

CASTLE ROQUEFIXADE



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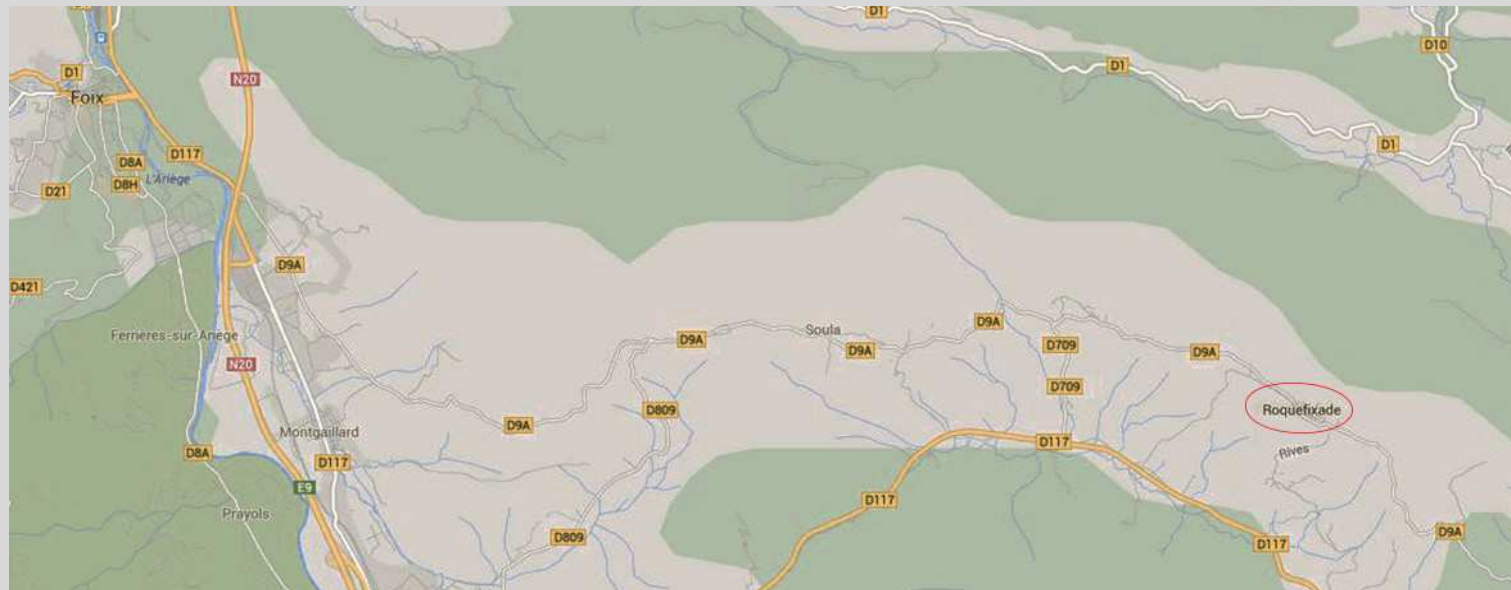
ROQUEFIXADE



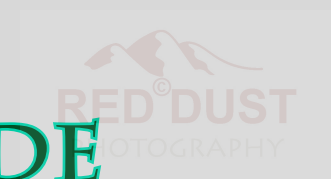
DURING A RECENT HOLIDAY IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE
I WAS TOLD OF A CASTLE RUIN IN A SMALL TOWN KNOWN AS
ROQUEFIXADE.


I WENT TO VISIT AND I WISH TO SHARE WHAT I FOUND
WITH YOU

PLEASE ENJOY



ENTREZ
CHÂTEAU DE ROQUEFIXADE





IN THE FRENCH MID PYRENEES EAST OF FOIX
WITHIN ARIÈGE,
IS A SMALL VILLAGE CALLED ROQUEFIXADE WITH
A POPULATION OF 152.
ORIGINALLY A FORTIFIED TOWN OF THE CATHARES,
THE FORTIFICATION IS NOW
A RUIN SITTING ATOP ITS HIGHEST PEAK.

THE RUINS ARE KNOWN AS CHÂTEAU DE ROQUEFIXADE.




