

**Nicholls Foundation Europe Trip 2022 – Part #2 - Switzerland**

**March 30, 2022 – April 10, 2022**

**Day #4: It began snowing harder the morning we boarded the bus to Geneva, Switzerland.**



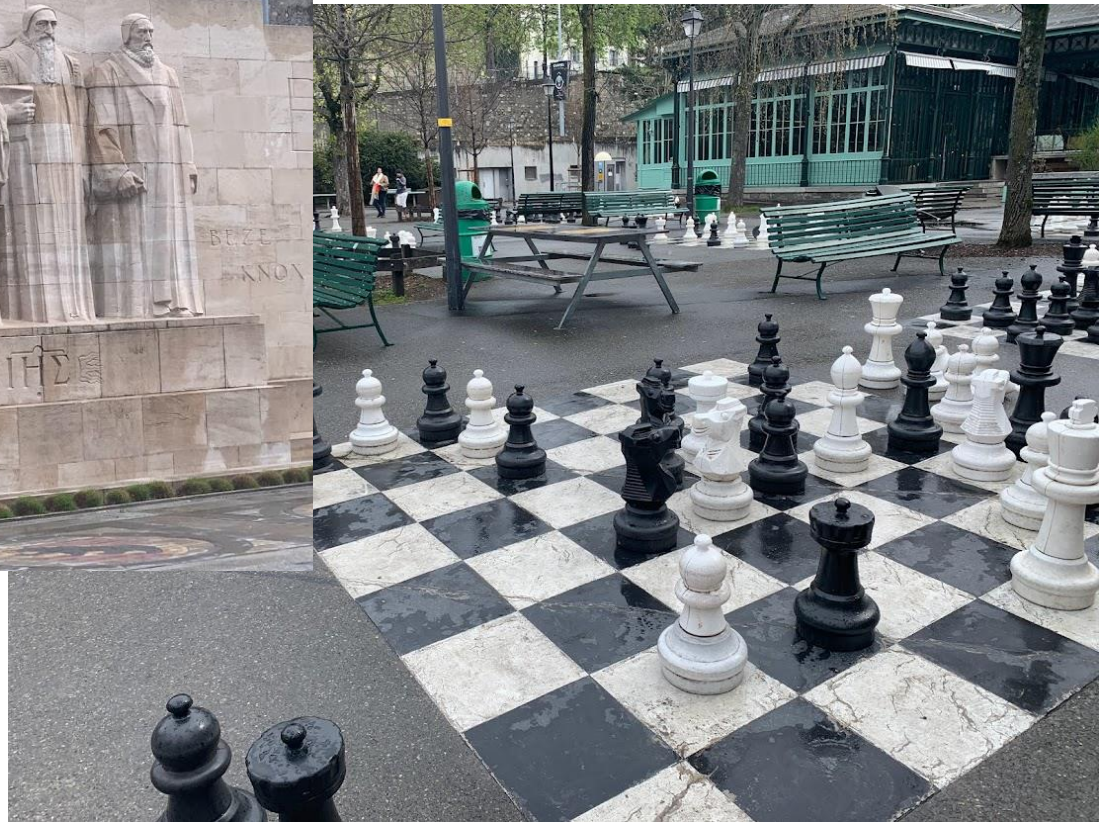


Grand Theater of Geneva Opera House





The International Monument to the Reformation built in 1909 honors the Protestant Reformation. The Wall is on the grounds of the University of Geneva, which was founded by John Calvin. The major figures of the Reformation are depicted as giant statues and bas-reliefs.





Geneva Flower Clock is an outdoor flower clock dedicated to Geneva's watchmakers. It's second hand it the longest in the world at 8.2 feet. There are around 6,500 flowering plants and shrubs used for the clock face and they change as the seasons change.





Strolling the streets of Geneva, we find a bottle of “Bayou Rum - Mardi Gras”!





Of course, for lunch, Lonny had a beer in honor of John Calvin!





We wanted to find a Swiss Watch reasonably priced. We found the Ice Watch which is a perpetual solar watch. Although the Ice Watch is made in Belgium, we bought them in Geneva, Switzerland. I wore this watch for the rest of the trip because of the difficulty of charging my Apple Watch in an International country.





Beau Rivage — Are we in Mississippi? The Hotel Beau Rivage in Geneva is where one of Europe's most glamorous and intriguing Princesses, Empress Elisabeth of Austria, died in 1898.





