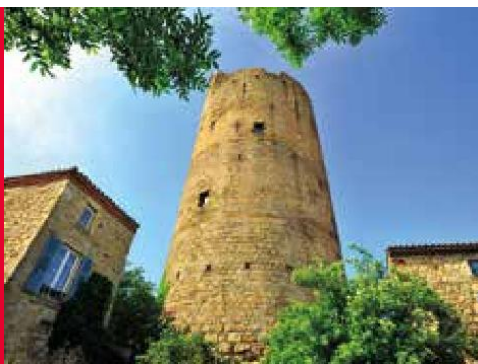


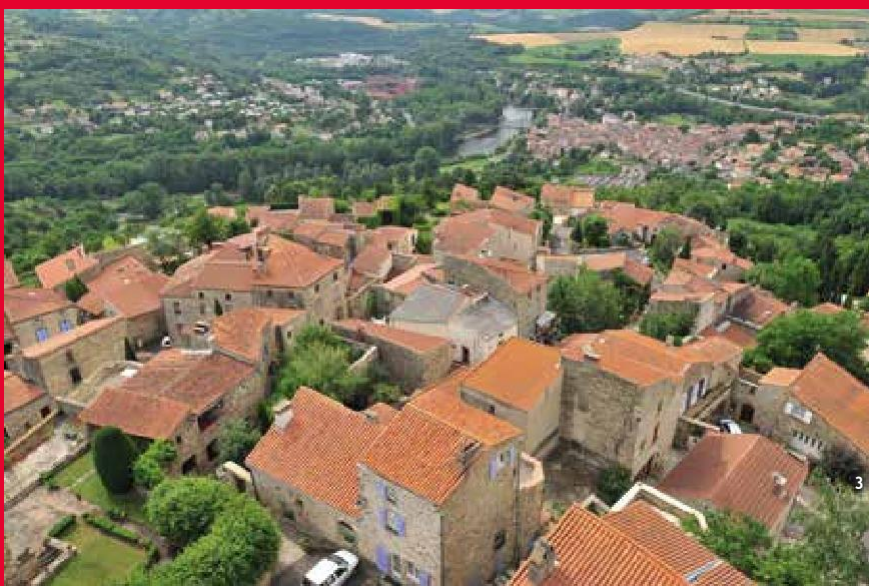
PARCOURS MONTPEYROUX

PAYS D'ART ET D'HISTOIRE
AGGLO PAYS D'ISSOIRE
ENGLISH VERSION

AUVERGNE
RHÔNE-ALPES



VILLES
& PAYS
D'ART &
D'HISTOIRE



1. Stonemasons from the Hume quarry
2. Arkose area
3. View from the top of the tower

Réalisation
Service Patrimoine de
l'Agglo Pays d'Issoire

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Maquette
VICE VERSA
D'après DES SIGNES
studio Muchir Desclouds
2015

Impression
SIC

STORY OF A HILLTOP VILLAGE

MONTPEYROUX IS KNOWN FOR ITS HIGH TOWER, OVERLOOKING THE LANDSCAPE AND ITS ARKOSE QUARRIES. LOCATED AT THE TOP OF A SMALL HILL, IT CAN BE EXPLORED THROUGH NARROW STREETS FOLLOWING CONTOUR LINES, LINKED BY STAIRS. THE CULTIVATION OF WINE LEFT A MARK ON THE LOCAL ARCHITECTURE.

AN EXCEPTIONAL SITE

Montpeyrroux, the rocky mount, has a suitable name. The village is built on a mountainous area with sedimentary origins, peaking at 490 meters, between Allier's valley in the east and Limagnes* from the south to the west, in the north of the narrow pass dug by the Allier in the Saint-Yvoine's granitic horst*.

AT THE HEART OF THE LANDSCAPE

The site offers an exceptional panorama on the volcanic horizons of the Puy-de-Dôme. In the north, the succession of Corent, Monton and Saint-Sandoux puys (volcanic hills) extends the view on the Puys chain. In the west, the Sancy mountains and foothills overlook the cultivated lands. In the south, the Allier River appears from Saint-Yvoine's wooded gorges to draw a curved line at the foothills. In the east, Comté volcanoes constitute a compact and green belt.

