Commune de **Grandson**

Grandson, step by step

N

Stream
" Le Grandsonnet "

Church

Start

Castle

Stream
" Le Grandsonnet "

Old
Franciscan
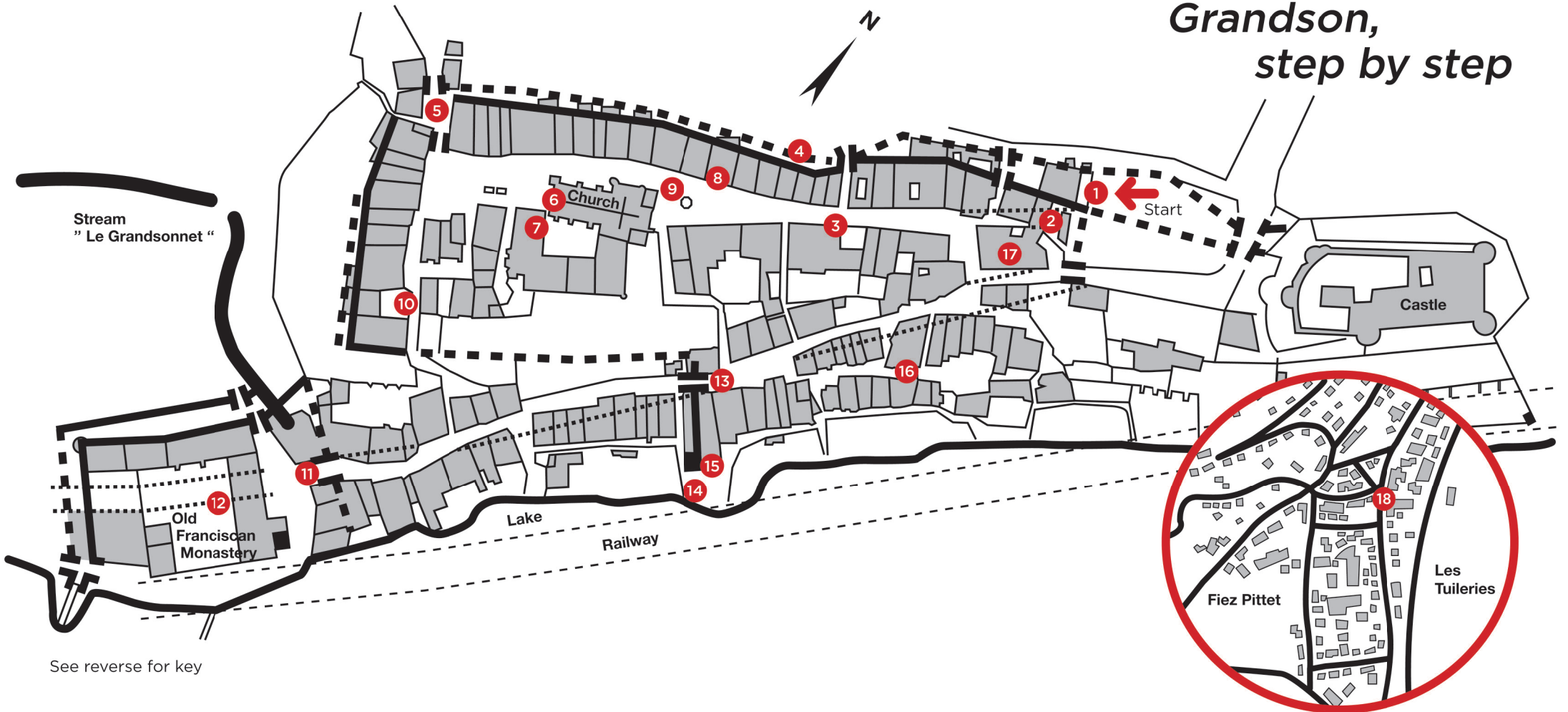Monastery

Lake

Railway

See reverse for key

Fiez Pittet

Les
Tuileries

*Discover the historic
Town Centre !*

1. Castle Square

This square was created in the 19th century by filling in the moat surrounding the castle. In the Middle Ages the level of traffic was lower. This space was then populated: it was the refuge for the town, surrounded by a wall. The wall has two gates: the main one facing the Jura, the other opens into the town on the hill.

2. High Street

Formerly known as "Grand-Rue Dessus" this street retains a lot of character, with its large doors that once opened into barns, stables and presses. The houses were then inhabited mainly by vineyard farmersand craftsmen. Halls joined to the north wall of the church in the 18th century, and the widening of the street near the octagonal fountain, indicate that markets were held here.

3. The house known as "The Bailiff's"

This imposing building dates from the 18th century. In reality, the Bernese and Fribourgeois bailiffs who took over Grandson resided at the castle. Built in 1736 by the banker Panchaud, this home was sold by his son in 1796. In the 19th century it was owned by the Vautier family, industrialists famous, especially for production of cigars.

