

History of the castle

From the 10th century, Tallard was under the protection of the Princes of Orange until 1215, when they gave the land to the Knights of St John of Jerusalem. The latter built a small castle on the site of the current castle before exchanging them in 1322 to Arnaud de Trians. He became the first lord of Tallard and built a fortified castle from the existing building (ruins of the current dwelling).

In 1326, Tallard became a viscounty with the attachment of seven surrounding parishes. As a result of inheritance, Bernardin de Clermont, a descendant of Arnaud de Trians, married Anne de Husson in 1496, a rich heiress and countess of the town of Tonnerre. This union enabled him to restore the old fortress into a beautiful residence by adding the Guards' quarters, the seigneurial chapel, the gatehouse and the Warren park.

However, from 1562 onwards, the Wars of Religion led the Clermonts into exile for more than 20 years. The castle then became the scene of numerous battles and attracted the covetousness of François de Bonne de Lesdiguières, the Protestant warlord. The fortress, weakened, was bought in 1600 by Étienne de Bonne d'Auriac who had it restored. His descendants, Camille d'Hostun, heir by his mother, viscount and marshal of France under Louis XIV, became the new owner.

In 1692, the Duke of Savoy and his troops attacked the castle and set it on fire. In 1927, the castle was sold to the Countess Blanche de Clermont Tonnerre, who worked to revive it until her death in 1944. The castle was inherited by her grandniece, Marie Christine de Bourbon Sicile, who was only 10 years old at the time and could not maintain it. It was in the 1950s that a real awareness of the need to safeguard this exceptional heritage was initiated by the new priest of Tallard, Richard Duchamblo, who was passionate about old stones. The commune of Tallard, aware of its heritage, bought the castle in 1957.

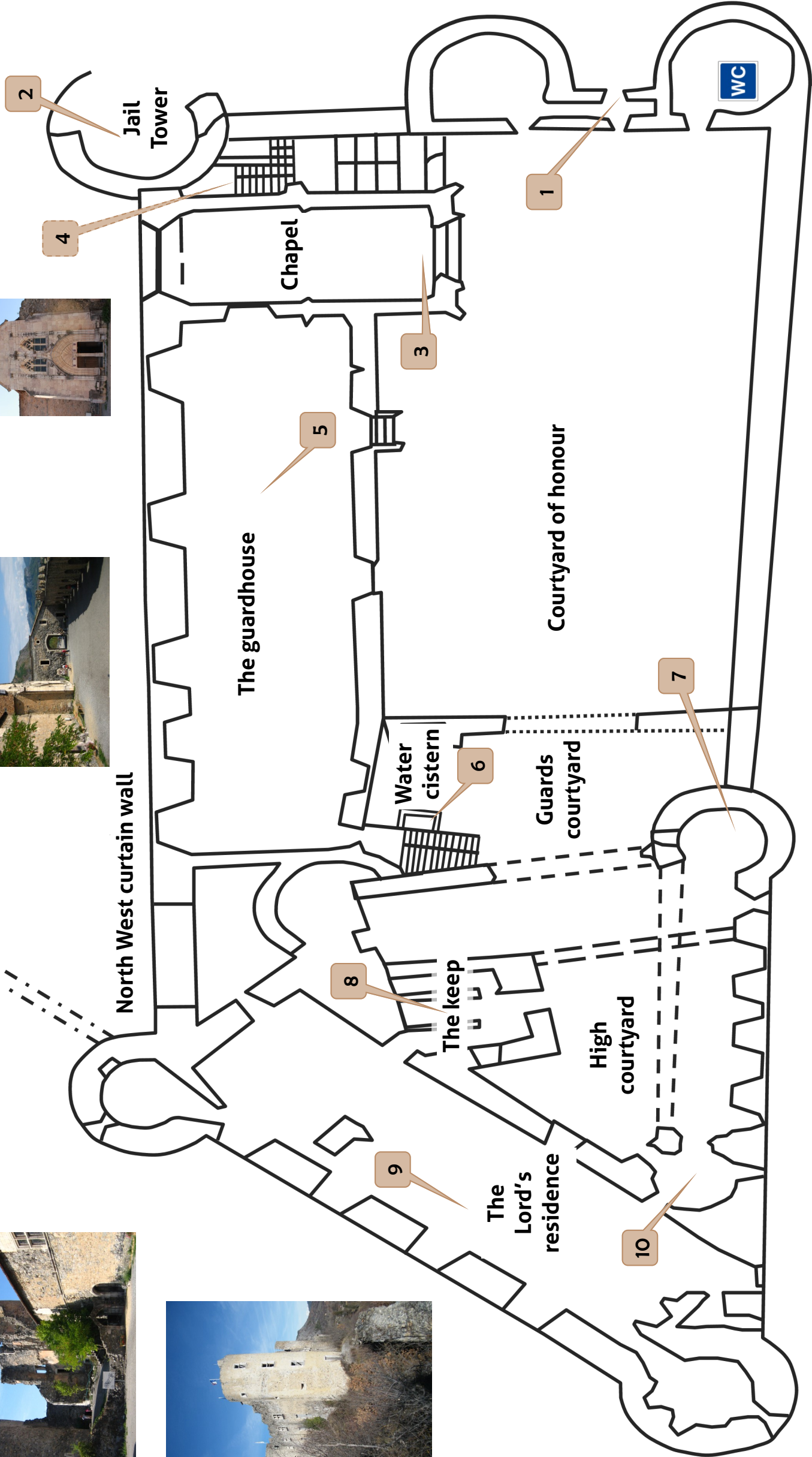
In 1958, the guardhouse was classified as a historic monument, opening a period of restoration carried out under the aegis of the Comité de sauvegarde du château de Tallard, an offshoot of the "Société d'Études des Hautes-Alpes". An emphyteutic lease of 99 years was signed in 1964 authorising the Société d'Études to continue its restoration and protection work: the castle was classified as a whole in 1969. This lease was finally terminated in June 2012, with the municipality of Tallard taking over full control of the castle.

