

With its landscapes, its climate and its history,

The Gard is diverse and undulating

Made all the more magnificent by its landscapes, climate and history, the Gard area is undulating and varied. At the time of the French Revolution, the old province of Languedoc (1270) belonging to the Kingdom of France was divided to create the Gard department in 1790. For centuries, this territory gleaned tokens of its past, the beauty of its landscapes, the richness of the soil and the diversity of activities provided by those who have lived and worked there for generations.

## GARD

4 letters for 4 territories.

### **The Garrigues: madness turned to landscape, the deep South.**

Characteristic of Southern, Mediterranean France, garrigue is the main landscape of the Gard territory. It certainly has the leading role, scattered here and there, and intertwined with others... here and there, and a little bit more over there... Gentle and rough, near and far, and always fragrant. Garrigues are made of hills, limestone, small villages on rocky spurs or by field sides, where people adapted to it in time - sometimes making good use of it, sometimes letting it be.

### **Camargue and shoreline: fluid land and aqua firma.**

The part of Camargue situated in the Gard area is the one known as "Petite Camargue" – a unique landscape where wind and sea interlock, along with the Rhône river and sand. There, you will see bulls, olive trees, salt, canals and characterful folks. The shoal and the town of Aigues-Mortes, the banks of the Petit-Rhône and Saint Gilles will leave you with images etched in your memory.

### **The Cévennes: ethics of resistance.**

The Cévennes are the southern version of the Massif Central Mountains – their imaginary and historical roots are set in struggle: a tough climate, the twists and turns of its –not always glorious– history and the vicissitudes of its economy are some of its grounds. The Cévenol people had to toughen up to valleys, peaks, deep gorges, wet slopes and rough winds: their land is dry and their head is hard. The landscapes reflect this perfectly – wild and pure.

### **Nîmes and the Costières: the reunion of Mediterranean sweet life and Roman majesty.**

Fully deserving its renown, Nîmes was founded in 19BC and known as the French Rome, and is now the economical capital of the Gard, its main administrative centre, a residential area, with a

university and textile industry (Denim). This is a city of fountains, gardens, sand arenas. Nîmes owes its primacy to its geographical situation: a crossroads supplied with water brought by the Pont du Gard aqueduct (the source of which is located in Uzès). As the Protestant capital of the Gard, it holds a high position and still abides by its motto: 'as dominant and Mediterranean as can be' and coat of arms of 1535 representing a crocodile chained to a palm tree.

Overlooking the Costières relief, which links up the city and Petite Camargue, it boasts fertile lands cultivated with vineyards, fruit trees, asparagus and umbrella pine!.

.... Your opinion now:

is the GARD more Provençal or Languedocien?