



# Travelling

THROUGH  
LE PAYS DE L'ARBRESLE

A COUNTRYSIDE  
WEEK-END  
DISCOVERY  
GUIDE



## ...having new eyes.



By these words is born the idea of travelling trough Le pays de L'Arbresle.

Surprising for a Lyonnaise might you say... A voyage, so close to her home! Nevertheless... It is what I started a year ago, with all the explorations, discoveries and encounters. I wanted to "have new eyes" as well on this country so close, which seemed so familiar. Some memories of family meetings, around the table. And then to go towards new landscapes.

I thoroughly planned my 'escapes'... I arrived for the first time by the shortest road though the highway A89. L'Arbresle... twenty minutes' drive... Was it even a voyage?

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes." **Marcel Proust**

During this year, I came back several times but though the little roads, the 'back-up routes': though the northern Beaujolais, attracted by the golden hillsides, by the Luère pass and by the South Malval pass, intrigued by the Lyonnais 'mountains', by the Arjoux crest up West...

I came in the spring to treat my eyes to the blossoming orchard flowers, in summer to find the coolness of the woods, in autumn when the grape harvesting is in full

flow, to walk and to wander through the landscape's colors, in winter to enjoy the snow...

During each visit, I felt the same astonishment, the same escape. It was the same countryside, welcoming and well alive.

Now I am back, loaded with pictures, drawings, stories, characters... I invite you to keep up... And also to get lost (a little), to write your own voyage. After all, it is one!



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Beaujolais and Coteaux du Lyonnais wines

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Bessenay cherries



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Wines, vines and winemakers  
Veals, cows and pigs



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Courzieu strawberries

# Travelling

through  
Le Pays de L'Arbresle



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## Countryside stones

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## Countryside crafts

Extract and carve  
To weave the thread  
Invent, build, create



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Mine Museum in Saint-Pierre-la-Palud



*The village square at the ground floor welcomes numerous expositions and exhibitions all year long. Each exposition is completed by an event: workshop, guided visit, tasting.*

*On the second floor, there are workshops and demonstrations on weaving. All the ground floor rooms are accessible. A video allows you to see the rooms upstairs.*



## *Discovery space of Le pays de L'Arbresle*

There are several ways to have a global vision of a territory. One of them is to reach the highest points and to observe from up above, to imbue yourself in these life areas.

So, to begin, I reach the old Arbresle, close to the Sapéon Square, next to the river. The heart of the country... Here, a string of old Renaissance residences welcomes the Discovery Space of Le pays de L'Arbresle. A spiraling tower staircase, inner small yard, mullioned windows, and wrought door frames: the decor is set.

Inside, the past has been freshened up. I discover daily life scenes, old photographs, heritage stories... I wander in this 'room-to-room', open to life, in all simplicity. I have a stop on the 'village square', visit a restaurant, and settle in front of the fireplace... Like a guest.

This visitor's itinerary sharpens my desire to go further, on the field, to go meet the men and women of this territory, of these landscapes...

To go further into the country.

### **DISCOVERY SPACE OF LE PAYS DE L'ARBRESLE**

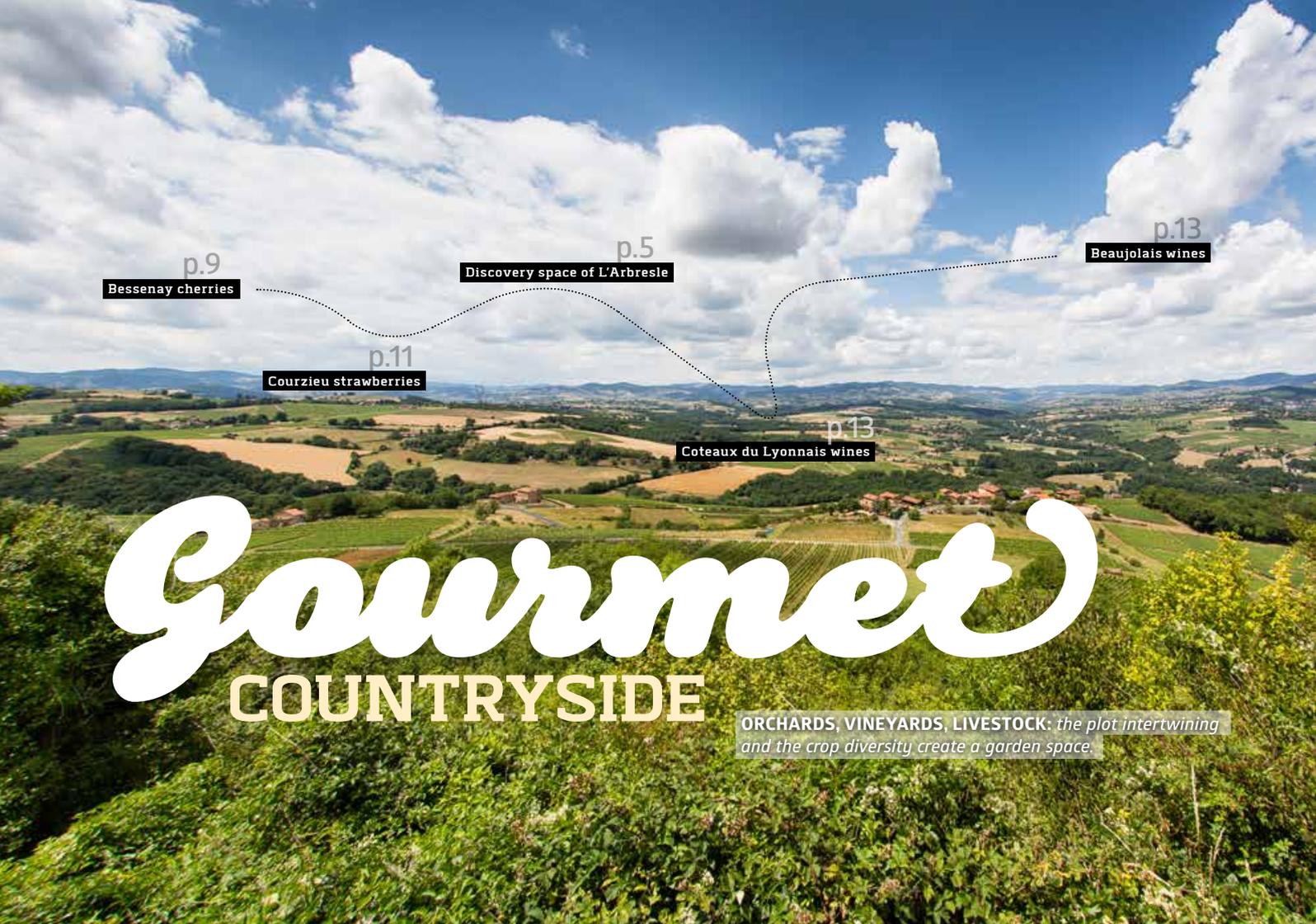
18-20, place Sapéon, F-69210 L'Arbresle

Contact: +33(0)4 74 01 48 87

Free entrance and visit.

Constant scenery.





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Bessenay cherries

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Discovery space of L'Arbresle

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Coteaux du Lyonnais wines

# Gourmet

## COUNTRYSIDE

**ORCHARDS, VINEYARDS, LIVESTOCK:** *the plot intertwining and the crop diversity create a garden space.*

## THE ARBRESLOIS'S TERROIR (LOCAL PRODUCE) IS FERTILE.

As we can read  
in its landscape.

I wonder, how does a piece  
of land become a terroir?

By the nature of its soil,  
by the clemency  
of its climate, by the work  
of its men?

From the Reverdy  
Farm's porch, I softly  
watch the panorama;  
a landscape filled with  
prairies, orchards and  
vines, punctually marked  
by farms and villages.

It seems as if each element  
is in its rightful place.

However it has taken time,  
as well as an intimate  
knowledge of nature to  
shape the Cogne terroir.



### A LANDSCAPE TO SAVOUR

The landscape here is agricultural and wooded, rural by excellence. A 'true' countryside which, in a few kilometers, may startle either by the 'harshness' of the mountains or by the utter change of its nature.

In the middle of this landscape, lays the Brèvenne... A humble trout river which navigates the North area down to the South. On both sides of the riverbed is unveiled a patchwork of hills and continental shelves.

To the West, the orchards and vines remain close to the hills of Tartare.

Near to the East, the Lyonnais hills are covered in beech-wood pines.

To the north, the Beaujolais landscape is a chalky hillside with golden stones and vines.

### THE LAW OF SOIL...

Looking from a closer angle, in respect of the mountainous terrain, enjoying the sunshine, covering yourself from the winds all become a second nature here... Crops are levelled in steps, well in place. The wooded hills cap the heights (L'Arbresle country peaks at 918 meters in the woods of the Verrière in Courzieu). Then comes the livestock of dairy cows, and farmer pigs. A little lower, the sunlit land of the sunniest side hill covers row crops, well dispatched with cherry-trees and vines, while the lower valleys are dedicated to vegetable growing.

Overall, nothing is missing from this patchwork, as meticulous as it is intelligent: neither for the eye nor for the taste. Red fruits, wines, dairy products and cheese, pork meats and charcuterie, vegetables... all seem to rise spontaneously from this harmonious and generous agricultural landscape.

# CHERRY HARVEST



First of all, there are the fruits.

400 acres of orchards blooming in the spring which astonishes the eyes.

Arboriculture is, along with viticulture and livestock, one of the main agricultural activities of this region. It is an ancient crop, as I have been told, grown by the monks of Savigny over the centuries and helped by Lyon's proximity. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, horse-pulled carts left for Lyon's market on the Archevêché's docks, filled with apricots, cherries, pears, nuts and chestnuts from the arbresloise countryside.

*Bessenay's fruit market, in the 1950's.*



It is only because the terroir is a favourable ground to fruit cultivation. The orchards, planted around 300 to 700 meters high in altitude, appreciate the wholesome soil drained by the slopes. The soil drips easily; the cold air does not accumulate thanks to the dry summer heat. It has also been said that this half-mountainous region gives the fruits a particular tangy taste, reachable nowhere else...

### TIPS AND TRICKS

To select the best cherry when buying, it must be firm but pliable, never tough, without wrinkles and without spots.

From these geographical aptitudes, to which we add an age-old expertise and know-how, will emerge two varieties of fruit famous around the fine dining restaurants.

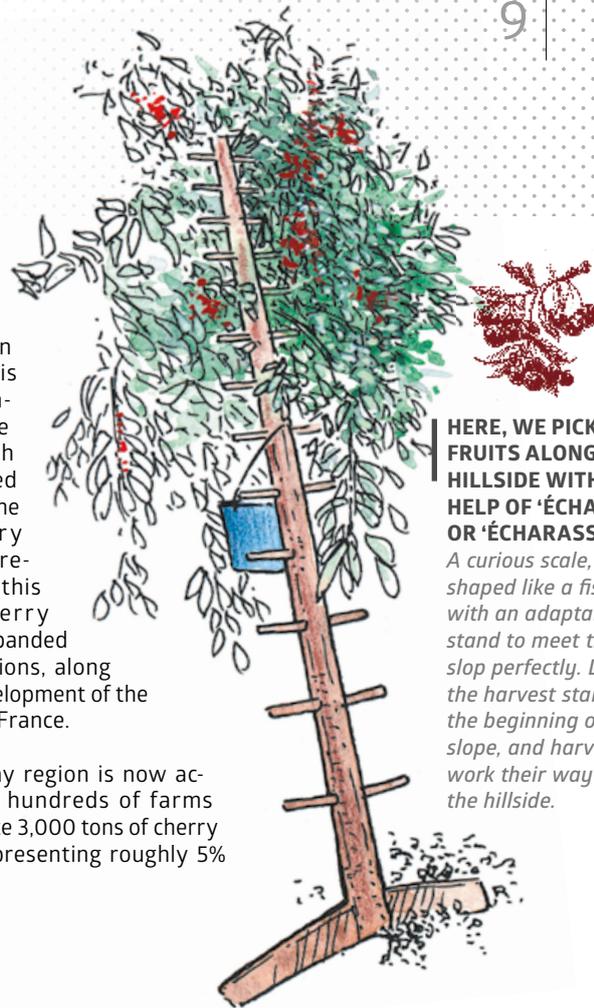
### THE FAMOUS BESSENAVY CHERRY

A fat red cherry, crisp, soft and juicy. It is a type of cherry which you will never taste elsewhere, once you have picked it from the tree.

