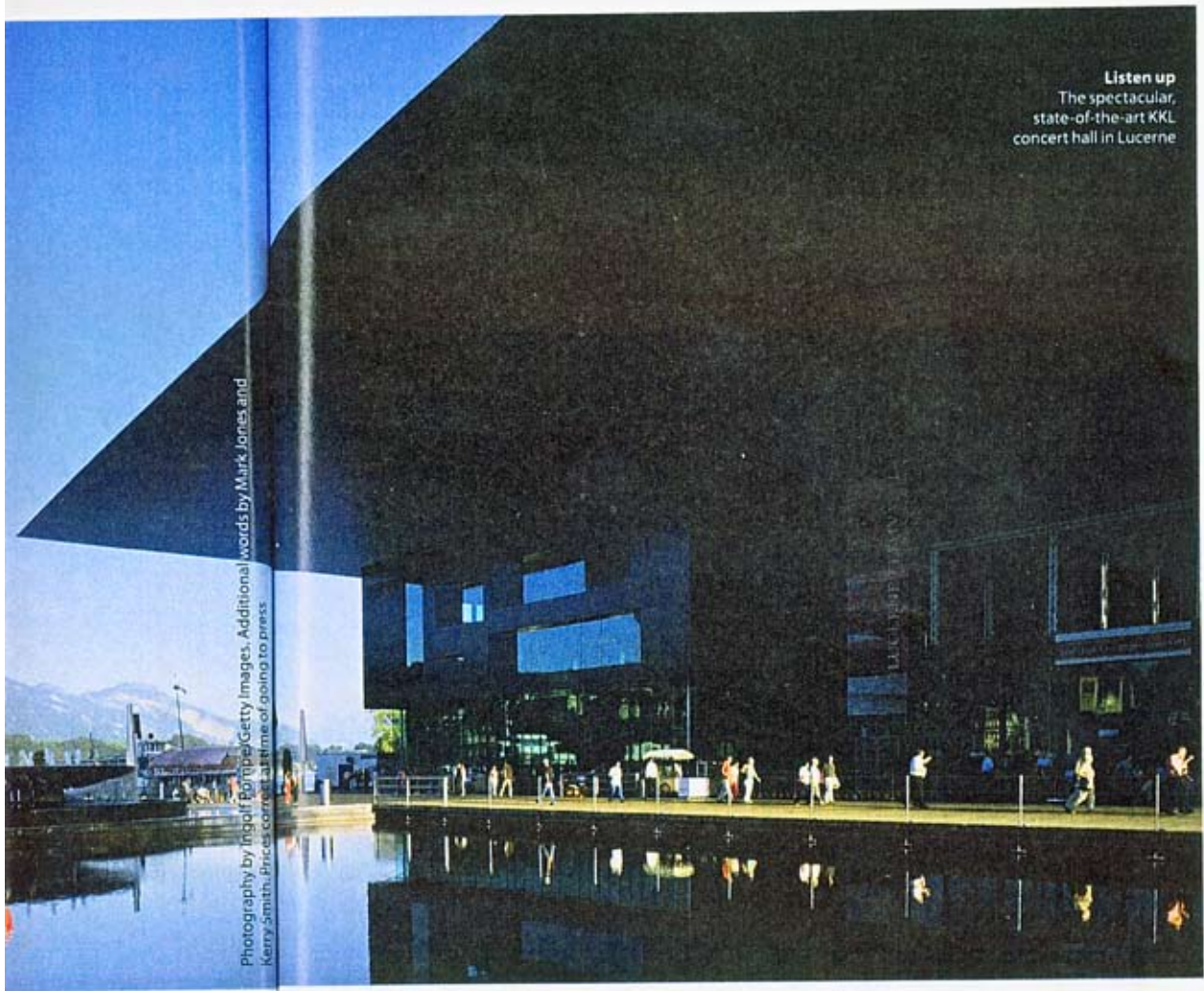


# Euro Top 10 stars



**Listen up**  
The spectacular,  
state-of-the-art KKL  
concert hall in Lucerne

Photography by Ingrid Pöppel/Getty Images. Additional words by Mark Jones and Kerry Smith. Prices correct at time of going to press

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## Lucerne

Put together the words 'dance' and 'festival' and you'll probably think of a lot of youthful and would-be youthful types in T-shirts in a field somewhere. The dance theme of this year's Lucerne Music Festival promises something altogether more sedate. Lucerne is not the most glamorous nor famous city in Switzerland, let alone Europe, but it's a

wonderfully elevated spot to hear some of the world's best orchestras and performers – elevated in both senses of the word. You won't feel cooped up for long, however many concerts you see. The KKL concert hall is state-of-the-art airy; the wide Reuss river keeps the town calm; and there are superb walks in the mountains. Talking of which, you have to take the Pilatus railway to the mountain of the same name from Lake Lucerne. As well as the spectacular views, you will be able to say, 'I have taken a trip on the steepest cog railway in the world', and that's not to be sniffed at.

At a period when politics is much in the news in Switzerland, it's interesting to remember the origins of the festival. It was established in 1938, partly under the auspices of the anti-Fascist conductor Arturo Toscanini, for musicians either unwilling or unable to play at Bayreuth in Hitler's Germany.

**Why now?** The festival is on until 21 September, but it's a lovely place for a break even if you're tone deaf.

**Rest your head at...** The Palace hotel ([palace-luzern.ch](http://palace-luzern.ch)) offers an *aussergewöhnlichem ambiente*, and you can't argue with that. Their swish rooms are available from £250 a night.

**Way to go** British Airways flies to Basel from London Heathrow; the train journey to Lucerne is all part of the experience.

## Krakow

Now the stag parties have cleared off, more modest visitors have this drinkers' paradise to themselves. The Old Town district has more

