Rod mills employed 170 people of 1960

Course and show in the bridge of 1898

### THEATRE AU FIL DE L'ORBE

CHAVORNAY



# Infos

patrimoine.orbe@eau21.ch

## **Entry fees:**

Adults: CHF. 12.-Children up to 16 yrs: CHF. 6.-Retirees, disabled, unemployed: CHF. 10.-Groups of min 8 visitors : CHF. 9.- / person (with croissant and coffee CHF 15.-) Building rent, contact us

From March 31st to November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019 Mon-Fri: 11am to 5pm Sun + holidays: 2pm to 6pm Sat: on demand Other hours on demand.

**Business hours:** 

Unaccompanied or guided tours of the mill and its exhibitions, on demand and by appointment.



#### How to get here :

By train: Get off in Chavornay and connect with the train to Orbe, exit in St. Eloi, (push button to request stop). The Rod mills are about 200 yards away, walk down road in front of the St. Eloi station, turn to the left and cross the bridge, entrance is to your right.

By car: Take the 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 (no. 33).

## **CULTURAL** HERITAGE

– ON —— THE WATERFRONT Rue du Moulinet 33 1350 Orbe

Tél. 024 441 68 42 www.eau21.ch patrimoine.orbe@eau21.ch Discover a site dating back to the 15th century; enjoy a rich journey of historical and human adventures

## Orbe 2019



facebook.com/patrimoineeau

Organ grinders in the theatre



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 1404, its industrial and technical capacity evolved over time; its operation was

The first mill from 1404, still in place.

definitely halted in 1997. Many relics of the past are still on display today.



The oldest electrical power plant's site along the river (1891)

Our association rehabilitated the almost 3000 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 photos and other unique views describe the region and its history dating back to the Romans, as well as recent Nestlé factory and much more.

Jules Rod, founder of the Rod mills in 1871



Old buildings that are the subject of a safeguard project

The Orbe river symbolizes the history of hydro-electric energy. Many factories, most of them now inactive, settled down 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; its 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.

MOULIN MOULINE, 6<sup>th</sup> Orbe waterfront festival, from August 30<sup>th</sup> to September 8<sup>th</sup> 2019



The second correction of the Jura waters minimised floodings in the area

The Orbe plain, its swamps as well as its cultures are very well represented in many exhibitions or movies.

In 2018, the project for the third correction of the Jura waters (from Mormont to Soleure) was launched. The goal is to fight climate change that could have desastrous effects (such as floodings) on Swiss plateau's agricultural production if not delt with.



The Orbe's beavers can be seen in a movie (on demand)