In order to find its origins, you must go back to 1872 when his 'founder' Léonard Burlat created the fruit. He discovered a cherry-tree in the Gerland neighbourhood, which was roughly urbanised at the time, with cherries

unmatched in flavour to his taste. He implanted the crop which he distributed throughout the region. Very quickly the reputation of this 'Burlat' cherry grew and expanded to other regions, along with the development of the rail roads in France.

The BesseNAVY region is now accounted for hundreds of farms which produce 3,000 tons of cherry per year, representing roughly 5%



**HERE, WE PICK  
FRUITS ALONG THE  
HILLSIDE WITH THE  
HELP OF 'ÉCHARAS'  
OR 'ÉCHARASSON'.**

*A curious scale,  
shaped like a fishbone,  
with an adaptable  
stand to meet the  
slop perfectly. Detail:  
the harvest starts at  
the beginning of the  
slope, and harvesters  
work their way up  
the hillside.*

of the French cherry production. The varying altitudes and sun exposition allow the producers to cultivate a large variety of cherries and to space out this production from the end of May to the end of July.

### **THE COURZEROISE STRAWBERRY AND OTHER RED FRUITS**

It is impossible to miss its sweet scent during the full-on harvest in mid-June. I had smelled the aroma before even seeing the harvesters working! The red and meaty strawberry of Courzieu is cultivated open-field, meaning in open-ground. She owes her reputation to her gustatory merits, sweet to perfection. The berry is best harvested by hand in the morning.



**IN THE MIDDLE  
OF THE FIELDS.**

*Hand picking, fresh  
in the morning.*

### **TO BITE INTO, BUT NOT ONLY...**

Jams, syrups, juices, compotes, nectars, fruits in syrup, pastries... An entire culinary tradition has developed around this fruit-growing production: a sweet delight. ♦





## *Along the seasons*

**IN APRIL**, the cherry-trees bloom.

**IN JUNE**, the cherry harvest is booming in the orchards.

## *With the Family*

**GAEC OF THE COURZIEU VERRIÈRE.** Maurice and Brigitte Porte commercialize their fruits (cherries, peaches, strawberries, blackberries, redcurrants, blueberries, plums) directly to the public, as well as their transformed products (jams, syrups and juices). Visit on demand.

**HARVEST AT FLEURIEUX'S FARM.** Henri Chambe has been a fruit and vegetable producer for over 30 years. In 2006, he created the first public harvest in Lyon.

## *Rendez-vous*

Cherry celebration (Fête de la cerise).

**IN BESSEY, THE 1<sup>ST</sup> WEEK-END OF JULY**, every two years.

Strawberry celebration (Fête de la fraise).

**IN COURZIEU, IN JUNE, EVERY TWO YEARS.**

Bessenay Cherry-tree Hike (Randonnée des Cerisiers Bessenay).

**IN BESSEY, IN APRIL.** Hike and discover the orchards in bloom (excursions from 7 kilometers to 25 kilometers).

# WINES, VINES AND WINEMAKERS



The vine is everywhere as well: small or big plots of land dress the landscape at the feet of villages, or of hillsides. Country of quarry, country of vineyard that is what I have been taught...No doubt about it! At the junction of the Lyonnais hills and the Beaujolais, the hills of the countryside bear two labels: Beaujolais and Coteaux du Lyonnais. It means the care brought to the vine by men. But why would two controlled origin label (or AOC) be on the same terroir?

## STORY OF THE SOIL

It is the area's complex geology, have I been explained, and thus the wide range of soils which justifies this double labelling. In broad outline, north of the Turdine, you will find the extreme south of the Beaujolais vineyard (controlled origin label since 1938). It is the area of Pierres Dorées (or 'Golden Stones') with the ochre soil, rich in limestone and sandstone, exposed to the south and to the east: Bully, Sarcey, Saint-Germain-Nuelles...

The south of the river is occupied by the Coteaux du Lyonnais vineyard (320 acres, controlled origin label), which spreads from the Monts d'Or to



the Lyonnais hills: Savigny, Saurcieux-les-Mines, Fleurieux-sur-L'Arbresle, Saint-Julien-sur-Bibost... A sequence of hills and plateaus open to the east, with a granitic and metamorphic subsoil, therefore a sandy texture or a limono-sandy texture.

### **BEAUJOLAIS OR LYONNAIS?**

To the naked eye, it is not easy to tell the two vineyards apart. Locals are still explaining this to me: the plantation is more close together in the Beaujolais than in the Coteaux. Eight to nine feet per hectare for the first, but only six to seven feet per hectare for the second.



## *With the Family*

### **CAVE DES COTEAUX DU LYONNAIS: MUSEUM SPACE, IN SAIN-BEL.**

Come discover the richness of the Coteaux du Lyonnais's heritage through an interactive and playful visit... which will be enjoyed by both parents and children...



*“A trimmed vine in February  
fills the basket with grapes”*



WINES,  
VINES AND  
WINE  
MAKERS

## Along the seasons

**BLOSSOMING.** The subtle scent exhaled from the thousands of flowers of vine sums up the start of summer on its own.

**GRAPE HARVEST.** Intense activity period.

**'VIS MA VIGNE' OR 'LIVE MY VINE'.** Sponsor a plot of land, during a vintage year. Surrounded by wine makers, you will learn to take care of your grape stock, along the seasons.



### WINE PRODUCING.

*In the Beaujolais, all the vinifications are short to enhance the Gamay vine, whereas in the Coteaux du Lyonnais, the maceration time is longer in more traditional wine-making.*

Second difference: if the grape varieties are identical for the two labels (Gamay and Chardonnay), the altitude for the blossoming of the vineyards is different. Implanted higher, the Coteaux du Lyonnais grapes reach perfect ripeness slightly later.

### BEAUTIFUL GRAPES

Yet, from the Beaujolais to the Lyonnais, it seems to me like working the vine marks the life of men equally...

Maintaining the fence when winter is near, trimming the vine shoot in winter, disbudding, maintaining the soils, helping up and creating the sprouts at spring... And the blossoming is a mark of summer's arrival and raises the tempo: removing the leaves from the vine to ensure a good exposition of the grains to the sun, regulating the quantity of the harvest... Deciding the beginning date of the grape harvest, the vendanges.

## VINEYARD

Paradox. From this unchanging rhythm rises a changing landscape. Winter gives the vineyard its features, almost like a waste-land; Spring tints the vine shoots of a tender green identical to the one of the prairies; the fence highlights the swaying lines of the vineyard, which fits the hills' curves. Then comes along summer and the blossoming, accompanied by a light scent of flowers from the vine. Finally the autumnal reddish glow appears.



**GRAPE VARIETY.** *The phylloxera crisis decimates the vineyard starting in 1871. It was a ruin, but also a new start. On the basis of American roots resistant to the parasite, the vineyard is reinstated in Gamay Noir for red wine and in Chardonnay as well as Aligoté for the white wine.*

From a distance, as for the décor, a cabin made of vine acts as a stand sentry, formerly used as storage for the gear and a cabin for the wine growers to rest during long days.

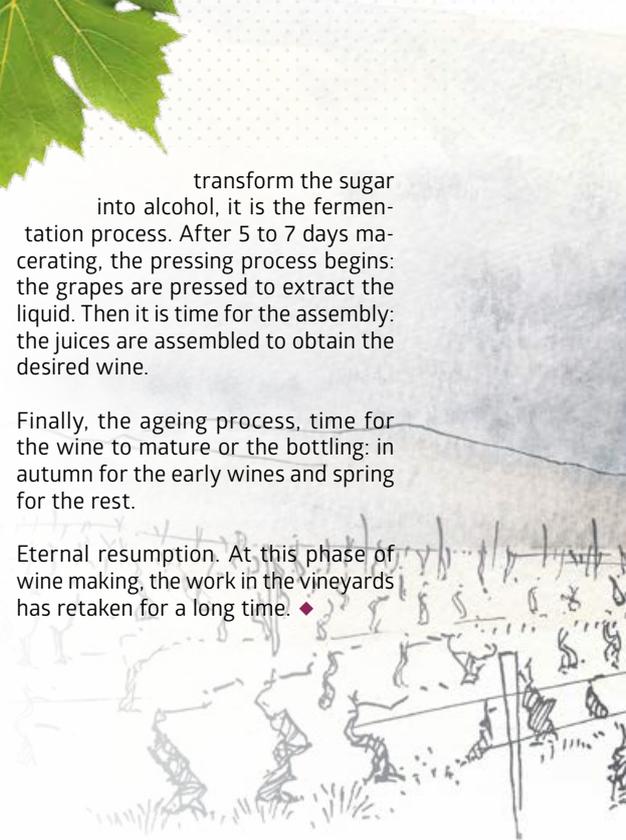
### HOW MUCH KNOW-HOW?

A wine grower must know its soil, adapt his grape varieties, lead the vine, plan the harvest... He needs all the know-how of wine maker to vinify the grapes. The long and precarious transformation of grape into wine. The grape is first put in a tank where it macerates. The yeasts in the fruit

transform the sugar into alcohol, it is the fermentation process. After 5 to 7 days macerating, the pressing process begins: the grapes are pressed to extract the liquid. Then it is time for the assembly: the juices are assembled to obtain the desired wine.

Finally, the ageing process, time for the wine to mature or the bottling: in autumn for the early wines and spring for the rest.

Eternal resumption. At this phase of wine making, the work in the vineyards has retaken for a long time. ♦



### WINE MAKER'S VOCABULARY

**TO LEAD THE VINE:** ways of cultivation

**TO DISBUD:** discarding the undesired shoots

**TO DRIVE THE VINE:** the work of the grape producer

**WINE MAKER:** Transforms grapes into wine  
**'CADOLE':** vine cabin

**TO PRESS (OR FOULER):** to crush the grapes

**PHYLLOXERA:** a type of insect who attacks the roots of the vine

WINES,  
VINES AND  
WINE  
MAKERS

## To do

Two wine paths to browse in the heart of the Coteaux du Lyonnais: **IN EVEUX AND IN FLEURIEUX-SUR-L'ARBRESLE.**

