

Circuit of the medieval city to the arboretum



Discover the medieval city of Châtillon-sur-Chalaronne and its surroundings: through the medieval streets and the castle, you travel through the natural area of Prés Gaudet to arrive in the Relevant valley, before reaching the Arboretum.

Place du Champ de Foire
 12 km 3h Medium level 63 % tar
 Accessible to MTB/VTC and strollers (2 delicate passages)

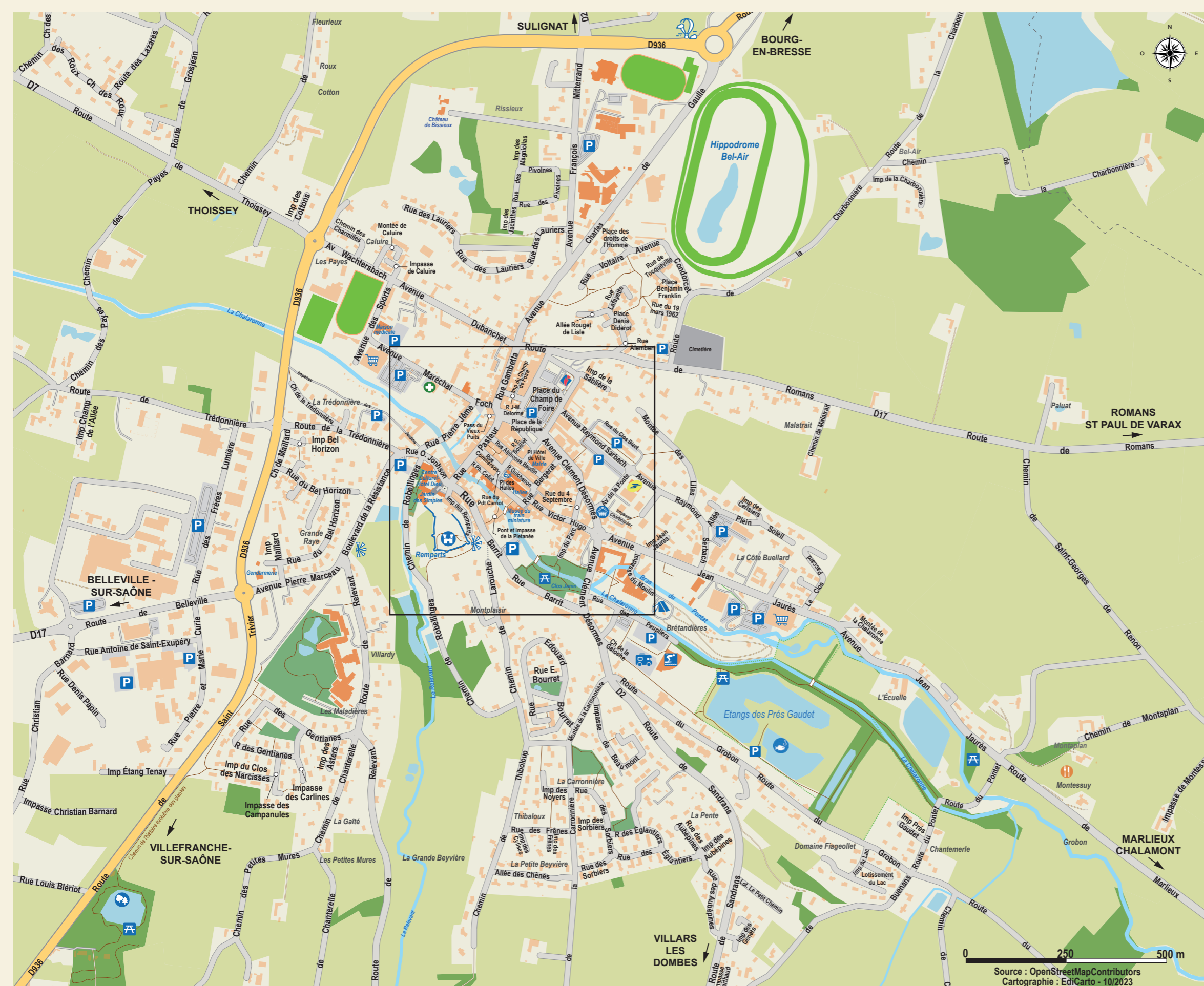
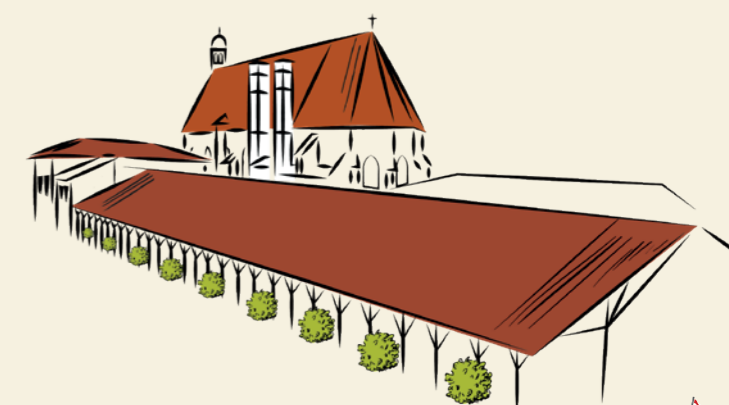
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Châtillon sur Chalaronne

