



*Projet Erasmus+ Namur - Marsala*

**" Patrimonia "**



*A la découverte du patrimoine historique, architectural et culturel*

# *Annevoie gardens*



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# ABSTRACT

## Accommodations:

### ❖ Le Moulin : accommodation for 32 guests

<http://www.annevoie.be/fr/lemoulindesjardins/>

Large capacity cottage located below the Gardens, furnished with great comfort to allow pleasant meetings of families or friends. Private access to the gardens.



Annevoie Gardens' Mill. A bit of history...

During the second part of the seventeenth century several small industries settled along the "Rouillon" creek and in the Meuse River valley (forges, foundries, mills etc ..).

So was the Moulin du Neuf Fourneau built in 1647 and the Forge Aminte in 1669. The current mill is the only vestige of this set.

It is around 1750 that Charles de Montpellier enlarges his castle and begins the creation of his garden of greenery and water. For its fountains and waterfalls, it uses water from the four natural springs of the village and those of Rouillon. Its hydraulic system is very ingenious because it uses neither machine nor pump to operate the fountains and waterfalls. All the water of these wonderful gardens finally arrives in the form of a waterfall in the garden of the Forge Aminte.

The Dutch general Howen made a drawing of the Forge Aminte in 1820. Belgium was part of Holland at that time.

You will find a reproduction of this drawing at the Annevoie Gardens' Mill.

The main activity of the Forges in 1830 was the manufacture of cast iron streetlights.

In 1855, the name "Forge Aminte" changed to "Moulin Debras" because it became the property of the Debras. The activity of the forge stops and the operation of the mill begins for the flour manufacture. These activities prospered until 1954 when almost all buildings were destroyed except fortunately the mill with its water wheel.

The "The Blute-Fin" restaurant moved in the house named after an 18th century kitchen tool. From 1980 is the restaurant called "Henriette's Mill".

Since 2001 has the house been converted into a cottage.



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## General presentation

The Annevoie Water Gardens retrace the history of the Montpelliers, whose origins date back to the mid-15th century.

At the beginning of the 18th century, Jean de Montpellier inherited the Annevoie estate, formerly owned by the Halloys. At this time, the Montpelliers were known as the Blacksmith Masters. Jean de Montpellier's son, Charles-Alexis, himself Mayor of the court of the Ferrons, draws from this then flourishing industry the means to arrange his Gardens and to enlarge the castle (works beginning towards 1758). To do so, he will draw inspiration from his many travels in Europe.

So were the gardens designed on the basis of three architectural trends :

### French style, where art corrects nature :

Architecture fleeing all curves and sinuosities to create long and majestic perspectives.

You look the Gardens like a painting.

Ex: the Flowers Alley, the Grandse Alley, the French Waterfall ...

### Italian style, where art adapts to nature :

Architecture emphasizing variety, contrasts and surprise effects.

Unlike the French style, we keep the curves, the differences in levels and integrate them into the landscape.

Water is one of the main aesthetic axes. It is considered the soul of the gardens.

Ex: the bower, the artichoke basin, the castle curve.

### English style, where art copies nature :

Architecture tries to artificially reproduce the natural effects in the way back to nature wished by Jean-Jacques Rousseau and English Romanticism.

Ex: the English Cascade and the Neptune Cave that were created from scratch.

In the 1930s, the gardens opened to the public.

In 1982, the whole site, the Gardens and the building are classified Historical Monuments.

From 1992 to 2009, the site benefited the status of Wallonia exceptional heritage.

Ten generations of the Montpellier family have contributed to the creation, improvement and conservation of the gardens.

In 2017, the gardens and the castle were taken over by a private foundation called « Castel Historical Domain and Annevoie Gardens ». This foundation, created in 2016 by Ernest-Tom and Anne-France Loumaye, aims to restore, preserve and enhance the Annevoie estate and its water gardens.

The Annevoie Gardens are the only water gardens in Belgium classified as Major Heritage of Wallonia and are among the most beautiful ones in Europe.







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