

ATLANTIC COAST COGNAC COUNTRY



PRESS
KIT
2023

www.atlantic-cognac.com



la Charente
Maritime
LE DÉPARTEMENT



CHARENTE
LE DÉPARTEMENT



A top destination for tourists

A medal-winner among the favourite destinations for the French

Top tourist destination in Nouvelle-Aquitaine

735,424 beds available

6 750 km cycle routes

150 km of beaches

4 islands (Ré, Oléron, Aix, Madame)

53 marinas

River Charente navigable by houseboat from Angoulême

42 201 hectares of the Marais Poitevin Interregional Park

75,000 hectares of vineyards

224 000 hectares of forests

Fort Boyard approx. 2.5 million viewers per TV show

6 villages accredited as 'Plus Beaux Villages de France'

6 UNESCO Heritage sites

7 towns accredited as 'Villes et Pays d'Art et d'Histoire'

7 villages accredited as 'Petites Cités de Caractère'

14 villages accredited as 'Villages de Pierres et d'Eau'

9 villages accredited as 'Villages de Pierres et de Vignes'

6 sites accredited as 'Stations Sports et Nature'

3 resorts and 2 areas accredited as 'Famille +'

3 villages accredited as 'Plus Beaux Détours de France'

4 'Villages Etapes'

14 'Échappées Nature'

7 'Stations Vertes'

6 'Villes et Métiers d'Art'

2 'Grands Sites de France'

2 towns 'Cittaslow' (international network of cities for living well)

12 'villages et villes étoilés'

1 marina certified as 'port propre'

K-SÈVRES

erre-sur
ne
t-Pierre
e-Saintonge

Gourvillette

ille
OGNAC

nte
egonzac

Sonneville

Touzac

Barbezieux

Villebois-Lavalette

Brossac

Aubeterre
sur-Dronne

tiieu-la-Garde

VIENNE

CHARENTE

ANGOULÊME

DORDOGNE

HAUTE-VIENNE

Europe



The Charentes for everyone



More than 500 sites certified
'Tourisme & Handicap'

Gastronomic products of excellence

2 AOC (controlled designation of origin):
Cognac, Pineau des Charentes

4 AOP (protected designation of origin):
Charentes-Poitou butter, Ile de Ré potatoes, "Chabichou du
Poitou" goat's cheese, "Noix du Périgord" walnuts

2 IGP (protected geographical indication):
Charentais wines, "Marennes Oléron" oysters

ACCESS

• By air

Direct flights to La Rochelle from:
Bristol, Brussels-Charleroi, Cork, Dublin, Geneva,
London-Gatwick, London-Stansted, Lyon, Manchester,
Marseille, Nice, Porto
larochelle.aeroport.fr/en

• By train

LGV Atlantique / TGV:
Paris Montparnasse – Angoulême (2h15 / 1h45)
Paris Montparnasse - La Rochelle (2h30)
Bordeaux - Angoulême (0h40)
Bordeaux - La Rochelle (2h10)
www.sncf-connect.com

• By road

A10 Paris:
450 km to Angoulême
430 km to La Rochelle

• A10 Bordeaux:
115 km to Angoulême
190 km to La Rochelle

• A83 / N137 Nantes:
250 km to Angoulême
140 km to La Rochelle



Summary

The Charentes. Midway between Nantes and Bordeaux, the heart of the Atlantic coast. Famous beach resorts and historic towns. A Roman past. Delightful villages. The Charentes are made for cycling, whether on the islands or the long distance paths that criss-cross the region.

Explore the natural wonders. Marvel at Romanesque churches. Enjoy the astonishing variety of seafood. Don't forget to visit Cognac with its world-famous brands or the multitude of attractions along the river Charente. A mild climate makes this a top destination for the summer season. A perfect amalgam of past, present and perhaps the future!



Nature

P. 5-12

Art de vivre

P. 13-20



Culture

P. 21-28

For your diary

P. 29-35



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© Farid MAKHLOUF / Destination Côte Atlantique*



Nature

Wonderful stretches of golden sand, historic marshes ("Green Venice"), forests, paradises for migratory birds, islands, a tidal river... the Charentes have it all. A natural world that demands exploration – on foot, by bike or by boat – aided by experienced guides or just on your own.

