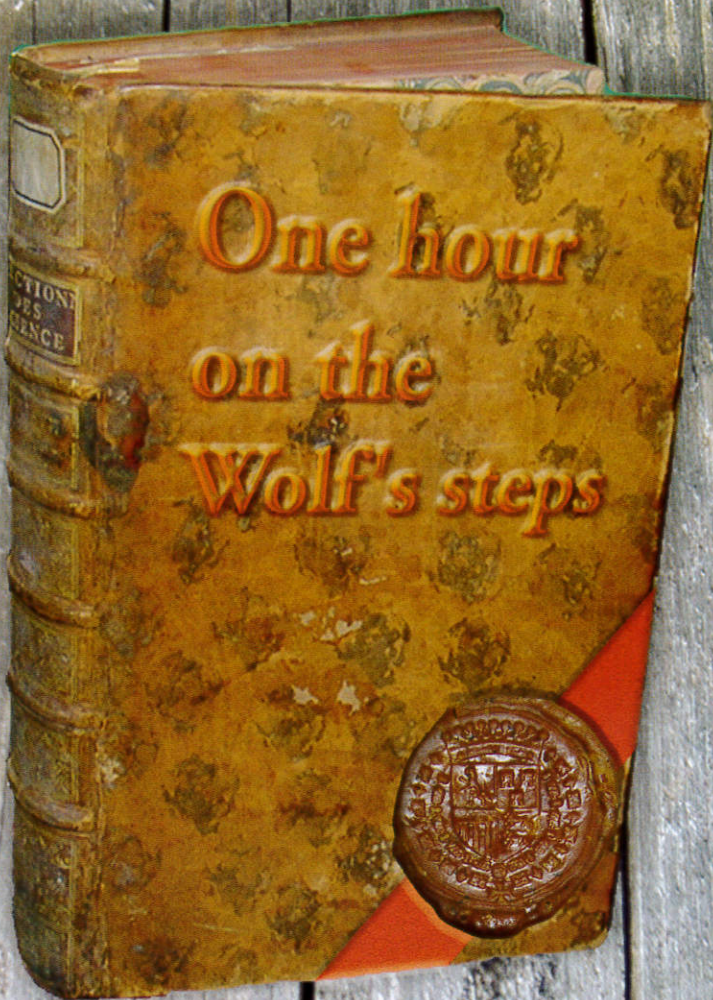


# SAULT



DISCOVERY CIRCUIT  
IN AN HISTORICAL CENTRE

# Sault en Provence

To follow the wolf's steps, for any direction changes, you will find on the floor this kind of nail to guide you.



Place  
des  
Aires

OFFICE DE  
TOURISME



Reading tables

## Welcome on the steps of «Loup d'Agoult».

Legendary ancestor of Isnard d'Agoult dit d'Entrevennes, Seigneur of Sault in the Middle Ages, probable origin of the coat of arms of the illustrious family.

It all started in "les loges" in the valley at the bottom of the rock, but very soon life settled on this promontory; the building of the castle began in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.



Azure wolf with gules claws and tongue on gold blazon.

1

### Place du Château (Castle square)

Yard modified several times.

*Barbane tower or Archives tower.*

Nowadays it is almost totally

included in the dwellings. The street

bearing the same name did not exist in seigniorial times, it was a low gallery leading

to this part of the castle and it was open in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The porch called "soustet" was open towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The *cornloft* – open on the yard – was used for grain storage. Above it was a shop with access from the *Place du Marché*. On the ground floor the *moulin à sang* (blood mill), with animal traction. On the first floor, the *Auditoire* (auditory), a vast room where seigniorial justice was given.

South tower; it bears the cannons of the town and also a sundial. «Southern sundial embedded slightly obliquely in the wall.» The *Société Astronomique de France* in Paris has taken an inventory of about 200 sundials in Vaucluse but only one in Sault: it is sunk at the top of this tower, but who noticed it?

Under the top edge, the noble date of 1756 can be read and the 4 o'clock time line is written "IIII" in Roman numbers. In "31.8 bre 1792" the *Conseil Général de la Commune* "...decides to lower the castle towers to the height of the neighbouring roofs." The castle was ransacked, the towers lowered and the archives burned publicly. Later a frieze and a gutter were awkwardly added to the sundial, which is too often shaded. It is nowadays more useful to the spirit than to actually read the time, but many sunny hours still lie in front of it.



### Place du marché (Market square)

Since the 16<sup>th</sup> century it was used for markets and fairs; it was a place of exchange but also of

confrontation among merchants.

Later it was also the place where day labourers were hired for the field work in the valley. All those gatherings – up to 1200 people sometimes – often lead to troubles and the south tower canons maintained order. This square is now the town-hall square, since 1900.

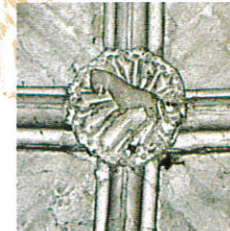


2

### Place de l'Église (Church square)

First named *Place St Sauveur*, it was called *Place Guion* after the French Revolution.

Initially dedicated to St Sauveur, it was built in the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> century (see archives in Villeneuve-lez-Avignon abbey) and belonged to the bishopric of Carpentras. Its architecture is composite: Romanesque high nave with three rows and choir from the 14<sup>th</sup> C. Two chapels



*Sculpture on an arch*

were added, one on the west side in 1450, dedicated to St-Martin and the other one on the east side, in 1610 assigned to a brotherhood of White Penitents. Behind the choir (in the place of the stalls) were the graves of the seigneurs of Agoult (seigneurs of Sault). During the French

Revolution

they were profaned, stripped and exposed publicly. Since 1990 the church is listed on the historical register: "Notre Dame de la Tour".



