

POUSTAGNACQ



**On the Herrere stream,
a former mill turned into
a flour-mill factory**



You'll find it at the end of René Loustalot Street, which follows the old cart track, used in bygone times by the train on wooden railways.

Before the Revolution, there used to be a flour-mill, belonging to Dax Barnabites. During the Restauration, it was bought by Bertrand Geoffroy - owner of the Abbese property, nearby- who transformed it into an iron factory.

THE LARTIGUE DYNASTY

On October 2nd, 1858, Jean Lartigue, a local farmer, became the owner of Poustagnacq but his son was the one who extended the estate. First he had a six-meter wide canal built in order to fix the banks of the Herrere stream. Then he dried the marshes nearby, which became pasture and farm land (40 hectares), where he raised 60 cows and pigs.

Poustagnacq cheese was well-known at the time. He stored hay to keep fodder –a brand new practice at the time. He also created a factory making wine out of dried grapes.

His son, August, was Mayor of St Paul, from 1888 to 1919. He gave the mill its present look : a building with 3 floors, along with huge warehouses.

The 3rd Jean Lartigue modernized the mill system in 1947, adding a 4th floor. A turbine on the stream provided the energy –there are some remains to be seen. The firm had to close down when it faced competition with the bigger mills in Bordeaux. The machines stopped for good on December 31st, 1978.

Then the Town Council bought the building to prevent it from decaying even more. At a great cost, the place has been preserved.

A famous restaurant opened in the outbuilding, but the main site is still disused, which is unfortunate.

THE AUGUSTE LARTIGUE PROMENADE

Again, the Town Council bought some land along the canal (30 m wide), from the Moras family, descendance of Jean Lartigue. This area has been turned into a 1 km walk, where you can rest on some benches. 134 trees have been planted there (oak trees, pine trees, beeches). It leads to Abbese property, following the old wooden rail track which used to carry the iron ore from Abbese estate to Dax station.



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