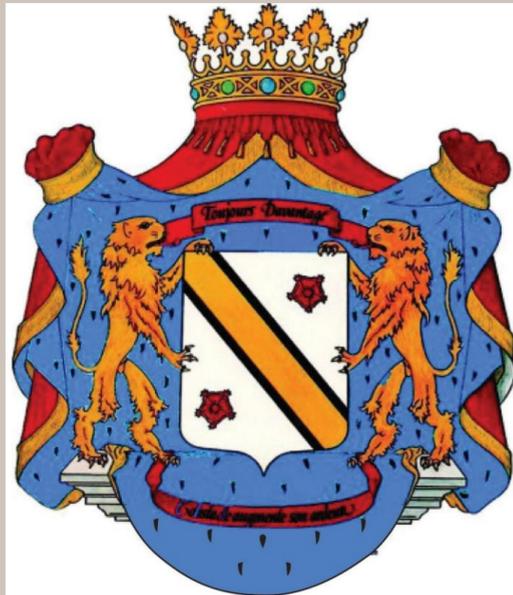


# The Seigneurs of Gadagne

## Châteauneuf *in* the Comtat but not *of* the Comtat



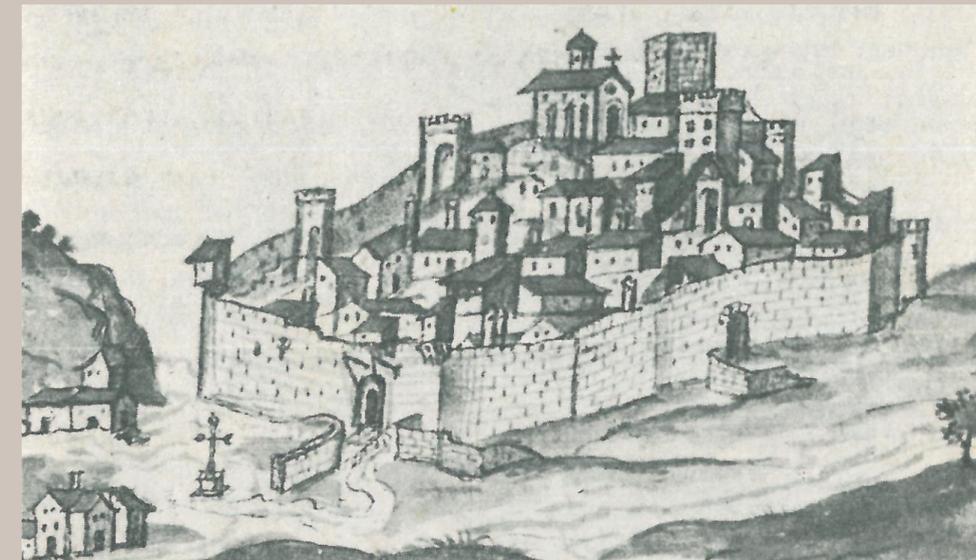
Coat of arms of the Duchy of Gadagne

Circa 1160, the Amic de Sabran family took possession of the place and Giraud Amic became the first Seigneur (lord) of Châteauneuf. The village bore the name Châteauneuf de Giraud Amic for almost 300 years. They were succeeded by the Simianes, a family which went on to have numerous Seigneurs, including François de Simiane who was obligated to sell the barony to Charles-Félix de Galléan, Count of Gadagne (and Chief Captain of Louis XIV's army).

The arrival of this dynasty brought with it some change when in 1669 the village was renamed *Châteauneuf de Gadagne* and the territory was elevated to a duchy.

When Rostaing de Sabran paid homage to the Pope in 1324, he spelled out in no uncertain terms that he had no intention of subjugating the barony to the Holy See and that it would remain part of the Comtat “*but on different terms than those of the church's other vassals.*” It was from this moment that it was said of Châteauneuf:

“*in comitatu sed non de comitatu*” (in the Comtat but not *of* the Comtat). This act allowed the Seigneur and the community of Châteauneuf to avoid paying ordinary contributions to the papal state and maintaining independence until 1791.



The castrum in 1597  
© British Library

## The legend

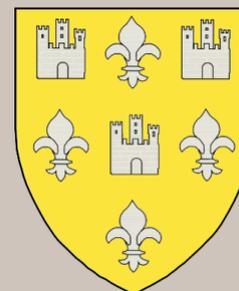
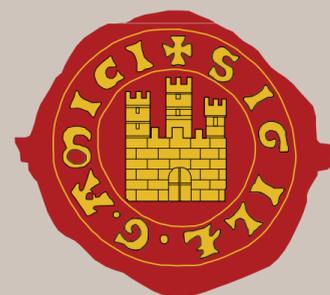
### of the black and white cow

In the 12th century, one of the fees the Seigneur was obliged to pay his overlord was quite unusual: it was a black and white cow. Every year, the Seigneur of Châteauneuf was required to offer in homage to the Abbey of Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert a black and white cow, most likely because the very first cow given was this colour and established the tradition.

The Seigneur was only responsible for the cow until they came to the Rhône. Once over the river, the people from the Abbey took charge of the animal.



Seal of Giraud Amic



Simiane coat of arms

