

DAY 2 MORNING

THE BOURGUET DISTRICT « A ROYAL BASTIDE »

The oldest district of Villeneuve

After a good breakfast (of course at L'Atelier), I head for the **Place du Bourguet**, located just opposite the hotel. Besides the beauty of this small square and the church of St-Pons, I enter **the Bourguet district**, the Ville Neuve, created in 1293 by Philippe-le-Bel. The Mont-Andaon was no longer sufficient (Bourg Saint-André), so the King of France decided to create a military district at the foot of it. A sort of "miniature Aigues-Mortes", the alleys are narrow, straight and made up of simple dwellings with no exterior. The statue of **St-Antoine** protects the whole. I like to pass through it rather than use the main roads. Underneath its calm exterior, it is not uncommon to see local residents making up the world and improvising an aperitif in the alleys.

The Main Street

Going up the main street of the village (Rue de la République), several atypical places attract my attention. The 3 dead ends on the left are very cute. One of them leads to **the Chapelle des Pénitents Gris** (visitable on request at the Tourist Office). It is a kind of social assistance of the time. It is adjacent to the former **Palais de la Thurroye** (Cardinal). Note also the amazing **impasse du Goulet**.

Church of St
Pons early 14th
century

THE MAP



MY Villeneuve



Statue of
Saint
Anthony
13th
century

Impasse du
Goulet

Place du
Bourguet



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**.

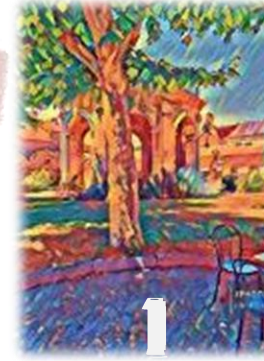
 I like to stroll in the alleys surrounding the Chartreuse (Bugade, Amelier, Greniers)! In the vicinity, there is also the ice cream parlour

—s Mamio—

UNAVOIDABLE!



Cloister St Jean



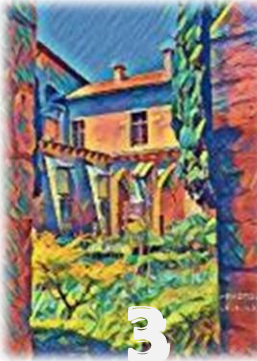
1

Cloister of the dead



2

Small cloister



3

... 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**.

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**.



27.07.2019. LA CHARTREUSE
VILLENUEVE LEZ AVIGNON.

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.

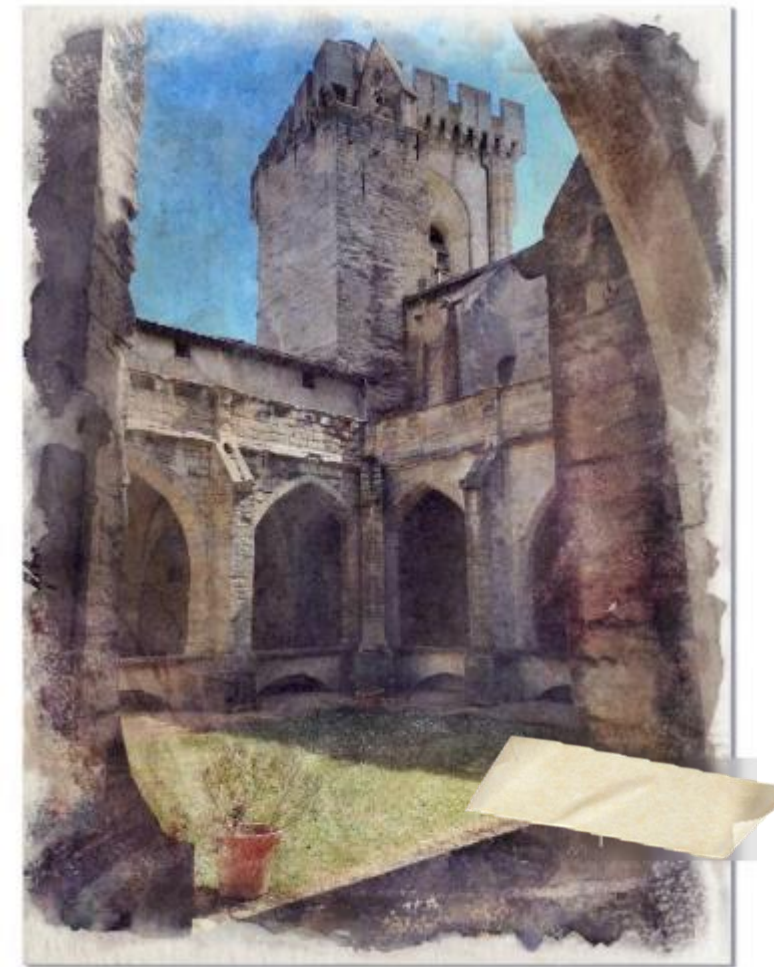


DAY 2 AFTERNOON



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.



