

ATLANTIC COAST COGNAC COUNTRY



SALES MANUAL

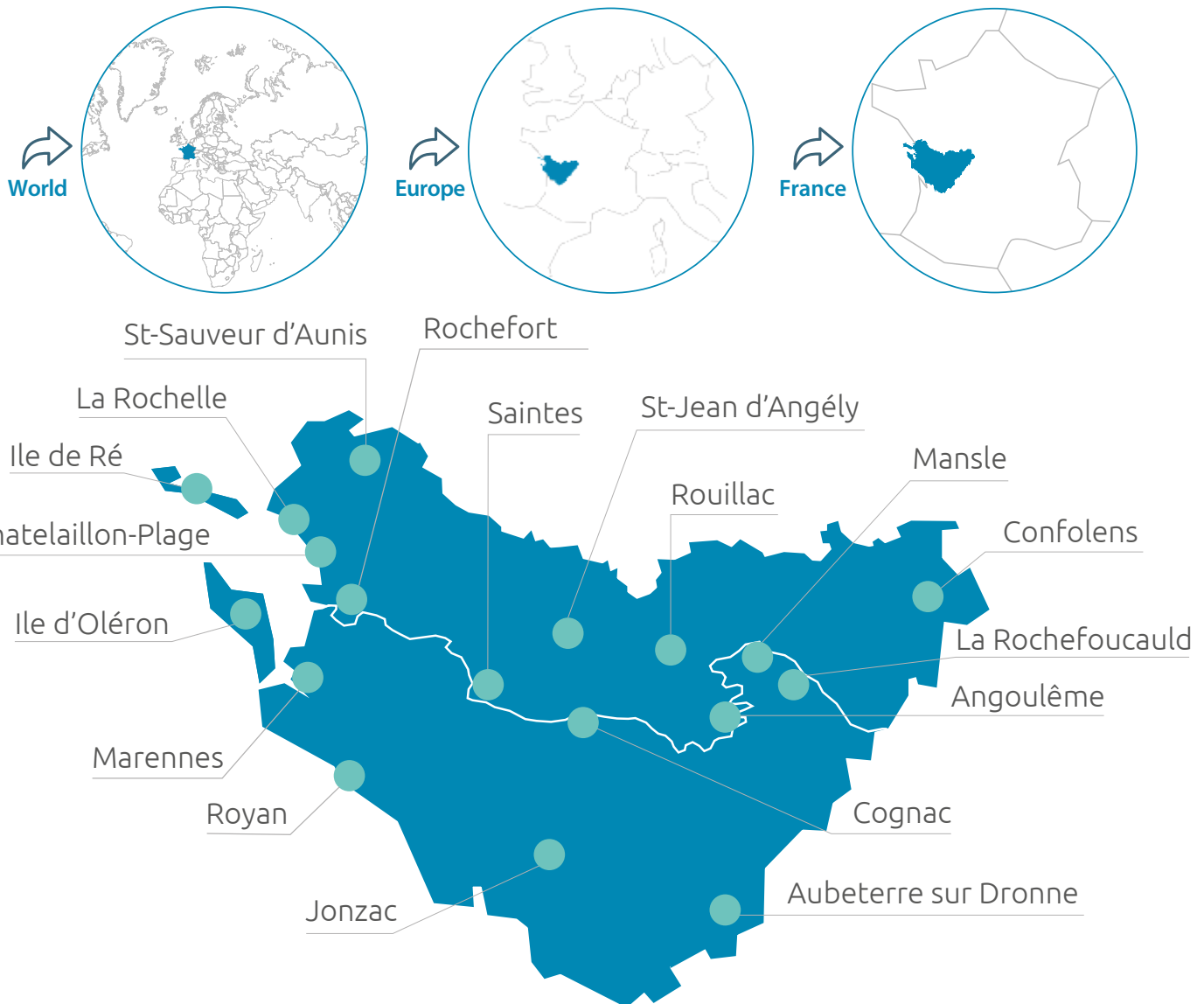
www.atlantic-cognac.com


France.fr

WELCOME TO THE PREMIER TOURIST DESTINATION IN FRANCE FOR FRENCH TRAVELLERS!

Situated on the Atlantic Coast between Nantes and Bordeaux, **the Charentes** area is the new name of the Charente-Maritime and Charente departments and is particularly well known thanks to certain destinations:

- **La Rochelle – Ile de Ré**
- The Coast (**Ile d'Oléron**, **Royan**, **Rochefort**, Ile d'Aix, Ile Madame)
- **Cognac country**
- The **Marais Poitevin** (Green Venice)
- The **river Charente** with its beautiful countryside



● BY ROAD



A10 Paris:
450km to Angoulême | 430 km to La Rochelle
A10 Bordeaux:
115km to Angoulême | 190 km to La Rochelle
A83 / N137 Nantes:
250 km to Angoulême | 140 km to La Rochelle

● BY RAIL



TGV Atlantique
Direct rail links with:
Paris: 2 hours to Angoulême - 2 hours 30 to La Rochelle
Bordeaux: 40 minutes to Angoulême - 2 hours 10 to La Rochelle
en.oui.sncf/en

● BY AIR



La Rochelle - Ile de Ré Airport
Phone: + 33(0)892 23 01 03
www.larochelle.aeroport.fr/en

Direct flights to La Rochelle:

RYANAIR: Dublin, London-Stansted, Bruxelles-Charleroi, Porto
EASYJET: Bristol, London-Gatwick, Geneva
FLYBE: Southampton, Manchester, Birmingham
HOP !: Ajaccio, Lyon, Paris-Orly
JET2: Leeds-Bradford **NEW IN 2019: Manchester**

CHARENTES, CRADLE OF ADVENTURES, DISCOVERIES AND EMOTIONS...

A long coastline, a distinctive light and warm climate, a countryside of contrasts and **beautiful colours**, preserved villages with their Romanesque churches, chapels, abbeys and other monuments, fine golden sands, **the islands** with their singular charm (Ré, Oléron and Aix), undulating hills; the natural wonder of the **Marais Poitevin** with its boats, the elegant towns, notably **Angoulême and La Rochelle** with its Old Port, the vineyards of Cognac... all these exceptional places entertain many visitors every year visiting or revisiting the area.

SUMMARY



PREMIUM DESTINATION

Accommodations	4-6
Gastronomy	7
Golfs	8
Wellness, thalassotherapy, thermalism and spas	9-10
Shopping	11
Castles and fortifications	12

SLOW TOURISM

Cycling holidays	13
Cruises on river Charente	14-15
Hot-air balloons	15

THE COGNAC COUNTRY

Cognac, premium accommodation and gourmets restaurants	16
A drink and a town	17-18
Houses of cognac	19-20
More sites 'Vignobles et Découvertes'	21
Where to buy, drink or discover Cognac and Pineau des Charentes	22
Key facts	23

THE COASTLINE AND THE ISLANDS

La Rochelle	24-26
Ile de Ré	27-29
Ile d'Oléron	30-31
Rocheftort - Ile d'Aix	32-34
Royan	35-37

THE INLAND

Marais Poitevin	38-39
St. Jean d'Angély	40-42
Saintes	43-45
Jonzac	46-47
Angoulême and around	48-52

PRACTICAL GUIDE

Incoming agencies & DMC	53
Car hire with drivers	54
Tourists offices	54

FACTS AND FIGURES

55

PREMIUM DESTINATION

.....

PREMIUM ACCOMMODATION: BEST LUXURY HOTELS IN CHARENTES MOST POPULAR 5-STAR AND 4-STAR HOTELS



Domaine des Étangs *****

8 suites & 3 rooms - luxury farmhouses (from 400 €)

The largest 5 star resort in mainland France, it expands over 1000 hectares of protected natural surroundings, a mixture of forests, grassland and ponds. It is an exceptional landscape, consisting of a fully renovated 11th century chateau, along with numerous works of contemporary art, landscaped gardens, six farmhouse cottages, a longère, a vegetable garden, Gallo-Roman baths, two swimming pools, a floating tennis court and a Michelin star gourmet restaurant.

Contact: Olivia Accerani +33 5 45 61 85 00

16310 Massignac

o.acerani@domainedesetangs.com

www.domainedesetangs.com



Chais Monnet*****

92 suites & rooms (from 265 €)

On a site of 2ha, the Hôtel Chais Monnet has 92 deluxe rooms and suites, 14 apartments, a gastronomic restaurant, a pool and a contemporary spa for clients to recharge their batteries – all in the heart of an ancestral winery. The discreet elegance of the site matches the tastes of the most demanding of clients, whether on a business trip or for a break. Visitors will be able to savour the refined style of the hotel between visits to sites where one of the most widely appreciated spirits in the world is created – cognac.

Contact: Anne-Sophie Diligent +33 6 25 10 74 65

50 rue Paul Firino Martell – 16100 Cognac

asdiligent@chaismonnethotel.com

chaismonnethotel.com



Résidence de France*****

29 suites & 25 rooms (from 100 €)

Welcome to this exquisite 5-star hotel, located in the heart of the old town in La Rochelle, between the cathedral and the 19th-century market hall, and only an 8-minute stroll from the Vieux Port. Wherever France has an embassy, the ambassador hosts official events in the “Résidence de France”. These residences are known for their art de vivre, with the legacy of French tradition and culture, a particular eye for design and living for the moment.

Contact: Emeric Couderc-Haddad +33 5 46 28 06 00

43 rue du Minage – 17000 La Rochelle

info@hotel-larochelle.com

hotel-larochelle.com



Hôtel de Toiras*** Relais & Châteaux**

9 suites & 11 rooms (from 215 €)

A 17th century shipowner's mansion providing stupendous views of the port of Saint-Martin. Ideally situated at the entrance to the harbour, a site inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List, the Hôtel de Toiras is a splendid 17th century ship-owner's mansion. The decoration in each of the 20 rooms and suites is unique and the views of the port and garden are breathtaking. Restaurant “La Table d’Olivia”.

Contact: Benjamin Debout +33 5 46 35 40 32

1 quai Forban 17410 St. Martin de Ré

benjamin@hotel-de-toiras.com

hotel-de-toiras.com

Le Richelieu*** Thalasso & Spa**

35 suites & rooms (from 131 €)

Rich in the natural resources of its privileged environment, the Richelieu Thalassotherapy Centre presents you with the best the ocean has to offer. Here, you will enjoy premium services in a welcoming and refined ambience. It proposes exceptional cures and treatments specially designed to fit your needs. Modern life, full of intense experiences, can also provoke stress. The Richelieu Thalassotherapy Centre invites you to take a break. You will be able to reconnect with your five senses, regenerate body and mind, by getting back in touch with your inner self in a world of peace and gentleness.

Contact: Richard Gendre +33 5 46 09 60 70

44 avenue de la Plage - 17630 La Flotte en Ré

info@hotel-le-richelieu.com

www.hotel-le-richelieu.com



Château de Mirambeau*** Relais & Châteaux**

40 suites & rooms (from 225 €)

Located between land and sea, in a well-known wine region, Château de Mirambeau is the ideal residence to discover and share the flavors of the region, staying in a Renaissance-style Castle located in a peaceful park. The rooms are refurnished with sumptuous fabrics, antique furniture and marble bathrooms. New renovated Spa, 2 swimming pools, Hammam, Jacuzzi, Sauna, 2 cabin rooms for first class beauty treatments and a fitness room.

Contact: Sandrine Linlaud +33 5 46 04 91 20

1 avenue des Comtes Duchâtel – 17150 Mirambeau

direction@chateaumirambeau.com

www.chateauxmirambeau.com



La Grande Terrasse*** MGallery by Sofitel**

72 rooms (from 119 €)

Imagine a 3 km fine sandy beach with a view of Fort Boyard, a small town with Belle Époque architecture preserved in a few kilometers from La Rochelle. Backed by the cliff of Les Bouchôleurs, a village of oyster farmers and shellfish farmers with its narrow streets full of flowers of hollyhocks, and its oyster huts, located south of the resort, the Grande Terrasse contemplates the islands of Ré, Oléron and Aix. La Grande Terrasse Resort includes 2 hotels – Mgallery by Sofitel & Ibis Styles, a gastronomic restaurant Le Gaya by Pierre Gagnaire, a SPA Nuxe and a thalassotherapy center SPA Marin. 72 rooms for the Mgallery, a bar, a panoramic terrace, an indoor pool, outdoor Jacuzzi, fitness room, a 3-hectare park, nearby the Casino of Châtelailon-Plage.

The restaurant “Le Gaya” Pierre Gagnaire offers an exceptional view of the sea and fine dining - kitchen with edges of Sea.

Contact: Christophe Mornet +33 6 22 78 78 16

Avenue de la Falaise – 17340 Chatelaillon-Plage

christophe.mornet@clrhôtels.fr

www.la-grande-terrasse.com



La Villa Clarisse** Relais & Châteaux**

5 suites & 4 rooms (from 220 €)

A fantastic villa at the heart of Saint-Martin. Villa Clarisse, the little sister hotel of Hôtel de Toiras, opened on 1st June 2011. This 18th century private mansion is ideally situated at the heart of the old part of Saint Martin, just a few steps from the Church and from the port. It features 9 rooms and suites, and 1,000m² garden and heated outdoor swimming-pool. A peaceful, relaxing villa with all the pleasures of a bustling port to hand.

Contact: Benjamin Debout +33 5 46 35 40 32

5 rue du Général Lapasset – 17410 St. Martin de Ré

benjamin@hotel-de-toiras.com

www.villa-clarisse.com



Le Clos Saint Martin**** Small Luxury Hotels

14 suites & 19 rooms (from 157€)

A haven of quiet in verdant surroundings. A few steps from the port after following the narrow streets, situated within the surrounding wall of the capital city of the island, Le Clos Saint Martin Hôtel & Spa offers you 19 rooms, 14 suites, a private villa with exclusive hotel services in a privileged, quiet and wooded site. In verdant surroundings, you will enjoy our Spa by CLARINS, its treatments, its wellness and beauty centre (200 m²). The Lounge Bar, our two swimming-pools heated from April to September will invite you to prolong these moments of peace. Hospitality, charm and luxury are the keynotes of this magical place – the symbols of île de Ré. Spa. Restaurant.

Contact: Céline da Silva +33 6 34 06 89 69

87 cours Pasteur – 17410 St. Martin de Ré

seminaire@le-clos-saint-martin.com

www.le-clos-saint-martin.com

Les Jardins d'Alienor**** Boutique Hotel & gastronomy

8 rooms (from 110€)

Our boutique hotel, located right in the heart of the village of Château d'Oléron, just a stone's throw from its famous market, offers 8 bedrooms. Charm, design, service and serenity make this somewhere special... reserved for those who favour places that are peaceful and intimate. There is no sea view from here, however the rooms are cosy, spacious and comfortable. What we offer you is a haven of tranquillity, understated service and a team of staff attentive to your every need during your stay, ensuring that each and every guest is treated as unique. This is more than just a hotel, it is a place where you will feel at home...

7-11 rue du Maréchal Foch – 17480 Le Château d'Oléron

lesjardinsdalienor@wanadoo.fr

+33 5 46 76 48 30

www.lesjardinsdalienor.com

François Premier****

4 suites & 26 rooms (from 170€)

This former private mansion in the heart of Cognac has been fully renovated: you are welcome 24h/24 in a modern setting, perfectly balancing the elegance of the mansions of the 19th century with the audacity of contemporary design inspired by the local colors of Cognac. To relax, make the most of our spa and fitness room, our cocktail bar and our garden on the roofs of Cognac.

Contact: Sophie Badefort +33 5 17 22 31 70

3 place François 1er – 16100 Cognac

commercial@hfpc.fr

www.hotelfrancoispremier.fr

La Monnaie Art & Spa Hotel ****

3 suites & 38 rooms (from 99€)

An avant-garde hotel for passionate hedonists. Combining the comfort of current equipment (video projector, wifi, screen, sound system) and an authentic setting, the hotel has a courtyard and 2 meeting rooms that can accommodate more than 60 people. This hotel, housed in an old 17th century residence, offers 41 rooms decorated with works of art, in a privileged and luxurious environment. Exceptional location in the heart of the historic centre and at the entrance to the Old Port.

Contact: Isabelle Torchut +33 5 46 50 65 65

3 rue de la Monnaie – 17000 La Rochelle

sl@hotelmonnaie.com

www.hotelmonnaie.com

La Baronnie**** Hotel & Spa

22 suites & rooms (from 169€)

An exceptional property set in the heart of Saint-Martin de Ré, only a few steps from the bustling port.

Its 22 spacious, comfortable rooms are tastefully decorated. Its small buffet breakfast is served in the dining-room or on the shady terrace. Its bar welcomes you between the courtyard and the garden for moments of relaxation. Its private spa with a lap pool, Jacuzzi, sauna, and treatments offered by a beautician and an osteopath are the perfect ingredients for guests who wish to enjoy a memorable break.

Contact: Florence Pallardy +33 5 46 09 21 29

17-21 rue Baron de Chantal – 17410 St. Martin de Ré

info@hotel-labaronnie.com

www.hotel-labaronnie.com

Hôtel Saint Gelais****

5 suites & 7 rooms (from 115€)

The Saint-Gelais is a high-end boutique hotel located in the old priory of St-Gelais square in the city center of Angoulême. The gourmet restaurant L'Algorithme offers a beautiful terrace.

12 rue du Père Deval – 16000 Angoulême

contact@hotel-saint-gelais-angouleme.com

+33 5 45 90 02 64

www.hotel-saint-gelais-angouleme.com



Complete list on www.infiniment-charentes.com/planifier-votre-hebergement

WORLD-CLASS GASTRONOMY DELIGHTS



France is scattered with all kinds of culinary heritage: the Charentaise galettes, the oysters of Marennes-Oléron and the oysters of Charente-Maritime, the Charron mussels, the butter with salted caramel, the 'fleur de sel' and even the 'cagouilles' (snails so appreciated by locals) make the reputation of the destination.

4 'AOP' (protected designation of origine): Charentes Poitou butter, Ile de Ré potatoes, Chabichou du Poitou (goat cheese) and noix du Périgord (walnuts)

2 'IGP' (protected geographical indication): Vins Charentais (wines) and Marennes Oléron oysters (unique Red Label in France).



©Max Coquard - Best Jobs

Many gourmet restaurants will delight your taste buds, such as 5 Michelin starred restaurants:



Christopher Coutanceau 2 Michelin stars Relais & Châteaux

Chef: Christopher Coutanceau

A regional gastronomic reference, 2 Michelin stars, a member of the 'Relais & Châteaux' and the 'Grandes Tables du Monde', Coutanceau combines traditional and innovative cuisine with a refined and warm atmosphere.



©P. Wometta

Plage de la Concurrence

17000 La Rochelle

+33 5 46 41 48 19

www.coutanceaularochelle.com

L'Aquarelle 1 Michelin star

Chef: Xavier Taffart

Fully renovated with a very contemporary trend. Aurélie & Xavier welcome you in their 1-star Michelin restaurant, with a new menu for new emotions, and their small hotel, with 3 colorful bedrooms.



