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## CHATEAU DE PREIGNES



Guillaume de Pézenas built the Château de Preignes in black basalt in 1202 to protect his farming community.

It's worth mentioning that there were countless dangers in the 13th century: Mediterranean pirates would capture farmers as slaves to sell and there were rumours of a great battle to rid the South of France of Cathar rulers.

The château's current condition reflects its evolution. Originally it had high towers topped with crenellations and sharp pointed roofs. Countless noble families lived here and left their mark on it. The Baushotes and Daudéarts carved their coats of arms into the keystone and Jérôme Vic's great-great-grandfather, Mr. Bergon, had the doorway you see before you built in 1905.

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## EAST SIDE

Look at the pointed archway. It was the château's main doorway until the 18th century.

6

## NORTH SIDE

Large windows were a sign of wealth in the time of the Baushotes and Daudéarts. The rendered and redesigned stones at the top reflect the period's decorative style.

7

## THE WINE CELLAR



Mr. Bergon restored the cellar in 1905 to bring the past and present together. This is where all the winery's wine is made.

Red wine: we let the whole grape macerate during alcoholic fermentation to extract the colour, structure and aroma. Fermentation is the result of contact between the yeast and sugar molecules in grape juice. The sugar becomes alcohol and the must becomes wine.

White and rosé wine: several hours of pressing after skin-contact maceration. Night harvests to avoid the grapes oxidising, cold fermentation (15-20°) to lock in the aromas.

PREIGNES  
Robert Vic

# DOMAINE PREIGNES LE VIEUX

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## Welcome to Domaine Preignes le Vieux!

Join Aurélie and Jérôme Vic at this incredible site brought to life by passionate people. This is more than a vineyard, step into a place rooted in a fabulous family legacy.

They are heavily involved in sustainable winemaking and see the land as an asset for future generations.

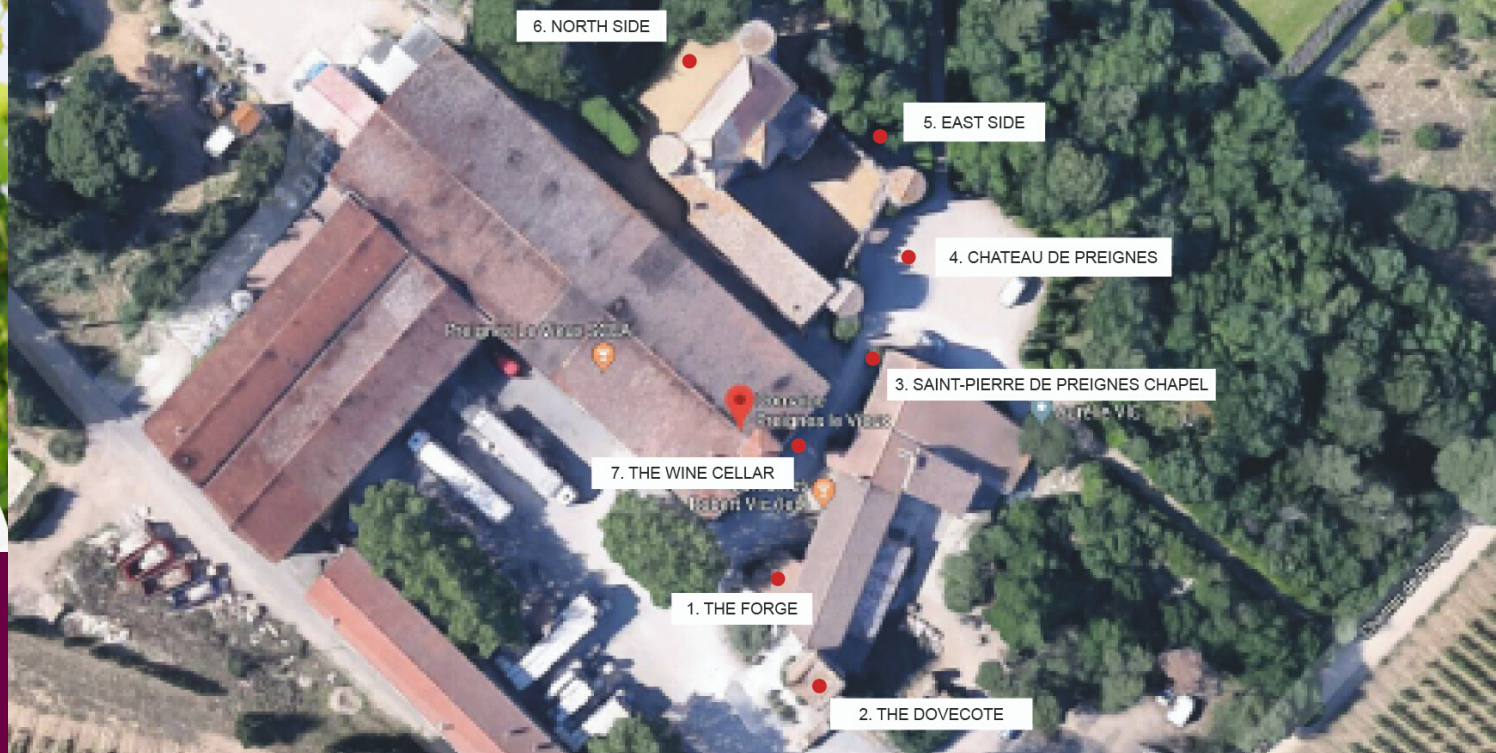
The winery was given the QUALENVI and High Environmental Value labels in 2012 and 2018 respectively and works on a quality system combining food safety and eco-friendly measures.



**13th century**  
**Château listed as a**  
**French Monument**  
**Historique**



**273 hectares**  
**18 grape varieties**  
**3 terroirs**



1

### THE FORGE



The forge was built in 1477 and was the heart of the Preignes estate.

The blacksmith made and repaired farm tools here whilst the farrier made shoes for draught horses. You can still see a tie ring on the left wall near the old stables. Take in the hearth and majestic bellow from the 19th century. Back then and right up until the 1940s, the winery relied on the strength and agility of 15 horses for farming.

2

### THE DOVECOTE



Pigeon breeding in the Middle Ages was solely for supplying meat to noblemen's banquets as they were the only ones who could enjoy this delicious game.

The winery's dovecote dates back to the 15th century. It is built like a fortress and made up of 150 nest boxes and a basalt edge to deter potential predators. A small door 2m off the ground provides access to the floor or the bottom. It was used mainly for collecting precious guano from the pigeons. Guano is packed with wigglers and farmers would use it to fertilise their land. However, the lords alone could give it to their most loyal and deserving workers.

3

### SAINT-PIERRE DE PREIGNES CHAPEL



The oldest building on the estate was built by the 12th century Agde archbishops in 1190.

The little country chapel was a place of worship for the working community in Preignes before the arrival of Guillaume de Pézenas. In 1202, the infeudation act established by the Viscount of Béziers Raymond Roger de Trencavel put the new lord, Guillaume de Pézenas, in possession of a fief on Preignes land. St-Pierre de Preignes Chapel became a private chapel after that. The Baushotes and Daudéarts families restored it in 1770 and it is now the Vic family's private chapel.