

THE GUIDE TO *What To do When*



Visit  Villeneuve

My Villeneuve



ONCE UPON A TIME...

THE PAST EXPLAINS WHAT YOU SEE...



Villeneuve - Les Avignon



6th century

Casarie, daughter of a Visigoth king and wife of the bishop of Avignon, lives as a hermit on Mount Andaon.



10th century

Mount Andaon became an important place of pilgrimage around the tomb of Casarie (Saint in the 11th century). Saint Andrew's Abbey was built there in 982.



Early 13th century

THE KINGS ARE COMING

King Louis VIII was very angry with Avignon, accusing it of defending the Cathars. He laid siege to it in 1226 for 3 months from the Abbey. Avignon was defeated and the King took advantage of the situation to extend the border of the Kingdom of France to Mount Andaon.

Late 13th century

King Philippe-le-Bel continued the work of his great-grandfather. He consolidated the Kingdom's border by creating a Ville Neuve near Avignon to control Avignon and the Pont.



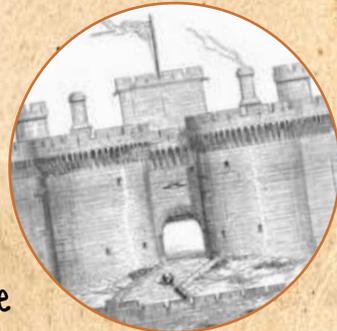
Early 14th century 14th century

THE CARDINALS TOO

From 1305 onwards, the Popes took up residence in Avignon. The cardinals then established their palaces in Villeneuve-lès-Avignon (14 palaces), as they felt safer there.

THE GOLDEN AGE

The Kings, John II and his son Charles V, build the Fort Saint-André. Foundation of the Charterhouse in 1356.



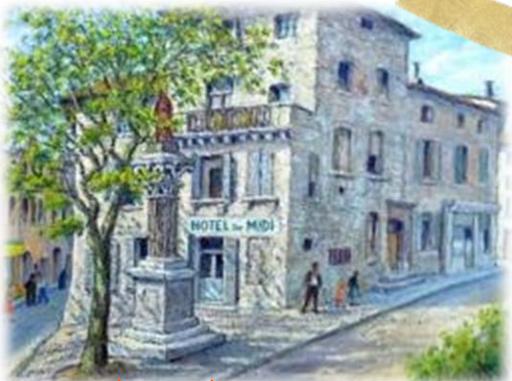
DAY 1 THE PLACE DE L'ORATOIRE AND THE COLLINE DES MOURGUES

MORNING

Brocante, Elsa, Aragon and Canilhac

Palace of Canilhac

On leaving the Atelier hotel, I start by hunting in the **Magasin**. Tons of furniture and objects at unbeatable prices. This shop is located in a former hotel (the Hotel du Midi), which was itself in a former chapel.



Hotel du Midi or Le Magasin

The Oratory Square



Then, I go up the rue de la Foire to reach **the place de l'Oratoire**. On the way I say hello to the Felibre writer Bruno Eyrié (15 rue de la Foire), a local figure, and above all to the mythical couple Aragon/ Triolet who stayed in this house in 1942 (7 pl. de l'oratoire). It was here that Aragon completed "Les yeux d'Elsa". Note **La Quête du Graal**, an excellent address for a good massage.

MY Villeneuve



I love this square so much: a hundred-year-old plane tree, beautiful facades, such as those of the Calvet and Montanègues hotels, or of course those of the **Palais de Canilhac**. It is the prestigious Villeneuve of the 14th to 17th centuries.



Assaulting the Top of the Mourgues Hill

I walk up the **montée de la Tour**, undoubtedly one of the most beautiful streets in Villeneuve. The difference in altitude adds to its charm. I can't help but enter the old gardens of the

Palais de Canilhac, now called "**la Colline des Mourgues**" (Mourgues means "nuns" in Provençal). The view from the north is fantastic! In my opinion, the most beautiful view of Villeneuve. I immortalize this moment for the umpteenth time. No wonder that great painters, like Corot, were in love with this hill. If, like me, you are "rabbits", meaning that you always want to reach the highest point, you will be rewarded, not with a view, but with a small chapel, decorated with frescoes, which I personally am not crazy about. But all tastes are in the nature. On the way down, look at the work of our dear local wind, the Mistral: the trees are leaning. Impossible to lose the North!



Leaning tree



View from the hill

DAY 1 THE PHILIPPE LE BEL TOWER DISTRICT

MORNING



The Gateway to France

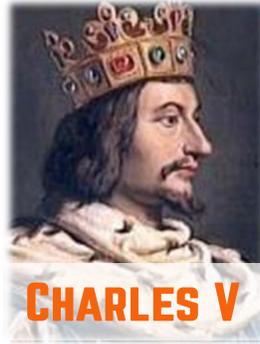
Back in Rue montée de la Tour, I exchange money at the hotel of the same name. And yes, Villeneuve had its own currency until 1700... And royal, Please. Thank you **Charles V**. I also observe the remains of the Orsini Palace visible just before the Tower, on the Rhône side. **Pope Clement VI** was one of its famous owners.



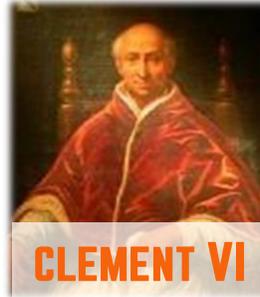
This house now has an excellent table d'hôte (**Maison Orsini** - Reservation required). The view of the City of the Popes is "Cardinal".

The final touch of this morning is the climb to the top of the Tour **Philippe-le-Bel**. 125 steps higher (nobody agrees on the number!), I contemplate **an unforgettable 360° view**. At the same time, watchtower, terminus of the Pont d'Avignon, tollgate, entrance to the Kingdom of France, remains of a royal castle... At the top, I feel the weight of the past and the considerable strategic importance that this building must have had in the 14th century.

3 CHARACTERS,
3 HERITAGES



CHARLES V

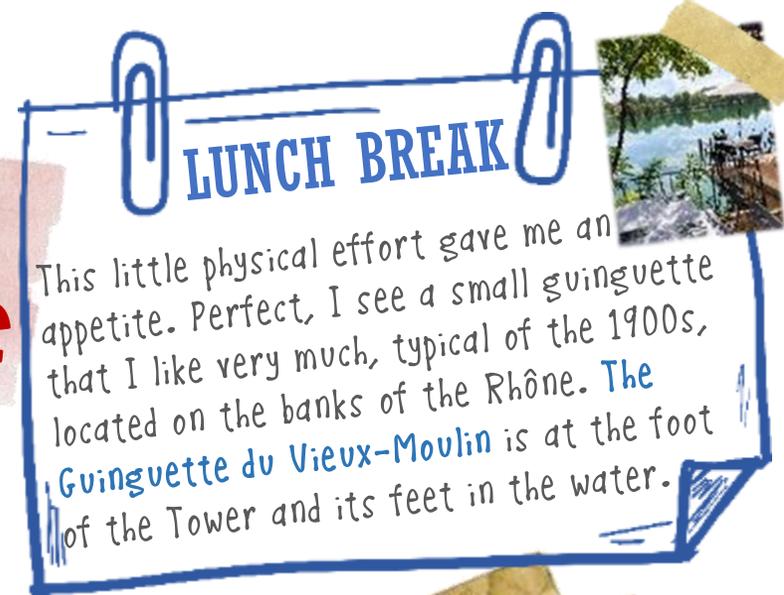


CLEMENT VI



PHILIP IV

My Villeneuve



DAY 1 AFTERNOON

THE ABBEY PLAIN



For me, the Abbey Plain is a kind of Paradise. During my walks, how many times have I said "I would so like to live in the Plain". Unfortunately, it is an inaccessible jewel, because even if floods are becoming increasingly rare, the plain is in a flood zone.

