

Le Choiseul – Loire Valley

History of the Choiseul

It is nearly thirty years since René Traversac, the founder of the "Grandes Etapes Françaises", developed a taste for the restaurant industry and transforming châteaux or fine houses into luxury hotels.

In 1983, he was keeping a close eye on the work taking place on the Château de Divonne near Geneva (the 7th establishment in the chain of the "Grandes Etapes Françaises") when Pierre, his eldest son who had been his right-hand man for about twelve years, also joined in the game. He became very interested in a hotel for sale in the Val de Loir that had been abandoned for many years.

This was Le Choiseul, situated between the Loire and the hillside just at the foot of the famous château d'Amboise. Behind the high solid walls, in the centre of the thick brush of the park, the buildings appeared sound but totally in ruins inside; the renovation work would be considerable but the location was exceptional and the tourist potential significant. He decided to purchase it and take charge of the construction site.

On 30 November 1984, the Grandes Etapes Françaises were enriched by this eighth establishment which was to open its doors in 1985.

L'hôtel in a few words

Group of Touraine charming residences erected in the 18th century
32 air-conditioned rooms, divided between 3 residences and 5 apartments
Air conditioned, panoramic dining rooms (views of the Loire and gardens)
Refined, regionally inspired cuisine, excellent wine list
Heated outdoor pool
Wine tastings in wine cellars (at the Choiseul or around)
8 tennis courts (800 m from the hotel)
Fitness trail (across from the hotel)
18-hole golf course (30 km)
Fishing in Loire

Anecdotes

- **Les Greniers de César** dates from Roman times. This outstanding site, comprising galleries dug into the troglodytic rock on 4 levels, plays host, in fine weather to cocktail parties, country-style buffet, product exhibitions, show rooms...
- In the 1930s, le Choiseul welcomed King of England Edward VIII who married american Wallis Simpson au Château de Candé.