



WELCOME BUFFET



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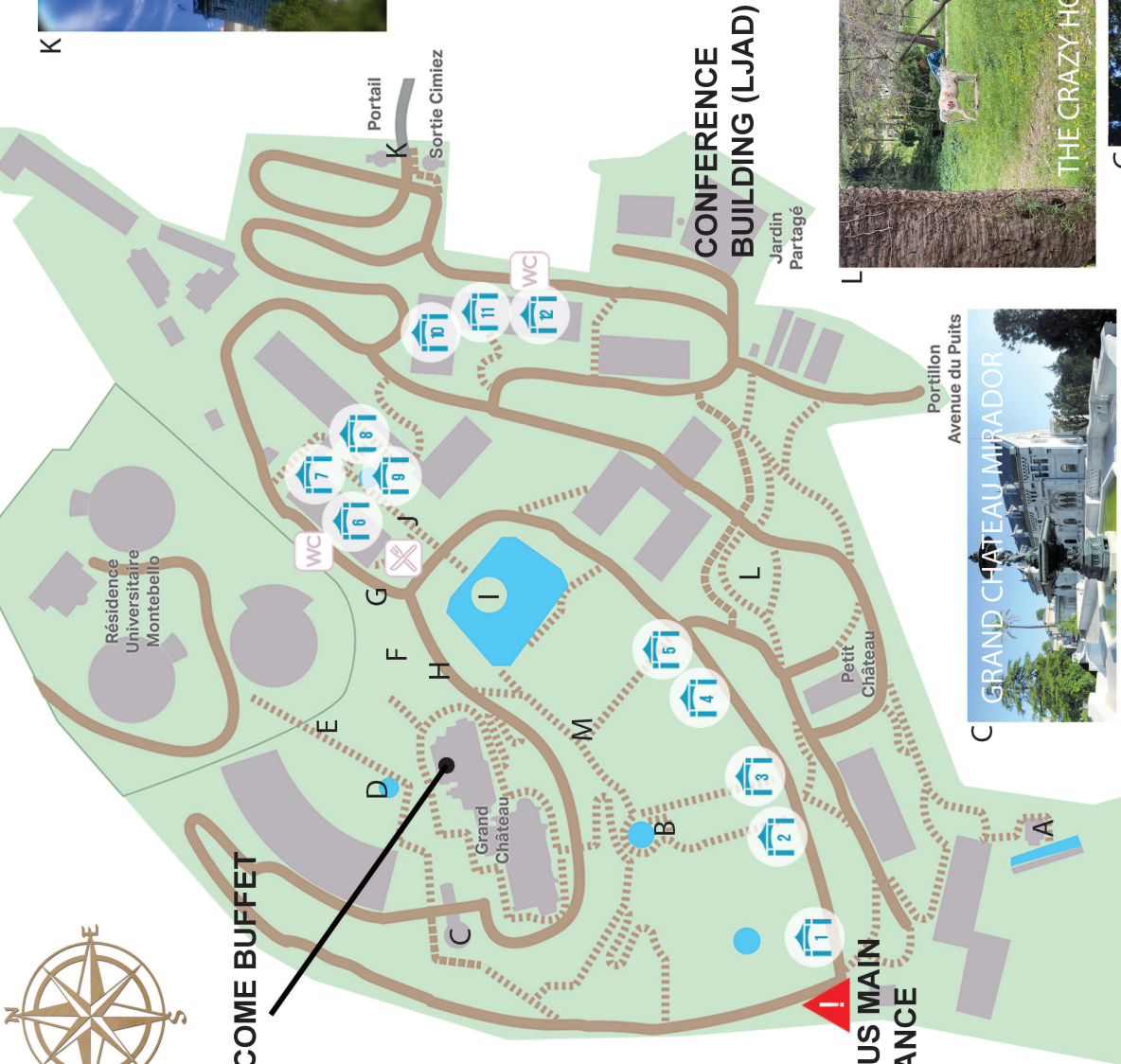
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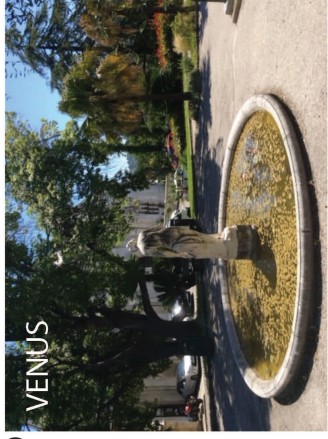
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THE TWIN TOWERS

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VENUS



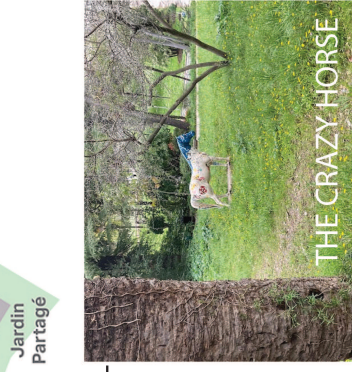
THE BOTANIC GARDEN



GRAND CHATEAU OLIVE-TREE GARDEN

E

CONFERENCE BUILDING (LJAD)



