

Dear guest,

Welcome to an establishment that has been the result of love for the town of Cardona as well as the spirit of preserving part of its history and heritage

Bremont Boutique Hotel is part of the **Duquessa Hotel Collection Group**, which is set up in order to provide experience and quality services in historic or singular buildings that can convert stays into singular experiences.

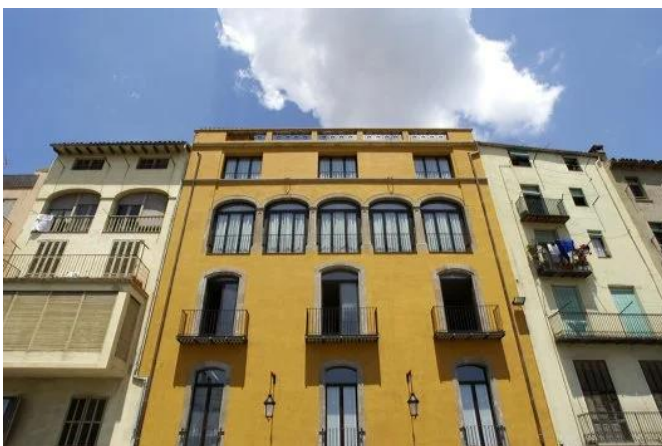
The Bremont preserves original architectural elements and collects historical pieces of the territory that have been received with the aim of preserving them and giving them a new life.

We understand that 'who loses his origins loses his identity' and with this premise we wanted to fit, in a new hotel establishment, different pieces that allow us to look back and, at the same time, to revive memories that are characteristic of our society.

Now you will find references to some of the elements that we retain as well as the connection to our common history.

Origin

The hotel establishment opened in 2006, but the original building dates are from 1850, when the Aixela family of Cardona ceded to the village the grounds for the construction of the Building, that was initially conceived as a convent and hospital. It's where the six daughters of the family dedicated their lives to the care of the sick people with scarce resources.



BREMON

The name of the hotel refers to the Viscount of Cardona called **Bremont I of Cardona (Catalonia, 10th century – 1029)**

He is the son of Ramon de Cardona and Engúncia. On his father's death (1015) he succeeded him. He founded Cardona Abbey.

It is believed that in 1019, Bremont reactivated a canonical community inhabiting an abbey located at the present location of the church Sant Vicenç. The Augustinian community consisted of an abbot, twelve canons and some priests.

Sant Vicenç was built in the 11th century and consecrated between 1029 and 1040 located in the walled enclosure of the Castle. The architect of the work is unknown although it is known that his contractor was Viscount Bremont and his promoter Abbot Oliba.

The church was originally conceived for an essentially religious purpose, as a building of worship. Later, in 1794, it was converted to military barracks by the Spanish army.

The first evidence of the existence of a church in Cardona precinct dates from 980. This early church was enlarged and improved between 1029 and 1040 under the impetus of Viscount Bremont, the reforms carried out by Abbot Oliba in other Catalan religious centers such as Ripoll, Cuixa, Vic or Canigó. Saint Vincent remained a canonical abbey until 1592, when it became a secular collegiate. The 1794 conversion of the castle into military barracks forced the monks out of Cardona, until the temple was finally converted into a warehouse.

It was restored in 1949 by architect Alexandre Ferrant.

The church of Sant Vicenç was declared a national monument in 1931.



'Vedruna' School

At the beginning of the 18th century, Cardona and its habitants were living in hard conditions from the different wars that caused death and poverty in the village.

When the local government of Cardona wanted to respond to the charitable and educational needs of the inhabitants of the town, she asked *Mrs Joaquina de Vedruna* for this service. It should be noted that the Vedruna congregation created the mixed Foundation that was largely oriented towards women's education.

In the session of 1 July 1831, the local government of Cardona was conscious of the hard conditions and the inappropriate service of the old hospital. Then, they agreed the establishment of the Verdures sisters and it's restructuring.

