



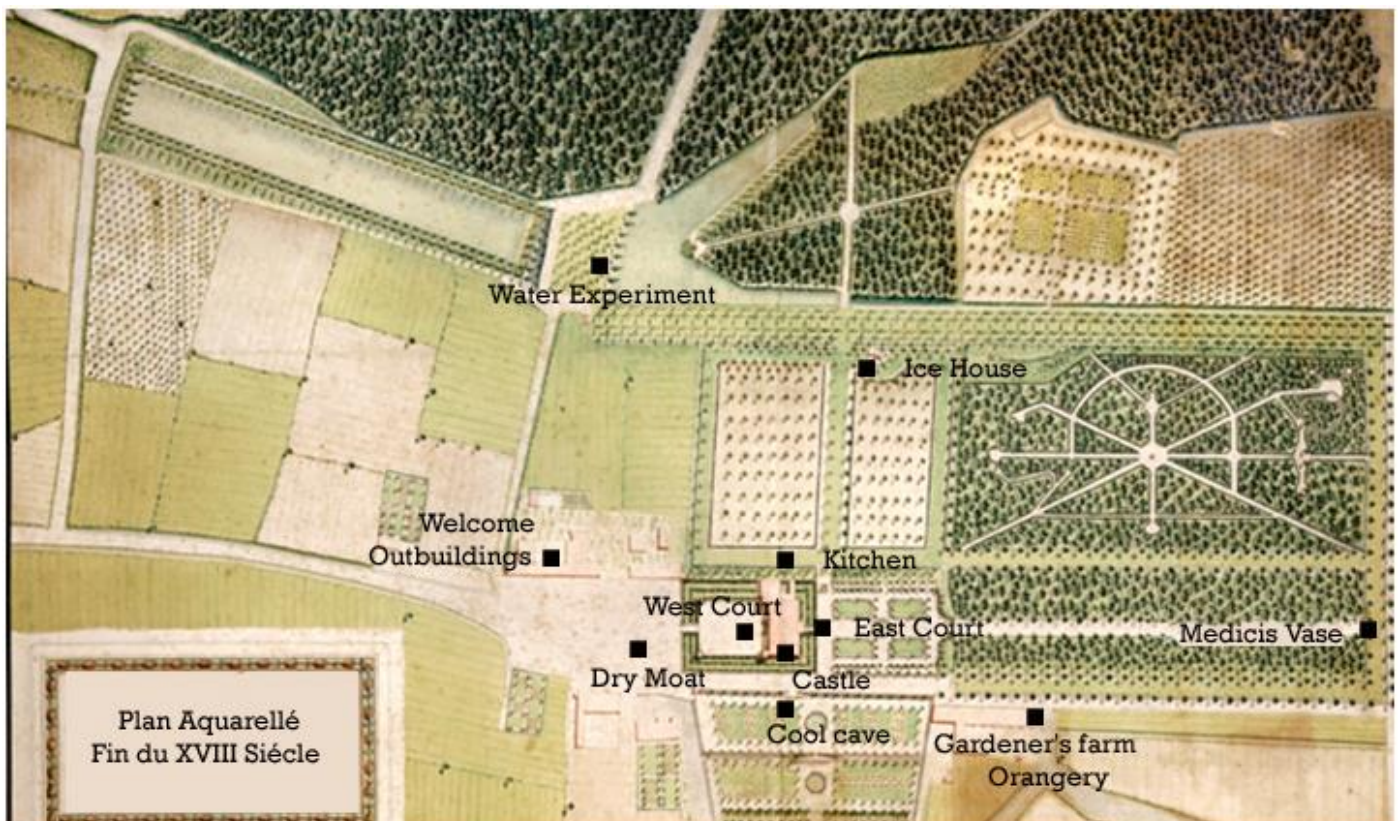
BONREPOS-RIQUET's CASTLE
HOME OF
Pierre Paul RIQUET
DESIGNER OF THE CANAL DU MIDI

On 28 December 2007 the commune of Bonrepos-Riquet, with the help of the Occitanie region and the Haute-Garonne county, bought **Pierre-Paul Riquet's** castle in the village of Bonrepos-Riquet. The property which includes 29 hectares is maintained and run by the commune and a volunteer association SVDBR (Sauvegarde et Valorisation du Domaine de Bonrepos-Riquet).

Constructed from 1655 onwards, the chateau dominates the countryside with the valley of the Girou river to the south and the smaller valley of the Garenne stream to the north. At the lower part of the property Pierre-Paul Riquet constructed a series of water catchments, which he called his "**water experiment**" and which were filled by local water sources. This project enabled him to understand the supply, transfer and retention of water. This experiment enabled him to calculate and overcome the problems of water supplies to his future canal project which was eventually to connect the Atlantic to the Mediterranean. His expeditions into the Montagne Noire (black mountains) provided him with the proof that sufficient water was available and allowed him to present a feasible plan to the authorities. As a result, in 1666 King Louis XIV ordered the construction of the **Canal Royal du Languedoc** and passed responsibility to Pierre-Paul Riquet.

Bonrepos is also where Riquet became Lord of the village and helped him to gain his noble social status. The chateau is constructed over a huge square basement (450m²) with two large towers on the west side and a dry moat all around all displaying the high status of nobility in the XVII century. One also finds a **glaciere** (ice house), a **cool cave** as well as an enormous **orangery** built in the XVIII century by his grandson.

The National Heritage classified the Chateau as an **historical building** in 2008, and a **famously owned building** in 2011 and is currently the object of an application to request **UNESCO classification**.



SAUVEGARDE et VALORISATION du DOMAINE DE BONREPOS-RIQUET

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