



A note on the history of the



DOMAINE DES



Hauts de Loire



HOTEL & RESTAURANT

The tourists and the population of the surroundings know the "DOMAINE DES HAUTS DE LOIRE" from its reputation or because they have already visited it. But what many ignore is that, for the elderly people of the region, it has remained the "CHATEAU DU PAVILLON".

The castle is a relatively recent building but the wood which surrounds it has probably always existed. In 1319, it appeared among the possessions of Hervé, de Vaultard, under the name of the "Petit Vaultard".

In 1452, this same wood was a seigniorial fief owned by Pierre de Fougères who, as a token of esteem, offered it to his suzerain Jeanne de Neillac, "dame of Onzain" and Seigneur of the "Grand Vaultard", under the name of the "Petit Vaultard" (the hamlet which still exists at present).

The wood as well as the small farms which surrounded it were owned at the end of the XVth century by family Louau, and then in 1567 by family Argy which also owned the seigneurie of Meuves and the Court of Meuves.

In 1648, Charles de Rostaing bought part of that immense property, among which the Petit Vaultard, in order to enlarge the park of his castle, in the village of Onzain. Lanes were traced in the shape of a star around 1750 and especially a large lane, still existing, which continued beyond the pond the west gardens of the castle.

Charles Louis Panckoucke, an editor and bookkeeper in Paris, the cousin and successor of the creator of the newspaper "le Moniteur" in 1789, bought the wood in 1820. There were only small houses in the park which were situated in the present location of the keeper's lodge, near the former entrance on the road to Santenay. The new owner only enlarged them so that he could occupy them and it was his son Ernest Panckoucke, an editor as well, who undertook the construction of the castle and of its annexes - as we know them know - in several steps between 1845 and 1865. He was the mayor of Onzain from 1860 to 1865 and died in 1886; we can still see his grave in the cemetery of Onzain.

His son-in-law, Oscar de la Vallée, who was a judge in the "Cour d'appel" of Paris (court of justice) and a senator holding appointment for life, enlarged the castle (more than doubled) and built the orangery, the greenhouses, the stables, the outhouses and the lodgings for the staff. He died there in 1892 and his son Pierre de Vallée took possession of it at the beginning of our century. The estate covered then 556 hectares (about 1400 acres).

There was a succession of owners then, more or less well-to-do.

The windmill which had long been the pride of the surroundings can still be seen from far away in the landscape; some people remember that a woman's overall got once caught in the shaft of the engine and that she was fatally wounded while she was going to her son's aid.

The late owners, Mr and Mrs BONNIGAL, have made of this "Chateau du Pavillon" the famous place that we know under the name of the "HAUTS DE LOIRE".

