



The Loire Valley wine routes  
6 suggested itineraries





Dear tourism professional

This kit was prepared to introduce you into the richness of the Loire Valley and more particularly present to you the newly created wine trails in Pays de la Loire.

It describes 6 major wine trails which will allow you to figure out itineraries for your clients, groups or individuals. Here we suggest draft programmes of visit, with recommendations on: which heritage site should not be missed out, where you can have a nice wine tasting session, what kind of activity you can practise, where you will admire a magnificent scenery, in which place you can have a wonderful meal or spend an unforgettable night. We would be happy to give you more information, and adapt our proposals to your expectations or give you more tips & contacts.

Please feel free to contact us: [b2b@agence-paysdelaloire.fr](mailto:b2b@agence-paysdelaloire.fr)

Read below our four reasons for exploring the Loire Valley wine trails, and get the most out of this big region full of surprises!

1. Have some great days out exploring different winegrowing areas

By bike, on foot, by car, canoe or even in a traditional riverboat known as a gabare, there are many ways to explore the Pays de la Loire! Whether you prefer a day trip or a break lasting several days, the different itineraries available offer you an opportunity to explore the vineyards at your own pace.

2. Encounter some beautiful landscapes and unmissable activities along the way!

The Routes des Vins are not just wine trails. Stop off along the way to explore the city of Nantes, admire the sunset from the Château of Saumur, be awestruck by the cave dwelling village of Rochemenier, or feel the sand between your toes on the beaches of the Atlantic coast.

3. Taste world-class AOC-labelled wines and lesser-known gems

Muscadet, Saumur, Jasnières, Coteaux-du-Loir, Anjou... The wines on the wine trails are lively, fresh and elegant. In Pays de la Loire, you will come across some top-quality, world-famous AOC-labelled wines, and also some little gems! And the region is full of specialities that perfectly match with our wines. Take our word for it: the gastronomy of the Pays de la Loire is worth the detour!

4. Meet local winegrowers and craftsmen

In the Loire Valley, you will find not only terroir, but down-to-earth, genuine people who are passionate about their trades. Winegrowers, restaurateurs, craftsmen and producers all share the same passion for their region.

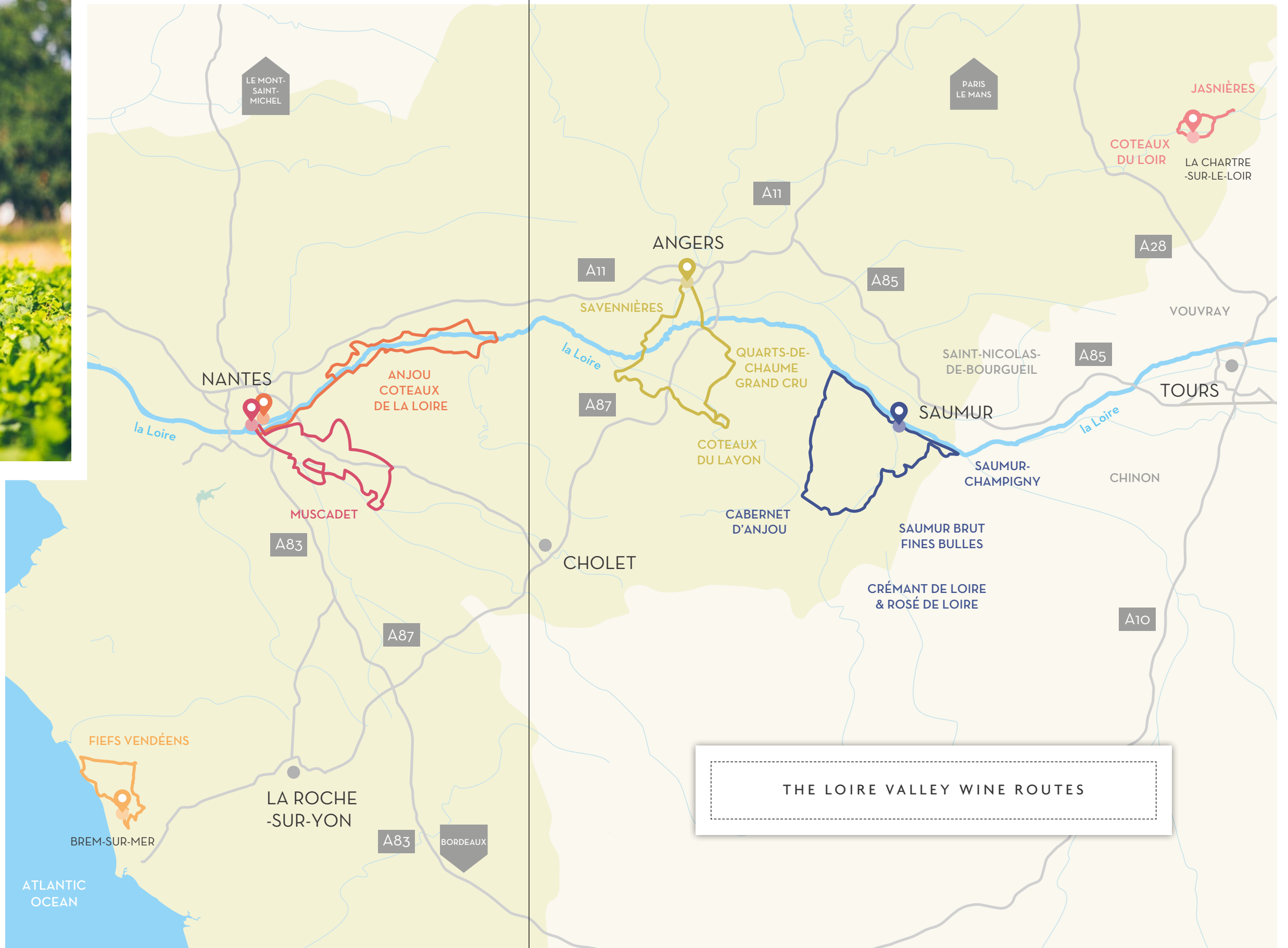
On the Routes des Vins, such encounters promise to be an enjoyable, stimulating experience!

