A Castle between Earth and Sky

The Gers: heart of Gascony, a landscape of gently sloping valleys and green fields, where every twist and turn in your path unveils a new and more beautiful vista. A place out of time. Suddenly, a stunning silhouette appears on the skyline, bringing to mind the rich and colourful history of this region. Like a sentinel cast in white stone, the castle of Lavardens cannot fail to impress by its sheer size and bold architectural lines. Dominating the surrounding lands, the castle remains a stately colossus, the elegant protector of the Castlenau houses nestled in its prodigious shadow.

This unique site, the castelnaud of Lavardens awaits your discovery. Here, one can enjoy true Gascon hospitality and leave with lasting memories of a truly enchanting castle.

Open all year
- April, May, June, September, October: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- November, December, February, March: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- July and August open every day from 10:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Open in the evenings for specific events
- Closed from January 7-March 15

For dining at Lavardens
- Restaurant – Tel: 05 81 41 09 73
- Café-Brasserie – Tel: 05 62 64 57 18

Château de Lavardens
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The memory of stone...

The Association pour la Sauvegarde du Château de Lavardens has animated and enlivened this historic site since 1979. The Association’s mission is to progressively restore the castle while conserving its architectural integrity and to utilise the premises as a public museum.

The beautiful and impressive rooms of the castle welcome during the spring and summer seasons high-quality exhibitions on the theme of cultural heritage, while at Christmas time, the traditional santons of Provence, a perennial favourite, are displayed.

It is recommended to allow 1h 30 to tour the castle as well as time to visit the exhibition. The history and architecture of the castle are presented in French and English and a written commentary is available in German, Dutch or Spanish.
A long lasting love story...

In the 17th century, to express his love for his beautiful young wife Suzanne de Bassabat, Antoine de Roquelaure, Marshal of France, undertook to reconstruct the castle upon its formerly feudal foundations.

In 1653, however, a plague epidemic devastated the village and the majestic white rock structure was never completed. The castle remains intact today, suspended in an eternal state of incompletion.

Some of the castle's highlights include: the corbelled towers, its brick and ochre pavement, the exterior galleries, stunning views of the countryside and the Pyrenees Mountains and various exhibitions related to art, culture and history, all which make for a compelling visit.

A highly unique architecture

The castle, which was classified an Historic Monument in 1961 is indeed an impressive architectural achievement. Cleverly constructed on top of the ruins of the 12th century fortress, it is a fine example of 17th century style and has many distinctive and beautiful features.

Explore the private apartments intended for Antoine and Suzanne with their enormous fireplaces, visit the guards quarters, the chapel, the ballroom, the game room, the staircase and discover the intriguing echo in the Salle de l’Écho.

Historical legacy

Originally designed as a military stronghold by the Counts of Armagnac, feudal overlords of this region, Lavardens became their strategic headquarters. In 1496, the King’s soldiers laid siege to the castle and left it in ruins. Eventually, it became the property of the de Navarre family. When Henri de Navarre became King Henri IV, he gave the seigneurie of Lavardens to his great friend, Antoine de Roquelaure; a Maréchal de France who had saved the King’s life in battle.

In 1620, Antoine started construction of a new castle on the site. The castle was divided into 12 apartments after the French Revolution but for lack of any legal agreement between the various owners, the building gradually began to deteriorate once again. Thanks to the efforts of a handful of determined individuals in the 1960s, this magical castle has been saved for posterity.