A wonderful and challenging Bike Tour

On Saturday morning June 3rd a small but courageous group of MIT alums plus friends and family set out from the sunny shores of Lausanne for a 2-day, 180km ride around Lake Geneva. We were represented by recent and not-so-recent graduates, homelands across Europe, North America, and Asia, and had various biking experience: one was a former member of the MIT cycling team, while another rode in street clothes on an old 3-speed bike. The weather was perfect, sunny yet cool, and the route was beautiful, hugging the lake with mountain views for its entirety.

Riding off from Lausanne, we regrouped for a mid-morning break in Montreux, then followed the bike path as it led us off the lake road, over pedestrian bridges and through the woods towards the south side of the lake. We met up again for lunch at the Swiss/French border town of St. Gingolph. Our mid-afternoon rest stop was in the French town of Evian, and we finished the day in the medieval town of Yvoire. The hotel Les Flots Bleus was a charming destination on the waterfront, which served our tired and hungry bodies a gourmet dinner.

Sunday's ride coincidentally overlapped with the Cyclotour du Leman, and we saw hundreds (perhaps thousands) of riders whoosh past us as they rode the whole perimeter of the lake in one day rather than two. Our group crossed back into Switzerland at Hermance and coasted down into Geneva for a short break. We continued through Geneva together, then sped along the water to Nyon for a long, tranquil lunch with castle views. After lunch our group split up, as some wanted to stick to the water for the final stretch back to Lausanne, while others chose to follow the posted bike path signs through the countryside and vineyards above. Our paths crossed somewhat coincidentally outside of Lausanne, and after some more kilometers we finished back at our point of departure.

Bidding each other farewell, our thoughts were already drifting towards the next MIT alumni club adventure gathering, be it more biking, or perhaps hiking, skiing, whitewater rafting, or perhaps all of the above.

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