The Paul Croix nurseries and Rose gardens, created in 1819, are located in Bourg Argental (42) in the heart of the Pilat Regional Natural Park, between Lyon and St Etienne. A place inspired by the passion of their creator Adrien Sénéclauze, a place where Beauty and Nature meet, a place where high standards and passion have given birth to a symphony of shapes, scents and colours, a perfect setting to welcome the Rose.

It was in 1956 that Paul Croix settled there, bringing with him the creation of new roses. That same year, his « Astrée » rose won the title of « Most Beautiful Rose of France », while numerous prizes were awarded to his other creations, including the emblematic « Sourire d’orchidée », « Diane de Poitiers », « Déclic », « Croix verte »… A man of Passion, he ensured the transmission of his expertise to his daughter Dominique, who has the family passion at heart by creating numerous award-winning varieties. She can be all the more proud of these as very few women work as « creators of new roses », including, among others, the roses « Gérard Depardieu », « Paul croix », « Je t’aime »…

After the death of Paul Croix in 1999, she took over the management of the Company and met Jacques Ranchon, a teacher and musician with a passion for Nature and the World of the Rose. The two of them united their future and their efforts to devote themselves entirely to their passion: the development of the Estate and the bicentenary collections of plants, the creation of new roses and the preservation of the environment by abandoning all chemical treatments on all the crops. A decision whose results proved to exceed all expectations !

Initiated in turn to the art of hybridisation by his wife Dominique, Jacques Ranchon quickly revealed his creative talents with the award of a gold medal in Rome in 2012 with the « Rire d’enfant » rose. Other creations followed, including the rambler rose « Stéphane Marie » as well as the roses « Université de St Étienne » and « Pape François » which now decorates the Vatican Gardens and Castel Gandolfo Gardens.

The Domaine was awarded the « Jardin Remarquable » Label in 2010 in recognition of the work accomplished, in particular the creation of the Great Conservatory Rose Garden, the Collection of botanical roses and old roses with more than 500 varieties. This award also recognises the quality of the plants, the richness of the collections, the beauty of the site and its integration into the site as well as the commitment to environmental preservation.

“Whoever wants to have beautiful roses in his garden must have beautiful roses in his heart…”