

FOCUS ON THE CITY HALL

The current City Hall of Sérignan sits in an ancient mansion inhabited since the early 19th century by the Viennet family from Beziers. The house and outbuildings farm were located behind the gates of the old town, in the land area of the family.

This homogeneous architectural feature is an example of the great wineries of the 19th century because it includes in the same area a mansion and his park, as well as farm outbuildings. Those elements stay hierarchically separated, with an impressive wine cellar, some stables for horses, workshops and housings. The set is built according to a strict rational and aesthetic plan.

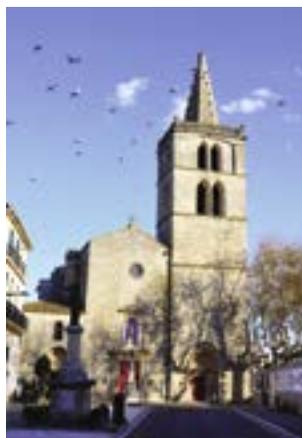


The mansion erected in a neoclassical style was redressed in the 1920's Art Deco influence by Alexandre Garros, an architect from Bordeaux.

The rise of viticulture has not only transformed the landscape, it also gave birth to a typical rural and urban architecture that is found in Serignan.

THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH NOTRE DAME DE GRÂCE

The Collegiate Church, whose arrow slender dominates the old town, is one of the most beautiful example of Gothic art in Beziers. This building is listed as a Monument historique since september 1907.



Its imposing bell tower of 30 meters high, reminds us more of a warrior dungeon than a religious building, with the battlements protecting a beautiful Romanesque portal.

The apse is opened with seven high mullioned windows and presents a set of stained glass windows by Mauvernay workshops, laid in 1879. The Collegiate is the most remarkable testimony of Sérignan's history, but it is also a place of worship still very active, an architectural masterpiece recognized by all the inhabitants, believers or seculars. This cultural and social heritage element remains fundamental in local life.



STREET NAMES

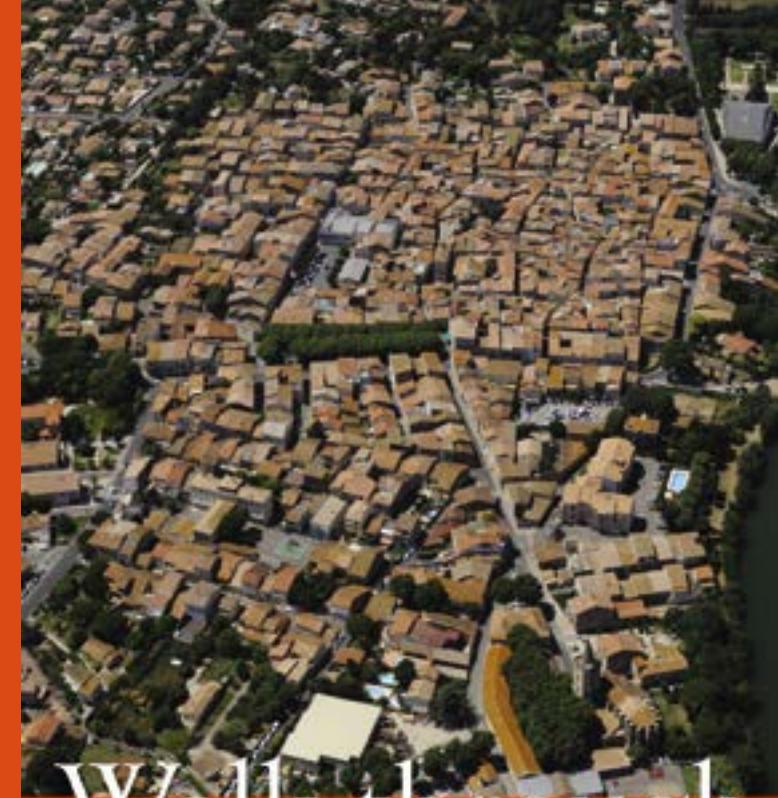
Former street names are very evocative. Indeed, we can have a fairly clear vision of the lifes of the inhabitants and their activities at that time. Explore the picturesque streets to soak up the spirit of the town.

