

A living history

Discovering the built heritage of the Pays-d'Enhaut region



PAYS-D'ENHAUT
CHÂTEAU-D'OEX | ROUGEMONT | ROSSINIÈRE

Until 1555, the Pays-d’Enhaut region belonged to the Counts of Gruyère. From this date until 1803 it was ruled by Bern, before rejoining the canton of Vaud.

This corner of Switzerland, between the Fribourg district of Intyamon and the Bernese Saanenland, follows the course of the Sarine river. A relatively small area, it boasts both magnificent scenery and a built heritage of outstanding quality.

This authentic heritage isn’t the sign of a region locked in the past, a living museum of days gone by. It is the result of 1000 years of man and nature living in harmony, of traditional techniques and know-how based on carefully-tended natural resources.

The key natural resource of the region is wood, and the vernacular buildings, often hundreds of years old, are mostly built of local wood. Foundations are constructed with masonry, stones bonded with lime mortar, topped with horizontal beams. On the facades of the buildings these beams are often carefully sculpted or engraved. The shallow roofs are covered with shingles, secured with slats and stones. Steeper roofs, such as the one on the Grand Chalet in Rossinière, are covered in thinner shingles, nailed in place to follow the slopes of the great roof. The facades of the houses, where the windows are located, are protected by deep overhanging roofs supported by struts carved to the builder’s own particular taste.

Despite a number of destructive fires, particularly in Château-d’Oex, many 17th and 18th chalets survive today, demonstrating the commitment of the inhabitants of the valley to constructions that will last, while creating buildings that are also beautiful and harmonious, at one with their natural surroundings.

In the 21st century the local and communal authorities recognise the richness of this architectural heritage, and have protected several buildings. Looking to the future as well as to the past, they have also set guidelines for the construction of new buildings in the three communes of the Pays-d’Enhaut region. These directives are inspired by the existing built environment and by the character of our landscape, ensuring a coherent architecture that fits its surroundings and combines tradition and experience with modern techniques.

Enjoy your visit to our villages and hamlets. Welcome to the Pays-d’Enhaut!

Jean-Pierre Neff,
Carpenter, Mayor of Rossinière.

The architectural landscape: unlocking our heritage

Le Pays-d’Enhaut is a welcoming region, shaped on a human scale by agriculture in harmony with nature. Rougemont, Château-d’Oex and Rossinière, the three main centres of population, are surrounded by smaller villages such as Flendruz, Gérignoz, Le Pré, Les Moulins and La Tine. These hamlets grew up along the watercourses that powered the region’s flour mills, until they were replaced in the 18th century by the sawmills which are still in operation today.

A dispersed habitat is spread across the slopes of the valley of the Sarine and its adjoining valleys. It is the distinctive feature of the valley of L’Etivaz, where houses and their accompanying barns and byres are found every few hundred metres. The permanent residences of the farming families, each sits in the middle of its own meadow, which provides the hay essential for the cattle in winter.

Above 1300 metres, the buildings are only used in the summer. The cattle begin and end the summer on the lower mountain pastures, and in high summer move up to the high mountain, between 1600 and 2000 metres. It is here that the exceptional quality of the grass gives the local cheese its distinctive and delicious flavour.

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Château-d'Oex

The built heritage of Château-d'Oex



THE VILLAGE CENTRE AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The village has grown around the base of the hill beneath the church. The stone buildings along the street here and around the Place du Village were built after the great fire of 28 July 1800. "The fire ran like a river across the roofs covered with thin shingles" wrote M. Bridel, then the minister at Château-d'Oex. From that point on the buildings of the village, previously constructed from wood, were rebuilt in stone and roofed with tiles. The **Hôtel de Ville (1)** and several neighbouring houses have dressed stone frameworks and hipped roof.

In 1856 the primary school was relocated to the building that has been the **Buffet de la Gare** since 1913 (2). An imposing new school building was built nearby, one of a number of "Heimatstil" schools built in the canton of Vaud in the early 20th century. A large meeting room was constructed at the same time. The **administrative building (3)**, which has always included a pharmacy, was also completed in 1913. Its facade includes a stone dated 1742 that comes from the former Hôtel de Ville.



Hôtel de Ville (1)

After a first simple shelter for the sick, then a dedicated sick-room opened in the Petit-Pré area of the village in 1880, Château-d'Oex received its first real hospital in 1926, located 1km to the east of the village centre. Since

1979 this has been a retirement home, the hospital having relocated to a modern building just below the original site.

4 THE PROTESTANT CHURCH

Its distinctive silhouette defines Château-d'Oex. In the Middle Ages the Counts of Gruyère raised a small castle or watch tower on this hill. Although the castle is gone, they left behind the name of their place of origin, Ogo, which over time became Oey, then Oex.

At the beginning of the 15th century the church, believed to have been located near La Villa-d'Oex until then, was rebuilt on the hill, the solid bell-tower replacing the ruins of the keep. The choir was built in the gothic style popular from 1450. The nave was probably extended to the north around 1580. In 1555, after the bankruptcy of the last Count of Gruyère, the Pays-d'Enhaut region was ruled by Bern, who brought the Reformation to the area.

Having escaped damage in the two fires that ravaged the village in 1664 and 1741, the church was not spared by the great fire of 1800. All the wooden parts of the church burned in the fire, and the woodwork and internal galleries had to be rebuilt. To save money, the bell tower was topped with a simple "imperial" style roof, and not with a steeple as previously.

In the middle of the 19th century several stained-glass windows were added. A concert organ was installed in 2006 on a modern gallery, quite different from the traditional architecture of the interior.

In 2010 new exterior plasterwork restored the appearance of the church as it had been prior to 1952.

The cemetery was located around the church until 1875, when it was moved to the east of the village, in the direction of Les Moulins.

5 THE MINISTER'S HOUSE

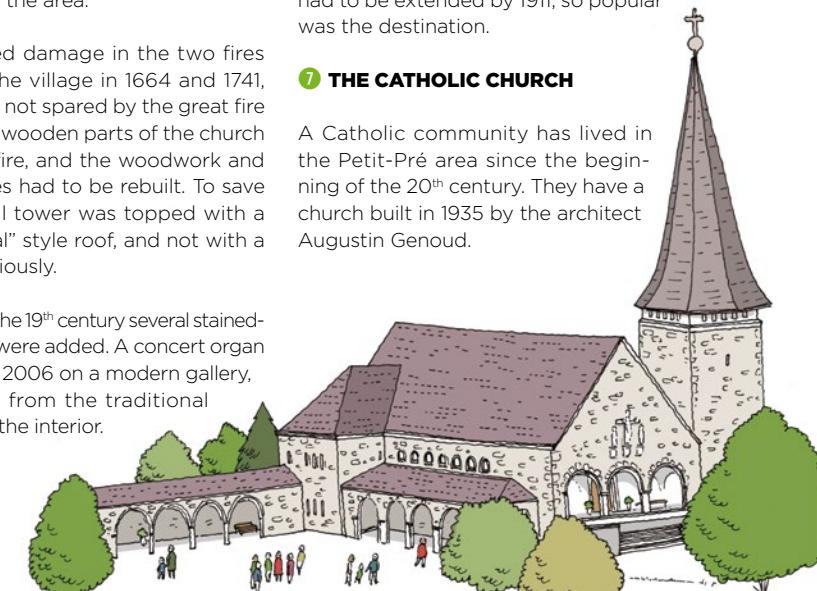
Until 1745, the minister and his family lived in a variety of buildings, some of which have survived. The Bern government then commissioned an impressive residence for the minister, a stone house with hipped roof. When the minister moved in, in 1747, he described it as "the Versailles of the Mountains".

6 THE ENGLISH CHURCH

From the end of the 19th century Château-d'Oex became increasingly popular with English tourists. The Anglican church built in 1899 had to be extended by 1911, so popular was the destination.

7 THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Catholic community has lived in the Petit-Pré area since the beginning of the 20th century. They have a church built in 1935 by the architect Augustin Genoud.



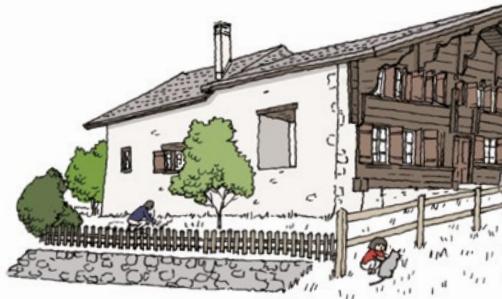
8 MUSÉE DU PAYS-D'ENHAUT

The Museum is located in a building dating from the end of the 18th century. It served as the offices and residence of its last owner, civil servant Auguste Cottier. In 1931 this building was bequeathed as a site for the collections of the Museum.

The annexe to the north-west houses a reconstruction of a mountain chalet kitchen. It was built in 1962 using beams recycled from a chalet being demolished at La Forclaz.

