

LE CHAMP DE MARS

Champ de Mars, Place d'Armes, Place de la Libération, Place Charles de Gaulle: the market square had several different names prior to 1983.

In 1850, the town bought a completely enclosed orchard in the town centre from the Choin family in order to create a market square. The tradesmen had been complaining that the main street (Rue de la République) was not large enough.

The council also opened a "new street" between the square and the town hall.

Chestnut trees were planted in 1860, providing welcome shade for over a century to the customers of the cafés and restaurants (Café-restaurant du Champ de Mars, Café Bagriot, Café Lèche, Café Rojat).

Prior to its destruction in 1961, a departmental prison, the last remains of the keep of the former château delphinal (town hall), was located in one corner of the square. The telegraph office, which managed both post and telephone communications, occupied no. 55 Rue de la République at this time.

In January 1966, the post office (PTT: *Postes Télégramme et Télécommunications*) opened on the site of the prison, receiving an award for its "prettiness".

Place Charles de Gaulle was renovated in 1998, several buildings at the back of the town hall were demolished and, in May 2000, a new media library was opened.



The weekly market, travelling fairs, town celebrations and sporting events of all kinds take place in this central square. Café Rojat is now Café des Marronniers.