

TALE OF A REBIRTH IN PAYS DU MENEÉ CÔTE D'ARMOR – BRITTANY

In bygone days

In St. Vran, a small village located in the central Côtes d'Armor, Menée region of France, life overflowed with energy.

The hamlet was comprised of four farms, the biggest being the *Ferme des Recoursé* with its ten hectares of land, ten cows, ten pigs, and two workhorses.

Sights and sounds--farmers coming and going, country folk calling out to each other, children playing, laughter resounding: life overflowed with energy.

Each day, herds of cows crossed the *Ferme* courtyard to enter their respective stables, as pigs grunted in their pens and farmers harnessed horses to plough their land. The women, after having washed the laundry in the river, joined the farmers - kerchiefs tied around their heads as hats and lunch baskets in their hands- while children played hide and seek behind the haystacks. Sharing, solidarity, and celebration. A living, working community.

Then, slowly, almost surreptitiously, houses fell empty and silence set in. The hamlet died out and with it, *La Ferme*.

The farm - the Project

Our parents, grand-parents, great grand-parents and all those who preceded them made use of the land and were nourished and nurtured by the fruits of their labour.



This history motivated my sister and I to want to breathe new life into the farm as a vacation home. We re-named it *La Ferme de Jean* in memory of and to honor our father, grandfather and great-grandfather, our dear Jeans.

It was a bit of a crazy challenge because nobody had faith in our project: who would come to lose themselves at St Vran?

Despite advice to abandon the idea, we stuck with it because at heart, we so wanted to revive this place, so full of memory and feeling. For us the worst idea of all was to witness homes and villages fall to ruin as if nothing had ever existed there. No history, no past. Oblivion.

The beginning of a rebirth

A little taste of victory

After four difficult years of renovation *La Ferme de Jean* hosted its first tourists in July 2018: a Spanish family from Barcelona.

We were thrilled! Then Italians, French, and Romanians followed suit. We felt overwhelming happiness and enthusiastic about the project.

The following summer, *La ferme de Jean* was awarded, to our great pride, a Four-Star tourist accommodation rating.

A challenge well met!

First small steps towards developing regional Tourism

La Ferme de Jean is an exceptional location.

In addition to appreciating the property's accommodation, guests loved its location.

Easy to access, *la Ferme de Jean* reveals itself as being situated in a marvelous strategic position for experiencing a rich variety of Breton history. So much is within driving distance: La Côte de Penthièvre, La Côte de Granit rose, St Malo, Dinan, Dinard, Le Cap Fréhel, Le Château de Josselin, L'abbaye de Boquen, La vallée des Saints, Guerlédan and last but not least the legendary forest Brocéliande.

***La ferme de Jean* is a destination in itself.**

It has retained its authenticity.

Calm, spacious and very comfortable, it offers genuine repose. Time for one to admire the rolling green countryside, to be part of the history and legends, time to simply relax.



We invite you to come and enjoy a wide variety of outdoor activities such as cycling, horseback riding, hiking, fishing, golf, swimming, nature therapies, or simply relaxing.

Today

At St Vran, the old village is being reborn.

New sounds echo in the courtyard, the air filled with the sounds of new life—the pleasure and well-being of the new visiting residents.

La Ferme de Jean is now reborn, and the hamlet too, slowly but surely.

We are overjoyed to see our beloved farm alive again, providing a sense of well-being to everyone who comes to share in life at *La Ferme de Jean*.

We will continue to be a link between our guests and the gifted but often invisible regional craftspeople, in order to promote collaborative development of our beautiful area.

We know that we are on the right track!