

PARCOURS

MUSEUMS TELL THEIR STORIES

PAY A VISIT TO THE MUSEUMS OF THE
HAUT LANGUEDOC ET VIGNOBLES
COUNTRY OF ART AND HISTORY



VILLES
& PAYS
D'ART &
D'HISTOIRE

MUSEUMS TELL THEIR STORIES

From the Caroux massif to the wine-growing plain, the Haut Languedoc et Vignobles Country of Art and History boasts a wide variety of landscapes and heritage sites. In the heart of this territory, which includes 102 municipalities and 4 communities of municipalities, many museums have been created under the impetus of inhabitants who are eager to share the history of their village, or collectors, researchers or local scholars.

Through the joint action of associations and local development players (municipalities and communities of municipalities), these museums promote all aspects of heritage: archaeology and history, fine arts, popular arts and traditions, and science and technology... and they all have a story to tell!

This booklet presents 25 museums and exhibition areas to be found in this Country of Art and History through 25 stories. Through four chapters (Stories worth exploring, Stories of artists, Stories of a bygone age, Stories of beasties), these museums tell their own stories, and take you on a journey to discover the rich heritage of this lovely land.



FIND THE MYSTERY OBJECTS!

In each of the museums, you will be asked to identify an object. All you have to do is answer the question on each page of this booklet.

Identify the mystery objects and collect at least 8 stamps (see grid, page 64-65) and win a souvenir gift!

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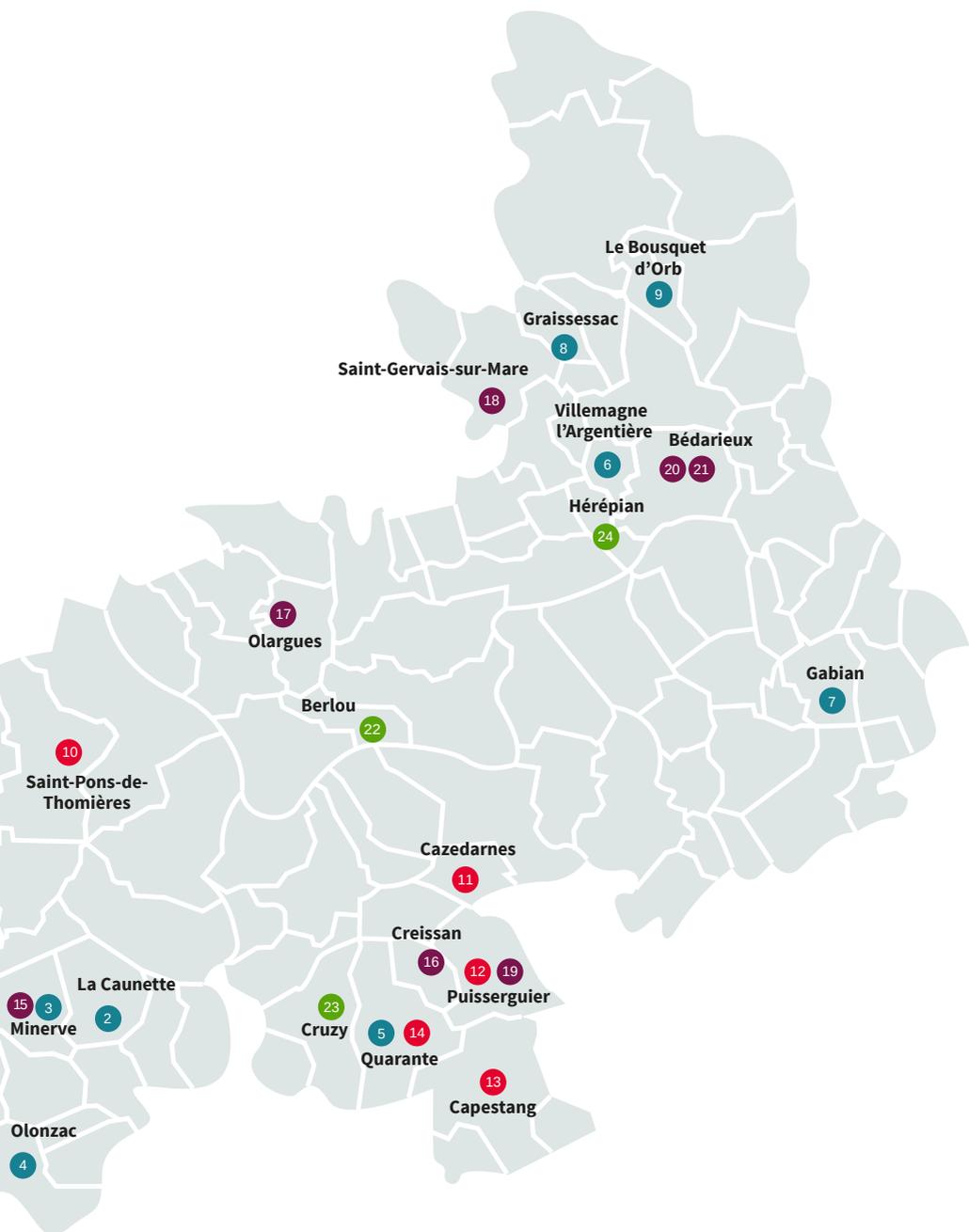
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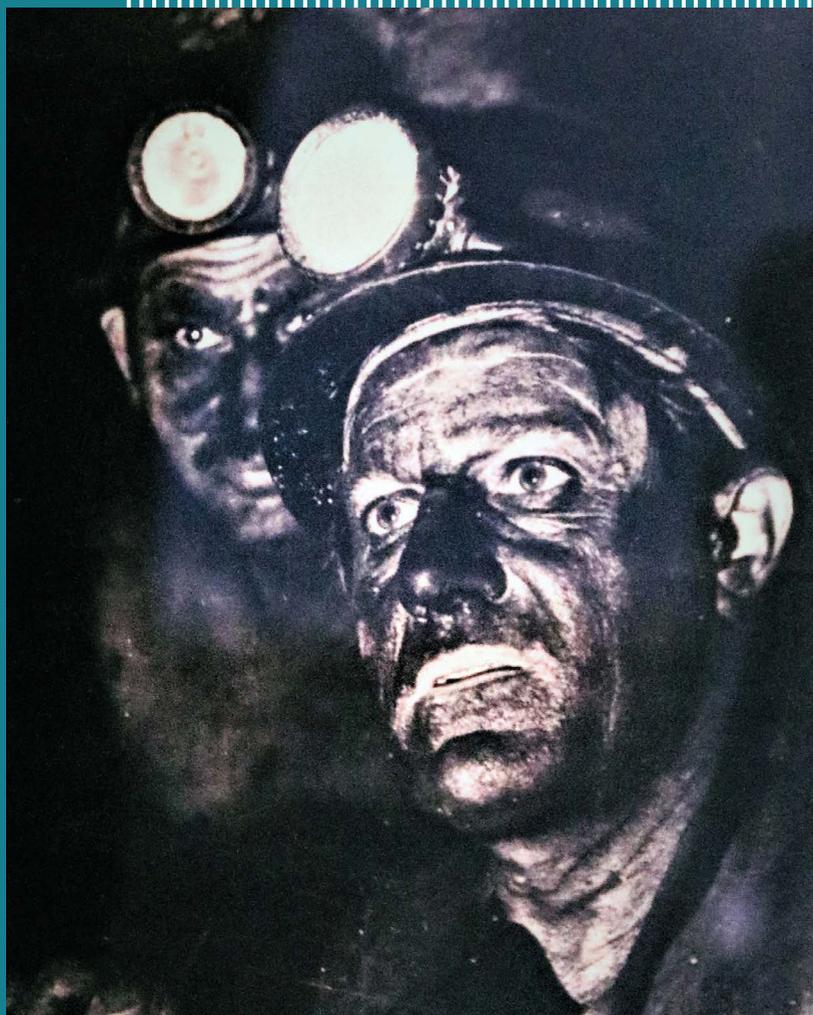
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Portraits of miners,
photograph presented
at the museum *Graissessac*
Autrefois



STORIES

WORTH

EXPLORING

A JOURNEY THAT EXPLORES THE MYSTERIES OF OUR LAND AND ITS UNDERGROUND WORLD, BASED ON STORIES OF THE MEN WHO DUG DOWN INTO THE SOIL OR INTO THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH, IN EXCAVATION SITES OR COAL MINES.

