



SZIDÓNIA®

CASTLE HOTEL

HISTORY OF THE CASTLE



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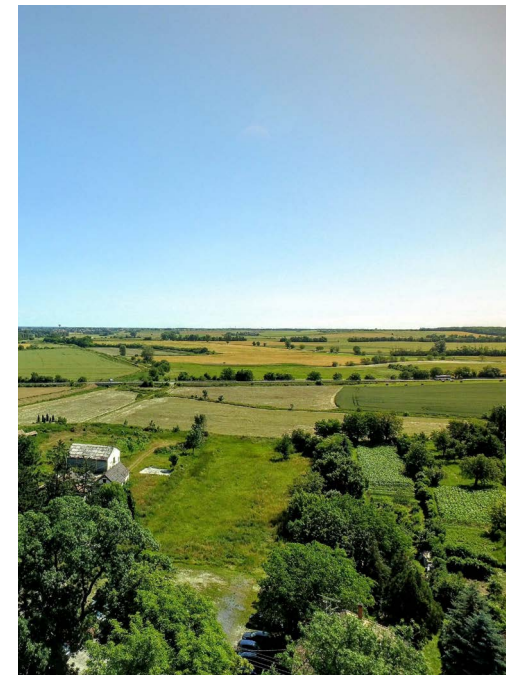


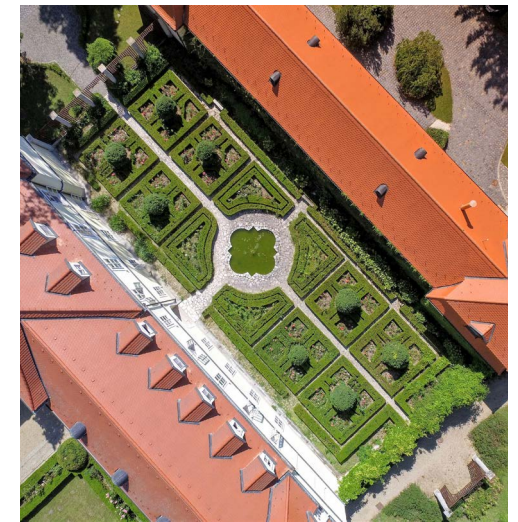
25 serfs and 5 cotten houses were in Rőjtök in the mid-17th century. The Felsőbüki Nagy family owned them. According to a quote from 1799, "the estate's jewel was the mansion."

versöhnen, fand ich ihn nicht, Rőjtök, Loos. („In the afternoon I ride to Szerdahely to reconcile Bezerédy, if I didn't find him, Rőjtök, Loos"). Űrményi's children sold the building and left only furniture and a life-size portrait of Maria Theresa behind, which disappeared from Rőjtök. They say, that the empress visited the Űrményi family in Rőjtök and her portrait was created in honour and in memory of her visit.

In the 16th century, the Castle consisted only of a ground-floor building, built on the estate Nagyerdő with an area of 3,414 cadastral yokes. In 1750, it was rebuilt into a romantic classic style castle. The main building in U form was created with a large courtyard. The monotony is interrupted by pillared arcades. Originally, the Park had an area of 8 hectares.

After the death of the principal notary, deputy head of administrative district and later co-opted member in the seven-seat board, Pal Nagy Felsőbüki, József, one of his three children holding the positions of office mentor and personal secretary of the king, became heir to the farm. After the death of his only daughter, Juliana, her husband, Miksa Űrményi, owned the estate. He originated from one of the oldest families in Nitra County. The Castle in Rőjtök was visited by István Széchenyi, "the greatest Hungarian" at the time. On the 14th October 1841 he wrote in his diary in German: Nachmittag reite ich nach Szerdahely, um Bezerédy zu





When selling the Castle, the families Schöller and Patzenhofer looked at the place and they concluded that the meadow stretching to the river Ikva is suitable for the construction of a brewery, since it was located next to the busy trade route Sopron - Pápa. The honoured Sopron pig merchant Antal Bayer overtook the brewery and bought the farm and castle in Rőjtök. In the 19th Century, trade with pigs has played a very important role in the economic life of Sopron. Sopron traders bred huge herds of pigs in the mountains of Bakony and travelled regularly to Croatia and Serbia. They spoke at least four languages. Antal Bayer moved to Sopron from Waidhofen at the Thaya. His wife came from a brewing family Bosch who hired a former brewery in the present Elizabethan Garden (Erzsébet-Kert).