**DISCOVER THE VINE CABINS RESTORED** by a handful of passionate people.

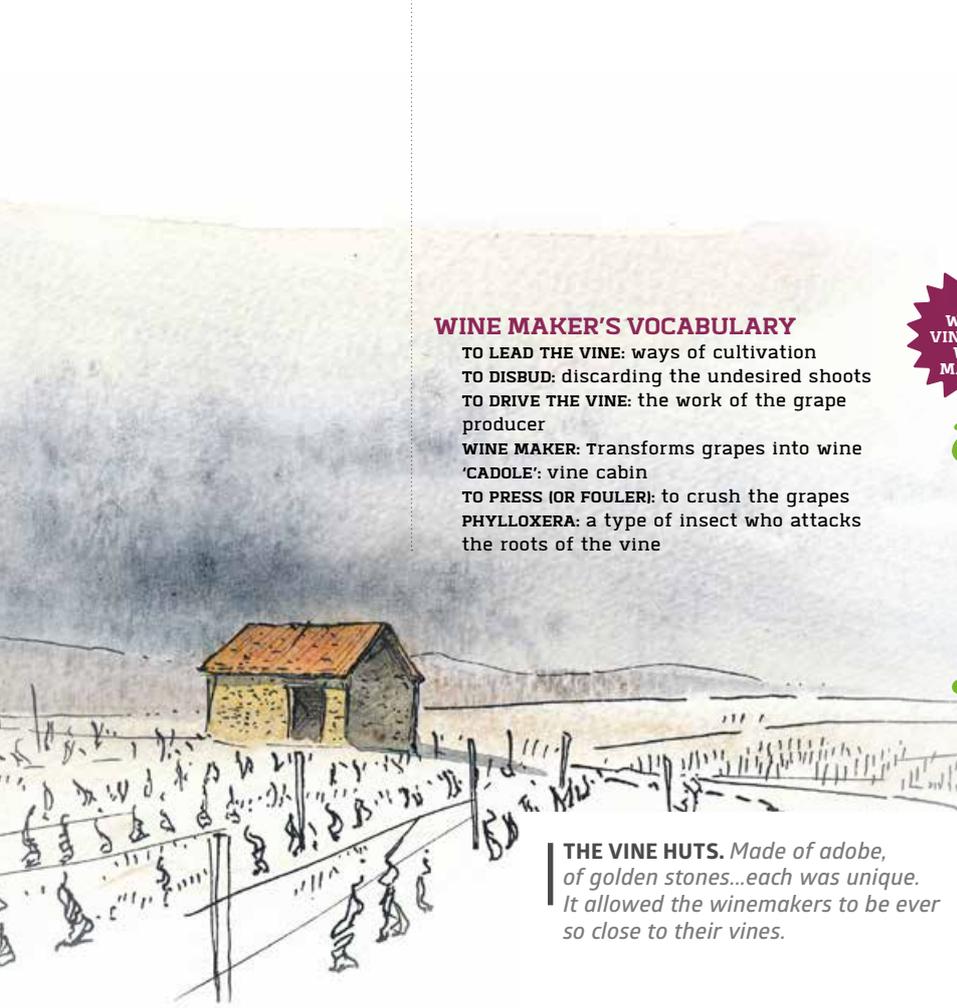
## Rendez-vous

**LA FÊTE DES PRIMEURS**, the week-end following the third Thursday of November.

**LE SALON DES VINS OF BESSEY, in March.**

**RANDONNÉE VTT (BIKING HIKE)**

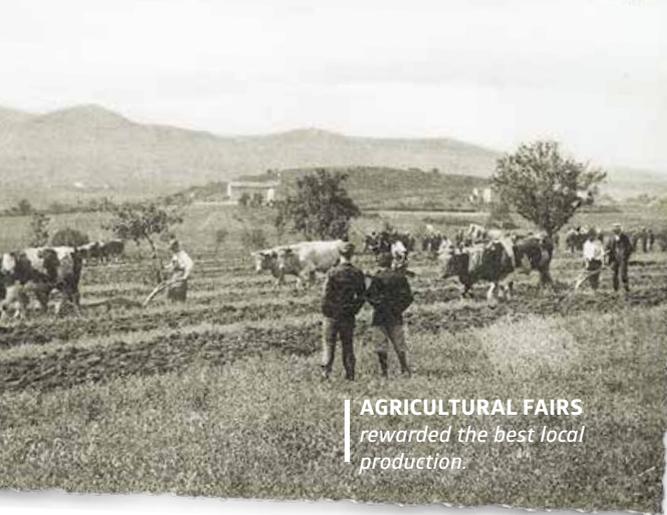
'Between vines and golden stones', in Saint-Germain-Nuelles.



**THE VINE HUTS.** *Made of adobe, of golden stones...each was unique. It allowed the winemakers to be ever so close to their vines.*

# VEALS, COWS, PIGS

— Comice Agricole du Canton de l'Arbresle 1908. Concours de labourage



**AGRICULTURAL FAIRS**  
*rewarded the best local  
production.*

Another produce is neatly detached from the hillside: prairies interlinked to the orchards and the vines. The region has a dairy fiber... This is noticed by the plots filled with grass for the cattle to feed on. It means all the climate 'harshness', the altitude and the sometimes strong slopes do not really allow for other crops and vines, so it is favorable to livestock. Spread throughout the countryside, the livestock is mostly composed of dairy cows.

## THE GRASS GROWS GREENER

We may believe that cultivating grass is also one of the local know-hows. This in fact, is not far from the truth. It is indeed in the Lyonnais hills that





the 'révolution fourragère' (or 'fodder crops revolution') was born, during the Second World War. This revolution was thought of to help the small dairy producers stay alive, by creating temporary prairies. The old meadows are flipped and sowed with productive crops. This technique significantly raised the fodder production. Pasture in the summer, hay in the winter... With this diet, countryside cows better produce dairy!

### LAND OF INNOVATION

This major agricultural innovation has allowed a considerable amount of local producers to maintain their farming business. To ingenuity has been added the needs of two big cities really close-by: Lyon and Saint-Etienne. With a solid team spirit, the organization of the workforce did the rest. The western



**A FEW HERDS OF SUCKLED COWS**  
*complete the activity.*

countryside of Lyon is still alive and dynamic, in balance between tradition and modernity.

### **FROM THE COW'S MILK TO CHEESE**

The dairy production is still, even nowadays, one of the main productions of this country. It represents over 80 operations, around 3,000 cows and a rough 15 million liters of milk. Many producers transform parts of their farm: white cheese 'faisselle', dry cow's milk cheese (the Margueton), butter, cream, yogurts...

### **EVERYTHING IS GOOD IN THE PIG!**

However a simple snack or a traditional Sunday lunch which stretches until dinner will prove it: this country does not only produce milk! The 'cayon' (pork, farm grown of course) is a certain value, almost an entire culture. Lovingly fattened from spring to winter, his end was once worthily celebrated. Just to show... boudins (blood sausage), saucissons (thick dry cured sausage), hams, pâtés (spreadable paste of mixed cooked meats and fat), all prepared following the pure traditional butchery are a true delicacy.

The 'small animals', such as poultry or rabbits, are not at rest either. Prepped by the inn keeper and accompanied with raw vegetables, they will not let you down.



### **FROM THE FIELD TO THE PLATE**

Formerly, farmers brought every product from the farm to sell them at the market: eggs, charcuterie, poultry, rabbits, fruits and vegetables. These farmer's markets have replaced the traditional market:

- 'La Ronde paysanne', in Bessenay,
- 'La Barotte', in Bully,
- The 'Marché à la ferme', in Fleurieux-sur-L'Arbresle,
- The 'Boutique de la Ferme' des Sources, in Eveux,
- 'Le jardin fleurinois' in Fleurieux-sur-L'Arbresle,
- 'La boutique de la Cave des Coteaux du Lyonnais' in Sain-Bel,
- The drive fruits et légumes Pestre, in Chevinay (Buy online and come receive your order by car, starting a 4pm).

To finish, a white cheese 'faisselle' (oh sure it's light), a slice of clafoutis (from our cherries), a coffee, a shot of schnapps... a nap is now needed. ♦



VEALS,  
COWS,  
PIGS

## With the Family

**IN BESSEY, GAEC MARYLO.** Become a goat herder for a few hours: goat's cheese tasting, taking care of the animals, goat milking.

**THE GONES FARM, IN FLEURIEUX-SUR-L'ARBRESLE.** This dairy farm with suckled cows offers to make you discover the farm. Cows are for you, as well as veal, horses, donkeys, goats, rabbits, pigs and hens. Games based of the farm theme.

**THE SOURCES FARM, IN EVEUX.** A small goat farming business which doubles as a restaurant in the farm. Produce of the terroir and regional delicacies on the menu.

## Rendez-vous

**HAY CELEBRATION (Fête du Foin), IN SARCEY, DURING JUNE.**

**DRAUGHT HORSE COMPETITION (Concours des chevaux de traite), IN SARCEY, DURING JUNE.**

### THE MÈRE BRAZIER ET THE LUÈRE PASS.

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, many Lyonnais restaurants were held by women, which we have nicknamed 'mother' or 'mère'. Eugénie Brazier was one of them. Manager of the typical 'bouchon' restaurants in Lyon, she worked her art (two Michelin stars) in Rue Royale, Lyon. In 1928, she goes to rest in a cabin located in the Luère pass. Her customers were pressing her to open a second restaurant there. It opens its doors in 1929 and it will become the extension of her restaurant in Lyon for every week-end as well as for sunny days. Paul Bocuse will realize part of his training at her restaurants in 1946.



### LOCAL MENU

Dandelion salad, with stripped bacon

Quenelle

Grape marc Saucisson

Chevinay cardoon with bone marrow

Plate of Courzieu cheeses

Bessenay cherries Clafoutis or baked fruits turnover



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Savigny Abbey

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Discovery space of L'Arbresle

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The Old Arbresle

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Estate and nunnery of the Tourette, in Eveux

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Reverdy Farm in Saint-Julien-sur-Bibost

# COUNTRYSIDE Stones

**STONES OF YESTERDAY  
AND OF TODAY,**  
*they tell us about the life  
of men and their links  
to the environment.*



**OF COURSE,  
THE NATURAL  
RICHES OF THE  
COUNTRY HAVE NOT  
GONE UNNOTICED.  
HOW COULD IT HAVE  
BEEN ANY OTHER  
WAY?**

Some water, fertile soils, important communication routes... The territory has always seen men go by, settling and cultivating for the horn of plenty that he is.



But I come back to what I see. It is the religion orders who, at the beginning of the Middle Age, have invested the territory. The Savigny Benedictine monks, more precisely, whose history is an integral part of the land's history. They cleared the forest, stoned the soils and threw the bases of the agricultural landscape. They built churches, villages and some farms... Then they protected their accomplished work from covetousness. Sacred stones, strong stones... I can reveal the signs.

From the 16<sup>th</sup> century, bourgeois and dignitaries of cities succeed them. The

great estates organize the agricultural space, the masters' houses are surrounded by land and we have called them 'houses of the fields'.

Then, closer from our farm-fortresses, typical of the Lyonnais. So much in symbiosis with their environment that they merge with it.

I leave for the countryside to have a look at these stones, reflexions of the way of life, of cultivation, of living...

# STRONG STONES

During the high Middle Age, the frequent changes of ruler and the constant disputes between lords gave the Church an unmatched strength. The ecclesial lordships control true regions and their role is as spiritual as it is economic and political.

## SAINT MARTIN ABBEY IN SAVIGNY

Its role is major in the history of this country. She laid down the foundations. Its existence dates back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century. The Benedictine monastery and its outbuildings then spread on the villages of Savigny, from Sain-Bel to L'Arbresle. In this first millennium, he is with Ainay and the Ile Barbe, one of the three biggest abbeys of the Lyonnais.



The abbey knew its golden age between the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup> century until it became a true state. The abbots of Savigny are at the head of a congregation of 38 rural priories and nearly 165 parishes. The

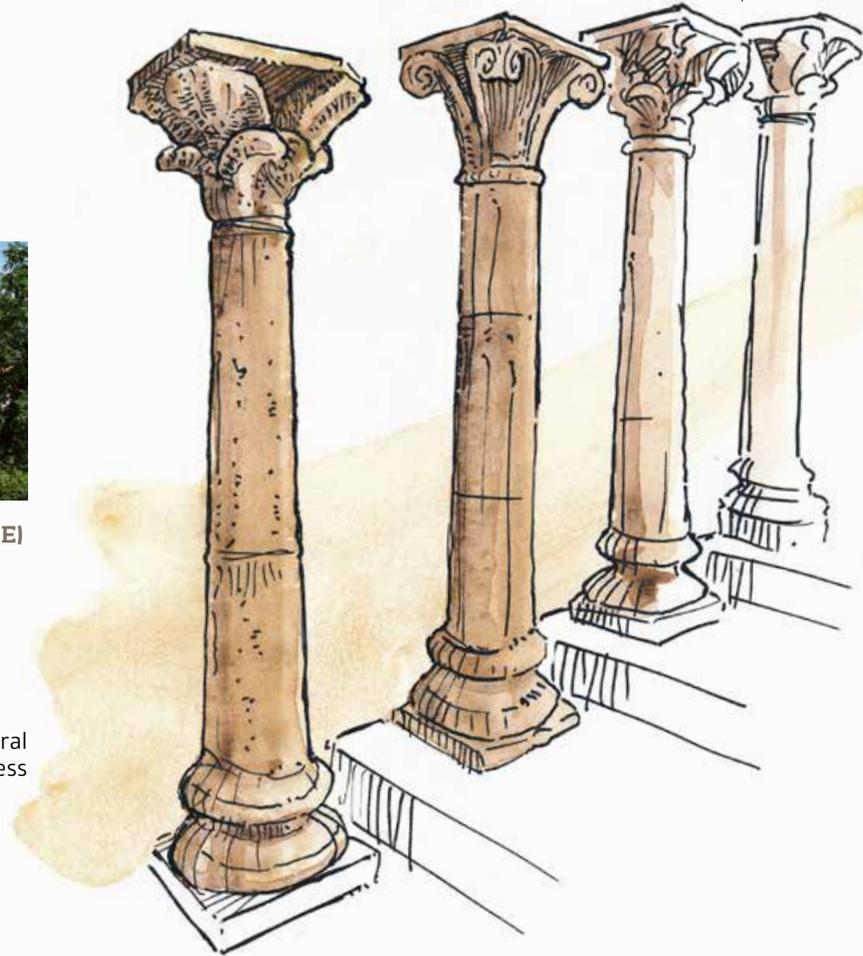
Benedictine monks also being tireless pioneers, their agricultural estate is significant. Their land property allied to a solid land economy, form a 'baronnie' of roughly 500 kilometers squared controlling the major road of

