

Reconstruct Saint - Cloud !



**An economic project, self-financed,
in respect with sustainable development.**

If the realism of our German neighbors led them to lay the first stone of the Berlin's castle in 2013, it is because they have understood a long time ago that historical monuments are more than mere "cultural gadgets" intended to embellish the landscape... Generating tourism flows – and therefore economic incomes – architectural heritage is above all a direct and indirect source of job creation, taking part in the country's enrichment.

This is why - especially with the "Grand Paris" perspective - Saint-Cloud's castle's reconstruction lays as an evidence with the advantage of being positioned on the planet's most visited touristic passage, the Paris-Versailles axis, only 5 kilometer away from France's capital city. This castle, if it still existed, would probably be one of the most visited in the world when taking in account its history and its magnificence.

Our association "Reconstruisons Saint-Cloud !" inspires itself from the success of three construction sites self-financed by visitor fees : Barcelone's Sagrada Familia Basilica in Spain and, in France, Rocherfort's frigate Hermione and the fortified castle of Guédelon in Burgundy. We suggest that Saint-Cloud's castle's reconstruction should be undertaken with the adoption of this economic model. It would allow, aside from the monument's "free" reconstruction, the creation of a living museum focused on art craft.



Galerie d'Apollon which the vault was painted by Mignard

Built a few years before Versailles by Philippe of Orléans, Louis XIV's only brother, the Castle of Saint-Cloud (where has been received the Tsar Peter the Ist in 1717 or the Queen Victoria in 1855) was part of the Orléan's family property for more than a century.

In 1784, Louis XVI bought it back for Marie-Antoinette who ordered important renovations and extension works to be done. She often spent time there with her husband and children. Thereafter, its proximity to Paris made it the favorite secondary residence of five French sovereigns who still reigned during the XIXth century. Thus, from Napoleon the Ist to Napoleon the IIIrd and Louis-Philippe, each spent time there during which important political decisions were taken or sumptuous parties were given.

This historical monument would have long-lived if, during the war of 1870, the French army had not shot their canons towards the Domaine of Saint-Cloud, occupied during that time by Prussian forces, in order to make them flee. During the assault, an explosive shell fell on the castle and made it burn to the ground. The only ruins left were then destroyed in 1891, when the decision not to reconstruct the castle was taken.

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