The barn to the east was also moved in 1962, from Flendruz to its current site. It was originally a storehouse for its four owners, each of whom had a separate part of the whole to store their valuables in. The inscription on the rear reads "HONORABLE ABRAHAM MARTIN A FAIT BATIS CE GRENIER" ("the honourable Abraham Martin had this barn built"). The windows and the internal staircase were installed when the building changed use, before it came to the Museum.

To find out more about life in the region in the 18th and 19th centuries, spend an hour or two in the Museum. It contains a collection of drawings by Abram-David Pilet (1745-1810), a teacher who



The house of L'Etambeau (9), with its protecting wall, includes elements from several eras. Its interior has not been modernised.

faithfully recorded the landscape around 1780. His pictures include fascinating details of agricultural life. Nicolas Gachet (1736-1817), bailiff and water-colour painter, shows us the three villages of the valley with their main buildings. The works of these two painters are some of the few documents that show us Château-d'Oex and its church before the great fire of 1880.

Further insight is provided by the engravings of Samuel Weibel (1771-1846), the prints of Gustave Spengler (1818-1876) and the old photographs (about 1910) that reveal a dispersed habitat typical of cattle-rearing areas.

The Museum contains several rooms recreating life in days gone by. They contain a variety of high-quality craftworks, including stained glass - mostly secular - and a range of everyday objects, each carefully fashioned: crockery, tools, cowbells, pots, games and lacework are a few examples. The Museum is also home to a renowned collection of découpages by artists Jean-Jacques Hauswirth (1809-1871) and Louis Saugy (1871-1952). These two local découpage artists breathed new life into this traditional craft.

Each summer the Museum mounts a temporary exhibition in the house of **L'Etambeau (9)**. One of the few houses in the valley not to have been modernised, it still has its original kitchen with hearth and open chimney, huge supporting beams, and a large cheese cellar.

Cattle-rearing was organised around several chalets at different heights, which allowed the farmer to graze the herds on different pastures. At an altitude of 1000 metres L'Etambeau was the farmer's home, and the cattle over-wintered in a barn here from 1st October to 20th June each year. In summer the herd moved between 4 different chalets. The Chalet de Paray, the highest at 1666 metres, could hold 40 cows in the summer.



10 L'ESPACE BALLON

Built in 1742, this former *Hôtel de Ville* survived the fire of 1800 with its walls intact. Once repaired, the building was a school until 1856, then had several functions, including a fire station, until 1990.

Now a museum about balloon flight, the building retains a magnificent wooden roof structure. Since 1978 the micro-climate of the Pays-d'Enhaut region has attracted legions of balloonists, who come together every year for the *Festival International de Ballons*.

In 1999 Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones left from Château-d'Oex on their way to becoming the first men to circle the world non-stop in a hot air balloon.

THE ARRIVAL OF TOURISM

The first tourists started to discover the Pays-d'Enhaut in the 19th century. Most were Britons who came on foot over the Col de Jaman from Montreux, or by carriage from Bulle, once the road system allowed this.

The existing inns of **l'Ours (11)** and the **Hôtel de Ville (1)** could no longer meet the demand for accommodation. As early as 1819 two further pensions opened, the Berthod and the Lenoir. The first has disappeared now: the second, with its decorated woodwork, is now the "**Clos des Abeilles**" (12) at La Villa-d'Oex. The Pension Rosat, opened in 1845, became a hotel and was extended several times.

The arrival of the Montreux-Oberland Bernois railway in 1904 opened the Pays-d'Enhaut region to the world. **The station (13)** is a wooden building in the "Swiss chalet" style, an urban interpretation of regional building styles.



Barn from 1732 (18) decorated with rosettes. It had already been converted into a dwelling by the beginning of the 19th century.



The technique of building with interlocking beams at the corners of the building was upheld by local carpenters, adapted to new uses, and continued through the 20th century. In this way the village centre of Château-d'Oex was still linked to its outlying districts, all of which was then surrounded by a new wave of houses and holiday homes. Several examples built around 1920, especially at Villa-d'Oex, show how centuries-old skills were applied to the needs of a new age.

The arrival of the railway accelerated the pace of development, and substantial new hotels were built to handle the growing demand: the Beau-Séjour opened in 1905, the Grand Hôtel in 1906, (it was demolished in 1989). **La Soldanelle (14)**, built in 1907, is still a very visible reminder of this époque. Its founder, doctor Constant Delachaux, conceived it as a wellbeing hotel, where you could improve your health in the fresh air and sunshine of the Pre-alps.

THE GREAT TRADITION OF BUILDING IN WOOD, 16TH - 19TH CENTURIES

Between its heart of buildings built in stone after the great fire, and the constructions that sprang up around the village in the 20th century, Château-d'Oex is circled by a band of handsome wooden houses. They are not "chalets", as this term is traditionally applied to buildings on the Alpine meadows. In general there are two residences, one under each wing of the roof, with bedrooms opening onto the front of the house and kitchens at the rear.

The horizontal beams of the walls are fixed to the posts at each corner of the 1st floor, and are overlapped on the 2nd floor. The roofs, with their two shallow slopes, were designed to be covered with shingles held by slats and stones.



Watercolour by Abram-David Pilet: Château-d'Oex in 1783. The village huddles at the bottom of the hill beneath the church, most of the inhabitants living on the farms around the valley. Shingled roofs held in place by slats and stones dominate. Only a few steeper, more recent roofs, with nailed shingles or tiles, can be seen. These include the first *Hôtel de Ville* in the heart of the village, now the *Espace Ballon* (10), and the minister's house (5).



On the right, the 16th century *Vieille Cure des Poses* (15); the house on the left (20) dates from 1730, and was relocated from Flendruz around 1920.

La Vieille Cure des Poses (15) showcases the carpenter's art in the 16th century. Below the hill of the church, to the south, it was protected from the fire. The date of 1551 is engraved in the centre of the facade. Large wings carry the projection of the roof. These are the oldest wings to have been dated. Their simple diagonal line is typical of the beginning of the 17th century: later the shape becomes more rounded, with more decoration.

To the east of the village, at Bossens, is the house bearing the earliest large engraving found so far, from 1608.

Despite much retouching, it shows that Humet Goballet built this house with his sons Jean and Claude. They were the ancestors of a dynasty of carpenters who worked until the 18th century.

To the north of the village is the interesting district of **La Villa-d'Oex**. The first building (16) is protected by a wall to the west featuring the coat of arms of the Descoullayes family. It dates from 1621. The house itself, built with beams, dates from 1624. Carpenters Claude and Jacques Goballet sculpted the rich decoration. The neighbouring house,

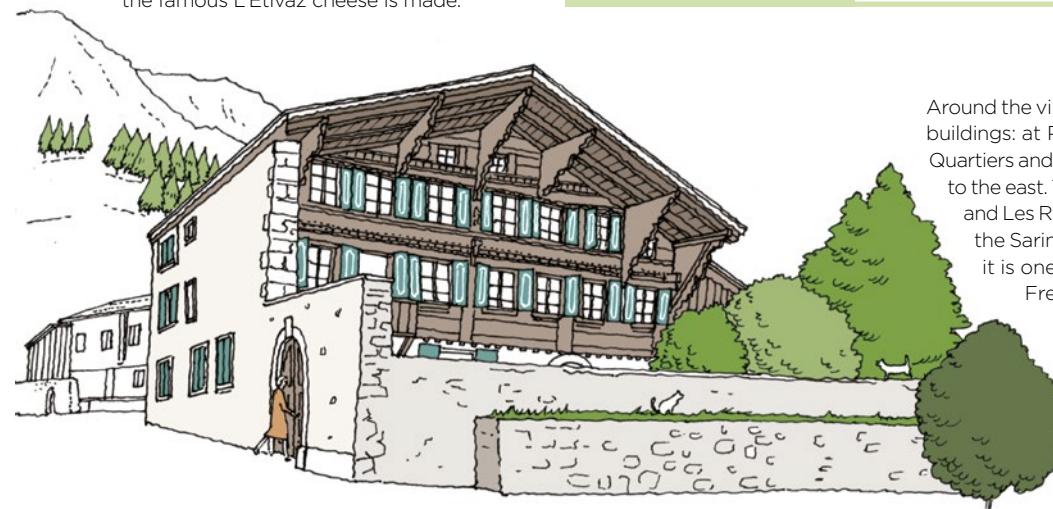
just uphill (17), was built in 1660 by the third generation of Goballet carpenters, Jean and Joseph, the sons of Claude. Its owner was Jacob Zulauff, a local cloth dyer.

Many wooden barns were used to store food, valuable items and family heirlooms. Farmers who came to church from their farms also kept their Sunday clothes there. There are rare examples at **La Villa-d'Oex**: the top of a small barn, partly rebuilt, carries the date 1574. Another dates from 1732, although since the beginning of the 19th century it has been a dwelling (18).

