



**“Le Vieux Bras” village**

**Alpes de Haute Provence**

***Back into time:***

According to the tradition, around 25 BC a Roman general “Braccius” after many battles in Gaul decided to settle down on this spot in The Provence. Bras d'Asse located heavenly high on the right bank of the river Asse had a turbulent history in the Middle Ages. Already in the 13th century, Bras d'Asse had the status of a barony. An important 'Chateau' with a donjon and a Roman church, dedicated to St. Nicholas of Myra, dominates the town where once 500 people lived.

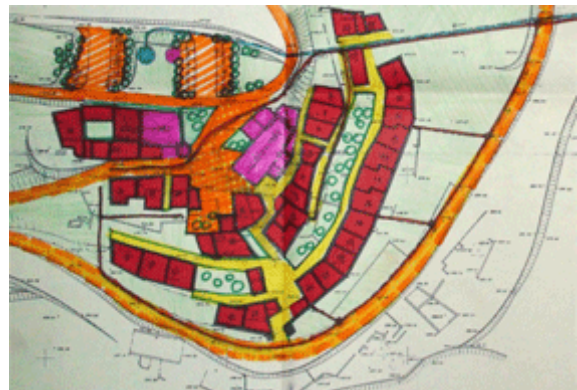
After the construction of a bridge over the Asse late 19th century, the inhabitants, mostly farmers, chose to build a new Bras d'Asse, down by the river, next to their fields. Mary Borély, the last teacher of the school of the village and also a writer, aptly describes in her novel "Le dernier feu" (1931) the loss of the old village and the move to the new village a century ago.

Bras d'Asse le Vieux, became an abandoned village and fell inevitable a into ruin.. Since 1979 it was rescued by a group of Flemish people who started an ambitious and unique restoration project.

***A daring and unique initiative***

About twenty families, initially from Mechelen, bought the old village and the surrounding lands which extends to 10 ha.

The family committed themselves, with annual contributions and each summer recess for at least



three weeks to cooperate in the common construction activity. Over the years some families fell away and others joined the Project. Ultimately, with limited resources they achieved together, the survival of the village and an impressive patrimony.

### **Today:**

Some 30 years later, the primary goals put forward at that time by the early Group of Flemish shareholders are no longer valid as time have changed and the actual reality is completely different. As a consequence, a majority of shareholders have decided to sell the Bras d'Asse Project.

To insure the Project survives and gets a new impetus to the concept of 'recreational accommodation' in all its aspects and possibilities.

### **“Le Vieux Bras” Project :**

is situated on the rolling hills of the Provence close to the Alps at the department of the Alpes de Haute Provence (see [Google Maps](#)).

It covers an area of 10 ha containing an abandoned village of 1.5 ha. The site is located in the rural village of Bras d'Asse on a flank of the right bank of the river Asse. 150 meters above the river, you have a breathtaking panorama of two valleys  
In the [village](#) different [parcels](#) are waiting to be rebuilt.

The [Church](#) has been completely rebuilt as well and is actually used as a multifunctional space for parties, concerts and exhibition room.

The tallest building, the [chateau](#) is also completely rebuild and contains 17 studios and 3 tower rooms along with a common dining room and kitchen for rental to groups up to 40 people.

Opposite the Chateau, 3 houses are waiting to be finished and can be used for many purposes.

On the level of the ramparts, 17 parcels remain available for refurbishment.

In the surrounding [area](#), 8 ha can be started up as agricultural projects. Many French regional and national subsidies are available for this purpose.

### **Detailed realized patrimony**

#### **Material**

##### **Surface area Bras d'Asse**

- ✓ Area of 9.72 ha, of which + / - 1.5 ha "built" and more than 8 ha partly wooded, partly olive trees, some vague ground, cemetery (protected).

