

Scale model of Château de Suze-la-Rousse in the 18th century

Interior architecture

The layout of the castle's lower parts has scarcely changed from the 16th century and the 1588 inventory* :

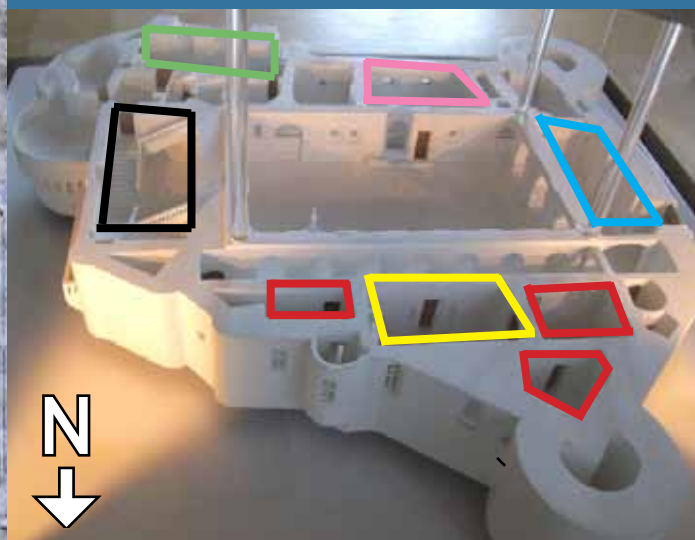
On the south, there is **a kitchen** composed of a fireplace, a sink and a bread oven.

A **second medieval kitchen** (which also has a fireplace and bread oven) was transformed into a stable in the 19th century. The kitchens were generally located in the lower parts of the castle to limit the propagation of fires to the decorated rooms on the first floor.

On the west, **the animal's rooms and the water bouget** (for the servants ?) are found. This area was turned into a garage in the 20th century and is currently the castle reception area.

On the north, there is **a chapel**. This is where Charlotte Catherine, the daughter of Lord François de la Baume, was christened in 1564. This christening took place during the visit of King Charles IX and his mother, Catherine de Medici. Today, it is the tasting room for the University of Wine. There are other rooms in the lower parts, but their location in the 16th century is uncertain.

A **wine cellar**, **cheese cellar** and **wardrobe room** are mentioned as being found around the chapel. The room of the castle "captain" was in an area near the second kitchen.



Lower parts.

On the east, a double spiral **staircase** leading to the first floor was probably built in the 17th century. Its destruction during the French Revolution led to major restorations in the 19th century by the Isnards family.

What this staircase looked like in the mid-16th century is uncertain. Hypothetically, the staircase would have been straight and would have led to the north wing, where it would have connected to the new building constructed along with the Renaissance courtyard. The gallery on the ground floor probably extended to the east side of this courtyard.

First floor :

The south wing has kept its fifteenth-century layout. It includes a guard room (1) that allows restricting access to the great hall (2) located behind it and to the lord's room (3) and that of his valet (4).

Until the 16th century, the rooms did not have a definite function. According to need, the great hall was used for receptions and banquets, administering justice or housing temporary guests.

On the north, a French-style apartment was created. It includes an antechamber (5), a dining room (6), a bedroom (7) and a study (8).

- The antechamber was used as a waiting room.
- The dining room was an eighteenth-century novelty. Until then, the table could be set up in various places, depending on the season or the number of guests.
- The bedroom was also a reception room: the person receiving was seated on his or her bed and guests were seated around their host, their place being determined by their social rank.
- The study was usually a private room that was used for reading, resting or prayer. Different areas could be closed off to make them easier to heat.

In the 16th century, this wing was composed of different rooms, including the green room, the fountain room, the countess's room and the wardrobe. The current study originally had a defensive purpose since it was located in the castle's round tower on the north.



First floor of the castle.

Second floor and wall-walk :

The rooms on the second floor housed private apartments. The 1588 inventory* mentions a series of room on the north. Other rooms were found on this level, such as study rooms and a garret or attic. These areas are currently occupied by the University of Wine (administration and classrooms).

The top of the castle has kept its wall-walk with small defensive openings and crenellated towers, which have been present since the 15th century.

Glossary

Inventory : list of a lord's material possessions, drawn up following a death or marriage. The inventory sometimes indicated the name of the rooms involved, which enables knowing how they were used at a given epoch.



Second floor and wall-walk of the castle.