So I make the most of it by leaving our beautiful medieval city. Each time I measure how lucky we are to go from a rich historical environment to a space of true Nature, all in a few minutes.

The real NATURE at 2 min.

A digestive stroll is in order. What could be better than a stroll along the counter-channel in the **Plaine de l'Abbaye**. Whatever the season, it's a magical walk through the monks' former farmland.

You start from **the Guinguette**. Then you choose the duration, short or long version. **See the proposal on the right**.

At any time, it is possible to go back to the hotel. Each time I walk around the plain, it is a new discovery. A huge 16th century **PLANE TREE**, a 300 year old **OAK tree** (at the end of the canal), magnificent **views** of the Fort Saint-André or the Ventoux, an unusual pine forest (chemin de la Savoye) ideal for a snack, an **18th century MAS** (de Bourbon), orchards, fields of wheat and sunflowers, shared gardens, horses or ponies (Delphine's)...

If you are lucky, you will even see **BEAVERS**, or rather their works. Because these little rodents are rather nocturnal (well, not so little... A good metre!)

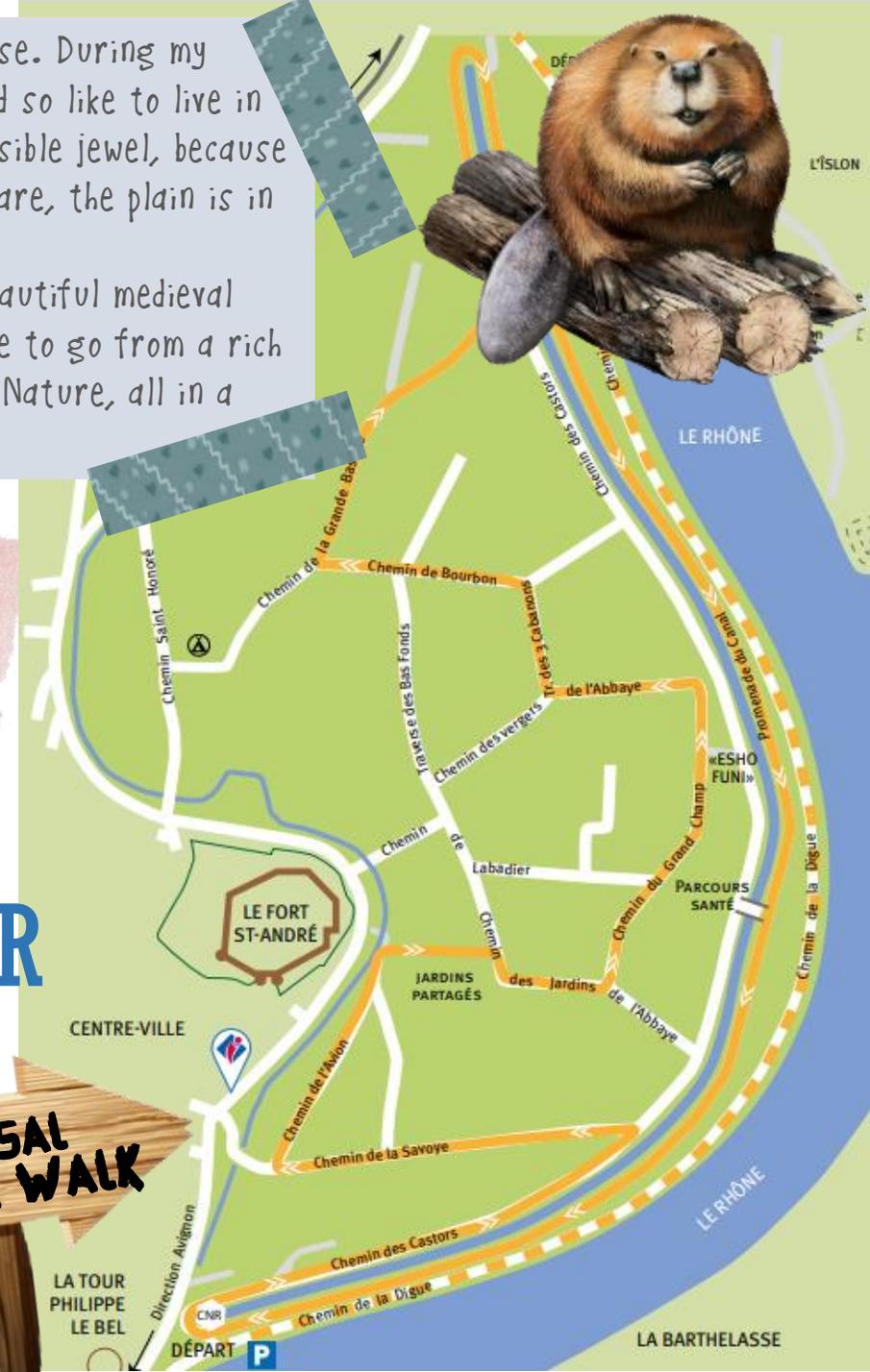
MY Villeneuve



BIKE & DINNER

I like to rent bikes at the **Hotel de l'Atelier** and ride around the Plaine de l'Abbaye. In the evening, I deserved tapas at the **Barrel** or a vegetarian dinner at **Naturabsolv**.

PROPOSAL
FOR A WALK



DAY 2 MORNING

THE CHARTREUSE DISTRICT

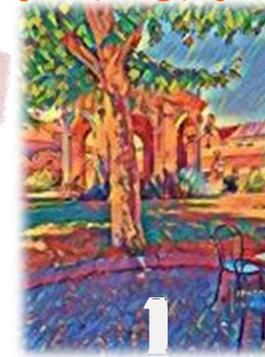


My Villeneuve

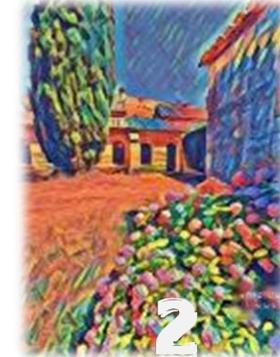
The largest Charterhouse in Europe...

La Chartreuse? It is the story of a Cardinal, Etienne Aubert, who moves away from the hustle and bustle of Avignon, to create a Palace in the peaceful Villeneuve. This cardinal became Pope (Innocent VI). He donates his palace to the Carthusian order. This palace became the largest and most powerful Charterhouse in the Kingdom. For me, the Carthusian monastery is above all its **3 cloisters**, all with a different charm, **the tomb of Innocent VI** and the frescos of the painter in vogue at the time, **Matteo Giovannetti**.

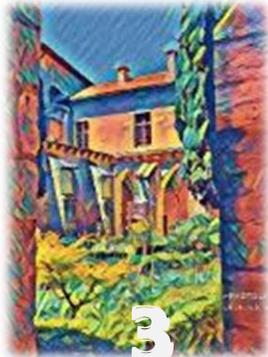
Cloister St Jean



Cloister of the dead



Small cloister



... It has also become a cultural Mecca

La Chartreuse has become a residence for authors. A real cultural bubbling is going on all year long. Its bookshop has become a reference, with more than 10,000 titles devoted to theatre. I also like to have a hot drink at the **Café littéraire St-Jean**.

