

Château d'Esclimont – 45 miles from Paris

Château d'Esclimont - History of the Château

Imagine large expanses of totally tranquil woodland surrounding a château with a moat, stone bridges, turrets and facades enlivened with niches, lacy balconies and sculptures: a real jewel slumbering since the death in 1968 of its last inhabitant and owner, Edouard de La Rochefoucauld.

René Traversac, the founder of the "Grandes Etapes Françaises" (which had 6 establishments at the time), immediately "took a shine" to this château and its 60 hectares of listed parkland just 45 minutes from Paris. This was an opportunity for which he had been waiting for years! So on 21 July 1981, he purchased the Château d'Esclimont from the granddaughter of Edouard de La Rochefoucauld, the Comtesse Laure-Suzanne-Marie-Maingard de Mailly et de Nesle d'Orange.

He was also lucky enough to acquire part of the paintings, chandeliers, trinkets and furniture that adorned the château at the same time.

The Château d'Esclimont down the centuries

The keep is all that is now left of the first fortified château built in the 10th century, its feudal severity softened by a porch with a triple entry giving access to the pre-courtyard and tall "French" roof in the Renaissance style.

In 1543, Etienne du Ponchet, the Lord of Esclimont, canon of Chartres and Archbishop of Tours, rebuilt the château taking inspiration from the style of the great houses that his cousins were building in the Val de Loire.

The 17th and 18th centuries were the centuries of the Bullion family. They transformed the château and brought it up to date without tearing down the corner turrets out of respect for their forebears. The château then passed to the Montmorency-Laval family until the marriage in 1807 of its owner, Elisabeth Hélene Pierre, to Louis- François- Sosthene de La Rochefoucauld - Doudeauville.

In 1865, their son, Marie-Charles -Sosthene de La Rochefoucauld engaged the architect, Parent, to give the château a new "Renaissance style" romantic decor and entrusted the park to the landscape gardener, Bühler.

On the courtyard façade, the name Marie can be seen. Marie was none other than the Duchess de Doudeauville. She was the inspiration of this tribute of love from her husband.

Their son Edouard was the last occupant of the château up to his death in 1968.

In a few words

47 rooms
6 appartments
Television, minibar, lift
2 dining rooms, 2 private rooms, 1 banquet room
Traditional cuisine adapted to modern tastes
Wine cellar with over 400 regional selections

60-hectare landmark park
2 tennis courts
Heated outdoor pool
Bicycles, fitness trail
Evening musical performances

Anecdotes

Deluxe room n°12 has a round bed (ideal for weddings)

Junior suite n°33 is called « barbara Cartland » because it is decorated in pink

Possibility to have a dinner with champagne in a hot air balloon (until 16 people)

Château d'Esclimont is 20 minutes away from Paris in helicopter