

## ROTARY CLUB

**Joseph Pell Lombardi:**

***"I am now a Cantalou!"***

The Rotary Club of Saint-Flour paid tribute to New York architect Joseph Pell Lombardi by giving him the Paul Harris Fellow Award on December 27th.

*"This prize is a great honor. It's very rare for an American to receive this kind of distinction. As you know, I have a passion for Auvergne and I am now a true Cantalou ..."* These words were spoken by Joseph Pell Lombardi, owner of Château du Sailhant and a renowned architect recognized for world-wide restoration of historical monuments, while receiving the Paul Harris Fellow award.

The prize honors members and non-members of the Rotary club, for their involvement in furthering culture and transmitting it to future generations as a heritage. In this case, an investment in safeguarding, valorization and opening to the public an element of historical and cultural heritage of Cantal: the Château du Sailhant.

Five times a year, the proprietor leaves his city of New York to be in France and Cantal. At the end of this year, his whole family was reunited in this medieval château, which required twenty years of restoration: wife, children, grandchildren, and friends come for the festivities to salute the award of this distinction by Vincent Trinh, president of the rotary club of Saint-Flour. All in an ambience with a wood fire, musical background, and a large four-meter tall fir tree in the great reception room of this 14th century château remodeled in the 19th century in a Renaissance style.

### **The Sailhant is open to visitors**

It was an occasion for President Trinh, also an architect (he led the work under the leadership of Joseph Pell Lombardi), to recall the beginning of a story that continues because, even though the restoration is complete, the intent of the owner remains to make Sailhant live. Having decided to open the house to the visitors, thus sharing his adventure, and to furnish it with objects exclusively of the Auvergne. *"Little by little, we could see the rebirth of this building threatened by ruin. I recognize that I had an extraordinary chance to cross your path and learn a lot by working at your side"*, said Vincent Trinh. A work that today allows one *"to be able to admire an extraordinary testimony of the culture and know-how of Haut Cantal. An approach which illustrates Rotary's motto: 'Serve first', but which also embodies values such as altruism, culture or the will to do well."* Lombardi's restoration has been recognized in the US by many magazines which specialize in architecture and art ...

The best ambassador of Cantal across the Atlantic and the *"new Cantalou"* who also likes to guide welcoming visitors and who, in short, has developed an affection to this region and its inhabitants who return the affection. ..

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