ORIGINS OF THE VILLAGE

The name Mons petrosus* appeared around 1095, during the foundation of a priory at the place called le Rivage by Sauxilange abbey. The fiefdom, given to Bertrand de la Tour in 1212, provokes the construction or the reconstruction of a castle, cited around 1280, its main tower, the unique vestige. A village centre grew at its foot, itself fortified in late Middle Ages.

A PYRAMID ORGANIZATION

The inhabitants have perched their village around the donjon and proceeded to an optimal use of the mountainous area. The local territory lies on different levels, from the sedimentary plain to terraced hillsides and the rocky headland peaks. A well-reasoned cultivation of soils was used in this diversity of grounds: grain cultivation on fertile soils of Limagne, fruit cultivation, grapevine and gardens cultivated in the course of the hill, esplanade at the top occupied by stone quarries and pastures.

ARKOSE QUARRIES

The arkose is a sedimentary rock from the sandstone family, composed of quartz, feldspar and micas grains, linked by clay cement. Its colour varies depending on the deposit and over the time course: beige, golden, rosy, ochre... The lifespan of its cultivation is due to its outcrop in the open air. In 1848, quarries supplied work to eleven stonecutting workshops and employed thirty workers. Five quarries were still in operation at the beginning of the 20th century.



1. Allier gorges, Coudes and Montpeyroux, ancient engraving
2. Aerial view



CHURCHES STONES

The reputation of arkose comes from the role that it played during the construction of churches and Romanesque towers. Tradition keeps on situating at Montpeyroux the origin of the stones used in the 12th century to build Saint-Austremoine's churches of Issoire, Saint-Saturnin and Notre-Dame du Port.

TERRACES

The inhabitants turned the hills into terraces buildings, low walls to hold the ground back, and designed ingenious traffic in paths and stairs. This network of winegrowing terraces suffered the consequences of the disease phylloxera* and of the rural exodus, which explains their abandonment in the 20th century. Nowadays, a terraces sector has been reorganized and the grapevine is cultivated once again.

A STRATEGIC SITE

Montpeyroux fortifications are part of Auvergne history. From 1150, with the conflict between Count of Auvergne and the Bishop of Clermont, a new period of troubles began, favouring the royal military intervention. In 1212, Philippe-Auguste annexed Auvergne and leaves the fiefdoms of Orcet, Montpeyroux and Coudes to the powerful baron family of La Tour d'Auvergne.

PRESTIGIOUS LORDS

At the beginning of the 16th century, Jean de la Tour was also Count of Auvergne. His daughter Madeleine, wife of Laurent de Médicis, Duke of Urbino inherited the castle in 1518. Their daughter Catherine de Médicis was also Lord of Montpeyroux, as well as her own daughter Marguerite de Valois, "Queen Margot". In 1610, she gave her possessions in Auvergne up to the future Louis XIII. The seigneurie followed the fate of the barony de la Tour until the Revolution.

A FORTIFIED VILLAGE

Montpeyroux is a medieval village organized according to a radioconcentric plan, around the donjon built at the highest point. The village was enclosed in a vast surrounding wall flanked by towers, which route can be seen to the north and to the east. It opens with a fortified doorway of the 15th century. Despite the abandonment and then the reconstruction of the old district, some elements of architecture from the late Middle Ages can be seen: lintels in brackets, casement bays.



3. Fortified doorway (late 14th century - early 15th century)

4. Ascension of the Textile Workers



A STONE CYLINDER

The donjon dates from the middle of the 13th century. It is the perfect example of the so-called Philippian* main tower, built by the king's followers after the conquest of Auvergne. It controlled the eastern route of the medieval road that circulated at its feet and crossed the couze* Chambon at Coudes. Property of the Academy of Sciences, Belles-lettres and Arts of Clermont-Ferrand since 1950, the tower was classified historical monument in 1957. Rented by the village, it has been the object of several restoration campaigns from 1988 to 2004 and is opened to the public.

