

Château de Saumane



The château, view from the north-west in 1872



South façade : the medieval main house, the orangerie and the esplanade



The grand staircase and its coffered vaulted ceiling

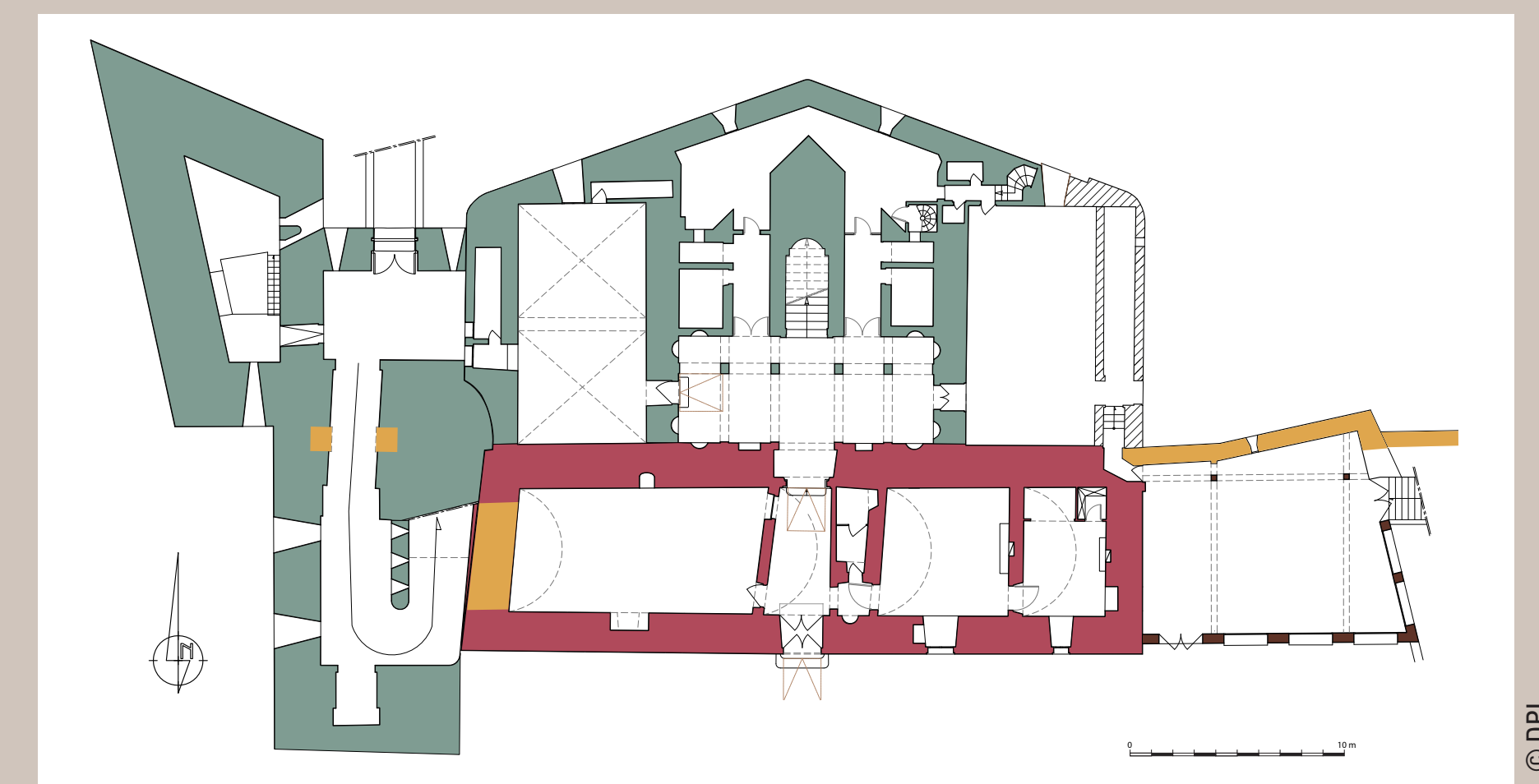
On the site of the château originally stood a seignorial tower which in the 13th century was incorporated into a first corps de logis (main house) built right up against the city wall.

In 1451, Saumane, then under papal authority, was enfeoffed by Pope Nicholas V to his squire, Baudet II de Sade, who pledged to restore the castle and its estate.

On the south side, the property was extended around an imposing medieval corps de logis built on a rectangular footprint. In the second half of the 16th century, the property was fortified on its north façade by a wide spur flanked by a bastion on its west side. These new fortified annexes are attributed to Jean II de Sade, who also replaced the rooftop terrace of the main medieval house with a mansard roof which was followed by an attic floor in the 17th century.

Inside, the fortified spur housed a low gallery studded with niches and covered by domes on pendentives. The room opened onto a grand straight flight of stairs surmounted by a coffered vaulted ceiling that led to other semicircular flights, probably unfinished. Located inside the fortified structure, these additions, similar to ones found in a Renaissance palace, cast doubt on the defensive role of the buildings.

Château de Saumane remained in the de Sade family for four centuries before it was sold to the Croset family in 1872. The Crosets kept the property for over a century during which time they carried out lots of work. The site, since managed by a local federation of municipalities, has been owned by the Department since 1983.



- Medieval (12th and 13th centuries, undetermined)
- Late 16th century
- 13th century
- Early 20th century
- Part left unfinished until the 20th century



Commune de
SAUMANE DE VAUCLUSE