

CHÂTEAU DE MAULMONT

HISTORY



The site of Château de Maulmont was a Templar's Stronghold in the 13th century. This stronghold was built by Renaud de Vichy, Master of the Order of the Templars, after he returned from the crusades in 1255



This fortress of the Order of the Templars was constructed on the hills overlooking the Valley of the River Allier. Today only the cellar and the archway of the original castle remain. Above the archway the crest of the Templar's is still intact.



At the beginning of the 14th century, Phillip le Bel, the then king of France, took possession of all the properties of the Templars. In 1309, Guillaume de Maulmont made an exchange with Phillipe Le Bel, for several of the fortresses, including the chateau.



The Château de Maulmont received its name from Agnès de Maulmont wife of Guillaume IV, who lived in the Château after her husband died.



In the 15th century the last descendents of the Maulmont family died. After the Maulmont family, several other noble families lived in the Chateau such as the Marquis de Praslin and the Duchesse de Grollier. In 1829 it became the property of Princess Adelaide Louise d'Orléans (1777-1847), sister of King Louis Philippe d'Orléans (1773-1850) and owner of the royal estate in Randan.



Her Highness Princess Adélaïde Louise demolished the old ruins of the templars stronghold in order to construct a "rendez-vous de chasse" (hunting lodge) on the site. In 1830, she commissions the construction of Château de Maulmont to the architect Fontaine, who was famous for designing a wing of the Château de Versailles, the « Galerie des Batailles ». In the summer, the King Louis Philippe used to come to Randan with the whole Court, where he constructed a summer palace, and would come to Maulmont for hunting and shooting.



In 1847, Antoine d'Orléans (1824-1890), duc de Montpensier, inherits Château de Maulmont. In 1886, the Montpensier family sell the château to Alfred du Guérinet, who in 1890 commissions the architect Honoré Vianne to transform the château into a real castle. The works consist essentially of adding a floor and thus transforming the roof terraces.



Today Château de Maulmont has been sensitively renovated to the highest standards.