RED DUST
PHOTOGRAPHY



THE NAME OF ROQUEFIXADE IS DERIVED FROM THE CATALAN PHRASE ROCA FISADA (FISSURED ROCK).

A FISSURE ON TOP OF THE PEAK WAS FILLED IN AND AN ARCHWAY BUILT SUPPORTING A RAMPART.

A KEEP WAS BUILT AT THE HIGHEST POINT AND THE REMAINS OF THE WALL CIRCLE THIS POSITION.

THE KEEP WAS REMODELLED IN THE 14TH CENTURY AND ALTERATIONS DONE LATER IN THE 14TH AND 15TH CENTURIES.



BECOMING A STRONGHOLD IT WAS BUILT
TOWARDS THE END OF THE 13TH CENTURY.
ITS PURPOSE WAS TO WATCH OVER THE
TERRITORY OF THE COUNTY OF FOIX.
IT IS LOCATED AT THE END OF A LINE OF FORTRESSES
ALONG THE HILLS OF CORDIÈRES.








RED DUST
PHOTOGRAPHY

DURING 1632 KING LOUIS XIII RESTED THERE ON HIS WAY TO TOULOUSE FOR THE EXECUTION OF HENRI II, DUKE OF MONTMORENCY.

HENRI II HAD RAISED UP AGAINST RICHIELEU, THE KINGS RIGHT-HAND MAN.

RICHIELEU IS RECOGNISED AS THE WORLD'S FIRST PRIME MINISTER.





WHILE THERE HE ORDERED THE DESTRUCTION OF
THE ROQUEFIXADE.
HIS REASONING WAS THE COST OF MAINTAINENANCE
AND ITS PURPOSE HAD BEEN SERVED.




PHOTOGRAPHY





THE RUINS ARE MORE MODERN THAN THE RECORDS INDICATE WHICH DATE BACK TO 1180 AD. WHILE THE RUINS ARE MARKETED AS ONE OF THE CATHER CASTLES THEY ARE LATER THAN THIS. HOWEVER THE VILLAGE DID PROVIDE REFUGE FOR THE CATHERS DURING THE ALBIGENSIUN CRUSADE.



CHÂTEAUX CATHARES (CATHAR CASTLES) IS A
MODERN TERM USED BY THE TOURISM INDUSTRY
AND INCORPORATES A
SERIES OF FORTRESSES BUILT AT THE END OF
THE ALBIGENSIAN CRUSADE BY THE FRENCH KING.

MOST OF THESE SITES ARE JUST FORTIFIED VILLAGES.



PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTOGRAPHY

REAL CHÂTEAUX CATHARES IN THE TERRITORY OF LANGUEDOC
ARE FORTIFIED HOMESTEADS.

EXAMPLES OF THESE BEING LAURAC, FANJEAUX, AND
MAS-SAINTE-SUELLES.

SOME SITES LIKE LASTOURS, CABARET, MONSÉGUR AND TERMES
WERE CASTRA BEFORE THEY WERE RAZED TO THE GROUND.

SITES LIKE LASTOURS, CABARET, MONSÉGUR, TERMES
AND PUILAURENS BECAME CITADELS LATER.



YOU CAN SEE MONSÉGUR SILHOUTTED IN THE DISTANCE




RED DUST
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A MYTH EXISTS OF A LEGEND OF CATHAR ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS.