Following the road, you can see that several west-facing facades are protected by shingles. Passing the houses built at the beginning of the 20th century, you arrive at the former guest house of **Clos des Abeilles (12)**, which dates from 1819. Beyond the stream, a **large house (19)** still has a thick wall to the west. Enlarged several times, according to a hallmark under the ridge the central part may date back to the 16th century, when it didn't have any wings.

It is possible to dismantle a wooden building carefully and reassemble it elsewhere. Many barns were moved in this way, and a number of houses too. Below the *Vieille Cure des Poses* is a house dated 1730 that was moved from Flendruz in this way.

The hill of the church provides an excellent viewpoint to admire and understand the landscape and how it was shaped by its inhabitants. Barns and livestock shelters are scattered among the fields, each linked to a wooden farmhouse. The cattle spend the summer on the Alpine meadows, where chalets are often built of stone. This is where the famous L'Etivaz cheese is made.



Doctor Favrod-Coune's house (16), completed in 1624.



Large farmhouse (19). Like many wooden houses it has been extended throughout the centuries (on the right).

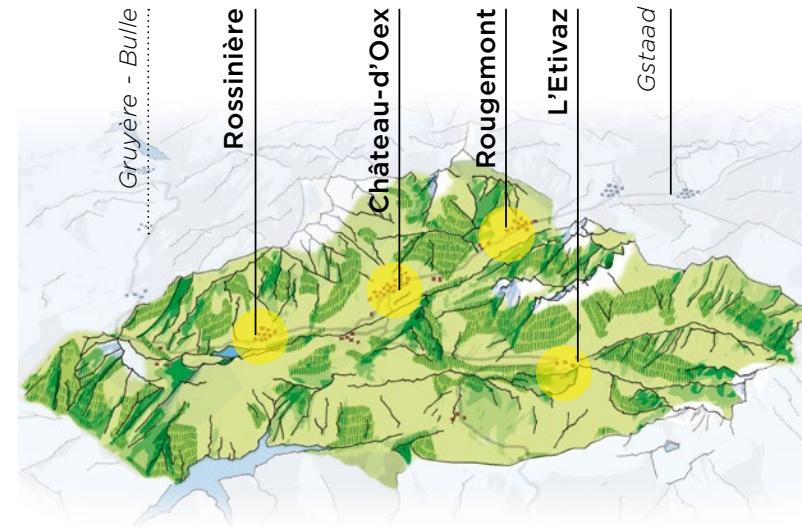
La Maison des Monnaires (21), now a kindergarten. Its decorated facade (1753) faces north, where the path used to pass.



Around the village there are other handsome wooden buildings: at Petit-Pré and La Frasse to the west, at Quartiers and Bettens to the north, and at L'Etambeau to the east. To the south, passing **Les Monnaires (21)** and Les Riaux, the route to Granges-d'Oex crosses the Sarine at the **Pont-Turrian (22)**. Built in 1883, it is one of the last suspension bridges built in French-speaking Switzerland.

The churches

Four villages, four remarkable churches. The churches of the Pays-d'Enhaut symbolise the history of the region, particularly the effect of the Reformation, introduced in 1555 when the region fell under the leadership of Bern.



ROUGEMONT

A romanesque church in the shape of a latin cross facing east, it was built in 1080 by the monks of the Cluniac abbey, then turned into a Protestant church by the Bernese authorities during the Reformation. It is now home to regular concerts and local events.



ROSSINIÈRE (left-hand page)

The romanesque church whose existence was recorded in 1316 was built on the site of a former chapel with a semi-circular apse, discovered during excavations. A bear painted inside the church confirms the Bernese domination. It was restored in 1910 and in 1975.

L'ETIVAZ

The massive stone walls of the church and the window of the chapel probably date back to the first chapel, recorded at the end of the 15th century. The light render contrasts strongly with the dark shingles of the bell tower.



CHÂTEAU-D'OEX

The distinctive silhouette of the church, restored after the great fire of 1800, defines the skyline of Château-d'Oex. Dedicated to St Donatus by the Catholic Counts of Gruyère, after the Reformation it became the Protestant church we see today.



On the 2nd floor were the bedrooms, the same size as the main rooms but with lower ceilings. Here, protected by the deep projecting roof, the beams interlock at the corners, making the building more stable.

The facade facing the valley was carefully decorated, with dates and engraved inscriptions, friezes and fine sculpture. The angle-pieces holding up the projecting roof were originally simple diagonal, becoming more rounded in the 18th century. The west facade, exposed to the elements, was often clad with planks for protection.

The barns were also made using interlocking beams. Here the livestock were kept downstairs and hay was stored upstairs. Under the projecting roof at each side litter for the cattle was stored. With no straw available, this was made from long grass from water meadows.

The 18th century **barn (4)** is partly made from logs that haven't been squared off.

The barns situated further away **(5)** date from the 19th century. They are bigger, with a smoother surface, showing that their logs came from a sawmill. In the middle of the facade, small breaks in the beams allow air to enter the barn. This prevents the hay combusting as the fermentation releases flammable gas.

7 L'ETIVAZ CHURCH

The church and its surrounding buildings are nestled into the slope beneath **the forest of Coumatta (6)**. It has been forbidden since the 17th century to fell these trees, as they act as protection against avalanches. The current church was built in 1589, though Protestant services had taken place there since 1555, when the Reformation came to the region.

The massive stone walls and the choir window seem to have been part of the original chapel, whose presence was recorded at the end of the 15th century.

The interior with its wood-lined ceiling contains spruce dating from 1590, carefully preserved by centuries of black soaping, thanks to the women of the village.

Several of the old benches carry inscriptions. The stained-glass windows were installed in the mid-20th century.

Despite a law in the 19th century requiring cemeteries to be located some distance from houses to improve hygiene, the cemetery at L'Etivaz has managed to stay close to the church.

Next to the church is the **minister's house (8)**, built in 1707 by the carpenter Joseph Goballet. This house, previously a private residence, was purchased in 1713 by the newly-independent parish of Château-d'Oex.



TOURISM

In 1867 the road over the Col des Mosses was surfaced and carriages could make the journey to L'Etivaz. As a result a new staging post was created, and with it came a new location: **Le Contour (9)**. The valley of L'Etivaz was open to the world, and tourism soon followed. The first visitors came to take the waters at Vieux-Bains, already renowned by the 18th century. The only remaining trace is a faint whiff of sulphur, still detectable near the site of the former Hôtel des Bains.

Local farming families welcomed the first travellers, who shared their rural life and bought their products. In 1871 the **Hôtel du Chamois (10)** was built, and four generations of the Mollien family would go on to offer hospitality to visitors and locals alike. It's not unusual to see "Tzams", the local people,

playing a typical local game inside. By 1900 several pensions had opened for the increasing number of visitors. The local carpenters developed their traditional construction methods to construct buildings that suited these new uses.

WOOD AT WORK

The river Torneresse has provided power for a sawmill for a long time. A **water wheel**, now immobile, is a reminder of this past **(11)**. Equipped with modern equipment, the **Henchoz sawmill (12)** still produces lumber from the spruce and white fir of the local mountains, and the local landscape is dotted with piles of freshly-sawn planks, drying naturally in the mountain air.

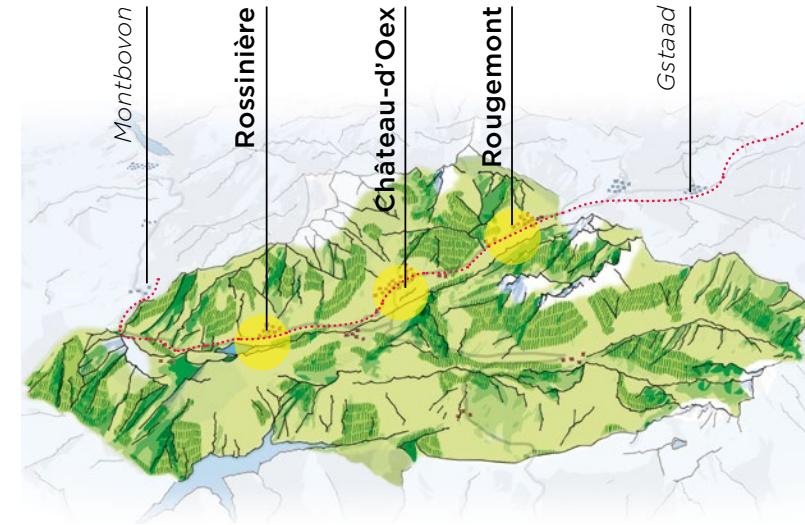


B THE CELLARS OF L'ETIVAZ AOP

The L'Etivaz cellars currently hold 35 000 rounds of cheese, including 5 000 in the rebibes loft. A traditional speciality, rebibes are fine, crumbly flutes of intensely-flavoured cheese, which take 30 months to reach the point of perfect maturity.

