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The Domaine de l'Isle

The Domaine d'Isle is already mentioned in the 10th century. It will become famous in the 17th century when David Rigaud, the well-known draper merchant from Crest, lived there. His great-grandson, Michel Martin Rigaud (1704-1782) an agronomist, enlarged the residence and expanded the property. He had dykes built along the Drôme river to maintain the river within its bed. He planted large nurseries of white mulberry trees and spawned the establishment of artificial meadows. His name remains synonymous with the organization of plowing matches on his estate on St Michel's Day, with a large participation of farmers from Alex and Eurre.

His nephew and heir, Louis Michel Rigaud de l'Isle (1761-1826) continued his work and was well known for his writings to the Société d'Agriculture de Paris.

Upon the wedding of his daughter to Baron Amable Blancard in 1822, officer of the Napoleonic cavalry and then General, the estate passed onto the Blancard family and then to his great-grandson Louis Marie Girardon.

Louis-Marie's eight children will sell the estate (about 100 hectares) to various farm landowners via the Safer Group, a real estate association, while the house is sold to a private investor.