©DX Communication

71a route du Montil

17920 Breuillet

+33 5 46 22 11 38

www.laquarelle.net

L'Hysope 1 Michelin star

Chef: Nicolas Durif

Discover the surprising and innovative cuisine of the newly Michelin starred Chef: respectful of the environment and «savoir manger», Nicolas Durif offers a generous menu that combines fresh quality products, such as local fish or herbs from here and elsewhere.



©L'Hysope

25 rue de l'Aurore

17220 La Jarrie

+33 5 46 68 52 21

www.lhysope.com

La Ribaudière 1 Michelin star

Chef: Thierry Verrat

In a resolutely contemporary dining room, opening onto a terrace and garden on the banks of the River Charente, chef Thierry Verrat, one Michelin star, offers a creative cuisine based on the best produce in the region.



©La Ribaudière

16200 Bourg-Charente

+33 5 45 81 30 54

www.laribaudiere.com

Dyades 1 Michelin star

Chef: Loïc Lecoin

Situated in the heart of Domaine des Etangs, Dyades perfectly embodies the essences of balance and complementarity which dominates the philosophy of this unique place.



©N. Buisson

16310 Massignac

+33 5 45 61 85 00

www.restaurant-dyades.com

PREMIUM GOLFS CLUBS



6 golfs with 18 hole courses

Golf de Royan

Golf de Royan is one of the most beautiful courses in the south-west of France, carved through the heart of the La Coubre Forest, Golf de Royan is close to the seaside resort of Royan, near Bordeaux. This wonderful 18-hole course lies in a pine wood and follows the natural course of the dunes. From the 14th hole (par 3, 167 m), you can see the ocean and if you look carefully you can even see the nearby Cordouan lighthouse! The course in excellent conditions all year long and offers additional facilities such as: a driving range, a compact 6-hole course, a 9-hole pitch and putt course, as well as a C&C golf shop and one of the best restaurants in the Royan area with views on the green of the 18th hole. A must play course in south-west France! www.golfderoyan.com

Golf de Saintes

Created in 1953, only 5-minute drive from the town centre of Saintes, Golf Louis Rouyer-Guillet is the oldest course in the region. This 18-hole course offers a variety of game situations alternating technical difficulties in some holes with easy holes making it a pleasant course to play for all standards of golfer. The charm of the golf course is underlined by the presence of the ruins of the Gallo-Roman aqueduct, serving the ancient capital of Gallia Aquitania, Mediolanum Santonum. www.golf-saintes.fr

Cognac Golf Club

Designed by Jean Garaïalde, Golf du Cognac, opened in 1988, features undulating fairways amongst vineyards and forests, on the banks of the river Charente, only 7 km from Cognac city centre. Golf du Cognac sits in 60 hectares, offering an 18-hole par-72 course, a 6-hole course, a large driving range and 2 putting greens. The clubhouse, nestled in an old restored farm, is the perfect venue for receptions in an exceptional setting with a large panoramic terrace overlooking hole 18. www.golfducognac.com

La Prée La Rochelle Golf Club

Only 20 minutes from La Rochelle, facing the island of Ré and the bay of l'Aiguillon, the 18-hole course at Golf de La Prée La Rochelle combines the design of a true links course and a heathland course. At the restaurant "Les Oliviers" you will enjoy our chef's delicious specialties at all times of the day. After your round of golf, you will be warmly welcomed at the bar to have a drink with your friends. www.golfларochelle.fr

Angoulême Golf Club l'Hirondelle

Located at the heart of Angoulême, this 18-hole, par-70, is 5,348 metres long and covers 35 hectares. The course lies in a charming setting on the hills between the Bois St Martin and the town, and requests technical game abilities. Offering views on the city walls of Angoulême, the course alternates short holes, challenging greens and approaches. All the aspects of golf will be requested of you while dealing with the slopes but the setting of the greens will enable you to enjoy breathtaking views of the town. After this sportive round, the clubhouse is a wonderful spot to relax and enjoy a lunch and drink. www.golf-angouleme.com

International Golf Club of La Prèze

Golf International de La Prèze is a really spectacular course, with its beautiful location, its hills, woods and lakes. It offers a main 18 hole champion's course, a unique 18 hole pitch-and-putting competition course, as well as a driving range and two pitch and putting practice greens. www.golfdelapreze.com



8 golfs with 9 hole courses

Golf d'Oléron

www.golf-oleron.com

Golf La Rochelle Sud (La Jarne)

golfларochellesud.com

Golf Club de Montendre

golfdemontendre.com

Golf du Chateau de la Vallade (St. Porchaire)

www.golfdelavallade.com

La Palmyre Golf Club

www.lapalmyregolfclub.com

Golf Club Rochefort Océan

golf-rochefort.fr

Golf d'Aubeterre

www.longeveau.com/fr/golf.php

Golf de Trousse Chemise (Ile de Ré)

www.golftroussechemise.com

PREMIUM WELLNESS DESTINATION IN FRANCE: THALASSOTHERAPY, THERMALISM AND SPAS



1st destination of France for wellness:

6 thalassotherapy centers in the heart of the Atlantic Coast (Ile de Ré, Chatelaillon-Plage, Oléron and Royan) for well-being and rejuvenation with sea water.

3 thermalism resorts (Rochefort, Saujon, Jonzac) draw their benefits from secret springs, between 200 and 1 850 m underground for medical prevention or for curing.

Hotel Cordouan**** by Thalazur

83 rooms (from 116 €)

Close to "Conche du Chay", Hotel Cordouan overlooks the ocean. It is an exceptional site! The infinity pool and Thalazur thalassotherapy centre & Spa offer relaxation and wellness. All the comfort you can expect from a 4-star hotel is here! The air-conditioned rooms can accommodate up to four guests and all have a private balcony overlooking the sea.

NEW in 2019! Great facelift for the hotel reception and the spa cabins, for a warm and elegant decoration. The addition of materials such as copper and walnut and new soothing and powdery colours will bring new life to the thalassotherapy center of Royan. In parallel, the facades of the establishment will be completely redone.

Contact: Christophe Rivalin

6 allée des Rochers – 17200 Royan

royan@thalazur.fr

+33 5 46 39 46 39

www.thalazur.fr/hotel-cordouan



Spa Marin La Grande Terrasse**** Hôtels & Spas

142 rooms in 2 hotels

Thalasso is reinventing itself. Integrated into the Ibis Styles hotel, the Spa Marin offers dedicated spaces to offer a unique wellness and fitness experience, according to everyone's expectations.

Contact: Yves Clermont

Avenue de la Falaise - 17340 Châtelailon-Plage

+33 5 46 56 17 17

yves.clermont@la-grande-terrasse.com

www.la-grande-terrasse.com/thalasso



Novotel Thalassa Oleron****

109 suites & rooms (from 120 €)

Enjoy a relaxing break at the Novotel Thalassa Île d'Oléron hotel. Its exceptional setting on the beach and rooms with sea or forest views welcome you for your family vacation or a romantic weekend of thalassotherapy. Enjoy wellness and seawater treatments at the spa or take a bike ride. For team building activities, the meeting rooms overlooking the ocean will help you to discover new horizons. For a revitalizing stay or week of relaxation, reap the benefits of the ocean at Novotel.

Plage de Gatseau – 17370 Saint Trojan Les Bains

H0417@accor.com

+33 5 46 76 02 46

www.thalasso-oleron.info



Hotel Atalante** Thalasso & Spa**

96 suites & rooms (from 127 €)

Welcome to a world of peace and wellness and wellbeing. The rooms are cheerfully decorated, more spacious and comfortable - minibar, safety deposit box, satellite TV. All rooms of Atalante hotel have a balcony or terrace providing views over the sea or vineyards. Its restaurant has been rated two 'forks' by the Michelin Guide. It serves French cuisine in its dining-room overlooking the sea. Unlimited access to the hydro-marine area with its sauna, hammam and heated seawater swimming-pool.

Contact: Celine Marchand-Brachet

Port Notre-Dame – 17740 Sainte-Marie de Ré

accueil-iledere@relaisthalasso.com

+33 5 46 30 22 44

relaisthalasso.com/atalante



Le Richelieu*** Thalasso & Spa**

35 suites & rooms (from 131 €)

Rich in the natural resources of its privileged environment, the Richelieu Thalassotherapy Centre presents you with the best the ocean has to offer. Here, you will enjoy premium services in a welcoming and refined ambience. It proposes exceptional cures and treatments specially designed to fit your needs. Modern life, full of intense experiences, can also provoke stress. The Richelieu Thalassotherapy Centre invites you to take a break. You will be able to reconnect with your five senses, regenerate body and mind, by getting back in touch with your inner self in a world of peace and gentleness.

Contact: Richard Gendre

44 avenue de la Plage - 17630 La Flotte en Ré

info@hotel-le-richelieu.com

+33 5 46 09 60 70

www.hotel-le-richelieu.com



Côté Thalasso Ile de Ré ECC

106 rooms & duplex rooms (from 119 €)

In the heart of the Ile de Ré, a jewel of the Atlantic coast a few kilometres from La Rochelle, Côté Thalasso Île de Ré, located in Ars en Ré, is the ideal destination for lovers of calm and nature. From the wild beaches to the lighthouse of the Whales, between vineyards and salt marshes, you will enjoy the gentle lifestyle of a preserved environment and the simple pleasures of a 100% relaxing thalasso stay.

Contact : Jean Perez Siscar

Avenue d'Antioche - Pointe de Grignon - 17590 Ars en Ré

jean.perez@cote-thalasso.fr- +33 5 46 29 10 00

www.cote-thalasso.fr/ile-de-re/accueil

SHOPPING MADE IN CHARENTES



In La Rochelle, Ile de Ré, Oléron, Cognac, Rochefort, Saintes or Angoulême there are so many boutiques where you can find souvenirs from the Charentes: caramels with fleur de sel, salt flower, melon jam from Charentes, saffron, terrine, rillettes, Atlantic fish mousse, nut oil, ... ideas are not lacking!

Creators, art craftsmen: these passionate artists reinvent traditions and extend the journey... Discover the donkey's milk soap of the Ile de Ré, bags made from recycled sails, the iconic French «Charentaises» slippers, comic books, Charentaise wafers and many other local skills in pottery, mosaic, gold embroidery or ancient books binding.



Le Comptoir Charentais:

Cellar, canning, biscuit and confectionery.

www.facebook.com/lecomptoircharentais

Ile de Ré:

soaps and cosmetics made with donkey's milk.

www.savonnerie-iledere.com

Coutellerie d'art Renoux:

Artisanal manufacture of original knives.

www.couteauxrenoux.com

Conserverie Fleuriet:

Pineau des Charentes vinegars, condiments and artisanal preserves.

www.francoisefleuriet.com

Esprit du sel:

Sale of Île de Ré salt and related products (gastronomic and cosmetic).

www.espritudusel.com

Ernest le Glacière and La Martinière:

Master ice cream maker in La Rochelle and Ile de Ré.

www.ernest-le-glacier.com

www.la-martiniere.fr



Chocolaterie Duceau:

Chocolate shop with beautiful woodwork.

www.chocolaterie-duceau.com

Le Comptoir des Images:

Showcase of local publishing houses, bookshop and art gallery.

comptoirimages.org

La Librairie de la Cité:

Among the top 10 comic book specialists with more than 50,000 references.

librairie.citebd.org

La Manufacture Charentaise:

Charentaise company manufacturing since 1907.

www.lamanufacturecharentaise.com

Le Gourmet Charentais:

Delicatessen shop « made in Charentes ».

www.facebook.com/legourmetcharentais

Baume de Bouteville:

French artisanal balsamic aged in oak barre

www.lebaumedebouteville.com



©Baume de Bouteville

CASTLES AND FORTIFICATIONS



Witnesses of past centuries, the castles wonderfully illustrate the eventful history of the Charentes. They can also host weddings. Some ideas for visits: Château de Taillebourg, Château de la Roche Courbon, Château de Jonzac, Château Fort de Saint Jean d'Angle, La Rochefoucauld, Verteuil, Chalais...

Many castles open their doors to visitors: 10th century castle perched on top of a hill in Villebois-Lavalette, La Mercerie with its 220 metres of façade in Magnac-Lavalette, 11th century castle with its drawbridge overlooking the town of Chalais...



The Charentes count numerous fortifications along its 460 km of coast such as Brouage, Citadelle Vauban...

An exceptional site to see by boat: Fort Boyard built by Napoleon and now known all over the world for its TV game show!



SLOW TOURISM

CYCLING HOLIDAYS



One of the most popular activities in Charentes is cycling – a family activity for which Charentes is ideally suited with several important routes criss-crossing the area: La Véloodyssée®, La Vélo Francette®, Le Canal des 2 Mers à Vélo, La Scandibérique® and La Flow Vélo® along the Charente River.

This is a pleasurable place to cycle without stress and hard work, just enjoying the undulating scenery.



A new cycle route opened in April 2018!

La Flow Vélo® – Atlantique, Charentes, Périgord

An appropriate name for a new way of travelling by bike - in the 'slow tourism' fashion.

This national track will link the Ile d'Aix with Thiviers in the Dordogne - about 290 km - but a gentle ride, nothing dramatic, that will allow the cyclist to explore a France of natural history, gastronomy and much more – from the estuary of the Charentes River to Rochefort, Saintes, capital of Aquitaine in the first century, the archeological site of Angeac-Charente, Cognac, Angoulême then Thiviers, the capital of foie gras in Périgord vert. There will be interconnexions with La Véloodyssée® and the Scandibérique®.

www.laflowvelo.com

La Véloodyssée®

This cycling route runs between Roscoff in Brittany and Hendaye in Aquitaine.

www.cycling-lavelodysee.com

La VéloFrancette®

From Ouistreham to La Rochelle, this cycling route offers 630 km of tracks from Normandy to the Atlantic coast. 45 km in Charente- Maritime between the Marais Poitevin and Marans.

www.lavelofrancette.com

Le Canal des 2 mers® à vélo

From the Atlantic coast to the Mediterranean sea. 750 km along the Gironde and the 'Canal du Midi'. Between the Gironde River and the Atlantic Ocean.

en.canaldes2mersavelo.com

La Scandibérique®

This is the French part of the European cycle route number three, known as the Pilgrim Route to cycle through Europe, from Trondheim in Norway to St-James of Compostela in Spain. It crosses the Charentes from north to south on the way to Gironde.

www.eurovelo.com/en/eurovelos/eurovelo-3



CRUISES ON THE RIVER CHARENTE



The Charente River has its source in the Haute-Vienne and meets the ocean at Rochefort. It winds through 35 villages as well as the charming town of Saintes, a 'Ville d'art & d'histoire', that is intriguing because of the abundance of its history dating back to antiquity.

A 'gabare' is used to navigate the river – a traditional flat-bottomed boat that used to transport merchandise to market when the town had a thriving port. The Gallo-Roman amphitheatre and the Abbaye aux Dames are also a must in Saintes. In Sireuil, Jarnac or Cognac, boats accommodating 2-12 people can be rented with no license for a week or longer. For the pleasure of being out on the water, canoeing is the perfect escape for family and friends.



Discover the Charente river views

Over the water, aboard a houseboat without license, pass the locks and make stops to suit your needs ... change of scenery! Easy to manoeuvre, these riverboats can comfortably accommodate from 2 to 12 people as you explore the Charentes by water:

Les Canalous

13 boats

3 rue des Gabariers – 16100 Cognac

Booking: +33 3 85 53 76 74

www.canalous-lot.com

Le Boat

29 boats

Quai François Mitterrand - 16200 Jarnac

Booking: +33 4 68 94 42 80

www.leboat.fr/tourisme-fluvial/destinations/france/charente

Intercroisières

13 boats & canoe rental

3 chemin des Gabariers - Pont de Sireuil - 16440 Sireuil

Booking: +33 5 45 90 58 18

www.intercroisieres.com



Take a cruise for the day

Barges and tour boats invite you to discover the Charente time a cruise of an hour or more on the river Charente. Immediate boarding !

Unique in Europe! 'Le Bernard Palissy III'

Ecological (electric and solar) cruise boat.

Place Bassompierre - 17100 Saintes

Booking : +33 5 46 96 17 17

www.croisieres-palissy.fr

Gabarre 'Ville de Saintes'

Cruises on a barge.

Place Bassompierre - 17100 Saintes

Booking: +33 5 46 74 23 82

www.saintes-tourisme.fr/Fleuve-Nature/La-gabare-Ville-de-Saintes

E-Boats

Electric boats for 5 or 8 persons to rent for 40 minutes or an hour.

Place Bassompierre – 17100 Saintes

Booking: +33 5 46 74 23 82

www.saintes-tourisme.fr/Fleuve-Nature/Location-de-petits-bateaux

Randonnée Fluviale

Electric boats to rent for an hour or more.

Quai de l'Orangerie – 16200 Jarnac

Booking: +33 6 60 17 36 96

www.randonneefluviale.fr

NEW IN 2019! 'Le François 1^{er}'

Simple cruises or cruises with a meal.

Quai de la Salle Verte – 16100 Cognac

Booking: +33 6 52 21 24 38

www.charentecroisieres.fr

'La Reine Margot'

Simple cruises or cruises with a meal.

Port l'Houmeau - Boulevard Besson Bey - 16000 Angoulême

Booking: +33 6 60 17 36 96

www.charentecroisieres.fr

Gabarre 'La Renaissance'

Cruises on a barge.

Maison des Gabarriers - Le Bourg

16120 Saint Simon

Booking: +33 5 45 97 33 40

www.village-gabarrier.fr



HOT-AIR BALLOONS



Discovering the vineyards of cognac or the coastline from the sky is a privileged and unforgettable experience!

Montgolfière du Pinson

Between the sky and the sea, from the Gironde estuary to the poetic Marais Poitevin, your experienced pilot will delight in showing you the treasures of our region. Le Pinson flies tranquilly over the land, towns and roofs of Saintonge Dorée. Drift over Saint-Jean d'Angély and from your privileged position, admire its monumental heritage. Prepare to be amazed by the majesty of the Abbaye Royale in the heart of a web of medieval lanes and discover the beauty of its impressive town-houses.

NEW in 2019! Innovative adapted balloon to fly disabled passengers.

www.montgolfieredupinson.fr

Montgolfières Charente Evasion

Based in Segonzac, the association offers to the people the chance to climb aboard and explore the Charente landscape from the sky, between the river Charente Valley and the vineyards of Cognac.

www.montgolfieres-charentes.com

Charente Montgolfières

Based in Blanzac-Porcheresse, Charente Montgolfières lays on flights for individuals and groups, leaving from several different sites in the Charentes.

www.charente-montgolfieres.fr



THE COGNAC COUNTRY

COGNAC



Premium accommodation

Chais Monnet*****

See page 4

François Premier****

See page 6

L'Yeuse ECC

24 suites & rooms (from 136 €)

An hotel-restaurant 10 minutes from the centre of Cognac and created in a beautiful 19th century residence on the edge of what's called the Respectful Garden, a garden designed to show respect for biodiversity. Gourmet restaurant 'La Table de l'Yeuse', terrace, outdoor pool, spa and cognac room.

