



## HISTORICAL RÉSUMÉ

**1855** Auguste Crosnier, stone mason, and his young wife Adelaïde Caffin, seamstress, move in to their newly built house. A few years later the "Mairie" (Town Hall) is built opposite on the other side of the road. In 1876 their daughter Valentine and her husband Alfred Levert open a wine shop on the ground floor of the Crosnier's house.

**1884** The Levert couple make alterations to the house and improve the appearance of the façade. The wine shop becomes a café and restaurant called Café de la Mairie. There are now seven furnished rooms for rent.

**1890** The Levert couple retire from business and appoint Arthur-Gustave Ravoux and his wife Louise to manage the Café de la Mairie on their behalf. On 20 May Arthur Ravoux rents room 5 to Vincent van Gogh. 70 days later Van Gogh dies from complications resulting from a bullet wound that he said he inflicted on himself. On 30 July Vincent's brother Theo organizes a memorial occasion in the dining room of the Auberge, followed by Vincent's burial in the Auvers cemetery. Emile Bernard, Camille Pissarro, Doctor Gachet, Anton Hirschig and the Ravoux family were among those present.

**1926** Thanks to the artist's growing fame the Café de la Mairie is re-baptized the "House of Van Gogh". In 1946, Robert Bichet - Secretary of State for Information - and Jacques Jaujard - Director of Arts and Letters - affix a commemorative plaque.

**1985** The establishment is classified as a "Historic Monument". This was the year when Dominique-Charles Janssens had a serious motor accident in front of the Auberge Ravoux. On recovering consciousness he learned that it was Vincent van Gogh's last dwelling place. He immediately immersed himself during his period of recuperation in Van Gogh's correspondence and discovered the man hiding behind the image of the ill-fated artist. He was profoundly moved by Van Gogh "the visionary" and resigned his post as marketing director in a big industrial company. Henceforth he was totally devoted to the restoration of "Van Gogh's House and the running of it as a place dedicated to the great artist's memory.

**1986** Dominique-Charles Janssens negotiated the purchase of the site from the Tagliana family, who had owned it since 1955. His aim was to develop a concept that was commercial and at the same time cultural, and make it work smoothly. The challenge was twofold: a place imbued with historical significance had to continue as before as a café-restaurant while also existing with a cultural purpose: it would be opened to the public eager to see "Van Gogh's Room".

**1987** With the support of a number of enthusiastic friends he founded the Institut Van Gogh. Their aim was to ensure that the House of Van Gogh would be financially independent and to foster a double marriage: "economics and culture, passion and reason".

**1993** In September the Auberge Ravoux, known as the House of Van Gogh, re-opened its doors to the public.

**1998** The Auberge Ravoux won first prize in the annual award "Spirit of France".

**2013** On 20<sup>th</sup> September the House of Van Gogh celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Since 1993 Van Gogh's room has been seen by 1,250,000 visitors drawn from all over the world and the cuisine of Arthur ("Père") Ravoux has delighted close on 160,000 guests of all nationalities. More than 21,000 newspaper articles and nearly 2,300 radio and television programs have borne witness worldwide to the success of the project "a place of memory, a place of life".

**2015** This year will be the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Van Gogh's stay in the Auberge Ravoux. It's also the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the shooting of the movie "Lust for Life". This film is the first in the history of American cinema to have been made outside the Hollywood studios.

## CONTACT

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## ADDRESS

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## ENTRANCE

Adults: 6 €  
Reductions: 4 €  
Children under 12: free

Further information

[www.maisondevangogh.fr](http://www.maisondevangogh.fr)

## OPENING TIMES 2015

### VISIT OF THE ROOM OF VAN GOGH

Wednesday 4 March - Saturday 31 October  
Wednesday to Sunday: 10.00-18.00 (last visit 17.00h)  
Group visits by appointment, mornings only

### DINING ROOM OF THE AUBERGE RAVOUX

Wednesday 4 March - Sunday 29 November  
Lunch from Wednesday to Sunday  
Dinner Fridays and Saturdays only  
Also available for private hire  
Fixed menu "du marché" 29 euros, à la carte 60 euros