

Richard Wagner Museum Lucerne

Collection of historic musical instruments

Welcome to the country manor in Tribschen! Pay us a visit and discover not only the fascinating world of the famous composer Richard Wagner, but also a variety of precious musical instruments. You can view two extraordinary collections under one roof and also take time to linger in the magnificent surroundings of the manor on Lake Lucerne and enjoy the magic of Central Switzerland's Alps.

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History of the building

The Richard Wagner Museum in Tribschen is situated on the premises of the former country home of the Am Rhyn family. The patrician family had acquired the manor in the 18th century.

The origins of the property, which is under historical monument protection, can be traced back to the 15th century. Evidence of this fact is provided by the basement, which dates from that period. In all likelihood, the house was inhabited by the "Herren zu Tripschen" (the men from Tripschen) in the late Middle Ages. This area of Lucerne still bears their name today.

The manor's present-day external appearance can be attributed to the year 1800. The rows of windows are typical of buildings dating from this time period. Their axial symmetry can be traced to the building style of the masters from the Singer family.

History of the museum

A museum was established in Richard Wagner's former residence in Tribschen outside of Lucerne, paying homage to the life and work of the famous composer. Richard Wagner lived on the shores of the Lake of Lucerne for six years. After he transferred his residence to Bayreuth in 1872, and thus left the "idyll at Tribschen", the manor stood empty for many years, rented at times during the summer months as a holiday house.

In 1931, the city of Lucerne acquired the country manor together with the surrounding park (30,000 m²) from the Am Rhyn family in order to make it accessible to the public. The museum was established two years later and since then, an exhibition on Richard Wagner has been open to visitors on the ground floor. A collection of historic musical instruments has been on display in the rooms on the first floor since 1943.

In 1938, the inaugural concert of the Lucerne Festival took place in front of Richard Wagner's former residence in Tribschen. The gala concert was broadcast as far away as North America, as it was being conducted by none other than Arturo Toscanini. Among the pieces on the program was the *Siegfried Idyll*, which Wagner had composed at Tribschen. The 1200 members of the audience were gathered in the park in front of the house.

This concert is considered to have been the birth of today's internationally known and renowned "Lucerne Festival". A monument in front of the house records the event.

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