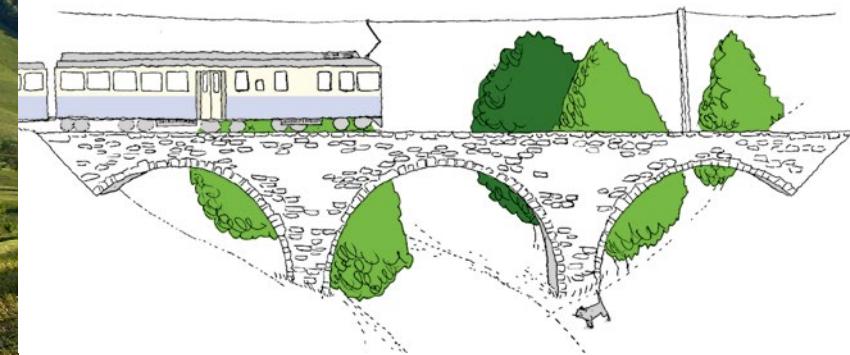
The MOB arrives

In 1904 the arrival of the Montreux-Oberland Bernois (MOB) railway opened up the Pays-d'Enhaut to the world. The line created the idea of the panoramic railway journey. The beautiful scenery of the region and the many old buildings can be enjoyed from the comfort of the GoldenPass trains.



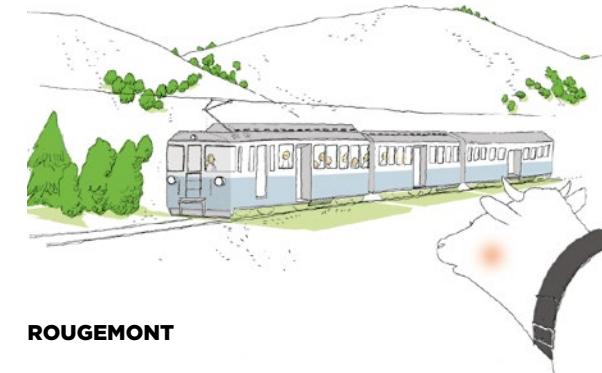
ROSSINIÈRE

The first section of this 75 km journey, between Montreux and Les Avants, was opened in 1901. In 1904 the train arrived at Rossinière, where the handsome 3 arch stone bridge carried it onwards.



CHÂTEAU-D'OEX

The wooden station at Château-d'Oex was built in the "Swiss chalet" style, a chocolate box re-interpretation of the local architecture. The first train pulled into the station on 28th August 1904.



ROUGEMONT

The arrival of the MOB line turned Rougemont into a tourist resort, but it managed to retain its historic heart and architectural heritage. Heading on past Gstaad, the line reaches its highest point at Saanenmoser, 1284 metres above sea level.



Rossinière

Built heritage and the village of the painter Balthus



1 LE BORJOZ

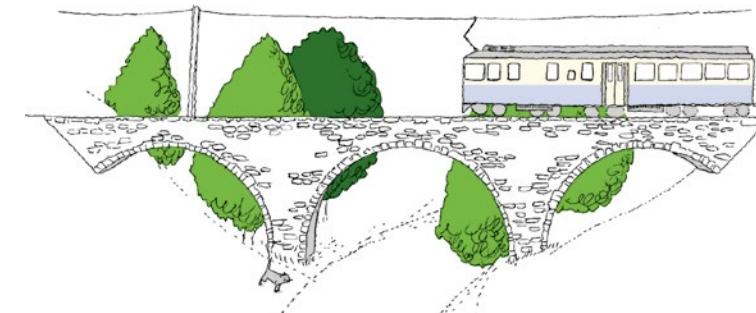
This large house appears to be one architectural unit, but in fact it unites two houses of different eras. The first house (1604) is under the east roof of the building, the second (1731), has been added to the west, with a slight set-back.

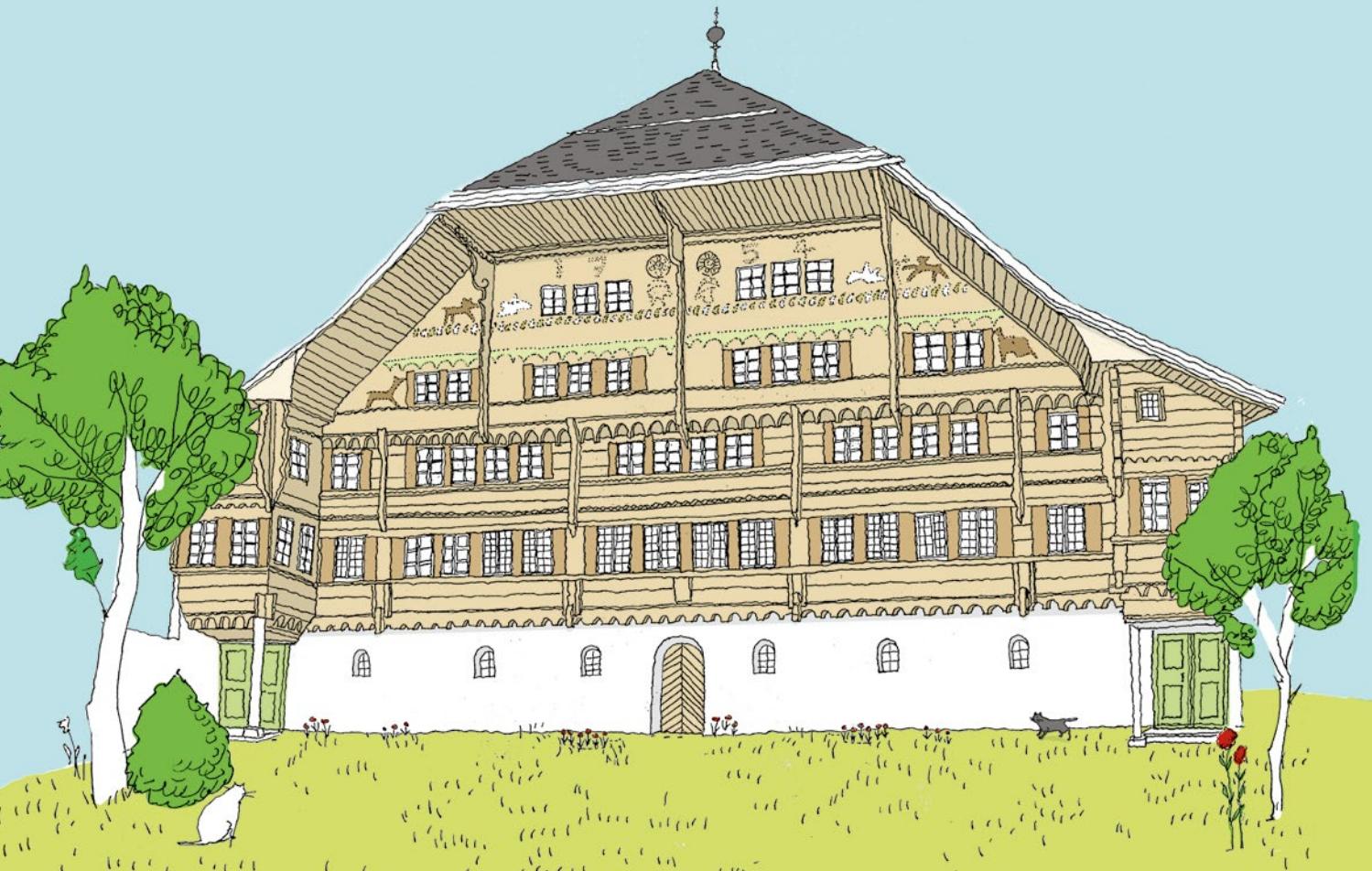
The stone walls of the house and garden are designed to reduce the impact of the wind from the west.

Charles-Victor de Bonstetten, bailiff in 1779, writes of vines growing at Rossinière. In 1865 a white grape was harvested at Le Borjoz that weighed 593 g.

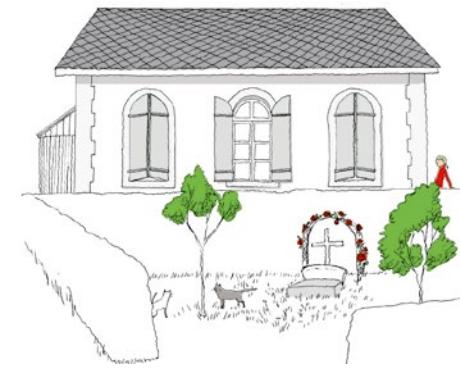
2 THE MOB BRIDGE

The MOB bridge dates from the arrival of the train in 1904. This handsome construction is 45 meters long, with three 15-metre stone arches.





