

put this card in  
place

# Castle Oron

## The Prior's Bedroom



We are now in the part of the castle, which was modernised in the course of the 18th century by the Bernese bailiffs. The castle had become so uncomfortable that the wives of the bailiffs lodged several complaints with the authorities. Studies were undertaken, one project consisted in dismantling the castle and building a modern one at Oron-la-Ville. (This was in fact carried out elsewhere, the result being a ruin remaining at the top of a hill and a modern castle existing at the foot of that hill). At Oron, the retained project was to create “18th century boxes” within the “medieval castle box”: lowered ceilings, walls covered with wood panelling, replacement of the heating system. Indeed, ca. 1750, chimneys were replaced with tiled stoves. The Oron stoves were made by a renowned family of Lausanne craftsmen, the Polliens. Each stove is decorated with a special theme, so you will find travels in Asia, La Fontaine fables, flowers and insects, romantic landscapes, etc. All of the tiles are hand painted and different. For practical reasons, the stoves were fed from outside the room, generally from a hallway running alongside it. Today, the bedrooms of the apartment are not heated anymore, and only the reception rooms are heated in case of banquets. It was estimated that 300 to 400 wood steres (or cubic metres) were needed per year to provide for heating and cooking.

The rooms were also reassigned regularly as time went by. If the new bailiff came with a large family, he would ask for some rooms to be divided in order to be able to have lodging for all of his household.

As a result, this bedroom may have been the bailiff's wife's.

Today we call it the prior's bedroom. The castle does not have a chapel, because the church of Oron-la-Ville belonged to the castle's estate. A room was probably given to the travelling clergymen stopping by the castle. You will find in it a bed of uncertain origin and age.

The oldest known representation of the Oron castle, a 1642 etching by Merian, is located above the chimney. First communion table cloths offered by Bernese bailiffs are displayed left and right of the etching.



### Detail



### The Stove

Two stoves of the castle have been signed by the stove maker, the one in this room and the one in the music room:

“Fay A Lausanne François Pollien 1747” (Made In Lausanne François Pollien 1747)