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Pisoliths (spherical limestone concretions)

COURNIOU-LES-GROTTES**MUSEUM OF SPELEOLOGY,
DEVÈZE CAVE**

“My name is Valérie, and I’m a bat, a member in the family Rhinolophidae. Let me introduce you to this mysterious environment of mine: the underground world of Espinouse and the Montagne Noire.

It all began 400 million years ago, during the great geological transformations that produced the Devonian limestones of Saint-Ponais. A million years ago, water carved out the cave now known as the Palace of the Glass Spinner (Palais de la Fileuse de Verre), and, many years later (100,000 years ago) the first concretions that now adorn the cave began to emerge.

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

We are gathered here in a calcite hollow. Who knows how we got here? Maybe an animal laid its eggs? Or perhaps a child lost a bag of marbles? Or could we have been created by swirling water? What are we?

Now that the scene has been set, come and hover over the underground environment discovery area with me. You’ll see that caving is not only a sport but also a scientific discipline. The different themes presented in the display cabinets are an invitation to travel... through time: here, you will see mineralogical transformations and the formation of calcite and aragonite concretions, the evolution of Proboscidea (ancestors of mammoths and elephants), the reconstitution of the skeleton of a cave bear, evidence of human occupation in the caves in the Haut-Languedoc area, underground biology and fauna, caving pioneers and the contribution made by the French caving club Spéléo Club de la Montagne Noire et de l’Espinouse (SCMNE).

I invite you to join me in Courniou to visit Devèze cave!”

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

 **Address: Esplanade de la gare,
34220 Courniou-les-Grottes**

Timetable and prices on the website:

 **www.lafileusedeverre.fr**

 **+33 (0)4 67 97 03 24**

 **grottedeladeveze@orange.fr**



LA CAUNETTE**THE GEOSCOPE**

According to the ancient Greeks, the heavenly bodies were created from the original chaos by generations of deities. They successively created the elements of the cosmos, set the fundamental components of nature in order, and finally created the world as it was in their time. The gods breathed life into this amazing nature, thus subjecting Earth to their powerful dynamics. Poseidon stirred up the sea and caused earthquakes, while his son Aeolus shaped the landscape with his powerful breath...

The Geoscope, which can be equated with modern-day mythology, consists of a wall display of everything that is currently known about Earth. A collection of reference rocks illustrates the major stages in the evolution of the planet's atmosphere and life according to modern scientific data. It also shows the origins of our mineral resources, which extends far back in the history of our world.

Land blocks based on local legends or events are used to reveal the underbellies of our villages or iconic landmarks.

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

My granite body culminates at 1,000 meters in the Espinouse Mountains. Yet once, many moons ago, I stood in the Mediterranean Sea... I am the mountain range that dominates the plain. What is my name?

WORTH KNOWING

The Geoscope was designed by Art-du-terroir, which also organises temporary exhibitions as well as lectures and meetings with scientists or nature lovers, according to spontaneous events. Field trips devoted to local geology are an opportunity to understand the landscapes, and catch a glimpse of what the eye cannot see, below our feet or above our heads, as a result of the action of erosion.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

 **Address: 6 rue du Cabaret, 34210 La Caunette**

Visit subject to prior booking

 **+33 (0)6 84 03 40 15**

 **www.art-du-terroir.com**

MINERVE

**MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY
& PALAEOLOGY**



«Please Sir... can you tell us about the museum in Minerve!»

In the past, there were scholars. Here is what one of them had to say: «I am interested in all things, the history of the Earth as well as that of mankind. I observe, I collect, I classify, and I know my region inside out! My vast collections of fossils, prehistoric artefacts, and the remains of different civilisations that have populated our territory are displayed in showcases, or kept in the museum’s repositories.»

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

I am made of stone, and I am hollowed out on one side and engraved on the other. I was used as a receptacle for relics. But who made me? And when and where? And what relics did I contain?... What a mystery I am... To find out, come and see me at the museum in Minerve! What am I?

Now, we have archaeologists: «I’m called in whenever there’s a risk of destroying the remains of the past, or when we want to understand a site’s history. I do dig, but always painstakingly, and layer by layer, so as not to destroy any clues, and to be able to reconstruct the past more reliably. And in Minerve, I was able to go back a very long way. I found traces of the people who lived there... 6,000 years ago!»

Follow in the footsteps of researchers, past and present, and discover Minerve and its Museum of Archaeology & Palaeontology.

WORTH KNOWING

The museum in Minerve also organises guided tours of the village, as well as visits to Saint Etienne’s church, which contains an altar table dating back to 456, now listed as a historical monument.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

 **Address: Place du Monument, 34210 Minerve**

Timetable and prices on the website:

 **www.minerve-occitanie.fr**

 **+33 (0)7 88 91 04 96**

 **musee.minerve@gmail.com**



Glass flask (late 17th-early 18th century)



OLONZAC**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM****THE MINERVOIS REGION RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE (CRDM)**

As midnight strikes at the museum, three spirits appear: Joseph, its founder, Michel, its first president, and Paul*, creator of the excavation repository. They can't help feeling emotional as they gaze at the collections of the Minervois Region Research and Documentation Centre (CRDM)...

How far we have come since 1971, when the museum was created! How many sites have been excavated, how many exceptional finds have been unearthed, cleaned, recorded, studied and exhibited! It is such a pleasure to see that the Mourrel-Ferrat oppidum is still of interest to scientists and the general public alike today. From the Palaeolithic period to the Middle Ages, thousands of years of human history in the Minervois are here for them to see... You really must come and see them too!

* Their full names are Joseph Barou, Michel Quatrefages and Paul Ambert.

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

This tool looks like a dice, but it was not used for playing. Prehistoric man used it to strike a block of stone (nucleus), to break off flakes. What am I?

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Address: 9 boulevard Pasteur, 34210 Olonzac

Timetable and prices on the website:



www.musee-olonzac.fr



+33 (0)6 85 52 72 64



contact-crdm@musee-olonzac.fr

QUARANTE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM AND ABBEY CHURCH TREASURE

Should you ever come to Quarante, head for Our Lady of the Assumption abbey church (Notre-Dame de l'Assomption). On your way round this lovely Romanesque building, turn into Rue du Porche... There you will find a small museum which is very much like Ali Baba's cave, as it contains archaeological treasures that would make the forty thieves green with envy...

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

I am so small that you need a magnifying glass to admire the exceptional craftsmanship required to carve the stone face of a Roman emperor... I was once set in a ring, and most probably belonged to a wealthy person. What am I?

The adventure of the Quarante museum is primarily that of volunteers who are keen to share the history and archaeology of their village. After « Les Amis de Quarante » who met in 1977 in the presbytery of the abbey church, and the « Club Archéologique Quarantais » who organised the first exhibition in 1984 on the occasion of the millennium of the abbey church, and later the association « Sauvegarde du patrimoine archéologique », it is now up to « Histoire et Patrimoine de Quarante », an association created in 2015, to continue this research and preservation work that helps to highlight the village's illustrious heritage.

From the Copper Age to the early Middle Ages, including the Roman and Visigothic eras, more than forty centuries unfold before our very eyes!

WORTH KNOWING

The tour of the archaeological museum includes a visit to the museum of sacred art in the abbey church in Quarante, which contains magnificent reliquaries, as well as an exceptional marble sarcophagus from the Roman period.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

 **Address: Rue du Porche, 34310 Quarante**

Visit subject to prior booking:

 **+33 (0)6 56 87 42 09 / +33 (0)6 99 91 03 42**



Reliquary bust of St John the Baptist (15th century)



VILLEMAGNE L'ARGENTIÈRE

SAINT GRÉGOIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CENTRE

Once upon a time, there was a medieval village huddled close to its Benedictine abbey. Its name was Villemagne l'Argentière. Its former Saint Grégoire's parish church (13th century) is now home to an archaeological centre with a repository and associated exhibition. The latter, which is devoted to the history of the village, evokes its illustrious past, from prehistoric to modern times. When standing in front of the display cases, panels, models and stone remains currently on show, one can only wonder at the wealth of this abbey church, which once punctuated the life of the village.

