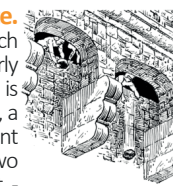




VISIT THE BASTIDE

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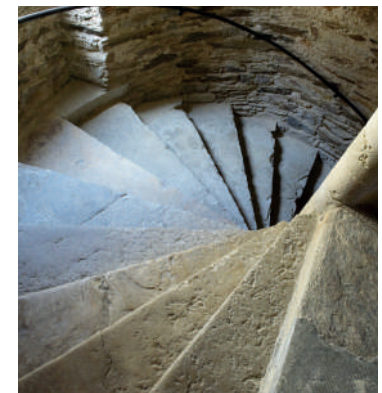


- 1 **La Place des arcades - The arcades square.** A 60 x 40 metres central square, bordered by “gitats”- a space formed by the overhanging stories of the buildings, supported by pointed stone arcades dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. Visitors and shoppers enjoy strolling along these sheltered walkways. Here you can admire the different front doors of the many houses. In the centre of the plaza, there is a well which is 14m deep and a wrought iron cross dating from 1782.
 - 2 **Maison « Unal » - The Unal House.** A beautiful example of timber framing “en pan de bois”. To the right, the house with a sundial on the facade is the Lacam House, the former salt cellar and residence of François Magne; Sauveterre’s Republican mayor who was exiled to Algeria in 1852 for opposing Napoleon III’s overthrow.
 - 3 **Hôtel de ville - Town hall.** This is typical of the houses bordering the square and consists of two buildings separated by an interior courtyard. The courtyard provides ventilation and sunlight and a well provides access to water for both houses. The rib-vaulted ceiling corridor is adorned with sculptures (bull’s head, human faces). Looking up towards the first floor balcony, you can see a frieze sculpted by the “Compagnons du Devoir” –Journeyman Craftsmen Association.
 - 4 **Maison Dalmas-Resseguier - Dalmas-Resseguier’s House.** On the facade, towards the left one can see the coat of arms of this prominent family whose descendant is the famous navigator Lapérouse. On the right, is the D’Estaing family’s coat of arms. Today, this renovated building and the adjoining buildings form the Laperouse quarter, a space dedicated to various local artists
 - 5 **Grand Fossé - Moat.** The only part of the former moat still filled with water. This used to surround the Bastide. It is now home for several varieties of ducks and swans.
 - 6 **Porte St Christophe - Saint Christopher’s Gate.** One of the four gates of the 14th century which allowed access to the bastide. This gate was formerly crowned by a machicolation (pict.). The outer face is adorned by a 14th-15th century pointed arch. Inside, a niche contains a Renaissance statue of Saint Christopher-holy patron of the village-, flanked by two other statues less well preserved. Puits de Brassat - Brassat well: its remarkable architecture shows its importance. The shutter you can see behind the mechanisms was to allow privileged access for the owner of the house against which it is situated. Two mechanisms are reminiscent of the evolution in the system used to drain the wells. 
 - 7 **Croix de la Merette - The Merette’s cross.** A 16th century sandstone cross. Facing North is Christ on the cross flanked by the Virgin Mary and St John. Facing South is the Virgin Mary and her Child with St Christopher, St James -holy patron of the hat makers- and St Lupus -holy patron of the village of Jouels.
 - 8 **Porte St Vital - Saint Vital’s Gate.** The second gate to the south of the bastide. It is possible to see the holes on the beam where locks were once fixed. Further down the street, one can see the bust of St Vital -the first holy patron of the village.
 - 9 **Tour de la Merette – Merette’s Tower.** This 14th century tower is the only one remaining out of the four which originally marked the corners of the fortifications of the bastide. On the tower, one can see the remnants of the walls that used to surround the Bastide.
 - 10 **Espace Lapérouse - Laperouse area.** Established in 2009, this area incorporates several buildings: to the south, the Dalmas-Resseguier’s house; to the north, the former convent; and newly built workshops and a craft shop. It is the headquarters of local artisans and craftsmen
 - 11 **Maison Lemonnier - Lemonnier’s House.** Another remarkable example of half-timbered architecture. Lovely sculptures on the beams. Adjacent to this house is the Heritage House where objects and collections of the past are exhibited. It is also home to a historical library. (Free entry)
 - 12 **Ancien cimetière - Former cemetery.** There is a cross here that probably dates from the 14th Century. The cemetery was turned into a rose garden where various stone relics are displayed, notably a headstone engraved with Latin inscriptions.
 - 13 **Collégiale St Christophe - Saint Christopher’s Collegial church.** The first church (1313) built outside the Bastide walls, over the oratory and to the east of the actual bell tower. In 1388, the church was relocated to the opposite side of the bell tower. Its structure is typical of southern gothic and contains important items of furniture. Inside the three-stories high bell tower is the ‘community store’ which contains objects and antiques from traditional bastide life.
 - 14 **Puits de la place de la Caminade – The Caminade Square well.** Its semicircle shape closed by a supporting stone is typical of the wells in Sauveterre. The supporting stone bears marks of wear due to the friction of the rope when hoisting the bucket. Towards the end of the square, one can see other remnants of the Bastide walls.
 - 15 **Travail à ferrer - Shoeing Work.** This is the place where the blacksmith used to shoe the cows (C19th)
 - 16 **Four banal – Communal wood oven.** Built in 1846 on the former location of the North Eastern tower. Each household would bring their bread to be baked in this oven. One person called the “fournier” was designated to be in charge of maintaining the fire and baking the bread for all the villagers. In Medieval times and up to the 15th century, the term “banal” refers to a feudal duty called the “ban” villagers paid in exchange for using a service, for instance a baking service.
 - 17 **Rue St Jean – Saint John Street.** This was once the main entrance to the Bastide and was the only entrance equipped with a drawbridge.
 - 18 **Bascule - The Scale.** This building was built in the 19th century on the former north eastern tower location. Today the building contains different weights and scales that were used in the past.
 - 19 **Espace Lapérouse - Laperouse area.** Established in 2009, this area incorporates several buildings: to the south, the Dalmas-Resseguier’s house; to the north, the former convent; and newly built workshops and a craft shop. It is the headquarters of local artisans and craftsmen



