Cluzeaux are the caverns modified, created, and used by man and are numerous in the Périgord for the same reason that caves and rockshelters are numerous—limestone soft enough to carve.

This distinguishes between above ground and below ground cluzeaux. According to Tacitus, during that era cluzeaux souterrains were used primarily as a defense against cold or as a silo rather than as a refuge. Isolated cluzeaux often show traces of being able to close or bar off the cluzeau.

18th century local legends said they were counterfitting or witches dens. Some used by Maquisards (rural guerilla bands of French Resistance).