This richly illustrated exhibition is a veritable interpretation centre of the village's heritage, and the starting point of a journey into the life-size setting of the village itself. If you wish to immerse yourself in the medieval atmosphere of this bygone era, come and wander through our narrow streets, and stroll past the facades of this genuine open-air museum. Don't forget to stop at the famous Hôtel des Monnaies, where wealth is written in stone. Then follow your feet to the Place de l'Abbaye... Look up, and see if you can find the many sculpted heads looking down at you from the tops of the facades...

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

This limestone block once supported a cornice. Often sculpted with the head of a human being or an animal, they are common in Romanesque churches...

Just raise your head to see them in this museum space! What am I?

WORTH KNOWING

You can learn all about the history of Villemagne l'Argentière and its region in the numerous articles published by the Hauts Cantons Archaeological and Historical Society, that welcomes you to the Saint Gregoire Archaeological Centre.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

 Address: 5 rue Saint-Grégoire,
34600 Villemagne l'Argentière

 Opening times: from May to October,
Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays

 From 3 pm to 6 pm

 Price: voluntary participation

 +33 (0)4 67 97 75 93



GRAISSESSAC**THE GRAISSESSAC OF YONE
MUSEUM**

The bunch of grapes, the nail maker' anvil and the mining lamp depicted on the coat of arms of the village of Graissessac embody the site's history, as there was a time when vines were cultivated all the way up into the mountains of the upper cantons of the Hérault, when nail manufacturing was a lucrative activity practiced by 150 craftsmen who produced 8 million nails per year at the beginning of the 19th century, and when coal mining provided a living for the whole village, with mining concessions first being exploited underground and later out in the open. The village still has several vestiges that date back to the industrial era: mine entrances, tunnels, chimneys, miners' houses and the «château», which was the headquarters of the Compagnie des Mines de Graissessac, which consisted of four separate mines..

As heirs to this history, in 2014, the miners' descendants decided to create an association called «Des Pierres et du Charbon» (stones and coal), which took over the management of «Graissessac Autrefois», a small community museum already in activity, which they went on to develop and enrich. This museum is located not far from the Sainte-Barbe shaft, which is infamous for the firedamp explosion that claimed 47 lives on the 14th February 1877. It preserves the memory of the village's mining past, and retraces its history through objects and documents, most of which were entrusted to it by its inhabitants.

WORTH KNOWING

The Graissessac Autrefois museum also organises tours of the mining sites in Graissessac.

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

I am a tiny workshop all to myself: a piece of tree trunk topped with metal, surmounted by an anvil, and encircled by an iron hoop used to hang tools on... I am also depicted on the coat of arms of Graissessa! What am I?

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

 **Address: Plateau Sainte-Barbe,
34260 Graissessac**

Timetable and prices on the website:

 **<https://sites.google.com/site/dpetdc>**

 **+33 (0)6 76 99 25 69**

 **dpetdc@gmail.com**

LE BOUSQUET D'ORB**MUSEUM****THE LIGHTS OF THE MINE**

This is the story of a small, forgotten miner's oil lamp found covered in rust in the bowels of the Earth. This lamp, discovered in a disused mine by speleologist Philippe Estang, whetted his curiosity, and in the 1980s, it led him to start his own collection and embark on an investigation involving trips and meetings. This small lamp also known as a Rave* Stéphanoise, has a naked flame, and was to be the first in a collection of more than 1,000 lamps, artefacts and documents linked to mining activities.

*round-shaped turnip or celeriac.

This collection, which is exceptional in terms of its quality and diversity, retraces the mining of coal in the Graissessac coalfield, from the first mining concessions in the 18th century to the end of the activity in the early 1990s. It also illustrates the development of lighting techniques, and the work of engineers guided by the search for greater safety. Above all, it bears witness to the lives and work of the miners for whom the glow of a flame was a guarantee of survival, but could also sometimes prove fatal.

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

I was named after a similarly shaped vegetable. Sometimes decorated with a rooster, I am one of the oldest lamps in the museum. Will you be able to find my name?

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

 **Address: 2 chemin de Saint-Martin, 34260 Le Bousquet d'Orb**

Timetable and prices on the website:

 **www.grandorb.fr**

 **+33 (0)4 67 23 80 72 / +33 (0)4 67 95 01 07**

 **accueil-mediatheque@lebousquetdorb.fr**



Miners' lamps



Box of Gabian oil capsules

GABIAN**THE OIL MUSEUM**

- « Crude oil in France... You must be joking, my dear man!

- Not at all, my dear fellow. For a long time, oil was actually known as Gabian oil, after a rural municipality in the Hérault where it was exploited for several centuries. The Oil Fountain or « Font de l'Oli » as it was called locally, was discovered at the turn of the 16th and 17th centuries by an Italian officer in the retinue of Jean de Bonsi, the new bishop of Béziers and Lord of Gabian. The prelate decided to exploit it, as did his successors, as the source of an almost universal remedy. In the 19th century, attempts to industrialise its production dried up the oilfield, which subsequently fell into oblivion. Yet in 1924, it served as the starting point in a search for oil in the area, which resulted in the discovery of a small hydrocarbon deposit which the National Agency for Liquid Fuels (Office National des Combustibles Liquides) and then various private companies exploited until 1950. Although its production is anecdotal (20,000 tonnes in total), the history it conveys is quite significant.

I invite you, my dear friend, to discover it in the museum exhibition on oil adjoining the town hall in Gabian, before walking to Font de l'Oli, which has since been renovated. There you will enjoy, as did the officer in his day, the cool air of the banks of the river Thongue ».

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

In the past, I was sold in pharmacies and used to treat a wide range of ailments: taken internally for coughs, asthma, bronchitis, and other respiratory diseases, and externally for lumbago, pain, and rheumatism... What am I?

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

 **Address: Mairie, 2 rue des Violettes, 34320 Gabian**

**Visits subject to prior booking:
The Oil Museum can be visited during the opening hours of Gabian's town hall.**

 **+33 (0)4 67 24 65 18**

Detail of a painted ceiling -
Castle of the Archbishops of
Narbonne



STORIES

OF ARTISTS

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE COLLECTIONS THAT BEARS WITNESS TO BEAUTY, WHETHER AS AN ARTISTIC PROCESS SUCH AS PAINTING OR SCULPTURE, OR A GESTURE THAT HAS YET TO BE RESOLVED, SUCH AS THE ONE THAT RESULTED IN THE CREATION OF THE NEOLITHIC MENHIR-STATUES.

29 MUSEUM OF REGIONAL PREHISTORY

(Musée de Préhistoire régionale)

SAINT-PONS-DE-THOMIÈRES

30 THE FONTCAUDE ABBEY MUSEUM

(Musée de l'Abbaye de Fontcaude)

CAZEDARNES

33 MEDIEVAL CASTLE

(Château médiéval)