Touristic Map



Caption of the 2 plans

	Swimming Pool	Arboretum Distance Hôtel Dieu - Arboretum 1.5km	Producer store
Fishing pond	Picnic Area	Campsite	Departure flights in hot air balloon
Restaurant	Toilets	Château	Point of view
Pedestrian bridge/walkway	Camping-car Park	Pharmacy	Supermarket

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1 Place du Champ de Foire

This large urban space, home to a traditional farmer’s market held each Saturday morning, consists of the Place de la République, the Promenade du Fer à Cheval (horseshoe-shaped promenade to commemorate the days horse races were held here) and the Champ de Foire. As the livestock markets declined from the 1950s onwards, major redevelopment work was undertaken, resulting in the present-day layout.

2 The Town Hall

The original Hôtel de Ville building was home to the Capuchin convent. The City Council established its offices in the premises vacated during the French Revolution. The decision was taken to demolish this structure in 1912 and replace it with the current one.

3 Rue Latrinale

This is a perfect illustration of the narrow streets stretching between the houses, where the inhabitants would dispose of their household waste and rubbish. Chamber pots were poured out of the windows. Visitors can admire the reconstruction of a cob wall consisting of alder wood, clay and woven straw on the corner of the traboule (narrow passageway) and rue Commerson.

4 The Corbelled House

This is a typical medieval house comprising several levels with timber-framed walls in the corbelled architectural style. In the past, the ground floor housed the shop, while the first floor provided comfortable accommodation and the top floor was used as an attic.

5 The Saint-André Church

The construction of this church started in 1272. Designed in the flamboyant Gothic style, yet fairly sober, the edifice mainly consists of carons savoyards (traditional stone bricks from Savoy). The interior is well worth exploring. Features include a Baroque organ, a sculpture of Saint Sébastien and a series of stained-glass windows... It was awarded the Monument Historique (French National Historic Site) designation in 1909.

6 The Maison Saint Vincent de Paul

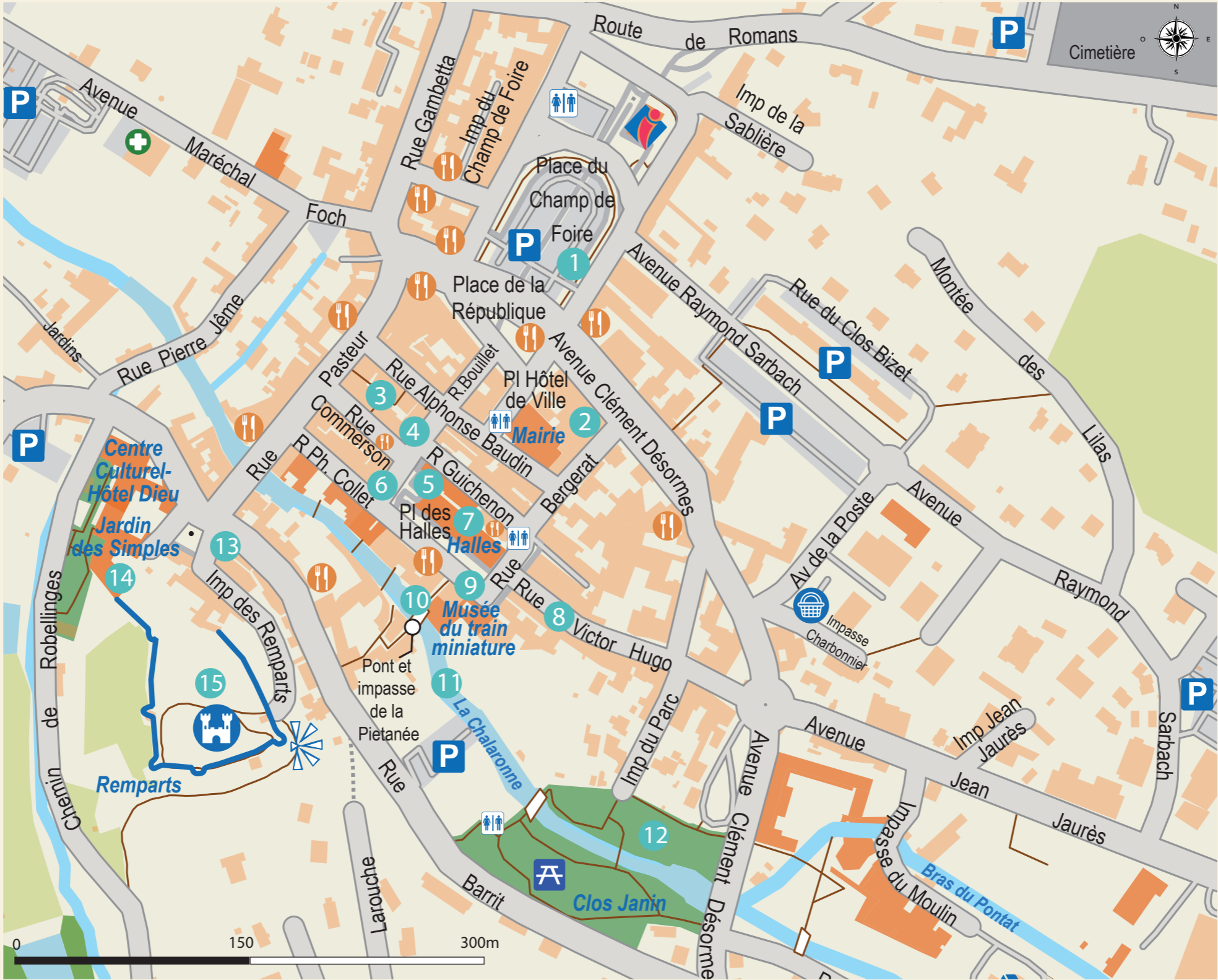
The façade of this house dates back to the 19th century. The only remaining original features are the staircase and the door. Saint Vincent de Paul resided here during his visit to Châtillon in 1617. Located on the top floor, his room has been converted into a chapel, where the original rules of the brotherhood are preserved. It was acquired by the Sisters of Saint Vincent de Paul in the



