

## HISTORY OF CHATEAU HERÁLEC

### MAGIC PLACE OF HIGHLAND...

Welcome to the magic location of Highland. At your disposal is **one of the most beautiful Czech chateaus and romantic historical objects in Czech – national cultural monument Chateau Herálec**. It's red towers with battlements have dominated the countryside for more than four centuries. It is like an antique pure silver jewel, that was mined here for ages...

Chateau Herálec is an ornamental part of the village Herálec in the Havlíčkův Brod region, which is in the heart of Czech-Moravian Highlands. **The first reference of village Herálec** is in a **1226** document from pope Honorius III. Then it belonged to the Želivský Monastery. The history of manor houses is somewhat intertwined here. History mentions **three possible fortresses**. Among the possibilities, Herálec could have been a residence of the Order of the German Knights who built a fortress nearby a fortified church after the mid twelfth century. However, it's also possible that this reference is tied to the other tower which stood West of the village - the place of the today's chateau. The local estate was briefly owned by **Jindřich of Rožmberk**, who swapped it in **1307** with Prague bishop Jan IV of Dražice. Archbishops owned this until the Protestant wars. After which, it was obtained by **Trčka from Lípa**, one of the most powerful clans in Czech. The walls of chateau Herálec are dated from the **13<sup>th</sup> century**. This means that they remember events older than 800 years. The coat of arms of the Šelmburks, who were related to Trčka, was found there. This confirms that Chateau Herálec stands at the place of a middle-age fortress. Later in **1559**, it was **enlarged by spacious residential building**.

Numerous religious as well as secular owners shaped the chateau to their liking. The last of the Trčka's, **Kryštof Jaroslav Trčka from Lípa**, sold Herálec to **Kryštof Karel from Roupov in 1601**, who changed this after several decades into a two floor mansion with three rounded towers. Valdštejn's **general Filip Adam, count of Solms**, bought the chateau as well as the estate in **1623**. After his death, during the time of **Josefína hraběnka of Solms**, the castle lost its Renaissance outlook and its original furnishings due to a devastating fire. In 1708 the estate was purchased by sir Michal Achác von Kirchner. He has established a chapel in the Herálec chateau, wherein lies a beautiful oratory. It is presumed, that the gorgeous central fresco at the ceiling comes from a baroque painter S. Nosecký from about 1750. However, it was not devoted to St. Anna until Bedřich and Anna Milner were the owners. After that, the holders of the castle were changing frequently. In **1817**, the chateau was owned by Terezie Trautmannsdorf, and her son **Jan Nepomuk z Trautmannsdorf** has inherited the estate after her in 1838. At his request, the chateau was changed to the new-gothic style, more or less a modern-day romantic outlook including a tower, battlements, and beautiful facade. In 1861, B. Waschmann altered it to look more Gothic.

The interior and exterior of Chateau Herálec was under reconstruction almost until World War II. In **1945**, the chateau was confiscated, and a **political school was established** here. In **1951**, there was a **textile school** here, and after **1958**, the property was used for a **special education school** with dormitories.

The **Kaspers** have owned the castle since **2004**. They had the devastated chateau completely renovated. Extensive reconstruction of this historic and monumental masterpiece started in 2009, took 2.5 years, and was completed in August 2011. It was co-financed by the European union, through ROP Jihovýchod. The modern and historic details in the most up to date equipment are embedded into the chateau amenities and generous open spaces, this returned the luxury of the rooms and exquisite charm of the common spaces. The Chateau is honoured to have had this opportunity to achieve its new dignified existence as five star **Boutique Hotel & Spa by L'Occitane**.

