

## THE DÉODAT DE SEVERAC NATIVE HOUSE

Séverac's family had always important functions in Saint Félix, since the 15th century. The house was built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, if we believe the inscription over the door. The house was bought by Gilbert de Séverac, painter during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. You can see one of his painting in the Collegial Church, in the .

## THE VIEWPOINT INDICATOR

On the Montfort Tower, you have a fantastic view on the Revel's plain, the Pyrénées Mountains and the "montagne noire"

## DÉODAT DE SEVERAC 'S BUST

Déodat de Séverac, was born in Saint Félix on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 1872, , son of Gilbert de Séverac, was a great music composer, contemporary of Ravel.

He loved his native Lauragais, and also the Cerdagne where he lived untill his death, in Céret on 1921. His music is inspired from these two territories. He composed melodies (ma poupée chérie), operas (Héliogabale), and also pieces of piano (Cerdana). Below the castle since 1924, his bust looks the Canigou Mountain for all the eternity.

## THE CANON'S HOUSE (called the "commanderie")

Registered on the Historical Monument List, the canon's house, a private property restored in 1970, was build in the 13th century, and is one of the older houses in Saint Félix. The owner obtained the award of the "Tour d'Or", which rewards remarkable restorations.

At the beginning of the 14h century, it became a collegial chapter, composed by 12 cannons and 1 dean, and created by the pope Jean the XXII. Overlayed in his south wall, a stone cannonball commemorates the Saint Félix siege by the protestant army of Condé and Coligny, during the religious war in 1570. This house is also known as "The Saint Valentin House", in reference of the February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1570, when the protestant army destroyed his walls to besiege the city.

Beside the beautiful Renaissance square yard, the "Commanderie" has a great vaulted room with an outstanding acoustic, ideal for concerts.

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*Do not throw on the public area  
Mise à jour Février 2014*



## Tourist office



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### PLACE GUILLAUME DE NOGARET: the village square and tower.



The covered market was built in the center of the village in 1245. In 1557, the city hall was implanted above the market place. A stone spiral staircase led in the city hall by the tower. Erected on the top of the tower in 1863, after a cholera epidemic, the statue of the Blessed Virgin mention the latin commemorative inscription:

POSUERRUNT ME CUSTODEM HUIUS CIVITATS,  
MDCCCLXIII

« They make me guardian of the city »

In 1793, the covered market and the city hall were in a poor state, so the actual square is only ¼ of the original.

### THE CASTLE OF SAINT FÉLIX

The Saint Felix seigniorial was integrated on the county of Toulouse. A castle is mentioned since the 11th century. During the “Albigeois” crusade, at the beginning of the 13th century, it was besieged by Simon de Montfort, who destroyed the original to built a new one on the actually place. But the count of Toulouse recovered it until his death, in 1249. At that time, Alphonse de Poitier, Louis IX King’s brother, was married with the daughter of the count of Toulouse, and without male descendant, Saint Felix was reattached to the Kingdom of France. To 1317 until the 17th century, the castle belonged to the Duèze family, and the first one was Pierre Duèze, the brother of the pope Jean the XXII, founder of the Saint Felix Collegial.

Today, the castle is a private property, opened only for the Heritage Days, the third weekend of September.

In the front entrance, a large molding porch was probably built in the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The roman arch is decorated by a moulding torique and framed by two sculptured scenes: on the left one, lust is depicted, and on the right one, the weighing of souls at the paradise doors, a theme loved by sculptors in the Middle-Age. Openings at the top of the gate served to send missiles on the enemy.

### THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH



This southern gothic style church, built between 1303 and 1317, is registered on the Historical Monument List since 1920. Its bell tower is 138 feet high. On the left side under the porch, the well is equally deep.

Inside, the arched ceiling is painting in a trompe-l’oeil style. Pictures in the chorus are scenes of Saint Angèle’s life by painter François Cammas (1743-1804). The statues on both sides of the chorus represent Saint Félix and Saint Valentin.

Listed on the Historical Monument since 1943, the organ was totally designed by Grégoire Rabiny (German organ builder) from 1779 to 1781. The organ case, in Louis XVI style, is decorated with garlands and music instruments. The organ has 2200 tin pipes. These beautiful instrumental techniques associated with the remarkable acoustic add high quality to concerts.