Summary

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Stroll	Cellar	Tasting	Castle
Restaurant	Hotel	Vineyard	Cycle ride



## ROUTES

- 1. A journey through the Nantes vineyard
- 2. Breathtaking Loire
- 3. Coteaux du Layon hills and castles
- 4. Saumur vineyards and cave dwellings
- 5. Vallée du Loir Cycling in the vineyards
- 6. Wine tasting on the Atlantic coast





Clisson



# 1 / A journey through the Nantes vineyard



**ROUTE 1**  
2 DAYS - 110 KM  
Departure  
from Nantes

On the Wine Routes, this circuit will take you through vineyards, rivers and medieval sites... Venture into the grape varieties of Melon de Bourgogne or Folle Blanche, to taste Muscadet, the area's flagship wine. Nantes gives the points of departure and arrival of this loop.

For 2 days, head south to admire bucolic landscapes, between the banks of Sèvre Nantaise and vineyards. In Vertou, the Chaussée des Moines invites to a stroll along the River Sèvre. Visit Clisson, a medieval town that will take you on a journey to Tuscany... At Butte de la Roche, further North, you can admire a beautiful panorama over the vineyards, marshes and Château de Goulaine.





## Day 1 / Morning



The Chaussée des Moines in Vertou invites to a stroll along the River Sèvre.



Welcome to the wine estate **Poiron Dabin** in Château-Thébaud for a visit and wine tasting.

Alternative: Wine estate **Famille Lieubeau** in Château-Thébaud



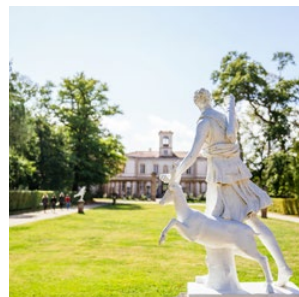
Lunch at **Auberge de la Gaillotière** in Château-Thébaud, an old winery, in the middle of the vines.



## Day 1 / Afternoon



Invitation to wine estate **Château du Coing** in Saint-Fiacre-sur-Maine to visit vineyards, wine cellars and taste a range of Muscadets.

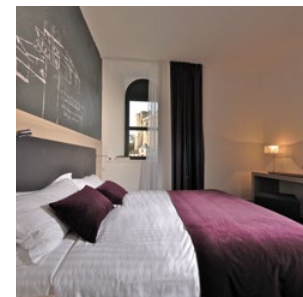


A romantic and historical walk in the **Garenne-Lemot** in Gétigné, an exceptional site heavily inspired by Italian architecture.



Contemporary cuisine from the market for dinner at the **Best Western** Villa Saint-Antoine hotel-restaurant in Clisson.

Alternatives: **Restaurant de La Vallée** or **Restaurant La Cascade**, Clisson.



Night at the **Best Western** Villa Saint-Antoine, a 4-star hotel which offers a romantic getaway with flavors of Italy facing Clisson Medieval Castle.

Alternative: **Hôtel La Cascade**, Clisson



## Day 2 / Morning



Guided tour of Clisson to discover the fascinating history of the city, the impressive medieval castle, narrow streets and along the banks of the Sèvre Nantaise a range of Tuscan colors.



Visit and wine tasting at **Château Cassemichère** in La Chapelle Heulin, built in 1601.

