

Stroll in Parisot



The village of Parisot is just a few kilometres from Puylagarde on the road to Caylus. For strategic reasons, and like most villages in the area, it dominates the neighbouring valley. It is built in concentric circles where small streets give way to stairs. You can park easily in the newly renovated 'Place du foirail' in front of the café bar 'La Maison'.

From the Place, take the rue Droite which runs between the Mairie and the shops; you will see mullioned stone windows, half-timbered houses and balconies decorated with stone crows - explanatory panels along the road give a detailed history of the village. A little further on you will see the 17C grain hall from which there are wonderful open views of the surrounding hills.

Just past the hall, on the right hand side, is the museum 'Jean Parisot de La Valette', named after the renowned Grand Master of the Order of Malta. On the first floor, there is an exhibition dedicated to him.



Following the road as it curves around to the right, you will see the privately owned 'Chateau de l'Astorguié' built in 1500 for Jean de la Valette-Labro, knight of Rhodes, which has been restored and resold many times over.



In front of the castle is a path leading up to the stone church; push open the wooden door and inside you will find its medieval treasure displayed in the last alcove on the right hand side. From the church you can climb up to the 'belvedere' (the Latin word for 'beautiful view') where there is a spectacular and far-reaching view over the surrounding countryside. You will also find an orientation map pinpointing the surrounding villages.

Coming down from the 'belvedere' and following along the fortification wall, you will see below the village gardens and houses of the 600 inhabitants, serviced by its 7 shops. The village is very lively all year round thanks to its school, and to the many art and book festivals, and music concerts. Information on all village activities and local news can be found in the library (bilingual).

Feeling hungry? Auberge de la Castille and Fourchette & Cie are recommended for their good cuisine and there are two bakeries offering traditional bread and homemade pastries.

If you want to venture a little further you will find the lake, either by taking the footpath from the village through the woods (ask anyone where the path starts), or by car along the main road. The lake is a tranquil spot at any time of the year, surrounded by beautiful trees. A little further afield (approximately 2 kms) you can explore the 'château de Labro'. Take the road out of the village signposted 'Najac' then take the first turning on the right signed 'Le Cuzoul', and follow the signs to the chateau. Built over 500 years ago and now largely a ruin, it is the birthplace of the great Knight Jean de la Valette. Parisot guards its treasures well, but rewards those who look.

Text and photos Aline Hamot 10/02/2020 thanks to Gina helping with translation.