 I like to stroll in the alleys surrounding the Chartreuse (Bugade, Amelier, Greniers)! In the vicinity, there is also the ice cream parlour

—s Mamio —

UNAVOIDABLE!



LUNCH BREAK

To stay in the cardinal atmosphere, I have lunch at the **Divigne**, next to the Palais de la Thurroye. Inventive and local vegetarian cuisine! Another idea, the former Chartreuse mill. Bistro cuisine in a place steeped in history. **Maison Bronzini**.



DAY 2 AFTERNOON



MY

THE PIERRE DE LUXEMBOURG MUSEUM Villeneuve

2 masterpieces and 1 magic cupboard

I regularly visit the **Musée Pierre de Luxembourg**, at 3 Rue de la République. On the surface, it seems to be a small provincial museum, showcasing local painters, sometimes famous and sometimes less so. It is in reality a much more prestigious place. There are 2 masterpieces in this former Cardinal's Palace (**Ceccano Palace**): **The Ivory Madonna** (a 14th century sculpture on the ground floor, of a rare sweetness) and **the Coronation of the Virgin** (altarpiece on 1^{er} floor). This second piece is our pride and joy, and its painter, **Enguerrand Quarton**, is a sort of "local star" in Villeneuve. No copyist has been able to reproduce the famous painting, otherwise it would have gone to the Louvre Museum (as was the case for the Pietà by the same painter). This painting would deserve a very long development. For more details, the library of the hotel includes a book entirely dedicated to it.



Pierre de Luxembourg was made a Cardinal at the age of 17, but he was only a Cardinal for 10 months, so extreme were the penances he imposed on himself. On his tombstone, no less than 1964 miracles are recorded. Adulated and Patron Saint of Avignon.

I also enjoy rediscovering my town and its surroundings through the testimonies of these painters and sculptors. Saint Andrew's Abbey was so beautiful in 1765 in the painting by **W. Marlow's painting**. What did we do during the Revolution? The proximity of the Rhône is also noticeable. When I say that the Hôtel de l'Atelier was in the water at that time, that is no exaggeration. The Rhone has receded by about 800 metres with the modern developments.

On the top floor there is also a 17th century **'magic' cupboard**. Ask one of the guides to show you its secrets.

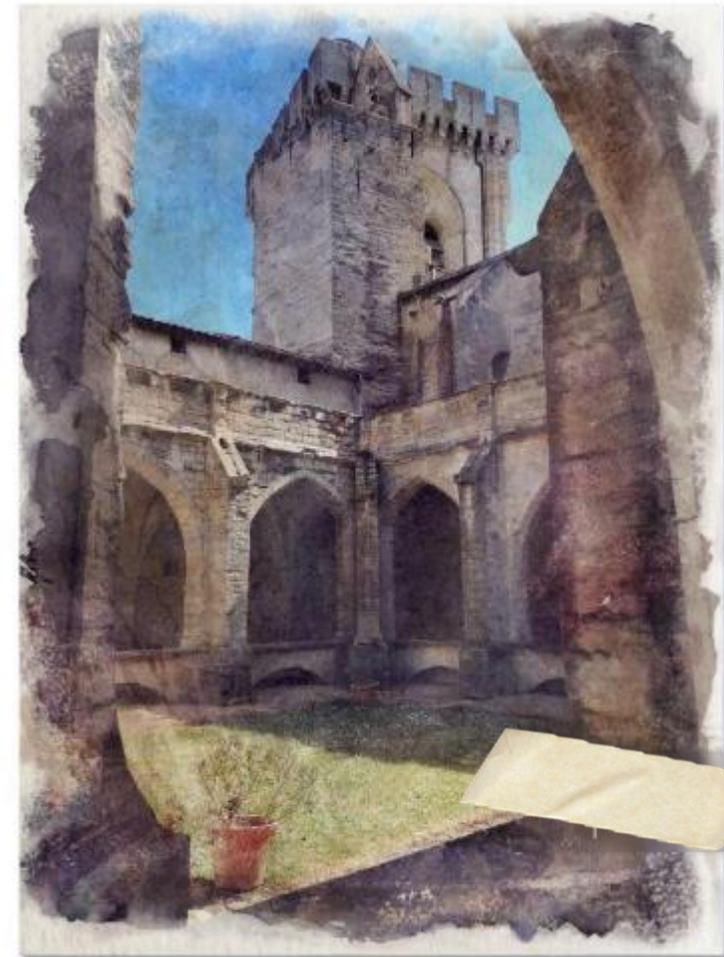


DAY 2 AFTERNOON



MY Villeneuve

Each time I pass through this "secret" passageway, I feel like a privileged person, as I am often alone in contemplating this treasure of southern Gothic architecture.



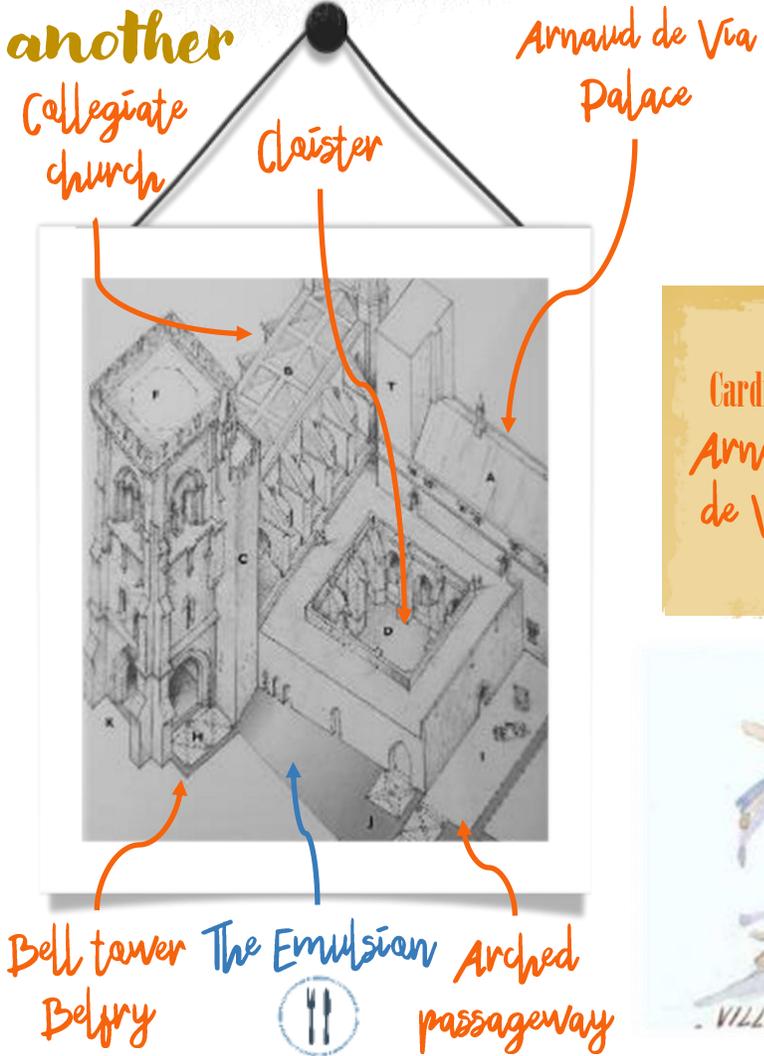
THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF NOTRE DAME

From one Palace to another

After the Ceccano Palace, I head for the neighbouring Palace of **Arnaud de Via**, nephew of Pope John XXII. Going from one Palace to another is the whole story of Villeneuve!