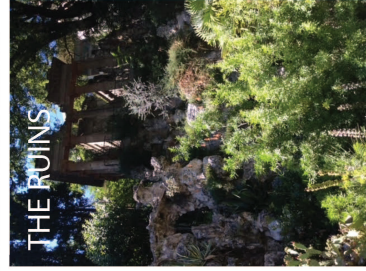
THE CRAZY HORSE

L



THE POND

I



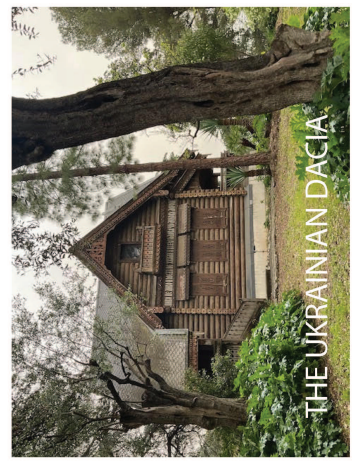
THE RUINS

G



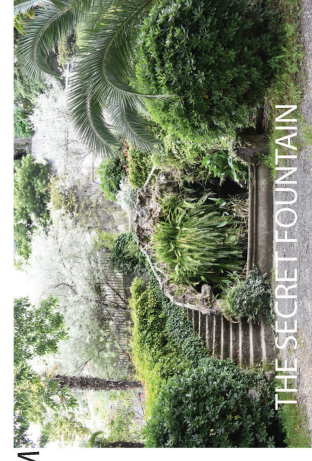
GRAND CHATEAU FOUNTAIN

B



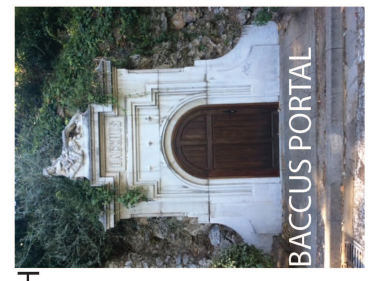
THE UKRAINIAN DACIA

A



THE SECRET FOUNTAIN

M



BACCUS PORTAL

H



THE JUNGLE PATH

F

THE VALROSE PARK AND CASTLE

Located in the Valrose district, the Valrose castles and their park constitute an area of ten hectares between Avenue de Brancolar and Cimiez hill, north of Nice. It is one of the rare large properties in Nice to retain its original dimensions². It now houses the campus of the science training and research unit of the Nice-Sophia-Antipolis University as well as the latter's headquarters.

On February 21, 1867, Baron³ Paul von Derwies, Russian entrepreneur and financier, advisor to Tsar Alexander II, acquired large plots of land in this valley, and created on this land, one of the most sumptuous and extravagant estates on the Riviera at the end of the century. Nineteenth century. He enlisted the services of several architects: his architects David Grimm and Antonio Croci helped by the young architect Constantin Scala, to whom he entrusted the construction of the castle, and to Antoine Béranger that of the small castle. The addition of a theater transformed into a concert hall was the work of Mikhaïl Makaroff in 1869, while the horticulturist Joseph Carlès, author of the gardens of Monte-Carlo, carried out the development of the park. The site provided work for more than 800 workers for three years at a cost of several million gold francs⁴. The castle is Gothic in style and its interior is full of luxuries with fresco ceilings, crystal chandeliers and master paintings. The most spectacular is a concert hall which can accommodate up to 400 spectators equipped with imposing wooden machinery visible at the back of the stage. In the park, Carlès introduced plants mainly from Italy, palm trees from Bordighera and other species from Genoa and Florence². Greenhouses and a rose garden are installed there. In 1873, the garden was fitted out with kiosks, a Ukrainian isba, false ruins, caves and statuary as well as numerous water features such as fountains, waterfalls and a pond on which you could sail in a boat. The annual renewal of lawns requires no less than seven tonnes of seeds⁵. Around a hundred people, including gardeners, maintain the estate. In 1881, Sébastien-Marcel Biasini built a monumental entrance portal flanked by twin towers, located to the east of the estate, avenue Prince de Galles in Cimiez. When she stayed at the Excelsior Régina Palace, Queen Victoria, who had the key to this gate, liked to come as a neighbor and walk in the olive grove at the top of the park². From 1870 to 1881, Valrose became a mecca for musical and social life. The baron hired the daily services of a symphony orchestra of 70 musicians led by the greatest conductors of the time. It welcomes great virtuosos including the violinist Joseph Joachim, the pianist Francis Planté and the diva Adelina Patti. On March 10, 1881, social events reached their peak during a reception in honor of Grand Duke Nicolas. The baron died of apoplexy on June 17 of the same year. In 1899, the Von Derwies bank was declared bankrupt.

The property was sold in 1912 to a certain Poutiloff, who sold it in 1920 to the king of Bolivian tin, Simón Iturri Patiño. He changed the inscription "Van Derwies" at the entrance to the park on the Avenue Valrose side to put instead his own name "S. Patino" which can still be seen today. In 1950, the city of Nice bought the entire estate and handed it over to the National Education Department to install the Valrose campus, the seat of the presidency of the Nice-Sophia-Antipolis University and the Faculty of Sciences since 1965.

The large castle, the small castle and the park, its garden factory and its statues, are classified as historic monuments by decree of July 22, 1991.