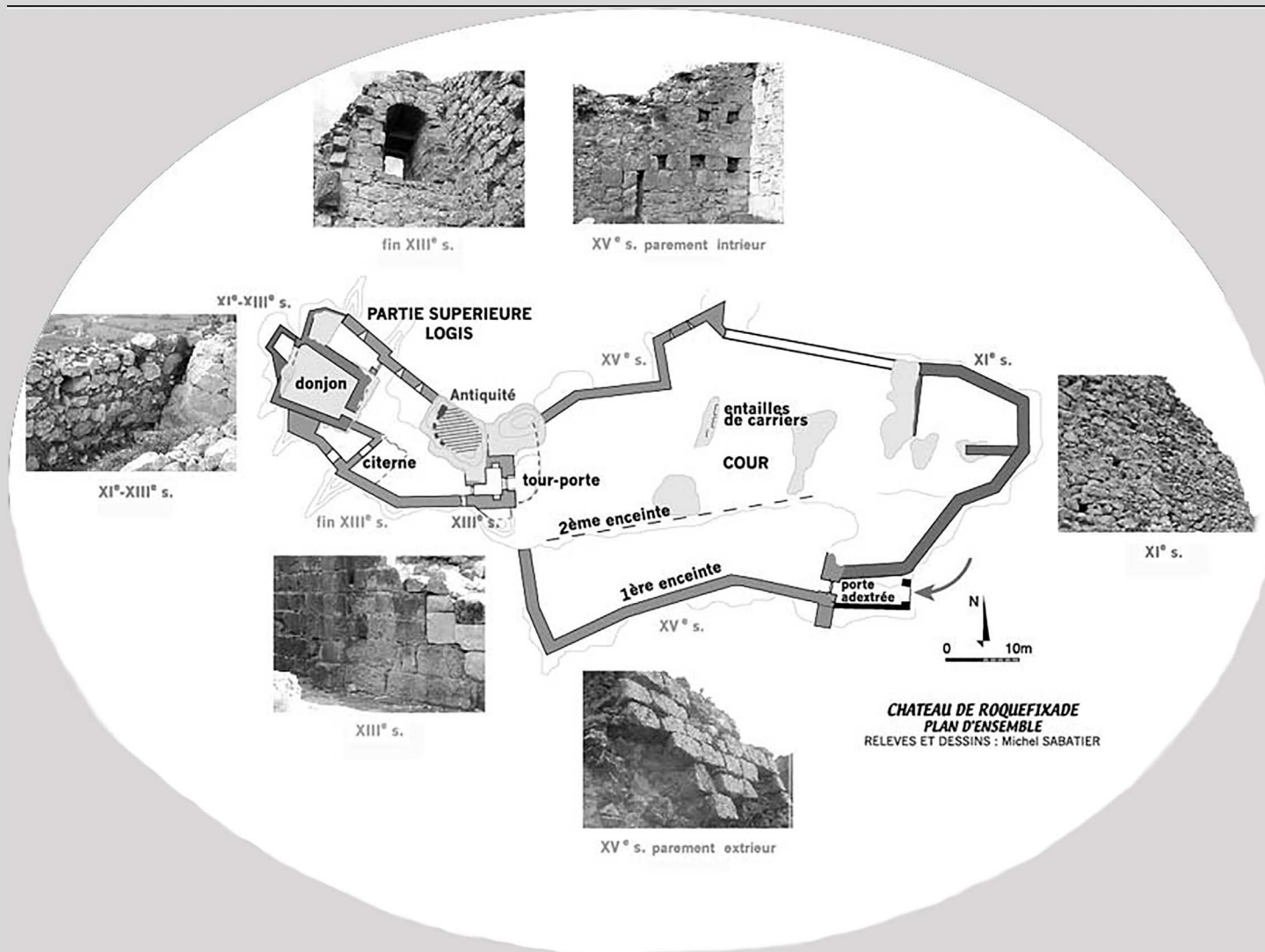
HOWEVER THE EVIDENCE SHOWS THE CATHAR CHURCH WHERE NOT THE BUILDERS.

THE ONLY MONUMENTS THAT CAN TRULY CLAIM TO BE CATHAR ARE THOSE WHICH EXPERIENCED THE EVENTS OF THE FIRST HALF OF THE CENTURY.

THESE ARE RUINS OF SMALL CASTLES OFF THE TOURIST ROUTE AND ARE GENERALLY UNKNOWN TO THE PUBLIC.

PRESENTLY THE RUINS ARE LISTED BY THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF CULTURE AS A MONUMENT HISTORIQUE.

PHOTOGRAPHY



Reference

Castle map:-

Source:

<http://translate.google.com.au/translate?hl=en&sl=fr&u=http://www.roquefixade.fr/&prev=/search%3Fq%3Droquefixade%26client%3Dfirefox-a%26hs%3DNmn%26rls%3Dorg.mozilla:en-GB:official%26channel%3Dsb> (visited

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~~ROQUEFIXADE~~

Relais des Pogs

Pension Canine