

The Granary

Rural buildings were built for a specific purpose, even if they were sometimes used for different reasons in everyday life. The granary was not only designed to store grain, but also meat, cheese and rye bread, while the threshing barn served as a sheltered storage for sheaves and as a threshing floor. To be effective, granaries had to keep out moisture and rodents. To this end, they were built on wooden supports above a flat stone, known as a paë in Sarreyer dialect. There is nothing to hold the stone and the wooden beam together: the weight of the entire structure keeps it stable. The number of doors on a granary shows how many owners it has.

The villages of the Val de Bagnes have a wide variety of granaries. Some are built of stone, whilst others have crossed timber beams and either an interior or exterior staircase.

The image is inspired by a photo of harvest from *Les Amis du Moulin et du Four à pain de Sarreyer*, Sarreyer 2020 – www.sarreyer.ch