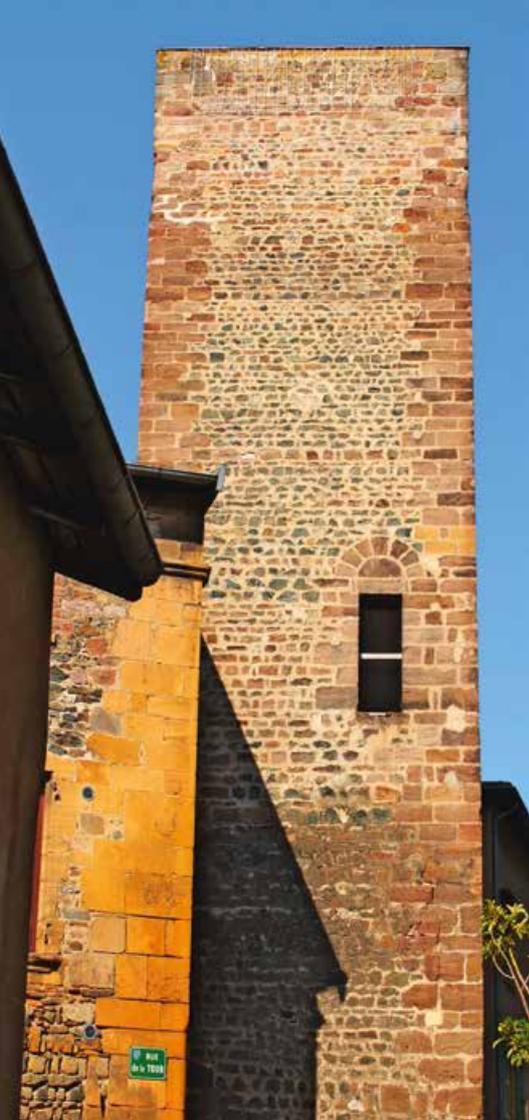


### FORTIFIED HOUSE OF PÉAGE (PRIVATE)

Situated on the road of Saint-Romain-de-Popey, this ancient fortified house was destined to protect the abbey. Built on occasion of an argument between the Savigny abbey and the Lord of Bully, his origins date back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

the kingdom and disposing of several merchants' towns. A desired richness and a worrying strength...





## **FORTRESSES OF THE MIDDLE AGE**

At the hinge of the Beaujolais, the Lyonnais and the Forez, the abbey must face the desires and the ambition of the Forez count, the Beaujeu sires and the Lyon archbishops. Over and above the recurrent plagues that are the banditry, the pillaging, the starvations, the invasions and the other devastations.

Fearful of protecting their acquisition, the abbots put in place a defense strategy in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. They first fortify the villages where they abbey has properties. The first is L'Arbresle between 1060 and 1082 whose castle blocks the only way of communication with Lyon. Then Courzieu. They later build a defensive belt formed of castles and fortified houses: Montrottier,



Chamousset, Sain-Bel (Montloy). They even have their own armed forces.

## **STONES' MEMORY**

Nothing or close to nothing subsists of the glorious sage of the Savigny abbots... You will need, as in an enigma, search for clues of this prosper city. I



will however guide you... The Carrée tower called the Horloge (the Clock) once marked the abbey's honor entry way. The front wall, then over 2 meters thick, is still here nowadays here and there. All like the saddlery, the main room and the residence of the great priory. Many houses also have been built with the ruins of the abbey... ♦

### L'ARBRESLE'S STRONGHOLD

L'Arbresle is fortified in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, by abbot Dalmace's decision. The castle is built on a rocky peak and lies at the confluence of the Brévenne and the Turdine. It was composed of four square towers of which only one subsists. A triple enclosure protected it: the castle's wall, the city's bastions and the front wall of the faubourgs which closed the peninsula.

STRONG  
STONES

## To do

**HISTORICAL CIRCUIT**  
of the Old L'Arbresle.

**DISCOVERY CIRCUIT** of the old village  
Sain-Bel.

**DISCOVERY TRACK** of the mounded  
village and of the hamlet  
of the Hostelleries of Courzieu.

**SAVIGNY'S LAPIDARY MUSEUM,**  
famous for its significant roman  
sculptures collection.

## Rendez-vous

**HERITAGE DAYS OR THE COUNTRY,**  
in June.

**GUIDED VISITS**  
by the Office of Tourism.

# SACRED STONES

But the Savigny monk's influence was not only agricultural. Or maybe the peacefulness of the place is favorable to meditation and to devotion. Because along the roads, I discover extraordinary stone sculptures. Simple crosses, chapels, churches, monasteries... Of every style and of every era, these buildings testify the religious devotion of the inhabitants of the country but also of the permanent source of inspiration which found the builders here.

## **VIRGIN MARY, CROSSES ON ROADS AND CHAPELS**

All remind that religion one paced everyday life in the countryside. Often built by craftsmen with local materials, their modesty, almost illustrious robustness is a simple and deep belief.



**BUILT ON THE RIDGE WHICH OVERCOMES THE VILLAGE OF SOURCIEUX-LES-MINES, we since embrace the Fouillet chapel's panorama on Lyon, the Lyonnais hills and the Beaujolais, the Alps.**

Up above, as many landmarks, the chapels often commemorate the answered wishes by God. Thus, the Fouillet chapel in Sourcieux-les-Mines has been built following a tornado which destroyed the crops. Only has been found a Virgin Mary figurine. Believing in this miracle, the inhabitants built a chapel in 1860. Built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century,

Saint-Roch which overhangs Bibost has been erected at the occasion of the great plagues of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Ripan chapel in Bessenay rules the valley from Conan and commemorates the disappearing of the six bessenois during the franco-prussian conflict of 1870. On the Couru hill, a virgin Mary evokes L'Arbresle battle which took

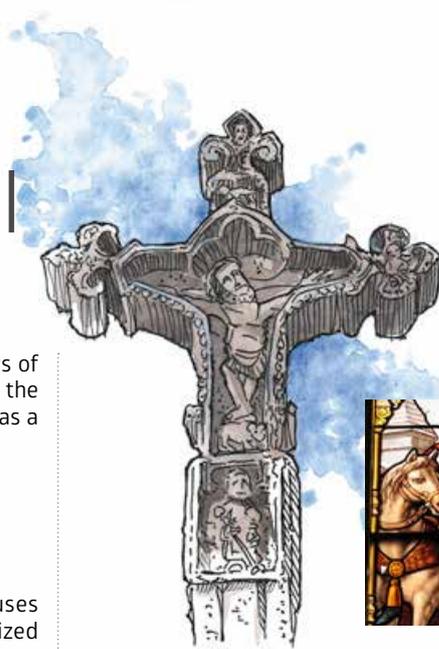
**SAINT ROCH CROSS.**

*This magnificent white stone cross, dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century is the oldest in the Rhône department. Over 200 crosses pave the Arbresle country.*

place in June 1940. After two days of combat, the population discovered the city untouched and built a statue as a show of appreciation.

**THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY.  
PIERRE BOSSAN  
IN THE COUNTRYSIDE**

Place of cult and gathering, houses of God, the churches have mobilized some famous architects. It is the case of Saint-Polycarpe in Bully and the Saint-Irénée in Bennessay. Both were raised in the 19<sup>th</sup> century following Pierre Bossan's plans, architect of Notre-Dame and of Fourvière. Built



in mist of the era of renewal of sacred art, they represent a 'model' image of catholic churches to come. All like the neo-gothic churches of Savigny and of Saint-Germain in L'Arbresle.



*With  
the Family*

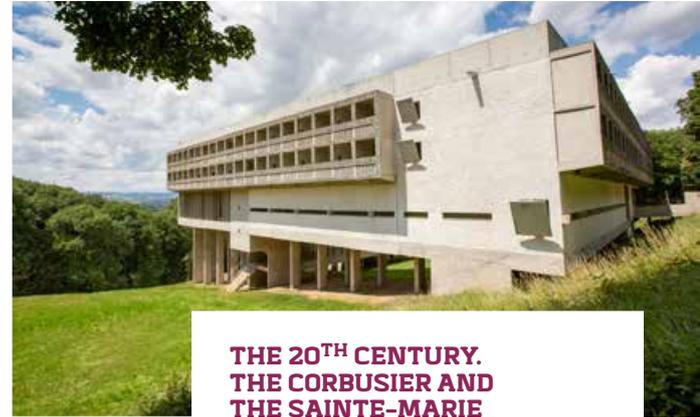
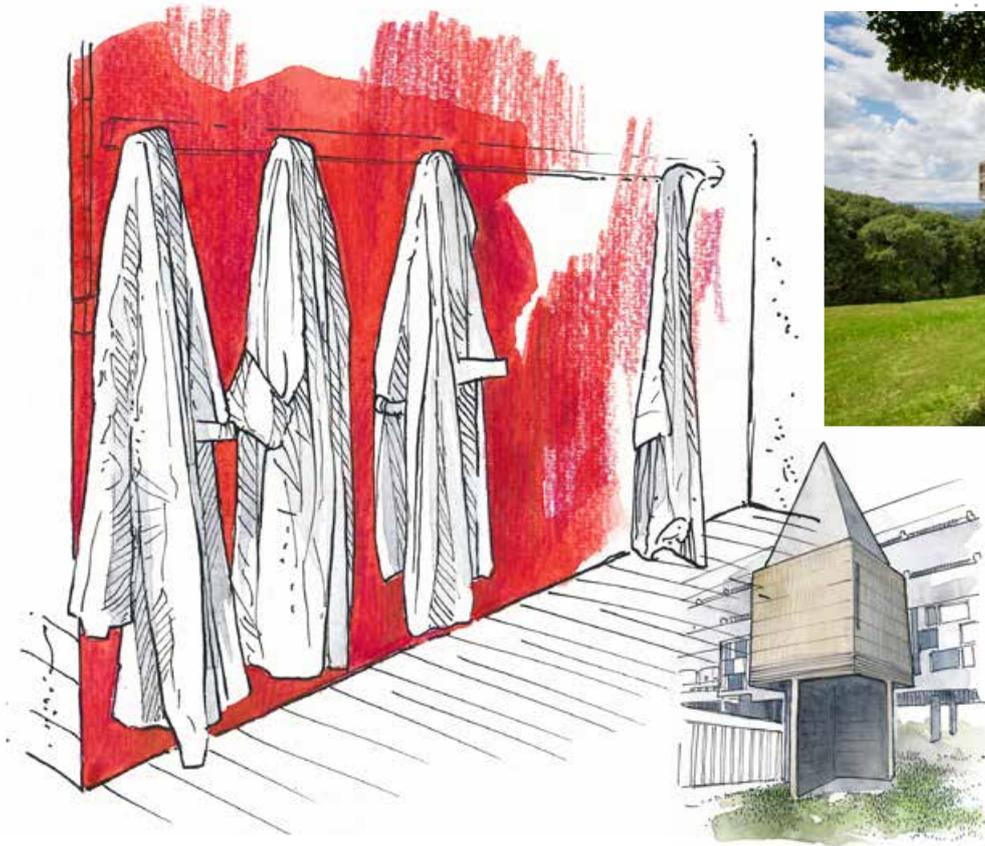
**THE MASTER GLASSMAKERS.**

The stained glasses are well known in the Middle Age. They then tell the episode of the Christ's life or the Saints' life to the worshippers who did not know how to read: a sort of catechism imagery.



In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, some famous master glassmakers have worked in L'Arbresle country: Lobin of Tours in L'Arbresle (biggest set of stained glass of the Rhône in the 15<sup>th</sup> century) and Savigny, Magnin in Savigny and Chevinay, Bégule in Bully, Bessenay and Sain-Bel, Augustin Thierry, Campagne in Courzieu, Mauvernay in Bully and Chevinay.

The occasion of a visit as beautiful as it is exclusive of this territory's sacred heritage.



**THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY.  
THE CORBUSIER AND  
THE SAINTE-MARIE  
NUNNERY IN TOURETTE**

*"It is a place where the valuable is beautiful and the excess is excluded"*  
said Le Corbusier.

Set on a hill, the nunnery is literally 'put' in the nature between the forest and the prairies. Out of concrete and glass, the border between the inside and the outside yet seems almost erased. Space of habitation, of study and of praying, it shelters a Dominican community composed of about dix brothers.



