

Welcome to Tourrettes sur Loup

1 The Olive Oil Mill Aqueduct
19th C. Rue de la Bourgade

This former mule track to Vence is spanned by an arch forming part of the ancient olive oil mill aqueduct. A number of private residences have been created from the mill building. There were formerly two more mills below and these remaining buildings also attest to the importance of the olive oil industry in this region in the 19th century.

*From here there is a beautiful view
of the village of Tournettes-sur-Loup
perched atop its rocky defence*

2 The Lavoir (1900) Pl. de la Fontaine

The trough was dug out of the rock and has a vaulted roof supported by two pillars. Its water comes from a natural spring. The drinking fountain, a trough for animals and an open accessible wash basin were created in 1900.

3 The Saint Jean Chapel
(1959) Route de Saint Jean

The interest of this chapel lies in its interior decoration which is the work of Ralph Soupault, a naïve painter whose frescos integrate the life and landscape of Tourrettes with scenes from the Old and New Testaments. The daily life of its inhabitants is represented - such as the gathering of violets, a local industry linked to the perfumeries of Grasse.

4 The «Bastide aux Violettes»
(Opening in 2010)

To this day there are still some local families involved in the labour-intensive

business of growing violets. These are all destined for the Grasse perfumeries.

Every year in early March, there is a festive celebration, the «Fête des Violettes». The season for the violets is between November and March.

5 The Church of Saint Grégoire
(12th -16th - 19th C.)
Place de la Libération

The present church was built in 1551 using the design and building materials of the previous Romanesque church. The entrance porch is a mixture of Romanesque and Renaissance in style. On the southern façade, the oldest, there are some recycled stones bearing ancient symbols of Christianity, such as the fish and the double dove. The upper part of the church is more recent; noticeably the construction method in the belfry is more regular. It served initially as a watchtower and was renovated in 1861.

Inside: The Altar of Mercury, an engraved 3rd century limestone block. The Triptyque, an oil painting on wood, is in the tradition of the 15th century Brea School, typical of the Nice and Genoa regions. It shows Saint Antony with Saints Gregoire and Claude flanking him.

6 The Porte Est
Place de la Libération

This building which projects over the entranceway to the village controlled access to the castle and the Grand'rue. The remains of a drawbridge or a portcullis can be seen. On the west side of

the village there is another entrance with a clock overhead.

Between the two gates there is «the Barbacane», a fortified stronghold.

7 The Tour de l'horloge
(12th - 14th - 16th C.)
Place de la Libération

The entrance under the 16 century Clock Tower, improved during the Middle Ages, was for a very long time the only way into the fortified village. It leads via a sharp turn and a double locking system to the Grand'rue. The 16th century tower above houses the clock.

8 The Remparts (15th C.)
Grand'Rue & Ch. de ronde

The Grand'rue forms the second line of defence for the village whilst the first one is the Chemin de la Ronde around the perimeter. The houses along these streets constituted the ramparts in the Middle Ages as was characteristic of the fortress-villages of the region.

9 The Château
(12th - 15th - 18 th - 19th C.)
Place M. Escalier

It is thought that there was a wooden tower erected on the former castellaras. Guichard de Villeneuve received the fiefdom of Tourrettes after his victory in 1377 over some Niçois. His descendant built the castle 57 years later in 1430. However, the tower supporting the belfry is older and dates approximately from the 12th century. The castle itself is large, covering 400 m2 at ground level and includes 3 floors. It was knocked down, then restored. Since the Revolution and

the subsequent flight of César, the last of the Villeneuves, it has served as the town hall for the people of Tournettes.

The monumental 17th century staircase was built by the Villeneuves family as a defiantly proud showpiece for their cousins in Vence and Grasse. It was restored at the end of the 20th century.

10 The old Hospital (18th C.)
Rue de l'hôpital

The XVIIth century Hospital was open until 1936.

11 The Portail Neuf
Rue du Portail Neuf

This southernmost entrance, the New Gate, leads to a path which crosses over a Roman bridge, then passes under the viaduct partially destroyed by the Germans in 1944 and finishes at a former station of Provence Railways on the Nice- Draguignan line. Towards the west the Chemin de la Ronde circles the village and ends in the Place de la Libération via the Rue de Frêne whilst to the east it is impassable and has been covered with falling rocks, debris and vegetation.

12 The Oratoire and the Belvédère

From here there is an incomparable view over the Côte d'Azur going from the Estérel in the west to Menton in the east with a ceramic orientation map.
The oratoire: the newly restored icons dedicated to Saints Mark and Michael.

