



AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION  
HOTELS

## From Hospice to Hermitage, 500 years of History

The Chapel (1) The chapel was built in 1666. Originally hospitals treated souls rather than bodies.

There are relics and a 'privileged' altar so people who attended some religious ceremonies received 40 days of indulgence. That's why the chapel is large compared with the size of the hospice. It was a place for pilgrims and a place for popular devotion. There used to be some relics of Saint Jean Baptiste coming from the collegiate church Saint Pierre (the church has been destroyed at the French Revolution). The relics disappeared in a bombing in 1914. The chapel was a 'hospital chapel' for the members. The clergymen had a private chapel upstairs (an oratory) near the "Augustines" community so they could take part in the office.

Salle des Malades (the Hospice room) (2) Dates the 15th century with gothic gable ends. The room was surrounded by some 17th century houses and decorated with Lille 18th century tiles which you can also find in the wall cupboards. 10 flamboyant-style niches are sculpted in blue stone and represent the Burgundy coat of arms: the Saint Andrew's cross. Only the names of the Saints and Apostles remain. Two niches disappeared during the construction of the Chapel. The rest of a 15th century fresco depicts the transfer of Saint Piat de Seclin's relics to Gantois in 1479. The stained-glass window above the door was created when the place was transformed into a hotel.

A place of memory (the Museum) (3) The place is available for the Hospital Museum Association. There you can find the history of the hospice and a temporary exhibition presents some ancient medical instruments (coming from the association). Every Tuesday from 2:00pm to 5:00pm a guided tour is offered by the volunteers of the association, they make you discover the past of this old hospice.

The nun's refectory (Grand salon) (4)

Dating the beginning of the 18th century, this room is remarkable. Panelled with oak wood, there's also a beautiful marble fireplace. The ceiling "gypseries" (ornamental plasterwork) remind you of Jean de la Combe coat of arms. This 'dining room' was furnished with two Flemish-style cupboards and a nice clock. The windows overlook the community courtyard.

Lingerie (Linen room) (5) Transformed into a library, there were shelves with linen and a big central piece of furniture. The fireplace is decorated with typical Lille earthenware. There is also a Paschal lamb made in stucco

Cour de l'économat (the bar) (6) The biggest courtyard was covered when the place was transformed into a hotel.

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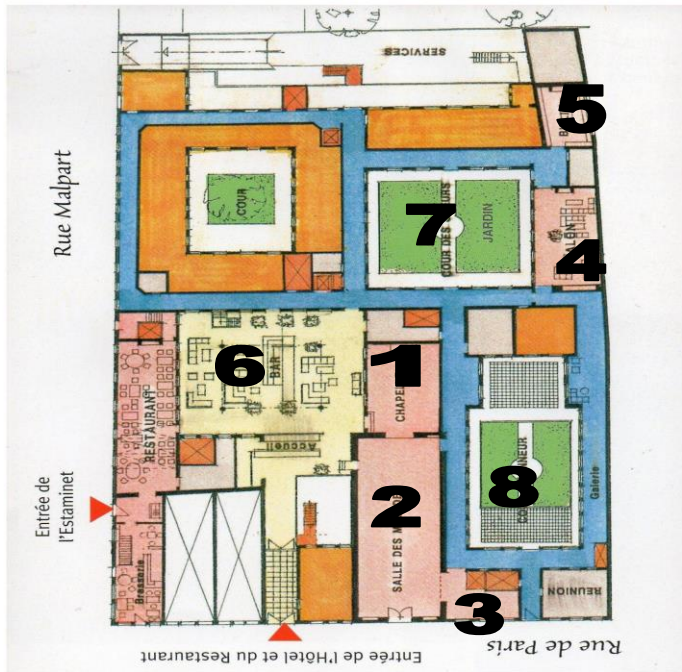
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Cour des Sœurs (7) (The nuns' courtyard). This used to be a peaceful retreat place for the Sisters.

A huge listed Wisteria (glycine) has been growing here for 250 years.

La cour d'Honneur (8) (the main courtyard) It was built in 1664 and restored in 1722. This a peaceful place (like in a cloister). Above each window, you can see what we call 'le disque', 'la boule Lilloise', 'le Bilboquet'



**L'Hospice Gantois was founded in 1462 by Jean de la Cambe** (known as Gantois). Up until 1995 the elderly and the sick were treated in this hospice. **In September 2003**, l'Hospice Gantois becomes a five-star hotel: **L'Hermitage Gantois offering** 89 rooms, a Spa & a swimmingpool, a gourmet restaurant L'Hermitage, a Flemish-style brasserie l'Estaminet Gantois, a piano and a live music bar, seminar rooms for your meetings and conferences, reception rooms for any kind of banquets (weddings, birthday parties...)

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