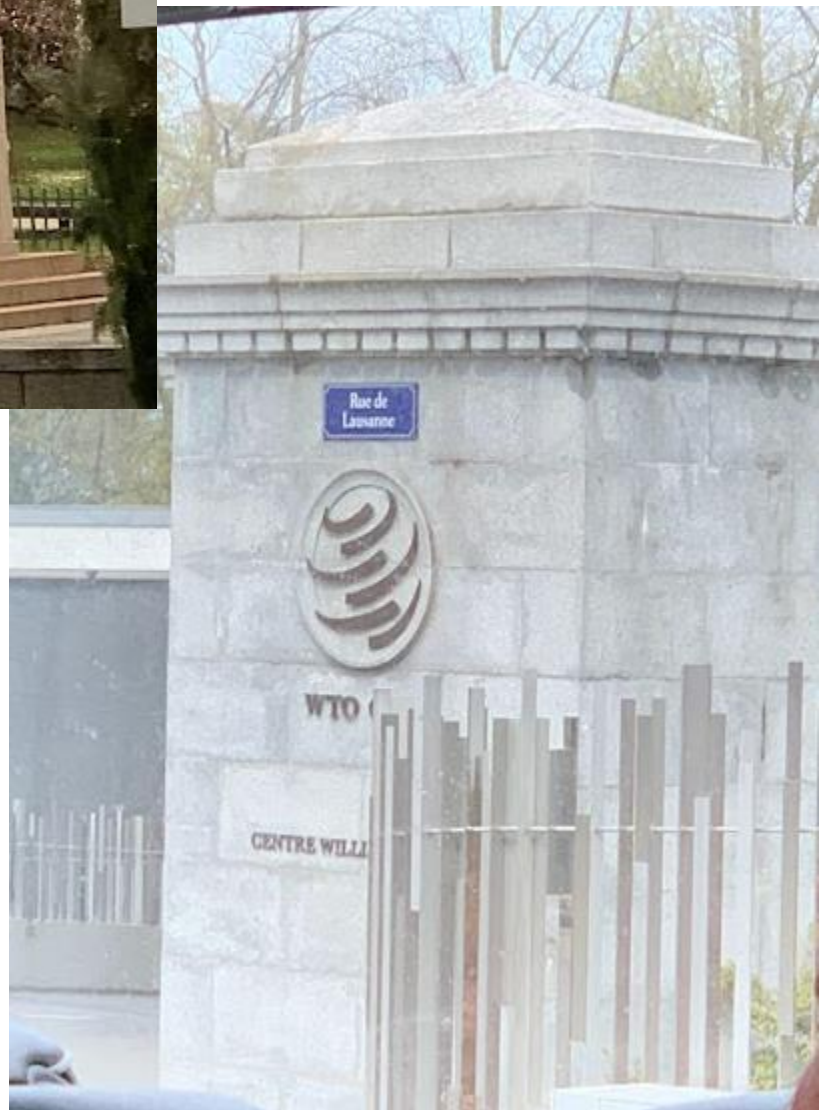
**Geneva, Switzerland is home to many International Organizations Headquarters.**

**International Red Cross HQ**





## World Trade Organization HQ





## World Meteorological Organization HQ





## United Nations HQ



The monumental sculpture of the Broken Chair is across from the United Nations and symbolizes the despair and dignity of armed violence victims. It allows everyone to reflect on their own responsibility and encourages action. As you can see, this is the location for the protestors.





World Health Organization HQ





Statue of Mahatma Gandhi - Geneva and Gandhi are both references in the search for peace among mankind. Gandhi's statue is next to the United Nations HQ.

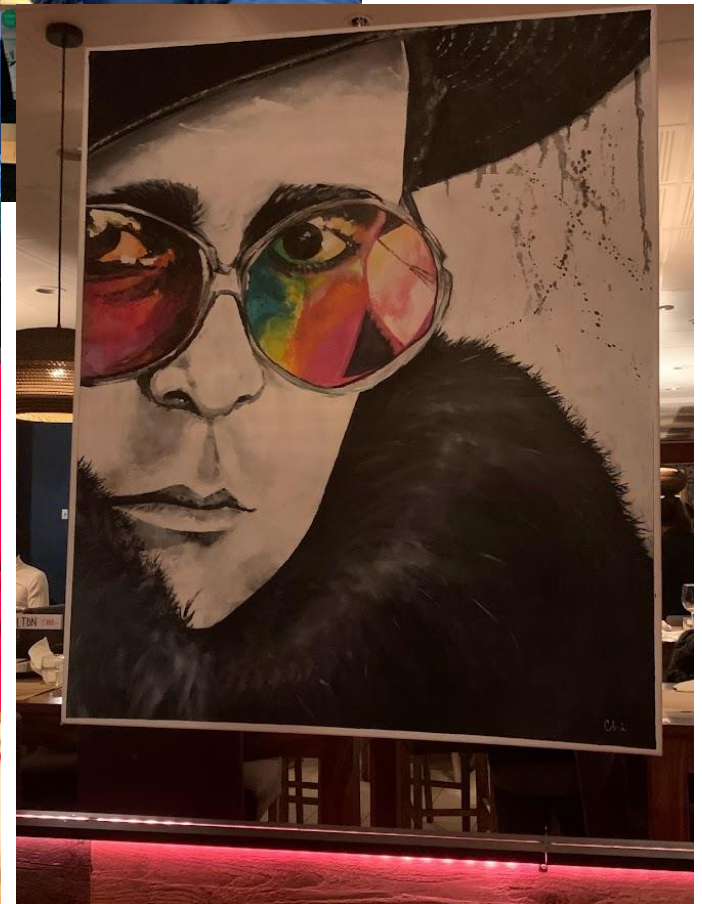




Montreux Casino has served as the venue for the Montreux Jazz Festival. In 1971, a fire burned down the Casino after a fan set it on fire with a flare gun. The song "Smoke on the Water" by English rock group Deep Purple memorialized the 1971 fire of the casino. "Smoke on the water, a fire in the sky...."



