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MAY 2025

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# TRAVELLER

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# Basel DOUZE PONTS!

The Eurovision Song Contest returns to  
Switzerland in style, hosted by Sandra Studer

FLIP TO DISCOVER FOOD, DRINKS & DUTY FREE SHOPPING IN OUR CAFE & SHOP BROCHURE



**Above: Fernand  
Léger's *La Partie  
de Campagne***

**Below right:  
Nice from the  
rooftops**

In this joyful painting exhibited at the Fondation Maeght, near Nice, a group of figures and a dog enjoy a well-deserved break, while on the left, a man lifts the hood of a car to inspect the engine. The figures are outlined in black, while block colours of yellow, red, blue, orange and green form bold geometric shapes, in a manner reminiscent of the De Stijl movement.

Created in 1954, Fernand Léger's *La Partie de Campagne* (The Outing in the Country) captures the vibrancy of modern life, using a distinctive Cubist-inspired style to blend natural and mechanical forms. The painting presents an idyllic countryside picnic, but its stylised figures and strong palette evoke the dynamism of the industrial age. The composition also hints at Édouard Manet's *Le Déjeuner sur l'Herbe* (1863), a work that created quite a stir with its pair of well-dressed men sitting on

## The BIGGER picture

If you're going to see one work of art in Nice, France, this is the piece to make time to see

Words: MAÏA MORGENSZTERN

either side of a naked woman, who defiantly looks out at the viewer.

While Manet was interested in challenging the traditional representations of women, as well as bourgeois morality, Léger's bucolic outing celebrates something different altogether: the introduction of paid holidays. After Napoleon III instituted paid leave in 1853 for civil servants, people discovered the joys of travelling for leisure, often venturing out into the peaceful countryside.

In 1881, French novelist Guy de Maupassant described such a blissful break aboard a canoe on the River Seine with *Une Partie de Campagne*, which filmmaker Jean Renoir (son of the painter Auguste Renoir) later turned into a short film. In June 1936, after strikes, the law was extended to include the working class toiling away in factories. As a result, tourism developed, with hotels and restaurants sprouting across the country. The law gave birth to the idea of travelling for fun – so something worth celebrating. [fondation-maeght.com/la-partie-de-campagne-fernand-leger](http://fondation-maeght.com/la-partie-de-campagne-fernand-leger)



### GET OUT THERE



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