Before continuing my walk, I have a bite to eat at **Violette**, one of the 6 bakeries of the House, and located between the 2 palaces. Everything I like, local and authentic products. I also like **the Magie des Pains** and **Marcellin** bakeries.

I take the small arched passageway opposite the Town Hall, and then enter the Palace grounds. In front of you, the main building of the Palace. On the left, **the cloister of the Collegiate Church**, built after the death of the Cardinal by the canons.



DAY 2 AFTERNOON



My Villeneuve

THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF NOTRE DAME

*The work of a Cardinal
and Canons*

Then I enter the Collegiate Church, originally the chapel of the Palace of Arnaud de Via. The belfry was added about 30 years after his death. I cannot help but admire *the copy of the Pietà* by Enguerrand Quarton and *the recumbent of the Cardinal*

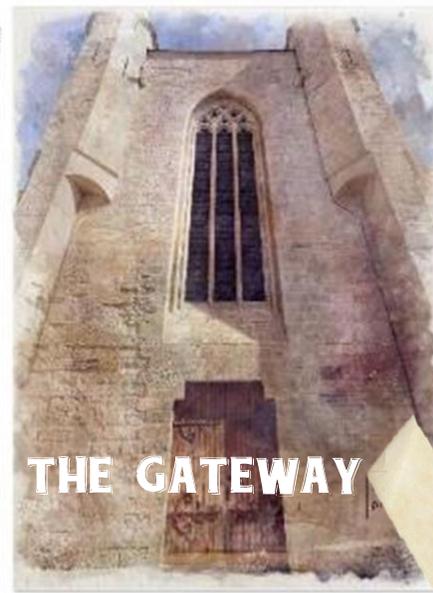
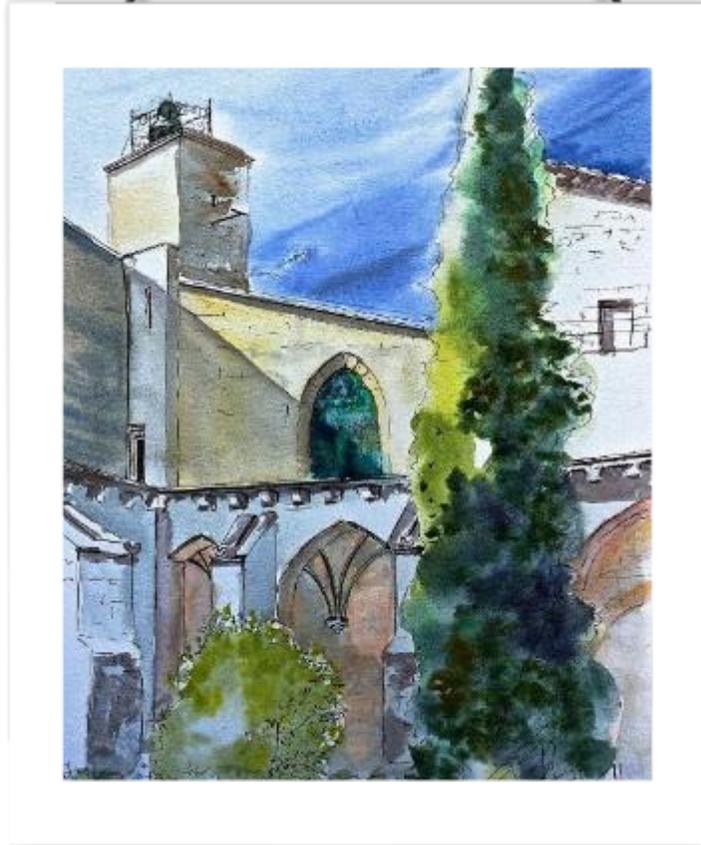
The Pietà



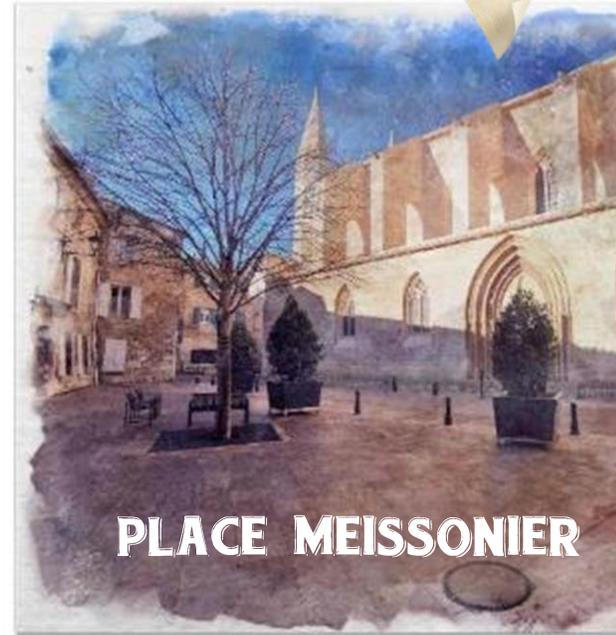
Founder in the Chapel of the Relics on the cloister side.

I finished my visit with some unmissable photos, given the targets: the Portal of the Collegiate Church, the Place

Meissonnier and the typical arcades of the rue de l'hôpital (former shopping street of Villeneuve, with its markets and fairs).



THE GATEWAY



PLACE MEISSONNIER



RUE DE L'HOPITAL

DINNER

I suggest starting with a beer at the *Bar de la Mairie*, and continuing with a gala dinner at *L'Emulsion*, or *Flo's Restaurant* or *Les Jardins de la Livrée*.



DAY 3 MORNING

IN THE BEGINNING WAS MOUNT ANDAON



My

Villeneuve

68 metres of intimidation

This morning, my mission is to reach the highest point of Villeneuve, namely Mont Andaon. For a change, I prefer to go through the passage and then the rue des recollets (named after a former convent). In this street, I like to look at the beautiful photo prints of M. Volponi at L'Evasion Imagiere (N°15). On the right is the Tourist Office, located in the former house of the Maître du Port, confirming the close presence of the Rhône. At the end of the street, on the left, I take the fast slope, which bears its name well. The climb is steep. But the beauty of this little calade is well worth the effort. At the junction with the Montée du Fort (yes, for the choice of the street names, we were pragmatic), I still admire with the same pleasure the splendid view of the City of the Popes and its green belt... Unless it is that of Villeneuve!

More than 1,000 years of quarrelling and jealousy with Avignon began at the top of Mount Andaon.



L' Evasion Imagiere

N°15

MONTEE DU FORT

View of the City of the Popes

The Fast Slope

Montee du Fort



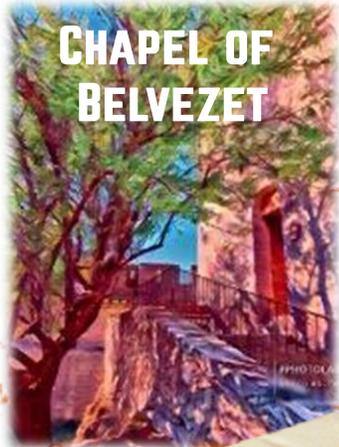
DAY 3 MORNING LE FORT ST ANDRE

Who is the STRONGEST?