PUISSERGUIER

34 CASTLE OF THE ARCHBISHOPS OF NARBONNE

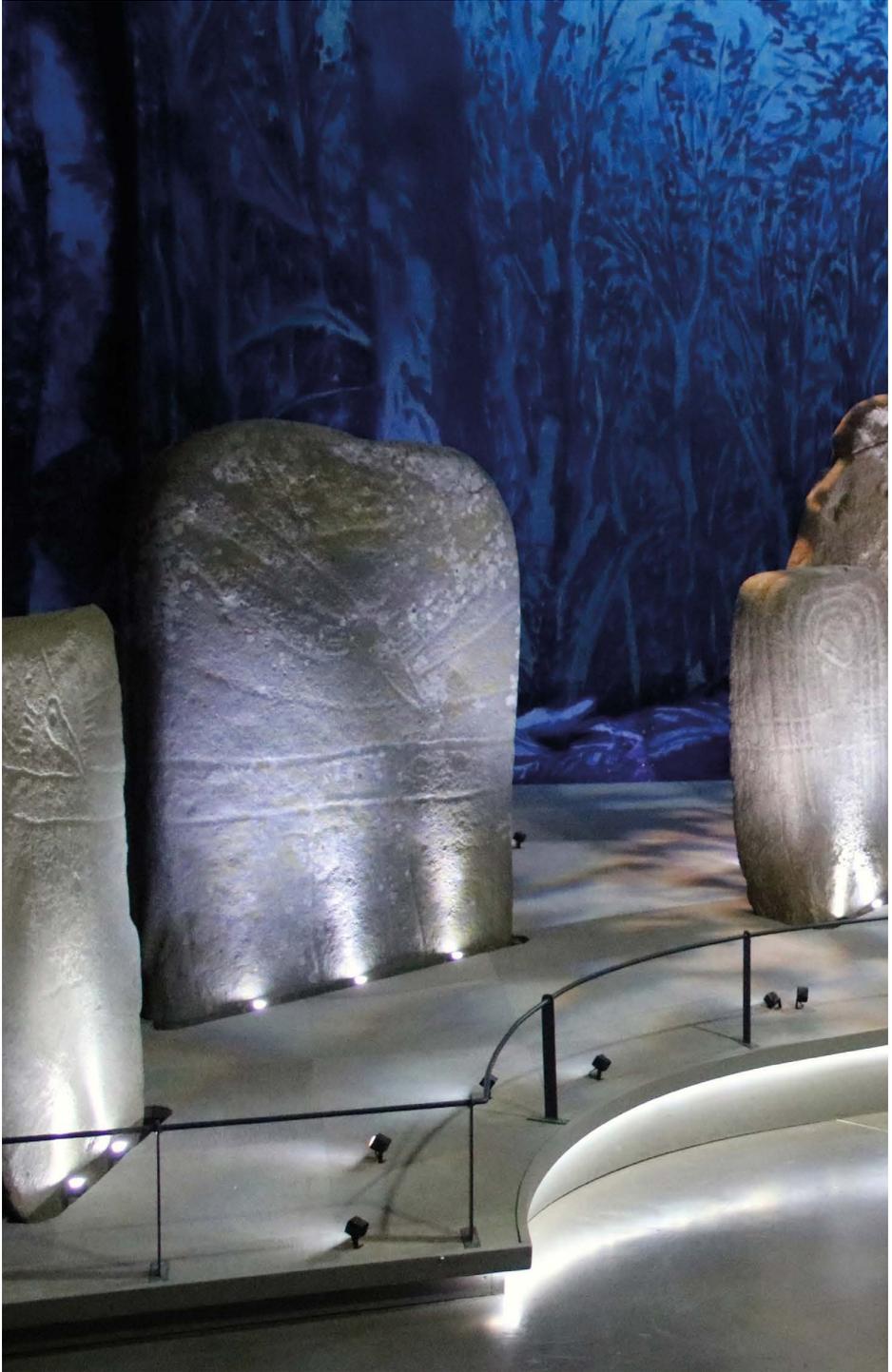
(Château des Archevêques de Narbonne)

CAPESTANG

37 ART AND HERITAGE CENTRE

(Domaine de Roueire-Centre d'arts et du patrimoine)

QUARANTE



SAINT-PONS-DE-THOMIÈRES

MUSEUM OF REGIONAL PREHISTORY



musée de France

« I am one of the many caves that stud our mountains, and I witnessed the arrival of the Saintponians (a civilisation present in the Haut Languedoc area during the Neolithic period) at first hand. Let me tell you the story of the people who scoured the countryside in my vicinity 6,000 years ago.

These men and women, who had come from the Alps, soon began to erect huge stones carved from top to bottom, as if to fill and occupy the surrounding area. They then carefully crafted strange stag antler pendants, replicas of the ones they had carved around the necks of their stone giants.

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

The advantage of eating rabbit is that after a good meal, you can use its bones to make beautiful jewellery, just like the Saintponians did! Can you spot it in the museum's collections?

We caves were their refuges, and they set up their shelters nearby. They were great hunters, and their skills in this practice enabled them to create a wide range of everyday objects, in addition to the vases and pieces of pottery that you modern humans have found thousands of years later.

This specific know-how and conventional art was soon followed by cave art, for they wasted no time in adorning my walls, adding colour and life to my dark interiors. I haven't always understood the meaning of their art, be it everyday art or spiritual art. I am but a cave among many others after all, but the Saintponians have left us some evidence of their presence, and these are veritable treasures that have survived throughout the ages. »

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

 **Address: 8 Grand Rue,
34220 Saint-Pons-de-Thomières**

Timetable and prices on the website:

 **www.cc-minervois-caroux.fr**

 **+33 (0)4 67 97 22 61**

 **museedeprehistoire@cdcmc.fr**

CAZEDARNES

THE FONTPAUDE ABBEY MUSEUM

« On this morning in June 1279, we have already been working on the site of Fontcaude Abbey for three months. My companions and I are busy cutting stones, and sculpting capitals that will be erected on the small double columns that form the arches of the cloister.

That over there is Santiago surrounded by pilgrims, this is the Dormition of the Virgin, and this one here, which is my favourite, is Catherine, who was both a philosopher and a saint, facing the emperor. This very fine-grained limestone allows for the beautifully rendered and extremely fine folds in their clothing, and the lovely shapes of faces and hair.

WORTH KNOWING

Fontcaude Abbey has been spectacularly restored by the Amis de Fontcaude Association. Today, in addition to the abbey church and the chapter house, you can visit the cloister, the oil mill and a museum where beautiful sculpted elements of the cloister capitals are exhibited.

As I take advantage of a break to wander around the building site, and up to the chevet of the church. I think of the architect and the master masons who built this abbey in the Romanesque tradition, adding a modern touch with the slightly broken arches of the windows... I'm quite certain that Fontcaude Abbey, which we are currently embellishing, will enjoy a long and glorious history! »

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

I am to be found in Saint Catherine's left hand, and I symbolize knowledge of the true faith; Christian religion, and the wisdom of this holy philosopher. You'll find me in the Fontcaude Abbey museum! What am I?

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



**Address: Abbaye de Fontcaude,
34460 Cazédarnes**

Timetable and prices on the website:



www.abbaye-de-fontcaude.com



+33(0)4 67 38 23 85



contact@abbaye-de-fontcaude.com



Chevet of Fontcaude Abbey



PUISSERGUIER

MEDIAeval CASTLE

« I am the judge of Puech Serguier, now known as Puisseguier. After the Crusade against the Albigensians (1209-1240), judges played an important role in public security. Long ago, here in Puisseguier, I consolidated my power as an officer of the sword by having a sumptuous residence built for me on the church square. Many of its rooms' ceilings were later painted, which was very fashionable in the 16th century.

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

The simple wooden planks positioned between the ceiling beams and decorated with people, animals, and plants give you a good idea of the painter's skills. Do you know what is our name?

Recently, the painted ceiling in the central room where I once dispensed justice was discovered. It contains many references, and the portraits in particular are remarkable. The coat of arms of the marriage of Louis XII to Anne of Brittany is prominently displayed, and dates this work of art to around 1499.

You can see these fine restored paintings and their interpretation in the designated room of the medieval castle. This fortified site, built from the year 1000 onwards, bears witness to the rich history of medieval Languedoc. Ideal for a family outing. »

WORTH KNOWING

Puisseguier's castle also displays archaeological objects unearthed during local excavations, including vases from the Gallic period, and part of the Celtic necropolis uncovered in the village.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

 **Address: Plan des Cathares,
34620 Puisseguier**

Timetable and prices on the website:

 **www.ville-puisseguier.com**

 **+33(0)6 62 14 70 96**

 **Château de Puisseguier**

CAPESTANG

CASTLE OF THE ARCHBISHOPS OF NARBONNE

In 1439 the Consuls of Capestang heard that Jean d'Harcourt, their lord and the new archbishop of Narbonne, had just arrived in Montpellier. They went to meet him and gave him the keys to the town as a sign of allegiance. The next day, during his tour of Capestang, the prelate found the site to his liking but decided to update the castle's ceremonial hall. He commissioned a renowned workshop to create a new decor worthy of his rank and wealth in the reception area.

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

With my claws outstretched and my tail flicking against my back, I am truly the king of all animals. To find me, you'll have to look carefully at this ceiling with its beams decorated with painted wooden boards, known as "closoirs" in French... back and front! Who am I?

When in residence in Capestang, the archbishop ate in the ceremonial hall with his large retinue of thirty-odd people. His table was magnificent and covered with the silver tableware that he took wherever he went, along with the fine tapestries that were used to adorn the walls on feast days.

None of the archbishop's other castles has such a lovely ceiling. Birds abound in the varied and colourful décor. Geese, waders, storks, roosters, ravens and eagles call to mind the species that were familiar to the inhabitants at the time, and are also evocative of heaven. On the painted boards, hunting, dancing and comedy coexist, and male and female faces are depicted together, which was a very modern trend in those days.