Highlights



© Sébastien Laval

DOLCE VITA on the Charente

There are times when you want to let go and allow yourself to be drawn effortlessly along the gentle Charente, past rows of vines, jewels of Romanesque architecture, historic châteaux. The meanders that make the Charente “the most beautiful stream” in his kingdom according to François 1st are home to herons and an astonishing array of wildlife. Try an excursion from Saint-Simon aboard the newly built “La Charente”, or on the unique solar-powered “Bernard Palissy III” from Saintes or on the “La Demoiselle” based at Cognac – contemporary versions of the barges that in days gone by plied their trade along the Charente.

AH, LES GUINGUETTES!

The very French open-air cafés that have sprung up along the Charente, (whether at Cognac, at Marsac on an islet in the Charente, by the amazing, unique transporter bridge at Rochefort) invite the holidaymaker to relax, to enjoy an aperitif, to slake a thirst or to just while away the time. Enjoy a pizza, a burger with home-made frites at Fléac near Angoulême as you watch the river flow gently past. An ideal solution for feeding and watering families, cyclists, boaters ...



© Daniel Koller

MARATHON on the Charente

3rd June 2023 sees a remarkable marathon: 33km for individuals or teams not along the Charente but in it. Serious swimmers will pass through 12 Charentais villages without stopping. The guest of honour is the Australian legend Chloë McCardell who has swum the English Channel 44 times!

leflowdesgabbarriers.com/en



© Destination Royan Atlantique

THE CAVES of Régulus

The caves dug from the white cliffs at Meschers, overlooking the Gironde estuary, became home to our ancestors and later to smugglers, wreckers and Protestants during the Wars of Religion. Today, 15 or so caves and terraces over a distance of 300m can be visited. The scenography and museography have been updated to deal with themes such as the environment and ecology. Régulus was the name of the Napoleonic ship sent to defend the Gironde against the English. Alas, it was overcome and the crew landed at Meschers.

grottesduregulus.com/en

ADVENTURE and culture at Fontdouce

2022 saw the arrival of ATEs – all-terrain electric scooters – ideal for exploring the park and surrounding valleys between Saintes and Cognac. Three itineraries are proposed including vineyards and nearby hamlets. Another exciting activity to add to accrobranching, escape games and treasure hunts, all available on site. Fontdouce is a former abbey just 300m from the adventure park that has been restored over the last 50 years and offers valuable insights into medieval life – a total contrast from all the activities!

www.parc-aventure-fontdouce.com/en



LA ROCHELLE rewilding wetlands

Two hours to stroll through the saltmarshes of Tasdon, on the edge of La Rochelle. Two years' work and 5m Euros have produced an environmental triumph, enabling the neglected marshes to be reconnected to the Atlantic and home to a huge variety of migratory and non-migratory birds, otters, foxes... The diverse species of plants absorb significant quantities of greenhouse gases. Protecting the environment is the goal: mere humans have to follow a strict set of rules to visit the site.

www.holidays-la-rochelle.co.uk

BE AMAZED with our Mazes!

Two novel ways to enjoy the outdoors: at Poltrot-Nabinaud, in the meanders of the Dronne, a 3km green maze challenges visitors of all ages in a series of puzzles midway between geocaching and escape games; among the pines at Parc Mysterra by the lake in Montendre, your skills of map-reading, orienteering and timekeeping will be tested. In both centres, fun (and a little physical exercise) is the watchword! Family excursions par excellence.

www.poltrot.fr/en_GB / www.parc-mysterra.fr/en



GLAMPING in the north Charente!

It's incongruous: three Navajo tipis in a French field, each 6-8m tall with about 50m² of floor space. They're luxuriously appointed with a very large bed (+ 3 or 4 singles if needed), well insulated and with private facilities. At Woody's bar, you'll find all the kitchen facilities necessary to make the stay enjoyable and meals prepared by the hosts if required! Let's not forget "La Mer", a swimming lagoon for children, a zip wire and loads of other activities.

glampingtipis.fr



THE CHARENTES

THE destination for cycling

The figures speak for themselves: 6,750km of signposted trails, 2 European itineraries, 1 All Terrain Bike itinerary, 3 national itineraries and 240 establishments ("Accueil Vélo") that welcome cyclists.