I arrive at the foot of the **the Twin Towers**, impressive entrance of the fortress. The Capetian Kings themselves built this fortress in the 13th and 14th centuries, not to live in it, but to mark their territory in the face of Avignon, which was then under the control of the Holy Germanic Empire. The speaker is like a brain. **The right-hand side is** that of the Abbey of Saint-André, an ultra-powerful Benedictine abbey of the 10th century (up to 200 churches and priories under its control in Provence) and built on the site of Pilgrimage of St. Casaria (6th century). **The left side** is dedicated to the Royal Fort, i.e. the defence of the town, the abbey and the surrounding area. Two royal treaties in 1226 and 1292 confirmed this show of strength. From then on, Avignon and then the Popes knew this. They had to keep a tight rein on themselves.

My Villeneuve

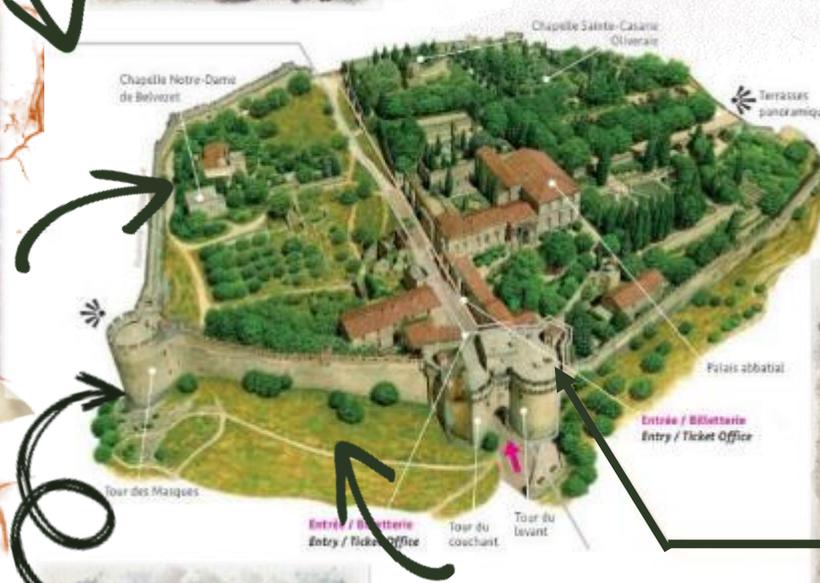
I like to visit the Fort first to get a sense of height. **The walkway is a must.** I also love **the view from the Chapelle de Belvezet**, which allows you to contemplate 4 views in a row (the fortifications of the Fort, the Philippe-Bel Tower, the green belt and the City of the Popes).



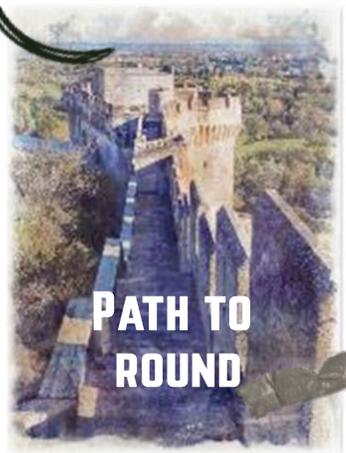
CHAPEL OF
BELVEZET



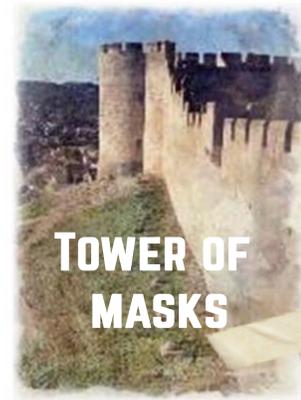
REAR VIEW



TWIN TOWERS



PATH TO
ROUND



TOWER OF
MASKS



DAY 3 ST. ANDREW'S ABBEY AFTERNOON



A visit in a deckchair



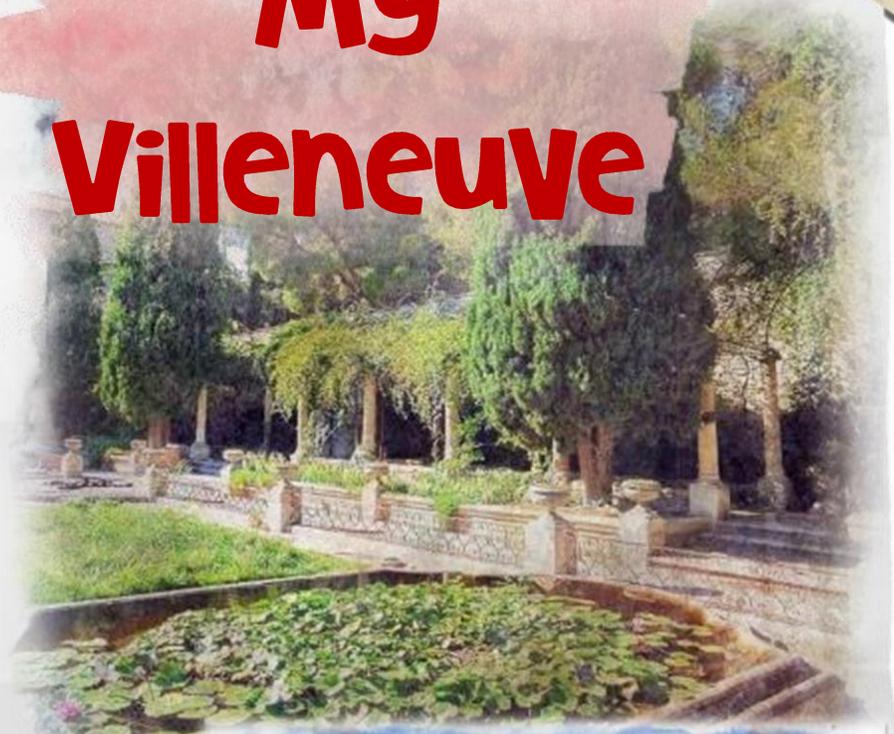
Then I go to relax in the Abbaye Saint-André. Beyond its remarkable gardens in France and its many memorable views, it is for me a true place of disconnection and rest. I grab a book and settle into the sun loungers, always strategically placed in the gardens to enjoy a view.

LOUNGE CHAIR



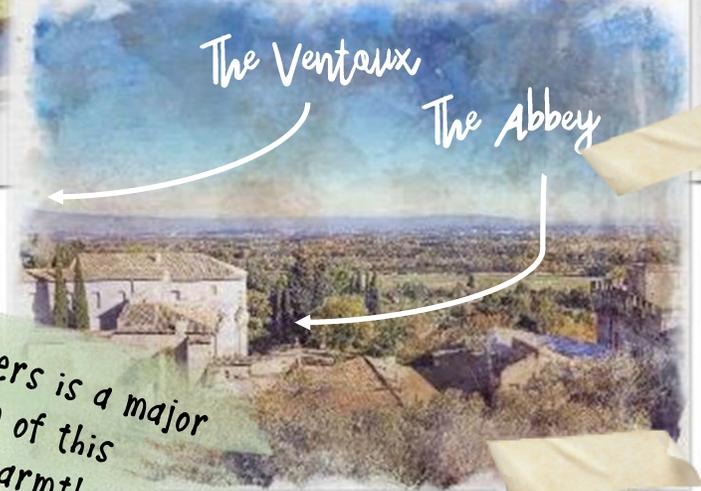
The dynamism of the owners is a major factor in the preservation of this prestigious place and its warmth.

