

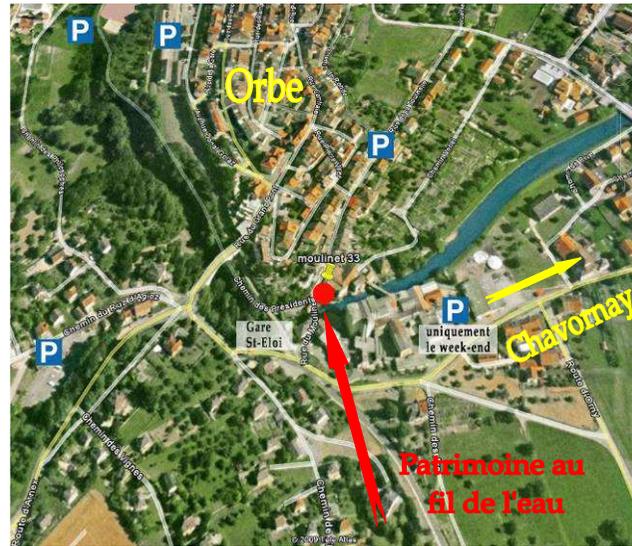


Terrace overlooking the Orbe river



Water powered paddle wheel, in 1865 four of these were in use as well as 5 sets of grindstones

Cafeteria at the mill



## Patrimoine au fil de l'eau

Rue du Moulinet 33 — 1350 Orbe

Tél 024 441 68 42 - [www.eau21.ch](http://www.eau21.ch)

### Opening hours :

From April 6 to November 2, 2013

Daily from 11AM to 5PM, weekends included

Admission: adults CHF. 10.00 - children up to 16 yrs. CHF. 5.00

retirees, AI, unemployed CHF. 8.00

groups of min. 8 visitors, CHF. 8.00/per person

### Unaccompanied or guided tours (on demand and by appointment)

#### How to get here:

**By train** : get off in Chavornay and connect with train to Orbe, exit in St. Eloi, (push button to request stop). The Rod mills are about 200 yards away, walk down road, take a left over the bridge, entrance is to your right.

**By car** : take highway exit Chavornay and keep going to Orbe, bypass town on your left to reach the modern part of the mills; see map above for parking lot. On foot walk up to and over the Moulinet bridge, entrance is to your right.

# Cultural Heritage on the Waterfront



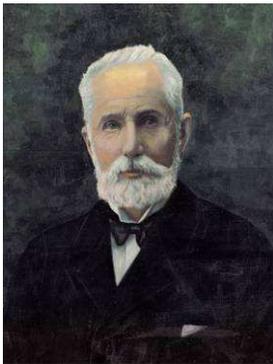
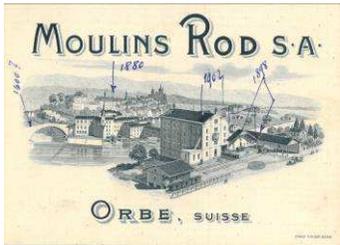
## Orbe 2013

*Discover a site dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century; enjoy a rich journey of historical and human adventures*

The Rod mills are the site of an old mill, their interior walls can still be seen. The start of cereal production dates back to 1423, its industrial and technical capacity evolved over time; its operation was definitely halted in 1990. Many relics of the past are still on display today.

Our association rehabilitated the almost 2000 m<sup>2</sup> site and hosts seasonal exhibitions, including live performances and video projections to provide a better historical understanding.

Visual displays along the walls of the old wooden bridge tell the story of the many hamlets and towns along the river. Aerial and other unique views describe the region and its history dating back to the Romans, as well as the more recent Nestlé factory and much more.



Jules Rod, founder of the Rod mills in 1871

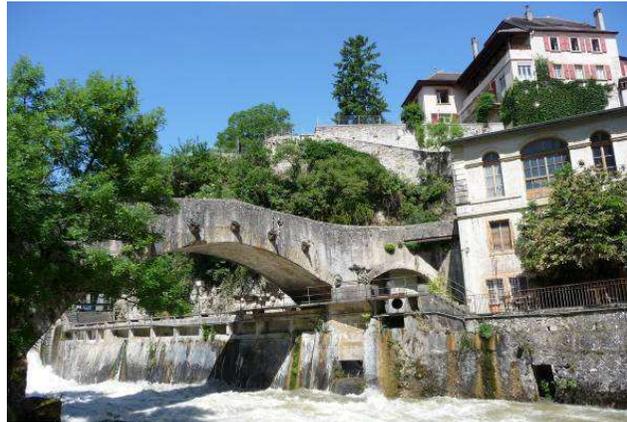


Wooden cereal storage silos

Site of the oldest electrical power plant along the river (1891)



The Orbe river symbolizes the history of hydroelectric energy. Many factories, most of them now inactive, settled by the river and utilized the water to generate electrical power. There are 3 turbines at the mills that used to produce 2 million kwh a year, they are still on display today. Nearby is the "Moulinet" bridge, the oldest stone bridge in Switzerland, construction started in 1421 and was completed in 1424. The bridge was the brainchild of a pious hermit (Jean-André Venel) whose abbey sits right above the bridge, where he established in 1780 the first orthopedic facility in the world.



The oldest stone bridge in Switzerland (1424)

### 2013, the adventure continues, sustainable solutions are being explored

This year "Cultural Heritage on the Waterfront" is in its 5<sup>th</sup> season. A small theater is being built and starting this summer will further contribute to broadcast the region's rich cultural history.



Grand opening in 2012 of the Zarti'Cirque on the riverbank

### The exhibition highlights the Orbe plain

Until about 1940, the plain was a vast wetland and harvesting peat moss from bogs was widespread. The Orbe plain was drained thanks to the ambitious "Wahlen Plan" with the assistance of specialists from similarly swampy areas in Switzerland and resulted in recovering large tracts of new agricultural acreage.



Peat moss bogs harvesting



Cabbage field in Ependes abt. 1945



One of the busy beavers in Sésines, an Orbe plain location