

The most beautiful villages in Switzerland

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Highlights

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The most beautiful villages in Switzerland



“The most beautiful villages in Switzerland” is an independent association founded in 2015 with the aim of preserving, promoting and coordinating the cultural, natural and rural heritage of the Swiss Villages. Founded on March 20, 2015 in Lugano by Kevin Quattropiani and Fiorenzo Pichler with the collaboration of Francesco Cerea, Alexander Powell and Alain Saint-Sulpice.

Every year the association awards a diploma of merit to a Swiss Commune for its commitment: The Association of the Most Beautiful Swiss Villages currently lists 27 little towns – 14 within the western French-speaking region, 8 within the German-speaking area, and 5 within the Italian-speaking south. To be eligible, a village must have fewer than 10,000 residents and show commitment to preserving its heritage. It also helps if the village looks like it’s out of a fairytale with a small castle and/or medieval clock tower. In June 2017, Swiss representatives travelled to Spain to have the Swiss association join the international Federation of The Most Beautiful Villages of the World. At the stroke of a pen Switzerland’s 27 village beauties became part of the world’s 500 most photogenic small towns.

Morcote won in 2016, Schwelbrun in 2017 and in 2018 the “Schweizer Illustrierte” magazine asked readers to vote for their favourite.

Oberhofen was named the ‘Most beautiful village in Switzerland 2018’. There were 12 finalists, each one shamelessly enchanting, with a typically Swiss sense of equality, there were three entrants in each of Switzerland’s four language regions. Oberhofen, located between the towns of Thun and Interlaken and located directly on the shore of the Lake of Thun has 2,450 inhabitants who enjoy the climate and breath-taking views across the azure lake to the majestic Niesen and other mountains of the Bernese Oberland. Oberhofen is first mentioned in 1133 as Obrenhoven. The oldest trace of a settlement in the area is scattered Bronze Age artifacts which were discovered in the Längenschachen area. Built around the year 1200, the village’s landmark castle, Schloss Oberhofen crowns the special atmosphere and a beautiful mix of old and new. The castle today houses a division of the Historic Museum of Bern, and has a spectacular formal lakeside garden in the English style with many rare specimen trees.

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