

Condamine Quarter

6. Hôtel d'Abeille, 17th century (3 Rue Monge)

Most of the work on this house was carried out in 1640, at the behest of Victorin d'Abeille who was chief consul and lord of Peyrolle at the time. The façade facing Rue Monge no longer has its Doric columns but you can still admire the cornice carved with ovals and gargoyles.

7. Hôtel du Pré, 15th-17th century (50 Rue Monge)

The street door was made in the 17th century and based on that of the Hôtel Gras de Preigne (Tribunal) as requested by Conrad du Pré who was chief consul of Tarascon at the time. The top of the door is crowned with an excellent depiction of an *Arlésienne* (a woman in traditional dress).

8. Hôtel de Raoulx-Liman-Seillons, 17th-19th century (1 Rue Jean Jaurès) The Raoulx family, many of whom were magistrates, owned most of the area's plots of land.

The first to do this was Jacques Raoulx and he lived in King René's court. His descendants are split into two branches, one of which is still represented by the Count of Raousset-Boulbon. Neighbouring Hôtel de Raoulx-Laudun, this building takes up most of Rue Jean Jaurès and was originally built by Claude de Raoulx (branch of Liman-Seillons).

9. Hôtel de Raoulx-Laudun, 17th-19th century (3 Rue Jean Jaurès)

Its façade has been restored several times and dramatically changed the original Mannerist look of it. Simon de Raoulx (Laudun branch) Marguerite d'Astier's husband and Charles de Raoulx's father, had this house built and also had Hôtel de Raoulx-Mauléon built.

10. Hôtel de Raoulx-Mauléon, 17th century (18 Rue Jean Jaurès)

Seven bays on the street are the first things you notice when you see this impressive mansion, built on the remains of the Trinitarian Order's convent at the beginning of the 17th century. Each window is decorated with cut pediments embellished with gargoyles and rich thorny leaves. The last family living in the building before the Revolution was called Mauléon.

Saint Nicolas Quarter

11. Hôtel de Clémens or house of the Abbess, 15th-17th century (corner of Place Crémieux and Rue du 4 Septembre)

The only visible remnant of this house overlooking Rue du 4 Septembre is its façade which has kept its Renaissance style. Surrounded by the former Ursulines convent and built in the 17th century, this residence was that of the abbess related to the Clémens family who owned the Hôtel de Laudun in the 17th century.

12. Hôtel d'Ayminy, 15th-17th century (39 Rue Proudhon)

This large mansion on a courtyard has housed the Souleïado offices since 1938, but originally belonged to the Ayminy family who gave many consuls to the town. The façade decorated with protrusions and mantling dates back to 1640.

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Walking Tour 3: Mansions



Many noble families settled in 15th century Tarascon because of the town's prosperity.

Aristocrats, bourgeoisie, traders and monks conscious of leaving their mark on the urban landscape, built splendid private homes.

Thanks to their rich external decoration, the mansions' façades are testament to a range of individual styles expressed through the magnificent Provençal Mannerism, a popular architectural period, at the beginning of the 17th century.

Around Saint Martha's Collegiate Church up to the Halles high street or in the Saint Nicolas and Condamine quarters which once linked the château to the road to Avignon, these civic buildings were usually based in strategic areas in the centre of town.

From Saint Martha's Collegiate Church to Rue des Halles

1. Hôtel de Sade-Cadillan, 16th-18th century (corner of Place

Fraga and Rue du Progrès)

This imposing building now takes up a large estate to the east of the church. It belonged to the Raoulx family (Counts of Boulbon) until the 18th century who worked with Avignon architect Jean-Baptiste Franque to make it something truly glorious.

2. Hôtel de Clerc de Molières, 17th-18th century (corner of Rue du Progrès and Rue Clerc de Molières)

Behind a streetside façade which was given a full face-lift in the 18th century, hides a former Charity Hospital (charity institution for the poorest sick people) founded by Canon Joseph Clerc de Molières in 1665.

3. Hôtel de Lubièrre-Ayminy, 17th-18th century (3 Rue Clerc de Molières)

The Lubièrre family has owned Château du Breuil in the Tarascon countryside for a long time and they also owned this mansion until the Ayminy family bought it back in the 16th century. The small courtyard which you can see behind the façade was once the building's main entrance.

4. Hôtel de Léautaud de Mas-Blanc, 15th-18th century (1 Rue Clerc de Molières)

Between 1555 and the time of the Revolution, this mansion belonged to the Léautauds, lords of Mas -Blanc, who didn't manage to stay true to the building's architecture.

5. Hôtel de la Motte, 15th-19th century (2 Rue Clerc de Molières)

This mansion originally belonged to Pierre Arduin, a relative of King René and lord of La Motte. Now, only the windows and doors bear testament to the building's glorious past.

13. Hôtel de Gras de Preigne, 17th-19th century (Place du docteur Braye)

Formerly the Gras de Preigne family home and built in a French style U-shape, the mansion was redesigned to house a law court in 1858. The back façade (on Place du docteur Braye) is an excellent expression of Mannerist architecture with its magnificent monumental pediment and decorated with thorny leaves. The fleur de lys which once decorated the upper parts of the windows were planed down by the people of Arlés during the Revolution.

14. Hôtel de Laudun, mid 15th-18th century (Rue du Rouet)

This mansion, listed in 1943, was fully restored at the state's expense. It now houses private apartments on the upper floors whilst the ground floor belongs to the town. This 15th century building has been restored several times but kept its Renaissance style. The mullion windows are decorated with motifs depicting the four seasons. From the 16th to the 18th century, this beautiful home belonged to the Clémens family who were lords of Graveson. In 1642, Cardinal Richelieu, then Louis XIII's minister, was fighting against the protestants and nobility accused of plotting against the monarchy with the Spanish, was welcomed here whilst ordering the demolition of the Château de Beaucaire.

Walking Tour Route