The first evening in Montreux, we had a group dinner at BIS Bar and Bistronomie.

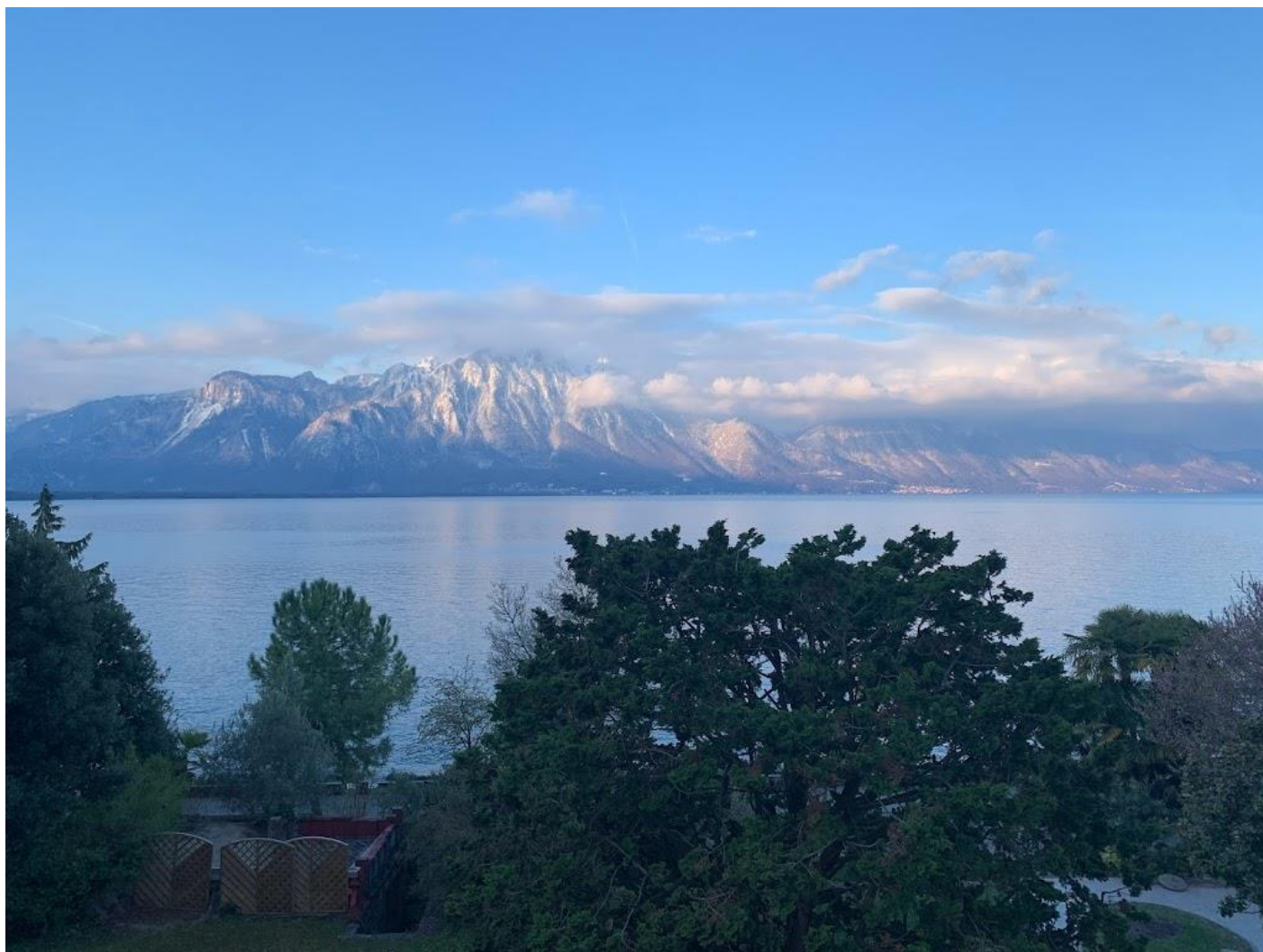




The hotel we stayed in Montreux was the Eden Palace.



