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In Oingt - Espl. Claude Rouet
SEPTEMBER:
Friday & Saturday 10AM-12:30PM & 2PM-6PM
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Strolling
the streets of Oingt



1 *The door of nizy*



During the 13th Century, the entrance of Oingt was possible through 3 doors. Only the door of Nizy remains and testifies of this past. Two doors were overthrown and disarmed in the reign of Louis XI, to avoid taxes payment.

2 *Rue tyne laine*



You are now facing a typical Beaujolais house. As regards the rooms layout, there is a ground level basement. Above it, stairs lead up to the floor and the living rooms. The attic was usually on the 2nd floor. This house is perfectly adapted to the wine related lifestyle of the area. As you will discover all around Beaujolais, houses are made of local limestone cut from the quarries of the region. These golden stones were naturally rusted by iron oxydes, giving them this specific warm color.

3 *Saint-Matthew church*



This church, located at the top of the village, looks more like a castle rather than a place for meditation and prayers. If you have the time, take the stairs leading up to the palce called «Le chautard», where

the old dungeon stood. In the early 20th century, the small hill that housed the castle was still visible, it has now disappeared.

4 *the inside of the church*



Its floor plan is a simple Latin Cross, with only one nave and two side chapels. In the Virgin chapel, you can see at the end of the ribbed vaults, two bases: one with a lion, symbol of Mark the Evangelist, the other one with a bull, symbol of Luke the Evangelist. The two other symbols, the eagle of John and the angel of Mathew, have now disappeared.

A niche houses a gilt wooden statue of the Virgin and the Child. This piece, recently restored, was listed on the French Supplementary Historic Monuments list. Facing the Virgin chapel you will find St Joseph's Chapel, built by the parish priest Mey. In 2004 this chapel was turned into a museum where liturgical objects are exhibited. Its grid was ordered by the Association of the Friends of the old Oingt, and made by a local blacksmith.

A memorial plaque commemorates Marguerite d'Oingt, who was an important figure of the religious landscape, known as «The Holy». She was also a writer and a poetess, and knew three languages : Latin, French and «Franco-Provençal».

5 *the dungeon*



Do you have any idea of the size of the tower, visible from all the surrounding villages? 18 meters high and 8 meters in diameter! This building is also one of the symbols of Oingt. It is said to have been built towards

the 13th Century, at the same time as the Towers Castle, built in Anse at the end of the 12th Century. This dungeon is part of the 2nd castle of the village, built by the lords of Oingt to reinforce their power on their lands.

The access to the tower takes place at the 1st floor. In ancient times, there were no stairs inside the dungeon, and comfort was quite basic : no fireplaces, and a single window to light the room.

The tower houses on 3 floors a fossils and carved stones exhibition, but also old documents and pictures relating the life in Oingt since the Middle Ages.

6 *the parapet*

You are now on the parapet, offering you a great point of view on the «Monts du Lyonnais» hills, the Azergues valley, and all the surrounding villages. The Lords of Oingt could easily prepare their troupes in case of enemy attack from this privilege vantage point. Today, some marked out hiking trails were developed through those vineyards and valleys.

7 *the former 'corps de logis'*

It is adjacent to the City Hall. You can see on the front of the building, on the upper floor, a trefoil window with its specific architecture. This unique window feeds the legend that a church formerly stood there.

8 *The press*



It dates from the late 19th Century, and there are only a few left in France. To make it work, a man stood on the first wheel, in order to turn the second wheel, which activated the press. This system could press 1,5 tons of grapes at a time. This type of wine-press is called a «parrot press», because the grape juice runs through the spout. From this place, enjoy the view on the vineyards, which implantation dates from the first Century BC, during Roman times.

9 *The well*

It has a typical shape, like the Cadoles you can see in the middle of the vineyards. As water sources are scarce in Beaujolais, water supply was for a long time a real issue in Oingt, and was regulated for every family. This also explains the implantation of the houses, grouped within the city Walls. In order to respond to population growth, several water tanks were built during the 19th Century. It was during the 20th century that the installation of running water changed Oingt's inhabitants' lifestyle.

Today the well is not in use anymore, but it is still part of the village. It is even turned into a Christmas crib during the annual festival of the cribs.

In this 200 m² area, you'll discover an exceptional collection of mechanical pianos, barrel organs and music boxes on loan by their owners. Some days you can even hear them working.

10 *Mechanical Music centre*

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Open from April to the end of October, on Fridays and Saturdays 10AM-12:45PM and 2PM-7PM, on Sundays 1:30PM-5:30PM