Contact: Jacqueline Foase

65 rue de Bellevue - 16100 Châteaubernard-Cognac

reservations@yeuse.fr

+33 5 45 36 82 60

www.yeuse.fr

Ligaro***

2 suites & 8 rooms (from 129 €)

This boutique hotel was created in one of the oldest houses in Jarnac, dating from the 17th century. The calm and elegant décor is based around the harmony of the colours of cognac, Havana and stone. Gourmet Restaurant.

Contact: Caroline Rooney

74 Grand Rue - 16200 Jarnac

contact@hotel-ligaro.com

+33 5 45 32 71 38

www.hotel-ligaro.com



Cognac is first and foremost a town renowned for its art and history (Ville d'Art et d'Histoire). There are great places to explore - such as the castle, and to savour - such as the Cognac Houses. In the heart of the Charentes, the vineyards stretch right from the coast to the south of Angoulême producing cognac and Pineau des Charentes.

In summer under the heat of the sun or in winter in the warmth of the distilleries, meet the winemakers who will convey their passion for their craft whether in Cognac, a royal town, birthplace of François 1^{er}, or in Jarnac where the negociant houses open their doors to unveil the mysteries of cognac.

Michelin starred restaurant

La Ribaudière - 1 Michelin star

See page 7

Gourmet restaurants

La Maison - Michelin Guide

Chef: Pierre Dumas

This gourmet restaurant in the centre of Cognac offers a traditional and innovative cuisine based on fresh local products.

1 rue du 14 Juillet - 16100 Cognac

+33 5 45 35 21 77

restaurant-lamaison-cognac.fr

Les Foudres - Michelin Guide

Chef: Sébastien Broda

The new restaurant of Hotel Chais Monnet invites guests to enjoy a fine dining in the unique setting of a historic 'Chais', surrounded by ancient Cognac barrels.

50 avenue Paul Firino Martell - 16100 Cognac

+33 5 17 22 32 23

www.chaismonnethotel.com/en/les-foudres

Le Restaurant du Château - Michelin Guide

Chef: Ludovic Merle

This pretty restaurant with bistro-chic attitude is situated in Jarnac's main square opposite Château Courvoisier. Chef Ludovic Merle serves up a very creative gourmet menu highlighting the region's produce.

15 place du Château - 16200 Jarnac

+33 5 45 81 07 17

www.restaurant-du-chateau.com

Cognac a drink and a town!

Making cognac is a complex and subtle process, and for those involved it requires passion, demanding standards and, often, knowledge that has been passed down over generations. The precise characteristics of the soil in which the vines are growing, the quality of the oak used to make the barrels in which the cognac is aged, the double distillation in a red copper still, the experience and talent of the master blender who mixes the different brandies according to where they come from, as well as their age; all these are important factors in creating the flavour and balance of a cognac.



Cognac is also an historic town situated between Saintes and Angoulême on the Charente River.

It is an impressive sight and where the most famous cognacs are housed: Château Royal of Cognac Baron Otard, Camus, Courvoisier, Hennessy, Martell, Meukow, Rémy Martin. More than 200 professionals (wine growers, distillers...) come together to welcome visitors.



BNIC

The 'Bureau National Interprofessionnel du Cognac' represents, develops and protects the Cognac designated region of origin in France and internationally. In the 160 countries where Cognac is sold, this regional guarantee offers the consumer an exceptional eau-de-vie. Working with both experts in viticulture and trade, the BNIC is where consultation happens and decisions are made for the region by more than 4500 winegrowers, 110 distillers and 270 merchants. The BNIC acts in the interests of those who make Cognac and those who drink it, continually taking public responsibility for the region.

www.cognac.fr

Pineau des Charentes

Wine has been grown in the Charentes region since Roman times. The town of Cognac lay at the centre of this new industry. So, Pineau des Charentes shares much of its history with Cognac, both draw on the same traditional skills and expertise. Pineau des Charentes, a fortified wine made from a blend of grape juice and Cognac was awarded AOC status in 1945. The harvested grapes are pressed and the cognac from the previous year is added, then it is stored in oak barrels for a long time to give it the distinctive taste, whether white, red or rosé pineau. Idea of cocktails also: the Pineaujito.

www.pineau.fr



Vins Charentais

Wines of the Charentes Region are produced in vineyards with a low yield (80 hl/ha). The vines, used for the production of Pineau and Cognac, are also a means for local producers to diversify, wine offering them a supplementary market opportunity. White wines represent more than 80% of production; dry, light and scented, they accompany fish and seafood delightfully. There are more and more rosé wines, fresh and fruity, on the market, marrying enjoyment and elegance. Red wines, also fruity, accompany regional produce marvellously well. They are normally drunk young, but only reveal their full complexity after a certain period of aging. Our region's propitious climate, mild and sunny at the end of autumn, contributes to the production of a range of very pleasant, generally fruity wines – local wines that will awaken your curiosity and that are sure to satisfy your taste buds.

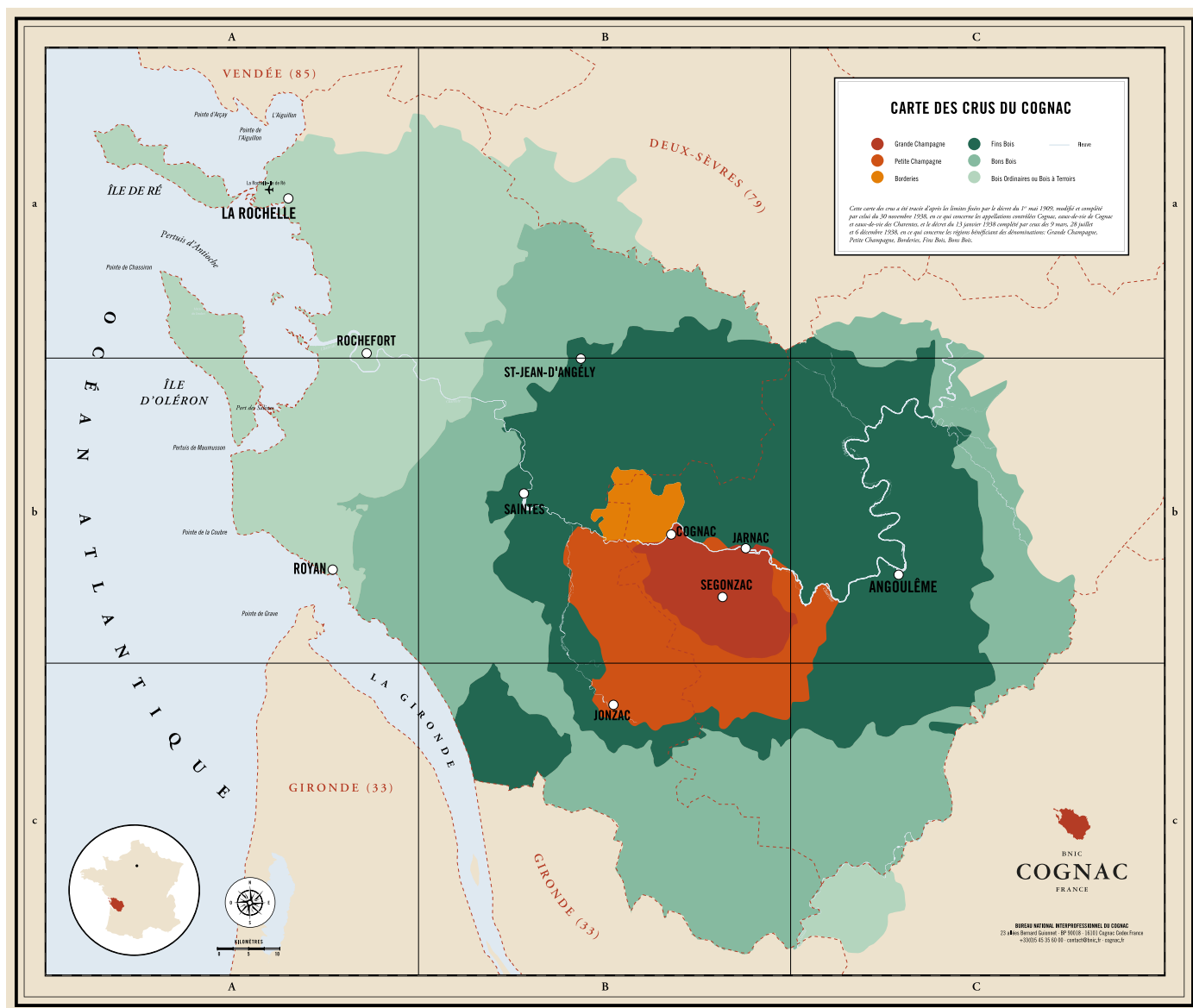
vindepayscharentais.fr

Les Etapes du Cognac

This association helps visitors meet vine-growers and small-scale distillers. It produces the guide 'Les Bonnes Adresses du Cognac', providing all the addresses and details a visitor might need to plan a trip. It also runs the 'Les Mardis du Cognac' or Cognac Tuesday events in the summer and the 'Les Distilleries en fête' in winter. The association also ensures that the standards of 'Vignobles et Découvertes' are adhered to; this label is a recognition of the quality of wine tourism destinations.

www.cognacetapes.com

COGNAC GROWING AREAS (CRUS)



Must See / houses of cognac

Baron Otard – Le Château Royal de Cognac

Overlooking the Charente river, le Château Royal de Cognac was initially a 10th-century fortress designed to stop Norman invasions, and then in the 15th century became a stately home which was the birthplace of one of France's most illustrious kings, Francis Ist. Baron Otard, who had founded its Cognac House in 1795, quickly understands that the thick walls provide exceptional aging conditions for his eaux-de-vie. He purchases the Château, saving it from total destruction. Le Château Royal de Cognac, which became a historic monument, is now a witness to French history and a Cognac House. We are offering a variety of tours combining two aspects of history: the history of France and the history of Baron Otard Cognac up to the present day. *Open every day (except 01/01, 01/05 and 25/12).*

Contact: Karine Aiguillon

127 boulevard Denfert Rochereau – 16100 Cognac

kaiguillon@bacardi.com - +33 5 45 36 88 86

www.chateauroyaldecognac.com

Camus Cognac

Since 1863, five generations of the Camus family have cultivated a passion for crafting great Cognac in their own style, bringing to life the infinite richness and soul of the terroir that is their home. Camus - the largest Cognac House to remain family-owned and independent - has recently been awarded the 'Entreprise du Patrimoine Vivant' Label. This prestigious distinction recognizes the excellence of Camus' savoir-faire, advanced technical skills and commitment to crafting outstanding products ... you can become a part of it during a two-hour-long workshop.

Master Blender workshop all year round by appointment.

Contact: Sylvie Perret

21 rue de Cagouillet – 16100 Cognac

camus@camus.fr - +33 5 45 32 72 96

www.camus.fr

Courvoisier

Ever since its creation, the history of this major cognac house based in Jarnac has been marked by the shadow of Napoleon. Its designer building which opens out onto the River Charente backs onto an imposing 19th century château. The tour of the museum emphasises the shared history of Courvoisier and the Empire under Napoleon. The Premium visit provides a range of experiences of which the most original is without a doubt 'Le Nez de Courvoisier' in which visitors take part in a 'blind' multi-sensory experience with different cognac aromas.

Opening season: May to September/ from Tuesday to Saturday

Off season: Premium Tour only – by reservation

Contact: Dimitri Jamain

2 place du Château - 16200 Jarnac

dimitri.jamain@beamsuntory.com - +33 5 45 35 55 54

www.courvoisier.com

Hennessy

For over two centuries, Hennessy, the world's leading cognac Maison, has enjoyed international standing from its base on the banks of the Charente, in France. It offers visitors an innovative, rich learning experience that blends history and modernity. An invitation to discover the many sides of the brand. *Visits Tuesday to Saturday from January to March / every day from April to October / Tuesday to Saturday from November to December.*

Contact: Wissam Rachidi

Rue de la Richonne – 16100 Cognac

wrachidi@moethennessy.com - +33 6 77 45 41 92

lesvisites.hennessy.com

Martell

Founded by Jean Martell in 1715 under the reign of Louis XIV, it is now the oldest of the great cognac Houses. Over the generations, this legendary House has sustained the time-honoured know-how of remarkable winemakers, distillers, coopers and cellar masters.

Opening times in 2019: Visits every day from May to October / Tuesday to Saturday from November to March - Bar Indigo by Martell open from May to September: Wednesday to Saturday 16.30 to 00.30 / Sunday 11.30 to 22.00

Contact: Vanessa Dejarnac

16 avenue Paul Firino Martell – 16100 Cognac

vanessa.dejarnac@pernod-ricard.com - +33 5 45 36 34 98

www.martell.com

Meukow

This cognac house founded in 1862 and situated in the middle of Cognac stands behind an imposing gateway; once inside visitors experience a complete change of scene. The highly sensory-based tour is backed up by an innovative set design. Visitors can choose to end the tour with lunch in 'Le Chai Meukow' restaurant where, in front of the guests, the chef creates an inventive and subtle cuisine based on cognac.

Visits Monday to Saturday from May to September / Monday to Thursday from October to April.

Contact: Véronique Braud

26 rue Pascal Combeau – 16100 Cognac

guide@cdgcognac.com - +33 5 45 82 32 10

www.meukowcognac.com

Rémy Martin

Rooted in exception from 1724, there is no doubt that Rémy Martin has the biggest range of tours when it comes to exploring the world of cognac. Its 'private visits' – which take the visitor from the vineyard to the final product in the cognac cellars – range across the elaboration site, the Domaine de Mersins (on a little train) and the firm's historic House in the centre of Cognac itself. Timeless locations, contemporary designs and some refined experiences all help deliver an intimate approach to the company's history and know-how.

Visits all year round by reservation.

Contact: Stéphanie Wolski

20 rue de la Société Vinicole – 16100 Cognac

stephanie.wolski@remy-cointreau.com - +33 6 79 19 27 29

www.visitesremymartin.com





Cultural venue

Fondation d'entreprise Martell

Launched in October 2016, the Fondation d'entreprise Martell offers a rich and varied programme of events promoting local, national and international collaborations. Envisioned as a cultural and creative ecosystem, the Foundation aims to reflect the diversity of contemporary creation and reveal outstanding talent and savoir-faire. *From 4th April to 3rd November 2019: open from Thursday to Saturday / 2pm – 8pm - Sunday / 11 am – 5pm - Wednesday by reservation – Free entrance.*

Contact: Juliette Nosland

16 avenue Paul Firino Martell – 16100 Cognac

juliette.nosland@fondationdentreprisemartell.com

+33 5 45 36 33 51

www.fondationdentreprisemartell.com

Others cognac houses to visit (on reservation)

Thomas Hine & Co

This is one of the oldest cognac firms in Jarnac, having been founded in 1763. Its building, which was completely redecorated by British designer Russell Sage, has a fantastic, astonishing atmosphere.

16 quai de l'Orangerie – 16200 Jarnac

+33 5 45 35 59 59

mprium@hine.com

www.hinecognac.com

Frapin

The Frapin family has been wine-growers since 1270 and distillers for 20 generations in the Grande Champagne region. Wines are distilled on lees to elaborate a wide range of cognacs, the oldest dating back to 1888, and a collection of 'Millésime' (vintage) produced in limited quantity.

1 rue Pierre Frapin – 16130 Segonzac

+33 5 45 83 40 03

info@cognac-frapin.com

www.cognac-frapin.com

A. De Fussigny

The cognacs produced by A. de Fussigny are created along the most traditional of lines in this distillery founded in 1814 on the edge of the River Charente in the historic centre of Cognac.

11 rue des Gabariers – 16100 Cognac

+33 5 45 36 61 36

contact@adefussigny.com

www.adefussigny.com

Bache-Gabrielsen

Run by the Bache-Gabrielsen family for four generations, this firm with a 'Norwegian accent' has been producing cognacs in the centre of Cognac since 1852. After a quiet ageing in the historic storerooms, the cognacs are exported around the entire world.

32 rue de Boston – 16100 Cognac

+33 5 45 32 07 45

marielle@bache-gabrielsen.com

www.bache-gabrielsen.com

Delamain

This cognac firm with Irish origins specializes in the production of old cognacs from the Grande-Champagne growing area. The master blender reveals some of his secrets of blending and ageing cognac during a visit to the 18th century storerooms situated on the edge of the River Charente in Jarnac's historic district.

7 rue Jacques et Robert Delamain – 16200 Jarnac

+33 5 45 81 08 24

delamain@delamain-cognac.com

www.delamain-cognac.fr

Tiffon-Braastad

This cognac firm, founded in 1875, stands like some stone vessel on the banks of the River Charente. Its spectacular building is home to the distillery and ten stills, the blending rooms and a remarkable museum. The Norwegian origins of this superb family business jump out at you during each stage of the tour.

29 quai Ile Madame – 16200 Jarnac

+33 5 45 36 87 00

b.marbach@cognac-tiffon.com

braastad.com





L'Espace Découverte en Pays du Cognac

A modern and high-tech information centre devoted to cognac's history and heritage. It uses models, slide shows, film and an original and interactive show that takes visitors on an emotional journey through space and time.

**Les Remparts – Place de la Salle verte
16100 Cognac
+33 5 45 36 03 65**

www.espace-decouverte.fr

Le Musée des Arts du Cognac (MACO)

This Cognac museum devoted to the famous local drink traces the industrial, economic, social and technological history of cognac in more than 1,600m² of permanent exhibition space, as well as temporary exhibitions, themed tours and workshops devoted to appreciating the unique fragrance of cognac.

**Les Remparts – Place de la Salle verte
16100 Cognac
+33 5 45 36 21 10**

www.musees-cognac.fr

Le Circuit du Chêne – The Oak Tour

Three stages with craftspersons to discover oak's importance for the Cognac's elaboration. You will see the wood bend and become barrel through the magic of fire and knowledge of cooper. In the distillery, you will discover the subtleties of cognac distillation. In the cellar you'll be initiated into the mysteries of aging Cognac. You finish the tour with a tasting: Pineau or Cognac, grape juice for juniors.

**1 rue de la Boucle – Villeneuve
16200 Chassors
+33 5 45 80 98 91**

www.moinefreres.fr

Domaine Pautier

Tradition is all-important in this imposing house, a family property for five generations. The perfect exposure of the vineyard to the sun and the atmosphere of the old wine stores are revealed in the Pineau.