**Day #5: Our view of the sunrise on the snow capped mountains on our hotel room balcony.**

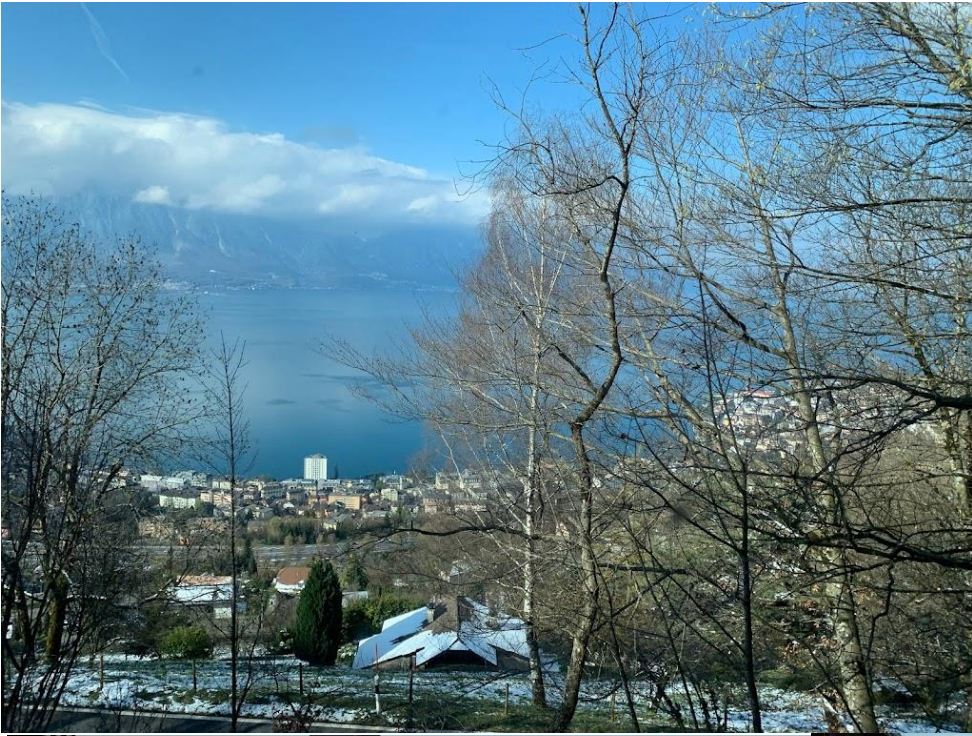




We took the Golden Pass Train through the Alps to Gstaad with breathtaking scenery, mountain passes and unforgettable views.

