

An introduction to the history of Pädaste Manor

We would like to take this opportunity to acquaint you with the Manor and its surroundings.

The earliest written history of Pädaste Manor dates back to 1566, on the 25th of June of that year Fredrik II, King of Denmark handed the manor over to the von Knorr family in recognition of services rendered to the Danish Crown.

The manor and surrounding farms was an important centre of agricultural activity already by that time. It must have been much earlier, not long after bishop Albert von Buxhoeveden by decree of Pope Honorius III led the last and decisive battle on Muhu Island in 1227 against the Estonian heathens that this enchanting site was selected to build a manor.

The origins of the manor go back to the 14th century; some of these ancient walls are at the very heart of the house. In the later part of the 19th century the house was enlarged considerably and given a new façade, hence the harmonious dimensions and clean lines which give the house its character today.

The buildings that frame the court yard were erected between 1870 and 1890, a period in which the German-Baltic nobles enjoyed great wealth. In the late 19th century Baron Axel von Buxhoeveden had, as the Imperial Hunting Master an influential position at the court of czar Nicholas II. Together with his wife Charlotte, heiress to the von Siemens company, he brought a touch of worldly splendour to the sleepy Muhu Island. Von Buxhoeveden renovated his manors in Kuivastu and Pädaste. The summers at Pädaste became cultural delights as Charlotte brought artists and musicians along when she moved with her entourage from St. Petersburg to Muhu to for the summers.

After his election to Landmarschall of the region Albert von Buxhoeveden renovated Kuressaare castle and turned it into the seat of government again. In the winter of 1919 Axel von Buxhoeveden was brutally assassinated by revolutionaries while on his way from Pädaste Manor to the mainland. Charlotte von Siemens fled to Brandenburg the next day. Seven hundred years of family presence on Muhu that had started with their forefather Albert von Buxhoeveden's conquest of the Island in 1227 came to an abrupt end.

After years of neglect during the Soviet period, we took up the endeavour in 1996 to restore Pädaste Manor to new splendour, with the goal to create one of the finest hotels in the Baltic countryside.

The Manor House, the Carriage House and the Private Farm House have been fully renovated and now offer sublime accommodation. The former dairy houses a unique intimate Spa well known for its use of local ingredients and remedies. Alexander Restaurant known for its' Nordic Islands' Cuisine is located in the airy wintergarden and stately grand hall of the Manor House while the Pädaste Yacht Club is a great place to lunch or admire the sunset over a glass of wine in summer. Our chef and his kitchen staff take pride in serving an appealing and innovative menu. We respect the seasons and prefer fresh local produce; our salads, greens and herbs are grown in the manor garden.

To make your stay even more exciting, Pädaste Manor offers you a private cinema, boat rental, bikes, fishing trips, ice-fishing, horse-back riding, guided nature walks, massages, body wraps and much more. Or simply do nothing for a change and enjoy the nature.

Did you know that the seashore of Pädaste Manor is well known for its biologic diversity? It's yours to discover, but above all, Pädaste Manor has a history and nature, that gives it an indefinable feeling some people call soul...

Recommended reading: The Chronicle of Henry of Livonia by James A. Brundage, Columbia University Press. Muhumaa: Loodus, Aeg, Inimene by Ago Rullingo, Eesti Entsüklopeediakirjastus (in Estonian)