### PERFECT GEOMETRY.

*Each cell strictly respects the same proportions: 1.83 meters wide, 5.92 meters long and 2.26 meters high. A medium sized man can stand on it, with his arms outstretched.*



It is in 1952 that brother A.-M. Couturier offers to build a new nunnery destined to welcome hundreds of religious men for Le Corbusier. Why such a choice? As explained by brother D. Belaud: *"For the beauty of the nunnery to be born, of course. But mostly for the meaning of this beauty. It is necessary to show that prayers and religious life are not linked by conventional forms and that an agreement can establish between themselves and more modern architecture."*

The nunnery was built between 1953 and 1960. It is one of Le Corbusier's masterpieces in France. ♦

## Rendez-vous

### THE RENCONTRES DE LA TOURETTE.

An annual program of great quality: conferences, seminars, retreats, expositions, performances.

**NUIT DES ÉTOILES IN RIPAN CHAPEL, IN BESSEY,** August 15<sup>th</sup> – Guided astral observations.

**GUIDED VISIT OF THE OFFICE OF TOURISM, Saint-Jean Baptiste church and its stained glass.**

## To do

**SAINTE-MARIE NUNNERY.** It is possible for whoever wished, to experience this exceptional place of modern architecture, whose author Le Corbusier has said: "it does not speak but it lives from the inside". Guided visit every Sunday afternoon.

# RURAL STONES

There are the stones dedicated to a God, the ones fortified by the lords, or embellished by the noblemen. They have told me the history of the Country. There also is an 'everyday' stone: the hamlet's one or the farm's, which whispers the life of men to me... But it has to be said that if the owners change, the materials are the same: mud, golden stone, granite and 'blue' stone extracted from neighboring quarries.

## FROM FARM TO FARM

Here I am in the Tyr hamlet, in the village of Saint-Julien-sur-Bibost. I pay a visit to the illustrious forefather of the Country: Reverdy Farm. To herself alone she is, so is said, a testimony of the traditional architecture of the

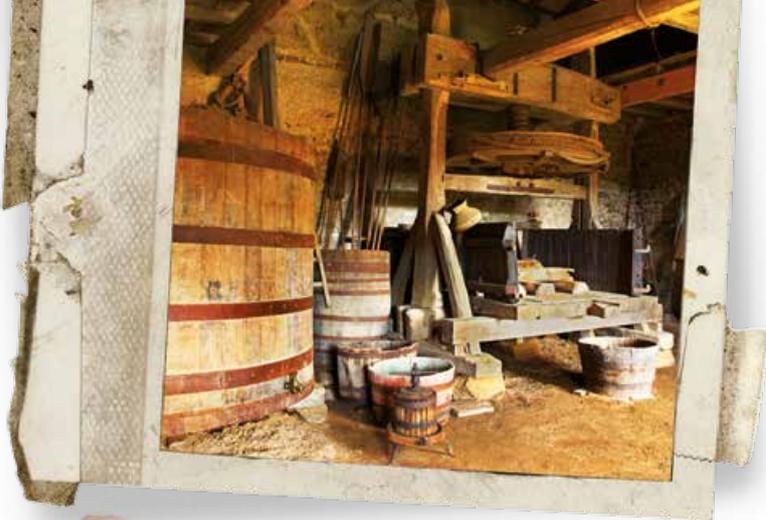


Lyonnais: cursed! It is true it impresses the old lady, solidly tied to the hillside flank in the middle of its grounds. First coquetry, it has the name of its owners: the Reverdy who maintained it during 720 years.

At first sight, it does not say a thing. Isolated, it is a massive construction, folded on itself. A farm fortress in which I enter by an impressive gateway in yellow limestone of Oncin. 1823, says the cornerstone.



**WELL-DESERVED FAME.** *In July 2000, the Reverdy Farm was a filming spot for the movie 'Un crime au Paradis' by Jean Becker with Josiane Balasko, Jacques Villeret and André Dussolier.*



Inside, nothing is destined to protect, produce or feed: the wells, the bakery oven, the milk house, the henhouse, the hutch, the pigsty... The use of each thing is tangible to its finest detail.

Around the sloppy courtyard, the buildings spread in a U shape. To the left is the dwelling, well protected from the wind, in three levels. To the right is the paved stable topped by the hay barn: the livestock separated from the men. In front of me, the way by which we reached the fields and the vat equipped of its press.

## LEXIQUE

**LE CHAPÏT** : hay barn.

**L'AITRE** : balcony or gallery all the way along the dwelling and covered by a step on the roof.

We dried hemp, nuts, onions or clothes there. We suspended the chazière to dry the cheeses.

**LE CUVAGE** : the place destined to wine making.

The family was wealthy and owner, an elegant beauty.

But what hits me is the care towards the aître and the paintings which decorate the front of the dwelling. Some big Bully limestone tiles on the ground, the grayish-blue whitewashed walls, a pink ochre frieze which runs half way, the naïve paintings, the owner's



**NO RUNNING WATER BEFORE 1950.**

*To wash the clothes, you must go to the launderette. Each village has its own: Bully, Dommartin, Nuelles and Fleurieux-sur-L'Arbresle...*

names in calligraphy on the lintels... an unexpected care and an esthetic sensitivity in this whole place dedication to agricultural production.

**LIFE IN THE HAMLET**

If Reverdy is the standard model of an isolated farm in the middle of its grounds, all farms do not act alone. Far from it, the hamlets punctuate the countryside as the Charrière or



**THE BREAD OVEN**

*of Morillon, in Eveux.*

the Glay. The first stretches all the way along the main road, hence its name. The second lights up the landscape with its golden stone. The reveal other treasures of the stone. Coming straight out of the necessities of everyday life, bread ovens, launderette, or windmill all reflect of a traditional rural lifestyle, nowadays gone. True institutions, as is coffee, where we worked but we also met there to exchange news. ♦



# With the Family

**REVERDY FARM VISIT**  
every Sunday afternoon  
in July and in August  
or on demand for groups.

**GLAY AND CHARRIERE  
QUARRIES'** hamlet visit.

**HIKE OF THE WELLS,**  
in Bessenay.

# STONES OF HISTORY

Many other residences tell the Country's past. The cities or the fields, these buildings are often associated to great families or to men who marked their era. They tell the way of life or the preoccupations of an era.

If the stones could talk, they would without doubt tell us...

## CITY HOUSES

...May the ordinary oven, set around 1370 depended from the Savigny abbey. The abbots received royalties for its use like any other general equipment: the windmill, the wine press.

...May the house of the ordinary oven, be the unique house with timbered designs which subsist to L'Arbresle. Its presence is however surprising,

because if this construction technique is widely spread in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (because less costly), was rare in the Lyonnais countryside where the stones were not lacking.

...May the said Jacques Cœur house not belong presumably to the great paymaster of Charles the 7<sup>th</sup>. But no matter. This rich residence has conserved its superb; it's beautiful inside yard, its spiral stairway, its mullioned windows and its frontages with arcades in full Renaissance.

...May the house and the Odieu tower, noticeable for its hexagonal shape, be from the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

...May the tower Impasse des Mures be used for hemp drying.





### FIELD HOUSES

The stones would also tell us that in the countryside, at the same time, were settling the 'field houses'. 'Ancestors' of our countryside houses, they were the bourgeois Lyonnais

summer residence recently enriched and ennobled. Same as the wealthy Florentines, they came to resource in the summer season. But despite of the residential function, these vast properties were not any less exploited and managed like genuine agricultural

### ROADS AND INNS

From the roman era, Le Pays de L'Arbresle is an important staging post on the south-east/north-west axe which links Paris to Lyon. Reused over the centuries this way becomes the Great road from Paris to Lyon in the Middle Age, Royal Road of Paris by the Bourbonnais, then imperial road in 1811... Many inns punctuated the road, ready to welcome great lords, merchants or simple travelers. The Trois Maures Hotel is one of those inns. It dates back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Some others are more visible in the Hostelleries neighborhood in Courzieu, equipped with vast stables and farriers' workshops.



...A huit milles d'Amboise  
(8 miles from Amboise)  
A deux milles de Tours  
(2 miles from Tours)  
C'est là que sont les Nobles  
(This is where the Nobles are)  
Les Nobles et les Nouvelles  
(The Nobles and the Newcomers)  
Du château de l'Arbresle  
(Of L'Arbresle castle)  
...  
Victor Hugo

estates. Master's house, farms, shares, prairies, orchards, vine, garden and fishpond were sharing the space. Helpful and enjoyable, in short.

Thus, the Valous hotel in L'Arbresle. Built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, she was the house of fields of a dignitary Lyonnais family. The master's house gives a

beautiful courtyard, Italian inspired. Stables, barn, and dovecote are more visible.

The Tourette estate is historically another estate. This ancient fortified house is taken over by the Claret of Fleurieux-sur-L'Arbresle. In 1681. Strong of its social ascent, this scholar

Lyonnais family extends the estate which is now around 80 hectares closed by walls. But this Marc-Louis Antoine, called 'The Botanist' will mark the Tourette with his imprint. Passionate about natural history, and a friend of Jacques Rousseau, he forms a true botanical garden inside the walls, counting over 3,000 species. ♦



STONES OF  
HISTORY



## HOUSES AND MEN

**The Pérolrière and the Mangini.** This Florentine style castle has been built by Gaspard André, architect of the Céléstins Theater and of the Jacobins Fountain. He has been, in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Mangini family residence, famous railroad builders. The castle attests of the social success of their owners in the booming industrial era. Similar to the Bully castle restored by the Gillet family (Lyonnais dyer).



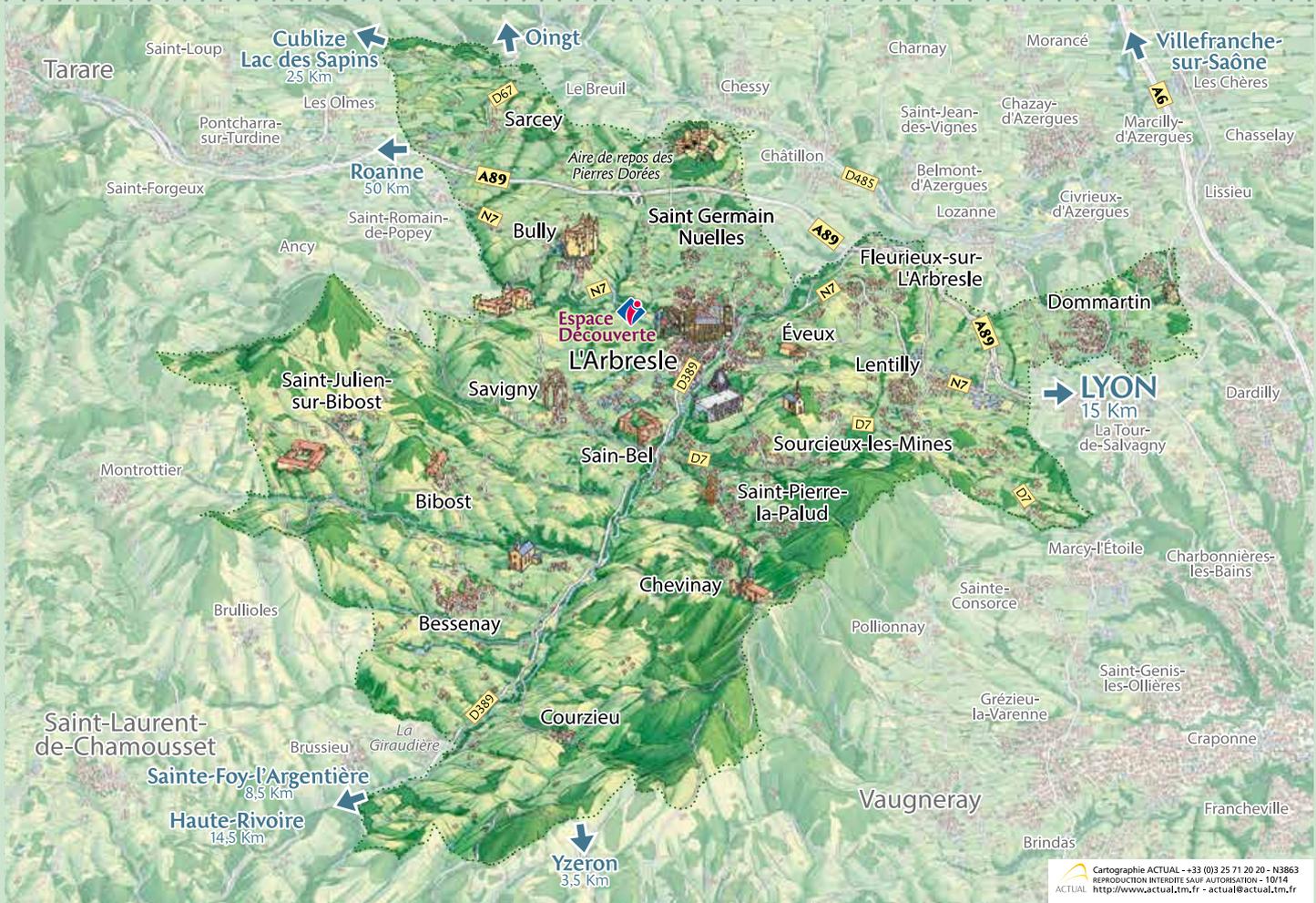
**Master Philippe and the Landar clos.** Built on the eve of the Révolution, the Landar clos has been Mister Philippe's residence, famous magician at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Thanks to his gifts, he healed the Russian Tsar's family, amongst others.