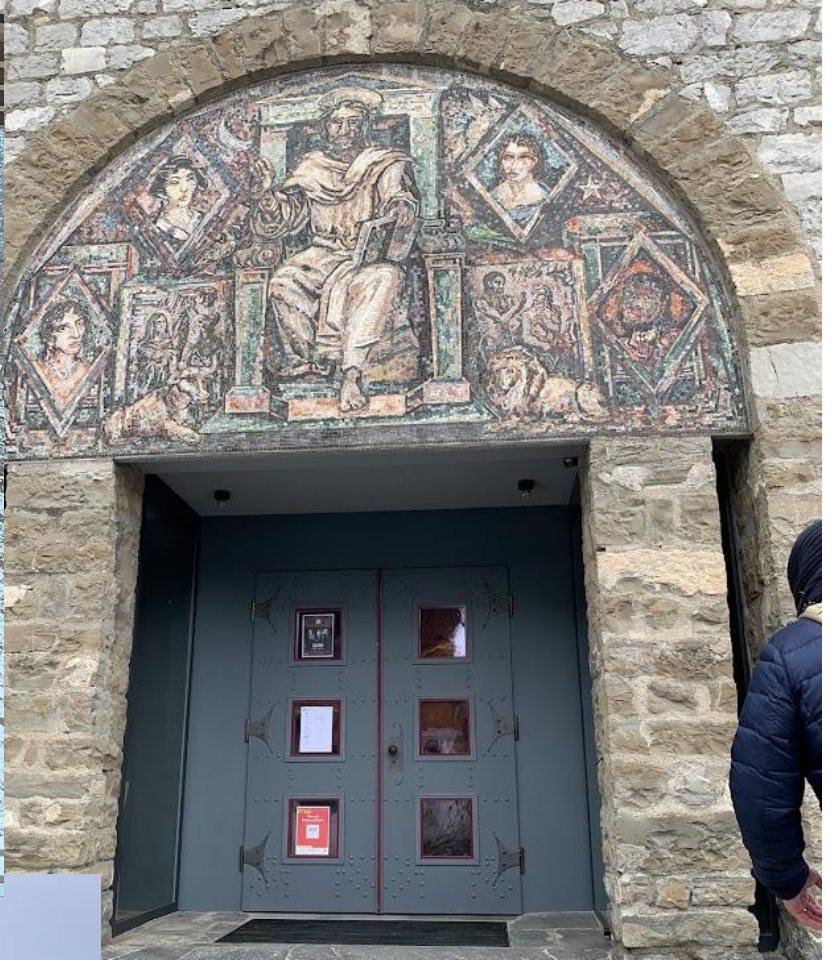




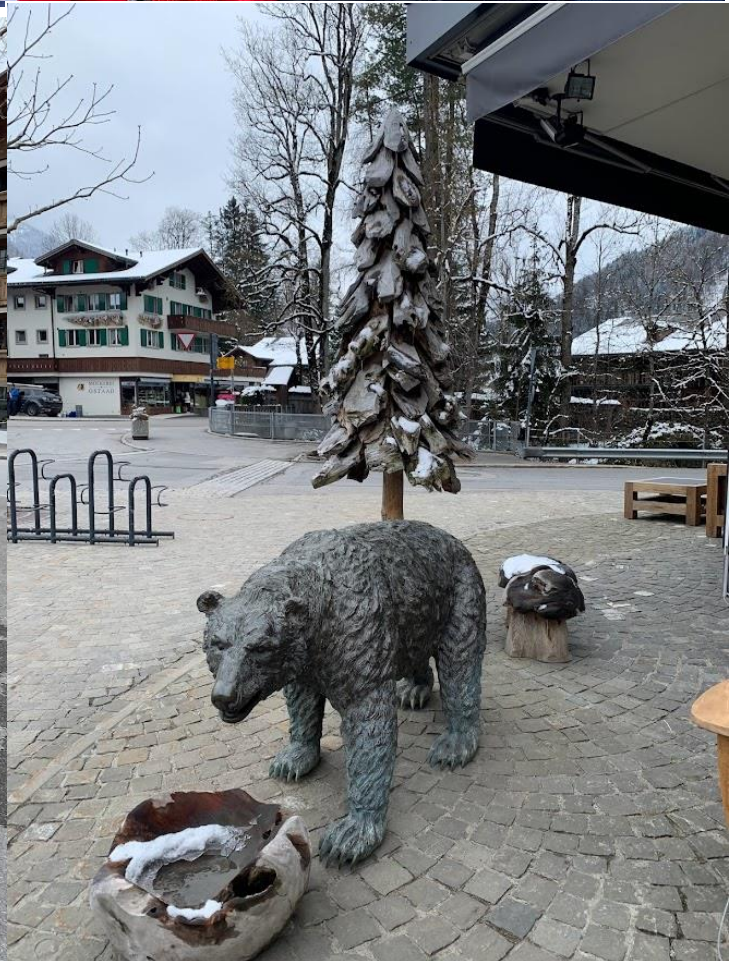




Gstaad is known as a popular ski resort among the international jet set.  
We entered a church midway through mass and heard ceremony in German.