Today, the restoration continues. Work to make the room of the former wine press accessible to the public for cultural events are planned in the near future.



- 1 The gatehouse
- 2 The jail tower
- 3 The chapel
- 4 The underground chapel
- 5 The guardhouse
- 6 Water cistern
- 7 First castle chapel
- 8 The keep
- 9 The lord's residence
- 10 The staircase tower

1322 - 2022 :
700 years of history



Tallard

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Castle
Tallard
United Kingdom

The lord's residence

At the far end of the main courtyard stands the lord's residence, the oldest part of the castle, whose remains date from the 14th century. This part was renovated by Lord Bernardin de Clermont in the 16th century. The dwelling had three floors and two vaulted basements, served by the stair tower. The basement was devoted to the kitchens and the "bugadières" (place where the laundry was done) of which vestiges are still visible today. This part has been entirely consolidated and some towers restored.

Some interesting points to discover:

- the dungeon tower
- the stair tower

The Guards' House

The ground floor has two arched doors. The first one is surmounted by a Clermont coat of arms, which was hammered out during the 1789 Revolution. A griffin and a mutilated lion stand at the entrance, bearing the insignia of the Clermonts. Inside the Guards' quarters, there are three vaulted rooms, one of which adjoins the chapel, which served as a sacristy. On the first floor, a room of more than 300 m² has 7 cross windows (mullioned windows and lattices). At the end of the Guards' room At the back of the Guards' room there is a mullioned window opening onto the chapel, allowing the service to be heard. This room has been entirely restored.

The Chapel of St John

This chapel was built in the early 16th century by Bernardin de Clermont (1440-1522). The chapel of Saint-Jean and its flamboyant gothic style façade made of pink limestone known as "Guillestre marble" attests to the wealth of its new owners.

The stained-glass windows (restored in 2022) show the coats of arms of the different families of lords who successively owned the castle. The chapel was classified as a historical monument in 1897 when it was bought by Joseph Roman. The interior of the chapel and the roof were restored between 1964 and 1965.

Some interesting points to discover:

- the statue of the Trinity
- the statue of the angel
- the funerary litre
- the liturgical pool
- the mullioned windows
- the stained-glass windows
- the burial crypt (underground chapel)



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2017-2023: FROM A RENAISSANCE CASTLE TO THE REBIRTH OF A CASTLE

The Château de Tallard is currently undergoing a new phase of restoration.

During this period, various works are being undertaken, the main objectives of which are

- Cleaning up and making the premises safe,
- Reprofling the courtyard, accessibility to the site for people with reduced mobility (installation of a lift and creation of a gently sloping ramp)
- The creation of a new reception area and a multicultural room in the basement.
- The restoration of the stained glass windows in the Saint-Jean-Baptiste chapel

Tallard also offers guided tours throughout the year by reservation : **church**, **airfield**, **village...**

For further information, please contact

- **Tallard Town Hall**
- **Gap-Tallard-Vallées Tourist Office**

A visit of approximately one hour combining a description of the work carried out and discovery of the heritage.

Departure from 4 reservations.

**Reservation required
at the Tourism Office**

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