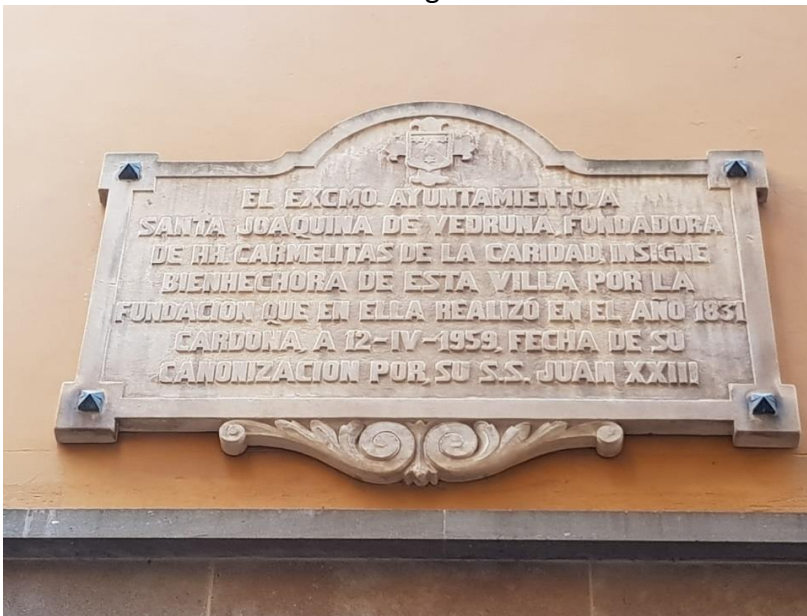
In mid-October 1831, the Mother Vedruna and four other sisters arrive in Cardona to offer their charity teaching services.

Initially, the community settles in the house "Borrellas", located on 'St. Miquel' Street, ready to become 'St. Jaume' provisional Hospital.

In 1876 the community and the school moved to 'Cambres' Street, 15. At that time the school was called "Col·legi Mare de Déu del Carme".

The school was evolving, adapting itself to the different teaching laws and never lost its first objective: Human and Christian training, harmonizing culture, a spirit of creative work, and bringing together traditions and faithful to the charisma of Joachim of Vedruna. The school remained open until 1959.

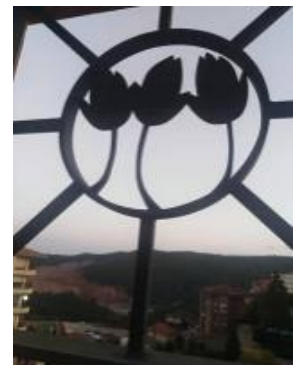
On the main facade of the building, is preserved a commemorative plaque, placed in 1959, which remember the use of the building as a school.



An example of respect and love for history

The current hotel establishment managed by Duquessa Hotel Collection comes up from the will of three sisters of Cardona who spent much of their childhood in the establishment and who wanted to preserve the old school and convent, maintaining the harmonious and impeccable coexistence of their past.

As the Icon of the hotel and also of Cardona you will find in the hotel logo 3 thistles representing the three sisters as founders of the hotel. In the shield of the village of Cardona you will find as well these three thistles.



Vestibule Hotel in front of main facade

Structure and stained glass from the beginning of the 20th century with origin from 'Passeig de Gràcia number 23 in Barcelona where Mrs Mercedes Salisach lived.

The writer Mercedes Salisach famous for having won the Premio Planeta in 1975 for "La Gangrena", a social and historical reflection of the city of Barcelona through the prominence of Carlos Hondero; the Ateneu de Sevilla for "El Volum de La Ausencia" (1983), evocation vital to a woman on the eve of receiving a medical diagnosis; the Fernando Lara for "The Last Labyrinth" (2004), or the Alfonso X the Wise Historic Novel Award for "Goodbye, Spain" (2009), a novel centred on the reign of Alfonso XIII from the memories of Queen Victoria Eugenia of Battenberg.