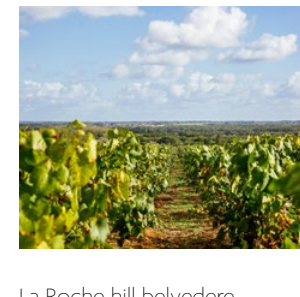
Alternative: Segway stroll in the middle of the vines of **Château du Cleray**, Vallet



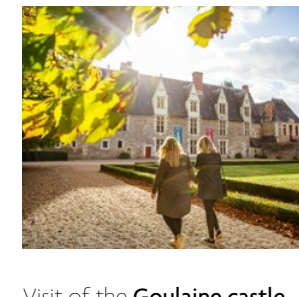
Lunch at **Hall Saint-Lazare** in Le Loroux Bottereau, a gastropub in a former town hall, which has opted for discretion and finesse.



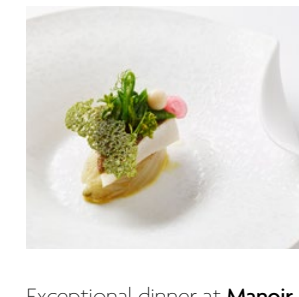
## Day 2 / Afternoon



La Roche hill belvedere (Le Loroux-Botttereau): at the top of its 47 meters, in the heart of the vineyard you will enjoy a superb panorama view over the marshes of Goulaine and Nantes.



Visit of the **Goulaine castle** in Haute-Goulaine, a beautiful Renaissance castle on the banks of the Loire, today the showcase and official museum of the LU biscuit collection.



Exceptional dinner at **Manoir de la Boulaie** in Haute-Goulaine, a two-Michelin-starred restaurant. The dishes pull into a whirlwind of emotions, magnified by beautiful setting of this "folie nantaise" (a typical local manor house).

Alternatives: **Villa Mon Rêve**, Basse Goulaine or **Restaurant Clémence**, St-Julien-de-Concelles



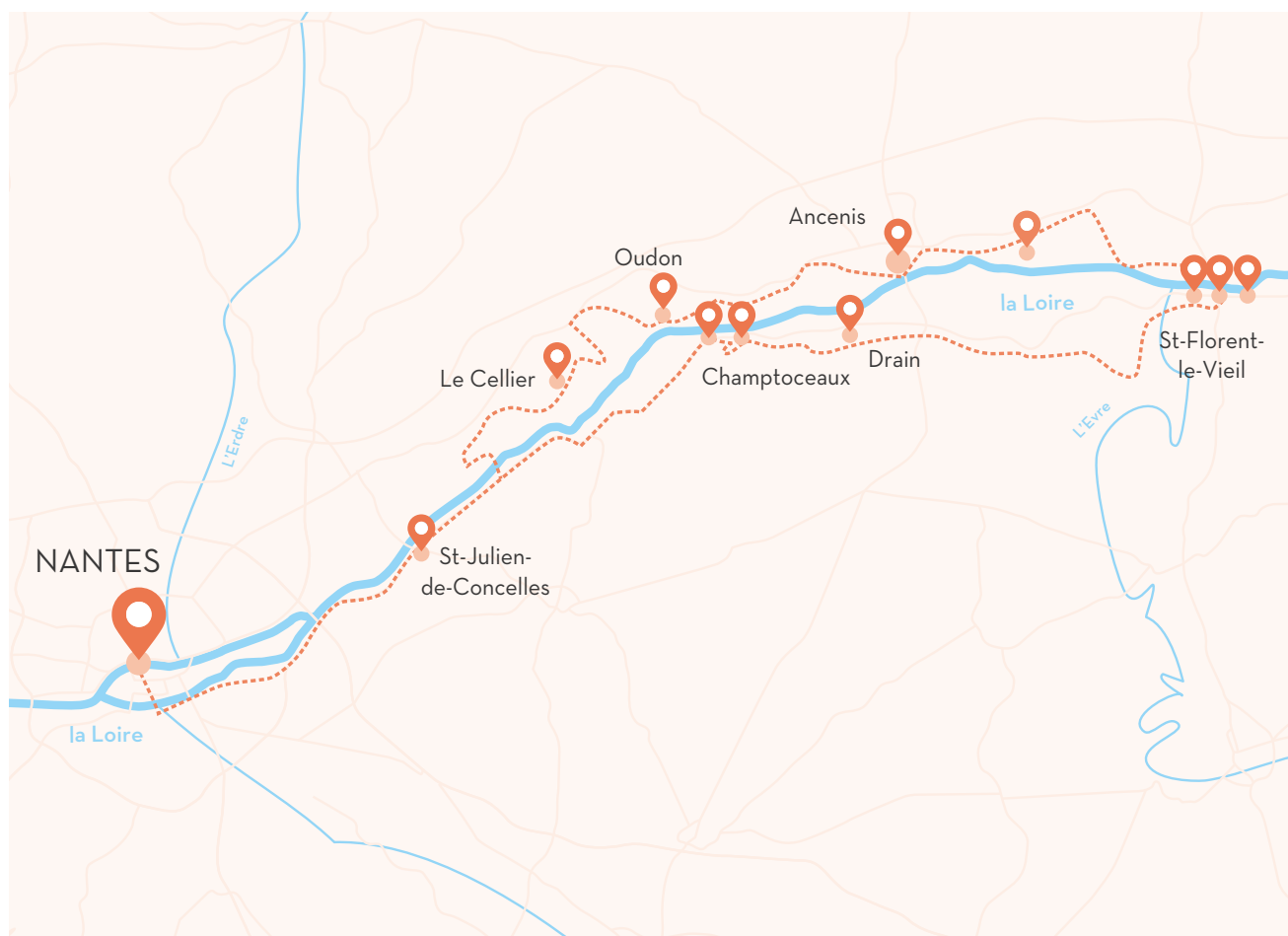
Night at **Seven Urban Suites** in Nantes, it offers the feeling of being at home right in the heart of Nantes.