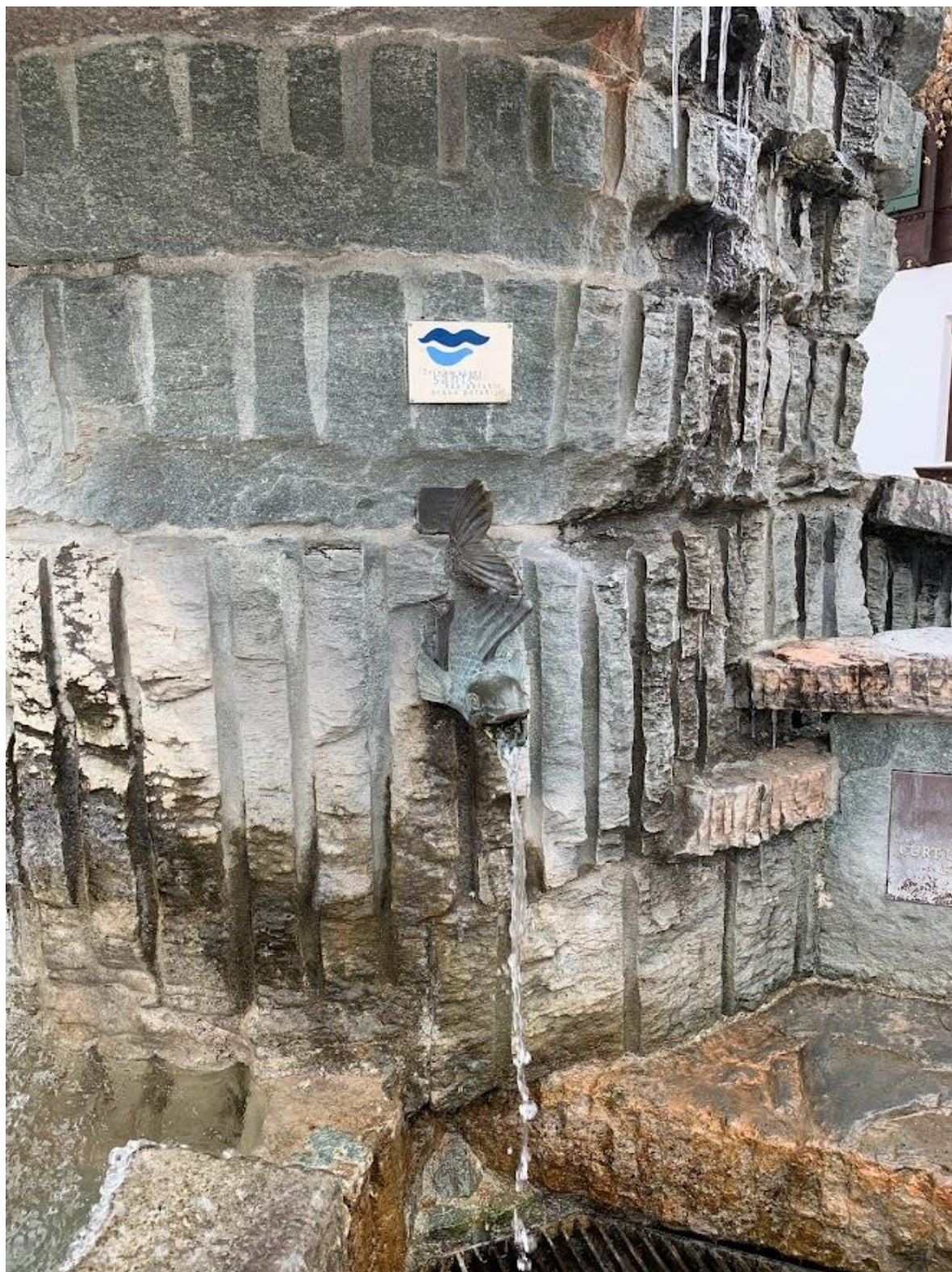








Bonnie drank directly out of this water spout with fresh mountain spring water.





The St. Nicholas Chapel in Gstaad was built in 1402.





In America, we have soft drinks in our vending machines. In Gstaad, Switzerland, they have cheese-to-go!

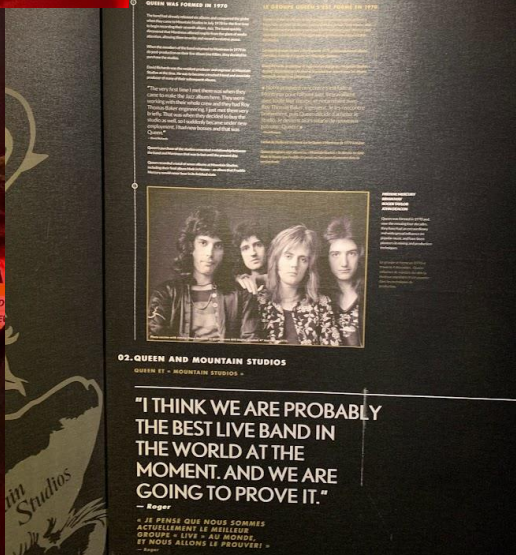
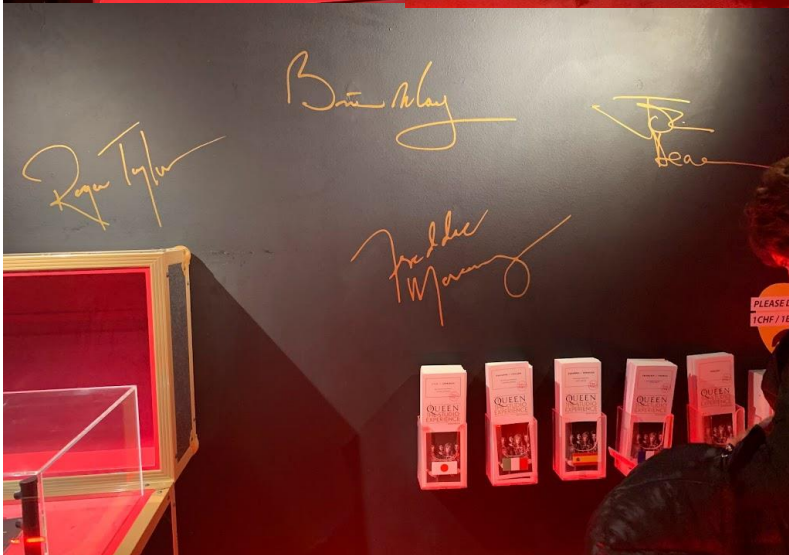


Had a Croque Monsieur at Charly's for lunch.

