

VILLENAVE D'ORNON


5000 ans d'Histoire



COMITÉ HISTORIQUE

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5000 years of History

 <p>Above the crest Villenave Ornon. Half-moon symbolizes one of the loops of the Garonne. The tower reminds Earl of Ornon, who was behind the creation of the town. The leopard evokes the English domination. The yellow color is white wine Carbonnieux.</p>	<p>Villenave d' Ornon, a town of 28 000 inhabitants, is the southern door of the urban community of Bordeaux, from which it was a founder member in 1965.</p> <p>Vestiges megalithic testify to a human presence in the communal territory 5000 years ago.</p> <p>These remains are a group of five burials, unique in the Gironde, consisted of stones of conglomerates, set up approximately 3000 years before J.C.. This site overhangs White Water, a river that takes its source in Léognan, to throw itself in the Garonne, in front of Island Jewish.</p> <p>Other vestiges of Gallo-Roman buildings are present in Geneste and Sarcignan. A Gallo-Roman aqueduct dating from the first century started from Veyres, passed across Sarcignan where vestiges were discovered in 1973, and then continued through Madère, to supply water to the antique Burdigala (former Roman name of Bordeaux).</p> <p>A feudal mound at Courréjean, close to White Water, protected the port of the same name about year 1000.</p>
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From the Middle Ages to the 100 years war...

In the 11th century, a church was built, perhaps upon an ancient monument. This building includes a large nave divided in three parts by an alignment of pillars with plain capitals and a chevet with three chapels.

During the 12th and 13th century, the church underwent changes. An apse was added along with decorative capitals.

This church is the centre of the Saint-Martin parish, which is created at this time and belongs to the Cernès Archpriesthood based at Gradignan, a neighbouring commune. It is located on the land of the Count of Ornon, a faithful lord to the King of England, duke of Aquitaine.

The origin of the name of Villenave d' Ornon dates back to this time. Villenave is the 'gascon' (local language) version of the word Villeneuve, i.e. new town.

The Count of Ornon whose castle was seated to the locality «Ornon» on the Gradignan parish created it. Visible ruins of this fortress still remain.

In 1274, Edouard 1st, King of England, made Guillaume Bernard knight. This last committed to protect the south of Bordeaux by the weapons.



St Martin's Church

At that time, the earldom of Ornon covered the parishes of Talence, Gradignan, Léognan, Canéjan, Cestas, Villenave and part of Bègles and Martillac. This family was very influential since it possessed lands and domains from Audenge to Blaye.

The last lady of Ornon, Marie, had to yield her lands and her rights to the King of England between 1390 and 1399. On this date, Richard 2nd of England made gift of the earldom with Jean de Beaufort, Marquis of Dorset, whom sold it to Henri Bowet, bishop of Bath, the future archbishop of York.

The One hundred year old war makes disasters, and in 1405, the county and its fortress are devastated by the troops of the Count of Armagnac, lieutenant of the king of France. This was a fatal blow to the independence of the earldom, which is sold to the mayor and justices of Bordeaux in 1409.

It stayed in their possession until 1789.

In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, the Church of St. Martin undergoes substantial changes in its

structure (chapels, intersecting ribs of the vault). Le Béquet has then a votive chapel dedicated to Saint James: English name of Saint Jacques. The church is on the way of the pilgrimage of Compostelle. In the 17th then in the 18th century, the bell-tower and the frontage are altered. The apse of the church was listed historical building in 1920 and the remainder of the building registered with the additional inventory of the historic buildings in 1925, as well as furniture (statue, canvasses, bell or low-reliefs) between 1908 and 1995.

From the 14th century, small domains were created on the parish: Carbonnieux, Courréjean, Geneste, Beunon, Montplaisir, Hé and Wood-Lalande (Sallegourde). Seven water mills appeared on the edges of l'Eau Blanche and l'Eau Bourde Rivers.



The castle Carbonnieux

From Henri 4th to French Revolution

The vicarage of Villenave was united to the dignity of treasurer of the Saint-André metropolitan church of Bordeaux in 1627 and became permanent vicarage until 1789. A revolt broke out in 1643 against the authority of the king Louis XIV and its Prime Minister Mazarin.

Troubles affected the area and the Carbonnieux castle, belonging to the Ferron family, members of the parliament of Bordeaux, gave shelter to the royal troops for one night in 1649.

New small castles appeared in the 17th and 18th centuries, surrounded by vineyards: Canteloup, Madère, Barret, La Grande Ferrade, Montgrand, La Monnaie, Trigant, Couhins, La Gravette, Lahontan, Terrefort, Guiteronde. Their owners came from the bourgeoisie of Bordeaux. While The cartographer De Belleyne worked, amongst other things, on our parish, he became the godfather of a young citizen of Villenave in 1771.

In 1789, the commune was divided into several hamlets surrounded by large domains, owned by bourgeois and noble parliamentarians of Bordeaux. The Revolution enabled the creation of a municipal administration distinct from that of Bordeaux and fixed the communal territory.

Villenave d' Ornon in the 20th century: Urban development and opening to the world...

From 1844 to 1929, a long polemic concerning a possible scission in two distinct entities disturbed the city. The first being created around the church Saint-Delphin and the other around the borough. Finally the unity was preserved.

