



THE HISTORY OF VINTRE MØLLER

Photo: An overview of Vintre Møller from the early 1900's

Vintre Møller is a settlement in Mid-Sealand, Denmark in Lejre Municipality. The town name, meaning 'winter mills', alludes to the historical activities that have been associated with the area.

The originally constructed mills were only used outside the agricultural season, where the water was used for agriculture or grazing areas. The area was a small craft and industrial center based on water energy where grain was processed for the surrounding farms and manors (Böcher, 1943).

Water played a pivotal role at Vintre Møller as the buildings are located along the watercourse Møllebækken, which runs down a slope, from which several springs with reasonably large water flow spring, named 'Sortekilderne' which translates to 'The Black Springs'. The springs have throughout history provided water for five watermills which supported various kinds of industry including a bakery and a brewery (ibid).

From Wool & Grain, Beer & Mineral Water to Gin & Whisky

Since the 14th century, there has been a recorded milling industry in the area. In 1805, a 'miller' sold Vintre Møller for 694 'rigsdaler' at which time grain and wool were processed at the mill. In 1889 the mill burned down, and was taken over by Karl Johan in 1890 who proceeded to repair the mill and brew beer. At the turn of the 20th century, documents show that in the late 1800's Karl Johan produced around 100.000 bottles of beers yearly.

In 1911, Karl Johan's son, also named Karl Johan, took over the production, and with the mill repaired began producing electricity for the neighboring area which continued up until 1952. In 1930 the brewery expanded their production to include mineral water and in 1957 the brewing ceased while the mineral water was produced until 1987 when the factory closed permanently.

In 2018, Henrik Hammer took over the factory and in the spirit of its predecessors began the production of gin, vodka and whisky. *Vintre Møller Destilleri* anchors its activities in respect for the history of the area and in harmony with nature.

The historical mill at Vintre Møller has once again been restored. This was made possible with the help from LAG funds (EU) and is truly a symbol of the revival and continuation of Vintre Møller's 650-year-old history.

Photo: A look inside the newly renovated mill where the Vintre Møller Destilleri's whisky will rest

