

Secrets de village... Cabasse s/ Issole

Distance: 700 m • **Start:** Place de la République (Car park)

The origins of Cabasse stretch far back into Prehistory. In Gallo-Roman times, Cabasse was the ancient Matavo, and the city became a castrum in the Middle Ages. Cabasse's bauxite mines were to bring it prosperity in the late 19th century. This heritage of old stones bearing the story of the gueules rouges, the red-faced miners, makes Cabasse an endearing village.



1 Rue Sous Clastre: the south face of the Castrum de Cabassa was protected by a natural cliff overlooking the Issole, which explains the semi-circular shape of the original ramparts. It is possible that the Issole lapped against the base of this natural defence at that time.

2 Rue Glacière: a little area built to the north of the original walls in the 15th and 16th centuries. The buildings combine to form a rampart.

3 Place Glacière: in this square on the corner of the Rue de la Mairie, scissors embedded in the façade are believed to have indicated a stone cutter's shop. Opposite no.13, a figure representing St John is inset into the façade. Beyond no.16, an old house with an arrow slit, there are remnants of the medieval fortified walls.

4 Traverse Glacière: the walls are out of alignment where two different periods of expansion to the village are juxtaposed. In the 17th and 18th centuries, a line of houses was built along the second rampart, concealing it. The village also expanded westwards (Brignoles) and to the south (Flassans). As in Flassans, these areas were built on raised ground to prevent flooding from the Issole.

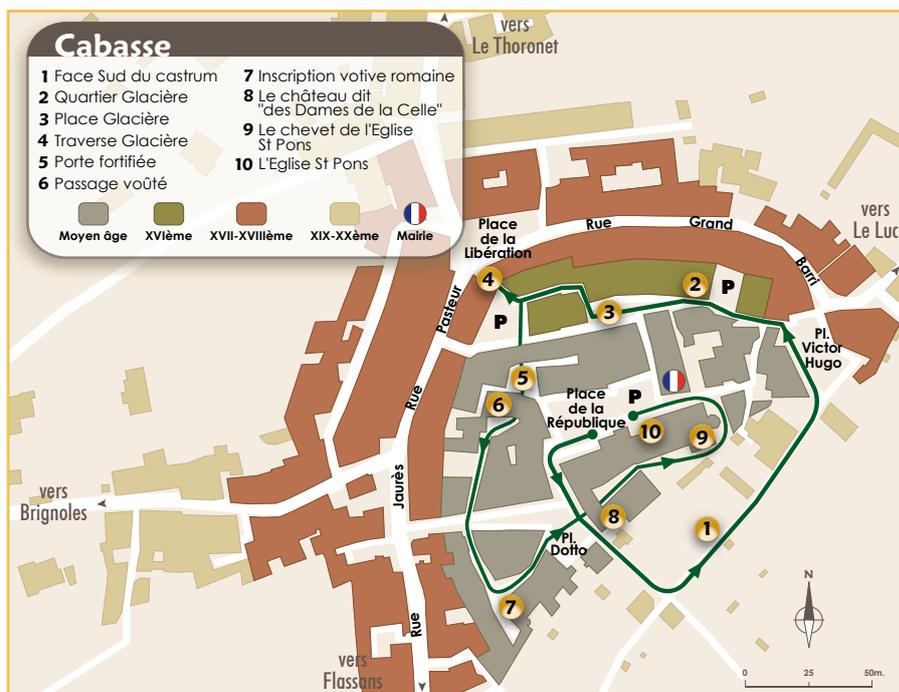
5 Place Imbert: a fortified gate from the original semi-circular ramparts that protected the castrum in the Middle Ages. The burg saw several periods of fortification between the 12th and the 15th centuries. The house at no.5 is formed from three buildings, the oldest of which is believed to date from the 16th century. These buildings were combined and their facades unified in the 18th century.

6 Rue Portail Sourn: a vaulted passage under a 14th-century medieval house.



7 Rue St Esprit: a Roman votive inscription from the reign of Caligula, placed upside down in the foundations of a house.

8 The castle known as 'des Dames de la Celle': an annexe to the Abbaye de la Celle in the mid-12th century, and used as a refuge by the inhabitants of Cabasse. The western gate dates from the 16th century. The current buildings, believed to have been built in the 17th or 18th century, have been substantially redeveloped through



the ages. The porch opens onto the castle courtyard, leading to the church garden. Part of the hewn stone wall facing the garden dates from the 14th century.

9 The chevet in the church of St Pons: built of three courses of stone, one of which bears a funerary inscription from the 1st century. This indicates that a certain Cornélia made ('a tomb' is understood) for herself and her husband, Gaius Adreticius Victor, of the Voltinia tribe, and for her children, her grandchildren, and her very deserving daughter-in-law, Victamaria Junia. This refers to a Gallo-Roman mausoleum that was to be reused.

10 L'église St Pons: a church built between 1528 and 1532, on the site of an older church proven to date from the late 11th century. The entry gate is from the so-called flamboyant Gothic period, and stands 1.5 metres above the level of the nave. In the centre of the lintel is the base of a now-absent statue, featuring a supplicant with clasped hands. The tympanum, dating from 1900, is decorated in bas relief. The tower to the right is a remnant of the 11th-century church. It was enhanced by the addition of an upper level in 1712, where the village clock could be placed. It contains beautiful altarpieces in gilded wood dating from the 16th and 17th centuries, including the piece from the high altar with its very beautiful 1543 statue of the Virgin and Child. There is also a small museum displaying ancient stones and primitively carved 16th-century lamp brackets.

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