



As evidence of past production, most ancient quarries and quarry landscapes are difficult to protect, difficult to manage and difficult to present to a lay audience. However, some successful examples of conservation and promotion exist, of which "les carrières de Bibémus" takes a prominent place. Bibémus is situated within a local nature reserve in the outskirts of Aix-en-Provence in Southern France. It delivered yellowish molasse sandstone for Aix and other places from the Roman period until the late 19th century. The quarries can be found on a forested plateau and feature an impressive "labyrinth" of quarry faces, pits and quarry roads. For professionals, the quarries are striking and incredibly interesting; for the lay person they might be exciting like old mines often are. What makes these quarries special today is the fact that the world-famous painter Paul Cézanne had an atelier here and used the quarries extensively as motifs for his paintings. This aspect is what has been taken advantage of in the current promotion of the quarries.
(Per Storemyr)



Underground quarry



How it looks today (above) and Cézanne's impression (below)



Tool marks from quarry picks on the vertical quarry faces

A labyrinth of quarries

