

A visit to Queen Margot's Chateau



The chateau is located in the small village of Saint - Projet in the Tarn and Garonne district in South West France. It was built at the end of the 13th century. During the Hundred Years War, the chateau was under frequent attack by the army of the Black Prince. However due to good fortification it remained intact. After the battle of Crecy, the chateau fell into the hands of the Black Prince. Local legends suggest that there is hidden treasure belonging to the Black Prince buried somewhere on the chateau's grounds.

During the religious wars, Queen Margot (pictured left), the wife of King Henry IV, left Paris accompanied by her two lovers, and travelled to the chateau of Saint – Projet. She

stayed there for two nights, 26th and 27th September 1586. After her departure from the chateau, the Queen's bedroom was locked and was re-discovered in 1990 with all the furniture intact.



We visited the chateau on a sunny September day. We paid our 5€ to the lady in the first of the two shops and waited. There was a couple there before us, I think they were German. Communication was

difficult as the lady who had taken our money appeared to speak only Spanish. Eventually we were taken to another shop which was a fascinating mixture of souvenirs and brocante-style antiques. After ten minutes or so in the shop, we were anxious to see the chateau and then climbing the stairs proceeded to look around. As we finished our tour in the grounds of the chateau, we heard the voice of the man who had let us in the shop. When he saw us he asked us where we had been. Feeling like



naughty school girls we showed him our tickets and explained we were English. That appeared to be explanation enough for what he obviously thought was bizarre behaviour!

We then proceeded with the rest of the group to take the official tour of the chateau along with the guide's commentary. I took very few pictures on this official tour having taken many on our previous unofficial one. Our tour

had not included Queen Margot's bedroom where our guide told us that we were walking on the very floor that the Queen had walked on. However our tour had included a rather pleasant room decorated in red that was obviously 'out of bounds'.

The official tour ended where it had begun in the shop. The chateau contains many fine pieces of furniture and artefacts along with letters signed by Louis XIV and Louis XVI. The letter written by Louis XVI had been written a few months before the 1789 revolution. If you are ever in this region of France the chateau of Queen Margot in Saint-Projet is well worth a visit but make sure you stick to the official tour.



One of the many representations of the Virgin Mary to be found in the chateau