La Loire à Vélo



## 2 / Breathtaking Loire



**ROUTE 2**  
2 DAYS - 110 KM  
Departure  
from Nantes

Loire, nothing but Loire!

Exploring this wine route, you will really feel the river Loire and its fabulous heritage.

Every single stage has a direct link with the Royal river.

You will visit wine estates with an astonishing panorama view over the river, have lunch on a terrace with a river view, discover the fabulous Oudon Tower which once guarded the river border or enjoy a peaceful cruise on the river...





## Day 1 / Morning



Wine tasting at wine estate **Domaine des Génaudières** in Le Cellier, with a breathtaking view over the Loire.



Visit of **Oudon's medieval castle** to discover the river Loire across centuries through audiovisual display. On the rooftop, one of the most beautiful views over the river!

Alternative: Ancenis local market on Thursday and Saturday mornings



Lunch at **La Table du Pêcheur** in Ancenis, with a waterfront terrace. Fresh fish specialities, seafood platter and Loire specialities.

Alternative: **Les Terrasses de Bel-Air**, Ancenis.



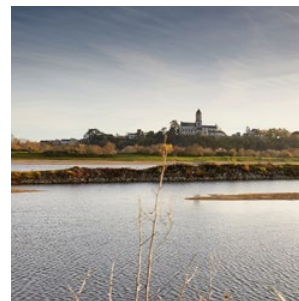
## Day 1 / Afternoon



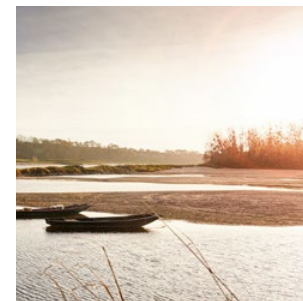
Cycle ride on the Loire by bike itinerary, slowly enjoying the beauties of the Royal river.



Visit of St-Florent-le-Vieil, a city of character! Its abbey-church marks the Loire landscape. A tour of the old town or a walk along the Julien Gracq promenade on the Loire banks will reveal its beauty and charm.



Dinner at restaurant **La Gabelle** in Saint-Florent-le-Vieil, its panoramic view over the Loire offers a spectacular sunset when night falls. It perpetuates the region's gourmet tradition and offers dishes prepared with flavoursome, locally-sourced produce.



Night at **Hostellerie de La Gabelle** in Saint-Florent-le-Vieil. The hotel boasts a peaceful setting on the banks of the Loire River.

Alternative: **Château de la Turmelière**\*\*\*, Orée d'Anjou (groups)



## Day 2 / Morning



Visit and wine tasting at **Domaine des Galloires** in Drain, with an exceptional view on the Loire. Here, Malvoisie, an aromatic white wine produced from Pinot Gris grapes, is an institution.



Lunch at restaurant **La Citadelle** in Champtoceaux. Old stone and wooden beams atmosphere, it offers traditional dishes of French cuisine.

Alternative: Brasserie **La Cohue** in Champtoceaux



## Day 2 / Afternoon



Cruise on the Loire with **La Luce**. The tour introduces passengers to the river's wildlife, and also to the buildings along its banks. Along the way, passengers can enjoy some magnificent views, including fishing villages and a monumental garden built on a rocky outcrop.



Dinner at **Restaurant Clémence**, a gourmet restaurant on the banks of the Loire in Saint-Julien-de-Concelles. Regional and creative cuisine using fresh local products. The spirit of Clémence, mother of the famous "beurre blanc" sauce, still reigns over the restaurant.

Alternative: **O'Deck**, Nantes



Night at **Residhome Les Berges de la Loire**\*\*\*\* in Nantes, located in the heart of the new Euronantes district, on the banks of the Loire. The aparthotel enjoys a great location that allows you to easily walk to the city center and to the train station.

