronde.

CHEMIN DE RONDE

The perimeter wall of the castle could date from the 13th or 14th century. Its current layout, a chemin-de-ronde on one level protected by a roof, dates from the work done by the Bernese in the period 1480 to 1510. At that time, the wall was strengthened by the construction of a second wall adjoining the first. Its northern and southern sections and the south-east tower were altered, the south-west tower and the western curtain wall were completely rebuilt. In this section, above the castle entrance gate, there is a small defensive structure housing the watchroom.

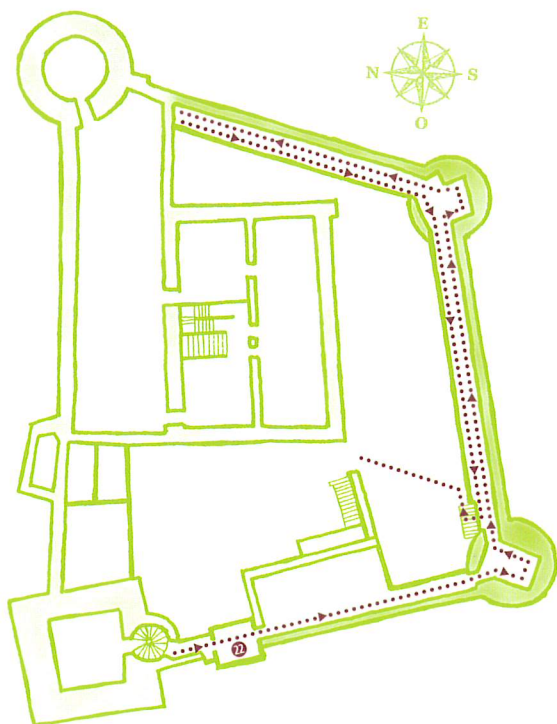
22 BARTIZAN

Also used as accommodation for the servants of the Bernese, and then from 1804 to 1916 it served as a home for poor people from the town. Murals from the mid-17th century featuring trompe-l'œil hangings and garlands of fruit and leaves.

Chemin-de-ronde

Now walk right round the chemin-de-ronde, then go downstairs to the courtyard and enter the shop where you will find a large number of souvenirs of your visit to Château d'Aigle. Of particular interest to those who wish to learn more is the lavishly illustrated book on the history of the fortress.

If you are interested, you can buy one of the famous wines of the region. Continue your visit at the Maison de la Dîme, opposite the castle



LA MAISON DE LA DÎME

At the start of the 13th century, a fortified manor house was built, possibly by the Counts of Savoy, at the north-west corner of the present Tithe Barn. In the 14th or 15th century, this building was altered in order to become the place where an official of the Count of Savoy, the "métral du vidomnat d'Aigle", judged civil and criminal cases.

The main room in this building has four windows; it has been possible to restore one of them, which can be seen from the terrace of the Pinte du Paradis restaurant, to its original state.

These windows were blocked up, probably in the first half of the 15th century, when the building acquired a more utilitarian purpose.

In 1587, the Bernese Governor Antoine Dachselhofer constructed a bigger building on this site, to be used as the castle barn. A reminder of this event is the Dachselhofer coat of arms (a badger's paw on a mount composed of three hills) above the door of the barn (main entrance to the present building). Originally, it was flanked by the arms of the Republic of Berne, which were hammered out at the time of the 1798 revolution.

In addition to a hay loft, the castle barn has two stables, a cattle-shed, a cellar, a threshing loft and various dwellings, including a bedchamber for the Governor's cooper. It was also used to receive part of the tithes of the region.

The tithe was a tax in kind on crops and newborn livestock stored by the Governors of Berne in order to counter any shortages and prevent speculation.

The castle barn is now the Tithe Barn. It houses the Pinte du Paradis restaurant and the Salle des Excellences, which is used for receptions, banquets or conferences and the Frédéric Rouge Centre.

ESCAPE ROOMS

Aigle Château now has several exciting Escape Rooms to challenge the survival skills of friends, families and colleagues. With only 60 minutes to complete your mission you will need cunning, ingenuity and teamwork. Get ready for a nerve-wracking adventure !

Information and bookings:

www.escape-aigle.ch

or Tel. +41 (0)79 434 10 13



THE "PINTE DU PARADIS"

The Tithe Barn, situated in a locality known as En Paradis ('In Paradise'), invites you to patronise its restaurant, the "Pinte du Paradis", before or after your visit to the museum. Come and discover its seasonal cuisine and take the time to sample the wines of the region in this charming setting, with its panoramic view from the terrace.