MY Villeneuve



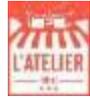
The Ventoux

The Abbey



DAY 3 LA MONTEE DU FORT

AFTERNOON



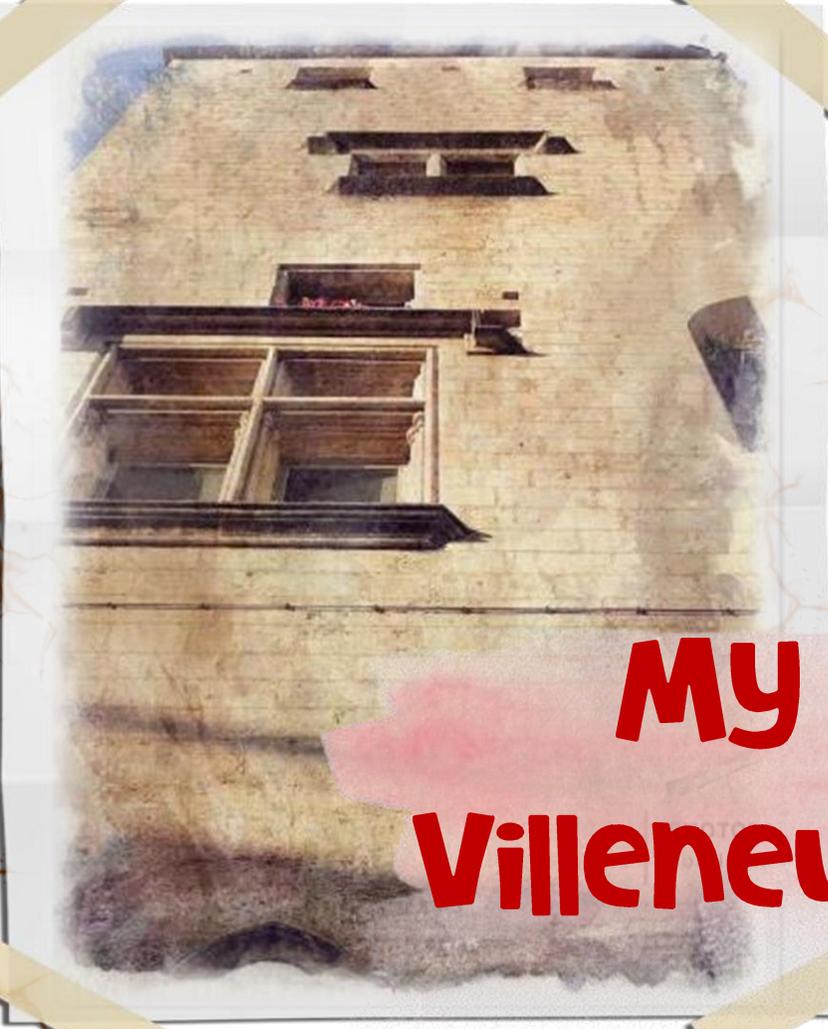
The "descent" of the Montée du Fort



GROCERY STORE

#PHOTOLAB
photonlab.m

After my visit, I go back to **the Place Jean Jaurès** via the montée du Fort. On my way, I risk a stiff neck by raising my head at the foot of the **Palais Bertrand du Pouget (N°9)**. It is the best preserved Cardinal's Palace in Villeneuve, as is its beautiful roof of lauzes. A bit like San Gimignano, the aim is to show its power and wealth by gaining height. Mission accomplished: it far exceeds the neighbourhood.



A little further up, I like to stop at **Ninie's grocery shop (N°17)**. Good finds and good local products (honey, olive oils, cheeses, wines, etc.). And Virginie is so nice!

Bon Appétit!

DINNER

The Place Jean Jaurès is the place for restaurants in Villeneuve. I regularly have lunch or dinner there. **L'Aubergine, La Salamandre, Kashmir, Chez Olivier** are good values, with a reasonable budget.

My Villeneuve

BONUS N°1

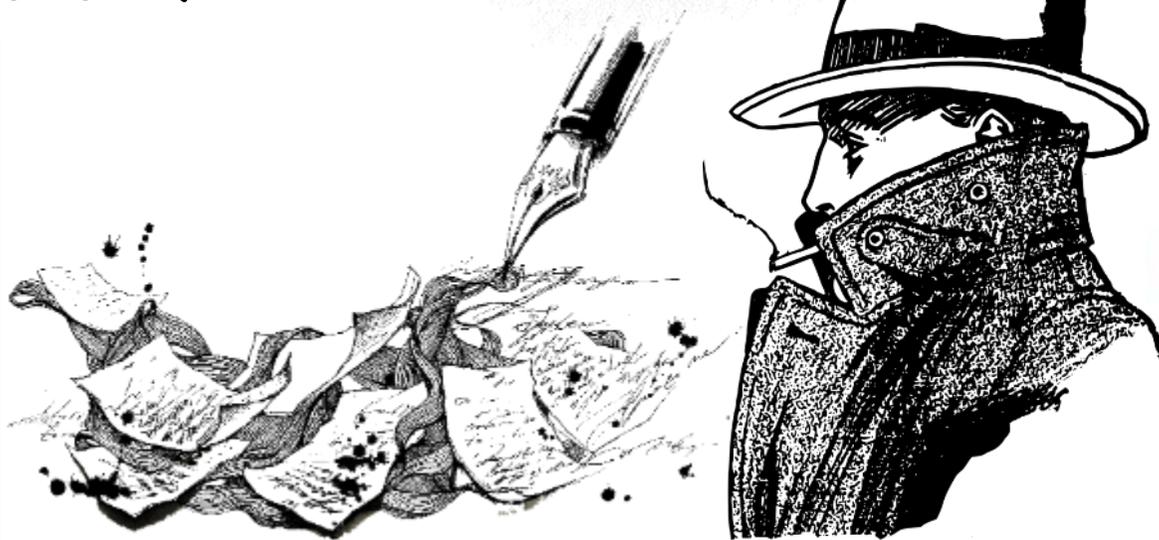


My

Villeneuve

The Villeneuve Festivals

Do you like thrillers? I recommend you to come on the weekend of November 11th.



Do you like theatre? I recommend a stay between the 10th and 20th of July.



FESTIVAL
**VILLENEUVE
EN SCÈNE**
Théâtres en itinérance
9 au 21
JUILLET 2022



These are two moments that I particularly like. Villeneuve is no longer the same, and an effervescence is perceptible. The best thriller writers from all over the world take up residence in the Chartreuse. It has become an unmissable event. On the theatre side, a good dozen quality plays are strategically spread out in the village, especially in the Plaine de l'Abbaye.

Other major events in Villeneuve: **Fête Saint-Marc** (traditional village festival, last weekend in April), **Fête de l'Architecture** (weekend in mid-October), **Les Rencontres d'Aubergine** (contemporary art trail, April).