Alternative: **L'Hôtel**\*\*\*, Nantes







Château de Brissac



# 3

## Coteaux du Layon hills and castles



**ROUTE 3**  
2 DAYS - 90 KM  
Departure  
from Angers

The Coteaux du Layon hills and castles wine route starts in Angers, where you can visit the city, the castle and its famous medieval Tapestry, and last but not least the Anjou-Saumur Wine House. Along this itinerary, pretty villages follow one another: Savennières, Béhuard or La Possonnière... This trail is also an opportunity to discover local restaurants and taste the Anjou chicken, with a glass of Savennières. After that, stop at Rablay-sur-Layon to admire the work of craftsmen, or take the time to visit the highest castle in France: the Château de Brissac, still home to the Brissac Family.





## Day 1 / Morning



After a stroll in Savennières, a “little city of character”, enjoy a wine tasting session at **Domaine du Closel**. Discover famous dry white, red, rosé and sparkling wines and feel under your feet the slopes of slate hillsides warmed by the sun of Anjou.



Discover Béhuard, an island village that is a delight to explore! This little village is also a pilgrimage site.



Lunch at **La Corniche**, in St-Aubin-de-Luigné. The restaurant proposes a market-cuisine made with fresh local produces.

Alternative: **La Croisette**, open from May to September, Béhuard



## Day 1 / Afternoon

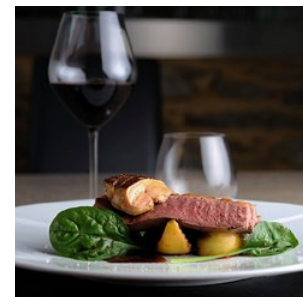


Views on Ardenay's windmill, Corniche Angevine and Guerin mill and panoramas on vineyards.



Wine tasting at the wine estate **Domaine FL** in Rochefort-sur-Loire. One vineyard, five appellations: it celebrates Anjou, crafting exceptional wines of finesse, purity, elegance, and substance.

Alternative: **Château de Bellevue**, Val-du-Layon



Dinner at **La Table de la Bergerie** (1 Michelin Star) in Champ-sur-Layon. The cuisine is refined, authentic and contemporary. The menu changes with the seasons and gives pride of place to the work of local producers. The estate is located in the heart of the Coteaux du Layon wine region.



Night at the **Domaine de la Soucherie**, in Rochefort-sur-Loire. Beautiful views of the vineyards in each guest room. Roger and Pascale Beguinot designed this house to make it an ideal place to rest and relax.

Alternative: **Château de l'Epinay**, Saint-Georges-sur-Loire



## Day 2 / Morning



Discover charming winegrowers' villages on the wine route: Aubigné-sur-Layon, Rablay-sur-Layon and Thouarcé.



Wine tasting at the wine estate **Château de Fesles** in Thouarcé. The winegrowers will be delighted to let you explore the vineyards around the property and the splendid barrel cellar where their prestigious cuvées are aged.



Lunch at **Les terrasses de Bonnezeaux** in Thouarcé, a gourmet bistro serving traditional cuisine in the middle of the vineyards.



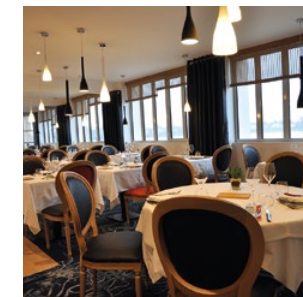
## Day 2 / Afternoon



Visit the **Château de Brissac**: the tallest Castle in France. With its 7 floors and 204 rooms, Brissac deserves its nickname of “Giant of the Loire Valley”.



Discover the Loire Valley wines diversity in the **Caves de la Loire**, in Brissac Loire Aubance.



Dinner at **Les 3 lieux** in Les-Ponts-de-cé, with a fabulous view on the Loire, either inside or on the terrace. The Chef and his team prepare traditional meals with fresh seasonal produce for all kinds of appetites, big or small.