**23 route de la Grande Champagne
Veillard - 16200 Bourg-Charente
+33 5 45 81 24 89**

www.domaine-pautier.com

Domaine Brard Blanchard

42 years of organic Agriculture... Family property since 3 generations, our values based on environment and quality help us to produce Pineaux des Charentes, Cognac and Vin de Pays charentais. Manual harvesting remain for us a priority.

**1 chemin Routreau - 16100 Boutiers
Saint Trojan
+33 5 45 32 19 58**

www.brard-blanchard.fr

Cognac Paul Beau

The inheritors of the domain founded by Samuel Beau have kept the unique and very romanesque atmosphere of the original architectural whole, the rows of wine stores and the gardens of cut box.

**18 rue Millardet – 16130 Segonzac
+33 5 45 83 40 18**

www.paul-beau.com

Complete list on cognacetapes.com/en/label-vignobles-decouvertes

Where to buy, drink or discover more about Cognac and Pineau des Charentes

Bar Louise

The new chic, laid-back bar in the heart of Cognac! Le Bar Louise has a welcoming, contemporary urban interior and its philosophy of local spirits with home-made dishes is exemplified by the sophisticated team of young, tattooed and creative barmen! Whether relaxed on a sofa or standing at the bar, let our experts create the cocktail that best suits you. The team makes both original creations and classics but also has an educational role, displaying an impressive range of cognacs. Wines, beers and soft drinks are also available. Le Bar Louise organises private workshops where you can learn the techniques of tasting and making cocktails.

1 place François 1^{er} – 16100 Cognac

www.barlouise.com

Bar La Luciole

A new bar in the heart of Cognac that's totally dedicated to cognac, marrying the savoir-faire of the world of cognac to internationally famous cocktails. La Luciole has a selection of cognacs that are totally unique! Don't miss our cognac "library" where the most prestigious bottles can be seen and of course, the contents tasted! The Luciole team has created a list of signature cocktails that bring to the fore the most innovative techniques of mixology whilst never neglecting the added value of the heritage of cognac. La Luciole offers masterclasses but book first!

14 place du Solençon – 16100 Cognac

www.bar-luciole.com

La Cognathèque

Located in the Place François 1er in Cognac, the Cognathèque's shop offers a wide range of cognacs and pineau des Charentes as well as an introductory tasting course with a cognac specialist (groups from 4 to 10 persons).

10 place Jean Monnet – 16100 Cognac

www.cognatheque.com

La Maison de la Grande Champagne

A showcase for the prestigious cognac-growing area of la Grande Champagne with 200 different products from 17 different producers.

2 rue Gaston Briand – 16130 Segonzac

www.maisongrandechampagne.com

Atelier assemblage Pineau des Charentes

Become a Master Blender for a day!

Create your Pineau des Charentes to your taste, according to a selection presented by the master cellar of Domaine Guillon-Painturaud and leave with your personalized bottle. Exclusive visit of the cellars of Pineau des Charentes in Segonzac, capital of Grande Champagne, first 'cru' of the cognac vineyards.

7 rue du Côteau, Lieu-dit Biard – 16130 Segonzac

www.cognac-guillon-painturaud.fr

Konoisseur – Cocktail Cabinet

Tailor-made activities for small groups -such as cocktail making or food pairing workshops- by Germain Canto, bartender specialist. He also runs the Bar Louise in Cognac.

konoisseur.com

Experience sur mesure – Chef & Sommelier

Tasting workshops, food pairing experiences, cooking or oenology courses by Chef Cédric and Oriane the sommelier. All their activities are developed with you, according to the techniques and products you want to enhance.

experiencesurmesure.com

Events & Festivals

Cognac Blues Passion | 4th – 8th July 2019 | Cognac

For a quarter of a century, since 1994, the organizers of Cognac Blues Passions have offered the public amazing Afro-American music in a convivial setting.

www.bluespassions.com

La Fête du Cognac | 25th - 27th July 2019 | Cognac

Concerts by renowned artists and celebration of local delicacies such as cognac, Charentais melon, snails at the riverside marina in Cognac.

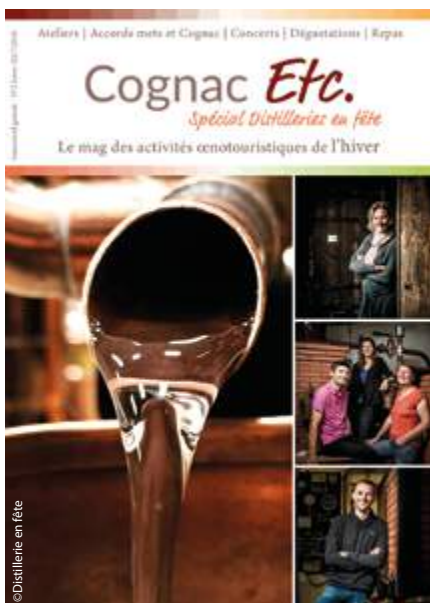
lafeteducognac.fr

Distilleries en Fête | Vineyard of cognac

Celebrate the distillation from December to February!

In Winter, curiosities and surprises await you in front of the different stages of the alchemy of distillation that makes the cognac vineyard unique. The 'bouilleurs de cru' invite the public to the distilleries to share their know-how at the foot of the copper stills and to show the art of blending in ageing cellars where cognac slowly improves in barrels: aromatic experiences, gastronomic discoveries, unusual activities...

cognacetapes.com/en





More informations

Destination Cognac Tourist Office:

www.destination-cognac.com

Contact: Marie-Christine Baudry

marie@destination-cognac.com

DESTINATION
Cognac

KEY FACTS



A delimited production region of 1 million hectares
81,843 hectares of vines divided into 6 crus



1909: delimitation of the cognac production area
1936: definition of the AOC cognac (protected designation of origin)



Nearly 4,500 winegrowers
16,800 direct jobs in the Cognac sector



A vineyard composed of 95.7% white grape varieties
204.2 million bottles shipped, 97.7% of which abroad to 156 countries



3.5 billion euros in turnover
Main markets, in millions equaling bottles:
-United States (87.4)
-Singapore (27.2)
-China (24.2)
-United Kingdom (9.7)
-France (4.6)
-Germany (4.5)

Source: BNIC 2018

THE COASTLINE AND THE ISLANDS

LA ROCHELLE



Thirst of culture? Follow a guided tour to discover the glory days of La Rochelle, a rich and rebel merchant city, its historical links with England, its monuments like the famous Towers of La Rochelle in the Old Port or the magnificent Town's hall... Walk around the arcades streets and admire La Rochelle heritage, here a church or a temple, here a museum, take a stroll in a park or a patio...

Premium accommodation

Résidence de France*****

See page 4

La Monnaie Art & Spa Hotel****

See page 6

Best Western Plus Masqhotel****

3 suites & 73 rooms (from 84 €)

Ideally situated close to the high-speed railway station and the old harbour, the Best Western Plus Masqhotel is fully equipped for combining business with pleasure in total comfort: spacious rooms, fully-fitted, well-lit meeting rooms, an elegant Restaurant, and an attentive team. All it takes to make sure your event is a success.

Contact: Marie Jaouen

17 rue de l'Ouvrage à Cornes

17000 La Rochelle

+33 5 46 41 83 83

seminaires@cosy-hotels.net

www.masqhotel.com

Hotel Novotel****

94 rooms (from 90 €)

In a luxurious green setting, and 10 minutes walk from the old harbour and town centre, ideal for meetings in one of France's most beautiful historical cities. Enjoy 270m² of meeting rooms for your conferences or corporate dinners, home-made cuisine, and all the technology you need to ensure your meetings are a great success. Take in the fresh air at Novotel!

Contact: Montsé Garriga

Avenue de la Porte Neuve

17000 La Rochelle

+33 5 46 34 24 24

h0965sb@accor.com

www.accorhotels.com/fr/hotel-0965-novotel-la-rochelle-centre/index.shtml

Central Park – Hotel & Spa****

41 rooms (from 119 €)

The privileged location of the hotel, located at the entrance to the parks of La Rochelle and a few minutes walk from its historic city centre, its old port and its seaside, makes it an ideal place to organise all types of professional, community or private gatherings. The Central Park Hotel & Spa offers 41 rooms of different categories, as well as lounges for your meetings and seminars. You can also enjoy our wellness area with fitness, sauna, steam room and jacuzzi.

4 avenue Jean Guiton

17000 La Rochelle

+33 5 46 66 06 06

contact@hotelcentralpark.fr

www.hotelcentralpark.fr

Hotel Mercure****

123 rooms (from 110 €)

Only 5 minutes from the station and the old harbour, 1,000m² of recently refurbished reception rooms, flexible configurations with direct daylight, for your conferences, one-day workshops, galas, cocktails... Savour local seasonal produce in our panoramic restaurant. Our professional team will make sure your event is a success. The bonus: Surprise your team with an "After work break" with delicious wine in our panoramic restaurant.

Contact: Gaëlle Planchard

Quai Louis Prunier

17000 La Rochelle

+33 5 46 50 89 04

h0569-sb@accor.com

www.accorhotels.com/fr/hotel-0569-hotel-mercure-la-rochelle-vieux-port-sud/index.shtml

Hotel La Fabrique ***

58 rooms (from 64 €)

In the heart of the historical city center of La Rochelle, 5 min walk from the train station and next to the old port, La Fabrique welcomes you in a unique atmosphere and an atypical decor. Its 58 rooms, its bar, its courtyards, its lobby under a glass roof and also its fitness room will make you feel comfortable in La Rochelle. Buffet breakfast - Free Wifi - Open24h

Contact: Véronique Garreau

7-9-11 rue de la Fabrique

17000 La Rochelle

+33 5 46 41 45 00

reception@hotellafabrique.com

www.hotellafabrique.com

La Grande Terrasse**** MGallery by Sofitel

See page 4

Hotel & Spa du Château****

20 rooms (from 65 €)

5 minutes from La Rochelle and Ile de Re, the Hôtel & Spa du Château **** is the ideal setting for seminars, business trips or business meetings - Equipped 200 m² meeting area. Your colleagues will appreciate the green surroundings of the castle park and its SPA Equatoria with hammam and indoor pool. Our park, the city of La Rochelle and the Île de Ré allow for the organization of incentives and many cultural and sports activities. Tailored well-being and neuro marketing seminars.

Contact: Bérangère Cocherel

123 avenue du Clavier - 17140 Lagord

+33 5 46 07 91 42

info@lhotelduchateau.fr

hotel-du-chateau-la-rochelle.com

Michelin starred restaurants

Christopher Coutanceau – 2 Michelin stars

Relais & Châteaux

See page 7

L'Hysope – 1 Michelin star

See page 7

Gourmet restaurants

NEW! La Yole de Chris

Chef: Christopher Coutanceau

Marine bistro & plancha cuisine.

5 allée du Mail - 17000 La Rochelle

+33 5 46 41 41 88

www.layoledechris.com

Le Gaya - Michelin Guide

Chef: Pierre Gagnaire

'Cuisine de Bords de Mer'. Terrace with panoramic view by the sea.

Avenue de la Falaise

17340 Chatellailon-Plage

+33 5 46 56 17 17

www.la-grande-terrasse.com/restaurant-gaya



Must See

Aquarium of La Rochelle

One of the most beautiful Aquariums in Europe. The Gallery of Lights – a magical journey to the great depths of the oceans to reveal the sea creatures that light up their world with the most vibrant colours. The visitor experience has been improved in 2018 with a palette of intense blue greeting visitors as they enter, appropriately decorated with luminous jellyfish. As you move through the Aquarium, different colours depict different spaces of the Blue Planet with background information available through touch screens. The restaurant now features new furnishings and a new menu, based on the theme of travel.

www.aquarium-larochelle.com

Musée Maritime

Welcome aboard the Maritime Museum and its ships open to visitors: the France, the last meteorological ship (weather observation vessel), and the deck of the St Gilles, a tugboat and l'Angoumois, a fishing trawler.

www.museemaritimelarochelle.fr

Towers of La Rochelle

Saint Nicholas, de la Chaîne and de la Lanterne lighthouse are the most famous vestiges of the medieval, maritime fortifications of the town and from where there are magnificent views over to Fort Boyard, the old Port and the islands. The Lantern Tower is the oldest on the Atlantic Coast, rising to a height of 70 metres and it has always served as both a lighthouse and a prison. After years of renovation, the tower was re-opened to visitors in 2016.

www.tours-la-rochelle.fr

Cruises La Rochelle – Ile de Ré

Boat tours to the Isle of Aix with day or half day stop-over. Sea trip, with commentary, around Fort Boyard. Links by boat to the islands of Ré and Oléron.

www.inter-iles.com



The centre of La Rochelle abounds with boutiques: ready-to-wear, original designs, accessories, jewellery, wellness, souvenirs, books and cards.

A diverse range of original boutiques. In pedestrian zones, Rue St. Nicolas, under the arcades, in the covered market area and in the small squares, shopping in La Rochelle has its own special charm.

La Cave de la Guignette

La Guignette cellar was born at 8 rue St Nicolas in what used to be a blacksmith's shop, in the heart of the 'Breton district' of La Rochelle. The genuine Guignette of La Rochelle, the flavoured drink bearing the famous bistro's name, is born in a first version: red (non sparkling).

8 rue Saint Nicolas – 17000 La Rochelle

www.la-guignette.fr

Cognac Only

The widest offer of the world in cognac.

13 rue de l'Archimède

17000 La Rochelle

www.cognac-only.com

Couteaux Farol

Design and production of handmade sailor, pocket and table knives. Shop located in a former whole sale fishmonger's stall close to the Aquarium. The company's unique know-how and its innovative work granted it the 'Entreprise du Patrimoine Vivant' certification.

Case 64, quai Louis Prunier

17000 La Rochelle

www.farol.fr

Ah5 Sailing

Unique pieces, original creations made from boat sails. 100% handmade in the workshop la Rochelle.

12 rue de la Scierie – 17000 La Rochelle

www.ah5sailing.com

Esprit Voiles

Design and manufacture of bags and accessories in marine canvas. Made in La Rochelle.

67 rue Saint Nicolas

17000 La Rochelle

www.espritvoiles.fr

Matlama les sacs

Handmade production of bags and fashion accessories with solid materials diversion: oyster bags, sails boat, pool cover, automobile accessories and plumbing. All the items are created by Marina Richer in La Rochelle and manufactured in limited series in the region of New Aquitaine. Permanent and temporary exhibitions of paintings, object of curiosity, jewelry artists and artisans of the region.

61 quai Louis Prunier

17000 La Rochelle

matlama.fr



Events & Festivals

Les Francofolies | 10th - 14th July 2019 | La Rochelle

Annual celebration of French music – one of the most famous festivals in Europe.

www.francofolies.fr

Le Grand Pavois | 18th – 20th September 2019 | La Rochelle

100,000 square meters of exhibition, themed spaces for all of you, 300 displayed on the water among 750 exhibited boats, more than 800 international exhibitors ... The Grand Pavois La Rochelle Boat Show is the first boat show of the Autumn season. Madagascar will be the guest country of honour in 2018.

www.grand-pavois.com



More informations

La Rochelle Tourist Office:

www.larochelle-tourisme.com

Contact: Stéphanie Bodu

+33 5 46 41 38 38

groupes@larochelle-tourisme.com



L'ILE DE RÉ



There are 10 picturesque preserved villages on Ré island. As it is so flat it is an ideal place to cycle on more than 110 kilometres of cycling tracks that lead to many of the unforgettable sites of 'Ré – the White'. The magnificent beaches of Ile de Ré seduce all fans of wide-open spaces.

Premium accommodation

Hôtel de Toiras***** Relais & Châteaux

See page 4

Le Richelieu***** Thalasso & Spa

See page 5

Hôtel Atalante***** Thalasso & Spa

See page 10

La Baronnie**** Hôtel & Spa

See page 6

La Villa Clarisse**** Relais & Châteaux

See page 5

Le Clos St. Martin**** Small Luxury Hotels

See page 6

Hotel Les Vignes de la Chapelle****

Relais du Silence

19 suites & rooms (from 99 €)

Life-size Île de Ré! Facing the vineyards and sea, located on the south coast of the island, this ecologically charming hotel (1st ecolabelled hotel in the department of Charente-Maritime) looking like a small village offers views of the islands of Aix and Oléron... Your suite is a small ground-floor house accommodating 1 to 5 people with 1 or 2 bedrooms, 1 living room, a wooden terrace. Free swimming-pool, jacuzzi, sauna, bicycles. Enjoy yourself, get away from it all... Let you cradle by birdsongs and the melody of waves. Les Vignes de la Chapelle – the hotel where life is calm and gracious...

Contact: Stephane Heraudeau

5 rue de la Manne

17740 Sainte-Marie de Ré

+33 5 46 30 20 30

hotel@lesvignesdelachapelle.com

lesvignesdelachapelle.com

Elégance Suites Hôtel****

8 suites & rooms (from 129 €)

Situated 150m from one of the most beautiful beaches of île de Ré, and 650m from the centre of Bois-Plage-en-Ré, Éléance Suites Hôtel**** offers 7 deluxe balneo suites with their refined, sober décor covering an area of 40m², and one very charming room. Each ground-floor Suite has its own terrace.

Contact: Mario Hamelin

57 avenue du Pas des Bœufs

17580 Le Bois-Plage-en-Ré

+33 5 46 09 76 20

info@elegancehotel.com

www.elegancehotel-iledere.com

Hôtel Restaurant et Spa Plaisir****

20 suites & rooms (from 89 €)

Situated in the heart of the Île de Ré, 150m far of one of the most beautiful beaches. The first one in France to be certified environmental and decorated in the Ré style, this hotel is a peaceful refuge: his frame of luxuriant vegetation and his attractive spa create the environment completed to relax you in the middle of the nature. You will appreciate the excellent installations which the hotel provides you with to return your stay most pleasant possible: a heated swimming pool, Jacuzzi, Sauna, Hammam, the beauty parlour provides treatments and massages, lounge of relaxation ... The creative chef of the piano of our Gourmet restaurant plays his notes the inspiration of the fishing and the market.

Contact: Mario Hamelin

56 avenue du Pas des Bœufs

17580 Le Bois-Plage-en-Ré

+33 5 09 00 26

info@hotel-plaisir.com

www.hotel-plaisir.com

Hotel Ile de Ré****

18 suites & rooms (from 129 €)

The new Hotel Ile de Ré, opened in April 2018, was designed for hedonists and lovers of the island of Ré. Situated between the beach and the pine forest, it combines charm, authenticity and incomparable comfort to offer you a stay where the notion of time disappears to give way to a peaceful tranquility.

