

FITOR ESTATE

Traces of European History

1. The Antiquity:

Fitor has an important Neolithic settlement that, with his forest fire pastures management during millennia directed to a livestock sedentary lifestyle, selects a cork-oak ecosystem that became autochthon.

This autochthon cork-oak forest is just in place to be the best supplier of Champagne cork stoppers when Dom Perignon invented the drink at 1670. This fact covers of gold these mountains from the beginning of XVIII century.

Silver and Lead ores in Fitor mountains attract Phoenicians for trade near XII century b.C..The ignorance of his value by indigenous people was proverbial in antiquity, following the description of Diodoro Sículo at first century b.C., and this fact was the best marketing slogan to travel here.

Greeks come at 600 b.C. and found Emporion colony. Emporion in Greek means market. Curiously, after founding more than 40 colonies in north Mediterranean coast, the name of this one is market, and replaced an old settlement of Phoenicians.

Romans, in the framework of II Punic war, enter in Emporion at 219 b.C., kidnapped Fitor mountain mines and his sea ports until Calonge (Colonico, that means soldier camp), and surely surround it with a roman road.Forcing abandon of Iberian cities (Ullastret) with the target to destroy the Punic trade of indigenous.

The three civilisations enter in Spain for the same door: Emporion.

2. The History time:

After, Romans return to annex Spain to the empire, and stay seven centuries. In this time the Fitor territory was divided in six “villae” and delimited.

This six “villae” had an evolution to medieval time versus little villages (Vilellas, in Catalan).

At 780 Carolus Magnus enter in Iberian Peninsula and found the first County, The County of Emporion-Roussillon, delimited north and south with two towers named Fitor. The northern is the actual Fitou (in France) and the southern is our estate. We discovered the basis of the tower at 1998. At same time Aniana Benedictine Monks build a Monastery that introduces evangelisation in Fitor zone, with different avocations: Clement, Columba, Lupus and Nazarius. The first one is a typical Benedictine avocation to new churches in new countries, remembering the first job of the Order that was the conservation of St. Clement (Rome). The others came from Sens (France) surely the origin of these Carolingian monks.