Current names

Allées de la république
Rue Saint Just
Rue Amat
Rue des Salanquiers
Rue de Ronde
Rue Marat
Rue Mirabeau
Rue Général Crouzat
Rue de la Révolution
Rue du Dr Vernhes
Rue Général Thomières
Rue Paul Riquet
Rue Lamartine
Rue Danton
Rue Robespierre
Rue Barbés
Rue Michelet
Rue Gambetta
Rue Général Domergue
Rue Général Henric
Place de la Libération
Rue Rouget de Lisle
Rue du 14 juillet
Rue du 11 novembre
Avenue de Béziers

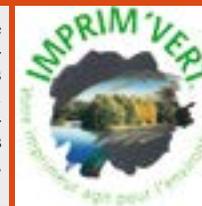
Former names

(occitan translations)
Meeting Square
Circle Round Street
Salanquier's Street
Fishermans Street
Ronde Street
Narrow Street
Bees Street
Tobacco Street
Happiness Street
Gardener Street
Salanquier's Street
Oven square Street
French Street
Notary Street
Love Street
Sauvian Lane
Saint Jérôme Street
Saint Roch Street
Locksmith Street
Blacksmith Street
Liberty Square
Bakery Street
Notre Dame Street
Church Lane
River Lane



Walk through
the heart
of
Serignan

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Meandering in Serignan's streets...

The route starts on the forecourt of La Cigalière, in the middle of the work «Radiant» (1) by the conceptual artist Daniel Buren. This piece of art is highlighting the Theater's architecture.

170 perforated metal towers are displayed among the space with the aim of leading our eyes to the horizon. At dusk, the play of light is remarkable, when the towers are coming on in a endless varieties color, thanks to optical fibers. This work echoes the contemporary sculptures route presented in the Château Vargoz (2), an opulent property built in the 19th century, which today houses artists' studios and an exhibition place.

Then the route is meandering through the old town. You can admire a porch, the remains of a Renaissance gatehouse in Impasse Lamartine (3) before arriving at the austere front of the Admiralty, the seat of royal power in Serignan (4). Here in the 17th century all the maritime trade were controlled and supervised.

Sérignan has kept its medieval structure with small traces of its walls (5) and a tower (6). The black stoned apparatus are coming from the nearby volcanic area of Agde.

The path takes you near the old castle (7). Unfortunately only lapidary elements are remained, probably reused in the construction of various buildings all over the town.

A covered market was taking place right next to it. The Place de la Libération's central location in the heart of the town presented a strategic and symbolic interest.



Indeed, the Halle's building (8) had different offices through the ages: originally it was built for barracks with lookouts, then used for a trading hall. After the Révolution Française, the Halle housed the City Hall and more recently the Tourist Office.

Going up the Rue Gambetta, you can see that the number 40 contains a niche with the statue of St. Roch inside (9). The cult of Saint Roch, born in Montpellier in the late 13th century, is widespread in the region. At Serignan, he stays celebrated on August 16th with a large parade and blessing of the animals in the Collegiate Church of Notre Dame de Grace.

By taking the Rue Michelet, (10) you can see a former underpass testifying the narrow streets. The route takes you through the Promenade (11) and its alleys of plane trees. Once called "Meeting square", this site is a place of meeting and talks.

Going down the Rue du 11 novembre, you can reach the Collegiate Church of Notre Dame de Grace (12). The construction of this classified monument was staggered from the 12th to the 15th centuries. Its imposing bell tower, of 30 meters high, reminds more of a warrior dungeon than a religious building. The apse is opened with seven high mullioned windows and presents a set of stained glass windows by Mauvernay workshops and laid in 1879.

The old winery of Viennet (13) consists of the City Hall, the former residence family and gardens. The ancient winery is located at the current Regional Museum of Contemporary Art. There are still framing and stone corbels inside. At last, the stables were on the site of the Administrative center.