Jean d'Harcourt congratulated the talented master painter who had just completed the commission and exclaimed: *«I am well satisfied with your work»*. To his nephew Louis who accompanied him, he confided: *«I find this part of the ceiling amusing, and this part conducive to meditation. My visitors will be reminded of how to live a moral life, and all will see evidence of the power and glory of the archbishop of Narbonne.»*

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

 **Address: 9 place Gabriel Péri, 34310 Capestang**

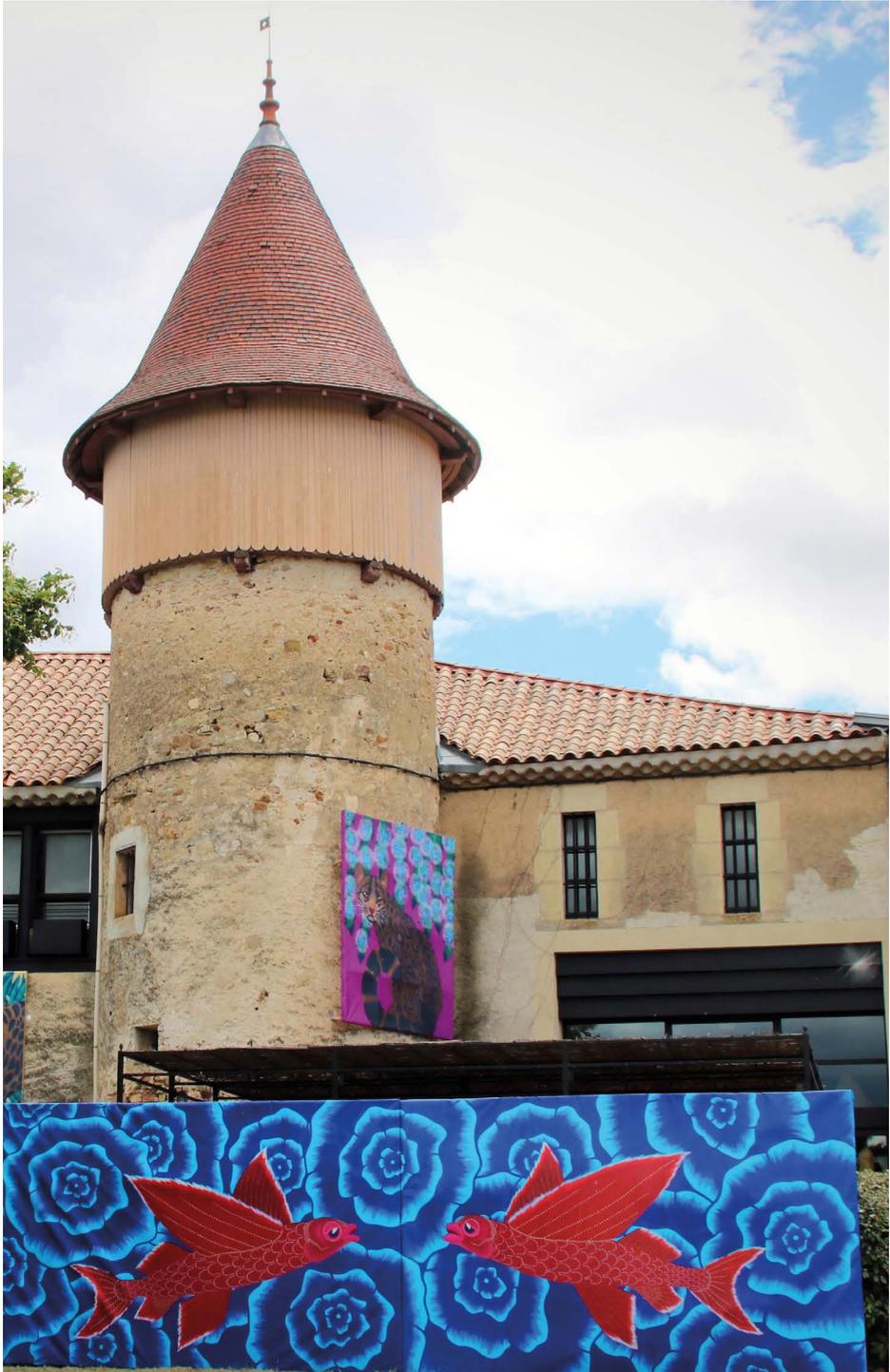
Timetable and prices on the website:

 **www.locastel-capestang.fr**

 **+33 (0)4 67 37 51 23**



Detail of the painted ceiling of the castle of the Archbishops of Narbonne



QUARANTE

DOMAINE DE ROUEÏRE

ART AND HERITAGE CENTRE

The Domaine de Roueïre mainly consists of vineyards, a pine wood, and the silhouettes of the lovely roofs that are visible in the distance. Then, as you draw closer, you see winding paths, high gates, and wide doors. Walk round the estate and take it all in: a Bolée wind turbine overlooking the peaks, a slender castle hidden by tall trees, a mansion, elegant outbuildings, theatrical towers and vast cellars... The history of the estate is revealed in subtle detail, one stone at a time.

For a long time, Roueïre was home to men, women and their labours: the growing of cereals, olives, blackberries and vines, which gradually supplanted other crops. This was the golden age of wine growing.

As the years passed, the grapes and workers deserted the cellars... Nowadays, the farming

of the estate's land has given way to something that whets our curiosity and senses, and sets the wheels of our mind in motion. History and heritage interact here in this place devoted to transmission and sharing, where contemporary art is exhibited and new narratives are crafted.

WORTH KNOWING

The Domaine de Roueïre, managed by the Community of Municipalities Sud-Hérault, includes an educational territorial service, a documentation centre and an exhibition room devoted to contemporary art. Its aim is to help various members of the public discover the rich heritage of southern Hérault, as well as art through meetings with artists and visual artists.

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

Flowerly fireworks that have no scent, I accompany your steps in the narrow passageway. What am I?

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

 **Address: Domaine de Roueïre, 34100 Quarante**

Free admission from the beginning of July until the Heritage Days (Journées du Patrimoine)

By appointment only for groups.

 **+33 (0)4 67 25 00 25**

 **www.cc-sud-herault.fr
www.lasaison-sudherault.com**

 **domaine.roueire@cc-sud-herault.fr**

Jules, the mascot of the
Ecomuseum of the life in
the past



STORIES OF A BYGONE AGE

LISTEN TO A TALE OF DAYS OF YORE, THE TIMES OF FORTIFIED CASTLES, MEMORIES, PURPLE INK IN SCHOOL PENS AND MILK IN CHURNS. THE TIMES OF COOPERS AND NAIL MAKERS, OF HOURS SPENT IN THE WHEELWRIGHT'S WORKSHOP OR WITH THE EMBROIDERERS, IN THEIR LONG SKIRTS... THIS MUSEUM EXHIBIT TAKES YOU BACK TO A TIME BEFORE TELEVISIONS WERE INVENTED.

41 HUREPEL MUSEUM

(Musée Hurepel)

MINERVE

43 MEDIEVAL CASTLE

(Château médiéval)

CREISSAN

44 MUSEUM OF POPULAR ARTS AND TRADITIONS

(Musée des arts et traditions populaires)

OLARGUES

47 MUSEUM OF POPULAR ARTS AND TRADITIONS *(Maison Cévenole)*

SAINT-GERVAIS-SUR-MARE

48 THE ECOMUSEUM OF LIFE IN THE PAST

(Écomusée de la vie d'autrefois)

PUISSERGUIER

50 TOYS AND ANTIQUES MUSEUM

(Musée du Jouet et de l'Objet ancien)

BÉDARIEUX

53 CURIOSITATS MUSÈU

BÉDARIEUX



MINERVE

HUREPEL MUSEUM

« My name is Hurepel, and I was once a knight living in the Causses in the Massif Central, a rider of dizzying plains. If my skin has hardened like old leather in a storm, it is because I have fought long and hard to ensure that the name of this land, and the memory of those whose blood it has drained, reaches your ears.

I lived on this rocky terrain, a land of sun, wind, vines and olive trees. I inhabited this land of troubadours and mountain fortresses illuminated with love and tolerance. I dwelt in the land of the «good», the «perfects», who went in pairs along the dusty lanes to bring the sacrament of the consolamentum, a sort of salutary baptism for the dying, and to preach before the hearths of shepherds, notaries or barons.