A WINEGROWING CULTURE

The culture of the grapevine in the Val d'Allier has been known since Antiquity. From the 17th century onwards, the vineyard has witnessed several phases of expansion with the navigation on the Allier. After 1850, the arrival of the railway and the phylloxera's crisis in Languedoc boosted the rise of the winegrowing region of Auvergne. The Puy-de-Dôme was the 3rd wine producing department around 1880. The grapevine invaded the hillsides and occupied 70% of the communal surface. In 1896, the vineyards were wiped out by the phylloxera and only partly reconstituted, before its current renewal.

THE LOCAL ARCHITECTURE

The most typical housing is the compact dwelling of the winegrower or polycultivator-breeder, built of arkose rubble*. Adapted to the narrow villages, it superimposes cellar, vat room, sheepfold at the bottom, two-storey dwellings served by an outside porch, dovecote at the top. Facades were protected by a coloured coating, the genoises of tiles bordering the roofs. Below the village, the wine-growing prosperity of the 19th century also gave rise to a more prosperous-looking habitat.

THE REVIVAL OF A VILLAGE

From 1890 to 1927, the number of inhabitants fell from 570 to 181. The ancient district was abandoned and fell into ruin. In the 1950s, a revival movement arose around the prefect Yves Pérony and the architect Joseph Pérol. The association "Village de l'Espoir" was founded. Houses were restored, and artists and craftsman settled in. In 1989, Montpeyroux became one of the 'Most Beautiful Village in France' and became involved in a ZPPAUP* in 2004. Nowadays, the municipality is committed to developing sustainable tourism, compatible with the quality of life of residents.



1. Kasbah House, decoration details, courtyard

2. Old postcard

3. Ascension of the Spotter



GLOSSARY

Mons petrosus : rocky mount, from the Latin *petra*, stone

Southern Limagnes : plain of the Val d'Allier located south of Clermont-Ferrand

Horst : block of the raised crystalline basement bloc du socle cristallin soulevé

Phylloxéra : aphids that attacks the roots of the vines

Philippian : model of fortification that spread under the reign of Philippe-Auguste

Couze : tributary river of the Allier

Rubble : coarsely cut stone, small in size

Genoise : row of superimposed tiles creating an overhang of roof to protect the facade plaster from water flow

ZPPAUP : heritage, architectural, urban planning and landscape protection area

Putlog : horizontal piece of wood of a scaffolding embedded in the masonry; visible hole in the masonry

FROM A PLACE TO ANOTHER

DISCOVERY-ROUTE

1 CULTURAL AREA AND TOURIST OFFICE

Tourist information, exhibitions.

2 MONUMENTAL SCULPTURES

Works by Yves Guérin (forged rails), inspired by Dante's Divine Comedy.

3 QUARRY OF THE HUME

Last operating site of arkose stone (around 1930-1935). Old hoist restored and loading platform. Stone cutting marks. It was producing millstones before its closure.

4 WINE-GROWER / WINE MERCHANT

Vignoble en agriculture biologique.

PANORAMA

View of the Sancy mountains to the west and of the chain of the Puy to the north (page 3)

MASTER'S HOUSE

View on the vineyard houses of the late 19th century. Built on the edge of the village, on a square plan, with a four-slope canal roof tiles, or slate roofs with dormers. Ornamental courtyards and doorways.

ARKOSE AREA

Covered exhibition hall presenting a collection of tools and images of the exploitation of Montpeyroux arkose (sandstone used for local construction).

JOSEPH PEROL PLACE

Place named in the name of the architect of Issoire (1903-1979) who initiated the village's Renaissance movement in the 1950s.

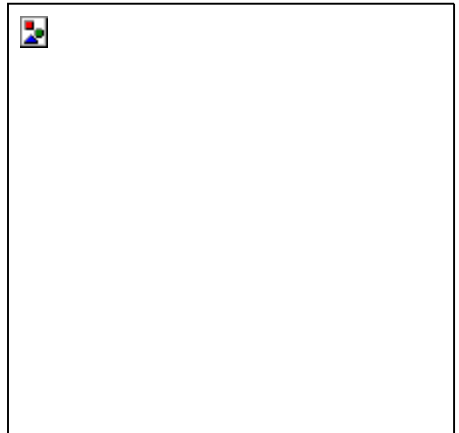
LA KASBAH HOUSE

Named after the owners of the 20th century, who lived in Algeria. Old façade on rue de la Quye (heart-shaped keystone from 1669) and Art Nouveau façades (1908), on a tree-filled courtyard.

