



# CLOISTER - ABBAYE DU MONT SAINT MICHEL

MANCHE, NORMANDY | \$168,000 with the support of The Florence Gould Foundation



## CLOITRE DE L'ABBAYE DU MONT SAINT MICHEL

Located in Manche, Normandie

### HISTORY OF OWNERSHIP

Nature, faith and the talent of men founded and shaped this monument over more than a millennium.

The long history of Mont Saint Michel begins in 708, when after three apparitions of the Archangel Michael, Bishop Aubert erects on the Mount its first sanctuary to install a small community of canons.

In 966, the Benedictines settled on the Mount at the request of the Duke of Normandy, Richard I and are behind the development of the new monastery. From then on, the Abbey continues to grow and is fast becoming a major place of pilgrimage in the Christian West, but also one of the centers of medieval culture where a large number of manuscripts are produced and stored.

### COMPELLING INDICATORS

It is also a political and intellectual crossroads where the Carolingian traditions and the influence of Greco-Arabic worlds meet. The Abbey has also benefited from exchanges between Britain and France.

The plan of the abbey of Mont Saint-Michel is unlike any other monastery. All areas of monastic life fit together and overlap around the edge of the granite rock and form a coherent and beautiful whole. A true testimony of the mastery and expertise of the builders of the Middle Ages, the abbey chapel combines Carolingian and Romanesque religious structures, a Gothic ensemble called "The Marvel" and a Flamboyant Gothic choir.

### GRANT SUMMARY

The restoration project concerns the magnificent 13<sup>th</sup>-century cloister, known as "La Merveille", or The Marvel, the architectural jewel of Mont Saint Michel revered around the world and will take place in 2016-2017.

The 13<sup>th</sup>-century cloister is suspended between sky and sea, the garden is the image of paradise on Earth. The play of shifted columns and spandrels finely carved in high relief in limestone from Caen make it an absolute masterpiece of Norman Gothic architecture.

The garden will be restored to its original "neo-medieval" design including the soil brought back to its original level to reclaim its original proportions with respect to the colonnades surrounding it. The public will be able to view the restoration in progress.

#### AT A GLANCE

Location:	the west of France at the limit of Normandy and Brittany
Ownership:	French State, managed by the Centre des Monuments Nationaux
Grant Request:	Available for funding
Matching Fund Source:	State
Allocation of Funds:	13 <sup>th</sup> -century cloister Cost of work : 2,000,000€/ \$2,300,000
FHS Payment:	\$168,000 with the support of The Florence Gould Foundation

Mont Saint Michel is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Mont Saint Michel is also a town since the 10th century, that develops in the shadow of the abbey. The walls that surround it resisted all the English assaults during the Hundred Years War and gave the Mount a symbolic place in the history of France.

Revolutionaries closed the abbey in 1783 and converted it into a prison, which saves it from demolition. In 1872, the abbey is entrusted to the Historical Monuments that gradually restores it. Successive modifications have sculpted over the ages the silhouette of the Mount to give it its current form. It is one of the most remarkable examples of architecture, both religious and military, from medieval times.



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MANCHE, NORMANDIE | GRANT REQUEST: 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grant available for funding



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FHS Payment:	TBD



Nahid Sultana  
Journey Around The Globe