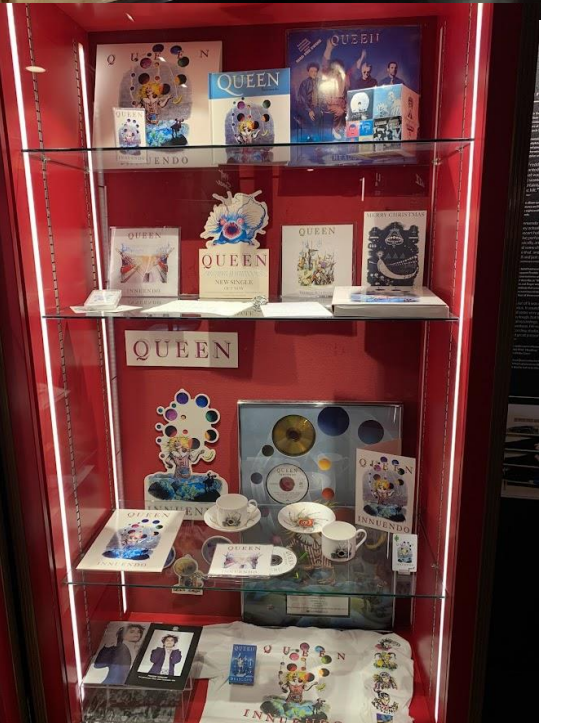
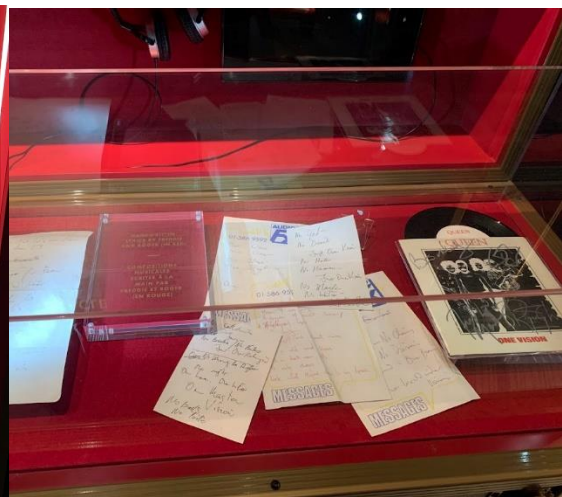




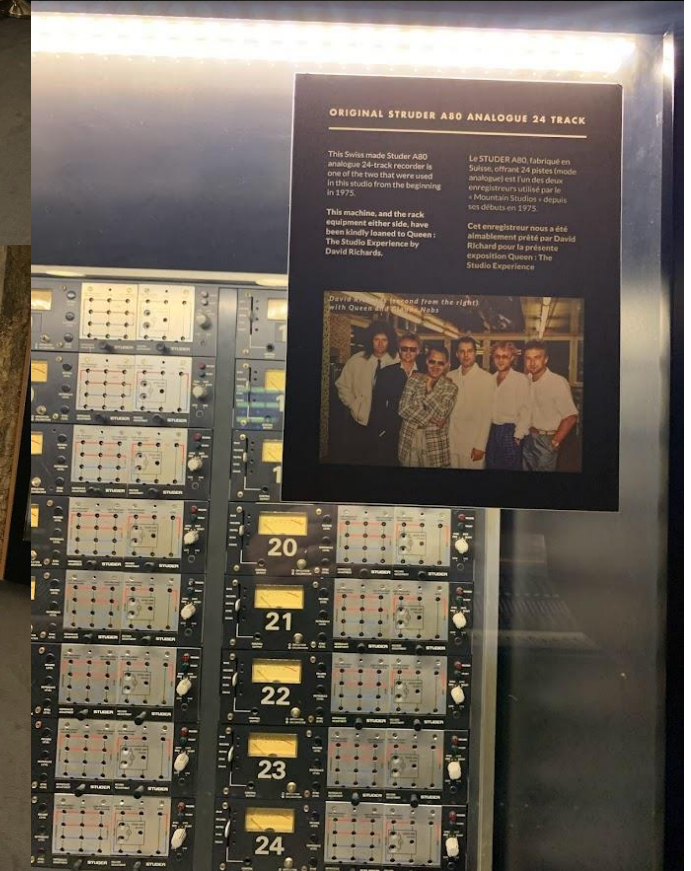
**Queen - The Studio Experience** was in the Montreux Casino. Queen recorded a total of seven albums at Mountain Studios in the Montreux Casino. Queen owned the building from 1979 to 1996. The band quickly discovered that Montreux offered a respite from the glare of media attention, allowing them to write and record in relative peace. The exhibition includes photos and memorabilia from Queen's personal archives.





