

# Château d'Isenbourg- Alsace

## History of the Château d'Isenbourg

In the autumn of 1972, René Traversac, the founder of the Grandes Etapes Françaises, had already acquired, restored and transformed three establishments in the Val de Loire and, seconded by his son Pierre, was closely supervising the huge construction project of the "Mas d'Artigny" on the Côte d'Azur. He had very little free time since his business was going well. And yet! He was intrigued by an unusual proposal.

It had come from the S.Y.N.V.A., the syndicate of wine traders and wine producers in the Alsatian vineyards, which not only owned vineyards but also a château, the Château d'Isenbourg, which overlooked the old city of Rouffach near Colmar. This château had been unoccupied for decades and was in a dreadful condition, but at the time the region had no luxury hotel and the Château d'Isenbourg would be the first. What is more, a site that had a high reputation for its fine cuisine and wine route could not fail to tempt a fine palate like René Traversac's!

So, just after the Mas d'Artigny, the Château d'Isenbourg opened in July 1974.

## Château d'Isenbourg down the centuries

The etymology of the name Isenbourg is uncertain; while certain people favour "Eisenburg", the iron château, others prefer "Isisburg", the château of Isis.

Wherever it comes from, this is a site that has been occupied from the most ancient times, an advance post for the commercial and military Roman road that runs behind the hillside.

According to tradition, Dagobert II later donated his royal house, a formidable fortress guarding the town of Rouffach, to the bishopric of Strasbourg in recognition of the miraculous cure of his son Siedberg.

Isenbourg thus became one of the favourite residences of the bishops of Strasbourg right up to the French Revolution.

The château then changed use and was sold as private property; the old superstructures were demolished in 1822. Fortunately the 120 metre long 15th and 16th century cradle vaulted cellars have stood the test of time and are actually being used as the restaurant room, the wine cellar and the kitchen.

## The hotel in a few words...

39 rooms et 2 suites with air-conditioning

Television, minibar, lift

Restaurant and panoramic terrace with view of the vineyard and the old city of Rouffach

Dining room with vaulted ceilings from the 16th century

Meals served on the terrace or in the park in Spring or Summer

Refined Alsatian Cuisine

Extensive menu of fine Alsatian Crus wines

Heated outdoor pool with view of Rouffach village

SPA : indoor pool with sauna, Turkish bath, Jacuzzi, Thai massage

Park, tennis court, bicycle

Thematic evenings and musical performances

# Anecdotes

Unique château and hotel in the region

Exceptional location in the heart of the wine trail

One of the two châteaux in Alsace to be located in the vineyards. The vineyard of Isenbourg produces wines of excellent quality. Known as « le clos du Château d'Isenbourg », they are served at the restaurant of the château.

Splendid historic site : The Prince Bishops room (200 m<sup>2</sup>) from the 12th century, one of the of the last remnants of the original fortress.