Their story is told at the Hurepel Museum in Minerve, where tiny figures evolve in carefully crafted miniature settings to recreate the tragic fate of those who were known as the Cathars. »

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

 **Address: 5 rue des Martyrs, 34210 Minerve**

Timetable and prices on the website:

 **www.minervois-caroux.com**

 **+33 (0)4 68 91 12 26**

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

I am a trebuchet. The same trebuchet that broke Minerve and was erected by Simon de Montfort's army to prevent the besieged inhabitants from obtaining water from the city's only well. Can you find me and remember my name?



CREISSAN**MEDIAeval CASTLE**

« My name is Edora. We are in the year 959 and I have just sold my estate to Matfred, viscount of Narbonne, and his wife, Adelaide. It is a tower with walls and moats built back in Charlemagne's day. By the end of the 12th century, my tower will have become a fine medieval castle, with curtain walls topped with battlements, corner turrets (the watchtowers where soldiers hide to look out for attackers), latrines, and a large gate fitted with a portcullis to protect its residents.

This castle will undoubtedly undergo many transformations, but in more than 1000 years, it will still be standing, its walls bearing the marks of its long history... If you come to Creissan, you're sure to recognise it by its slightly squat silhouette. It will always be there, proudly standing in the heart of this winemaking village. »

Enter the enclosure, visit the exhibition area, and discover the history of Creissan and its castle.

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

I was created in 1875. Wearing the representation of the patron saint of the parish, I preceded the musicians of the brass band in their movements.

What am I?

WORTH KNOWING

The works presented in the museographic space of the castle of Creissan tell the history of the village and its surroundings, from the settlement of men at the end of prehistory (Neolithic) to the 19th century. The scores and the banner of the Creissan brass band are notably exhibited.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

 **Address: rue du Château, 34370 Creissan**

Visits subject to prior booking:

 **+33 (0)4 67 93 75 41**

OLARGUES**MUSEUM OF POPULAR ARTS
AND TRADITIONS**

« I am *Le Puech*, a rocky outcrop firmly entrenched in a loop of the river Jaur, and surmounted by a bell tower that was once a keep, and now rings out the hours and ticks off time... At the beginning of the 12th century my land, which has been crossed by men since ancient times, witnessed the birth of the new town of Olargues, which gradually extended over my southern slope. A majestic single-arch bridge, the work of the Devil some said, was built to promote trade and exchanges at the crossroads of two major commercial routes connecting Nîmes to Toulouse and Béziers to Rodez.

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

When it comes to efficiency, men are certainly not lacking in imagination! To create me, they fitted a wooden-soled shoe with what looks like an instrument of torture... but I am only used to torture chestnuts... Will you be able to identify me? What is my name?

Time passed, and the fortress was dismantled at Richelieu's request as it did not seem essential to the defence of France. The inhabitants of Olargues used the stones of the castle to build the new church, and life followed the course of the seasons, and the chestnut and cherry harvests.

One day, a handful of locals decided to tell my story, which is the story of the lords of Olargues, of their grandfathers, and their childhood. And so they created a museum in an unusual location in the heart of an old building built in the 14th century by the Hospitallers of Saint John of Jerusalem... Pass through the porch, climb a few steps, and discover the history of Olargues. »

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

 **Address: Escalier de la Commanderie,
34390 Olargues**

Timetable and prices on the website:

 **www.olargues.org**

 **+33 (0)4 67 97 70 79**

 **musee@olargues.org
patrimoine@olargues.org**

 **Voluntary participation**



Rendition of an interior at the Olargues museum



SAINT-GERVAIS-SUR-MARE

MAISON CÉVENOLE, MUSEUM OF POPULAR ARTS AND TRADITIONS

« Hello! My name is Coamelou, and I'm your guide in this museum dedicated to the trades of bygone days. My name comes from the word «coamel» which means «mushroom» in Occitan: a name given to the inhabitants of Saint-Gervais, owing to the numerous mushrooms that grow in our chestnut groves.

Come and discover the jobs linked to the «breadfruit tree», from its wood, which is used by coopers and stake makers and thought to be rot-proof, to the production and conservation of its fruit, which has fed generations of people in the Cévennes, as well as their herds. In some places in the chestnut groves, there are black rocks that our ancestors collected along with the chestnuts. These are actually pieces of coal, and resulted in various activities based on the combustion of coal being developed. Here is the nail maker's anvil, the bell makers moulds, and the forge, which was operated by a dog pacing in a wheel.

WORTH KNOWING

Maison Cévenole includes a room devoted to the village's archaeological sites: the castrum of Neyran and Saint Laurent de Féreyrolles' chapel, a room that hosts temporary exhibitions, a shop that sells local products, and a tourist information area.

Its privileged geographical situation, which made it a stopping place between the plains and the mountains, along with its coal industry, made Saint-Gervais a town of prosperous merchants and craftsmen: among them were lace makers and embroiderers, who patiently made the headdresses and outfits presented here. »

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

Thanks to my monk's hood I do not fear flames, and I help to cook spit-roasted meats. What am I?

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

 **Address: 12 rue du Pont,
34610 Saint-Gervais-sur-Mare**

Free entrance

 **+33 (0)4 67 23 68 88**

 **mc.stgervais@orange.fr**

 **Maison Cévenole**

PUISSERGUIER

THE ECOMUSEUM OF LIFE IN THE PAST

« My name is Jules and I was born in Puisserguier in 1930.

Here in the village, an association has recreated my everyday world in the old schoolhouse. I'm so thrilled to rediscover old mother Alice's haberdashery, father Maurice's old winemaking tools, the grocer's shop in the Grand Rue, the hairdressing salon in the Church Square... and last but not least this classroom, where I tried so hard to learn to write with a Sergeant-Major metal tip quill pen, and got up to mischief that resulted in me having to wear the dunce's cap many a time!

The former school has become a life-size playground containing the firefighter's hand pump that failed to prevent the Café Glacier from going up in smoke in 1936, the typewriter and «calculator» used by Auntie Monique, who was the secretary who worked for Puisserguier's Petits Vignerons cooperative wine cellar, and so many other objects that have been brought back to life.

As the guardian of these premises, I watch over them day and night. Why not come and join me? »

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

Taking hold of my antenna, Jules delicately places my passenger and me in a gurgling liquid to obtain a delicious white cloud with a yellow heart.

What am I?

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

 **Address: Rue de la Gaie Sortie,
34620 Puisserguier**

Timetable and prices ont the website:

 **www.ecomusee-de-puisserguier.webnode.fr**

 **+33 (0)6 76 47 20 57**

 **corinnemilhet@aol.com**



The grocery shop of the Ecomuseum of the life in the past

BÉDARIEUX

TOYS AND ANTIQUES MUSEUM

«My dear granddad, I'm writing to tell you that there are 2 circuses, the ZOO CIRCUS and another one, but I don't no its name...» Little Robert was five and a half years old when he wrote this letter to his grandfather Theophile. The arrival of the circus was a great event in the life of a child, and it made such a lasting impression on Robert Vignals that, when he himself became a father, he created a circus and its menagerie by hand out of pieces of wood, much to his children's delight.

As his children grew up the circus was forgotten in the attic of the family home, along with the games and toys accumulated by four generations of children. Talk about Ali Baba's cave!

WORTH KNOWING

The Toy and Antiques Museum contains 13,000 items presented under 15 different themes: an abundance of old games and toys, everyday objects made between 1870 and 1990, a collection of rare cylinder gramophones, a vast collection of electric trains and more than 4,000 small cars... But it also contains more than 10,000 magazines, newspapers and archive documents ranging from 1845 to 1990.