## To do

**HERITAGE TOUR** of the Old L'Arbresle.  
**VISIT OF THE TOURETTE ESTATE IN EVEUX.**  
**VISIT OF THE HOSTELLERIES HAMLET IN COURZIEU.**

## Rendez-vous

**GUIDED VISIT OF THE PÉROLLIÈRE CASTE** and its 35 hectares park.  
**THEMATIC GUIDED VISITS OF THE OLD ARBRESLE** by Les Amis du Vieux L'Arbresle on its Renaissance theme, the famous Arbreslois (locals)...



# To organize your days

## TO HELP GUIDE YOU

- **Tourist guide of Le pays de L'Arbresle.** Available for free.
- **Tourist map of Le pays de L'Arbresle.** Available for free.
- **Audio guided visits, with a geo-tracking system.** 6 free downloadable itineraries on MP3 or GPS to explore the territory's emblematic sights. Audio and downloads on [www.arbresletourisme.fr](http://www.arbresletourisme.fr) or on [www.beujolais.com](http://www.beujolais.com)
- **Map guide** (scale 1:25,000). Walks and hikes in Le pays de L'Arbresle. edited by the CG36. For sale at 5€ in the Tourism Office (Edition 2014)
- **Lyonnais Hills Tour.** Description in the guidebook of the FFRP Beaujolais hills and Lyonnais by foot. For sale at 15€ in the Tourism Office Edition 2015.



## THE JOURNEY IS ALSO A PART OF THE VOYAGE...

### TER and tram/train.

- Lyon train line: stops Lentilly, Fleurieux-sur-L'Arbresle, the Arbresle and Sain-Bel,
- Lyon-Roanne train line: stops at L'Arbresle.

### Rhône bus lines. (Cars du Rhône):

To know more: [www.carsdurhone.fr](http://www.carsdurhone.fr)

### ROUTES

**To take it easy:** by the RN7, by the RD389.

### To take it fast:

- By the highway A6 (Paris-Lyon) : exit n°32 Anse; n°33 Dardilly-Limonest,
- By the highway A89 (Bordeaux-Lyon) : exit n°35 Tarare Est; n°36 L'Arbresle; n°37 Pont de Dorieux; n°38 Lentilly.

## Office de Tourisme du Pays de L'Arbresle (Tourism Office)

18-20, place Sapéon, F-69210 L'Arbresle - contact: +33 (0)4 74 01 48 87 - [www.arbresletourisme.fr](http://www.arbresletourisme.fr)

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Courzieu Park

p.47

Wooded crests and the Arjoux peak

p.51

340 km of marked itineraries

p.5

Discovery space of L'Arbresle

p.47 et 57

Glaz quarries at Saint-Germain-Nuelles

p.49

Tourette Park at Eveux

# COUNTRYSIDE *Nature*

PANORAMA OF THE CITY OF LYON  
AND OF THE ALP CHAINS.

*The Country of Arbresle peaks  
at 918 meters, in the Verrière woods  
on the township of Courzieu.*



NATURE  
SEEN FROM  
THE SKY



REMAR  
KABLE  
NATURE



NATURE  
ON THE  
WAY

**AFTER PIERCING  
THE HOUSES  
AND THE FIELDS'  
INTIMACY, I CLIMB  
TO SAINT-BONNET-  
LE-FROID ON THE  
LYONNAIS HILLS'S  
TOPS.**

Seen from above,  
everything is different...  
The whole country  
unwraps like  
a huge carpet.



The first men climbed these hills to spot, to build their village safe from the flood or the nearby enemy. For my part, I reach it simply to take a necessary step back and to better see the area's geography.

This panorama allows me to put the previous area in perspective and to understand the mechanisms which guided

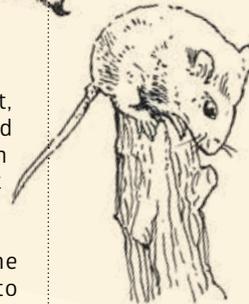
the settling of men and the formation of a landscape.

The crossroad position of Le Pays de L'Arbresle, between the Lyonnais Hills and the Tartare Mounts is well legible. The big city's influence, Lyon, just split from the countryside by the hills, reveals itself. The valleys far away though which the rivers score the décor.

The ground's variety is incredible and causes a breathtaking visual diversity.

Yet the landscape if mild, welcoming, open.

And only asks to bet explored.



# NATURE SEEN FROM THE SKY

Everywhere, the hilly landscape of the country offers beautiful views from a hill; a hillside...

## MOUNTS AND MOUNTAINS

Two lush heights, separated by the Brévenne valley, mark the territory. We could believe them to be born from the same mountain.

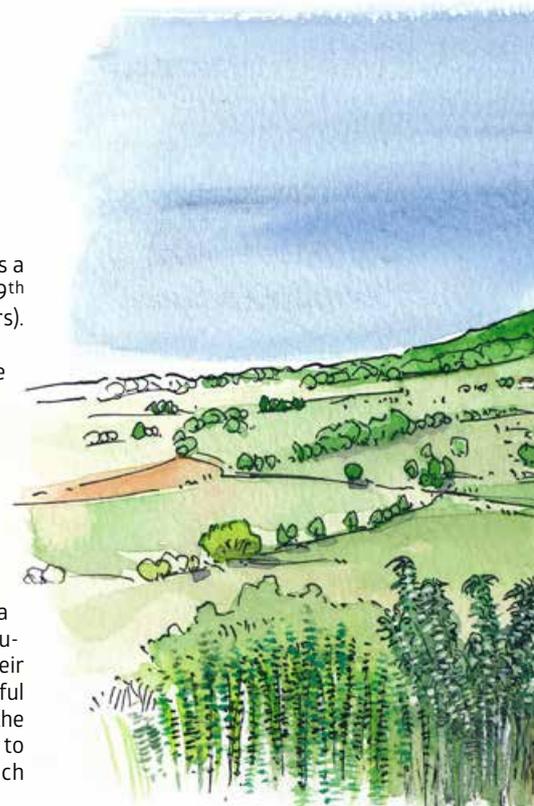
East of Brévenne: the Lyonnais hills. It is a space of Medium Mountain, on the edge of the Massif Central. The long spine, which stretches from Croix de Pars to the pass of Croix du Ban, gathers most of the passes and the highest peaks of the territory. Some are famous: the Saint-André Signal (935 meters), the Malval pass (732 meters) and its mysterious forest,

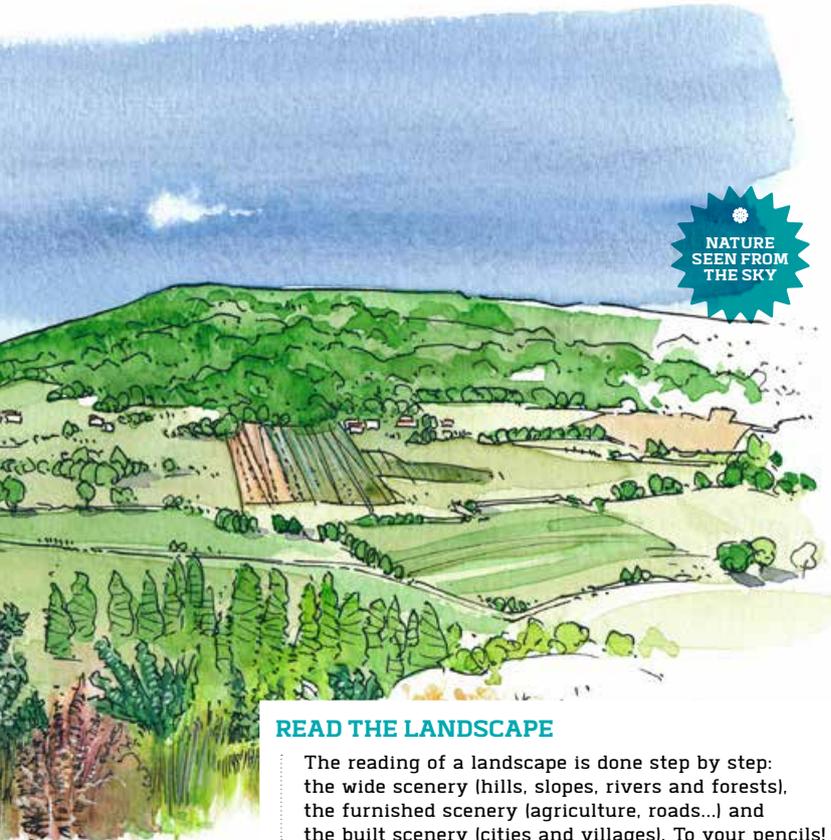
the Luère's one (714 meters) which is a popular excursion spot since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Croix du Ban (602 meters).

West of Brévenne, the Tartare Mounds dominated by the wooded hills... The Crêt d'Arjoux (815 meters), clearly identified by its conical shape, the Mont Pottu (818 meters), the Montmain Crêt.

## HILLSIDES AND HILLS

Other than those mounts, I catch a glimpse of the hillsides of the Beaujolais, north of the country. From their limestone hills, they also offer beautiful points of view, another tone. There, the highlander forests' green gives way to the ochre of the golden stone which warms the eyes. ♦





NATURE  
SEEN FROM  
THE SKY

### READ THE LANDSCAPE

The reading of a landscape is done step by step: the wide scenery (hills, slopes, rivers and forests), the furnished scenery (agriculture, roads...) and the built scenery (cities and villages). To your pencils!

## To do

### SEEN FROM ABOVE

- From the Lyonnais hills: Croix de Pars, Barmont, Malval pass, Luère pass, Croix du Ban pass, Chatelard's crêt.
- From the Tartare mounts: Arjoux's crêt.
- From the Beaujolais hillsides: Glay quarries, the Lady of Chateler in Sarcey.
- From the hills: Fouillet's chapel in Sourcieux-les-Mines, Ripan's chapel in Bessenay, Poteau's village in Fleurieux-sur-L'Arbresle.

## With the Family

### SOURCIEUX-LES-MINES, FOUILLET'S CHAPEL.

A reading of the landscape followed by a pic-nic.

**SAINT-JULIEN-SUR-BIBOST**, Arjoux's crêt. Take an oxygen bowl... The location is equipped with an interpretation path, pic-nic tables and restrooms.

**COURZIEU, BARMONT.** A panorama, followed by a stroll in the forest.

# REMARKABLE NATURE

Of course, this relief diversity, of sun exposition and of soil sets the vegetation and the animal species which live in it. The natural surroundings are as diversified as the geological bases which carry them. The hand of men, more or less vital is perceivable... And always this patchwork of agriculture or of nature.

## RÉLIEFS AND SURROUNDINGS

I start my hike from the Lyonnais hills. From the Malval pass to the Croix du Ban, I enter a vast forest space of around 3,000 hectares: the woody Crêts.

The forest is mainly a hardwood forest. But the slope and the different sun expositions allow for diverse afforestation which layers as you go up the



**ALONG THE SEASONS. THE WOODED CRÊTS, THE ARJOUX MOUNT AND THE TOURETTE ESTATE** offer splendid atmospheres... And a few good chestnuts as well! For the less skittish, the hibernal landscapes, when it snows are beautiful.



hill: oak trees and charms in the lower area, chestnut trees, then beech tress and fir trees in the higher ground. There is like a mountain breeze here.