Birthplace of the illustrious Mr. Ramon Martí in 1807

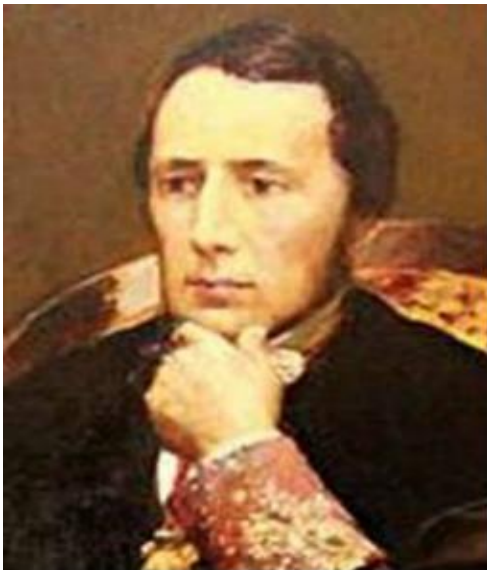
Also on the main façade of the hotel is the plaque introduced in 2011 which recalls the place where an illustrious of Cardona was born and which we want to remember.

Ramon Martí was graduated in law at the University of Cervera in 1830 and received his doctorate from the University of Barcelona in 1837. He obtained the professorship of Public Civil and Criminal Law, providing a renewed rationalist view of the legislation. He was a member of the Barcelona Economic Society "d'Amics del País" (1836), of the Society of the development of the Enlightenment and director of the "Institut Barcelonès" from 1839 to 1841. In that year he was appointed censor of the competitions for professorship by the Board of Commerce and the Barcelona Provincial Council. He was also a member of the Royal Academy of Good Letters of Barcelona and the Academy of Natural Sciences and Arts (1835), and participated in the foundation of the Academy of Jurisprudence and Legislation of Catalonia (1840), of which he was vice-president, librarian and archivist.

He was a member of the Spanish Cortes in 1843, 1844-1846, 1853 and 1857, where he defended protectionism in favour of Catalan industry. He was a member of the Reforming Committee of the Code of Commerce and a writer of the municipal ordinances of Barcelona in 1857.

In philosophy, he was influenced by the Scottish doctrine of common sense (Francis Bacon, John

Locke, David Hume) through Théodore Jouffroy and Pierre-Paul Royer-Collard. He introduces in Catalonia this doctrine and the creator of the Catalan school of philosophy. Of his thoughts, stands out the theory of "consciousness in all its integrity, published by his students Francisco Javier Llorens i Barba and Manuel Duran i Bas.



Switchboard of the home of the Gelida Marquess

In the Reception area we highlight the Telephone Switchboard dating from the year 1.949

The piece originates from the home of the Marquesa de Gelida Mrs. María Consuelo Jover y Vidal (1881 - 1957) located at Paseo de Gracia, 23 BCN.



Mosaic de Virgin of Montserrat

Mosaic hand-painted by *Mantecon*, original 1927 (approx.) and now housed in the terrace Hotel 4th Plant.

Despite the different situations experienced during the Spanish Civil War, the school, its staff and heritage were fully respected, despite the religious ties due to the great task of charity and teaching.

The Virgin of Montserrat, popularly known as the '*Moreneta*', is the patron saint of Catalonia. It is located in the monastery of Montserrat; it is a symbol of Catalonia, a point of pilgrimage for believers and an attraction for tourists. His feast day is celebrated on 27 April. Cardona is located 57 km from the abbey of Montserrat.



Original hydraulic ground. Year 1929 (approx.)

The hydraulic pavement is an artisan lining for floors and walls that lived through its splendour period in the late 19th and mid-20th centuries. From the 1.960s onwards, other materials such as terrazzo, tile, or ceramic progressively displaced the hydraulic, forcing manufacturers to replace it with less elaborate but more profitable pieces.

We would like to comment the anecdote relating to *Mr. Jimmy Carter*, 39th President of the United States of America (1977–1981), who was appointed Honorary Citizen of Cardona in 2007 and visited the town in 2010.