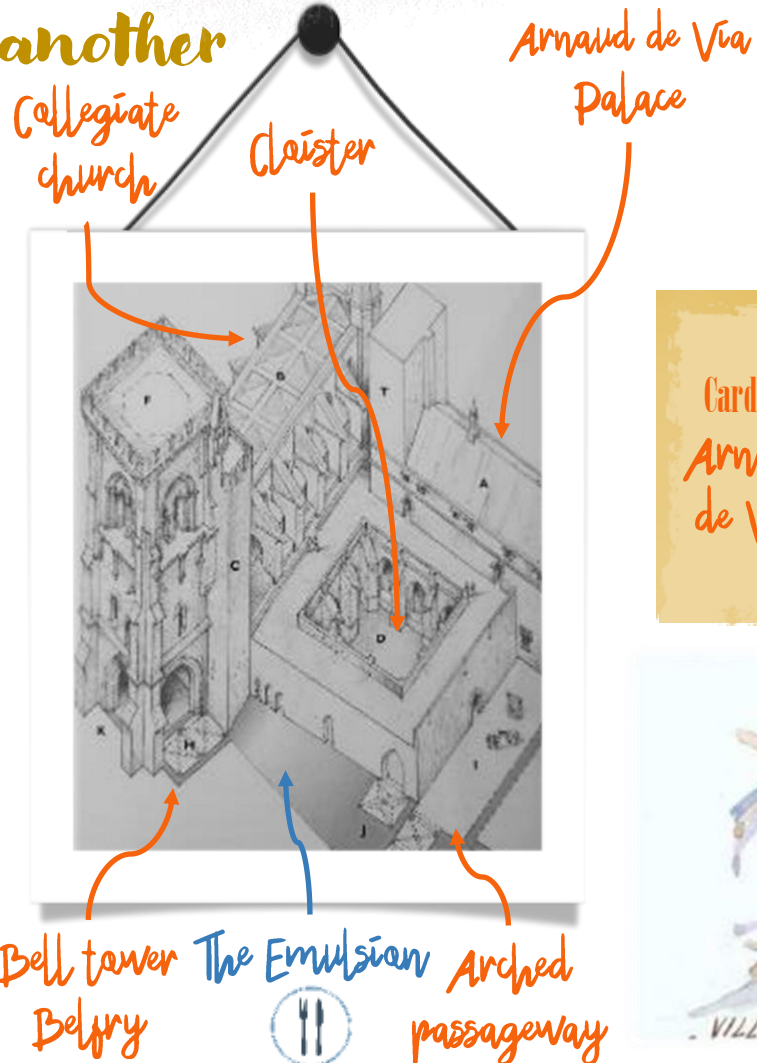
THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF NOTRE DAME

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



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 Quarron and **the recumbent of the Cardinal**

The Pietà

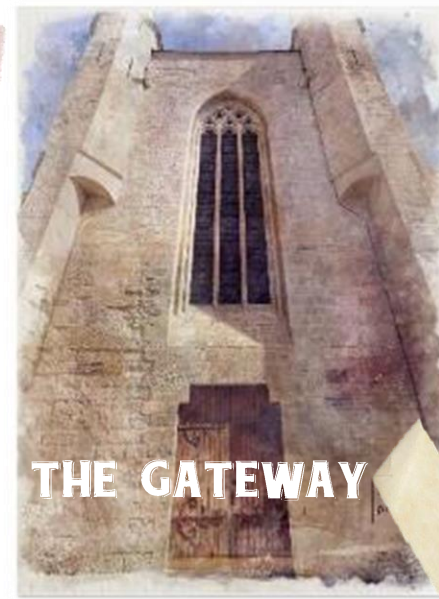


Founder in the Chapel of the Relics on the cloister side.

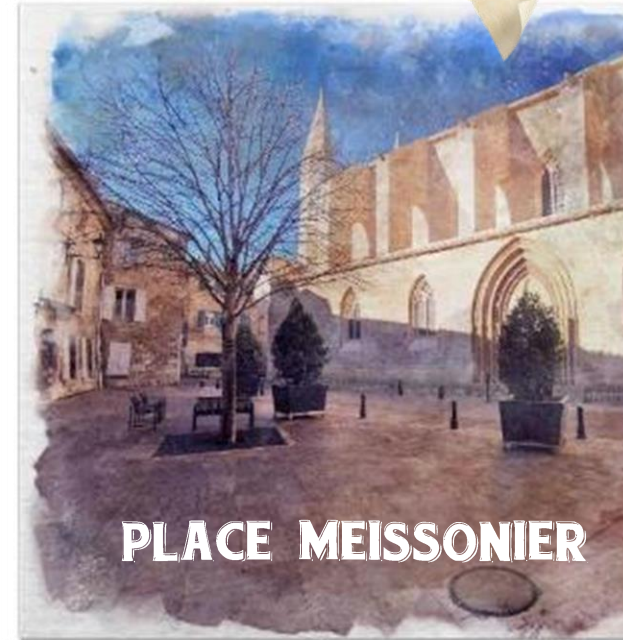
I finished my visit with some unmissable photos, given the targets: the Portal of the Collegiate Church, the Place

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

My Villeneuve



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**.