Contact: Mario Hamelin

65 avenue du Pas des Bœufs

17580 Le Bois-Plage-en-Ré

info@iledere-hotel.com

+33 5 46 09 00 26

www.iledere-hotel.com/en





Must See

Citadelle de St. Martin de Ré

Built under Louis XIV from 1681 to 1691 by the military engineer Vauban to defend and shelter the local population of the island against a siege and enemy landing, the fortifications of Saint-Martin-de-Ré are unique by their scale: 14 km of ramparts on a semicircle of 1.5 km radius. Classed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and part of the Network of Major Sites built by Vauban. You can visit the fortifications at your own leisure or join a guided tour organised by the local tourist office Destination Ile de Ré.

www.iledere.com

Phare des Baleines

In June 2016 the last two lighthouse keepers employed by the French state retired and now one has turned his hand to being a tour guide, showing the public around the Baleines Lighthouse. Baptiste Mestayer Schmitt explains the work of the keeper and recounts anecdotes from his life.

www.lepharedesbaleines.fr

Musée Ernest Cognacq

Ernest Cognacq was founder of the large Parisian department store, Samaritaine. His house, Hotel Clerjotte - built in the fifteenth century, is now a museum to the retail trade with visits, events and so on.

www.musee-ernest-cognacq.fr

Ferme des Baleines

La Ferme des Baleines – which specialises in salt pond aquaculture – is located in a naturally protected area at the head of Fier d'Ars Bay, in the north of Ile de Ré, in Saint-Clément-des-Baleines. Discover artisanal productions 100% raised in claire: oysters, clams, imperial shrimps, sea bream and samphire on 23 hectares of marshes! 'La Ferme des Baleines' will introduce you to the world of aquaculture and you will live an authentic experience.

www.la-ferme-des-baleines.com

Les Vignerons de l'Ile de Ré

Come and visit us, and discover the secret of the perfect combination of tradition and modernity. Sheltered by the Gulf Stream and rocked by the mild Atlantic climate, the vineyards of the island slowly mature in the Charentais sun. Created by a character soil and expertise several hundred years old, the vine products are awaiting you at the wine cellar of the Coopérative des Vignerons at Bois-Plage. The cooperative wine cellar of the 'Vignerons de l'Île de Ré' opens its doors in July and August. Our walking tour will help you discover all the secrets of the production of Pineau, wines and Cognac right at the heart of the distillery and ageing wine storehouses. Wine tasting at the wine warehouse at the end of the visit. Reception and wine tasting: In the storeroom, advice given by oenologist and professional winemakers.

Route de Sainte Marie 17580 - Le Bois-Plage-en-Ré

www.vente-vins-en-ligne.com



'Les Plus Beaux Villages de France'

Ars-en-Ré is known for the bell tower of its church that sports a black and white arrow that is used as a point of reference for mariners.

La Flotte-en-Ré is an extremely pretty fishing and pleasure port that sways to the rhythm of the boats in the harbour.

Events & Festivals

Festival Musique en Ré | 16th July – 1st August 2019 | Ile de Ré

Every year, the Music festival in Ré offers high quality concerts to the public and gathers big talented soloists of international fame as well as symphony orchestras.

www.musique-en-re.com

Festival Jazz en Ré | 23rd – 25th August 2019 | St. Martin de Ré

An inescapable meeting destined to Jazz amateurs on the Île de Ré. The Jazz festival in Ré offers exceptional evenings on Saint-Martin-de-Ré's harbour to enjoy experimented talents of the international scene.

www.jazzenre.fr

Festival Dance en la playa | 14th – 16th June 2019 | La Flotte en Ré, Ste Marie de Ré & Bois-Plage en Ré

A weekend of dance for everybody. Dancing classes for advanced and beginner levels, concerts, Cuban music, party and dance shows... Come and dance on Ile de Ré!

Festival Photo de l'Ile de Ré | 29th June – 9th July | Le Bois-Plage-en-Ré

This international festival is dedicated to the photographic medium. With the main exhibition in the big multipurpose room of the Bois-Plage and in a dozen public places of the island of Ré.

www.ilederephoto.com

Musicalis - Festival International de Guitare | 5th – 13th July | La Flotte, Rivedoux & Le-Bois-Plage

Every evening at 9 pm, in a different village for a different guitar concert.

www.reguitarfestival.com

Fête de la Mer | 15th August | Saint-Martin-de-Ré

Sea day on the harbour of Saint-Martin-de-Ré: animations and activities for adults and children, dive, sports, competitions. Two boats will make free cruises around Saint-Martin-de-Ré. Fireworks and ball at night on the harbour.

www.saint-martin-de-re.fr

Festival de Salsa West On Beach | 18th – 25th August | Rivedoux-Plage

The SWOB is the longest salsa event in Europe but above all a mixture of three words: Salsa, West Coast Swing and the pleasant atmosphere of the town of Rivedoux-Plage.

www.swob.fr

Ré Swim Run | 21st September | Ile de Ré

A swimRun is a multiple-stage competition involving participants running and swimming over a race course or loopcourse with at least 2 transitions.

www.iledere-swim-run.com



More informations

Destination Ile de Ré Tourist Office:

www.iledere.com

Contact: Camille Pinot, responsable MICE

+33 5 46 46 09 91 37

camille.pinot@iledere.com



ILE D'OLÉRON - BASSIN DE MARENNES



The Oléron Island, commonly nicknamed the 'Luminous' is, with its 175 km², the largest French island on the Atlantic coast. Linked to the continent by a toll-free road-bridge, Oléron is a paradise for nature and sport lovers. Rich on contrasting landscapes, the Oléron Island and the Marennes Basin have a remarkable heritage made of picturesque villages, ancient citadels, numerous sandy beaches, forests and marshlands, and a colorful gastronomy.

Premium accommodation

Novotel Thalassa Oléron****

See page 10

Les Jardins d'Aliénor****

Boutique Hôtel

See page 6



Le Grand Large****

Located on a natural and wild beach, the hotel is built in the middle of the dunes on one of the most beautiful beaches of Ile d'Oléron. Natural sandy beach with about 10 km length, in the middle of nature, between forest, dunes, sandy beach and ocean ... Nature is still wild in this magical place. You will appreciate the view from the lounge area / bar / restaurant and some rooms. You will hear the sea from the garden which is just behind the dunes and will lead you straight to the beach access.

2 avenue de l'Océan - 17550 Dolus d'Oléron

+33 5 46 75 77 77

contact@le-grand-large.fr

www.le-grand-large.fr

Must See

Artists and craftsmen: Couleurs Cabanes

A unique village of creators on an exceptional site along the channels in Château d'Oléron: about twenty artists and craftsmen welcome you all year round to their workshops set up in former oyster huts of all colours. Painting, ceramics, cutlery, lute making, illuminated miniatures, jewellery...

The small fishing port of La Cotinière ranks 6th amongst the most productive fishing harbors in France, thanks to the 90 varieties of fishes being caught there. Follow our guide backstage and take an insight look at the auction as if you were a professional fishmonger !

Situated between oyster beds and oyster farmer's huts, **the Cité de l'Huître** in Marennes takes you right to the heart of the profession of oyster farmers. You will discover the world of the oysters and taste oysters of Marennes-Oléron.

cite-huitre.com

Discover **the lighthouse at Chassiron** which has seen numerous shipwrecks over centuries. This emblematic tower of 46 m guides the sailors through troubled waters.

Founded in 1555, **Brouage** was initially specialized in the salt trade. Wealthy and prosperous, it soon took on strategic importance, so Cardinal Richelieu became its governor and transformed the town into a fortress. Very well preserved, the place was inhabited by several celebrities such as Samuel Champlain and Marie Mancini... **New in 2018!** Brouage is now labelled 'Plus Beaux Villages de France'.



Sites 'Vignobles et Découvertes'

The 'Vignoble de l'Île d'Oléron' is labelled 'Vignobles et Découvertes' since 2014: as you walk through the vineyard, you will discover the originality of this wine destination, the quality and variety of its tourist offer, the richness of the gastronomic combination of seafood products and wines from the region. Enjoy the many possibilities of off-road visits: walking, cycling or horseback rides, sea rides or idleness, discovery of landscapes and heritage... The 50 partners are all committed to welcoming the visitor in the image of this authentic territory.

Domaine Maxime Pinard

The Pinard family, winegrowers for 4 generations, welcomes you for a visit of their property. The vineyard, covering an area of 90 hectares, is spread over the island of Oléron and constitutes a remarkable ensemble of the island's different terroirs. The sunshine and the influence of the ocean allow a beautiful maturity of the grapes and the great diversity of grape varieties makes the richness of their range. Tastings of their typical products from the island of Oléron. www.maxime-pinard.fr

More offers (cellars, accommodation, restaurants, activities, heritage sites and events) on www.vignoble-ile-oleron.fr/les-partenaires



Family Friendly Destination

'Famille Plus' is a label awarded to places in France that go that one step further to make the holidays even more unforgettable for all the family. In 2017 The Marennes Oléron became the first area in France to be given this accolade and now features 46 participating establishments. Five resorts in the Charentes have been awarded this designation (Rivedoux-Plage, St.Martin-de-Ré, St.Georges-de-Didonne, Royan and St.Palais-sur-Mer).

Sailing around Fort Boyard

Built to protect the estuary of the Charente River in the nineteenth century, one may not land but one may sail around Fort Boyard.

Shortbreak for groups with local English-speaking guide:

2 days / one night to discover La Cotinière, the lighthouse of Chassiron, the Cité de l'Huître and the citadel of Brouage, including full board accommodation in a hotel*** and guided visits (139 € per person - from 35 participants).

bit.ly/2xoH2K8



More informations

Ile d'Oléron - Bassin de Marennes Tourist Office:

www.ile-oleron-marennes.com

Contact: Khrystyna Roy

+33 5 46 47 67 00

groupes@marennes-oleron.com



ROCHEFORT AND AIX ISLAND



Explore the exceptional maritime heritage of Rochefort Océan, the land of Fort Boyard: experience a place made of Nature and History, come and live your own maritime adventure!

In the 17th century, Rochefort was chosen as a key place to build, arm and refit warships, frigates and other vessels.

Today, come and visit Rochefort Naval Dockyard: emblematic sites like the Corderie Royale - rope works -, the Garden of the Returns, the Naval Museum.

Embark aboard Hermione, the frigate of La Fayette, the largest replica of a historic ship in France, join the crew and listen to their adventures through the accomplishment of her transatlantic travel in 2015!

Premium accommodation

Mercure Rochefort La Corderie Royale****

51 suites & rooms (from 93 €)

Idyllic setting in Rochefort Naval Dockyard, close to the Charente river. Recently refit in a maritime and exotic decor. Restaurant, swimming pool. Travel in time...

Rue Audebert - 17300 Rochefort

hB2Q7@accor.com

+33 5 46 99 35 35

www.accorhotels.com/fr/hotel-B2Q7-hotel-mercure-rochefort-la-corderie-royale/index.shtml

Le Logis du Péré** Relais du Silence**

9 suites & rooms (from 95 €)

In a wide wooded park, a private former 'seigneurie'. A delicate and elegant mix of calm, heritage and nature. Restaurant, Spa.

Le Logis du Péré

17430 Saint-Coutant-le-Grand

le-logis-du-pere@orange.fr

+33 5 46 84 07 17

www.le-logis-du-pere.com

Les Jardins du Lac* Relais du Silence**

16 suites & rooms (from 85 €)

Situated in the pilgrimage pathway of Saint Jacques de Compostela, beside a lake. A place full of authentic charm. The Suite family share the same passion which is to give you a warm welcome. Swimming pool, Jacuzzi, Gourmet restaurant (Michelin Guide). 'Here we leave things to their original tastes and flavours.'

3 chemin de Fontchaude - 17250 Trizay

hotel@jardins-du-lac.com

+33 5 46 82 03 56

www.jardins-du-lac.com

Le Grand Hôtel des Bains***

34 suites & rooms (from 72 €)

A former post office inn completely renovated into a charming 3*** hotel articulated around a flowered and shaded patio, a lounge bar library, a 130m² SPA with solarium and beauty center. Ideally located in the heart of the Fouras peninsula, it is a real haven of tranquility a stone's throw from the city centre and 50 metres from the central beach.

15 rue du Général Bruncher - 17450 Fouras

hoteldesbains@wanadoo.fr

+33 5 46 84 03 44

www.grandhotel-desbains.fr

Hôtel Napoléon***

18 rooms (from 95 €)

Restaurant 'Chez Joséphine' (Michelin Guide).

Close to the beaches and ferry. A mixture of contemporary and classic design.

Place d'Austerlitz - 17123 Ile d'Aix

contact@hotel-ile-aix.com

+33 5 46 84 00 77

www.hotel-ile-aix.com



Must See

Naval dockyard of Rochefort

In the 17th century the village of Rochefort was chosen for a royal destiny. Inland, nestling in a loop of the Charente river, Rochefort was an ideal location for this ambitious project. The King, 'The Roi Soleil' wanted to create 'the most exceptional and comprehensive naval dockyards' on the Atlantic coast, where 550 vessels were to be built. In the dockyards from 1666 onwards, everything concerned with building, arming and victualling a man-of-war was established using the latest technology: warehouses, rope factory, dry docks ... On entering Rochefort's naval dockyards, there's a sense of adventure and anticipation which is almost tangible! It's a unique atmosphere, after all, it was here that great expeditions were prepared in the past. You are catapulted back in time. Rochefort's 17th century shipyard.

The Corderie Royale

"Floating" on a raft of oakwood, it was the longest industrial building in Europe in the 17th century - 374 metres long and has been called the Versailles of the sea because of its simple beauty facing the Charente river. You may see demonstrations of rope making, and visit a second temporary exhibition based on a maritime theme.

www.rochefort-ocean.com/en/explore/naval-dockyard-of-rochefort-and-the-corderie-royale

The Hermione

Companions, carpenters, blacksmiths, riggers, sail makers did reproduce ancestral gestures to share with the public since 1997, the experience of the reconstruction, the rebuilding of Hermione, who was born in Rochefort in 1779. Since September 2014, 'she sails like a bird', says Yann Cariou, the Captain. He and the crew allow us to experience this wonderful human and technical adventure. When she is at sea, ambassador of the Rochefort dockyards know-how, follow her course from the PC navigation, in Rochefort. When she is at her home port in Rochefort, come and visit her, meet the gabiers, enter her hull to feel the emotions of her voyages. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

In 2015, she has sailed across the Atlantic to commemorate Lafayette's voyage in the War of Independence. She will be sailing from April to June from Rochefort to Rouen (Armada) and return to her home port the 5th of July and visitors will be able to join one of the craftsmen working on the ship. It's also possible to experience Hermione through the eyes of the ship's boy, Clément Loiseau!

There are monthly classical music concerts, sea shanties, tours of the ship with a sailor dressed in period costume as well as Evenings Aboard – Aperitifs and anecdotes - with crew members who made the journey in 2015.

www.rochefort-ocean.com/en/explore/visit-the-frigate-hermione-in-rochefort

Accro-Mâts

Located next to Hermione, the Accro-mats is the first of its kind in France and in Europe – an unusual relaxing, fun way to learn more about the Arsenal here in Rochefort with the use of high ropes. The company Week'ngo based the idea of using masts instead of the usual tree branches as in accrobranches. The tallest mast 27 is metres so offers wonderful views over the town of Rochefort.

www.weekngo.com/acro-mats-7

The Musée National de la Marine

Start your visit by the Naval museum, housed in the Navy commander's quarters in order to understand the life in the naval dockyards and all the inventions linked with ship building from the 17th to the 19th century.

The Charente Estuary – Rochefort Arsenal

The enormous area of the Charente Estuary and the Arsenal of Rochefort has been officially classified as a 'Grand Site de France' since 2013. This is a classification developed by the Ministry of Ecology to reward places that are ecologically sound as much as they develop durable energy.

The Charente estuary

Stop and gaze into the mouth of the Charente river, where sea water joins freshwater and the sky and sea merge and throw off an array of colours and shapes depending on the tide and the season. In the middle distance you'll see 2 tiny pearls dotted on the Atlantic Ocean: Ile Madame – a unique island which is only accessible at low tide by a natural pathway made of sand and pebbles, and Ile d'Aix - the only real island of the Charentes, which you have to reach by boat...

2 peninsulas border the Charente river entrance: Port des Barques to live at the rhythm of nature and the tides, and Fouras les Bains, the wooded peninsula with its large seaside villas that offers an exceptional overview of the islands and Fort Boyard. Starting point for the island of Aix and the cruises around Fort Boyard.

www.rochefort-ocean.com/en/explore/the-estuary-of-the-charente-river

Aix Island

The only real island of the Charente-Maritime, you have to go by boat! Time stands still in this 3km crescent-shaped paradise, with its whitewashed houses, hollyhocks and few motorised vehicles! Peaceful Aix Island is home to just 234 inhabitants and a school for 12 children!

There is something for everyone in this little paradise: 5 beaches, ancient fortifications, a forest in the northern half, boutiques and restaurants and plenty of places of cultural interest.

Explore it by walk, bike or in a horse-drawn carriage – remember, cars are prohibited - and discover a varied wild countryside with marshland, forest, vineyards, sandy coves, cliffs and beaches.

Visit the Napoleon Museum housed in the 'Maison de l'Empereur' where Napoléon stayed during his last 3 days in France before he was exiled to St. Hélène in July 1815... Next, stop at the Mother-of-Pearl House, the last mother-of-pearl maker in France.

www.rochefort-ocean.com/en/explore/aix-island-pearl-of-the-estuary-of-the-charente



Events & Festivals

Festival Musiques au Pays de Pierre Loti | 25th May – 1st June 2019 | Rochefort

Classical music festival in Rochefort where was born Pierre Loti, writer and sailor.

www.festival-mppl.com

Festival Stereo Parc | 19th & 20th July 2019 | Rochefort

2nd edition of this 100% electro music festival at the Corderie Royale.

stereoparc.com/festival

Symphonie d'été | 7th – 9th August 2019 | Fouras-les-Bains

Classical music festival, summer symphony on the beach, in a park or in the center of town

www.symphoniedete.com

Fort Boyard Challenge | 12th - 13th September 2019 | Fouras

2 days of watersports challenges: the mythical Fort Boyard awaits you in windsurfing, stand up paddle or Polynesian canoes departing from Fouras.

www.fortboyardchallenge.fr

Shopping Tips

The Golden thread workshop

Visit the showroom of Sylvie Deschamps, a Master of Art, who has created a 100% French bracelet collection "Le Begonia d'Or".

www.broderieor.com



More informations

Rochefort Ocean Tourist Office:

www.rochefort-ocean.com

Contact: Sophie Canesson

+33 5 46 99 86 97

sejour@rochefort-ocean.com

ROYAN



Villas line the shore dating from the Belle-Epoque, rubbing shoulders with classic 1950's buildings, all geometry and colour. The architecture of the city is unique; the Church of Notre Dame is central for the inhabitants thanks to its style. It has five beautiful beaches and its pleasure port is one of the most important on the Atlantic Coast. Picasso lived here for a year. An unforgettable place for all the family to enjoy.