On his visit, Mr. Carter walked around the village and wanted to enter the Bremon Hotel in particular to observe the hydraulic lands on the noble floor of the Hotel.

Mr. Carter took an interest in the history of the property and encouraged the *Gual Sisters*, owners of the property, to preserve the heritage because it allows the culture, origins and memory of people to be maintained, individually and collectively.

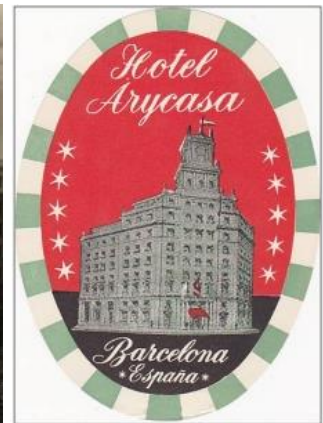


Original bars of the HOTEL ARYCASA. Ausiàs March / Bruc BCN (1952-1977)

The Arycasa hotel was opened in May 1952, shortly before the opening of the Eucharistic Congress, a celebration that brought together in Barcelona a large number of visitors from all over the world. The building that housed the hotel was located on the corner of the Ausiàs March i Bruc streets, had 10 floors and constituted a typical display of that Francoist monumental architecture of neoclassical lines, very similar to the buildings that were then built in the center of the city (Plaça Catalunya and Passeig de Gràcia especially).

During its first fifteen years, Arycasa was one of the city's most distinguished hotels with a five-star category. It was well known because the bullfighters who performed at the Monumental were usually housed there. Manuel Benítez El Cordobés, the most famous bullfighter of the time, was a frequent client of Arycasa from which he had offered more than one press conference.

Beginning in the late 1960s, the hotel began to enter a gradual decline, harassed by the fierce competition from other new hotel establishments in the city. Gradually, she lost her success, the restaurant and cafeteria annexed Lutezia closed, and finally the hotel closed in late 1977. The building remained standing, was thoroughly remodelled and three years later reopened into a wholesale shopping mall, a business very typical of that neighbourhood and which today the Chinese almost monopolize.



Original tiles of the BCN underground, YEAR AND UNKNOWN ORIGIN (approx. 1954)

Tiles of the bathrooms BCN underground origin.

This tile was created specifically in 1904 to cover the New York Metro stations. They were looking for durable, beautiful and, above all, cleanable material. This rectangular, white and enamelled tile was chosen for its durability and stain resistance. The enamelled white was also the best choice for a greater sense of luminosity. Its use expanded throughout the New York underground network and was then exported to Paris and London.



Original Catalan vaulted arches

The hotel has several Catalan vaulted arches visible or hidden. These can be seen in the hall area as well as inside rooms.

The Catalan vault or plan brick is a traditional Catalan construction technique. It consists of covering the space by a vault of bricks placed on the flat side, that is, on the larger surface that forms the length and through the brick rather than doing it on any of the thick faces. This technique, if the space to be covered was not too wide or the pallets were skilled enough, allowed curvature construction with a certain speed that, among others, led to it being widely used. The Catalan vault covered, with a single light, the ceiling of the roof of the country houses and popular urban buildings such as the traditional urban houses of Catalonia, etc. From the 19th century it was applied to the noble constructions of the Eixample of the era of industrialization such as the Eixample Cerdà of Barcelona.



Original stairs protected by heritage

The original staircases of the school have been preserved and restored. These are classified and protected by the heritage and connect the 5 floors of the building.

It is through these stairs that thousands of children passed through the years on their way to the classroom or out of school to go with their parents. The school was full of life and the illusion of all children who had a lifetime from now on. Today we still have visits from some of those children who remember their passage through the school with longing.

We are very keen to try to visualize all the children counting the steps and grabbing the rail.

We therefore want to preserve childhood memories and to wish all future dreams of students as well as guests every success. We must not stop dreaming!

