



The La Ciotat Shipyards welcome you.

Did you know... that you've just entered one of the oldest naval shipyards in the Mediterranean? Indeed, the Phocéans coming from Greece in 600 BC and before them the Phoenicians anchored in the Bay of La Ciotat.

Following them, the region progressively affirmed itself as the cradle of contemporary naval shipyards: After the ship carpenters and "calfats" (caulkers) of the middle ages, the shipyards were established in their current location "l'Escalet", at the beginning of the 17th century.

La Ciotat, became one of the largest ports in the Mediterranean for preparation and equipping of ships. Its schooners, corvettes and three-mast ships sailed the seas across the globe, transporting explorers, merchants, kings' captains, as well as privateers.

During the industrial era, history would accelerate with La Ciotat successfully turning toward steel ships propelled by paddle wheels then by propellers under the leadership of the visionary entrepreneur, Louis BENET. In the 19th century, 90 passenger ships were launched in La Ciotat, in order to assure the transport of mail and individuals into all parts of the world. It was the great era of the «compagnie des messageries maritimes », the name which the town hall square still bears.

With the 20th century and its 2 world wars, the shipyards had to reinvent themselves once again. After the passenger ships, it was on to industrial ships : oil and gas tankers, as well as container ships which would exist thanks to the expertise of the 6,000 employees who worked night and day at the « CNC » . The wave produced in the harbor by the launch of these giants along the slipway 1, still visible today, remains in the memory of the residents. Maybe you can speak about it with them if you cross them on a café terrace...

But history was in the making and the moment had come for a new start. At the turn of the 21st century, the citizens of La Ciotat understood that the future was being created today for them with the welcome and reparation of Super and Mega yachts, the new giants of the sea. This new activity is piloted by the La Ciotat Shipyards / SEMIDEP, which have the pleasure to welcome you today.

The secret of this long history? It is said that somewhere in the middle of the shipyard, there is a miraculous spring which has the power to keep those who drink from it in La Ciotat forever... Legend or reality? You will see !

One thing is certain: the story isn't finished. The La Ciotat Shipyards are continuing their march forward, faithful to their motto: #somethingbiggeriscoming...

Welcome to the La Ciotat Shipyards !