Premium accommodation

Hotel Cordouan** by Thalazur**

See page 9

Club Med La Palmyre Atlantique



Bungalows (from 731 € per pers. for 7 nights)

All-inclusive stay for family holidays on a unique site of 24 hectares in the heart of a pine forest, a paradise for nature lovers and water sports enthusiasts. On the Arvert peninsula, at the foot of the ocean and facing the lighthouse of Cordouan, the Club Med La Palmyre Atlantique Resort offers bungalows inspired by oyster farmers' cabins and declines its decoration in harmony with nature, playing with bright colours and natural materials. 3 restaurants, swimming-pool, spa, 9-hole golf course.

Allée du Grand Large – 17570 La Palmyre

+33 5 46 39 77 30

lpaccrec01@clubmed.com

www.clubmed.fr/r/La-Palmyre-Atlantique/y

Château de Didonne ECC

10 rooms (from 115 €)

Less than 10 km from the Atlantic coast, the charm of an 18th century old country house and the luxury amenities of a contemporary hotel. Château de Didonne welcomes you in the pleasant freshness of an old house, entirely renovated, with its rooms paneled with woodwork of the 18th century, three bright dining rooms and ten beautiful rooms, in the peace of a park of three hectares.

Allée du Château – 17120 Semussac

contact@chateaudedidonne.com

+33 5 46 02 75 12

www.chateau-de-didonne.com



Hôtel de la Plage Ronce-les-Bains ECC

55 rooms (from 85 €)

This hotel, on the waterfront, in the heart of a residential and wooded area will seduce you through its friendly atmosphere. This hotel is haven of peace with comfortable rooms and the opportunity to enjoy many facilities for you pleasure and comfort: indoor heated pool, restaurant, bar and terrace facing the ocean.

16 avenue Gabrielle - 17390 La Tremblade Ronce Les Bains

contact@hoteldelaplage-roncelesbains.fr

+33 5 46 46 87 10

www.hoteldelaplage-roncelesbains.fr

Hôtel Résidence de Rohan ***

43 rooms (from 90 €)

Formerly owned by the Duchess of Rohan, this charming seaside hotel is located in the middle of a park and offers modern rooms that have been tastefully renovated in accordance with the building's architectural style. Private access to Nauzan beach. A large heated swimming pool with a view of the sea. Many services (Wifi, light meals, bike rental, breakfast in your room) A 3-star hotel 5 minutes from the city of Royan.

7 avenue de Rohan - 17640 Vaux sur Mer

info@residence-rohan.com

+33 5 46 39 00 75

www.residence-rohan.com



Michelin starred restaurant

L'Aquarelle - 1 Michelin star

See page 7



Gourmet restaurant

L'Arrosoir - Michelin Guide

Chef: Alexandre Lavigne

The chef combines know-how, generosity and authenticity for refined dishes in the idyllic setting of Nauzan beach, open sea view and sandy beach.

73 avenue de Pontaillac – 17420 Saint Palais sur Mer

+33 5 46 02 12 41

restaurant-l-arrosoir.com

Must See

Palmyre Zoo

Created in 1966, the Zoo celebrated its golden anniversary last year. There are 1600 animals in the zoo with 115 different species represented. It is one of the most visited private zoos in France with over 700,000 visitors per annum. It is very important in the world of conservation too with 200-300 births a year of endangered species.

www.zoo-palmyre.fr

Seven beaches, all of top quality and graded in the premier category of cleanliness and maintenance, line this part of the Atlantic literally known as the Beautiful Coast. The most famous 'La Conche' (The Shell) is typified with blue and white striped beach tents lining the shore. The pleasure port is one of the most important on the Atlantic Coast and a promenade to view the boutiques and art galleries is simply a MUST. There are now nine award-winning beaches in the department.

The Gironde Estuary is the wildest and largest natural river estuary in Europe. Astonishing views whether from natural viewpoints such as Régulus and Matata at Meschers-sur-Gironde or manmade ones like the observation tower at Saint- Georges-de-Didonne.

www.estuaire-gironde.fr

Grottes du Régulus

Located 15 km from Royan, the caves of Regulus, are open to the public from April 6 to November 11, 2019. Overlooking the Gironde estuary and carved in limestone cliffs, the 'holes' of Meschers welcome you in a haven exception. Originally natural, the Meschers caves were enlarged by humans to become a troglodyte habitat in the 19th century. Travel with the guide to discover the history of Meschers Caves, each has its own history or mystery.

www.royanatlantique.fr/visites-excursions/les-grottes-du-regulus-meschers-sur-gironde



La Tremblade and the Coubre Forest

More than 5,000 hectares unmissable for nature lovers whether mountain bikers, horseriders, walkers, hikers ...or beach bums! Smell the pines, listen to the ocean, lie on a carpet of sand.

www.royanatlantique.fr/sur-place/activites/balades-randos

Cordouan lighthouse



Cordouan lighthouse, an architectural jewel, designed to reflect the glory of the kings of France, has been guiding ships in the Gironde estuary for over 400 years. The only offshore lighthouse in the world inhabited all year round by lighthouse keepers. The first lighthouse to become a listed historic monument. Visitors will climb the 301 steps to the lantern room, suspended between sky and sea, to enjoy the breathtaking view. The site can only be accessed by boat at low tide. The French State has just officially submitted the Cordouan Lighthouse application file for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

www.phare-de-cordouan.fr

La Coubre lighthouse

Built in 1904 and put into service in 1905, the lighthouse located in La Tremblade, has overlooked the Gironde's Estuary ever since then. It is rated as one of the highest lighthouse in the area and one of the most powerful in France. It warns mariners of dangerous sandbanks, which has caused the sinking of several ships. With a truly breathtaking view from balcony, it is the perfect location to discover the vast estuary. With 300 steps, the lighthouse is 64 meters high. The panoramic view on Oleron Island, La Tremblade, La Palmyre, not forgetting the fine sandy beaches and the pine woods, allows you to experience nature in its purest.



©Max Coquard - Best Jobers



'Plus Beaux Villages de France'

Mornac-sur-Seudre is an old commercial port that now concentrates on oyster and salt production and is an artisan's paradise.

Talmont-sur-Gironde was founded in 1284 by Edward 1st of Aquitaine on a rocky promontory overlooking the Gironde Estuary, just 15 kilometres south of Royan.

Events & Festivals

Un violon sur le sable | 20th, 23th & 26th July 2019 | Royan
Classical music concerts on the beach - magical!

www.violonsurlesable.com

www.royanatlantique.fr/sur-place/agenda



©S. Laval

More informations

Royan Atlantique Tourist Office:

www.royanatlantique.fr

Contact: Jessika Charles

+33 5 46 08 17 36

groupees@royanatlantique.fr



THE INLAND

MARAIS POITEVIN



Grand Site de France, the Marais Poitevin AKA the Green Venice, unveils her verdant countryside: the ferns, the willows, and above all the canals that inspire you to take a leisurely boat tour to discover the fauna and flora of the destination. The Marais Poitevin has three labels - Regional Natural Park of Marais Poitevin, Great Site of France and European Tourist Destination of Excellence – and three landscapes – the Aiguillon Bay and coast, the Dry Marshes and the Wet Marshes. It is the largest marsh in the west and the second largest humid zone in France after the Camargue.



The three faces of the Marais Poitevin

The Wet Marshes - A green cathedral

Covering an area of over 28,000 hectares (69,190 acres) the wet marshes have become the most famous part of the Marais Poitevin and to some extent the touristic flagship of the area. Green Venice with its charming little houses their gardens reaching down to the water, tiny ports for the boats, fingers of water stretching all over the countryside is a picture postcard, symbol of the whole Marais Poitevin.

The Dry marshes - won back from the sea as a treasure- house of biodiversity

These are the largest parts of the Marais Poitevin - a vast area of 47,000 hectares (116,140 acres) retrieved from the sea between the 12th and 20th century, where squares of land, interspersed by canals, are given over to cereal crops and where the rushes are home to a number of species of birds, insects and mammals normally found in the Mediterranean, such as the orchid.

Aiguillon Bay - A ballroom for birds!

With all the canals and streams draining the wet and dry marshlands, the Bay of Aiguillon is a key link in the chain of the ecological equilibrium of the Marais Poitevin. Reclaimed from the Atlantic Ocean some 10,000 years ago, the spread of the marshes slowly reduced the area of the Picton Gulf which has today been replaced by Aiguillon Bay. This almost circular bay extends to the Vendée in the north and Charente Maritime in the south and is classified as a National Natural Reserve, attracting several migratory birds.



Premium accommodation

Le Soleil et les Etoiles

Guest house of 5 rooms (from 75 €)

Holiday under the sun... A night under the stars! Between sea and marsh, fill your holiday with unforgettable memories! You can enjoy a lounge area with fire place and the library, the garden and the swimming pool.

5 rue de Saintonge – 17540 Saint Sauveur d'Aunis

serelisa@lesoleiletlesetoiles.com

+33 5 46 35 39 27

www.lesoleiletlesetoiles.com



Le Clos des Treilles

Guest house of 3 rooms (from 75 €)

Nestled in the heart of Nuaillé d'Aunis, our guest house opens its doors and offers you its two charming guest rooms. Close to La Rochelle, its port, beaches, heritage, the aquarium or even the Natural Park of the Marais Poitevin. Warm and refined atmosphere for a break for two or family.

17540 Nuaillé d'Aunis

leclodstreilles@orange.fr

+33 5 46 00 32 23

www.leclodstreilles.fr



Must See

Marans

With its marina and its amazing bell tower, Marans is ideally located between the Bay of Aiguillon and The Marais Poitevin. Twenty kilometers from La Rochelle, Marans is crossed by the river Sevre Niortaise, backbone of the Marais Poitevin, the prospect of beautiful river and sea strolls. Several pier will allow you to rent a motorboat, an electric boat or a canoe for a walk on the Sevre Niortaise.

A meeting point for two cycle routes (the Velodysee and the Velo francette), Marans is also a stop for cyclists and cycling lovers.

Aiguillon Bay

This is a magical place – a bridge between the land and the sea in the north part of Charentes, it's a haven for migratory birds from Siberia, Europe and Canada. It has superb views from the 'mussel' capital of Esnandes where there is a fortified church that is listed as a Historical French Monument and a Romanesque port. There are also 300 km of mussel beds where 120 professionals produce the famous local variety known as the 'charron'.

bit.ly/baieaiguillon

Events & Festivals

Moul'Stock Festival | 8th June 2019 | Charron

This very popular festival in that pays homage to rock and roll and mussels. In total, it is more than 6 hours of completely free concerts. Mixed programming cover and compositions. Mussels tastings on site.

www.moulstock.fr

Surgères Brass Festival | 18th – 21st July 2019 | Surgères

The Surgères Brass Festival over 4 days offers a real journey into the musical world of the brass family. From jazz to funk and pop, the castle park and the city center will be the scene of free afternoon concerts in the moat and evening concerts.

surgeresbrassfestival.com

L'Horizon Fait le Mur Festival | 27th – 28th July 2019 | La Laigne

3rd edition of this festival with more than 20 artists: music, theatre, dance, sound and visual wanderings in a unique setting of a village entirely decorated.

www.lhorizonfaitlemur.com

Tribal Elek Festival | 9th – 10th August 2019 | Ecluses d'Andilly

2 days of concerts dedicated to didgeridoo: this festival brings together world music and contemporary music with the presence of the Aboriginal instrument in each band. Craft market, workshops and children activities on site.

www.tribalelek.fr

More informations

Marais Poitevin Tourist Office:

www.visit-maraispoitevin.com

Contact: Laëtitia Marmin

+33 5 46 01 12 10

laetitia.marmin@aunis-maraispoitevin.com



ST. JEAN D'ANGÉLY



Set in the heart of the Boutonne valley, Saint-Jean d'Angély has a surprisingly rich and varied heritage. Go back in time when you wander through the medieval lanes around the Royal Abbey. A magnificent panorama over the town and surrounding countryside awaits you at the top of the Abbey church towers. Enjoy the covered 19th century market to discover local Charentais produce. The lake is ideal for families, strollers and for canoes.

Premium accommodation

Domaine de Rennebourg

Guest house of 5 rooms (from 80 €)

In this early 18th century residence, there is an intimate and warm atmosphere. Lovers of rarities or antique hunters, beautiful discoveries around a room, a library, a boudoir or a hallway await you. Large wedding hall, shows, meetings, events...

Saint Denis du Pin – 17400 Essouvert

domainederennebourg@gmail.com

+33 5 46 26 73 18

www.domainederennebourg.fr

Le Prieuré de la Fayolle

Guest house of 3 rooms (from 75 €)

Ambassadors of Charente-Maritime, silver medallists in tourism by the French government in 2017, Marie-Jo and Didier put at your disposal 35 years in the luxury hotel business to make you discover, in their own way, their territory. They offer a 'table d'hôtes' of local products cooked in an original way.

6 rue du Château d'Eau – 17400 Saint Denis du Pin

marie.jose.chevalier@orange.fr

+33 5 46 32 16 07

www.prieure-la-fayolle.com

Gourmet restaurant

Au Clos Gourmand – Michelin Guide

A gourmet restaurant set up in a real Charente house in the heart of a wooded park. You will discover a quiet place and a refined cuisine made with fresh and local produce. Here, the art of living is practiced with softness, discretion and charm.

51 rue du Marais Poitevin – La Chaussée – 17330 Saint Felix

+33 5 46 26 52 06

www.restaurantauclosgourmand.fr

'Petites Cités de Caractère'



Saint Savinien sur Charente

Nestled in a bend of the Charente, many artists and craftsmen have boutiques in this ancient commercial port. Perched on a rocky spur, the church and its fortified château dominate the river with a view on the fishermen's cabins ('carrelets').

Must See

Royal Abbey of St. Jean d'Angély

Built in the seventh century, destroyed then rebuilt, the Abbey celebrated 1,200 years in 2017. It is recognised by UNESCO as part of the Saint Jacques de Compostella road.

Eglise Saint-Pierre Aulnay de Saintonge

A must-visit for lovers of Romanesque art, Saint-Pierre church is listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO because of its connections with the St James of Compostella trail.

Musée des Cordeliers

An exceptional collection linked to the periods of Citroën expeditions in Africa and Asia, the first Sahara Crossing (1922-1923), the Black Cruise (1924-1925) and the Yellow Cruise (1931-1932) constitute the unique feature of the museum: ethnological pieces, a rich iconography and an authentic 'Croissant d'Argent' 'autochenille'.

Château de Dampierre sur Boutonne

A jewel of the 16th century Renaissance, the estate is nestled in the heart of a meander of small islands where French-style flower beds, a boxwood labyrinth, a flowered poplar grove and a small woodland are spread. The castle is an architectural jewel with its sculpted gallery with a mysterious alchemical decoration. He was the host of prestigious visitors, Francis I to Louis XIII, and later the painter Salvador Dali. The estate was the scene of a life of games, science and pleasure that the playful itinerary of the visit invites you to relive.

www.chateaudampierre.fr

Asinerie du Baudet du Poitou

In a green setting of 55 ha, come and discover the 'Baudet du Poitou', the oldest donkey breed in the world. Before leaving on a guided or free tour, take the time to visit the museum area with its videos, animations and exhibitions. New! 'la balade gourmande en attelage' including a visit to the Asinerie, the Château de Dampierre-sur-Boutonne and a meal in a horse-drawn carriage.

www.asineriedubaudet.fr



Sites 'Vignobles et Découvertes'

Le Cep Enchanté

Tour part of vineyard, have fun and learn about wines, Cognac and Pineau des Charentes and wine grower's job. 10 interactive stages with lighting, special effects, voice overs. Enjoy an interactive adventure! Interactive game for children & adults. New! Olfactory course.

4 rue de la Croix de l'Anglais – La Botte – 17490 Macqueville

+33 5 46 26 67 76

lecepenchante.fr

Vignoble Février

Our Charentais wine-making estate dates from the 18th century with alembic and enclosed courtyard. Laurence and Emmanuel offer a range of products marrying flavour and savoir-faire.

10 rue des Vallées – 17490 Macqueville

+33 5 46 26 63 93

www.vignoble-fevrier.com

Cognac Baudry

The wonderful atmosphere in the buildings where the wine is made and the layout of the reception area ensure a tour that highlights the intrinsic value of old farm Tools and equipment, the traditional distillery and the cellars in which the products are matured.

25 Chez Chiron

17770 Saint Hilaire de Villefranche

+33 5 46 95 32 42

www.cognac-baudry.fr

Les Caves Jules Gautret

Our cellars are a key place for the production and ageing of cognac, pineau and Charentais local wines. Discover the secrets of our cellar masters and then taste all the richness of our products during a tasting session. Visits all year round.

18 rue de l'Océan – 17490 Siecq

+33 5 46 26 61 86

www.lescavesjulesgautret.com

La Bambouseraie – Joan Brisson

The Joan Brisson winery between Cognac and Saint-Jean-d'Angély invites you to come and dream in its peaceful setting. This exotic, magical garden has about 60 varieties of bamboo and tropical and Mediterranean flowers. Visit a typical Charentais home, the distillery, and taste the Cognac and Pineau des Charentes.

16 rue du Moulin – 17160 Matha

+33 5 46 58 25 07

www.bambouseraie-brisson.com

www.cognac-brisson.com

Complete list on cognacetapes.com/en/label-vignobles-decouvertes

Events & Festivals

Festival Comme ça vous chante | 26th – 28th July 2019 | Saint Jean d'Angély

Classical music and jazz concerts at the Abbaye Royale. Residence and concert of a short-lived symphony orchestra created each year on the occasion of the festival.

commecavouschante.weebly.com

Festival de l'A4 | 13th – 15th September 2019 | Saint Jean d'Angély

This festival takes place at l'Eden, a new performance venue in Saint-Jean d'Angély: concert, theatre, circus, funambulist... proposed by the cultural association 'A4'.

www.spectaclevivanta4.fr

Festival 'Chambre et Jardin' Sites en Scène | 27th – 29th September 2019 | Château de Dampierre

1st edition of this Chamber music festival in the fabulous heritage setting of the Renaissance castle with its wonderful gardens crossed by the river Boutonne.

www.chateaudampierre.fr



More informations

St. Jean d'Angély Tourist Office:

www.visit-saintongedoree.co.uk

Contact: Crystèle Potier

+33 5 46 32 04 72

crystele.potier@saintongedoree.com



SAINTES



Saintes has made a pact with time without losing its soul for all that. It makes light of the centuries and gently draws on the marks they have left. Wedged in a loop of the river Charente, with regular floods as a reminder of nature, the city seems to capture quite indifferently the essentials of the passing time. A town of art and history, the prestigious remains of the ancient capital, the jewels of Roman art, the elegance of the classic facades and contemporary audacity come together in simplicity and harmony. The atmosphere is serene and acts like a charm, conducive to conjuring up the ethereal ghosts of those who roamed the city.