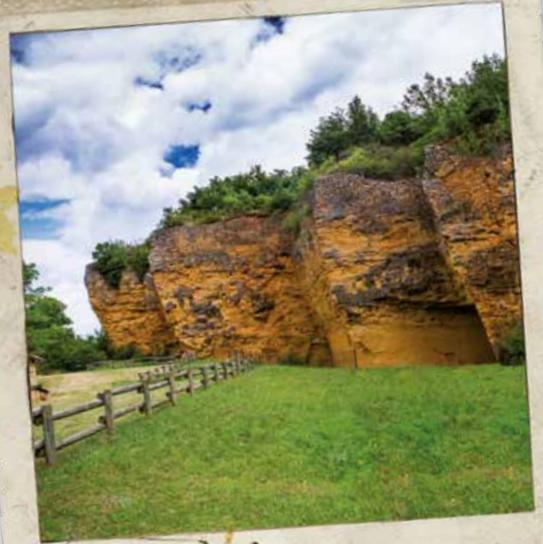
I watch the mountain plants as the digital purple or the blueberry, the treetop birds or the forests: Eurasian bullfinch, chickadee, kinglet, pecker, and many other prey birds.

On the other side of Brévenne, the Ar-joux Mount, overhanging the valley is

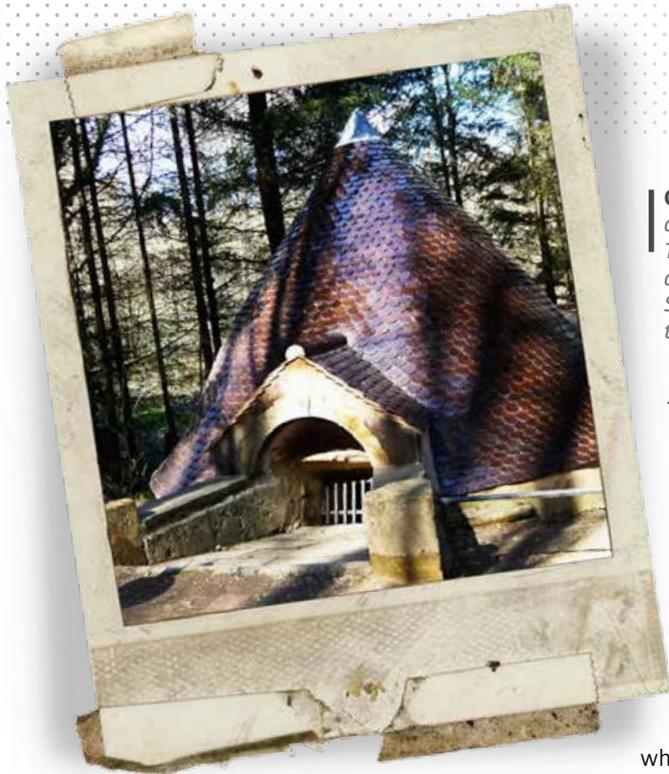
also completely wooded. I cross the river and start a new climb...

### SURROUNDINGS AND MEN

Other locations attest the balance between men and his natural environment. Some other locations are 'natural' nowadays but in truth, are ancient spaces used and created by men then reconquered by nature.



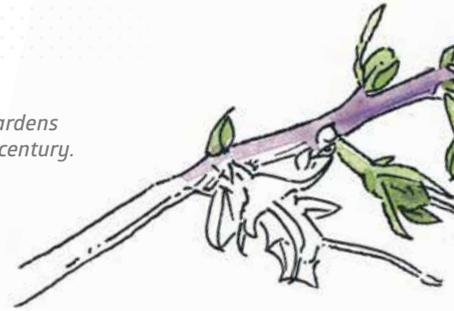
**GLAY QUARRIES.** The Oncin's beautiful limestone color, due to the presence of iron oxide is the origin of its name. Then ancient rock face now forms a 20 meters high cliff.



**GLACIAL TOURETTE.** *The anglo-chinese gardens developed in France by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. They blend green areas and small decorative structures called 'fabriques'. Some are utilitarian, such as the estate's cooler.*

The Glay quarries are a witness to this. Situated in the village of Saint-Germain-Nuelles, it is an ancient golden stone extraction site. The yellow limestone was pulled from a sedimentary flat reef dating back to the Jurassic times (roughly 175 million years before our era). After the end of exploitation in 1947, the mines have become a shelter for 15 species of bats. The cliff is also a nesting spot for birds who appreciate the rocky lining: tours jackdaw, eagle owl, barn owl.

The Tourette estate is another one. It was a summer residence for a famous family of Lyonnais botanists. As for all the field houses, its 80hectares are composed half of forest, and half of cultivated soil and prairies. But its reputation is due to its british-chinese appearance. It was conceived in the 18<sup>th</sup> century for the acclimatization of exotic varieties. Following the fashion at the time, it also sheltered many decors: greenery, terrace, rock garden, temple, pond... It is in the heart of the estate that was built Tourette's nunnery. ♦





## With the Family

### **BULLY, BOTANICAL PATH JEAN**

**JOLY.** Have a walk in the famous arbreslois botanist's steps to discover the particular natural surroundings. Interpretation path.

### **SAINT-GERMAIN-NUELLES, GLAY**

**QUARRIES:** more than the free visit of this site, an interpretation path explains the geological, historical, natural and landscaping aspects.

### **BETWEEN BRÉVENNE AND TURDINE**

The Lyonnais hills are interrupted by deep valleys, which flow into multiple rivers. They raise the landscaping and ecological diversity of the country and shelter many species such as the white legged crayfish.



# NATURE ON THE WAY

Walking once was the best way to travel: to go to the village, the fields, the vine, the church... I have set my steps into the ancient's way and I have taken the trail, the road and the paths which goes across the country.

We now name these trails from small to big hike. They invite us to explore the country... Often, they follow the ancestral trail marks. To themselves alone, they are history.

## **FOLLOW THE YELLOW MARKING**

The conditions are perfect: the steep hills, the orchards, the forests, the prairies and the rivers... Near 340 kilometers of trails have been marked for hiking, riding or dirt bike paths.



## **WHEN WE LEFT ON THE TRAILS**

- A few spots for bicycle tourists:
- Around Arjoux Mount: 53 kilometers from Saint-Forgeux.
  - Between Brévenne and Turdine: 62 kilometers from Sain-Bel.
  - The departmental road #113 (RD113) travels through all the peaks and offer some remarkable point of views on the Brévenne valley and the west of Lyon.





## THE 'GREAT TRAILS'

If they are not infested with bandits anymore, the trails overflow with stories and encounters. They come, they go... Leave them, for an instant, guide you to stride along the country, on the whim of their history. The trail of



## To do

At the start in Courzieu, two walking trails (10 or 7 kilometers) allow you to follow the tracks and to discover the remains of the Brévenne roman aqueduct.

The map-guide 'Pays de L'Arbresle' #4, edited by the department is available in Le Pays de L'Arbresle's tourist information office (Office du Tourisme du pays d'Arbresle). From the family loop to the Great Hike.



## Rendez-vous

**COURZIEU.** The Chestnut Hike,  
the second Sunday of September.

the roman aqueduct of Brévenne, for example. It drives water to Lugdunum (Lyon) on a 70 kilometers path from Aveize. Since Courzieu, I have followed its track.

The Compostelle path is just as famous. The Lyonnais is crossed from

east to west by the trail of Saint-Jacques in Le Puy-en-Velay's direction. For the pilgrims and for us as well, a strap is tagged from the start in L'Arbresle all the way to Saint-Martin-en-Haut where we meet the pilgrim itinerary of Lyon in Le Puy-en-Velay.

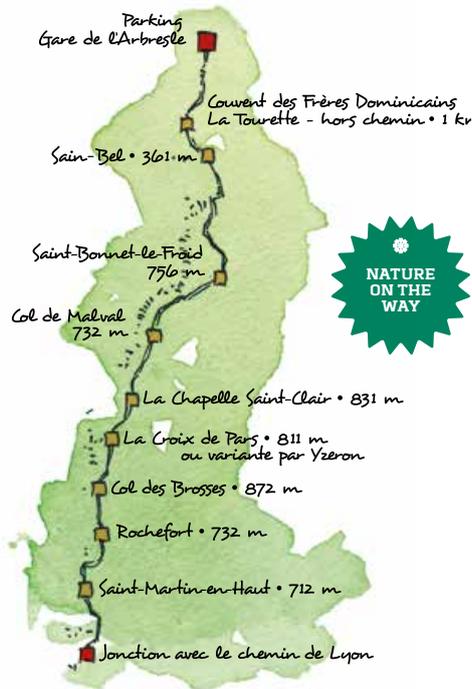
### LIKE IN THE MOUNTAIN

There are many shelters. A soil of Medium Mountain, the country also offers some true hikes, more challenging. L'Arbresle is the starting point of a great hiking trail, the Country GR 'Tour des Monts du Lyonnais' ('The Lyonnais Hills tour', 210 kilometers). ♦

### FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: MOVING IN NATURE BY TRAIL

The Crêts's panorama is accessible by car, of course. But the beautiful paths allow you to reach it easily from the villages down the hill. They are marked and maintained as a part of the PDIPR (itinerary walks and hikes departmental plan). Enjoy it... A village tour, a piece of path and the reward up the hill. You will also discover the various levels of vegetation and men's activities.

At the start in Souriceux-les-Mines, Saint-Pierre-la-Palud, Chevinau, Courzieu.



**THE PILGRIM ITINERARY'S SHELL**  
from Lyon to Le Puy-en-Velay.

## With the Family

**COURZIEU. PARC ANIMALIER.** In the heart of the great forest of the Lyonnais hills, 30 minutes west of Lyon, come and experience an incredible day, thrilling in emotions and discoveries, between wolves and prey birds.

Rejoice yourself during the four incredible gatherings.

Discover the wolves and the prey birds in the heart of their natural habitat.

Stroll around in the gray wolves' valley and the white wolves' hills.

Learn and play in the wolf's jaws and the house of traps.

Jump and climb in the forest of games...

A beautiful day of discoveries for the whole family in nature.

**BULLY RANDOLAND.** Over with the walks where children drag their feet. With their Randoland factsheets, your child will become guide-explorer. A treasure hunt is set up to motivate your children, from 4 to 12 years old to discover the heritage.

**THE LITTLE WOLVES' PATH IN COURZIEU.** The children of Courzieu have walked to discover the fauna and flora of their village, an aqueduct crumbling... and there, the little wolves' path was created. Paintings from this adventure are spread along the way.

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Mine Museum, Saint-Pierre-la-Palud

p.47 and 57

Clay quarries, Saint-Germain-Nuelles

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Weaving in L'Arbresle

p.5

Discovery space of L'Arbresle

# COUNTRYSIDE *Crafts*

FROM THE FOUILLET CHAPEL,  
IN THE COUNTRYSIDE:  
*copper and iron pyrite mines  
in Saint-Pierre-la-Palud.*



EXTRACT  
AND  
CARVE



TO WEAVE  
THE  
THREAD



INVENT,  
BUILD,  
CREATE

**SOURCIEUX-  
LES-MINES,  
GLAY QUARRIES...  
THE LOCATIONS'  
NAMES (THE  
TOPONYMY)  
RARELY ARE  
TRIVIAL AND  
OFTEN RAISE A  
STORY, A NATURAL  
CHARACTERISTIC.**

During my peregrinations, I have crossed traces of crafts that were not of the agricultural world: a factory chimney, the head frame of a mine, a factory, a hemp dryer...

Because once, industries settled where they could find natural resources. And this country's natural resources were not lacking! A rich under-soil in minerals of all sorts, construction stone in plenty, water thanks to the multiple rivers.

Very early on, the country industrialized. Since the roman era, the mines are exploited for silver in Pampailly, for coal in Courzieu. Later for the lead, the copper or the iron pyrite. Then comes the golden age for the quarries, particularly for the yellow limestone, which we called 'golden stone'. Starting in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, weaving is set in the countryside: hemp, then cotton or silk.

They country men and women's know-how has without doubt helped with its development.

#### HEMP DRYER

*in the Hostelleries hamlet, in Courzieu.*



# EXTRACT AND CARVE THE STONE

It is the land's geology which is at the origin of the under-soil's richness. Its crossroad location between two separate mountains multiplies the number of under-soils, instead of just having one. Only a few minerals and rocks are not here: yellow limestone, red sandstone, and black volcanic rock... A priceless resource at the base of many industrial activities.

## FROM SOIL TO IRON

The country mines' exploitation is very ancient. The most important dealership was said to be Sain-Bel's one. It regrouped the villages of Che-



**THE MINES AT THE STRONGEST OF THEIR ACTIVITY.**

*1909 will be the record year with 320000 tons of extracted minerals.*



**GLAY QUARRIES.**

*We can see traces of crane, also called 'stork' which lifted the extracted boulders from the quarries. The wagon was used to move them.*



vinay, Saint-Pierre-la-Palud and Sourcieux-les-Mines. Run by Jacques Cœur (in the 15<sup>th</sup> century), then by the Perret brothers (in the 19<sup>th</sup> century) and finally by Saint-Gobain starting in 1872, the mine first generates copper. But with the iron pyrite's extraction she knew her new growth from 1840 to 1972 (closing date). This mineral is a part of the white soda, necessary to Lyon's chemical industry.

