

## DISCOVERING THE TREASURES OF THE PAST

**1** Standing in the **market place** in the centre of the village, Saint Martin's church (not to be confused with Saint Martin's chapel) is in front of you. It was built in 1853.

This church replaced the abandoned Saint Antoine's church which was situated to the south of the château of Roquefort.

**2** Here , the **chateau of Roquefort** was above you. This 12th and 13 th century *Castrum* was an ancient fortified site built on the Roc St Antoine. It was dismantled in 1659 following the Treaty of the Pyrenees. Its story is surprising. The *Castrum* was bombarded by the Spanish army in 1642 and then became a fortified home clinging to the Roc St Antoine. In 1789 it was seized by the Narbonne poorthouse before finally becoming the village abattoir.

**3** The **three windmills** that stand like sentinels on the Pla de Roque are evidence of cereal farming that preceded wine production. They date from the early 18th century. Why three windmills together on the same site? For several different cereal types? To make the best use of prevailing winds? In order to obtain the finest possible flour by using different grinding stones?

**4 Saint Martin's hill and chapel**, emblems of our village.

A chapel was first mentioned in 1320 but only a ruined wall of this building remains. It was attacked during the franco-spanish wars in the 16th century. The current chapel was erected in

the 19th century using material from the original building. There was a cemetery around the chapel.

You can see a St Jacques scallop shell in the keystone of the entrance door, so perhaps this was formerly on a pilgrimage route.

**5 The Chalet** was given to the village by the Alexandre family. There are no historical archives, but people believe that in the 19th century it was a shady leisure site where water retention works had been undertaken to take advantage of a water supply on the hill.

**6 The Calvary**, this was built in 1864 at the request of the heartbroken parents of Justin Marty who died bravely aged 21 in a fire that threatened the village.

**7 Wine co-operative** « Les Celliers St Martin » founded on the 7th May 1949 in order to collect the grapes and make table wine from the harvest of increasing numbers of Roquefort vine growers who wished to develop their business and improve their status.

**8 Fontaine des Mules** : formerly a drinking trough for draught horses and mules, constructed in the 19th century on the site of a spring.

**9 La Vigneronne**. The first wine co-operative founded on the 16th December 1920 following the 1907 troubles among wine producers. It merged with the Saint Martin co-operative on the 25th June 1966 in the interests of consolidating resources and satisfying ongoing investments and marketing demands.

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Roquefort des Corbières, the elements of rock and strenght characterise this pretty mediterranean village that nestles at the foot the cliff of la Roque.

Since the Iron Age (850 BC), the privileged geographical position of the village has left it with evidence of the past.

The village covers 4544 hectares and offers many walking tracks along which fauna, flora and traces of former human activity mark the richness of local history.

As you walk you can clear your head and discover this natural space where each stone has its history.



For further information on local history, contact **Roquefort Histoire et Patrimoine.**

(Robert MASQUET) at the Mairie.

From the market, facing the **church (1)** take Rue de l'Église, and then Rue du Clocher, going up the steps that lead to Grand' Rue.

Turn left and you arrive at the intersection of 3 streets. At the sign 1,5 T take the little path under ancient fortification walls.

You are at the foot of the Roc Saint Antoine on which the **Castrum of Roquefort** was built **(2)**.

At the edge of the area of private land, continue up to the left until you go through a gap in a rocky outcrop called « Le trou du Gallinat » (Gallinat hole).

Up on the Pla de Roque you go past the **three windmills (3)** with a panoramic view of the vineyards of Roquefort, open garrigue beyond and the intense blue of the Mediterranean sea.

Go down the Col de Naut until you reach Camin del Bosc and turn left straight away ; at the foot of la Triolle, take the first path on the right, then, after about 50 metres, take the path between the vines and the hill.

At the junction of the tarmacked la Badal road, go along to the right before the ditch and you will find the track that goes up to St Martin (do not follow the route of the gas pipeline).

Continue to **Saint Martin's chapel (4)** via the first track on the left and make a round trip of the hill, returning by the spring.

At the bend in the track, take the recent steps down to the left (*take care, it is steep!*).

Follow the line of the former water retention works and reach the **Chalet (5)** then retrace your steps to go back down to the village, taking the Chemin de St Martin and then left on the Rue de la Badal.

At the rugby ground crossroads, take Rue de Montpezat and after 200 metres you will be able to see the **Calvary (6)** (*there & back*). Continue Rue de Montpezat and turn right into Rue des Evangelis.

You will arrive at the « **Celliers Saint-Martin** » cooperative **(7)**, then turn right on Rue « **Font de la Muolas** » **(8)**, then Rue Chantevent and you will pass « **La Vigneronne** », the first wine co-operative **(9)**.

You are back where you started at the market place.