Jean Raynaud and Marie Perronet spent 43 days decorating the frieses, painting the flowers, symbolic animals and about 2800 letters. In the dedication J.D. Henchoz expressed his religious beliefs. Certain parts of the carvings are taken from the works of M^{me} Deshoulières, a poet living in Paris in the 17th century.



3 LE GRAND CHALET

Since the 19th century tourists have called these wooden houses "chalets", a term that local people only used to refer to buildings on the Alpine pastures.

The Grande Maison was built between 1754 and 1756 by Jean-David Henchoz, a farmer and cheese merchant who was also Justice of the Peace, notary, judge, governor and lawyer.

His goal was to construct a building with large cellars to house local cheese production, about 600 rounds. This cheese would then be sent to cheese sellers in Bulle or exported via Vevey and Lyon. He died 2 years after the building was finished.

The Grande Maison was built to be symmetrical. The internal walls stabilise the structure and provide rigidity for the external walls. Only 5 of the original windows survive. They can be seen in the Musée du Vieux Pays-d'Enhaut in Château-d'Oex.

The great-grandson of J.D. Henchoz converted the building into a hotel in the 1860s. This involved internal and external remodelling, including the

addition of a balcony on the south face. The building was run as a hotel by a succession of owners until 1976. They called it the "Grand Chalet".

Famous guests included Victor Hugo and Alfred Dreyfus (the Dreyfus affair).

The painter Balthus and his wife Countess Setsuko Klossowska de Rola bought the house in 1976 and restored the south facade to its original state, removing the balcony and the large windows on the ground floor. They also recovered the roof, fitting 200 000 new shingles.

4 THE CHAPEL

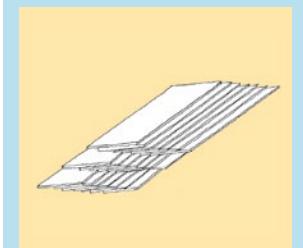
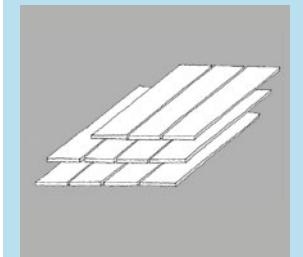
Built in 1884, it was acquired by the protestant church in 1926 and services were held here until the 1960s.

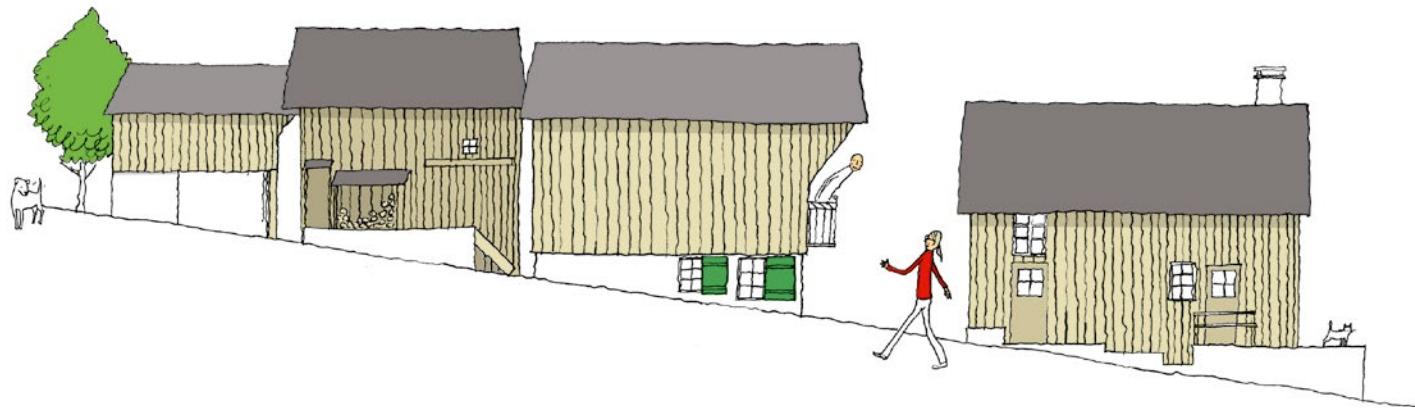
Now the chapel belongs to the Fondation Balthus. The Chapelle Balthus Association, created in 2007, has turned it into a small visitor centre that presents the painter, his life and work.

THE RIGHT SHINGLES FOR THE JOB

Two types of roof shingles are used in the Pays-d'Enhaut. Long shingles are laid side by side on flatter roof slopes, whereas shorter shingles are nailed horizontally on steeper roofs.

Long shingles were originally held in place by slats and stones, and were only nailed from the 19th century onwards.

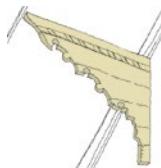




5 LA FRASSE

These pretty houses with their south-facing facades date from the 17th and 18th centuries. To preserve valuable grazing lands, they were built at the edge of the fields, near the stream of La Frasse. The main facades are decorated with sculpted or engraved woodwork.

The north faces show the rural role of the buildings: at the rear or at the side a barn and a byre are to be found. In front of the houses a vegetable plot was separated from the house by a place to work and congregate.



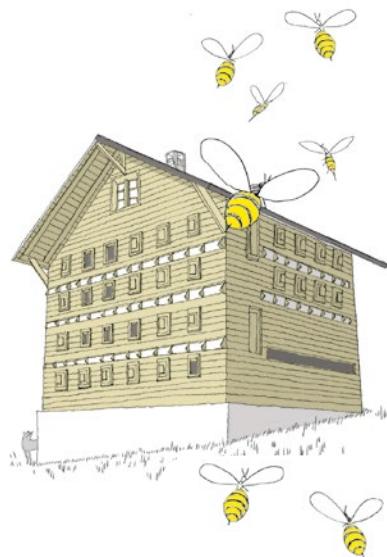
INSCRIPTIONS

MARTIN CVRIAL DE LA ROSSIN
ETERNEL TV ES MA RETRAIT

Engraved in roman capitals and topped with the date of construction of the house, the text gives the owner and the carpenters, and often includes a profession of the faith of the builders.

6 THE APIARY

Unique in French-speaking Switzerland, it was built in 1930 and could hold up to 90 colonies of bees.



SEVERAL FAMILIES UNDER ONE ROOF

Impressively large houses at first glance, these are in fact collections of buildings from different eras, added under the same sweeping roof.



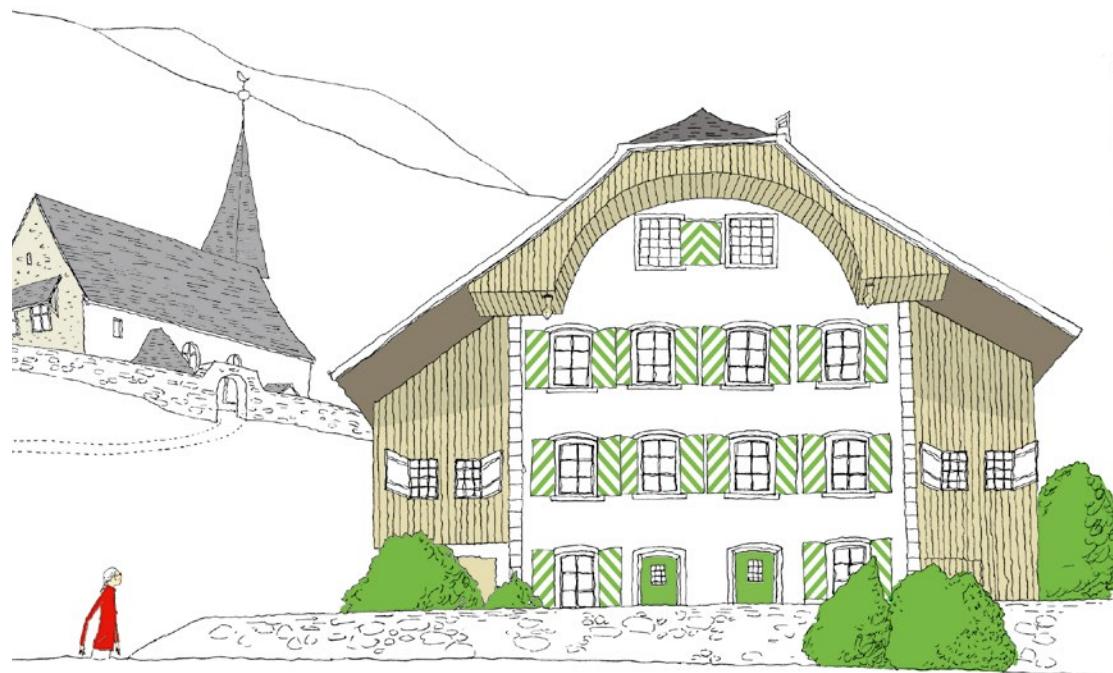
7 THE CHURCH

Dedicated to Mary Magdalene, the romanesque church was built on the site of an ancient chapel dedicated to St Clotilde. Its existence was recorded as early as 1316.