La Flow Vélo is the Charentais emblem: running east-west over 300km starting from Thiviers in the Dordogne (new departure point for later in 2023: Terrasson-Lavilledieu on the river Vézère) to the île d'Aix following the meanders of the Charente, past Romanesque churches, delightful villages, fields and fields of vines ...

www.laflowvelo.com

EV3 **La Scandibérique**, opened in 2018, starts from Trondheim in Norway and ends at St James of Compostella in Spain, a distance of 5,300km. The Charentais section is over 200km and runs roughly north-south from the little town of Confolens in the north-east, passing through Angoulême (don't miss the painted walls!) to the south of the départements at Clérac.

www.scandiberique.com

EV1 **La Vélodyssée**, opened ten years ago, a European route that in France runs from Roscoff in Brittany to Hendaye near the Spanish border, enables cyclists to take in the Marais Poitevin, La Rochelle, Rochefort and Royan. It's easy to branch

off to see the islands of Ré and Oléron, themselves paradises for cyclists. La Vélodyssée has a passport with 38 stamps to collect, a real challenge!

www.cycling-lavelodysee.com

Le Canal des 2 mers à vélo is an itinerary that starts in Royan on the Atlantic coast, descends the amazing estuary of the Gironde with a halt at Pôle Nature in Vitrezay before heading for Sète on the Mediterranean.

en.canaldes2mersavelo.com

La Vélo Francette takes the cyclist from the port of Ouistreham (Caen) across Normandy, Anjou and Poitou to the capital of Charente-Maritime, beautiful La Rochelle.

cycling.lavelofrancette.com

If this is not enough, there are local itineraries along the river Boutonne or the valley of the Coran while an escapade to the estuary (and oysters) can be made along the Seudre to charming Mornac. Altogether there are 63 itineraries on offer.

"Le Routard" has sections on the five Charentais routes including a new one on La Scandibérique (available from April 2023). "Loopi", created in 2015 is an app to facilitate sustainable travelling by bike for all.



Must-SEE

© Fand Wakhout - Destination Côte Atlantique

FOUR CHARENTAIS islands

Ré is the best known, especially to cyclists of whatever level of competence thanks to its flatness and numerous cycle paths. Fabulous sandy beaches. Visit the “sauniers” who make the best sea salt in France, the oyster farmers, or go celebrity spotting in delightful villages such as La Flotte or Ars.

Oléron, the largest Atlantic island, offers visitors wonderful sandy beaches, marshlands, oyster farming, picturesque villages and ancient citadels. Visit a newly restored working windmill at La Brée.

Aix, departure point of Napoleon for St Helena, has ancient fortifications, forests, marshes and beaches to enjoy. Get around this 3km paradise by bike or on foot.

Tiny île **Madame** can only be accessed on foot, depending on the tides. Amazing views of the estuary, its forts, Aix, Oléron and even Ré.

www.holidays-iledere.co.uk

www.oleron-island.com

www.rochefort-ocean.com/en



Échappées nature

A network of 14 natural sites across Charente-Maritime that offer such esoteric pleasures as the marshlands of the Gironde estuary (Vitrezay), birdwatching (Marais d'Yves), stone-carving (Crazannes), rare donkey breeds (Dampierre-sur-Boutonne), salt farming (îles de Ré and Oléron) and sylviculture (Maison de la Forêt). Explore these natural worlds and landscapes, learn about migratory birds from experts, take part in workshops and visit exhibitions. There's a wealth of nature just waiting to be explored, aided by guides and experienced facilitators.

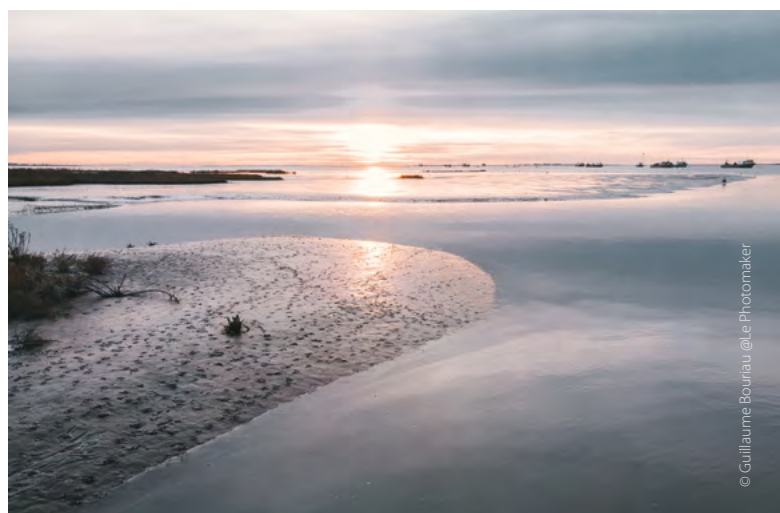
www.atlantic-cognac.com/echappees-nature-charente-maritime-atlantic-cognac/