##### **Buildings**

- ✓ Roman church with clock tower, toilets and showers, side chapel
- ✓ “Presbytère ancien” (next to church)
- ✓ Church Square with unique view of the valley
- ✓ Chateau with 17 studios and 3 tower rooms, public areas (dining room, cafeteria room, industrial kitchen, sanitary and storage room)
- ✓ Terraces by the chateau
- ✓ Pool on a reinforced concrete plate; possibility of finishing concrete pool
- ✓ Parking



- ✓ Houses opposite the chateau:
  - No. 28: structure + shutters
  - No. 29: structure + shutters
  - No. 30: almost finished, windows, doors, only still a bathroom.
- ✓ Houses on "la grande rue"
  - No. 1: "Mairie", first floor
  - No. 2: house of the baker: oven + 3 levels
  - No. 4: house behind the Church: basement vault + storey
  - No. 5: house behind the Church: basement vault + storey
  - No. 6, 7 and 8: masonry
- ✓ Potential construction locations (the rampart and other unique locations)

#### *Infrastructure*

- ✓ Drinking Water Reservoir 18 m<sup>3</sup>
- ✓ Water Pump House (distance +/- 300 m, 90 m in height)
- ✓ Sewage to wastewater treatment plant via eastern and western side.
- ✓ Electricity sub station

#### Immaterial patrimony

With the approval and support of the local commune a 'plan masse ' (urban development) was granted to the SCI by the Authority to construct +/- 32 houses , community facilities, the rebuilding of the church and chateau and the construction and connection of water, sewerage, electricity and telephone.

#### **Unique Setting:**

- Superb [vistas](#)
- One sees and experience the grandeur and power of Nature
- It is a special Energy spot !
- Silence - total tranquility
- Ideal for reflection and for finding oneself in unity with nature
- Swimming pool
- Unique surroundings and many places of interest to be visited such as the Gorges du Verdon, Gorges du Trévans, Entrevennes (La géographie secrète de la Provence, the geographical heart of the Provence)
- “ The Temple route”.
- The fossil route (route du temps)
- Prehistorical sites
- Botanical gardens
- Thermal bathing at Digne les Bains (25 km) and Greoux les Bains (40 km)
- Marseille (Marignane airport) at 120 km
- Aix-en-Provence + TGV-railwaystation at 100 km

It is “the spot” to unwind from our hectic society in one of the least crowded regions in France.  
Totally stressless environment !

Follow the “Route du Temps” or the fossil route, and reconnect with prehistorical times. Visit the Museum of Prehistory in Quinson.

You will find lots of ruins, signs and symbols referring to Roman civilization and the Knight Templers order in this region.

Many walking routes will allow one to discover stunning views an mighty Nature. Tracking, Biking, Paragliding, Rafting are just a couple of additional opportunities for leisure.

## Opportunities:

- Hotel and Seminar centre
- Ideal for an energetic centre near the [heart](#) of Provence
- Integrative Health centre
- Real Estate development
- Art village
- Ecovillage
- Leisure village
- Relais & Chateaux concept
- Agritourism

## Contact

### Sale

Kris Van Esbroek  
Phone: 015 336 020  
Mobile: 0495 365 288  
E-mail: [kve@telenet.be](mailto:kve@telenet.be)

### Manager of the SCI

Marc Jonckers  
Phone work: 015 410 037  
Phone priv.: 015 217 174  
E-mail: [info@signa-net.be](mailto:info@signa-net.be)

## Links

- Cadastre France: <http://www.cadastre.gouv.fr/scpc/rechercherPlan.do#>
- Geography: <http://bit.ly/gojaww>
- Global: [http://tien.one/brasdasse/nl/verkoop\\_voorstelling\\_dorp-kerk-kasteel.pdf](http://tien.one/brasdasse/nl/verkoop_voorstelling_dorp-kerk-kasteel.pdf)
- Location: <http://bit.ly/feExC9>
- Parcels of land: [http://tien.one/brasdasse/nl/percelen\\_terrein\\_satellietbeeld.pdf](http://tien.one/brasdasse/nl/percelen_terrein_satellietbeeld.pdf)
- Parcels of village: [http://tien.one/brasdasse/nl/percelen\\_dorp.pdf](http://tien.one/brasdasse/nl/percelen_dorp.pdf)
- Pictures village: <http://bit.ly/1MRHCnE>
- Pictures church: <http://bit.ly/1OAS2bm>
- Pictures chateau: <http://bit.ly/1KGKo8n>
- Pictures view: <http://bit.ly/1gZWWQL>
- Plots: [http://tien.one/brasdasse/nl/images/plan\\_masse\\_nutsvoorzieningen.jpg](http://tien.one/brasdasse/nl/images/plan_masse_nutsvoorzieningen.jpg)
- SCI: <http://www.societe.com/societe/societe-civile-d-autoconst-bras-d-asse-le-vieux-325544237.html>
- Website: <http://tien.one/brasdasse/en/home.htm>



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