It was enlarged in 1645, following a hurricane which struck the church in the middle of a service. Miraculously, nobody was hurt.

Only the bell tower and the choir are medieval. The interior is still well worth a look, with an inlaid pulpit and beamed ceiling.

During the last restoration of the church a painting of a bear, symbol of Bern, was found under the paint on one of the walls.

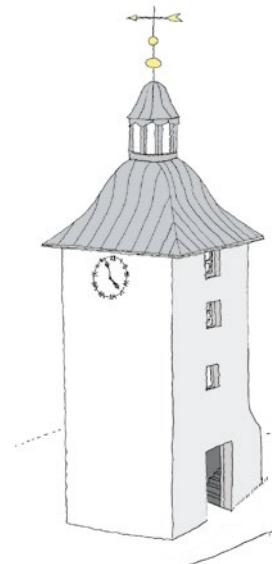


8 THE MINISTER'S HOUSE

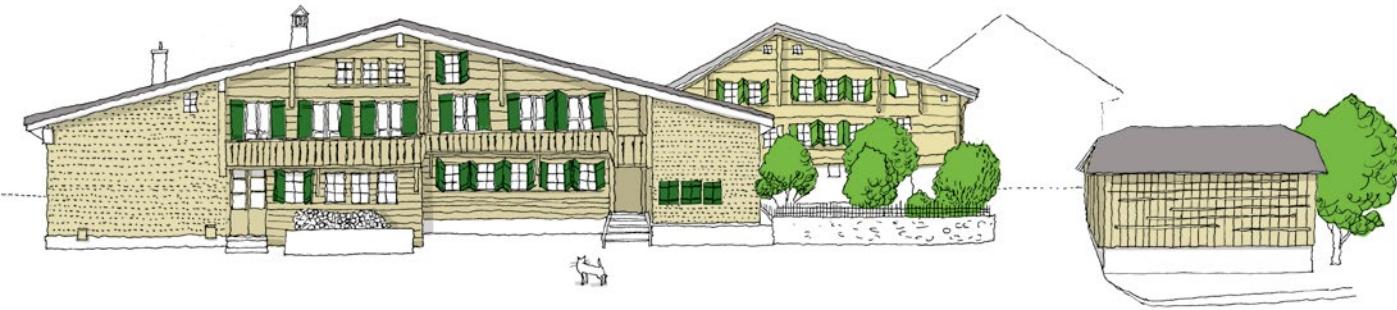
Built in 1770 to plans by Niklaus Sprüngli, this building combines stone building techniques with traditional local features. The half-hipped shingle roof shelters the main rendered facade, and on each side there is a wooden gallery, one with a staircase and the other with storage.

9 THE CLOCK TOWER

Probably built before the end of the 18th century, it was used as a prison. Previously the clock was above the staircase of the Hôtel de Ville: apparently it made so much noise - "like a steam engine", according to travellers at the time - that it had to be moved to the tower.



Each of the village's important families had a place reserved for them in church, identified by their coat of arms.



10 THE FORMER MINISTER'S HOUSE

Constructed in 1643, this wooden house in the village centre was built as the minister's residence. It has also been a hospital and a poor-house.

11 CHALET CLOS FLEURI

Built around 1600, this chalet has been restored to its original condition. The relocated barn dates from 1716. It is one of the few remaining from the dozen listed in the 19th century. Raised to protect the crops from rodents, it used to be near the Martin house.

12 "DEVANT LE VILLAGE"

This chalet, literally "in front of the village", lost its garden when the main road was built. It was constructed in two phases. Under the projecting roof to the west is a horseman, remnant of a larger decoration from earlier times. At the back, the Martin family house, built in 1677, has a charming French garden. To the east, between the chalet and the barn, is an area paved with pebbles from the bed of the river Sarine.



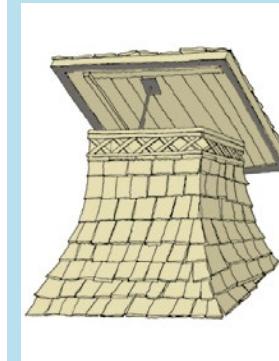
13 L'HÔTEL DE VILLE

Constructed in 1645 and enlarged in 1890, it is now the home of an inn carrying the sign of the crane (the symbol of Rossinière, dating from the time of the Counts of Gruyère). The steps look down on the village square and, across the road, the public fountain, now open but previously covered.

A bell tower signalled the public function of the building until 1963, when it was destroyed by fire. It was rebuilt to the original plans and restored when the building was renovated in 2010.



CHIMNEYS



Chimneys often took up 3/4 of the ceiling in a house: they were immense wooden columns tapering at the top to vent smoke from the kitchen.

A cover could be lowered from inside the house in bad weather, or raised to increase ventilation if required. In good weather it could also be used a sundial!

14 LA MAISON DE LA PLACE

The builder of this house, Ardan Martin, wanted his house to be "the biggest and most beautiful ever seen". A symmetrical building housing two dwellings, it was started in 1661 and topped out in 1664. The rest of the work - windows, ironwork, painting - took until 1670 to complete.

The richness of the external decoration and the quality of the materials used make this an exceptional building.

Its name comes from the Martin family, who used to live on the village square - La Place - and kept the name "The Martins of La Place".

15 THE HILL OF THE TOWER

A few houses are to be found around this hill, which used to be topped with a tower, when the Counts of Gruyère ruled the region. Its presence was recorded in 1380 and 1518.

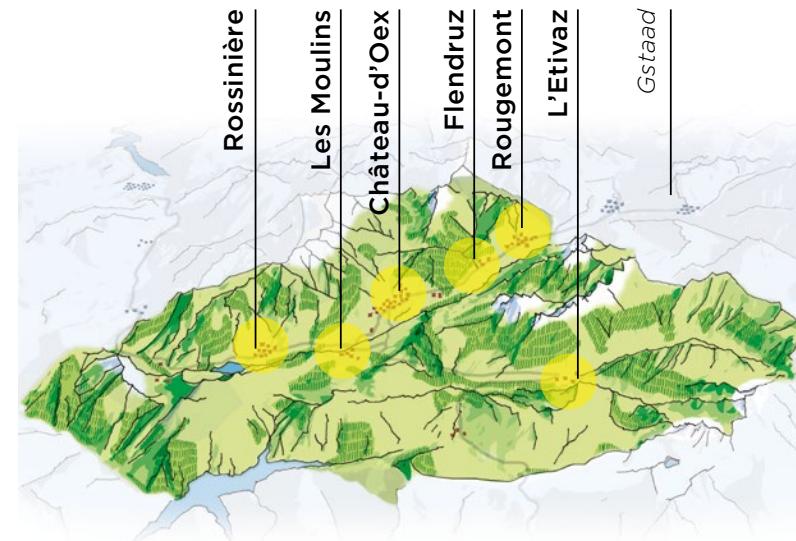
Three fires swept through the village, in 1600, 1776, and 1855. In the southern part of the village stone houses have replaced wooden houses, showing where the fire reached.

Until the end of the 19th century the main access to the village was from the other side of the valley, using the bridge built in 1650. The main road through the village was only completed in the late 1800s.



Dwellings

Long before apartment blocks became commonplace, many of these large buildings housing several families existed in the Pays-d'Enhaut. It is believed that they were built in this way to reduce property taxes. The result is a distinctive architectural presence.



ROSSINIÈRE

The Maison de la Place is exceptional in terms of both the quality of its materials and the richness of its decoration. A symmetrical chalet with two dwellings, it was completed in 1670, after 9 years of construction.

CHÂTEAU-D'OEX

Since the great fire of 1800, the centre of Château-d'Oex has been surrounded by a ring of old wooden buildings. Most were two-family houses with one dwelling under each roof span, often two generations of the same family.



L'ÉTIVAZ

Most of the wooden houses in L'Étivaz were built in the traditional style, with a masonry foundation partly built into the hillside. This could be a store, work space or shelter for livestock.

ROUGEMONT

Les Clématites carries the carving "moved in the year of our Lord 1647", suggesting that this house was once located elsewhere. Relocating houses has always been a common practice, and remains so today.



Rougemont

The built heritage of the village of Rougemont



INTRODUCTION

Originally "chalets" were buildings on the alpages, but in the 19th century tourists started to use the term for other houses.

Buildings around Rougemont share a number of characteristics: the date of construction at the top of the front elevation, text with the names of the buider and owner - and often a biblical text - engraved in the wood, and symmetrical staircases leading to two dwellings, often households of different members of the same family.

