

Condé Nast Traveller

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

JUNE 2012

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

Summer in Switzerland

Lakeside pleasures, hip cities
& architectural wonders

La dolce vita
...Swiss-style

BASEL

The world's
most important
art fair

**Vineyard
safari**

Explore the Rhône Valley
(with a wine glass)

16 Helvetia hotel

You'll feel right at home in this central, stylish and affordable family-run hotel. Its 14 rooms and two luxury business apartments provide everything you need for a comfortable stay in the heart of Zürich; and the interiors, by the renowned local design company Atelier Zürich, give classic Art Nouveau elements a modern twist. The ground-floor bar, affectionately known as the 'Helvti', is a popular meeting spot, and the first-floor restaurant (which has 14 Gault-Millau points) serves regional cuisine and Swiss gourmet classics. *Stauffacherquai 1* (00 41 44 297 9998; www.hotel-helvetia.ch). *Doubles from SFr 250 (about £175)*

17 Jules Verne bar/Urania-Sternwarte

Enjoy the 360-degree view from the Jules Verne bar, on the top floor of Zürich's century-old Urania-Sternwarte observatory. Then, when night falls, head up to the observation deck to gaze at the stars. A 12-ton Zeiss telescope, installed on the top floor of the 51-metre-high tower, lets you see celestial objects magnified up to 600 times. Enter on street level through Brasserie Lipp and take the lift to the top. *Uraniastrasse 9. Jules Verne bar open Mon–Thurs 11am–midnight, Fri/Sat to 1am, Sun 11.45am–11pm* (00 41 43 888 6666; www.jules-verne.ch). *Observatory tours (about 90 minutes) Thurs–Sat 9pm* (www.urania-sternwarte.ch)

18 Masoala Rainforest at Zürich Zoo

Experience the tropical climate of Madagascar's Masoala rainforest – one of the earth's most diverse and species-rich habitats – in Zürich's 11,000-square-metre reproduction. See bright birds, chirping frogs, camouflaged chameleons, exotic insects and bats up close, along with several hundred plant species. The display is housed in a 30-metre-high glasshouse with approximately 80,000 litres of rainfall per day. *Zürich Zoo* (www.zoo.ch) *open daily from 9am; Masoala Rainforest from 10am. Adults SFr22 (about £15), children SFr11*

19 Kaufleuten

Show off your moves on Zürich's best-known dance floor, while enjoying the theatrical setting of this plush party location: chandeliers, heavy velvet curtains, opulent furnishings and a large theatre stage make it a mainstay of Zürich's party scene, with a reputation far beyond Swiss borders. It also has a great line-up of concerts. Start the evening at the separate bar, then head over to the Kaufleuten Restaurant – the place to see and be seen – and keep your receipt, which will grant you entry to the club. *Pelikanstrasse 18* (00 41 44 225 3333; www.kaufleuten.ch). *Dinner about SFr160 (£110) for two without wine*

