



THE ANTECHAMBER

The names and uses of this room varied according to the epoch. It is called the “green room” in the castle inventory* drawn up in 1588 after the death of Count François de la Baume-Suze.

In the 18th century, it was an antechamber (from the Latin ante camera, the “fore” room). It was a waiting room where armchairs and chairs allowed guests to be seated while waiting to be received by the castle master. The wait was more or less long, depending on the person’s rank, and was a social marker. Games or music were generally proposed to entertain the guests. This room corresponds to the entrance to a French-style apartment, which consists of an antechamber, a dining room a bedroom and a study. These rooms are arranged “Italian style”, that is one after another without a corridor providing separate access to the rooms. This distribution is still apparent today.

Before the French Revolution, the room was a livery room, a place where servants were found. In general, this type of room was found on the ground floor of lordly homes, near the kitchens.



Engravings Room, 20th century (Departmental Archives).



In the 20th century, the room was named the “St. Rose Room”, then the “Engravings Room” because of the numerous engravings on display there. They were part of the Witte family collection. The Wittes were descendants of the La Baume-Suze family and castle owners (see photo above).

Following acquisition of the castle by the Drôme department in 1965, this room was named “Room 11” and then “Pic Room”, in reference to Maurice Pic (1913-1991), a Drôme deputy and senator. He played an important role in the department’s acquisition of the castles of Adhémar in Montélimar, Suze-la-Rousse and Grignan.



The University of Wine

The story of an installation

Following the department's acquisition of the castle in 1965, a commission was established to determine the future of the site. Several ideas were suggested (museum, meeting center, hotel, etc.), and the creation of a training center for the wine-growing and wine-making industry was finally chosen.

In 1976, it was decided to create a center of continuous vocational training tied to wine-growing and wine, along with a wine museum, to complement the castle's cultural and touristic mission.

Other associated structures came into being, including a laboratory of oenological analysis in 1977, the Commanderie des Costes du Rhône in 1978 and the ANEV (National Association of the Elected Representatives of Wine) around 1980.

The development of the University of Wine continued with the inauguration of the Espace Médicis in 1991. Located further down from the castle on the site of the old stables, it houses laboratories and the rooms for classes, sensorial analysis and meetings that had previously been located inside the castle enclosure. An ampelographic garden was created in 1989 and features 70 different grape varieties.

Today, the University welcomes approximately 1,000 interns per year for short or long training courses designed for wine lovers, students and professionals.



Class at the University of wine, 1978.



Second « Wine and History » symposium, 1989.