

CADEROUSSE, A VILLAGE ON THE RHÔNE

THE TRADITIONAL BOAT

This boat, sometimes called in the Provençal language a barquet, barcot, barquot, barque from the Rhône, is the perfect illustration of life on and along the Rhône. Indeed, before the development of the Rhône by the National Rhône Company, Caderousse was regularly flooded, at least twice a year. The water flooded the plain and could remain for several weeks. During these periods, life went on and the inhabitants in the countryside used these boats to go to the village or from farm to farm. Each farm had its own boat hanging in a shed ready for use. A local saying in the Provençal language used to say for newlyweds "*avan lo buffet , fau lo barquet*", in short "*before buying a sideboard, get a boat!*" The boat was steered with oars or simply with a pole (in Provençal *partego*) when there was little water.

This boat was given by Mr Lucien Roche, a centenarian, to the Caderousse Heritage Association of Caderousse, La Levado, which restored it and gave it to the village to recall the memory of the floods along the Via Rhône.

The sculpture was designed and created by Christian Plautin, a local art blacksmith, in collaboration with Jean-Luc DARTH. It now rests on a bed of pebbles from the Rhône to honour the inhabitants of Caderousse, who lived in love and fear of the Rhône.

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