



# 57th World Congress of Chess Composition August 23-30, 2014 in Berne

## Restaurants and Supermarkets

### I. Vicinity of the hotel

There is a restaurant in Hotel Novotel Bern Expo, but it's not big enough to serve all participants. Some will need to go out for meals and I suggest doing so because Berne has a lot to offer.

We have talked with the management of the restaurant [Caledonia](#), which is just across the street. It's the restaurant in the curling arena, and they usually close at 5 pm in the summer. They will extend their opening hours for us till 8 pm for Monday through Thursday<sup>1</sup> and have agreed to propose two menus for us daily at a reasonable price (you can still order à la Carte if you want). I will put the menus on our bulletin board. If you know that you like to eat at Caledonia please sign up to help them plan the dinner and finish everything in a timely manner. You can still go there without signing up, though.

Not much further away in the same direction is the [Ristorante Bella Vita](#), one of the many Italian restaurants in town. This one has a nice garden for sitting outside. Weather permitting, that is - I hope that we will have finally summer at the end of August. Pasta starts at CHF 16.50, which is quite cheap for Berne. Opening hours: Mo - Fri: 10:30 - 14:00, 17:00 - 23:30 and Sat: 17:00 - 00:00, closed on Sundays.

[Wankdorf Center](#) is the Shopping Mall in the Stade de Suisse (football stadium) where you can find everything from a pharmacy, an optician, cell phones, electronics to clothes. There is a big Coop Supermarket in the mall, too. There are several restaurants and takeaway places in the mall, two of them I like to mention:

- Coop Restaurant: This is quite a big self-serve restaurant (with a play area for kids). Coop Restaurants are known for their good and affordable food. As I have been told they provide tap water without charge.
- For sandwich lovers: Subway has just opened a new branch, the first and only one in Berne so far.

Opening hours for the mall: Mo-Thu 9:00 – 20:00; Fri 9:00 – 20:00; Sat 9:00 – 17:00; Closed on Sundays.

To get to Wankdorf Center you can either take a short walk or take tram #9 towards "Wankdorf Bahnhof" and get off at the next stop.

Only a short walk or two stops with the tram #9 (towards "Wabern") away is **Breitenrainplatz**. The Breitenrain quarter (in Bernese "Breitsch") is one of the hippest quarters in Berne to live in, and Breitenrainplatz is its center. There is another (smaller) Coop supermarket with a Coop restaurant (self-serve)<sup>2</sup>, and there is a Migros supermarket with takeaway food. On

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<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately they are closed on week-ends.

<sup>2</sup> Opening hours: Mo-Fri 07:30-18:00, Sa 07:30-16:00; Closed on Sundays

Breitenrainplatz, there are many restaurant or cafés. Only recently, a microbrewery called [Barbière](#) was opened there. Sounds promising, but I heard the beer is quite expensive.

In August, a new branch of “[Gelateria di Berna](#)” has opened next to Breitenrainplatz. This is really good Italian style ice cream parlor and worth a try. The price is quite OK, too.

One more stop with the tram, and you stand in front of [Restaurant Spitz](#), a restaurant serving true Swiss food like Röstli (hash browns) with different toppings or cheese fondue. They have a “4s” menu as well (4s=soup, salads, sandwiches and snacks). Opening hours are Mo-Fri 8.30-23.30, closed on weekends.

Here is a map of the surroundings of the hotel with most of the places I mentioned:



## II. Inner city

There is no shortage of restaurants and cafes in the inner city. Since most restaurants around the hotels are closed on Sundays, there is a good chance you'll go to the inner city on that day. The tram #9 takes you there in only 7-10 minutes.

Exit at station Bärenplatz: This is the “Front” area I described in my piece about what to do in Berne. There is one restaurant next to the other; locals go there as well as tourists. On a nice summer day, everybody is sitting outside.

If you like good meat, there is [Entrecôte Café Fédéral](#), right at the corner to Bundesplatz, a place where you often meet politicians and even members of the federal council (the Swiss government). This is not a budget recommendation, though 😊.

As I have written elsewhere, Italian food is almost considered local. There are many Italian restaurants in the inner city, and some of them are quite affordable.

[Ristorante Pizzeria “Rialto”](#), a restaurant where I often go for lunch, is situated in Aarberggasse, not on Bärenplatz itself. I like their tasty food, good service and affordable prices. There are a few more similar Italian restaurants in that area, Ristorante Pomodoro in Neuengasse or Ristorante Da Nona in Speichergasse to name a few. The Italian restaurants



“Il Grissino” and “Luce” on Waisenhausplatz are hip places (or at least used to be, but are still very popular among locals) and the food is very good, too, but they are a little more expensive IMHO.

