

Château de Gilly - Burgundy

History of the Château de Gilly

The former home of the monks of Cîteaux surrounded by the great wines of Burgundy became the 9th link in the chain of the Grandes Etapes Françaises René et Simonne Traversac, the founders of the Grandes Etapes Françaises, were respectively 74 and 67 years old when they once more took on the huge task of transformation with the Château de Gilly in Bourgogne, which they had just purchased in the department of the Côte d'Or in December 1987

The Château de Gilly had been listed as a historical monument in May 1978 but had been converted into a departmental theatre. A formidable amount of work had to be envisaged in order to restore and transform buildings that were anything but comfortable and luxurious into a hotel and what was almost wasteland into a garden!

Fortunately, their teams were used to doing this and no work has ever been so briskly carried out right up to the opening of the hotel in September 1988.

Le Château de Gilly down the centuries

Originally a Benedictine Priory under the rule of Germain, Bishop of Paris, Gilly was much later sold to the Cistercians.

In the 16th century, Nicolas Boucherat II, the 51st Abbot of Cîteaux, decided to make it a house of relaxation. Pierre de Nivelles, who succeeded him in 1625, continued the work of embellishment with good taste and to him we owe in particular the current coat of arms of the "Château de Gilly" which was part of his own coat of arms. However, he did not transform the utilitarian rooms, such as the kitchen or the storeroom (now the drawing room and restaurant) which has retained their Cistercian strictness.

The French Revolution upset all of this and on 14 May 1790, the properties of the Cistercian monks were declared "public property".

A succession of owners followed, installing farmers and workers in the former home of the abbots, until the department of the Côte-d'Or purchased it to turn it into the "Château-théâtre de Gilly-les-Cîteaux", inaugurated in January 1978.

The hotel in a few words

37 rooms and 11 apartments

Private dining rooms

Television, minibar, lift

'Le Clos Prieur' : gastronomic cuisine served in the 14th century Gothic style dining room

'Côté Terroir's restaurant : wine 'bistro' ideal for a relaxed lunch

Remarkable wine cellar (15 000 bottles)

Heated outdoor pool

Billard

Tennis court

Biking in the vineyards

Fishing in the park river
Wine tastings in cellar
Massage and body treatment (upon request)
Theme evenings

Anecdotes

The river « la Vouge » through the property participates to the enchanting scene.

The Château de Gilly, in the heart of the vineyards of 'La Côte de Nuits' in Gilly-lès-Cîteaux, is surrounded with the renowned Burgundy grands crus wines : Gevrey-Chambertin, Vosne-Romanée, Chambolle-Musigny, Vougeot...

Splendid historic sites which contribute to give the château a warm atmosphere :

"Le Clos Prieur" restaurant : superb rib-vaulted supported by pillars, originally the cellar for the Cistercian monks in the 14th century.

The vaulted room : Former kitchen of the monks, it is doted with two remarkable 14th century fireplaces and a ceiling with intersecting ribs.

'Pierre de Nivelles' room : Rich frescos and painted ceilings restaured by 'L'Ecole des Beaux-Arts'. The armorial bearings are those of the Abbaye de Cîteaux.

The Tapestries room (170m²) : location in the monks' granary. Elegant and large setting. The tapestries, reproduction of the 15th century Indian prints, enhance the exposed stone walls and French style ceilings.