Premium accommodation

Hotel des Messageries***

34 suites & rooms (from 88 €)

17th century coaching inn with elegant and comfortable interiors. Ideally located in the heart of Saintes. Business and family charming hotel with personalized and unique welcome.

Rue des Messageries - 17100 Saintes

+33 5 46 93 64 99

info@hotel-des-messageries.com

www.hotel-des-messageries.com

Brit Hotel Bleu Nuit***

30 rooms (from 65 €)

Ideally located in Saintes to discover the historic center. Spacious, comfortable and soundproofed rooms. Bar and terrace.

1 rue Pasteur - 17100 Saintes

+33 5 46 93 01 72

hotel.bleunuit@wanadoo.fr

www.brithotel.fr

Gourmet restaurants

Le Parvis – Michelin Guide

Chef: Pascal Yenik

Charming 'charentaise' house by the river, terrace & garden, gourmet cuisine with fresh produce from the market.

12 bis quai de l'Yser - 17100 Saintes

+33 5 46 97 78 12

www.restaurant-le-parvis.fr

Les Saveurs de l'Abbaye – Michelin Guide

Chef: Vincent Coiquaud

Family house by the river Charente, facing the Abbaye aux Dames, terrace, fresh local produce from the market. Hotel restaurant Logis.

1 place Saint Pallais - 17100 Saintes

+33 5 46 94 17 91

www.saveurs-abbaye.com

La Table du Relais du Bois Saint Georges – Michelin Guide

Chef: Stéphane Gautier

Discover fine dining with a twist, our chef selects only the best local produce, the restaurant opens out on to the park and ponds. Hotel restaurant.

Le Pinier, 132 cours Genet – 17100 Saintes

+33 5 46 93 50 99

www.relaisdubois.com

Must See

Abbey aux Dames

Patrimony and innovation combines with the launch of the 3D visit of the 'Abbaye aux Dames', Musicaventure - a treasure chest of architecture, in words and music. It is just like being at the concerts themselves. New tours will be created over the next three years. The building is a jewel of Romanesque architecture built in the eleventh century. Every year the Abbey holds a series of classical concerts – thirty in nine days. The Young Orchestra of the Abbey is unique in playing pieces on original instruments of the period. The musical Carrousel – for adults and children alike. www.abbayeauxdames.org

The amphitheater

Built under the reign of Tiberius and completed under the reign of Claudius in the year 40, the amphitheater is characterized by a cavea (set of steps) propped upon the flanks of the dale and on an embankment at the west. On the eastern side, structures made entirely of bricks close the dale. Dimensions: 126 by 102 meters. The amphitheater was designed only to host the bloody spectacles the Roman population loved to attend. www.ville-saintes.fr

Arc de Germanicus - The monumental door !

Installed on the main square of the city, the Germanicus arch represents the symbol of Romanization. In 18-19 AD, it was erected at the entrance of the Roman bridge to enter the city. Located at the end of the Roman road, the 'Via Agrippa', this road with two bays crossed the centuries and was saved from the ruin in the 19th century by Prosper Mérimée. Today we still see the engraved stones of a dedication to Tiberius and Germanicus, a valuable testimony to the importance of the city in the first century. The Arch of Germanicus is now 2000 years old on the Bassompierre Place.

Cathédrale St Pierre

As regards the Roman church reconstructed over the 12th century, only the cupola of the south transept has survived. The reconstruction undertaken in the 15th century was interrupted by the wars of religion and the damage they wrought to the nave; the labors resumed in the 17th century. The edifice presents the strange silhouette of an unfinished Gothic construction site. Magnificent sculpted arching on the entrance door.

Eglise St Eutrope

Dedicated to the initial evangelizer and martyr of Saintes, the church was built by Benedictine monks and consecrated by Pope Urban II. Its layout is strikingly original: two churches (choir and transept) are superimposed and connected by a single nave, which was destroyed in the 19th century. The sculpted caps form a handsome whole. The sober massive architecture of the lower church (or crypt) contains the saint's tomb. The flamboyant tower was constructed in the 15th century thanks to a donation from Louis XI. The church is registered on UNESCO's Human Heritage list under the heading of 'Roads to Santiago de Compostela'.



Sites 'Vignobles et Découvertes'

Maison Groperrin

The Cognacs Groperrin offer you an intimate visit into the heart of one of the last independent cognac houses, famous all around the world for the quality of its products. You will discover the secrets of ageing, and the selection of "eaux-de-vie" for the "assemblage", and all the technical aspects, often unknown, of Cognac production. The visit will end by a tasting of old Cognacs and very old Pineau in the private laboratory of the cellar's master. You will then be welcome to visit our wine cellar, and the Cognatheque.

1 rue de Courbiac – Port Rousselle – 17100 Saintes
+33 5 46 90 48 16
www.lagabare.com

Ecomusée du Cognac

The wine-grower will welcome you to this 19th-century vineyard. To see: Wine-growing Musuem, audiovisual show, perfume organ, 600m² of exhibitions. Available on site: tasting of Pineau des Charentes, old cognacs and chocolates for sale. Permanent exhibitions about Cuba: its chocolate, coffee, and worm-famous Havana cigars. Exhibition of collector's vehicles and equipment for the 1950/60s.

Logis des Bessons – 35 route des Bessons – 17770 Migron
+33 5 46 94 91 16
domaine-tesseron.com/ecomusee-du-cognac

Logis de Folle Blanche

In a 16th estate named after the variety of grape that made Cognac famous, the Bossuet family of Independent Winegrowers, give you a chance to find out how Pineau and cognac are made in their superb still and cellar.

2 chemin des Terrières – 17610 Chaniers
+33 5 46 91 51 90
www.logisdefolleblanche.fr

Complete list on cognacetapes.com/en/label-vignobles-decouvertes



Events & Festivals

Classical Music Festival | 12th – 20th July 2019 | Saintes

47th Festival de Saintes. Always offering something innovative yet keeping the traditions of classical repertoires.

www.abbayeauxdames.org/festival-de-saintes

Coconut Music Festival | 12th - 15th September 2019 | Saintes

This festival celebrates exoticism and pop, the beautiful and the surprising with new music styles or unusual artists

coconutmusicfestival.org

More informations

Saintes Tourist Office:

www.saintes-tourisme.fr

Contact: Marie-Pierre Guilhot

+33 5 46 74 23 82

reservations@saintes-tourisme.com

OFFICE DE TOURISME
DE SAINTES ET DE LA SAINTONGE



JONZAC



At the heart of the Haute-Saintonge region in southern Charente-Maritime lies the city of Jonzac, ideally located between Cognac, La Rochelle and Bordeaux.

Surrounded by breathtaking landscapes and Cognac vineyards, Jonzac is a busy historical and activities centre, with well-maintained historical buildings and streets, some of which can be traced back to the Romans. Leisure activities: 'Les Antilles de Jonzac' pool, a brand new congress center, a Casino, a spa center, mills... and regularly organised events and exhibits.

Many more activities are available around: discovery of Cognac's history and production; Europe's largest Estuary, hikes and many more!



Premium accommodation

Château de Mirambeau*****

See page 5

Gourmet restaurant

Château de Mirambeau

The Château's restaurant 'Aux Deux Lévrier', loyal to the best French traditions, serves fine gourmet cuisine, creative and regional, inspired by the richness of the local market featuring the foods of the sea of the Estuary of Gironde.

1 avenue des Comtes Duchâtel - 17150 Mirambeau

+33 5 46 04 91 20

www.chateauxmirambeau.com/fr/restaurant-aux-deux-levriers-relais-chateaux

Must See

The Jonzac Castle

Jonzac castle is the city's symbol. Installed on a rocky spur and magnificently overlooking the Seugne Valley, the structure withstood attacks from the Hundred Years' War, Huguenots and slingers. The stronghold was transformed into a well-groomed seigniorial residence during the 17th century. During a guided tour, you may learn about the edifice's thousand year history, and wander through the city council's, the wedding hall where seigneurs' portraits are displayed, and the theatre from the Napoleon III era.

www.jonzac-tourisme.com

Les Antilles de Jonzac

One of the largest aquatic and recreational centre of Europe: with buildings spreading over an impressive 10,000m² (2.5 acres) of land, les Antilles de Jonzac facilities combine a spa area and tropical lagoon pools. The centre welcomes more than 400,000 visitors every year, making it a major tourist destination of the South-Western area. Exhibiting a daring architecture, the project was made possible thanks to the region geothermal energy heating the pool water and the ambiance of this space is devoted to relaxation and well-being.

www.jonzac-tourisme.com/en/what-to-do-and-see/les-antilles-of-jonzac.html

Mysterra® Labyrinth Park

NEW ! Opening May 2018

Located in Montendre, not far the Gironde Estuary, Mysterra® is a 21th century leisure park combining nature and technology: 6 labyrinths will invite visitors to explore biodiversity, art, senses, history... in a 11 hectares wooded park beside a lake.

www.parc-mysterra.fr





Sites 'Vignobles et Découvertes'

Maison de la Vigne et des Saveurs

Discover the flavours of the ancient Haute Saintonge area of Charente-Maritime through cognac, Pineau des Charentes and local wine. There's an interactive information area, workshops, cookery lessons, activities and the chance to meet people in the industry. You can also buy local produce and books about the area.

La Pierre Brune – 17520 Archiac

+33 5 46 49 57 11

www.maisondelavigneetdessaveurs.com

'Les Barbins'

'Les Barbins' is produced from a combination of must from selected grapes harvested manually. The cognac is distilled over a wood fire and the pineau is aged in oak casks in wine cellars.

17210 Orignolles

+33 5 46 04 43 35

www.lesbarbins.fr

Le Chai du Rouissoir

At Le Chai du Rouissoir, visitors are given an entertaining insight into the vigneron's craft. Three footpaths wend their way through the vines and woods dotted with information panels and a game for children.

You can also tour the distillery and taste some of the products.

1 Roussillon – 17500 Ozillac

+33 5 46 48 14 76

www.chaidurouissoir.fr

Château Montifaud

The Vallet family, which owns the Château Montifaud, produces blended and vintage cognacs made solely with grapes grown in its 120-hectare vineyard on the best soils in the Fine Petite and Grande Champagne areas. The cognacs are made using traditional methods during vinification, distillation and ageing.

36 route d'Archiac – 17520 Jarnac Champagne

+33 5 46 49 50 77

www.chateau-montifaud.com

Cognac du Frolet

The gluttony of an old Pineau des Charentes where each grape is bathed, the elegance and power of a cognac to taste with chocolate, the elegance of a cripes rosé that drives. Thomas and Bastien are similar to their wines, each bottles of Du Frolet is a story to tell ...

13 route du Petit Morlut – 17800 Chadenac

+33 6 86 15 18 89

cognacdufrolet.com

Tonnellerie Allary

The Allary cooperage is a family owned company founded in 1953 by M. Roger Allary. His son Jacky Allary became the manager in 1992. Since its creation the Allary cooperage embodies the best of french "savoir-faire". The Allary cooperage opened itself to new horizons with the region of bordelais, Cognac and exportation business (export to over 30 countries). A recognized "savoir-faire" of exception with 6 titles of "Meilleur ouvrier de France".

29 route de Cognac – 17520 Archiac

+33 5 46 49 14 59

www.tonnellerie-allary.com

Château de Beaulon

This beautiful 17th century building, one-time residence of the bishops of Bordeaux, has four cognac stills which help illustrate how the distillers' know-how has been passed down from generation to generation. In the grounds there are also some magnificent fountains with turquoise blue water.

25 rue Saint Vincent - 17240 Saint-Dizant-du-Gua

+33 5 46 49 96 13

www.chateau-de-beaulon.com

Complete list on cognacetapes.com/en/label-vignobles-decouvertes

More informations

Jonzac Tourist Office:

www.jonzac-tourisme.com

Contact: Sandrine Guichard

+33 5 17 24 30 48

sandrine.guichard@villedejonzac.fr



Villes-Champagne

ANGOULÊME



Angoulême is the capital of the cartoon with its International Festival in January, the dedicated museum of the 'ninth art' and the circuit of its painted murals. This 'Ville d'Art et d'Histoire' offers the visitor a journey through the rich culture of the town, from St Peter's Cathedral, a jewel of Romanesque architecture to the nineteenth century covered market.

Perched on a promontory and surrounded by ramparts, the town looks over the Charente River which can be explored by electric boat and cruise boat.

Premium accommodation

Hôtel St. Gelais****

See page 6

Mercure Hotel de France****

3 suites & 86 rooms (from 92 €)

Hotel in Angoulême situated face to the Covered Market, entirely renovated, its lounges and its restaurant "Jardin des Arceaux", which is opened to everyone and offers a contemporary cuisine. Restaurant 'Le Jardin des Arceaux'.

Contact: Karine Renay

1 place des Halles – 16000 Angoulême

h1213-gm@accor.com

+33 5 45 95 47 95

www.accorhotels.com/fr/hotel-1213-hotel-mercure-angouleme-hotel-de-france/index.shtml

Domaine du Chatelard****

10 rooms (from 115 €)

This charming domain is located in a natural protected area, 8 km from Angoulême, enclosed by 80 ha of pastures and woodland and a beautiful lake of 10 ha. The 19th century manor house has 10 individually decorated rooms, a casual restaurant with a beautiful terrace and splendid lake view. Tennis court, 20m swimming pool.

Contact: Pascale Erni

1079 route du Chatelard – 16410 Dirac

+33 5 45 70 76 76

info@domaineduchatelard.com

www.domaineduchatelard.com



Gourmet restaurant

NEW! Cokotte – Michelin Guide

Chef: Guillaume Veyssière

Traditional dishes revisited (local and organic products) served in cast-iron casseroles, in a modern decoration that blends perfectly with the 18th century building.

6 rue Trois Notre Dame – 16000 Angoulême

+33 5 45 95 15 19

www.restaurant-cokotte.fr



Sites 'Vignobles et Découvertes'

Les Caves Charlemagne

In 1921, Lucien Charlemagne, oenologist from Reims, created 'The Charlemagne cellars' in Angoulême, drawing their sources inside the ancient vineyards of the Cognac region. Come and discover the 6000 square meters of the Charlemagne wine cellars in the heart of Angoulême to enter the secrets of sparkling wines making according to the authentic traditional method. The diversity of the grape varieties gives to each one a unique and inimitable taste which will delight amateurs of sparkling wines.

15 impasse du Tropic – 16000 Angoulême
+33 5 45 95 02 77
charlemagne.fr

Pineau Roussille

The adjoining buildings follow the steps of cognac making, from the wine press to the distillery where two stills enthroned, up to the winery. The presentation of the yesteryear's tools reminds us of the hard work and joyful harvest of the past.

21 rue de Libourdeau – 16730 Linars
+33 5 45 91 05 18
www.pineau-roussille.com

Complete list on cognacetapes.com/en/label-vignobles-decouvertes

Must See

Cité Internationale de la BD et de l'Image

La Cité is housed in three buildings along the Charente river and includes a comic strip museum, temporary exhibitions, a high standard reference bookshop, a specialized public library and a panoramic restaurant. There is also an international artists' residence, only for professionals in the town center.

The comics museum: A complete history of French and American comics, a unique collection in Europe, is displayed within a remarkable 1,300 m2 scenography. The ninth art patrimony can be discovered through more than 400 pieces of original artwork, old editions, advertisement objects, toys, movie excerpts.

www.citebd.org

The Painted walls Tour

Explore the town to discover many comics characters painted on the walls: you will find 24 murals as you walk the town's street. Guided visits or maps available at the tourist office.

Le Trésor de la Cathédrale St. Pierre

Angoulême has the distinction of having a Romanesque Cathedral, not a Gothic one like many other cities in France. The carved facade is the masterpiece of the Cathedral.

Artist Jean Michel Othoniel was chosen to stage Angoulême Cathedral's Treasure. He has created an awe-inspiring work, a treasure trove which can't fail to inspire wonder and admiration. Guided visits.

Events & Festivals

Festival International de la Bande Dessinée | 30th January – 2nd February 2020 | Angoulême

Second largest comic book festival in Europe, Angoulême confirms its position as the world capital of comic books! Each year more than 200,000 visitors participate finding new comics from all over the world. 2,000 authors and 24 countries are represented.

www.bdangouleme.com

Musiques Métisses | 31st May – 2th June 2019 | Angoulême

Emblematic festival celebrating world music returns for the 43rd time to Angoulême but on a new site by the River Charente! The diverse selection of music is multicultural, fun and great for all the family.

www.musiques-metisses.com

Circuit des Remparts | 13th – 15th September 2019 | Angoulême

80th anniversary this year: this international race has been staged here since 1939 and attracts drivers of the finest classic cars racing around the town's ramparts. Unique in France, it features Aston Martin, MG, Bugatti, Porsche, Lotus and more.

www.circuitdesremparts.com

More informations

Angoulême Tourist Office:

www.angouleme-tourisme.com

Contact: Nathalie Couprie

+33 5 45 95 16 84

secretariat@angouleme-tourisme.com



AROUND ANGOULÊME, THE REFINED NATURE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE



Premium accommodation

Domaine des Etangs*****

See page 4

Château de Nieul**** Relais du Silence

3 suites & 11 rooms (from 130€)

Former hunting lodge of King Francis I, the hotel is a combination of history and beautiful architecture with nature: Renaissance façade, walls and staircases carved in stone, French-style garden surrounded by majestic trees and a peaceful lake. Decorated with subtle harmonious combination of ancient and contemporary pieces. Swimming pool, tennis court and bicycles. Restaurant 'La Grange aux Oies'.

Contact: Luce & Jean-Michel Bodinaud

chateaunieuilhotel@wanadoo.fr

+33 5 45 71 36 38

chateaunieuilhotel.com

Michelin starred restaurant

Dyades – 1 Michelin star

See page 7

Gourmet restaurants

Le Moulin de la Tardoire– Michelin Guide

Chef: Matthieu Brudo

Seasonal cuisine of local terroir in a charming and bucolic restaurant set by the river in a fully renovated mill.

Lieu-dit 'Forge' – 16220 Montbron

+33 5 45 66 41 46

www.moulinelatardoire.fr

La Grange aux Oies – Michelin Guide

Chef: Pascal Pressac

Located in the château's former stables, with a decoration mixing old stone and contemporary design, the restaurant offers a cuisine that puts a gastronomic spin on fresh regional products, vegetables from the garden and seasonal whims.

Château de Nieuil - 16270 Nieuil

+33 5 45 71 81 24

www.grange-aux-oies.com

Must See

Aubeterre-sur-Dronne has all the charm of one of the Plus Beaux Village de France - a central shaded square where one can laze on the terrace, stroll past the many craft shops on the tiny, winding streets, visit the church of Saint-Jacques with its eighteen metre Romanesque façade or paddle in the little river. On the very border of Périgord, this Petite Cité de Caractère has a magnificent subterranean church of vertiginous proportions.