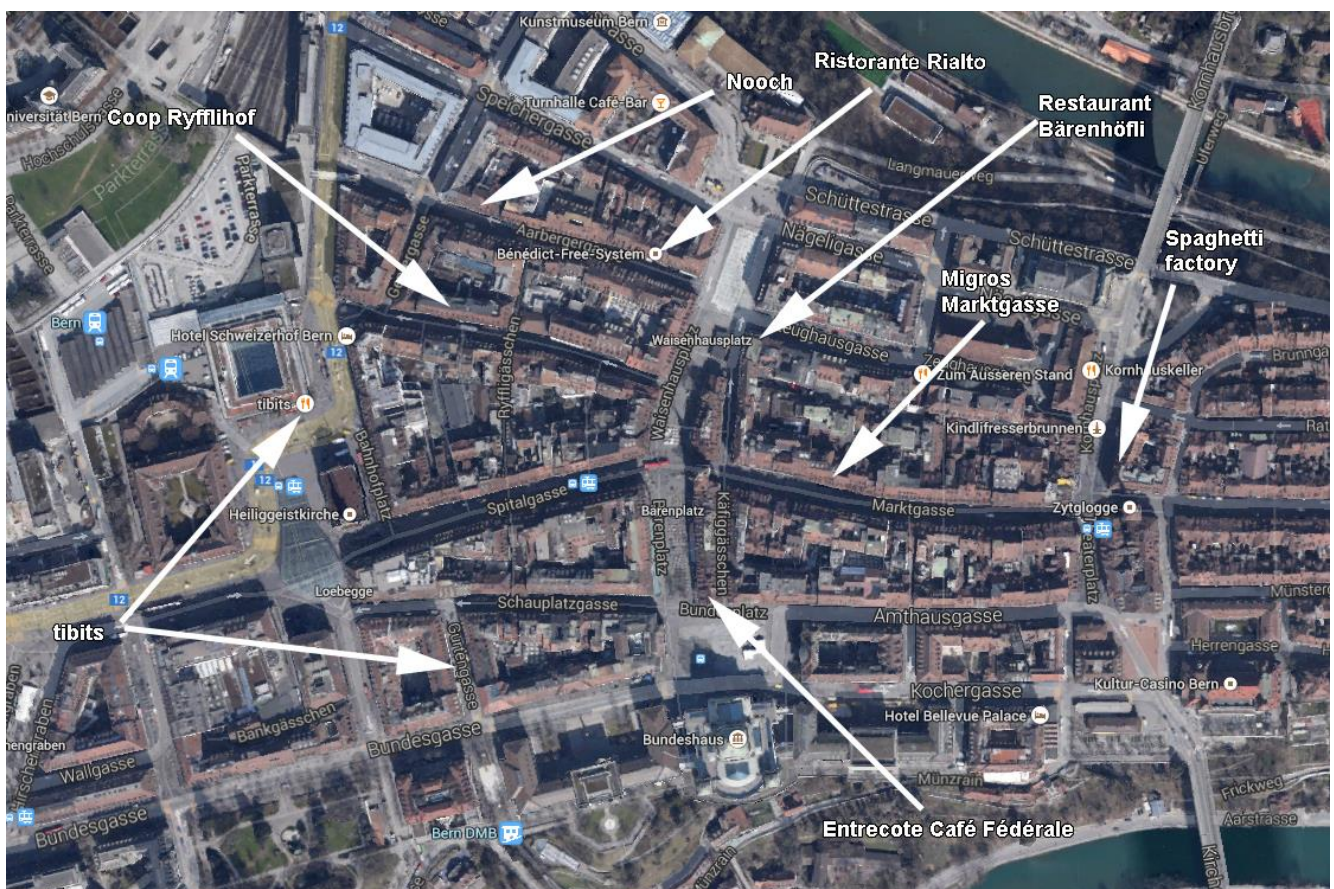
Another affordable Italian restaurant is “[Spaghetti factory](#)”, right at the tram station Zytglogge (one before Bärenplatz). There are a few more restaurants in that area, too.

[Restaurant Bärenhöfli](#) on Zeughausgasse 41, offers daily lunch menus for CHF 15.00 (main course with salad or soup), it’s nothing fancy, but good Swiss food. They are best known for their “Öpfuchüechli” (= apple tart ring), a dessert or for afternoon tea.

[Nooch](#) is a chain of restaurants that serve Asian (street) food. You’ll get noodles, soup, rice, sushi and more. Sushi is expensive in Switzerland, but my favorite “surf and turf rice” (with beef and shrimps) is around CHF 20. Nooch is very busy and full of young folks. (I always feel very old when I’m there ;-)) and you should make reservations to go there.

Vegetarians and vegans love “[tibits](#)” situated at two locations in Berne, one in the Bahnhof (main station) building and the other one at Gurtengasse. I am not into vegetarian cuisine, but people tell me it’s good, but not very cheap. (There is a vegetarian restaurant called “[dosha Ayurveda](#)” in Breitenrain quarter that seems to have good prices (Moserstr. 25, almost opposite Restaurant Spitz, I mentioned above).

There is a big **self-serve Migros restaurant at Marktgasse 46**. Migros restaurants are – similar to Coop restaurants – known for good and affordable food.<sup>3</sup> IMHO you’ll find the best price / performance ratio in Coop or Migros self-serve restaurants. – At the same location there is a big Migros supermarket. The biggest Coop supermarket is “Rifflyhof”, close to the main station, between Neuengasse and Aarberggasse (with a Coop restaurant).



<sup>3</sup> Opening hours: Mo-Wed 7:30-19.00; Thu 7:30-21.00; Sat 7:30-17.00

In the main station building, there are numerous [restaurants and takeaways](#), from McDonalds to Starbucks. Besides self-serve restaurants, you'll get the cheapest food from takeaways. During the week, there are lots of them at lunch time, but not so many in the evening.

Many of the restaurants in the inner city are open 7 days a week. Shops have other opening hours by law; all shops are closed on Sundays and after 5 pm on Saturdays. There are a few exceptions like bakeries that are allowed to be open on Sundays and all shops in the main station: There are Migros and Coop, a pharmacy, Swisscom shop at the main station, just to name a few.

A little further away – next to the bear park – is [“Altes Tramdepot”](#), the restaurant I have already mentioned for the good beer in other posts. They have small and big dishes at somewhat reasonable prices. It's popular among locals as well as tourists and you probably have to make reservations, mainly on weekends. When you sit outside, you have a great view over the old town.

One thought about “tipping”: Service is included almost everywhere in Switzerland, mainly in restaurants. In restaurants with service you usually leave part of the chance (1-2 francs per person) as a tip. In better the restaurant the tip is often higher.

These are my tips where to eat with a rather small budget. Talk to me if you want to spend more and have a dining experience.

That's all for today. No more to come, that's my last post under Franziska's tips.