

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 81 (2015)
Heft: [6]

Artikel: Basel Christmas market
Autor: Wood, Susie
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943563>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

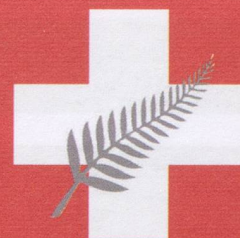
Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 17.05.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

HELVETIA



MAGAZINE OF THE SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

DECEMBER 2015 / JANUARY 2016

YEAR 81/82

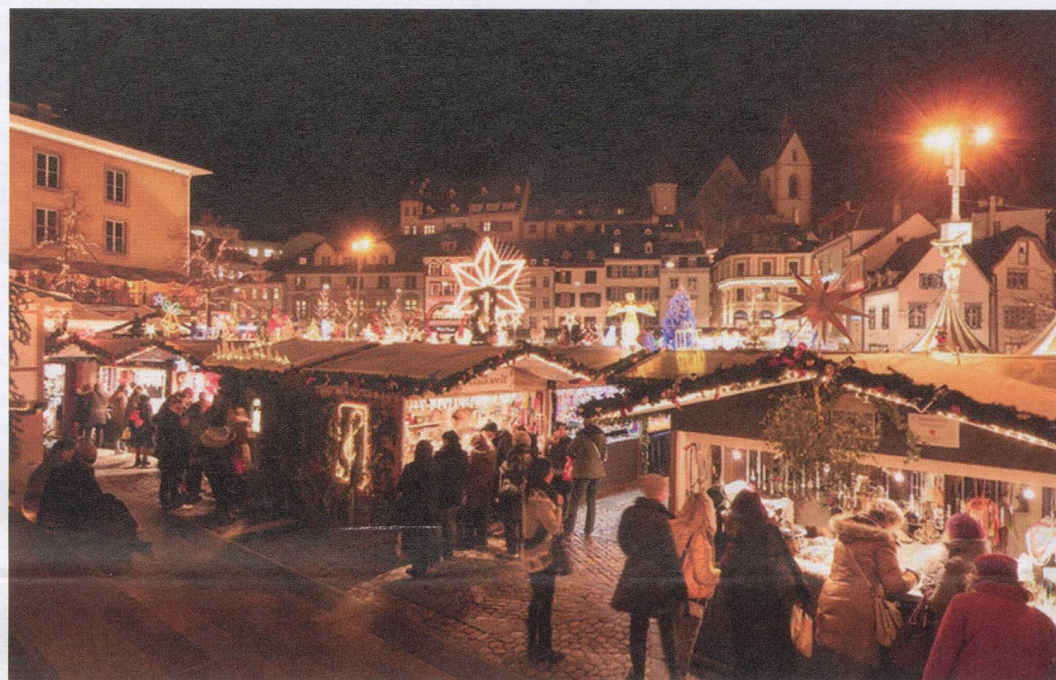
Basel Christmas Market

Highlights

- Special Christmas Memories
- What does 'Heimat' mean to you?
- Battle of Morgarten Celebration
- Swiss 'Silvester' Tradition – Dinner for one

Inside

Word from the president	2
Message from the Ambassador	3
Memorable Christmas Moments	5
Kids' Corner	6
Zeller Wiehnacht and its history	7
What is 'Heimat'	8
Neudorf Mushrooms	9
Swiss Pension & NZ Super	10-11
The Shape of Switzerland	12
Christmas competition and Fun Tips	14-17
Battle of Morgarten Celebration	18-19
Christmas Recipe	21
'Dinner for One'	23
Magical Days in Winter	24



Barfüsserplatz

Drenched in history and tradition, the Basel Christmas market is a sight not to be missed!

The City of Basel is in the far north-west of Switzerland on the River Rhine, right where the borders of Switzerland, France and Germany meet. The town is split across the Rhine into two parts: Gross Basel (great Basel) and Klein Basel (small Basel). These are connected by several bridges and of course by the famous ferries which transport passengers across the formidable river using spanned cables and oars, propelled only by the current. Although one city, there is a long-standing friendly rivalry between the two parts. This is perhaps best expressed by the figure of the "Lällekönig" (the Tongue King) who sticks out his tongue in mockery at the people of Klein Basel across the main Rhine bridge!

Basel has a most charming and hilly old town which includes remnants of its medieval walls, towers and ditches. Many of the old squares, cobbled alleyways and medieval townhouses – one even dating back to the 13th century – have remained in place. They provide the perfect and romantic backdrop to what is considered to be one of the largest Christmas markets in Switzerland. This market is spread across two

historical squares in Basel. The Barfüsserplatz (Barefoot Square) is named in honour of the barefoot Franciscan monks who built a monastery here in 1256. The Münsterplatz (Cathedral Square) is in front of the deep red sand stone Cathedral which was built between 1019 and 1500, and overlooks the Rhine River from its elevated vantage point.

Over 180 stalls – in the form of little gingerbread houses – offer a range of x-mas treats, food and drinks. The market is bathed in hundreds of twinkling lights at night time and visitors flock to it in numbers unaffected by the cold. They know that there are many cosy restaurants and cafes to choose from to thaw up those icy feet! The City of Basel takes its month-long Christmas market seriously and offers many other events, exhibitions and tours to encourage the festive spirit. Anyone is invited to enter his or her advent wishes into a special wish book located inside the beautiful town hall. Wouldn't it be nice to do a little time travel to soak up the atmosphere ... and then quickly come back to NZ summer!

Susie Wood