



Little gems



Things run like clockwork in the Vallée de Joux

The Vallée de Joux in Vaud's Jura region is regarded as the birthplace of the art of watchmaking. Back in the 17th century, local farmers would spend the long winter months working at home as watchmakers. The region's workshops and factories still produce globally unique timepieces, some of which use highly complex mechanisms. The "Espace Horloger" museum was reopened in the village of Le Sentier in May. The mu-



seum covers the period between the 16th and the 19th centuries when the first watches were produced with split-second chronograph, tourbillon, perpetual calendar, moon phases and minute repeater. The horologists also created quirky pieces, such as a skeleton watch complete with a calendar and chime. "Espace Horloger" also shows how the art of watchmaking is preserved in the region today. Thanks to the local technical college, the museum has a remarkable collection of Com-



toise clocks that were repaired by students as part of their training. The exhibitions are designed to be educationally stimulating. State-of-the-art IT allows visitors to travel back through the centuries of watchmaking, and they can even create watches in their own style on a giant iPad. **BE**

Espace Horloger, Grand Rue 2,
1347 Le Sentier, Tel: +41 (0)21 845 75 45
Open: from November to April, Tuesday
to Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. www.espace-horloger.ch