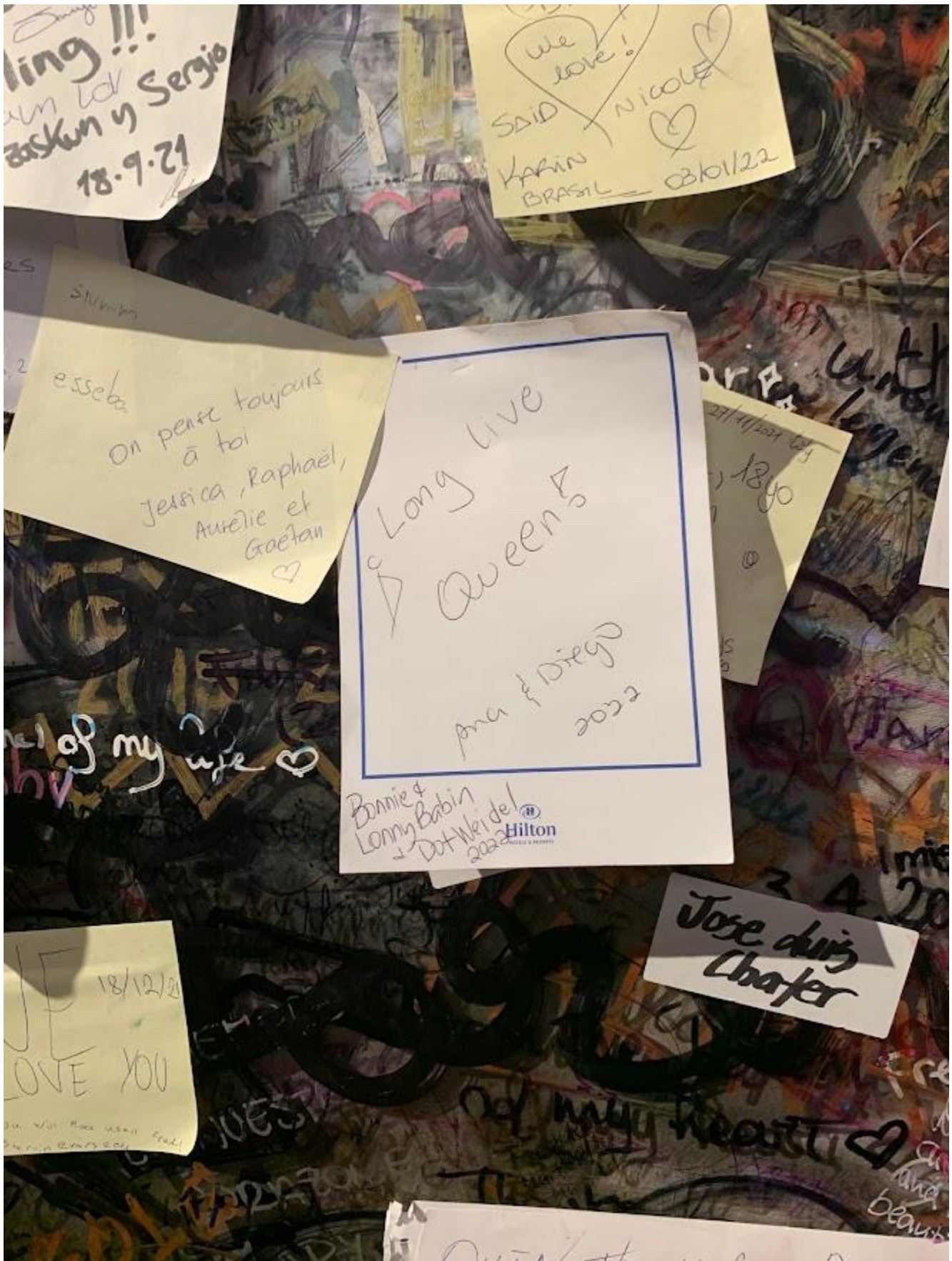








We signed the wall at the original studio entrance.





Above the door to the outside is a mural with all of the Jazz greats, including Louis Armstrong and Ray Charles.





There is a statue of Freddie Mercury near the wharf where many of Queen's videos were shot.





## FREDDIE MERCURY STATUE

LA STATUE DE FREDDIE MERCURY

The bronze statue of Freddie Mercury which stands on the edge of the lake by the market square in Montreux was donated to the town by Queen and the Freddie Mercury Estate.

The Czechoslovakian sculptor and Fellow of the Royal British Society of Sculptors, Irena Sedláčková, was commissioned to sculpt the statue and it was unveiled on 25th November 1996 by Freddie's parents Bomi and Jer Bulsara, Freddie's opera singing partner Montserrat Caballé, and Queen's Brian May and Roger Taylor.

La statue en bronze à l'effigie de Freddie Mercury qui se trouve au bord du lac sur la place du Marché à Montreux a été offerte à la Ville de Montreux par Queen et par la « Freddie Mercury Estate ».

Le sculpteur tchécoslovaque Irena Sedláčková Membre de la Société Royale Britannique des sculpteurs, est mandaté pour la réalisation de cette statue.

Le parents de Freddie, Bomi et Jer Bulsara en compagnie de Montserrat Caballé, Brian May et Roger Taylor présentent l'œuvre le 25 novembre 1996.

All photography by Richard Gray



Irena Sedláčková





## Walking Around Montreux





Switzerland's Valses water says it is "Made By Mountains".





Last Night in Montreux, we had dinner at a fondue place.