BONUS N°2



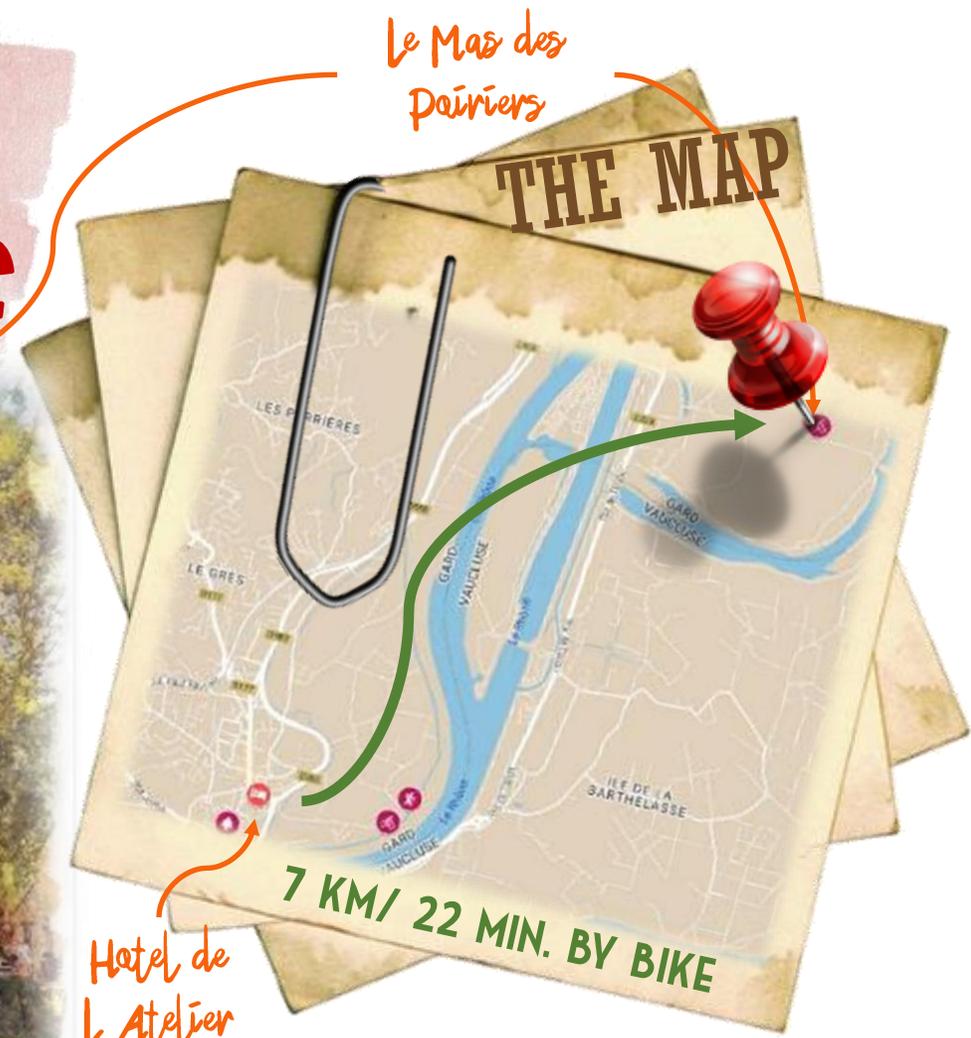
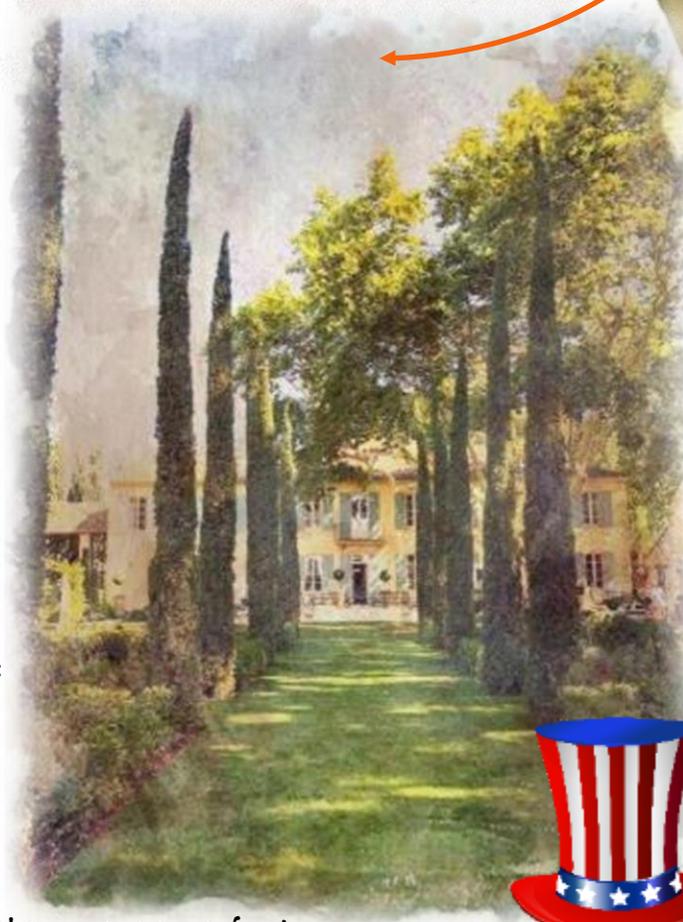
In the footsteps of B. OBAMA

The former American President and his family spent their holidays in Villeneuve-lès-Avignon in June 2019, with all the craziness that the arrival of such a Head of State can generate. The national and international media then discovered Villeneuve-lès-Avignon and the magical place chosen: **the Mas des Poiriers**.

This farmhouse is located on the island de la Motte, i.e. to the north of the island of Barthelasse. You will hardly be able to see the 1200 m² Mas and its 23 ha, but you will have an idea of the beauty of the Environment that the family has chosen. You can easily reach the entrance to the Mas by bike or even on foot.

I'll give you the rest of the President's programme: visit to the Palace of the Popes, dinner at La Mirande, visit to Château Vaudieu in

My Villeneuve



Le Mas des Poiriers

Hotel de L'Atelier



Chateauneuf-du-Pape, market in L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, panorama of the Madeleine cliff (Lioux), escapade in the Var and in particular at Château Saint-Pierre, Château de Taulaune (wine, golf), Verdon and Bastide de Calalou, Château La Coste, Les Baux-de-Provence and dinner at L'Oustav de Baumanière. Big artillery! Nice programme Mister President!

BONUS N°3



My

Villeneuve

Escape Game in Villeneuve

Why not visit Villeneuve while having fun? I propose investigations to be carried out in families or between adults, in perfect autonomy.

- One of them takes place in the Fort via a booklet-game for €2, available on site. **Photo 1.**
- Another one takes place in the village by picking up a free booklet available at the Tourist Office, entitled "The stolen treasure of Villeneuve-Lez-Avignon". **Photo 2.**



- Finally, I would like to recommend the survey called "Saint-André, la frontière du Royaume". You can download it on your smartphone (type "Escape app Villeneuve lez Avignon". Very immersive and educational! Build Villeneuve as our ancestors did!

Photo 3.

BONUS N°4



The markets of Villeneuve



I wouldn't miss the special atmosphere of a local market for anything in the world, especially when the corner is called Villeneuve. Perfect! The markets are located 200 m from the Atelier hotel (Place Charles David).

Thursday is the Provençal market, awarded the "Parasol d'Or" label, which means that it is one of the best markets in Provence.