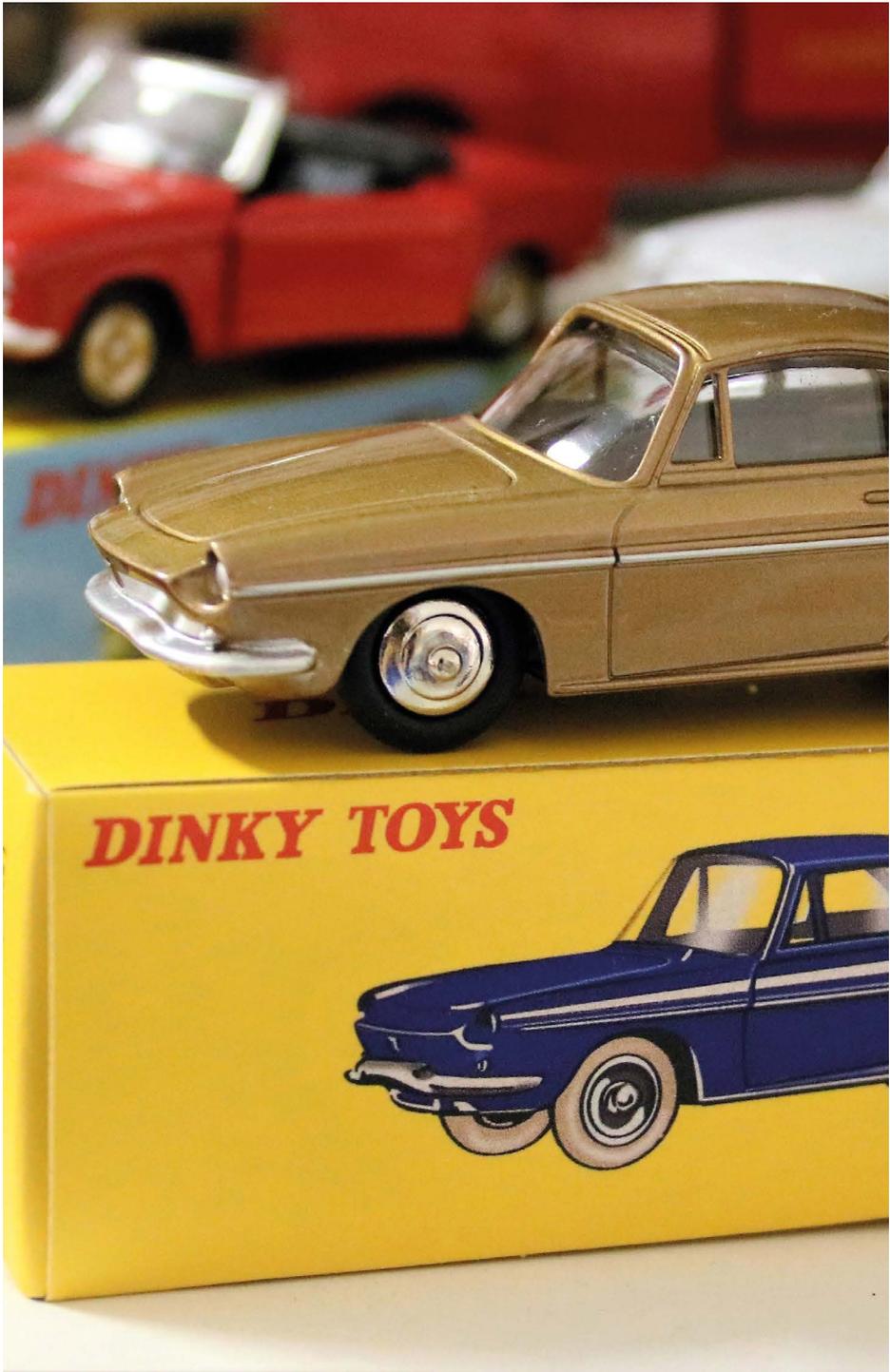
On rediscovering these childhood treasures, Guy Vignals decided to share them by exhibiting this fascinating collection of toys alongside various objects linked to his ancestors' trades: a grandmother who was once a milliner, a grandfather who was a clog maker, a relative who was a pharmacist, another who was a painter and framer, and yet another who was a Lieutenant Colonel in the 1890s... This Toy and Antiques museum retraces 140 years of family history.

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

I am made of cardboard blocks trimmed with blue that depict characters playing comical skits, and numbers... I used to be a very popular game! What am I?

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

-  **Address: 8 ter rue Saint-Alexandre, 34600 Bédarieux**
-  **www.musee-du-jouet-bedarieux.com**
-  **+33 (0)6 23 96 30 08**
-  **vignalsg@gmail.com**



Car collection of the Toy and Antiques Museum



BÉDARIEUX**CURIOSITATS MUSÈUM**

« You know Mamette, if you came back to life and to your home, you'd probably be surprised to see that very little has changed. If you were to push open the little iron door to the workshop, you'd still expect to see Ecéquier and Auguste. Of course, the smell of freshly cut wood has faded, but all the machines are still as they were: the forge, the workbench, the pitsaw and the bending machine. All ready and waiting to make a new wheel.

In the old stable next door, where you used to put your goats and where the horses used to rest while waiting for the cart to be repaired, you can still see the 18th century

paving stones, and a few craft items that were once used by washerwomen, farmer's wives, winegrowers... are on display.

Your home on the first floor has changed quite a bit. It is now a real museum hosting various temporary exhibitions. You can still see the old chimney hoods and the lovely patterned cement floor tiles that you once walked on.

The various rooms have become a place devoted to life and memory, and your memory still lingers within these walls.

Thank you Mamette! »

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

Measuring length using a disc attached to a wooden handle... it doesn't get any simpler than that, but still, someone had to think of it! What am I?

WORTH KNOWING

Curiositats musèu hosts temporary single-season exhibitions as well as travelling exhibitions, such as the one devoted to Indian textiles in Languedoc.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

 **Address: 15 place Pasteur, 34600 Bédarieux**

 **www.curiositats.fr**

 **+33 (0)4 67 23 86 35 / +33 (0)6 78 11 72 56**

 **folk-art@curiositats.fr**

 **Voluntary participation**

Trilobite presented at the Home of the Cambrian period (Berlou)



STORIES

OF BEASTIES

MUSEUMS HAVE ALL KINDS OF ANIMALS, FROM LARGE ONE WITH HUGS PAWS TO TINY FEATHERWEIGHT BEASTIES: DINOSAURS AND TRILOBITES, COWS AND SHEEP, DOGS AND TORTOISES, BEES AND DRAGONFLIES... EXHIBITS THAT ALLOWS YOU TO SEE, TOUCH AND LISTEN AS YOU MAKE YOUR WAY AROUND.

56 THE HOME OF THE CAMBRIAN PERIOD

(Maison du Cambrien)

BERLOU

59 CRUZY MUSEUM

(Musée de Cruzy)

CRUZY

60 BELL AND COWBELL MUSEUM

(Musée de la Cloche et de la Sonnaïlle)

HÉRÉPIAN

63 THE BEE HOUSE

(Maison de l'Abeille)

CASSAGNOLES

BERLOU**THE HOME OF THE
CAMBRIAN PERIOD**

Francis was born in April in Berlou, at the heart of a territory consisting mainly of schist. While out walking one day, he came across a group of palaeontology students and their teacher who were poking around on an embankment: - *What are you doing here?* he asked, surprised by the encounter.

- *We're digging for 500 to 600-million-year-old fossils of trilobites from the early Cambrian period,* they replied.

Their answer became as firmly entrenched in his mind as the trilobites in their rocks, and from that day onwards, he regularly returned to the site in search of these precious arthropods, and his curiosity soon became a passion. He devoted every moment of his free time to his search, and his persistence was rewarded with the discovery of a magnificent *Symphysurus angustatus*, perfectly preserved in its stony sarcophagus.

His collection has since grown, and Francis has become a leading specialist in the trilobites found in the Montagne Noire area. And, just as a shepherd builds a sheepfold near his house to protect his flock, Francis has built a magnificent room near his home for his 350-odd protégés.

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

If they were giving out prizes to the strangest animal, I'd certainly win! I have a round body, a spine at the front, and two long spines on the sides... I'm small but you can't miss me. Can you find my name? (Here's a clue: my initials are A P).

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

 **Address: 5 rue de Paillos, 34360 Berlou**

Visits subject to prior booking:

 **+33 (0)6 84 63 19 41**

 **lamaisonducambrien.wixsite.com**



Trilobite fossil



CRUZY

CRUZY MUSEUM

Cruzy, April 1996:

- *Hello Jean Claude, so you've started ploughing! But what's this stone that's blocking the wheel of your tractor?*
- *It's just a piece of rock that was outcropping at the end of my vineyard.*
- *You know, Titi* showed me a dinosaur bone at the museum, and it looks a lot like your stone...*

From 1996 onwards, systematic excavations were launched by the Cultural Archaeological & palaeontological Association (ACAP) and the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS). They focused on the sites of Masecaps and Montplo. The thousands of fossils collected during these excavations, which are now kept in the Museum in Cruzy, show the diversity of fauna that inhabited the great alluvial plains in this region 72 million years ago.