Discover

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THE BASTIDE DESIGN

The Bastide layout is based on a rectangular shape measuring 225 by 175 metres (738 x 574 ft). That is an area of about 4 hectares (less than 10 acres). A total of nine lots are delimited by 6 metres wide parallel streets intersected by 6 metres long narrower ones. All are of equal proportion and subdivided by alleyways called “carrieyrons”. In the centre of those nine lots is the main square. The other 8 lots were meant for housing construction. This layout, similar to a grid, is typical of the Bastides’ although it is not a perfectly perpendicular grid. The main streets extend towards the outside of the Bastide and provided access to the town’s gardens - “hortalica” each family received a parcel. Gardens were kept in the outskirts in case the town needed to expand due to an increase in population. Weekly markets were organised in the central square bordered by the arcades. In the centre, there was a small covered market called a ‘lotge’.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUD

During the reign of Philippe Le Hardy, King of France (1270-1285), Guillaume de Vienne - seneschal of the king - decided to establish the bastide of Sauveterre. His decision did not turn out to be an easy task as it asserted the king's powers over feudal rights. In 1280, a treaty was signed with the Bonnetcombe Abbey granting land sovereignty to both parties. But the Bastide project also faced

resistance from local lords led by Bégon de la Barrière- Lord of Castelnau Peyralès. Despite this ongoing opposition in 1281, Pierre Bouche implemented the construction of the Bastide. In 1284, the village received its first franchise which defined the Bastide territory as well as the rights and duties of its inhabitants towards their king. Since the lords would not give up any of their land, the Bastide ended up with a smaller territory which, until the 19th century, according to documents dating 1790, was practically “reduced to its walls”.

Sauveterre was an example of new housing developments venturing into economic activities other than farming as the way to sustain a living in a rural area. Within a few decades, an economic entity administered by four Consuls and their councillors backed by the bailiff (local representative of the king) as well as the seneschal was established. It provided the population nearby with various goods and services to trade. In the early 14th century, the bastide met all the characteristics of an urban entity through its facilities and the services it provided as well as its status and the privileges it benefited from. Hence, in 1301, Sauveterre became the county seat of a bailiwick delimited by the Aveyron river on the north and by the Viaur river on the south. For many centuries and thanks to the administrative and judicial authorities in place, Sauveterre was able to facilitate trade and services such as: organising fairs and markets, enforcing the use of weights and measuring systems and providing notaries’ services. These services also helped Sauveterre to entrench its purpose for all the villages that formed the bailiwick. In 1329, the Bastide opened a hospital or “House of God” that remained active until 1752. In the 14th century the first school was created. Until the end of the 16th century, up to the first quarter of the 17th century, Sauveterre maintained its elites and its rank as a small town. Sauveterre, the king's town, was disrupted by the Revolution. In April 1790, it became one of the nine district county-seats of the new French department, though only for a few years. Having lost its position a little before 1800, however, it remained the township county-seat. As a result, Sauveterre was no longer the rural administrative and economic centre it had been since the 14th century.