Saturday is the antique market, which over time has become one of the main flea markets in the region. The best thing is to finish the morning by tasting oysters

with a good glass of white wine, while enjoying the background music of a talented guitarist. Another excellent choice is **La Petite Cuillère**, located on the Place du Marché.



BONUS N°5



My

Villeneuve

Stroll to the pointed castle

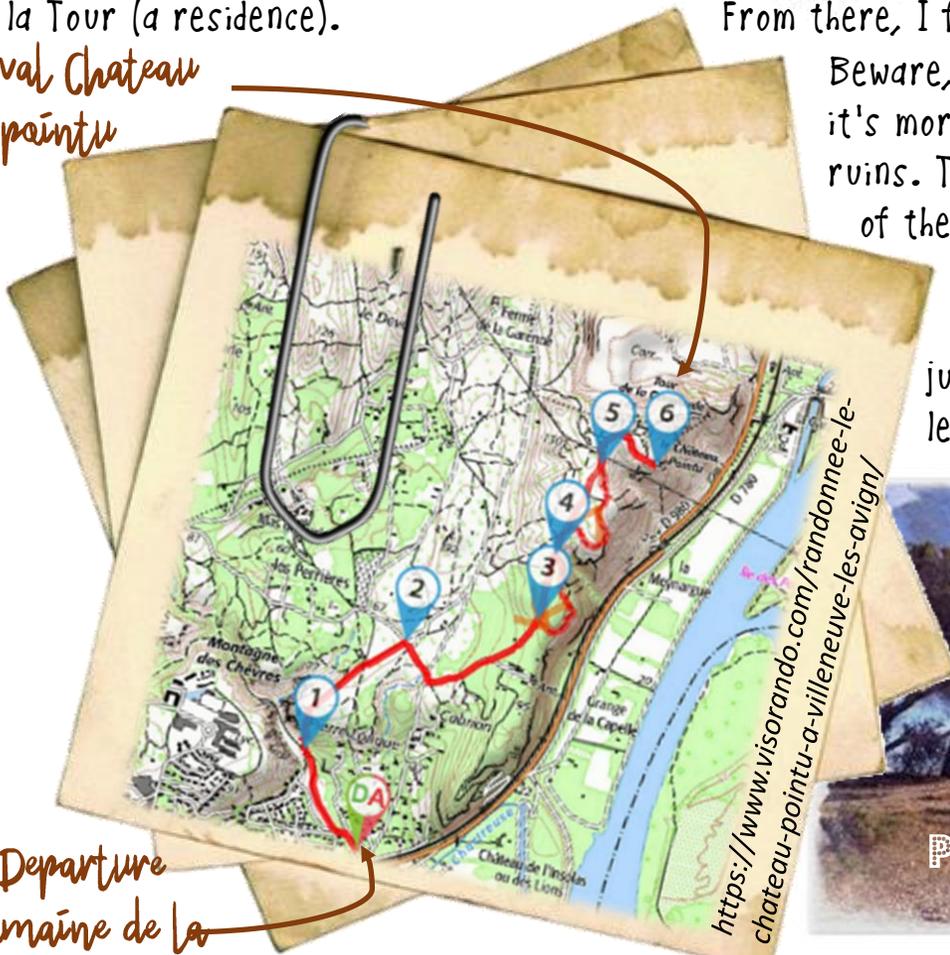
For a change from the plain of the Abbey, I like to walk to the pointed castle from the Hôtel de l'Atelier. I take the Rue de la République, then leave the historic centre to reach the Domaine de la Tour (a residence).

From there, I follow the path described here.

Beware, "pointed castle" is a big word, it's more like a mini watchtower in ruins. The goal

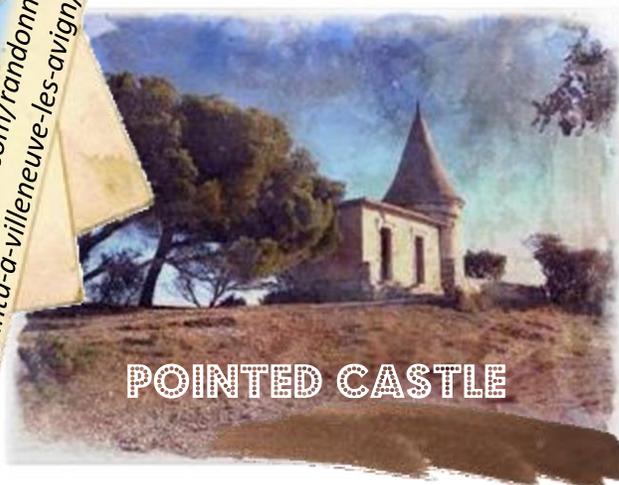
of the walk is more the region. The walk is pleasant, not too long, not too hard, just enough to stretch your legs.

Arrival Chateau pointu



Departure Domaine de la

<https://www.visorando.com/randonnee-le-chateau-pointu-a-villeneuve-les-avign/>



POINTED CASTLE

BONUS N°6



A guided tour of Villeneuve?

Sometimes it's so nice to be led by a guide, especially when he or she teaches you lots of things and shares lots of anecdotes.

In Villeneuve-les-Avignon, I have the choice between the Tourist Office's programme of guided (thematic) tours and the guided tours of the Noctambules. In the 1^{er} case, David is most often our guide. The "visit" guide (available online) is dedicated to these guided tours and lists them according to the period (low season, spring, summer). In the 2nd cases, Vincent will be your host and has concocted a daytime visit (Sunday 9am) and a nighttime visit of Villeneuve (Monday 9pm).



BONUS N°7



My

Villeneuve

The beautiful story of Mas de Carles

66

It is impossible for a Villeneuve resident not to know the Mas de Carles. They will always speak of it with pride, as the story is so beautiful. It all started with yet another initiative by **Father Joseph Persat** in the early 1960s. His wish: to provide a place to be happy. He found this place in Mas de Carles. People in difficulty now have a place to get on with their lives.

99

Mas de Carles



66

More than 60 years later, there are about twenty employees in rehabilitation, about thirty volunteers and more than 80 residents. Thanks to these people, very good organic and solidarity products are made available to us (cheeses, olive oils, poultry, jams, etc.). I highly recommend a visit.

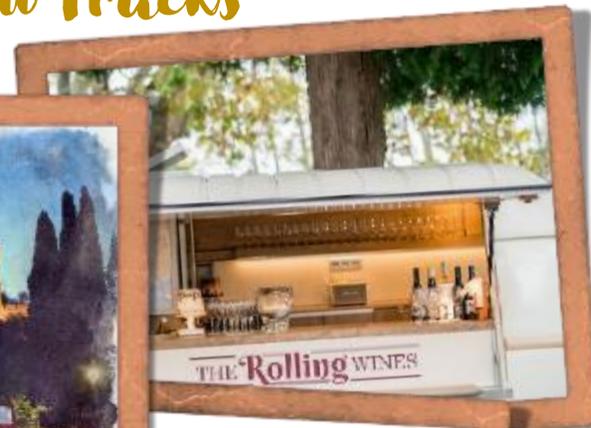
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BONUS N°8



Monday Food Trucks



Every Monday evening, I love going to the end of the Place Charles David to choose my evening meal. The principle is simple: tables, chairs, a good atmosphere and food trucks for all tastes (French, Mexican, Asian, etc.). While waiting for my order to be ready, I like to have a drink at **Rolling Wines**. Music and wine! The best! Christophe is a connoisseur and will advise you.