The carpenters of the 17th and 18th centuries followed in the footsteps of many previous generations of woodworking experts. Their work can be admired on a walk through the pretty village of Rougemont.



1 LES FOISSES (1705)

Built with traditional features, this house also has two carved crows, very prominent on the landings. They are waiting for someone to claim them: sold to an American who lost his life in the sinking of the Titanic in 1912, they have been here ever since.

A small barn and byre was built near Les Foisses in 1912, its construction commemorated by a record on the facade. The barn burned down on New Year's Eve 1998, but the facade was saved, its date inscription intact.

2 CHALET "CHALETTY" (DATE NOT KNOWN)

The well-known découpage artist Louis Saugy (1871-1953) lived here. A postman by trade, with a strong and outgoing personality, he depicted country life with humour and great talent.



Discover his works at the Musée du Vieux Pays-d'Enhaut in Château-d'Oex and on the Louis Saugy trail at Rougemont.





3 HÔTEL DE COMMUNE AND PLACE DU VILLAGE (1709)

While the men of the village talked politics in the Hôtel de Commune on the main square, their wives did the laundry at the public wash place, probably discussing similar topics. The Hôtel de Commune was built using wood from trees felled by a hurricane in 1706.

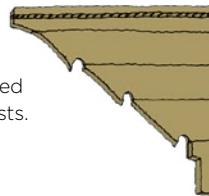
On 15th January 1953, in a temperature of -15°C, a terrible fire roared through the village. Four of the houses on the main square were destroyed, and Les Lauriers, the bakery, and the chalet "de la poste" were rebuilt.

It still has a carving on the side of the building, but after a number of restorations the Hôtel de Commune has gradually lost its original identity.

4 LA COTZE (1654)

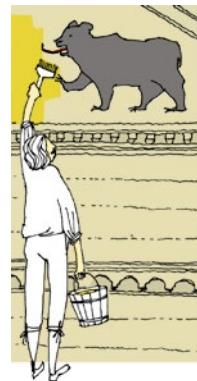
This building has a remarkable diversity of beautiful decoration on its facade. Some have disappeared over time, while others have reappeared, such as the Bernese bears which were painted over in 1798 when the Pays-d'Enhaut rejoined the canton of Vaud. The ochre colour is believed to have been introduced by Italians, as a means of preventing woodworm.

La Cotze belonged to Isaac Saugy, another of the talented local *découpage* artists.



5 MAIN STREET

The buildings on the main street formed the heart of the original village. One of the two houses here dates from 1623, and this is one of the oldest dates that can be seen in the village now. The house next door, though, seems to date from the 16th century, with its distinctive joist under the ridge. There are older buildings in Rougemont, but they have not yet been dated.



8 LA MAISON DU CORDIER (1655)

This house belonged to two owners from the same family, which is why it has two staircases, one on each side. These symmetrical staircases and landings are a typical feature of old wooden houses in the valley. The closed galleries at the sides of the building led to the kitchens and toilets at the rear.



7 LES CLÉMATITES (1647)

The carving "moved in the year of our Lord 1647" leads us to think that this house was relocated from another site. The facades or other parts of houses were often recycled into new buildings, a practice that continues to this day.

6 LES AROLLES (1701)

At the end of the 18th century the wings that supported overhanging roofs became more rounded in form, often with a spiral decoration.

Until 1910, when the college was built, "Les Arolles" was the village school. Each winter morning the pupils would each bring a log to school, to help heat the classroom.



9 MARIE'S GRAIN STORE (1688)

This small building is a barn, raised to keep out mice and originally full of cereals and food supplies. It was also where families kept their bed linen and their valuables, which is why it has such formidable locks. It was located away from the main house to protect its contents in case of fire.

The remarkable Latin inscription on the front is the only such carving in the region.

Some of these buildings, called "clothes barns", were dressing rooms for people who lived in farms away from the village, who kept their Sunday clothes here ready to change into.

10 L'AUBERGE DU CHEVAL BLANC

A building in the classic Rougemont architectural tradition, this building has been converted from an inn into dwellings. In the first half of the 19th century Moïse Henchoz took inspiration from the master carpenters of the 1600s, particularly when adding decoration and carvings to the building.

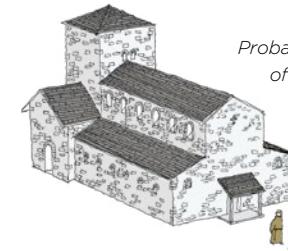


Decorative motifs often accompanied such texts. Roses and carved roundels were also to be found on furniture and other objects of this period.



11 THE FIRST CHURCH: BUILT BY MONKS

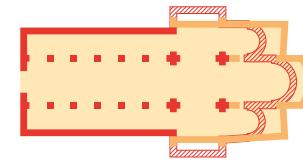
Like all romanesque churches, it was built in the form of a latin cross facing east. The high nave rests on the side aisles. The choir has three apses, the central one larger than the others.



Probable appearance of the first church

TRANSFORMED BY THE POWERS OF BERN

Under Bernese rule the church was significantly changed, in particular the choir. The burgundy roofs of the nave and side aisles were replaced with a single roof in the classic shape of the Bernese Oberland, a steeper shape designed to shed rain and snow more effectively.

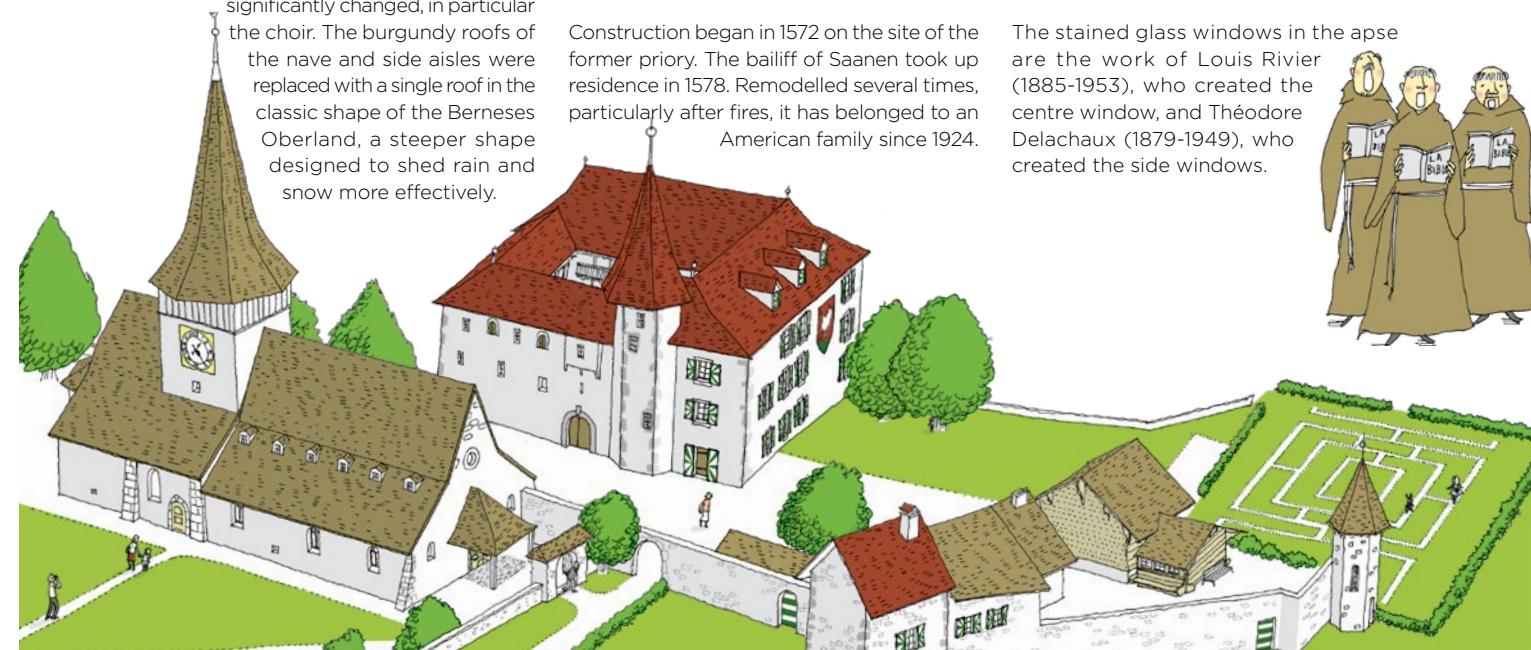


The interior of the nave was painted during the last restoration in 1919, based on 18th century drawings found in Château Chillon and the church at Romainmôtier.

- █ Romanesque church the nave was retained
- █ The foundations of the romanesque choir discovered in 1919
- █ The choir built in 1585

12 ROUGEMONT CASTLE

Construction began in 1572 on the site of the former priory. The bailliff of Saanen took up residence in 1578. Remodelled several times, particularly after fires, it has belonged to an American family since 1924.