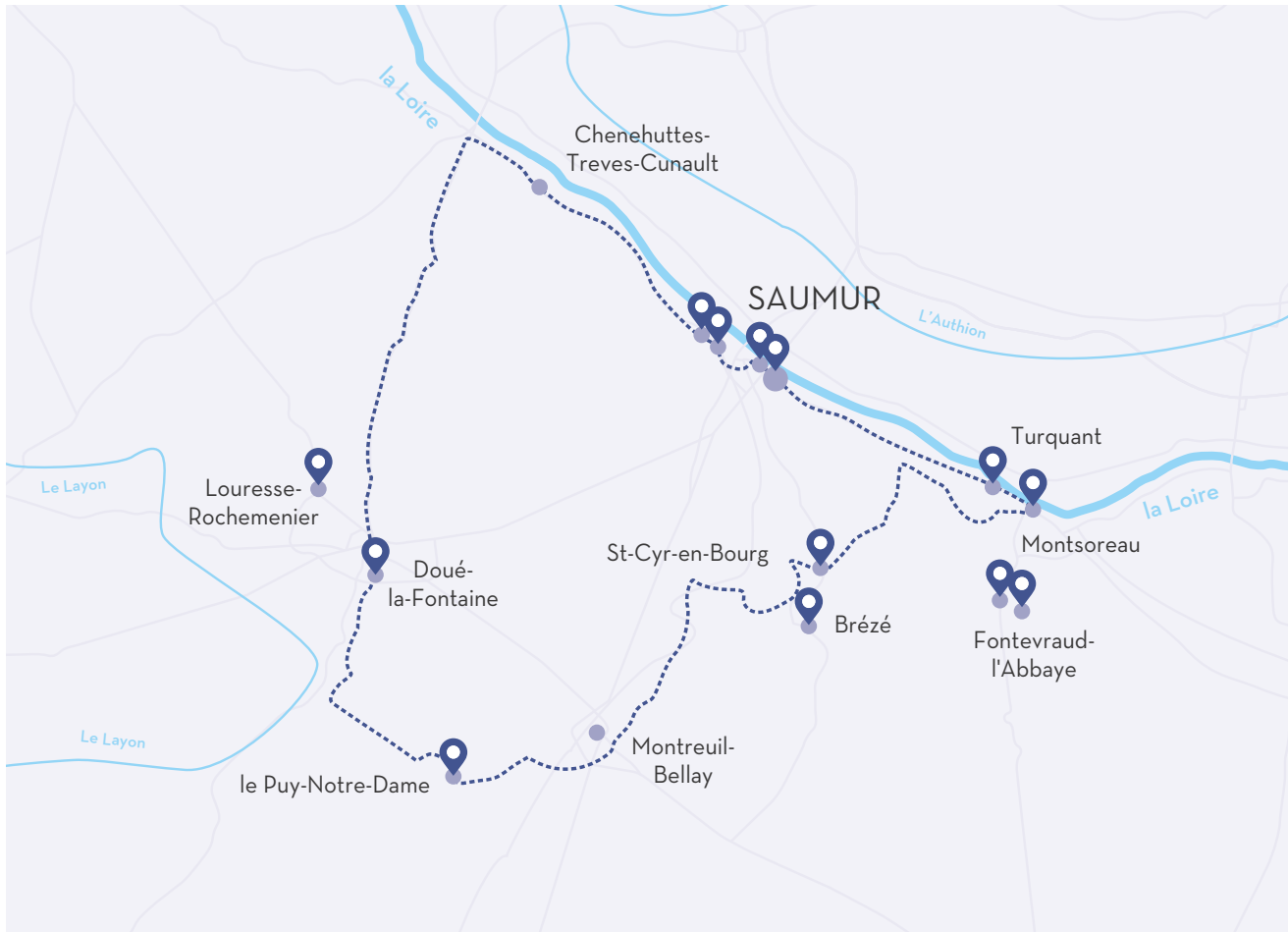
Night at **Les 3 lieux**, tucked away on the banks of the Loire, this former fishing hook factory, steeped in local heritage, has been transformed into a unique friendly and intrepid venue incorporating a Hotel, a Restaurant and a Bistro.







Château de Saumur



## 4 / Saumur vineyards and cave dwellings



**ROUTE 4**  
2 DAYS - 90 KM  
Departure  
from Saumur

Around Saumur, you'll discover a new world of underground life and the famous "troglodyte" cave dwellings dug in tufa stone. But also astonishing architecture, castles, a royal abbey, monumental cellars, mills and the rich landscapes of the UNESCO Loire Valley. Your route will be marked out with wineries and vineyards. Stop and meet the local winemakers who'll share their passion with enthusiasm. You will taste the wines produced on these soils: Saumur-Champigny or Saumur Rouge with aromas of wild fruits, Coteaux de Saumur or Coteaux du Layon with golden reflections, the festive sparkling Saumur Brut or Crémant de Loire, gourmet Saumur Rosé or Cabernet d'Anjou... and so many others... The vineyards and the universe of the incredible underground world of Saumur are waiting for you. Have a great time!

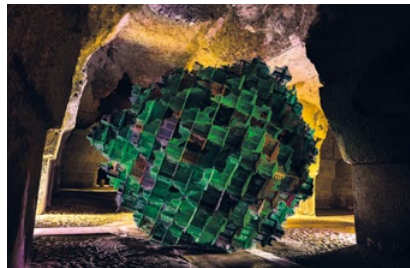




## Day 1 / Morning



Visit the **Chateau de Saumur**, the castle of Dukes of Anjou. It stands at the edge of an abrupt cliff and boasts prime views of the city and the Loire Valley.



Visit the renowned **Ackerman** cellars - the pioneer of Loire Valley fine sparkling wines. Uncover the secrets of the méthode traditionnelle. Plunge into the heart of unique and monumental tuffa stone cellars. Travel through monumental exhibitions of passionate artists.

Alternative: Cycling visit and wine tasting at famous **Bouvet-Ladubay** cellars in Saumur.



