

## The History of the Château de Martragny

The château was built by the Marquis de Grangues in 1743 when he was 21 (inheritance).

In 1772, at the time of the French Revolution, the château was occupied by the noble family of de Cyresme. During the construction of the new bar in spring 1991, a wooden plaque with the inscription "de Cyresme" was discovered and this hangs now in the château entrance.

The bell at the front of the château also dates from the same period and bears the following inscription: "My master, François de Cyresme, called me Colibery, lord of no property but citizen of the universe. " It is interesting to note, that this philosophical idea of freedom predates the fundamental ideas of the Revolution.

During the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the family de Mons, related to the de Cyresme, lived in the château. They then transformed the château in a farm. What were formerly the stables and outbuildings are now the shower block, shop and bar.

In September 1918, our Belgian friends come awake the "sleeping beauty". Indeed, by fear of German invasion on their land near Ypres, the headteacher of Saint-Stanislas of Poperingue middle school send 119 students and 28 teachers take refuge at the château of Martragny. They have been accommodated in woodhouse build in front of the services quarters. Rooms and living room of the château were transformed in classrooms during a year.

At the beginning of the Second World War, the château was occupied by the English who had planned to demolish it in order to build an airfield with the French Army. This plan was fortunately halted when the German army invaded Normandy. Between 1940 and 1945, the château was operating as a field hospital for both German and English Forces. And finally, after the recapture of Normandy by the English in 1944, the Royal Air Force had their supply headquarters here and used an airfield built in the large field to the left of the château.

After the war, in 1956, the Buon family, farmers at Creully bought the château and started again the farm, but also repair the château inside.

In 1971, the family de Saint Victor came to live in the château which was then in a bad state. They decided to create a campsite which is now affiliated to "Les Castels Camping & Caravaning chain".

In 1989, the "de Buretel de Chassey family" succeeded to the de St Victor. They carried out many improvements to the facilities. These included extensions to the reception, guestrooms and bar, always attempting to maintain the highest possible standards.

"Running a campsite is a very hard work, but it is a pleasure to be able to share our home with families from all over the world."