

Milestones

RICHEMONT CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE – Bakery Confectionery

1943

On 7 June 1943 the Swiss Bakery Confectionery Association (SBKV) decided during their meeting in Bad Ragaz to establish their own technical school with a test laboratory for training and continuing education purposes. It was then opened at the former English boarding house “Richemont” (built in 1904) at Rigistrasse 28 in Lucerne, thus leading to the name of nowadays school.

1945

Operations started in February of 1945 after various structural works. The annual programme consisted of 18 courses and the first course was held on 5 January 1945. Richemont started with 10 full-time employees incl. boarding school and laboratory. In 1945 the number of course participants was 576 in total, with an average class size of 32 students. It was also the year when the master craftsman qualification took place for the first time.

1947

The first Richemont Newsletter was issued in June 1945. It was renamed “Trade Journal” in January 1947.

1948

A first group of German experts in the field came to visit the Richemont Craft School in 1947. 30 English specialists came in 1948 and took a two week course, which resulted in the founding of the International Richemont Club. The Swiss experts visited Great Britain, Austria, Germany, Belgium and France, who eventually all decided to join the International Richemont Club. Still today, the idea behind the Club is to exchange expertise, knowledge and to attend each other’s courses and trade fairs.

1955

10 years after the opening of the Richemont Craft School extensions and new facilities were added to the original building, including an auditorium, a meeting hall and a bigger laboratory.

1965

In 1965 the 25’000th visitor was welcomed at the Richemont Craft School. The number of annual course participants increased to 2000.

1970

The laboratory runs about 3900 tests and analyses.

1978

For the first time courses are run for French speaking experts at CIBM in Pully.

1982

The biggest reconstruction project of Richemont Craft School started in 1982 and ended in 1983.

1987

Opening of the branch office in Pully

1995

The number of employees is 50, incl. hotel/restaurant, research & development and publishing. More than 270 in-house and external courses are planned for 1995. A bilingual copy of the course programme is issued for the first time.

2001

In January 2001 the new Richemont building at Seeburgstrasse 51 in Lucerne was opened in order to offer a new future strategy and meet the changes in market requirements.

2004

Richemont Craft School is now eduQua certified and thus proves to be a reliable partner for the training and continuing education of the whole bakery and confectionery trade.

2005

Implementation of an online booking and ordering system for course sign-ups and book orders.

2009

There is a large international demand for Richemont Reference Books. Besides books in German, French and Italian, some books are also published in English, Spanish, Russian and Japanese.

2013

Apart from the printed copy, the Richemont Trade Journal and selected educational materials are now also offered in digital form (e-paper, e-books).

2015

Richemont celebrates its 70th anniversary. The educational programme includes 83 different training courses and lectures. The number of employees is 70.

2016

Extension of the school facilities.

2017

Richemont employee Ramona Bolliger wins the gold medal in the bakery & pastry discipline at the WorldSkills in Abu Dhabi.

2019

Richemont employee Sonja Durrer wins the gold medal in the bakery & pastry discipline at the WorldSkills in Kazan.

2022

The WorldSkills Competition 2022 Special Edition in the bakery & pastry and pastry & confectionery discipline are held at the Richemont Craft School. Juliana Thöny wins the gold medal in the pastry & confectionery discipline and Vera Stocker the bronze medal in the bakery & pastry discipline. Both winners are Richemont employees.

The following directors were or are in charge of Richemont Craft School:

Ernst Vogt, 1944 until 1968

Rudolf Flückiger, 1968 until 1976

Damian Schmid, 1976 until 1992

Walter Boesch, 1992 until 2011

Reto Fries, 2011 until today