NOTRE-DAME CHURCH (1846-1847)

The creation of the parish in 1832 is the origin of Notre-Dame Church construction. Preceded by a former church annex of the church of Coudes, formerly located rue de la Mairie. The church is built in arkose according to the plans of the architect Hugues Imbert.

1. Cloister of Notre-Dame Church
2. Main tower of the 13th century



Look at the foundation stone laid by the baron Girod de Langlade, then Member of Parliament, the 1st July 1846 (support stone of the quoin to the left of the gate). The 1st level of an octagonal bell tower was built in 1847.

Its neo-Romanesque architecture is testament to the rediscovery of this style in the 19th century. It reproduced the plan of the major churches of pilgrimage of Basse-Auvergne : nave reinforced by aisles, extended by an ambulatory surrounding the church choir. Monolithic or drum columns support the vault. The figurative capitals of the church choir, of Romanesque inspiration, illustrate the virtuosity of the 19th century stonemasons. Beautiful set of stained glass windows, partly dated and signed by workshops in Clermont-Ferrand including the stained glass window of the Magi Kings by Martial Mailhot (1879), at the entrance.

Statue de Notre Dame du Cheix ou des Rogations (late 16th/early 17th century): Virgin and children whose discovery in a box located in a place called Le Rivage gave rise to a legend. Statue of Saint-Verny (polychrome wood, 19th century): in the 17th century, Auvergne winegrowers chose Saint-Verny as protector, local adaptation of Saint-Werner, young winegrower from the Rhine valley, whose tradition places martyrdom in the 13th century. The statue depicts

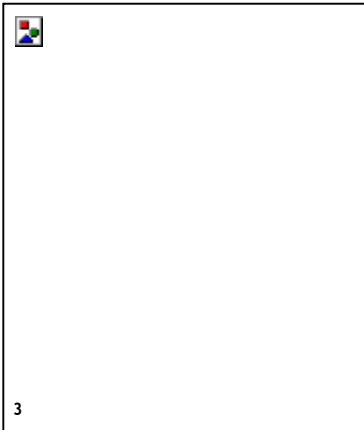
a dashing young man in a festive outfit, with his attributes : pruning knife, grapes and vine stock, and a small barrel of wine. Once perennial, cults, festivals and brotherhoods of Saint-Verny disappeared during the 20th century.



FORTIFIED DOOR - ISMH 1951 - 15th century Gateway to the medieval village, opening in the closure of the late Middle Ages. Gothic arch, brattice on consoles, clock made in the 19th century.



MAIN TOWER - Classified MH in 1957 Built in arkose, in the middle of the 13th century. This circular main tower seems to have been built in one go. The putlog holes*, arranged in an upward spiral, are the marks of the helical scaffolding used to build it. Symbol of the allegiance to the King of France following the attachment of Auvergne to the royal domain, it is the last vestige of the medieval castle. Thick walls (4 meters) built of small squared rubble. It is composed of three levels that are indicated externally by the foundations of stones of medium regular apparatus.



3. Maison vigneronne,
rue des Pradets

4. Maison vigneronne de la fin du 19^e siècle, rue des Perreux



The initial access was located on the 1st floor, connected to the ground floor reserve by an opening in the circular vault. The current access dates back to the 15th century. A curved staircase taken in the thickness of the wall leads to the 2nd floor, with residential functions: latrines, window seats, and vestiges of a monumental fireplace (evacuation duct, foliage capitals).

At the top, a platform protected by a wall walk and a crenelated wall, pierced by eight crossed and superimposed arrow slits (long arches with deep dives). Superb 360° panorama, orientation tables. The sale of the tower as a national property in 1799 provides the opportunity for a short description: “A place called the tower, of which there is a vaulted room formerly used as a common fireplace and another unvaulted and more spacious room, in which there is a press... in the middle of which is a tower of prodigious height and extraordinary thickness.”

located on the 1st floor and the door step, covered by a canopy called *ester*, was used on sunny days as a complementary living space.



FORTIFIED CITY WALL

Vestige of the city wall: tower, arrow slits, vaulted passage. View on the Château de Buron, the village of Parent and the volcanoes of the Comté.