Lunch at **La Table des Fouées** in Saumur. Taste local specialties inside an amazing troglodyte cave.

Alternative: Lunch with a majestic view over the Loire River at **Le Castellane**, Chenehottes-Treves-Cunault



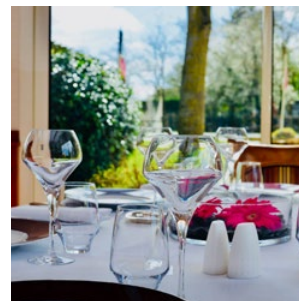
## Day 1 / Afternoon



The cave dwelling village museum of **Rochemenier** invites to discover an underground world: two ancient troglodytic farms with their rooms and dependencies. A unique underground lifestyle in the Loire valley!



Wine tasting at the wine estate **Domaine de la Paleine**, in Le-Puy-Notre-Dame. Production of more than 100,000 bottles in red, white, rosé or sparkling organic wines.



Dinner at **L'Auberge Bienvenue** in Doué la Fontaine. Reputed as one of the best tables in the region, the Auberge Bienvenue proposes regional dishes with fresh produce from local markets and producers.



Night at **L'Auberge Bienvenue**\*\*\*. Quality and comfort amenities... Large bright extremely comfortable rooms. Each room has been individually thought out and well decorated with pleasant soft tones.

Alternative: **Chai de la Paleine**, Le-Puy-Notre-Dame



## Day 2 / Morning



Visit the **Château de Brezé**. Considered as one of the most intriguing castles of the Loire, partly due to its underground fortress. Discovering the castle's history will allow to understand the bond some of the Kings of France had with it.

Alternative: The extraordinary medieval fortress **Chateau of Montreuil-Bellay**



Step down into the **Robert & Marcel** cellars in Saint-Cyr-en-Bourg for an amazing experience: inside the underground galleries 8 true-to-life sets relate the history of the Saumur winegrowers and all the secrets of the winemaking process from the soil to the glass. Visit followed by a wine tasting.



Lunch at **Diane de Méridor**, in Montsoreau. Located on the banks of the Loire River just a few meters from the Château de Montsoreau, the restaurant proposes a regional cuisine made with fresh quality products.



## Day 2 / Afternoon



Visit Turquant, a very pleasant small village that is literally built into the hillside of tufa stone.

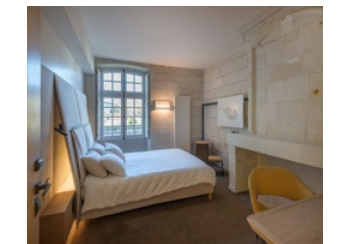


Welcome to the royal abbey of **Fontevraud**, the largest abbey in Europe. It is one of the unmissable stops on a visit to the Loire Valley. A stop, but also a destination... an essentially unique site!



Dinner at **Le Plantagenet** in Fontevraud. Contemporary and bistro cuisine combined with classic French dishes served in a refurbished restaurant.

Alternative: Exceptionnal dinner at **Fontevraud Le Restaurant** (1 Michelin star)



A stay at the heart of Fontevraud Royal Abbey? **Fontevraud L'Hôtel** offers an incomparable experience. Sleeping in the tranquil silence of the Abbey, walking alone through the monastery as night falls... these are magical private moments.

Alternative: A night at **Hostellerie de la Croix Blanche**\*\*\* facing the abbey







Lhomme



## 5 / Vallée du Loir Cycling in the vineyards



**ROUTE 5**  
**1 DAY - 25 KM**  
**Departure**  
**from La Chartre-**  
**sur-le-Loir**

La Chartre-sur-le-Loir is home to many craftsmen: ceramists, antique dealers, glassmakers... Take time to closely observe their meticulous work and to exchange with passionate people. From La Chartre-sur-le-Loir to Ruillé-sur-Loir, on your bike, follow the small paths winding through the Chenin vineyards. To cool off, stop and enjoy a glass of Jasnières, a dry and fruity white wine, renowned as one of the best dry white wines in France. From there, continue your ride down to Poncé-sur-le-Loir and visit the castle and its Italian garden. E-bikes are recommended on this route if you'd like to enjoy the wonderful overviews from the top of the hills!



\*Every first week-end in September



ROUTE 5

## Morning



Electric bicycles rental at **the tourist office** in La-Chartre-sur-le-Loir, to comfortably and effortlessly enjoy the beautiful landscapes.



Bicycle ride on the wine route, crossing vineyards landscape and little villages such as Lhomme.



Typically French picnic **with Le Bon Picnic** in the middle of the nature and vines.

**Alternative:** Lunch at **Restaurant Saint-Pierre**, Ruillé-sur-Loir



## Afternoon



Wine tasting and visit of cave dwellings at the wine estate **Domaine des Gauletteries**, located in Ruillé-sur-Loir on the banks of the Loir river. The 5<sup>th</sup> generation of this winegrowers family settled down in Ruillé in 1984. Their Jasnières and Coteaux du Loir are worth a stop!