*The Romanesque nave*

### The fountain

Inaugurated in 1869, the fountain became the first running water point in the village. It was given the names of H. and J. Gabriel who discovered the spring. Originally supplied by gravity from a spring coming from Aurel (4 km away) water would pass through a tank under the *Place des Aires*. On top of it a statue representing Abundance sitting faces the church.



### Clock tower.

Built in 1644, it bears the town clock. In 1793 the clock was transported to the church in replacement of the bells. The tower was sold.



North West tower (visible from the rue du Club and the rue Rompe-Cul) the only tower which has kept its initial height. It is named *Tour de la Campanette* or *Tour de la Clochette* (the small bell) and lines the vegetable garden of the castle on the western façade.



### Administration

This part of the castle was built in the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. This room was also used for the real tennis mentioned in the 1584 texts.

### Kitchens

Rue du Club

Main entrance.

South West tower, no specific function known except surveillance of the valley. Adjoining the big kitchen.

Prison

Guardhouse

## Rue de la Claustre (cloister)

Evocative name of the main building in this street: the presbytery. Many times abandoned, transformed in public square then rebuilt. During the Revolution it accommodated the *gens d'armes* (men of arms)

## Rue des Esquiches Mouches (those who «squash flies»)



Niche at the top of a wall in Rue des Esquiches Mouches.

As suggested by its name, this particularly narrow street runs along the ramparts and links the *Porte des Aires* to the *Porte Royale*.



Remains of ramparts

3

## La Porte Royale (Royal Gate)

Named thus after the visit of Charles 1<sup>st</sup>, king of Provence and of Naples, named during the French Revolution "Gate of the Republic". During this period royal symbols were banned so the stone bearing the fleur-de-lis was removed. What remains today is the gate of the 17<sup>th</sup> C.



Royal Door street

## Place du Plan d'Aurel

Freestone from the quarry of the «*Chassis d'Aurel*» (construction of the church) or the supply of the fountain by the spring of Aurel gave the name to this square.



View over the «Gorges de la Nesque» start

## The wash-house and the path under the rock.

From the wash-house –built in 1896 - "the path under the rock" was originally one of the main access to the village, and before the building of the bridge, it lead to the road to St Saturnin d'Apt. Today it is a discovery path to the local aromatics plants, along the bottom of the rock to the St Marc wash-house. It offers a fantastic view over the valley but it is only a path and sensible shoes are indicated!

## La rue Blanche

(The white street)



White street

Here again several hypothesis about the origin of the name:  
• Jewish part of town.  
• Nuns went to the hospital along this street .  
• Washerwomen street.

4

## The hospital

Built in the south west of the village, out of the ramparts. Founded in the Middle Ages, it is known under the name of Saint-Jacques and also gives its name to the part of town below.



## La Porte St Anne

Only gate with a drawbridge ; a locking point is still visible on the wall of the former guardhouse. It is the main access to the village from the valley through the "Calade". (the slope)



The Campanette tower

## Quartier St Marc

(St Marc part of town)

Identified thanks to a statue dedicated to the saint -easily recognised through his attributes: a beard and the lion at his feet- and placed on the path leading to the public fountain called «Bayard». The monument suffered from severe damaging but was partially restored by the postman Régis Berthet from Aurel, in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



## La rue Rompe-Cul (Bottom-breaking street) To be avoided on rainy days!

One of the last cobbled streets, truly part of the local patrimony, it has been renovated according to ancient techniques.



## La rue Grande (The big street)

It is the longest street in Sault and limits the ramparts of the *urbs* (urban centre). It links the *Porte Ste-Anne* to the *Place du Plan d'Aurel* and to the *Porte Royale*. It is a residential part of town, with fine dwellings like the *Hôtel de la Broussière*.

## La rue du Club.

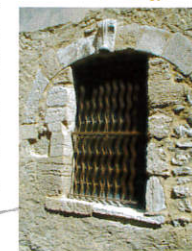
From the church to the *Porte Sainte-Anne*, it was named after the *Société des Amis de la Constitution* (society of the friends of the constitution), created on July 10 1791 and which was affiliated to the *Club des Jacobins de Paris*. This club spread the ideas and the habits of the Revolution throughout the "canton" (district) and ordered that, on December 26 1793, the feudal titles and the ancient documents of the Castle and of the *Maison Commune* be burnt publicly. This society disappeared in the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



## Hôtel de la Broussière

18<sup>th</sup> century private mansion, dwelling of the *Chevalier Bruno*

*Martin de la Broussière* who took an active part in the life of Sault during the French Revolution. He was Commandant of the town militia which was formed on October 25 1789 to maintain public order.



## The Museum



Founded in 1859, it becomes property of the city in 1861, which makes it one of the oldest provincial city museums.

Fit out in the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by one of its founders: Henri Chrestian, its collections are essentially made of gifts. Rich and heterogeneous, from prehistoric times to nowadays, they evoke the history of people from Sault throughout their everyday life objects and the souvenirs from their travels.

– An Egyptian collection; jewels, a mummy.

– A numismatic collection.

– A library, built up in 1893 and

composed of 2500 works, including an original version of the Diderot and D'Alembert Encyclopaedia

– Bernardi de Valernes' paintings

The visitor's book presents prestigious autographs, including those of Victor Hugo, Alfred de Vigny, Adolphe Thiers, Frédéric Mistral.