The Bauer family used the Castle in Rőjtök mostly on weekends and summer holidays. Antal Bayer died in 1893. His son, Mihály,

owned the Farmhouse in Rőjtök. The highest authorities recognized his excellent management. He and his younger brother Antal were granted the peerage from the King.

In 1910 Miksa Berg, who came from Germany, bought the estate. "Until then, the Castle remained practically unchanged. On the main façade a columned entrance was placed, over which there was no balcony, but only a roof. The walls were divided by braided Ionic pilaster intervening to the floor." The new owner rebuilt the castle according to design of the architect Mayer from Wiener Neustadt. The German industrial magnate family Thyssen - today Thyssen - Bornemissza family - donated the garden bridge. Two stone lions stand in front of it. The sons of Baron Miksa Berg owned the Castle.

In 1926 the new owner became the Hungarian ambassador of Vatican, Verseggy Elek Nagy. He had expensively reconstructed the Castle according to modern requirements.





The park around the Castle was built and a large pool was established according to the project of Alfred Hajós. Beside the pool, a small wooden Japanese house with reed roof was built, which was unprecedented in the Transdanubia Region at that time. A French garden with round trees, double hedges and lots of flowers was established. To the south there is a garden with an area of 50x50 meters, which is located in the middle of a small pool with a fountain.

After entering the building, visitors can admire the historical wooden tiles and ceiling in the lobby and the marble fireplace, which remained even during World War II. In the chapel, the work of Italian master Boltraffio, Magdolna Lódi, whose original is exposed in the Hungarian National Gallery, is presented. On either side of the altar stand two wooden statues, carved during the 17th century. They are now exhibited in the Christian Museum in Sopron. The portraits are of Apostle St. Paul and the holy bishop. The artist is unknown.

The furniture in salon comes from the Amsterdam Palace of Louis Bonaparte, the brother of Napoleon. A Dutch woman Elisabeth Janssen was in possession the furniture. After her death, her daughter, the first wife of Elek Verseggi, Erzsébet Janssen, inherited her mother's belongings. In such a way came the former royal salon furniture to Rőjtökmuzsaj.

Since 1930 lots of guests visited the Castle in Rőjtök. For several years, the Cardinal Prince-Bishop Dr. Juszinián Serédi spent his holidays here. Earl István Bethlen and Earl Pál Teleki, the former prime minister and the former foreign minister, spent time in the castle. Earl Berthold Lipót and the other members of the Family Eszterházy, as well as members of the Families Széchenyi, and Pálffy spent their holidays inside these walls. The father memorial of the Verseggi family is located in the castle's park. Elek Nagy Verseggi's wife died in 1934 at the age of 34 years and left behind two small children.





She is also buried in the castle's park. Elek Verseghy Nagy married for the second time in 1936. With his new wife, Mary Louise Countess Zichy, he had two sons, Elek and András. One of his children Peter died as a hero, four other children left the country in 1944. Verseghy Elek Nagy and his wife were deported to Tiszasüly - Koloptanya in 1951.

Over the years, the castle was waiting for new owners to be renovated and flourish in its beauty again. Lots of changes were made. The castle was used as a children resort. In the 90s, the castle was waiting for a new owner again. Harsh times followed: the technical condition worsened gradually and the park was overgrown.



Márta Derry bought the Castle in 1997 and made a full renovation. She reflected on our past, on our future, children and the appreciation of our values. Surprisingly to numerous people, the renovation was unexpectedly completed in a very short time.