Dinosaurs are the most spectacular: titanosaurs exceeding 10 m in length, rhabdodons, smaller and more abundant herbivores, ankylosaurs with their armoured bodies, some fish, lizards, turtles, crocodiles... Among the most astonishing creatures is a giant bird, Gargantuavis, the size of a small ostrich and unable to fly, but also an archaic Enantiornithes bird, which lived alongside flying reptiles known as Pterosaurs.

WORTH KNOWING

The Cruzy museum also displays numerous archaeological discoveries made in the village of Cruzy itself (such as the pieces of pottery found in a well near the church) and in its surrounding area. This museum also has four very rare banners made in 1907, during the winegrowers' revolt.

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

My sisters and I scoured the entire Cruzy region during the Upper Cretaceous period. My shell, although solid, has since disappeared, and all that remains of me is my tiny skull and jaw... will you be able to identify me? (Hint: my scientific name is *Foxemys*).

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

 **Address: 6 rue de la Poste, 34310 Cruzy**

Timetable and prices on the website:

 **+33 (0)4 67 89 35 87**

 **www.musee-cruzy-acap.fr**

 **musee.cruzy@wanadoo.fr**

 **Voluntary participation**

* Francis Fages, known as Titi, one of the founding members of the Cruzy Museum and the ACAP

HÉRÉPIAN

BELL AND COWBELL MUSEUM



musée de France

« My sound is heard in summer pastures, and I accompany each movement of the herd. Before becoming a bell attached to the necks of the cattle, I started out as a sheet of iron, which was hammered, struck, twisted, bent, then crushed to give me the ideal shape.

The age-old gestures of the cowbell-makers have gradually been lost to the new habits of the contemporary world. Today I am an exhibit sitting alongside the bells at the Musée de la Cloche et de la Sonnaïlle in Hérépian, and this is where you will hear my story.

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

The Granier foundry made rather unusual bells: much larger than those that adorned carnival costumes. They were the ancestors of the horn... Can you spot one in the museum? What is our name?

My melody lives on in the hearts of all the children who spent their holidays in the mountains, and of every mountain dweller, of every hiker who ever strode through meadows and farmland.

I am made of iron, copper, bone or wood, and linked to the land and to summer memories, I am the particular sound of the lead animal, or the adventurous animals that wanders off alone: I am a cowbell, made by the expert hands of the Granier family members. »

WORTH KNOWING

The Musée de la Cloche et de la Sonnaïlle has been awarded the Tourism & Disability-friendly quality label; it is accessible to all, and particularly well suited to the visually impaired and blind (with floor markings, Braille labels, and audio-guides for a fully independent tour).

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



Address: Espace Campanaire André Malraux, Av. de la Gare, 34600 Hérépian

Timetable and prices on the website:



www.grandorb.fr



+33 (0)4 67 95 39 95



museeherepian@grandorb.fr



Bells on display at the Hérépian Museum



CASSAGNOLES

THE BEE HOUSE

« Did you know that we bees have our own language? Of course, it isn't a spoken language like yours. Ours is made up of body language, sounds and smells!

In the bee world, the dancers are the foragers. When they spot lovely flowers full of nectar and pollen, they move and wriggle in a circle to indicate that food is close by, or in a figure eight, when food is further away. They also use the position of the sun to indicate the direction in which food is to be found.

THE MYSTERY OBJECT

I'm entirely made of wood and stand tall and proud on my four legs, waiting for someone to fill my tummy with honeycomb... Push hard. Just a little harder and you'll be able to taste the precious nectar! What am I?

In 1995, on the initiative of a few enthusiasts, the Maison de l'Abeille was created in the heart of a village surrounded by honey-bearing plants: thyme, rosemary, chestnut trees, cherry trees, vines, dandelions, brambles... So many precious resources for us, who need to gather the nectar of 200,000 flowers to produce just one spoonful of honey!

Our world is rich and exciting. Come and pay our Bee House a visit! »

WORTH KNOWING

In the Maison de l'Abeille, there is a beehive where you can watch the bees producing their lovely honey, which is harvested every year in early August during a day devoted to showing people how honey is collected. The Maison de l'Abeille also boasts an outdoor game trail and a botanical garden.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

 **Address: Maison de l'Abeille,
34210 Cassagnoles**

Timetable and prices ont the website:

 **www.lamaisondelabeille.fr**

 **+33 (0)6 14 66 65 66**

 **cass-abeille@orange.fr**

8 STAMPS WILL ENTITLE YOU TO A FREE GIFT!

EVERY TIME YOU SUCCESSFULLY IDENTIFY A MYSTERY OBJECT, ASK SOMEONE TO STAMP THIS PAGE.

B

BÉDARIEUX
Toys and Antiques
museum

BÉDARIEUX
Curiositats Musèu

BERLOU
The Home of the
Cambrian Period

C

CAPESTANG
astle of the Archbishops
of Narbonne

CASSAGNOLES
The Bee House

CAZEDARNES
The Fontcaude Abbey
museum

X

**COURNIOU
-LES-GROTTE**
Museum of
Speleology

CREISSAN
Medieval castle

CRUZY
Crzy Museum

G

GABIAN
The Oil Museum

GRAISSESSAC
The Graissessac
of yore museum

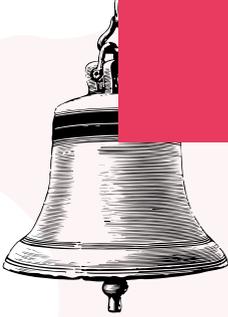


H

HÉRÉPIAN
Bell and cowbell
museum

L

LA CAUNETTE
The Geoscope



LE BOUSQUET D'ORB
Museum The lights of the mine

MINERVE
Museum of Archaeology & Palaeontology

MINERVE
Hurepel Museum

M

OLARGUES
Museum of Popular Arts and Traditions

OLONZAC
Archaeological Museum

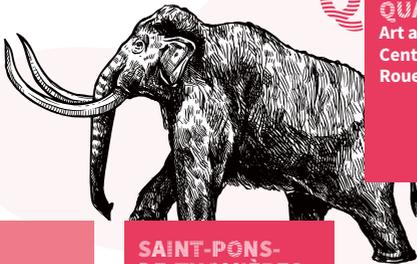
O

P

PUISSERGUIER
Medieval castle

PUISSERGUIER
The Ecomuseum of Life in the Past

O



QUARANTE
Art and Heritage Centre (Domaine de Rouëire)

QUARANTE
Archaeological Museum

S

SAINT-GERVAIS-SUR-MARE
Museum of Popular Arts and Traditions (Maison Cévenole)

SAINT-PONS-DE-THOMIÈRES
Museum of regional Prehistory

V

VILLEMAGNE L'ARGENTIÈRE
Saint Grégoire Archaeological Centre

Braille labels and relief designs, Bell and cowbell museum





«YOU DON'T FORCE A CURIOSITY, YOU AROUSE IT.»

Daniel Pennac, *Comme un roman*, 1992.

The Haut Languedoc et Vignobles Country of Art and History is part of the national network of Cities and Countries of Art and History.

The Ministry of Culture awards the Cities and Countries of Art and History label to local authorities that implement a policy to promote heritage and the living environment. It guarantees the competence of the tour guides and the architecture and heritage coordinators, as well as the quality of their work. From archaeological remains to contemporary architecture, the Cities and Countries of Art and History showcase heritage in all its diversity. Today, a network of more than 200 labelled territories offers you its know-how throughout France.

The «Musées de France» of the Haut Languedoc et Vignobles Country of Art and History.

In 2003, three of the region's museums received the «Musée de France» designation. This designation is given to collections of public interest, preserved and organised for the knowledge, education and enjoyment of visitors. These «Musées de France» are approved by the State (Ministry of Culture) and receive priority support from it.

The Haut Languedoc et Vignobles Country of Art and History means :

- A territory representing 102 municipalities and nearly 80,000 inhabitants.
- Four communities of municipalities associated in a common project : Les Avants-Monts, Grand Orb, Du Minervois au Caroux, Sud Hérault.

→ A project leader : the Syndicat mixte du Pays Haut Languedoc et Vignobles.

→ A label awarded in July 2016 by the Ministry of Culture.

Information

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