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duch·ess  (dŭch ɪs)

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n.

1. The wife or widow of a duke.
2. A woman holding title to a duchy in her own right.
3. Used as the title for such a noblewoman.

[Middle English *duchesse*, from Old French, from Medieval Latin *ducissa*, from Latin *dux*, *duc-*, leader; see [DUKE](#).]

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