The preparatory-works lasted from February to August 1998, the construction itself from September 1998 to December 1999 and the interior furnishing was completed from September until the end of December 1999.

On New Year's Eve 2000, the four-star Hotel Szidónia Castle was opened. The dream became true. Today 46 lovingly renovated rooms, a restaurant, event rooms, a ballroom, a café, a wellness area, a tennis court, a beach volleyball court, a basketball court, giant chess and many other surprises await those seeking relaxation and recreation.

When planning the renovation work, it was important to preserve as much of the old castle building as possible and to adapt the new building to the existing building. Due to

the increase in the number of hotel rooms, the roofs of the two side wings were raised and new hotel rooms were created through the installation of an attic and the design of a new staircase. On the ground floor, the winter garden was enlarged on the former glazed veranda and the restaurant was set up here.

Organically connected to the castle was the L-shaped farm building in the castle garden, which was administered by the council after the nationalization. There was a youth club, a village library, a hairdresser and a place organized by the village for celebrations and gatherings. It was a popular place for the residents of Rőjtökmuzsaj. The community, although willing, could not provide funding for the renovation. So the idea arose that the new castle owners would renovate the farm building, which historically had always belonged to the castle anyway, so that the castle and its surroundings can continue to function as a hotel in all its glory. In order not to harm the community, a new village house was built at the place provided by the community, which better meets today's needs and is no longer just an event location, but also a permanent home for the community. The exchange took place so that the newly built village house became a testimony that private owners and the community can work together for the good of all.





In the former farm building, which we now call the manor house, the usable area was increased by installing an attic, although care was taken not to overemphasize the new building mass. 13 rooms were created here. The Japanese house and the outdoor swimming pool have been restored to their original form. The castle is surrounded by a 6.5 hectare park, which enchants with its diversity and famous works, but also offers an opportunity for active relaxation.

When walking through the park, we feel as if we have been transported into a fairy tale world. The "re-creator", Mária Brányi, certified landscaping and horticultural engineer, recalls the atmosphere of the garden. "The image of the Dutch garden divided by bushes and planted with bush roses, the garden swimming pool designed by Alfred Hajós, the Japanese house, the grave of Elek Verseggy Nagy, the former owner, and the sidewalk and the trees lined with horse chestnuts seemed incredible to me." The structure of the garden, which was once laid out by Elek Verseggy Nagy in collaboration with the Berlin Company Späth, has not changed in recent years. But the Sopron group also participated in the sculptural work through Géza Seiffert, Béla Baumann and Béla Mechle.

The former design and atmosphere of the park will not be broken by the newly built sports fields. "Before the construction plan for the renovation of the park, several preparatory work, a geodetic survey of the park and an inventory of the existing plant population were carried out. Due to the hotel function, the garden has to meet a multitude of needs that had to be taken into account when designing. Based on the existing valuable plants and the elements of the previous design to be protected, I looked for the possibility of placing the functions that meet the new needs in such a way that at the end a park is created in harmonious connection with the

building complex." - explains Mária Brányi. Almost without exception, only woody plants were to be found in the former vegetation. The most valuable elements of the park are the intact beech trees of the Dutch garden and the U-shaped inner garden, the huge copper beeches and plane trees and the black walnut in front of the castle. They examined the trees, treated the remaining specimens, cut off the sick, unsaved plants, saplings and the all-encompassing undergrowth. After the expansion of the rock garden, a beautiful, interesting shape was revealed to the gardeners, which was planted with plants that are modelled on the abundance of plants in the village front gardens. Defects were offset by new plants.

Márta Dery created this "miracle world", in which our guests can find both the romance of the past and the convenience of the present.

Since January 2014, Dr. Professor Günter Nebel is the new owner of the hotel. He tries to preserve the character of the castle, the conception and the hospitality with which one has always expected the guests who come here.



OMR Prim. Prof. Dr. Günter Nebel



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