

A Short History of the Château des Arnières

In 1904, Mary Wallace Schillito, discovered and fell in love with the magnificent panorama while travelling through the domain of the Arnières, formerly owned by the Chartreux de Pomier.

Mary Wallace Schillito, a rich American, bought the domain in 1905 and began the construction of the Château in 1907, finishing in 1913.

She married an Indian, Assan Farid Dina, who planned and developed the gardens and built the Chapel in 1917. Assan Farid Dina was to become a pillar of tourism and technical development of the Salève region. From the end of the first World War, he financed an electric program in the Cruseilles area and brought drinking water to certain villages and hamlets. In 1918, in a place called "Les Chossals", on the river Usse, he began the renovation of the old Jacquet watermills, which he transformed into a hydroelectric power station. Dina also had plans to build an astronomy and weather

observatory on the Salève, which he hoped to equip with the most powerful telescope ever invented. Unfortunately, this never came to be, however he took over the Vallot observatory in Chamonix in 1925.

Assan Farid Dina died mysteriously on 24th June 1928, while celebrating his fifteenth wedding anniversary on a cruise boat in the Red Sea.

Mary Wallace Schillito later married Ernest Britt (a pianist) in 1930 in Paris. During the five years following his marriage with Mary Schillito, Ernest Britt slowly dilapidated his wife's fortune.

The Domain des Arnières was sold to Mr Guillermin, General Counsellor for the region of Salève, on 20 January 1936. Six months later he organised the auction of the works of art and furniture.

Mary Wallace Schillito died on 22nd September 1938, due to an accident, a year following her divorce from Ernest Britt.

Mr Guillermin sold the property to a Real Estate Company, newly founded and run by Count François Maurice Roussy de Sales.

From 1939 to 1941, a new company was established and welcomed the wealthier families to this rest centre.

In 1942, the domain was leased to a subsidiary of the Red Cross : Swiss aid to child war victims.

In 1949, the real estate company, leased the property to the Orators of Guilly College, who developed a first class public boarding School. Guilly College bought the domain and managed it until 1970.

Mr Duvernay bought the domain in 1970 and sold it in 1981 to Mr Kausermann who made an attempt at turning the Château into a restaurant, but went into liquidation over a controversial and ambitious urbanisation project.

Today the Hotel is owned by S.A.S Régence and has been established as a restaurant since September 1994.