WINDING WALK

As you wander around, you will see several details of architecture: carved frames from the late Middle-Ages, moulded supports from the 18th century, carved keystone, engraved dates or heart motifs or other good luck bearer workings on the blinds. Also note the casements of open-work doors that allowed the cellars to be ventilated, the freshness rising through the air vents drilled at ground level.



WINEGROWER'S HOUSE

Example of winegrower's dwelling, occupying a small floor area, with a façade on the street with an external staircase, the door step providing access to the vat room and the cellar. The living rooms were

Ferme pédagogique



Départ de la balade
"sur le chemin de l'arkose"
(durée 2h30 - 8,5 km - balisage jaune)

Départ de la balade
" Léa et Tino, autour de Montpeyroux"
(durée 2h - 5 km - balisage Papillon)

Pour ces deux balades,
plus d'informations sur
infos issoire-tourisme.com et
planetepuydedome.com


Carrière
de l'Hume



1
2
Allée du 19 mars 1962

Rue de la Moulerette

Vers l'A75

Rue de l'Hume

Place
de l'Hume

Rue de Bonzette

Rue des Granges

Rue de la Reine

Place
du Grand
Puits

Place
des Croix
Vieilles

Rue de Lizoux

Rue de la Chacuse

Rue de la Cuye

9
8
Montée du R

Rue des Perreux





MONTPEYROUX

- 1 Cultural area and Tourist Office
- 2 Monumental sculpture by Yves Guérin
- 3 Quarry of l'Hume
- 4 Vineyard/Cellarman
- 5 Panorama
- 6 View on the mansion houses (winegrower's houses from the end of the 19th century)
- 7 Arkose area
- 8 Joseph Pérol Place
- 9 La Kasbah House (tea house)
- 10 Notre-Dame Church
- 11 Fortified door
- 12 Medieval donjon (main tower)
- 13 Winegrower's house
- 14 Fortified

KEY

- Workshops of artists and craftsmen
- Exhibition
- Mansion houses (winegrower's house)
- Food service
- Tea house
- Local product
- Car Park
- Viewpoint
- Hike
- Spring or well
- Cross
- Toilets
- Toilets for the disabled

CONTACTS

- Medieval donjon (main tower)
Rue de la Grande Charreyre
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montpeyroux.mairie@9business.fr
- Tourist Office of Montpeyroux
Allée du 19 mars 1962
04 73 54 19 10
- Pays d'Issoire Tourist Office
9 place Saint-Paul 63500 Issoire
04 73 89 15 90
issoire-tourisme.com
- Pays d'art et d'histoire
Heritage service - Agglo Pays d'Issoire
04 73 55 94 56
capissoire.fr
patrimoine@capissoire.fr

« TIME IS THE ARCHITECT, THE PEOPLE ARE THE MASONS »

Victor Hugo, *Notre-Dame de Paris*, 1831

Listen closely to the history of the Pays d'Art et d'Histoire of the Pays d'Issoire...

... with a guide accredited by the Ministry of Culture and Communication. The guide welcomes you. He knows all the aspects of the Land of Art and History of the Pays d'Issoire and gives you the keys to understand the scale of the landscape, the history of the land through its towns and villages. The guide is at your disposal. Do not hesitate to ask him any questions you may have.

If you are in group, the Land of Art and History of the Pays d'Issoire offers you visits all year upon reservation. Brochures are available on demand.

The Heritage Department

It coordinates the initiatives of the Pays d'Issoire. All year round, it offers activities for the local population and for schoolchildren. We are at your disposal for any project.

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History of the Agglo Pays d'Issoire is part of the national network of Cities and Lands of Art and History.

The Ministry of Culture and Communication, Director of Architecture and Heritage, assigns the designation Cities and Lands of Art and History to local authorities that promote their heritage. It guarantees the competence of tour guides and heritage hosts and the quality of their actions. From ancient vestiges to the architecture of the 20th century, cities and lands present the heritage in its diversity. Today, a network of 184 cities and countries offers you its know-how throughout France

Nearby

The Towns and Lands of Art and History of Moulins, Riom, Billom-Saint-Dier, Saint-Flour, the Haut-Allier and the Puy-en-Velay.

