



# Splendid fun & savory delights

BY JON MESSER

~ des Balances in  
spectacular Lucerne

Traveling to Switzerland? Whether you're a warm weather walker or a winter reveler, Switzerland is a mecca for some of the freshest air, water and sport on the planet. It's never an if, rather, for those who know, it's simply why I am among the many travelers who rely on Helvetia for her charm, sublime earthiness and incredible diversity.





You cannot name any similar size nation anywhere with as many magnetic attractions from the arts or alps. As most readers here seek solid suggestions + best options, allow me to detail why I believe the Swiss way regenerates the soul in short order. Have a week or more to find out and you'll return with more reasons than I state here. Need a long weekend away? You'll never regret the ease to see why!

My focus today is the centuries of culture you'll find in Lucerne. And the very best place I've ever discovered as a home away from home is the splendid HOTEL

DES BALANCES. All caps you say? Well, this family owned cozy auberge has enchanted those who grace her halls simply since the twelfth century with grace and great aplomb perfectly situated at the foot of the River Reuss on the Old Town side.

All impressions are personal, right? You know you're in the right place from the moment you cast your eyes on this Venetian-esque palace that sits adjacent to the crown of gorgeous Lake Lucerne. The warmth and smiles that greet you at the front desk are simply the beginning in meeting the most

pleasant, down to Earth helpful house staff you'll ever find in any hotel anywhere.

Reserving any one of their splendid 56 rooms offers you a wide selection of river/lake views or Old Town at her best. From intimate and comfy to junior + romantic, spacious suites, you'll find a value based easy selection to suit both your needs and desires.

Albeit my travel is usually for business the Balances assures any request so you may rely on never being out of touch. I place great emphasis on service here







and I guarantee hospitality is their mantra. In a world of hotel options there are few properties that equal what CEO & GM Peter Busser + his genuine team provide.

Once you settle in and after you smilingly nod at the assortment of perfect amenities and room accoutrements, mosey off to their bar for a vast refreshing selection of complementary libation. Nestled in the Balances Restaurant, the most convivial bar staff will no doubt more than welcome you. They'll also provide one of many reference points for any question of all things Lucerne. Whether you've planned

ahead and marked some of the scores of sites, museums, galleries, touring adventures or shopping, Balances staff will widen your horizons beyond your expectations.

If you're like me, food matters. All too many hotels might say their restaurant can satisfy or please. But, how really true you think? Here, there is no if or maybe. It's not just hotel guests who frequent this world class splendid restaurant. You'll soon see why locals dine here regularly. From the best breakfasts a traveler could ever wish to splendid lunches and superb dinners, I suggest you come hungry because



International flights to Switzerland are a pleasure because of their exceptionally organized airports. Zurich is a mere hour train ride away. Swiss Rail is splendid fun and the very best way to go. Reliably one of the world's best, it's my favorite way to soak in the magnificence of nature, countryside, alps, lakes and why Switzerland is so truly picturesque. If you do as I do, plan ahead and arrange a First-Class Rail Pass for your stay. Whether vacationing or, when on business, Swiss Rail cannot be equaled for ease and efficiency. Literally, it's the most fun way to navigate the entire country. Be sure to go to [www.myswitzerland.com](http://www.myswitzerland.com) It's Switzerland at your fingertips for info, events, and the easiest way to begin planning.

**“From the best breakfasts a traveler could ever wish to splendid lunches and superb dinners, I suggest you come hungry because you'll always depart happy.”**



you'll always depart happy. Key to their marvelous offerings are two renowned incredibly creative award winning chefs Andy Fluri & Niko Eichner. Each month they offer an entirely new menu. One dinner or lunch and you'll know why Gault-Millau awarded them a venerable 14 point score. Whether ordering a la carte or any of their 5 & 7 course fabulous offerings, bring your taste buds!

Exploring Lucerne is a must, be sure to use the links at the end of this piece and bring your walking shoes. Lucerne is a photographer's dream and virtual feast for the eyes. Be sure to walk the "Kapellbrücke." Spanning the River Reuss, the wooden Chapel Bridge named for nearby St. Peter's Chapel was first erected in 1333. Offering 170 meters of Lucerne's flawless panorama, she sits atop one of the world's most beautiful lakes, Lake Lucerne.

Lucerne offers over a dozen world-class museums including my favorite, the Rosengart. This collection of: Picasso, Klee, Matisse, Braque, Miro, Cezanne, Matisse, Leger, Bonnard, Monet, Kandinsky, Modigliani, Renoir, Chagall, Utrillo, Signac, Vuillard, and many more is a unique treasure.

Lucerne's museums always welcome young eyes, so if you're bringing the kids, be sure to visit The Museum of Transport. You'll literally find superb examples of every conceivable machine and conveyance for road, rail, water, air & space. A true eye opener for every age.

In this season and as the holidays approach, be sure to explore the magnificent festive Christmas Markets for pure Swiss craft and flavor. Year round, Lucerne's events are always memorable.

So, whether it's your first Swiss trip or a return, be sure to make time to explore Lucerne, one of the friendliest towns on the planet. And when you do, see why the Hotel des Balances is the perfect home away from home. From value to superb service, it's a timeless gem!

**When you plan, be sure to visit:**

- [www.balances.ch](http://www.balances.ch)
- [www.myswitzerland.com](http://www.myswitzerland.com)
- [www.sbb.ch](http://www.sbb.ch)
- [www.luzern.com](http://www.luzern.com)
- [www.museen-luzern.lu.ch](http://www.museen-luzern.lu.ch)
- [www.swiss.com](http://www.swiss.com)