In the second half of the 19th century, several districts increased: Pont de la Maye, Pont de Langon, Hourcade, and Sarcignan. The omnibus linked Villenave to Bordeaux and the railway was connected in 1855 to join Langon.

A policy of construction of public buildings was developed: the school of the Borough (1855), the town hall of the Borough (decided in 1875 and inaugurated in 1877), the Pont-de-la-Maye school (1882), the post office of the Borough (1885). A military training ground at Le Béquet is entrusted to the 18th Army Corps in 1879.

Famous visitors came in Villenave: Louis XIV, Napoleon 1st in 1807, the duke of Angoulême and the duke of Wellington in 1814, the duchess of Angoulême, daughter of Louis XVI, in 1822, Franz Liszt in the years 1860, the minister of the War, Etienne, in 1906 and presidents Sadi Carnot, by boat, in 1888 and Armand Fallières in carriage in 1910.

In 1890, the commune was shared in three districts: Pont-de-la-Maye, Bourg (borough) and Courréjean. In 1902 the tram replaced the omnibus and in 1911 the commune was linked to the electricity network. Other districts were created in the Twenties: Chambéry, La Générale, Rouquette, Madère etc.

The population quadrupled since 1794, growing from 1.604 to 6.000 in 1936. It then doubled to 10.000 inhabitants in 1954 and doubled again to 21 464 inhabitants by 1968.

A hospital was created on the part of the training ground during the war 1914-1918 including Le Béquet castle, built in 1770 (now Robert-Picqué's Hospital, inaugurated in 1936).



The castle of Sallegourde

During the Second World War, the commune was part of the occupied zone and several resistance fighters originating of the commune dies for France. The liberation was on August 28, 1944 by the F.F.I.

The castle of Sallegourde and its grounds became a protected area in 1943.



In the Sixties, factories and companies were set up in the Hourcade, Courréjean, Chanteloiseau districts. Chambéry became a residential area with small shops. The town hall moved to Pont-de-la-Maye (the present family allowances centre), and then to the Canteloup domain, castle dating from 1777.

In 1948, a chapel, today disused and transformed into apartments, is built in La Taille.

The castle of Canteloup – The city hall

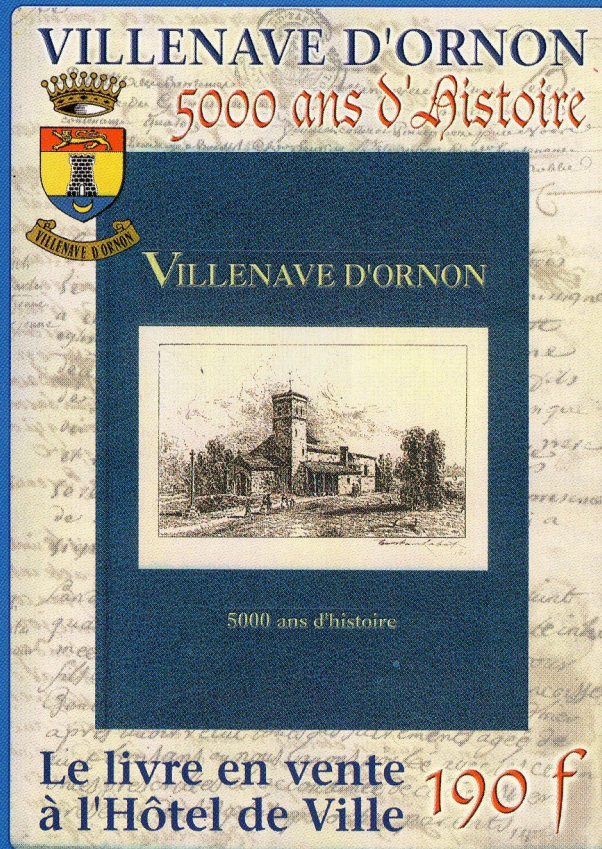
The new Saint-Delphin church was built in 1966, as well as the Sainte-Jeanne-de-Lestonnac one at Chambéry in 1969. Nowadays, the commune counts eighteen primary schools and two secondary schools. There are many sports and cultural activities in the commune too. This last provides numerous sporting facilities to its inhabitants (gymnasiums, stadiums, swimming pool, skating rink) and cultural and leisure establishments such as library, premises for local associations, music and dance schools, as well as chalet in the Pyrenees at Luz-Saint-Sauveur. Villenave d'Ornon shelters also public institutions: the national Institute of agronomic research, a public treasury, a police station, three post office buildings, a telephone exchange, a centre of firemen, etc.

Finally, the city set up a Young Town Council in 1993.

The commune was honoured by another presidential visit, by François Mitterrand in 1982.

A cultural exchanges and international relations policy has led to the twinning with four European communities: SEEHEIM-JUGENHEIM (Germany) in 1982, BLANES (Spain) in 1987, TORRES VEDRAS (Portugal) in 1992 and BRIDGEND (Wales) in 1994, as well as establishment of the Congo consulate in 1991. Prime Minister Jacques Joachim YHOMBY-OPANGO, former president of Congo, inaugurated the new consulate's building in 1996.





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