19th century to house their community.

7 The Covered Market Halls

Originally built by Piro Giroud from 1440 onwards, these Halles (Halls) measure 80 m long by 20 m wide and 10 m high. This huge size reflects the importance of trade fairs and markets towards the end of the Middle Ages. Partly destroyed by fire in 1670, the Halles were restored to their original state thanks to the diligence of the mayor, Philibert Collet, and the generosity of the Duchess of Montpensier, Countess of Châtillon, who granted the inhabitants permission to gather the timber they required (64 oak trees!) from her woodland. Today, they are home to an impressive market held each Saturday morning, as well as an organic market every Wednesday morning.



8 The Porte de Villars

By 1272, the town was a major stronghold of the Savoy region and extensive fortification work was undertaken. By the late 13th century, the walls formed a 1 km long perimeter around the city with 3 fortified gates, including the Porte de Villars (the smallest gate). King Louis XVI ordered the demolition of these gates on the grounds that they 'disrupted traffic'. The French Revolution spared the Porte de Villars. A moat, fed by the waters of the Chalaronne River through a system of locks, bordered the defensive wall.

9 The Miniature Train Museum

This huge 200 m² scale model is the work of an enthusiast. Real or imaginary settings depict life in miniature, complete with a host of animated scenes.

10 The Pont de la Piétanée

This bridge crosses the Chalaronne River and leads you to the picturesque old neighbourhood of La Piétanée. The 6 flower-laden bridges around the city have earned Châtillon the nickname of 'Little Venice of the Dombes'.



11 The Chalaronne River

The Chalaronne River stretches along 52 km. This river is a tributary of the Saône. Its source is located at Lapeyrouse and it flows into the Saône River in Thoissey. Fishing is permitted on the river, and the landscaping of some of its banks creates a bucolic atmosphere.

12 Clos Janin

Until the end of the 19th century, this plot was a body of water used as a reservoir to supply the town's mill. The far end was a wasteland where tanners used to come to spread their skins. Once owned by Mr Janin, only the part adjacent to the house was maintained. Upon the passing of Mrs Janin (1946), a large section of the Clos became the property of the local authority, where the existing park was landscaped with tennis courts, children's play areas, lawns and flowerbeds.

13 The Salt Granary

Salt granaries were introduced in 1342, alongside the gabelle (a highly unpopular French salt tax). Granaries were used to store salt and also provided a venue for settling minor disputes relating to this tax. Salt chambers, where salt was sold, were generally located next to the granaries. With beams dating back to 1386, this house is the oldest in the city.

14 Hôtel Dieu

Built in the 18th century, this former hospital houses an important heritage collection, including an apothecary. A collection of 120 Meillonnas earthenware pots dating from 1814 are preserved in this former pharmacy. The triptych 'La Lamentation', displayed in the tisanerie (tearoom), was painted in 1527.

15 The Remains of the Old Château

Dating back to the year 1000, this is the birthplace of the town of Châtillon. Throughout its history, successive lords transformed it into one of the most important strongholds in the Duchy of Savoy. King Henri IV of France declared war on Savoy in 1598, and Châtillon returned to the Kingdom of France in 1601. This led to the demolition of a large number of châteaux, including that of Châtillon. All that remains today are the walls with their pointed gateway and the foundations of four of the seven towers. This site provides a panoramic view of the town of Châtillon.