A few kilometers away, visit the **Château de Poncé** and its park. Admire the Renaissance staircase, the large 18<sup>th</sup> century dovecote and the remarkable listed garden.



Dinner at **Le Relais de Ronsard-Hotel de France** in La Chartre-sur-le-Loir. Fine dining and fine wines or brasserie bites and chilled drinks. The Hotel de France is a foodie paradise!



Night at the **Hotel de France**\*\*\*. This independently-owned boutique hotel has a unique and rich motoring heritage, with racing drivers, celebrities, politicians and socialites escaping here throughout the 1950s and '60s.







Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie



## 6 / Wine tasting on the Atlantic coast



ROUTE 6  
1 DAY - 31 KM  
Departure  
from Brem-  
sur-Mer

The first step of this circuit is the charming village of Brem-sur-Mer, on the Vendée Atlantic coast, with its listed Saint-Nicolas Church. From there, drive to the old fishing village La Gachère. What a better place to taste the local oysters, accompanied by a glass or two of Fiefs vendéens white wine. In the summer, don't forget your swimsuit to enjoy the waves of the Atlantic Ocean on the sandy beaches of Brétignolles sur mer. Sea, wine and sun are on the agenda!



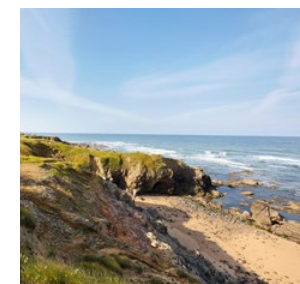
## Morning



Stroll around Brem-sur-Mer to discover the charming village and its listed Saint-Nicolas Church. Continue to the old fishing village of "La Gachère" and taste oysters with white wine. Enjoy Vendée treasures!



On Thursday and Sunday, visit the delightful market in Brétignolles-sur-Mer: fresh fruit and vegetables from local producers, fish and seafood... A unique gourmet experience!



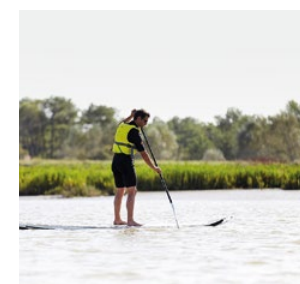
Transfer along the "Côte de Lumière" and views over the long stretches of sandy beaches.



Lunch at **La Chaize Gourmande** in La Chaize Giraud, in a retro atmosphere. The chef proposes menus and some daily suggestions, based on fresh products rigorously selected.



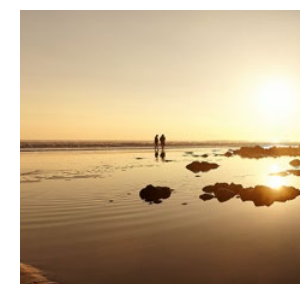
## Afternoon



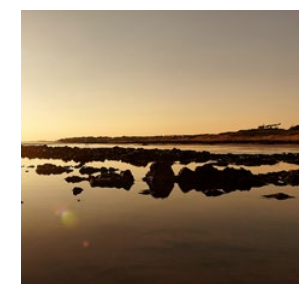
Discover the marshlands at your own pace by horse, stand-up paddle or kayak. Enjoy the peace and quiet of this nature reserve.



Tour and wine tasting at the wine estate **Domaine Saint-Nicolas**. The winegrowers provide high quality wines and conduct the vineyard according to the principles of Biodynamics, thus respecting the balanced and privileged environment.



Exceptional dinner at **Les Brisants**\* in Brétignolles-sur-Mer, in front of the sea. Depending on what the market and tides bring him, this local chef allows you to discover the fine produce from his region, combining a strong culinary heritage and a creative mind that never sleeps.



Night at **Les Brisants**\*\*\*. Contemporary and cosy decor, harmonious colours, high-quality service. The rooms and suites ensure you the most pleasant stay bathed by the light of the Vendée coast.





# My notes



ROUTE 1



ROUTE 2



ROUTE 3



ROUTE 4



ROUTE 5



ROUTE 6

## PAYS DE LA LOIRE KITS FOR TOUR OPERATORS

We have more information on our destination that we would be happy to share with you. Please come back to us and ask for our kits on

- **CYCLING TOURISM**, with infos on The Loire by bike, The Velodyyssey or The Vélo Francette cycling routes
- **THE LOIRE VALLEY** and its castles
- **THE ATLANTIC COAST**, from La Baule to the Vendée beaches
- **CITYBREAKS** in Nantes, Angers or Le Mans

### CONTACT

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[www.paysdelaloire.co.uk/  
loire-valley-wine-routes](http://www.paysdelaloire.co.uk/loire-valley-wine-routes)