900 YEARS OF HISTORY

Before leaving for the Crusades, Count Wilaire of Gruyère gave Rougemont to the Cluniac order of monks. In 1080 Jean, the first prior, began construction of the church, helped by 3 or 4 monks and local residents.

In 1555 Rougemont changed hands, becoming the property of the Bernese bailiffs. On Christmas Day 1555 the monks sang "Gloria in altissimis Deo" for the last time before leaving.

The church became a place of Protestant worship. Feasting and dancing were outlawed, general education was introduced, and the region enjoyed economic growth based on cheese production. Cheese was taken as far as Vevey, on Lake Geneva, then exported via Lyon to Constantinople, Egypt and beyond.

In 1798 Rougemont, like the rest of the Pays-d'Enhaut, rejoined the canton of Vaud.

The stained glass windows in the apse are the work of Louis Rivier (1885-1953), who created the centre window, and Théodore Delachaux (1879-1949), who created the side windows.



Rural buildings

A watercolour in the Musée du Pays-d'Enhaut provides the key to understanding this landscape, revealing how it was shaped by traditional ways of working.



A GUIDE TO UNDERSTAND THE LANDSCAPE

Abram-David PILET, "View and perspective of the mountain chain to the south of Rossinière". About 1790, watercolour panorama. (Musée du Pays-d'Enhaut).

From the hillside to the northwest of Rossinière, the painter draws our gaze to the village below. The houses are still built in wood, but stone houses will join them after the fire of 1855. Adjoining the village are the hamlets of La Frasse and Borjoz, dominated by the Grande Maison.

Beyond the wooded strip that follows the course of the Sarine, the buildings of Sien-dreys and Leytels are spread out along the Revers road. Great swathes of forest crowd the plunging, dark slopes as far as the steep alpine pasture of Tsamufins.

The road wends its way past La Chaudanne to Les Moulins, then crosses the Torneresse. On the right bank, the lush meadows of Les Chabloz are sprinkled with groups of 2 or 3 farmhouses.

On the left bank, the hamlet of Montiller-Devant has wooden buildings dating back to the end of the 15th century. The old road to the valley of L'Etivaz enters the perilous Pissot gorges, under the promontory of Les Teisejeurs, where people live all year round. Behind is the mountain chain of Le Chaussy, where wide Alpine meadows rise towards l'Etivaz.



FLENDRUZ, THE VILLAGE AND ITS FIELD BARNs

At the western edge of the commune of Rougemont, the houses of Flendruz line one side of the route to the valleys of Ciernes-Picat and La Manche. On the other side of the road, a cliff looms over the river that powered the mills and sawmills, one of which is still in operation.

There were numerous barns around the village in the 19th century. The 17th and 18th century wooden houses were often home to two families, one under each wing of the roof. The field barns were further east in the direction of the hamlet of Le Crêt, each on its own meadow. The oldest have shallow pitched roofs; those with stepped roofs appeared in the 19th century. They are increasingly replaced by large barns better suited to modern agricultural equipment.

There are two surprising buildings in Flendruz: at the rocky top of the village is “the convent”, a building which possibly occupies the site of a former outpost of the priory at Rougemont. Its thick outer walls seem to surround wooden walls.

A CARPENTERS' HOME: THE BERTHOLET HOUSE

Further down a huge double house has a small dormer window at the front of its vast roof, perhaps a visual reference to the Grande Maison at Rossinière. The doors at the centre of the facade lead to the two dwellings within, each under one wing of the great roof.

According to the date on the gable it was built in 1822. The cursive script of the inscription tells us that the carpenters Jacques-François and David Bertholet constructed it for their own use. In 1837 the tax authorities described as containing “a carpenter’s shop (....) well

constructed and in modern taste”. The carpenters made their house a calling card for their trade, paying particular attention to the decoration: the large carved wings that support the projecting roof at the front, “les grandes ailes”, the sculpted posts and frieses on the beams all demonstrate a creative application of traditional techniques.

The Bertholet brothers had already collaborated with their father, also called Jacques-François, in 1809, when they built the handsome house of Les Palettes, close to the hamlet of Le Crêt.

(Carving on the house) 1822

With divine help Jacques-François Bertholet, his wife Susanne-Salomé (born Saugy), David Bertholet and his wife Madeleine (born Saugy) built this house in 1822. May it be peaceful, pious and blessed by the Almighty.



LES MOULINS

The village grew up around the only point where a bridge could be built over the Torneresse before it joins with the Sarine. The site proved ideal for activities reliant on water for power. As cereal production declined in favour of livestock rearing, the flour mills to which the village owes its name disappeared, and by the 18th century had been replaced by a tannery and sawmills, which were in operation until the second half of the 20th century. Les Moulins is still a centre for the production of a modernised craft industry.

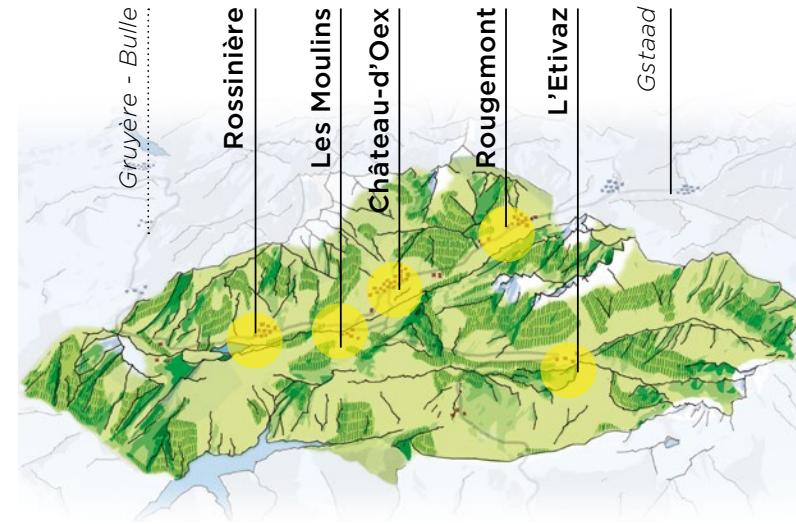
The village retains a handsome collection of wooden houses. At the entrance to the village, upstream of the bridge, David Gobalet built a house in 1689 for David Henchoz. Henchoz was a Justice of the Peace during the period of Bernese rule. Gobalet was a member of a great dynasty of carpenters, and the rich decoration of this work and other 17th century houses inspired the carpenters of the early 19th century.

On the other side of the road, Moïse Henchoz rebuilt the former inn of the Lion d'Or in 1814. Granted a licence to operate as an inn in 1683, it operated until 1922.

A highlight of the village is the restaurant of the Croix-d'Or, with a beautiful facade from 1716. Towards Château-d'Oex, an interesting inscription from 1726 can be seen on half a house by the roadside. The other half was destroyed by the widening of the main road.

Architecture at work

Far from industrialised towns, the economic activities of the Pays-d'Enhaut are firmly rooted in its natural resources. The architecture of the region reveals this rich history of creativity and invention.



L'ETIVAZ

The rivers of this area have powered sawmills for centuries. The L'Etivaz sawmill is still powered by water, using timber from the local forests. Stacks of drying lumber can be seen throughout the area.

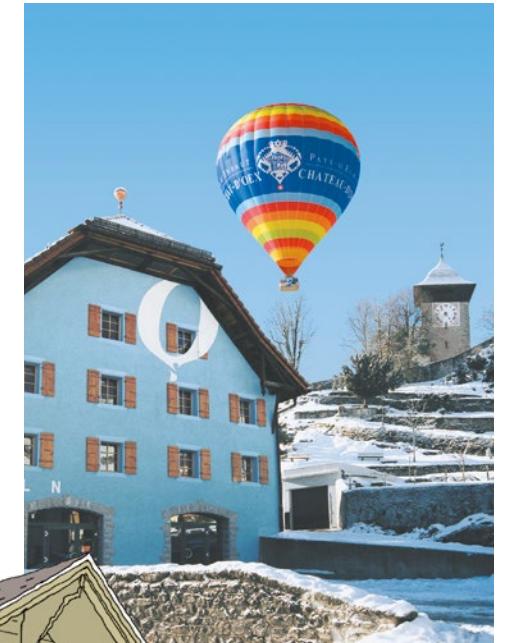


ROUGEMONT

Barns were multifunctional buildings, storing food, valuables and even clothes. They provided secure storage away from the risk of fire from domestic hearths.

CHÂTEAU-D'OEX

Many buildings have had different uses over time: the **Espace Ballon** is currently a museum, but it was built in 1742 as the Hôtel de Ville, an inn for travellers, and was later the village school and a fire station.





PAYS-D'ENHAUT

CHÂTEAU-D'OËX | ROUGEMONT | ROSSINIÈRE

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