

Château de l'Ile – Alsace

History of the Château de l'Ile

One island and four hectares of tranquillity and greenery that is so close to Strasbourg and its airport, a real pearl!

At the gates of Strasbourg, in the peaceful village of Ostwald, property developers were on the lookout in the Seventies. They had their eye on the château in the commune that is so delightfully bordered by the swift waters of the Ill and its derivation, the Little Ill. The edifice had been abandoned and was inexorably falling into ruin since the local authority opposed the construction of rows of apartment blocks or suburban houses in rows on this unique site, the cradle of the commune.

Hearing that it was for sale, Pierre Traversac, the eldest son of René Traversac, the founder of the Grandes Etapes Françaises, visited the area. He was enchanted by the exceptional site while remaining fully aware of the considerable construction task in prospect: restoring the crumbling château and enlarging it into a harmonious building. He accepted the challenge and purchased it in 1991.

After two years of work, typical Alsatian village houses now surround the pristine château, replacing the old barns devoted to the production of medicinal herbal teas. The entire property is pretty and welcoming and the opening of this tenth link of the chain of the Grandes Etapes Françaises took place on 28 April 1994.

Le Château de l'Ile down the centuries

Several châteaux were built at Ostwald. The first, constructed in 1226 was destroyed shortly afterwards. Of the two other 17th century buildings, the Château de l'Ile is the only one to survive, its conservation certainly due to the restoration work carried out in 1891 by the Heydt family.

In 1918, Jean Antoine Darbois purchased the château as his home. Later, his son René, who was devoted to alternative medicines, started his company, "Les thés du Château de l'île". Opposite the château, he built huge barns to store the plants required to make his herbal teas. However the bombardment in 1944 destroyed seven tons of raw materials, resulting in the decline and subsequent closure of the company at the end of the Sixties.

The château remained uninhabited and gradually became open to the wind and a meeting place for shady characters . until its purchase by the "Grandes Etapes Françaises" in 1991.

The hotel in few words

62 air-conditioned rooms and appartments

Flowered terraces

Televicion, minibar

2 dining rooms overlooking the Ill river : La Winstub, traditional Alsatian 'brasserie' and Le S'asszimmer, gastronomic restaurant.

Terrace dining in the Summer

SPA : indoor pool with sauna, Turkish bath, Jacuzzi, Thaï massage, face and body treatment.

Anecdotes

The only Chateau-Hotel near Strasbourg

Traditional alsatian architecture

A setting of green near the town center

Numerous theme evenings