4. Rampart Street

This street borders the town on the north side. It traces the layout of the pomerium, former defensive zone traffic. The pomerium was located between the town wall – now taken over by the houses – and the rampart wall, less important, bordering the ditches. The houses included barns and presses and some bridges leading to the gardens, which occupy the old moat.

5. Jean-Lecomte Street

This street was named after the first pastor of Grandson who arrived in Switzerland in 1532. This French reformer also preached in other villages such as Montagny and Giez. Reform was imposed on Grandson in 1554. In the Middle Ages, this street used to cross the "gateway to the Butcher". It is split at the junction with Ramparts Street by the "gateway to Giez" or "gateway to Rivellin".

6. Saint John the Baptist Church

Renowned for its beautiful Romanesque sculpture, this church is a treasure trove of regional heritage. In the early 12th century, the first Romanesque building had a chancel with a semi-circular apse. In 1178, the priory was given to Auvergne monks of La Chaise-Dieu, a bell tower and cupola were then built. At the end of the 13th century, the apse was rebuilt in Gothic style. From 1438, the church served the parish: previously, the inhabitants of Grandson had to go to the village of Giez! At the Reformation, the monastery was removed. During the 18th and 19th centuries extensive work completely transformed the west facade. In 2006 the church was opened after extensive restoration.

7. The Cloister and old Town Hall

To the rear of the church is the old cloister. Following the Reformation, the cantons of Berne and Fribourg arranged the offices of the parish priest in the eastern part of the priory buildings. Those we see today date from 1730. In the western part, the town installed the school and the Town Hall, erected in 1769. The northern façade was rebuilt in 1778: at the top is a pediment which shows the arms of Grandson: the sun and the moon.

8. "The old Prefecture" House

This house is exceptional. Its late Gothic facade, which dates back to the second half of the 15th century, is one of the most interesting and best preserved of the canton of Vaud. The door is surmounted by an ogee lintel resting on moulded pads to the right of which is a shop. Above, you can see bays with moulded frames.

9. Octagonal fountain

This fountain is the oldest in Grandson, and even one of the oldest in the canton of Vaud, still in operation. The great basin, composed of eight panels of Jura limestone, dates back to 1637. Fountains were then an important centre of village life: people came here to get water but also to give water to the livestock and to do the washing.

10. Montagny Lane

This street dominated the valley of Grandsonnet stream which washed the walls of the town before its course was diverted. The house with the yellow turret dates back to the 14th century and was rebuilt in the 16th. It stands on the southwest corner of the wall that flanks the hillside.

11. Low Street

Formerly called Bottom Street, this road was originally much narrower and more winding. Between 1847 and 1852, work to correct its route, involved moving back more than 25 facades! In the Middle Ages, the tower gate of Gex, indicated by markings on the ground, stood in the middle of the street.

12. The Town Hall and the old Franciscan monastery

The Town Hall was built in 1890 by the architect Paul Charton. It stands on the remains of the Franciscan monastery, founded in 1289. All that remains is the tall square tower, converted into a prison in the 19th and 20th centuries and the building buttresses on the other side of the road. At the Reformation, the buildings were shared between the city and the cantons of Bern and Fribourg. Around 1820, the monastery was demolished to extend Low Street on the main road.

13. Tower gate of Gex and the old hospital

The location of this tower gate, whose last remnants were demolished in 1837, is indicated by markings on the ground. In the Middle Ages, it allowed crossing of the wall that continued towards the lake to the small tower of Gex. To Nos. 17-19, the building with a triangular pediment was built in 1855. At this location stood a hospital in the 14th century.

14. The old shoreline, railway tracks and mansions

In the Middle Ages, the lake lapped the south side of town. Railway tracks was built in 1858 and installed on a dike. In 1879, the first correction of the Jura waters lowered the level of the lake moving the shore away from the town by a hundred meters. Mansions were built on this new bank at the end of the 19th century.

15. Gex tower

This turret, supported by stone corbels, marks the southwest corner of the enclosure that protects the town. From there, the wall extends towards the Jura, to the present Low Street, where it was intersected by the tower gate of Gex. Gex tower probably dates back to the second half of the 14th century. It was then at the water's edge.

16. Berfoillet neighbourhood

This very picturesque neighbourhood was a fishing district until about 1700. Its name comes from the word "berfou" which meant net at the time. Note the former wells transformed into fountains.

17. 15th century house

The construction of this house dates back to the 15th century. It formerly served as a hospital. The south facade has a remarkable architecture of the second half of the 17th century. On the left, in front of the facade, a "teaser wheel" indicates that before the creation of the Castle Square in the 19th century, High Street and Low Street joined to the west of the house.

18. The Tuileries

This hamlet was originally called Lower-Fiez-Pittet. The name "Tuileries" was given after the installation in the middle of the 15th century of two tilers. On a land registry map of 1828, a tile manufacturer is referred to at the location of the current college and its courtyard, built in the mid19th century. The hamlet of the Tuileries was attached to Grandson in 1834.