Châteaux

Many castles open their doors to visitors : 10th century castle perched on top of a hill in Villebois-Lavalette, La Mercerie with its 220 metres of façade in Magnac-Lavalette, 11th century castle with its drawbridge overlooking the town of Chalais...

The lakes of Haute Charente, 100% nature

In Charente Limousine, two large lakes, Lavaud and Mas Chaban, are where freshwater sports can be enjoyed: swimming, water skiing, wind-surfing, canoeing plus there are lots of cycling tracks and horseriding and hiking are popular, as is bird-watching.

Gardens

Let yourself be carried away in different gardens of the Pays Ruffécois. Each of them will immerse you in a unique world that belongs to him: take a tour of Europe through the 'Jardins Européens' in Salles-de-Villefagnan, follow the stream that will guide you to the different gardens in Europe. Or dive into the heart of the 'Jardins Ephémères de l'Isle Nature' in Saint Fraise where artists, landscapers and amateurs are reviving ephemeral gardens on a special theme each year through exhibitions, workshops and classified murals.



Abbey of St. Amant de Boixe

One of the oldest monastic centres in Charente, the Abbey founded in the 11th century houses nowadays a Romanesque architecture centre. An audioguide helps visitors understand this impressive heritage: 12th century church, abbatial buildings, crypt and 14th century wall paintings.

www.abbayesaintamantdeboixe.fr

Théâtre Gallo-romain des Bouchauds & Espace d'Interprétation

The ancient site of Les Bouchauds is an essential place for walks to discover in all seasons. Every summer, archaeologists examine the grounds of this site, which houses one of the largest theatres in Roman Gaul discovered to date. Nearby, a museum presents the objects unearthed on the site, including the statue of Mercury, the Roman god of commerce and travel. Guided tours on reservation and audio-guides available.

www.eigr-bouchauds.fr



Sites 'Vignobles et Découvertes'

Maine Giraud

This estate ends its traditional tour of the store rooms and distillery with a visit to its own museum, dedicated to the acclaimed poet and winemaker Alfred de Vigny who once owned the property.

Le Maine Giraud – 16250 Champagne-Vigny

+33 5 45 64 04 49

www.mainegiraud.com

Domaine ABK6

Francis and Élodie Abecassis's estate extends over 240 hectares of vines. There are a number of educational tours of the property during which visitors discover, all in one place, the complete journey taken by the grape, from the vine right through to the glass. Cognac fans can even take part in 'master blender workshops' where they blend their own cognac and leave with their own bottle.

Domaine de Chez Maillard - 16440 Claix

+33 5 45 66 35 72

www.abecassis-cognac.com

Conte et Filles

Winegrowers for more than 5 generations, Blandine and Anne-Laure welcome you. You will discover a traditional vineyard where cognac is an art practiced in family. Introduction to the power of time on cognac, visit of the winery, discovery of the distillation and tasting.

Chez Grimaud

+33 6 62 38 37 06

www.contefilles.com

Domaine de la Chevalerie – Vignoble Pelletant

The Pelletant family is very pleased to welcome you to its property to discover our history and products. Whether a great lover or a beginner of this world famous alcohol, Cognac will reveal its secrets. Pineau and his story will immerse you in the late 16th century, when it originated. Méthodes Traditionnelles will seduce you with their freshness and subtlety. Special visits or activities available on reservation: on a tractor or a '2 CV', picnic in the vineyard...

La Chevalerie Route de la Vigerie - 16170 Saint Amant de Nouère

+33 5 45 96 88 53

www.cognac-pineau-pelletant.com

Le Champ du Frêne

Le Champ du Frêne develops 3 ranges of quality products on its estate of 26 ha, to be discovered on the site: delicious honeys, collected during the different seasons; subtle Cognacs aged in the cellar, in contact with oak barrels; pineaux with amazing flavours!

Merlageau – Rue de l'Alambic – 16140 Saint Fraigne +33 6 30 19 60 73

www.lechampdufrene.com

Complete list on cognacetapes.com/en/label-vignobles-decouvertes

Family Friendly Destination

Cassinomagus

A unique place to visit, these Gallo-Romans thermal baths are some of the best-preserved antique monuments in Europe. Cassinomagus is a vast archeological park to be enjoyed with the kids: guided tours, antique garden, Gallo-Roman games, archeological digs, and perhaps most importantly, excavations squares for children.

www.cassinomagus.fr

Château de La Rochefoucauld

For over a thousand years, this property has belonged to one of France's most illustrious families. The La Rochefoucauld chateau is an anthology of seven centuries of architecture. Visit the monumental stairway, the Renaissance galleries, Marguerite de Valois' boudoir... Kids can dress up too using the various costumes and accessories on hand.

www.chateau-la-rochefoucauld.com

'Geocaching' in Charentes

Terra Aventura. Experience the thrill of an amazing treasure hunt, a relaxing tour using a GPS, geo-caching brings sport and culture together, allowing families to explore tourist attractions, villages, countryside...

www.terra-aventura.fr

'Feelnature' in Taizé-Aizie

This leisure centre proposes many activities for families: discover the forest, from the root to the top with their tree climbing adventures and different routes through the canopy. Or explore the river Charente on a stand up paddle or canoeing for an hour or a weekend.

feelnature.fr



Events & Festivals

Festival International de Musique de Chambre | 4th May – 2nd June 2019 | Chalais – Châteaubernard - La Rochefoucauld - Baignes

Begun in 2008, this festival is entirely dedicated to the rich repertoire of chamber music.

www.chalaismusique.com

Festival des Sarabandes | 28th – 30th June 2019 | Saint Genis d'Hiersac

3 days of celebration with colours, emotions and surprises! Street theatre, visual artists, exhibitions, concerts, market, night illuminations... this unique festival is set in a different village every year.

www.sarabandes.lapalene.fr

Coupe d'Europe des Montgolfières | 31st July – 4th August 2019 | Mainfonds

This international gathering is a feature of the world as well as a hugely popular event that draws thousands of visitors over 5 days. Some 50 teams are competing including some of the best in Europe. There are also air displays, vintage aircraft and hot air balloons.

www.mainfonds.com

Festival de Confolens | 12th – 17th August 2019 | Confolens

Each year this international festival celebrates groups from around the world. It's a great place for music and dance lovers to mingle with artists from all over the globe as Confolens again becomes a melting pot of world culture.

www.festivaldeconfolens.com

More informations

Charente Limousine Tourist Office: www.tourisme-charentelimousine.com

Contact: Fatira Guetarni – fguetarni@tourisme-charentelimousine.fr

La Rochefoucauld Lez Périgord Tourist Office: tourisme.rochefoucauld-perigord.fr

Contact: Véronique Bouilloux – tourisme@rochefoucauld-perigord.fr

Pays Ruffécois Tourist Office: www.ruffecois-tourisme.com

Contact: Florence Bouchoux – accueil@ruffecois-tourisme.com

Pays du Rouillacais Tourist Office: www.rouillac-tourisme.fr

Contact: otdurouillacais@gmail.com

Sud Charente Tourist Office: sudcharentetourisme.fr

Contact: Yannis Adebiaye – direction@sudcharentetourisme.fr



PRACTICAL GUIDE

INCOMING AGENCIES & DMC



Cognac Tasting Tour: Jean-Luc Montembault

Official travel agency and DMC based in the vineyard of Cognac: wine tours, craft distillery visits, escorted tours for individuals, small groups, incentive tours...

Lieu-dit Chez Rivière

16130 Saint Preuil

+33 5 45 80 80 38

contact@cognac-tasting-tour.fr

www.cognac-tasting-tour.fr

XO Madame: Irène Doreau

XO Madame, creator of wine tourism experiences, invites you to discover Cognac and its vineyards as well for individual, group or a company, tailor-made stays...

29 rue des Belugeats

16130 Genté

+33 6 08 85 95 42

iredoreau@xomadame.fr

www.xomadame.fr

Angoulême Tourisme: Nathalie Couprie

BP 20222

16007 Angoulême cedex

+33 5 45 95 35 17

secretariat@angouleme-tourisme.com

www.angouleme-tourisme.com

Aunis Marais Poitevin: Laetitia Marmin

3 rue du 26 septembre 1944

17540 Saint Sauveur d'Aunis

+33 5 46 01 12 10

laetitia.marmin@aunis-maraispoitevin.com

www.visit-maraispoitevin.com

Destination Cognac: Marie-Christine Baudry

16 rue du 14 Juillet

16100 Cognac

+33 5 45 82 10 71

marie@destination-cognac.com

www.destination-cognac.com

Destination Ile de Ré: Camille Pinot

Rue des Embruns

17580 Le Bois Plage en Ré

+33 5 46 09 91 37

groupe@iledere.com

www.iledere.com

Destination Rochefort Ocean: Sophie Canesson

10 rue du Dr Peltier

17300 Rochefort

+33 5 46 99 86 97

sejour@rochefort-ocean.com

www.rochefort-ocean.com

Destination Royan Atlantique: Jessika Charles

46 avenue du Docteur Joliot Curie

17200 Royan

+33 5 46 08 17 36

groupe@royanatlantique.fr

www.royanatlantique.fr

Ile d'Oléron Marennes Voyages: Khrystyna Roy

22 rue Dubois Meynardie

17320 Marennes

+33 5 46 47 67 00

groupe@marennes-oleron.com

www.ile-oleron-marennes.com

La Rochelle Tourisme: Diane Simon

2 quai Georges Simenon

17000 La Rochelle

+33 5 46 45 90 90

d.simon@larochelle-tourisme-evenements.com

www.holidays-la-rochelle.co.uk

Office de Tourisme Charente Limousine: Fatira Guetarni

Le Bourg

16310 Massignac

+33 5 45 65 26 69

fguetarni@tourisme-charentelimousine.fr

tourisme-charentelimousine.fr

Offices de Tourisme Haute-Saintonge et Jonzac:

Sandrine Guichard

22 place du Château

17502 Jonzac cedex

+33 5 17 24 30 48

sandrine.guichard@villedejonzac.fr

www.jonzac-tourisme.com

Office de Tourisme Saintonge Dorée: Crystèle Potier

8 rue Grosse Horloge

17400 Saint Jean d'Angély

+33 5 46 32 04 72

crystele.potier@saintongedoree.com

www.visit-saintongedoree.co.uk

Saintes Tourisme: Marie-Pierre Guilhot

2, place Saint Pierre

17100 Saintes

+33 5 46 74 76 84

reservations@saintes-tourisme.fr

www.saintes-tourisme.fr

CAR HIRE WITH DRIVERS



L&L Prestig'Auto
2 place Jean Monnet
16100 Cognac
+33 6 83 91 32 97
contact@lprestigauto.com
www.lprestigauto.com

Arnoux Auto Prestige
20 boulevard de Javrezac
16100 Cognac
+33 5 45 83 80 69
auto.prestige.arnoux@orange.fr
www.arnouxautoprestige.com

B.V.S Blanchard Voiturier Service
1 Rue Villeneuve, 17000 La Rochelle
+33 6 83 92 29 08
resa@bvs-voiturier.fr
www.bvs-voiturier.fr



TOURIST OFFICES



Angoulême www.angouleme-tourisme.com
Aunis Marais Poitevin www.visit-maraispoitevin.com
Charente Limousine tourisme-charentelimousine.fr
Châtelailon-Plage www.chatelaillon-plage-tourisme.com
Cognac www.destination-cognac.com
Haute-Saintonge tourisme.haute-saintonge.org/accueil-tourisme
Ile de Ré www.iledere.com
Ile d'Oléron-Marennes www.ile-oleron-marennes.com
Jonzac www.jonzac-tourisme.com
La Rochefoucauld Lez Périgord tourisme.rochefoucauld-perigord.fr
La Rochelle www.larochelle-tourisme.com
Pays du Rouillacais www.rouillac-tourisme.fr
Pays du Ruffécois www.ruffecois-tourisme.com
Rochefort Océan www.rochefort-ocean.com
Royan Atlantique www.royanatlantique.fr
Saintes et la Saintonge www.saintes-tourisme.fr
Saintonge Dorée www.visit-saintongedoree.co.uk
Sud Charente sudcharentetourisme.fr

FACTS AND FIGURES

12.820 square kilometers, part of the biggest region in France, Nouvelle Aquitaine.
Population: 993.551 inhabitants.

CULTURAL HERITAGE



- **5 UNESCO Heritage Sites:** Citadelle de Saint-Martin de Ré, Church of Saint-Pierre d'Aulnay de Saintonge, Royal Abbey of Saint-Jean-d'Angély, Pilgrimage Hospital at Pons, Church of Saint-Eutrope in Saintes.
- **6 villages certified 'Plus Beaux Villages de France':** Aubeterre-sur-Dronne, Ars-en-Ré, La Flotte, Mornac-sur-Seudre, Talmont-sur-Gironde and Brouage.
- **7 villages certified 'Petites Cités de Caractère':** Aubeterre-sur-Dronne, Confolens, Nanteuil-en-Vallée, Saint-Sauvant, Saint-Savinien-sur-Charente, Talmont-sur-Gironde and Villebois-Lavalette.
- **7 towns or areas certified 'Pays ou Villed'Art et d'Histoire':** Angoumois, Cognac, Confolentais, Ile de Ré, Rochefort, Royan and Saintes.
- More than **600 roman churches**.

NATURAL HERITAGE



- **460 km of coastline with four islands:** Ré, Oléron, Aix, Madame and **42 pleasure ports**.
- **The river Charente.**
- **The Gironde Estuary**, largest wild one in Europe, **the Rochefort Dockyard**, **the Charente Estuary** 'Grand Site de France'.
- **The Cognac vineyard**, over 75,000 hectares.
- **The Marais Poitevin** 'Grand Site de France', interregional park of 42,201 hectares.
- 11,300 km of hiking trails
- **5 national and european cycle routes and 6,750 km of tracks:** La Véloodyssée® (best cycle route award 2017), La Vélo Francette®, Le Canal des 2 mers®, La Scandibérique® and the new La Flow Vélo®.

GASTRONOMY



- **2 'AOC'** (protected designation of origine): **Cognac**, **Pineau des Charentes**.
- **4 'AOP'** (protected designation of origine): **Butter Charentes Poitou**, **Ile de Ré potatoes**, **Chabichou du Poitou** (goat cheese) and **noix du Périgord** (walnut).
- **2 'IGP'** (protected geographical indication): **Vins Charentais** (wines) and **Huîtres Marennes Oléron** (oysters).
- **5 Michelin-starred restaurants.**

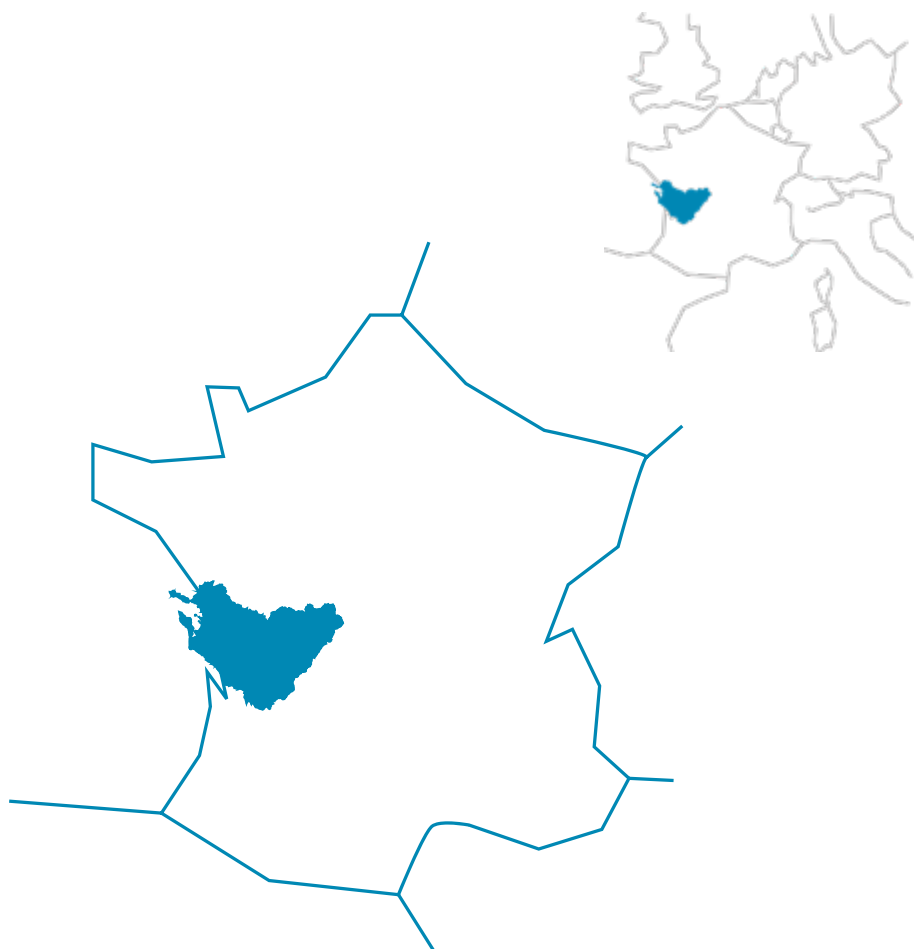
EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS



- **Les Francolies de La Rochelle** – 3rd most important music festival in France with 150,000 spectators.
- **Le Grand Pavois** – Top of the 5th most important nautical show in the world and most important in France that has been going for 44 years.
- **Festival International de la Bande Dessinée d'Angoulême** – Most important comics festival in Europe with 180,000 visitors.
- **2 of the top ten provincial tourist attractions** in France: the Aquarium of La Rochelle and the Zoo of La Palmyre.
- **1st destination of France for wellness** – 6 thalassotherapy centers (Ile de Ré, Chatellailon-Plage, Oléron and Royan) and 3 spa resorts (Rochefort, Saujon, Jonzac).
- **1st destination of France for disabled facilities** – 527 different places branded with the 'Tourisme & Handicap' label.
- **Cruises:** 29 different boat companies that carried 30,000 passengers in 2018.

CHARENTES

T O U R I S M



Charentes Tourisme

Site d'Angoulême
21, rue d'Iéna
CS 82407
16024 ANGOULÊME Cedex

Site de La Rochelle
85, boulevard de la République
17076 LA ROCHELLE Cedex 9

CONTACTS



Cécile VISCHETTI
c.vischetti@charentestourisme.com
Tél. : + 33 (0) 5 45 69 06 68
Portable : +33 (0) 6 68 17 20 96



Stéphane MORAND
s.morand@charentestourisme.com
Tél. : + 33 (0) 5 46 31 71 77
Portable : +33 (0) 6 73 69 50 65



@LesCharentes



tourismecharentes



infinimentcharentes

www.atlantic-cognac.com



CHARENTE
LE DÉPARTEMENT