**FROM STONE AND FROM GOLD**

The golden stone which lights up the country's buildings has been used for over 500 years!

The quarries' golden age is between the 16<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> century. During this period, the stone was extracted tirelessly by men who shared their time between the field work, the vine work and the quarries work.

Generations of 'perreieurs' (men working the perrière), of quarries, of slicers who extracted boulders with chariots moving them, molders and stonemasons who form the boulders by side and by wished shape relay one another to supply for the 'master masons' of Lyon and elsewhere.

The decline starts in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the progressive use of cement.

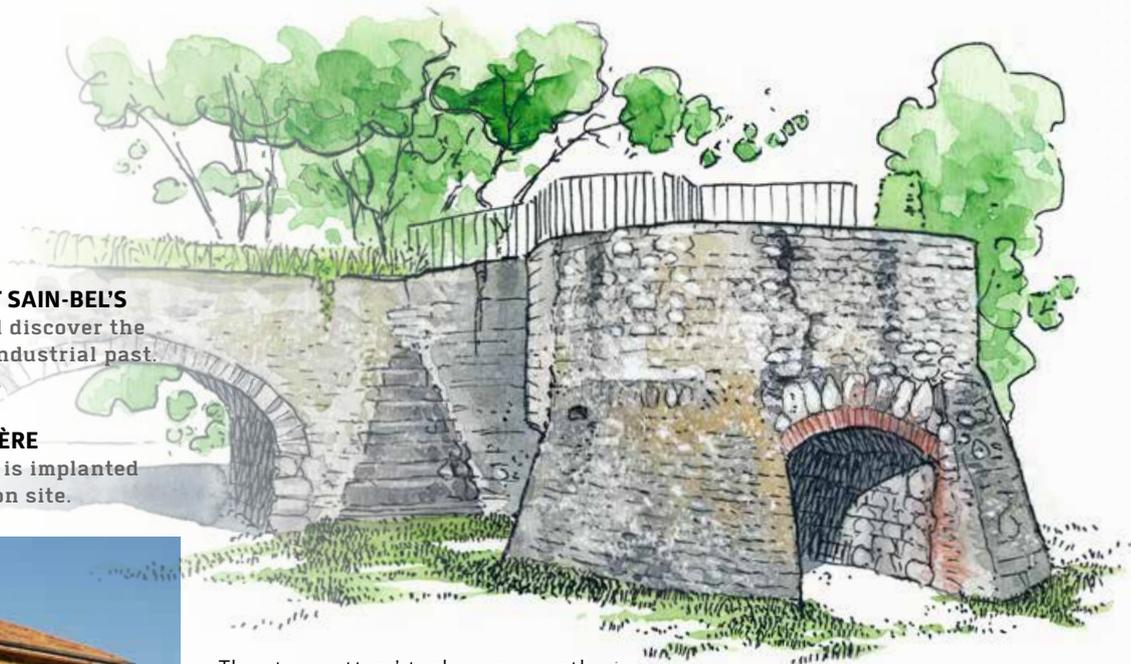
## To do

**SAIN-BEL. VISIT SAIN-BEL'S OLD BOURG** and discover the remains of its industrial past. Discovery path.

**THE LIME KILN OF THE CHICOTIÈRE IN DOMMARTIN** is implanted on the extraction site.



**GLAY HAMLET.** Built in golden stones, the hamlet's houses were occupied by miners or by stonecutters. Notice the engraved names on the door lintel.



The stonecutters' tools permanently stopped ringing in 1947.

### PRECIOUS STONES

Oncin's yellow limestone was not the only stone extracted from L'Arbresle soil. The Courzieu quarries have also

**DISCOVER THE CHICOTIÈRE LIME KILN** restored in 2007.

largely paved the streets in Lyon. The devil's toenail limestone (type of shell) was extracted for the lime manufacturing. ♦



### MINERS' MEMORY

Before taking the 'cage' (elevator) which took them 200 meters underground, the miners went down by the 'splits' equipped with stone steps. They could go down to 900 steps then travel through the galleries up to 600 meters far.



### STONECUTTER'S WORK

Stone cutting needs knowledge, know-how techniques, artistic sense, physical strength and patience. Once, the stonecutter worked with his hands with 'cutting' tools such as the 'cutter', the 'rustic' and the 'pike'.

## With the Family

**GLAY QUARRIES:** the ancient quarries' site is free of access. Boards inform you of the story and the wealth of this site. A tool stool has been rebuilt as it was in 1750.

### THE MUSEUM OF MINE AND MINERALOGY OF

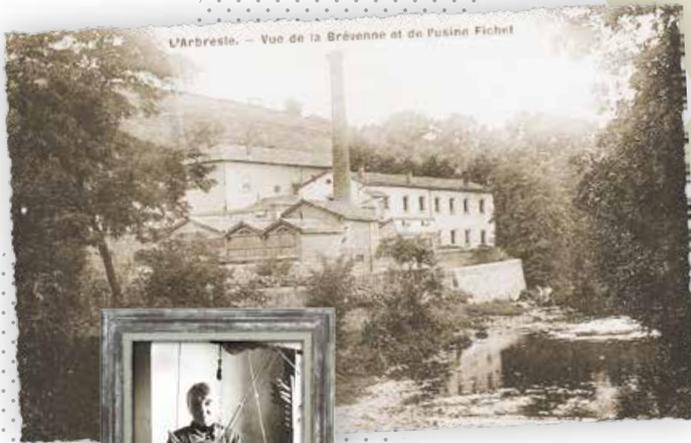
**SAINT-PIERRE-LA-PALUD.** Implanted on an ancient mining spot, it retraces five centuries of activity. After visiting the museum, a path leads you to the extraction point and its installations: head frame, mine Terrill, 'recipies'. Tools exposition. Worldwide minerals collection. Guided visits.

## Rendez-vous

**GLAY'S STONE CELEBRATION:** two celebration days dedicated to the stone, gathering stonecutters, sculptors, engravers... on pair years.

**GUIDED VISIT OF THE GLAY QUARRIES** by the Glay quarries' association and the Office of Tourism of L'Arbresle.

# TO WEAVE THE THREAD

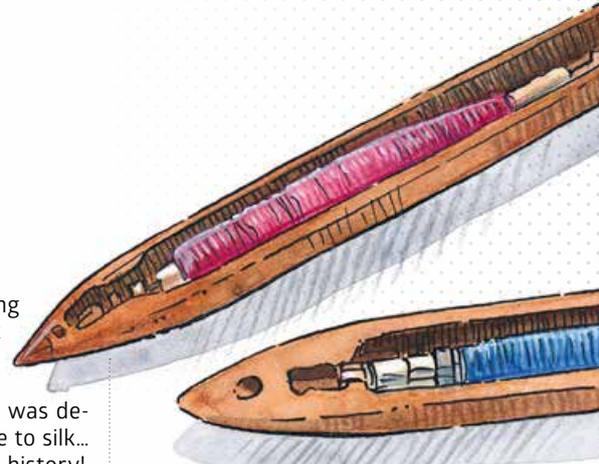


**AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY,** *mechanical weaving in the factory replaces the weaving by hand at home.*

Silk and velvet weaving also was an important economic activity of the country. A great part of the population was devoted to it. From stone to silk... I provide a little of the history!

## WEAVING HEMP

Weaving has been performed for a long time in the country. Originally, hemp was weaved: a vegetal fiber which produces a very resistant cloth. It was cultivated then transformed on the spot, thanks to the necessary running waters for its soaking (or 'rouissage'). We then dried it, and hanged it to the dwelling's front, before weaving it.



## HOMEMADE WORK

At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the silk manufacturers of Lyon, worried by the canuts and their revolts, settled the weaving looms in the countryside. Cotton, velvet then silk replaced hemp. The work is 'à facon' and is homemade manually. The weavers of Lyon found cheap and obedient labor. For the country's inhabitants, it is a complementary activity to the field work and backup

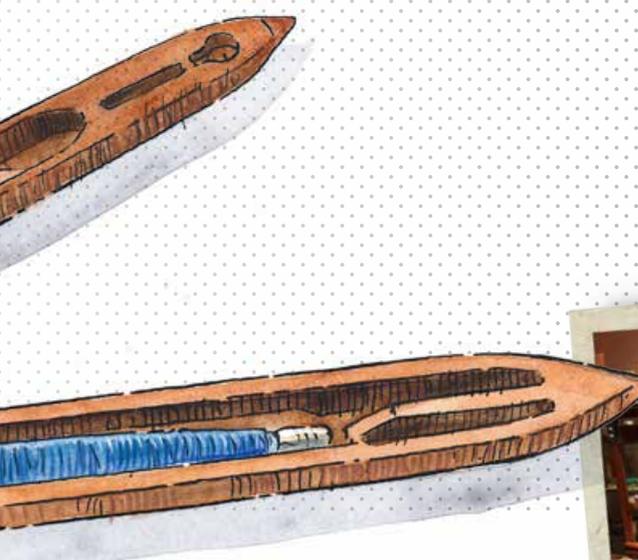
TO WEAVE  
THE  
THREAD

## *A Family rendez-vous*

### **L'ARBRESLE. WEAVING WORKSHOP.**

Within the discovery space, the weavers of the Friends of the Old L'Arbresle have revived this activity. Two up and running workshops have been replenished, made up of Jacquard crafts, dobbie crafts, unwinding materials, frilling materials, warping materials... Every first and third Sunday of the month, weavers work the crafts and invite you to come see their craftsmanship.

Carry on your discoveries in L'Arbresle Bourg on the trace of ancient factories: the Gonin hand-weaving factory, in the Brévenne Street with its Chinese hat shaped roof, the Roche mechanical velvet factory, in the Gabriel-Péri Street. You can recognize them by their tall windows, letting the light into the factories.



revenue. In 1833, a thousand weaving looms are spread on the territory.

### **FROM CRAFTSMANSHIP TO INDUSTRY**

Strong of its know-how and geographic proximity, the textile industry settled into the country. The factories now weave mechanically velvet and silk: White factory, Sain-Bel's Indian weaving, and Roche factories, Fichet or Tabard. ♦



# INVENT, BUILD, CREATE

It seems to me that men have proved a great ingenuity to pull the best out of a rich, yet rude natural environment. It is an out of the ordinary capacity of adjustment and innovation.

Are the prairies numerous enough? They are planting: Is the country hemmed? They will build several hundred kilometers of railways.

Ingenious, skillful, pioneers, stubborn... Always:

## TO INVENT

They invent to produce, to better a method... As Barthélemy Thimonnier, child of the country who dreams of conceiving a machine which would

## To do

### PEROLLIÈRE CASTLE VISIT.

On the traces of the Mangini family.



allow to sew mechanically. In 1829, it is a done thing: he makes his first 'sewing machine'.

During the same century, the work of Michel Perret brings forward the processing of iron pyrite, giving Sain-Bel's mines a new momentum.



## TO BUILD

They build as well, to overcome obstacles. Between 1832 and 1884, around 450 kilometers of railroad were achieved in the region. Camille and Marc Seguin build the Lyon/Saint-Etienne train between 1828 and 1833. Then the

Mangini family built the line going from Lyon Saint-Paul to Montbrison between 1872 and 1876. In 1865, an engineer, Félix Mangini offers to build a train line between Lyon and Montbrison to improve the transport of agricultural produce of the country to Lyon. The line will be operational in 1876. ♦



## THE HIGHWAY WHICH OPENS UP

Also called the Trans European, it links Libourne to Lyon by Clermont-Ferrand. The last section of the A89 which serves le pays de L'Arbresle is roughly 50 kilometers long. The building site was gigantic, close to the mountain highway building sites: three tunnels, eight viaducts, five exchangers...



## A TRADITION OF INNOVATION WHICH PROSPERS.

*The first 'tram-train' in the Rhône-Alpes region, which links Lyon Saint-Paul and Sain-Bel since 2013, uses the first portion of railroad built by the Mangini brothers.*

**Thank you.** This travel diary is the result of a close collaboration between economical and associative actors. Its making would not have been possible without all of their knowledge, implication and their bond to Le Pays de L'Arbresle and its riches.

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