SAINT CHRISTOPHER'S COLLEGIAL CHURCH

Since its origins, Saint Christopher's church has been committed to supporting the town during times of happiness or misfortune. The bell tower is the most ancient element of the Bastide. It had two main roles: a spiritual role when calling the followers; and a strategic role in terms of surveillance and protection of the Bastide. In 1388, the church and its cemetery (now the rose garden) were moved inside the city walls. Only the bell tower stands in its original location. On the eastern wall of the bell tower, marks of the nave's former ogival door can be seen. In 1514, under the influence of religious foundations and the episcopate of François d'Estaing, a college of 25 priests was established. Inside the church, rich liturgical furniture dating from the 16th to 19th century give evidence of the strongly established religious faith as well as the power and influence of the Bastide : the choir stalls (C16th) which originally comprised of 36 seats used to surround and enclose the choir (notice the sculptures that adorn the misericords - mercy seats); on the right, Christ on the cross (C16th) exhibited on a stone pillar - although originally- exhibited in the centre of the circle formed by the stalls; the altarpiece of the main altar (C17th) along with a canva representing the crucifixion and statues of Saint Lupus, Saint Christopher, Saint Catherine and Saint Regina; the altarpiece and the statue of the Madonna and Child (C18th) in the second chapel to the right; the pulpit (C19th); Reproductions of the paintings representing the Annunciation by Giorgio Vasari and the Immaculate Conception by Murillo, the State delivered to Sauveterre in 1850.

SAINT CHRISTOPHER'S COLLEGIAL CHURCH

In order to imagine living in a Bastide with administration and judicial means at that time, one has to take into account the dynamic presence of its merchants and craftsmen. For the most part, they counted among the Bastide inhabitants. Whereas the merchants' activity was the most dynamic at first, craftsmanship remained a major urban activity. While it provided for local and rural needs, it also helped merchants develop exports. Tanneries built in the 14th century worked the leather from the animal skins provided by the mazels (an old term related to butchery) of the Bastide. The leather was used for shoe and purse making. Other trades were developed, particularly parchment making which is essential to notaries and men of law. In the 15th century, there was a horns and trumpets maker, as well as a glazier; in the field of textile there were weavers, hosiers, tailors and drapers. Towards the end of the 15th century an important hat makers' guild had developed. Hence, with all its diversity of trade and craftsmanship, the town engaged early on in the export of a creative craftsmanship specialty: cutlery. This activity was backed and marketed by rich Ruthenian merchants. The cutlery blacksmith guild grew bigger very quickly. The production diversified into knives, pins and bladed weapons. The years 1425 to 1450 marked a prosperous period for this trade as 16 out of the 30 blacksmiths working in the town were specialised in cutlery.



POPULATION : 800

SAUVETERRE TODAY

The township today is able to maintain the essential activities and public services for its population. The Sauveterre nursing home provides services for the elderly. A General Practitioner, nurses, pharmacist, physiotherapist and naturopath ensure patients' medical consultations and follow ups locally. Retail, hotel and restaurant businesses offer their services to residents, visitors and tourists.

Arts and Crafts in Sauveterre certainly hold an important role with many different fields of activities: cutlery, leatherwork, woodwork, jewellery, ceramics, painting, instrument making, photography, etching, glass making...

To sustain this dynamism, Pays Ségali - the local federation of municipalities - and the council support the development of the Arts and Crafts Centre - Pôle des Arts et Métiers. In its cultural endeavour, the centre brings together craftsmen and artists in order to promote their creative work.

A diversity of regional food producers offering dairy, biscuits and duck products are present in the area.

TOWN HALL

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REFERENCES : « Sauveterre-de-Rouergue.fr » (B. Alary et P.-M. Marliac), « Atlas des bastides » (M.Berthe, CEB). - 2022 Edition : Office de tourisme Pays Ségali & Mairie - Translation & Proofreading: Ann Algie. - Plan (illustration) : Christian Coupat. - Photos: Christian Bousquet, Art & Savoir-faire, Office de tourisme Pays Ségali