

ChatGPT 5.5

May 27, 2026

I have a document from 1387 in which the king of the Crown of Aragon refers to a Carthusian monastery by the name of Noresmenis. Can you help me figure out which monastery this was and whether it still exists?

I'll treat "Noresmenis" as a difficult Latin/Catalanized toponym and check it against Carthusian houses active around 1387 in the Crown of Aragon and nearby regions. The most useful clue will be whether the document gives a recipient, diocese, or route context, but I can start from the name alone.

Thought for 44s

The safest answer is that **"Noresmenis" is probably not the name of the monastery**. It looks very much like the medieval Catalan adverb **noresmenys / no res menys**, meaning **"moreover, also, likewise"** or later **"nevertheless."** The *Diccionari Català-Valencià-Balear* gives medieval examples such as **"E noresmenys..."** from fourteenth-century documents, with the meaning "a més, també; igualment."

So if your document says something like:

"...noresmenis lo monestir de cartoxans..."

"...e noresmenis al monestir..."

then **noresmenis is likely a connective**, not a toponym: "and moreover / and likewise [to] the Carthusian monastery..."

That said, if the document is from **1387** and concerns a Carthusian house under royal Aragonese attention, the most likely monastery is:

Cartoixa de Valldecris / Cartuja de Vall de Crist

This was the Carthusian monastery at **Altura, near Segorbe, in present-day Castellón**. It was founded in **1385** by the infante Martí, later King Martí I. PARES gives the institution as **Cartuja de Valldecris de Altura**, existing from **1385 to 1835**, and notes that in **1387**, after Pere IV's death, Joan I confirmed the monastery's earlier donations and granted further favors.

That chronology fits your 1387 setting extremely well. Valldecríst was brand-new, royal, and closely tied to Martí and the Aragonese monarchy. A University of Valencia historical lordship entry also records a **May 11, 1387** papal bull involving funds to be invested in construction of the **cartoixa de Valldecríst**, with an ACA reference.

Does it still exist?

Yes, but not as a functioning monastery. The site survives as the ruined/partly conserved **Cartuja de Vall de Crist** at Altura. Tourism and heritage sources describe it as a ruined former Carthusian monastery founded in **1385**, with remains including the main church, hospedería, cloisters, refectory, and chapter house. It was declared a historic-artistic monument in **1984** and is treated as a heritage site today.

It ceased to function as a monastery after the nineteenth-century exclaustation; Castellón tourism gives **July 1835** as the date of definitive exclaustation.

Bottom line

I would read **Noresmenis** first as **noresmenys** = “**moreover/likewise,**” **not a place-name.** If the surrounding phrase identifies a Carthusian monastery in 1387, the best candidate is probably **Valldecríst / Vall de Crist**, at **Altura near Segorbe**, which still exists as a preserved ruin/heritage site, not as an active Carthusian community.

The N is clearly capitalized and so this must be a place name. Possibly it is near or in Savoy. Please do another search with that information in mind.

That changes the problem substantially: a capital **N** plus a Savoy context makes this more likely a Latinized place-name or charterhouse name rather than the Catalan connective I first suspected. I'll look specifically for Carthusian houses in or near Savoy with names that could plausibly be read as **Noresmenis / Nor(es)menis / Noremenis** in a 1387 chancery hand.

Thought for 44s

Yes — with **Savoy** in mind, I would now put **Pierre-Châtel** at the top of the candidate list, but with one important caveat: “**Noresmenis**” **still does not match any standard Carthusian house-name I can find.**

The best Savoy-context candidate is probably:

Chartreuse de Pierre-Châtel / Cartusia Petrae Castri

This was a **Carthusian monastery founded from a Savoyard comital castle**. Amadeus VI of Savoy ordered its foundation in his will of **21 February 1383**, and the site belonged to the Carthusian Order from **1383 to 1791**. One heritage source notes that building work began later under Bonne de Bourbon, regent of Savoy, while another says the church and small cloister were completed by **1395**.

Why this fits your document:

1. **Chronology:** it existed precisely in the 1380s, so a 1387 royal letter could plausibly refer to it.
2. **Savoy connection:** it was a Savoyard foundation, made from a castle of the counts of Savoy.
3. **Carthusian identity:** sources explicitly identify it as a charterhouse/monastère de chartreux.
4. **Latin naming:** the site appears in medieval forms such as **Petra Castri / Petra Castelli**, and the charterhouse as **Cartusia Petrae Castri** in the fourteenth century.

Does it still exist?

Yes, physically, but not as a functioning monastery. The former Chartreuse de Pierre-Châtel survives at **Virignin, Ain**, on a strategic rock above the Rhône. The monks abandoned it in **1791**; it was later reused as a military fortification. The remaining buildings and fortifications are protected as a historic monument, and the site is now private property rather than an active Carthusian monastery.

But how could “Noresmenis” point to Pierre-Châtel?

It does **not** do so directly. I would not transcribe **Noresmenis = Pierre-Châtel**. Instead, I suspect one of these is happening:

1. You may be seeing a dedication or descriptive phrase, not the house-name

Many charterhouses were referred to through Marian dedications: **Notre-Dame de...**, **Nostra Domina**, **Beata Maria**, etc. The Chartreuse de Pierre-Châtel is also known as **Chartreuse Notre-Dame de Pierre-Châtel** in modern lists. A compressed or abbreviated phrase beginning with **Nostre / Nostre Dame / Nostrae...** could produce

something that visually begins **Nor- / Nos- / Nores-**, especially if the following word is abbreviated or run together.

2. “Noresmenis” may be an adjectival Latin form misread from another place-name

If the word ends in something like **-ensis / -ense / -ensi**, that often means “of/from [place].” In chancery hands, an **-ensis** ending can easily be visually overexpanded. So the target may be not “Noresmenis” but something like:

- **Nore-/Novi-/Nori- + -ensis**
- **Nostre...**
- **Norimbergensis** — “of Nuremberg,” though that would not fit Savoy
- **Noviomensis** — “of Noyon,” again not Savoy
- **Petrae Castri** or **Petra Castri** if the reading before/after “Noresmenis” is off

3. Another Savoy-area charterhouse may be intended

If the document is not specifically about the new 1383 foundation, then other Savoy/Faucigny/Genevois-area charterhouses active by 1387 include **Le Reposoir, Aillon, Pomier, Oujon, Vallon,** and **Saint-Hugon**. For example, Le Reposoir in Haute-Savoie was founded in 1151 and later dissolved during the Revolution; Aillon was a Savoy/Bauges charterhouse founded in the twelfth century and survives as a heritage site. But none of these gives me a straightforward route to **Noresmenis**.

My revised working conclusion

Given your new clue, I would say:

If the document really points to Savoy and dates from 1387, the most historically plausible Carthusian monastery is the Chartreuse de Pierre-Châtel, Latin Cartusia Petrae Castri, founded by Amadeus VI of Savoy in 1383. It still exists as a former charterhouse/fortified heritage site at Virignin, Ain, but not as an active monastery.

But paleographically, I would treat **Noresmenis** as unresolved. The next thing I would check is whether the phrase is something like “**monasterio Cartusiensi ...**” followed by an adjective, or whether **Noresmenis** is actually an abbreviated **Nostre Dame...** construction.