

The villa Les Cèdres, formerly villa Les Oiseaux, is a villa and private property built around 1870 at the place called "Petter Ferrat", on Cape Ferrat, in Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat (Alpes-Maritimes). Poured into the General Inventory of Cultural Heritage, this domain - which belonged to King Leopold II of Belgium - originally includes, in addition to the villa, a party hall, a winter garden, a chapel, a stable, a concierge and a pleasure garden (Botanical garden Les Cèdres). ==History== The villa was built in 1830 on the territory of Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat at the time it was part of the commune of Villefranche-sur-Mer. It was acquired by David-Désiré Pollonais in 1850. When he became mayor of Villefranche-sur-Mer, he received many personalities there. David Désiré Pollonais (Nice 1823-1902), mayor of Villefranche-sur-Mer from 1872 to 1900, came from a Jewish family, of Polish origin by his father, who was a fabric seller in Nice. David-Désiré married Amélie Cohen, daughter of a Marseilles shipowner and sister of a music inspector of the Second Empire. He was the father of journalist and playwright Gaston Pollonnais (1856-1922). The heirs of David-Désiré Pollonnais sold the villa and its fourteen acres of gardens in 1904 to the King of the Belgians Leopold II. He resided in Monaco, but he bought Les Cèdres to house his friend, Blanche Joséphine Delacroix, most often called Blanche Delacroix but which he nicknamed "Very Great". He met her in 1899, when she was only 16 years old and he was already 64 years old. He made Beautiful Baroness of Vaughan and his morganatic wife when he felt the end of his days coming. In 1924, the villa was bought by Louis-Alexandre Marnier-Lapostolle, owner of the liqueur Grand Marnier and the vineyard of Château de Sancerre. He made it an exotic garden and an arboretum whose wealth is recognized by botanists. Since 1976, the villa has belonged to the Société des Produits Marnier-Lapostolle, owned by the Campari group since 2016, which cultivates plants in the composition of the Grand-Marnier liqueur. The villa Les Cèdres has twenty-five heated greenhouses. Twenty thousand species are cultivated, including 140,000 tropical species. The Campari Group announced on 1 August 2019 that it had signed an agreement to sell the villa for EUR 200 million The new owner of the villa is the Ukrainian oligarch Rinat Akhmetov ==Legal status== The villa Les Cèdres is a private property located at 57 avenue Albert I er, in the place called "Petite Cap Ferrat". It has been the subject of a census at the General Inventory of Cultural Heritage since 20 November 2008. The team has been the subject of a separate census since the same date The same applies to the garden of pleasure in terraces, with balustrades and statues6. The hall of parties, detached from the complex in 1911 to become after the transformation of the villa Le Casin then villa Radiana, is also the subject of a separate census on the same day. The villa Les Cèdres was put up for sale for 1.1 billion dollars in the summer 2016. ==area== Villa Les Cèdres, nestled in the exclusive French Riviera town of Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, is renowned for its unparalleled grandeur and expansive grounds. This magnificent estate spans approximately 35 acres, making it one of the largest privately owned properties in the region. The main villa itself covers an impressive area of over 18,000 square feet, boasting luxurious living spaces adorned with exquisite artwork, antique furnishings, and opulent décor. With 14 bedrooms, numerous reception rooms, and lavish amenities, the villa offers unparalleled comfort and elegance. Surrounding the villa are meticulously landscaped gardens, featuring rare exotic plants, centuries-old

olive trees, and vibrant floral displays. A sprawling botanical park, complete with lush greenery and winding pathways, adds to the estate's charm and beauty. Originally built in the 1830s, Villa Les Cèdres has a rich history and has been home to several notable owners, including the Belgian King Leopold II. Its prestigious location on the French Riviera's coastline offers breathtaking views of the Mediterranean Sea and the surrounding landscape. Today, Villa Les Cèdres stands as a testament to timeless luxury and sophistication, attracting attention from discerning buyers and enthusiasts of fine architecture and design. Its unparalleled size, exquisite craftsmanship, and stunning surroundings make it a true masterpiece of estate living.