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AVEYRON, FRANCE- Built more than a thousand years ago on a gigantic rock, this magnificent fortress rises above one of the most beautiful villages in the Occitanie region of France.

Fernand Pouillon, (1912-1986), architect, visionary and award-winning author and Officer of the Legion of Honor, devoted himself completely to the restoration of Château Belcastel for more than eight full years after he discovered it in ruins in 1973. Although the Château remains a private residence, its owners welcome the public to tour the historic landmark, with its lush courtyards, medieval chapels, prison, exhibition spaces and superb views. A self-guided tour, rich with historical information, leads visitors over the moat and throughout the castle and its grounds.

EXHIBITION 2023 :

Creatura

Medieval Bestiary

For the first time anywhere, an exhibition and experience about medieval mythological creatures is presented like an historic novel in a 10th century warrior fortress. On the heels of last year's successful *Living Dragons* exhibition, 2023 will mark the first season of an ambitious new project at the chateau of Belcastel. *Creatura* brings together a collection of animatronic mythological creatures, and the stories that imbued them with life centuries ago. Within exterior spaces, six larger-than-life creatures will be moving, glaring and growling- "living" on the property:

Basilisk | Griffin | Phoenix | Unicorn | Cerberus | Stryge

Medieval-style banners in the chateau's principal gallery feature portraits of nine different medieval beasts, also with their history and fantastic stories. A timeline in the prison gallery about the history of dragons begins in biblical times and ends in 2023.

Co-curators Heidi Leigh, galeriest and proprietor of Chateau Belcastel, and Nicolas Marc, medieval specialist, aim to gain renown for this "Bestiary" of Belcastel by presenting a rich educational experience in a unique way. Visitors will first discover the fascinating history of the fifteen creatures from an academic's point of view, through historical research. Then, incredibly, the creatures themselves tell their own fantastic tales about the lives they lived.



Since ancient times, mythological beings and monsters have fascinated people around the world. These magical creatures were brought to life by storytellers, through theater, song and dance. Heroic tales were made sensational when the creatures were painted and sculpted, or woven into the fabric of tapestries. In more recent times, breathtaking special effects in the film and gaming industries have created dramatic adventures between dragons and other creatures and their human counterparts, as never before. In ancient and contemporary times alike, mythological creatures symbolize humankind's greatest hopes, fears, and most passionate dreams.



On exhibit : a new oil painting inspired by the mythological black mermaid by Kirk Reinert, an American painter who is one of the leading illustrators in the genres of fantasy, horror, and science fiction. Since 1999, his paintings have been a sensation in Japan, where he resides when he is not living and working in his studio in New York.

Guided tours for school children and groups will be led by Nicolas Marc and the small group of international university interns who live in the chateau during high season.

This unique educational and cultural experience is intended to thrill, entertain and pique the curiosities of visitors during the 2023 touristic season from April 1st through November 12th. This permanent exhibition is intended to grow, year after year.

[Exhibition page](#)

2023 EVENTS:

- **1 April - 12 November** - Château de Belcastel open to the public
- **8, 9 & 10 April** - Easter egg hunt weekend : Children hunt for 2000 eggs, hidden throughout the castle and its property, and trade them in for a chocolate bunny
- **July & August**, Dates TBA : Jazz Concerts
- **16 & 17 September**- Journées du patrimoine
- **October**, Dates TBA : Halloween Tours: A frightening haunted-house experience with murder, mayhem, ghouls and ghosts.

LOCATION:

The village of Belcastel is located in Aveyron, only 20 km from the Rodez airport.

[How to get to Belcastel](#)

TOURS & AMENITIES:

- An audioguide or brochure guides visitors through 34 point of interest
- Average tour time is 45/60 minutes
- Guided tours for groups
- Gift shop with cold drinks, organic local products and exclusive souvenirs
- Municipal parking lot 50 meters above the castle
- Dogs on a leash are welcome
- Available : one [tower suite](#), private events and commercial film shoots

Admission prices :

The Creatura exhibition is included in the price of regular admission

- General admission : 10€
- Reduced admission : 7€ (children 4⁺, students, groups 12+)
- Children 0-3 : free

Open daily from April 1st to November 12th, 2023

- High season (15 June - 15 September) : 10h-19h
- Low season : 10h-13h & 14h-18h

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