MARAIS POITEVIN and Baie de l'Aiguillon

The best way to explore the 100,000ha of “Green Venice”, the second largest wetland in France, is by boat or stand-up paddle with an experienced guide who can point out the wealth of flora and fauna, notably migratory birds. Excellent signposted cycle paths too. Explore this “Grand Site de France” during a chambre d’hôte weekend or stay longer in a gîte.

Aiguillon Bay is the link between the Marais and the ocean, where migratory birds from Siberia and Canada spend the winter. Get around on foot, by car or best of all, by bike. It's also home to Charron mussels and the “galette Charentaise” with angelica and cooked in Surgères butter. Yum!

en.aunis-maraispoitevin.com



© Guillaume Bouriau @LePhotomaker



© Farid Makhoul - Destination Core Atlantique

| TWO ESTUARIES

The Charente and Gironde estuaries are well known to those interested by Anglo-French conflict and Napoleonic history with their forts designed to prevent access or to protect such major sites as the Arsenal in Rochefort. But they're also known for their remarkable flora and fauna, as paradises for birdlife. Spectacular views of the Gironde from Talmont and Saint-Georges-de-Didonne.

| FORESTS

Bike-riders, horse-riders, nature-lovers and walkers will delight in the forests of Charente-Maritime, whether on the continent or on the island of Oléron where wild boar and other fauna roam. Visit the magnificent "Forêt de la Coubre", just north of Royan and stretching to La Tremblade, only a few metres from the magnificent sandy beaches of "La Côte Sauvage".



© Aurélie Stapf (photo aérienne de l'île de la Coubre) / Aurélie Stapf (drone Win Air)



© Aurélie Stapf (photo aérienne de l'île de la Coubre) / Aurélie Stapf (drone Win Air)



WATER (AND OTHER) sports for all

Stand-up paddle, kitesurfing, canoeing and even swimming can be practised in the Atlantic, in various lakes... Water-ski in the Charente at Taillebourg, hire electric boats, kayaks, pedalos. There's an in-Charente non-stop swimming marathon in June. And there's the famous road marathon at La Rochelle. If your idea of total enjoyment is hiking or themed walks, use up your energy here in the Charentes where you can also enjoy vineyards, protected natural areas and, of course, the seaside. More sedentary activities but thrill-giving nonetheless include hot-air balloon and microlight flights. And for the adventurous, many sites offer acrobatics for all ages. A genuine paradise for those who love activities, whatever their level!



© Farid Makhouf - Destination Côte Atlantique

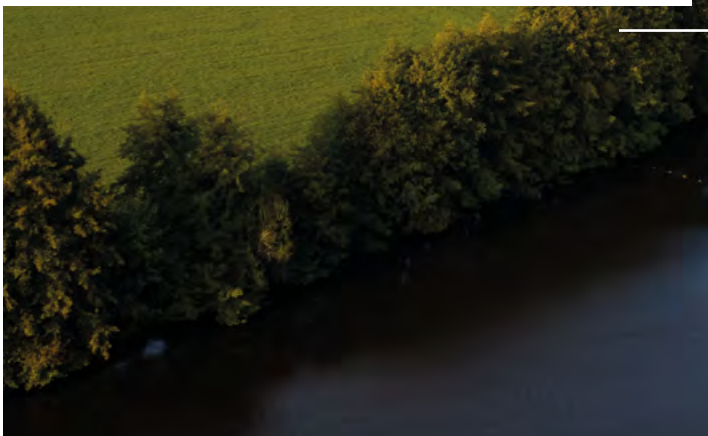
THE LAKES of Haute Charente

Two large lakes have been created in Charente-Limousine by damming the very beginnings of the river Charente and they are ideal spots to relax. Here you can not only swim at attractive beaches but boating, SUP and fishing can all be enjoyed here, along with cycling and walking. Adventure park nearby.

www.tourisme-charentelimousine.fr



© Emmanuel Berthier - La Scandibérique





| THE CHARENTE

The 350km long river Charente meanders gently from Charente-Limousine to the ocean at Rochefort. Along the way, major centres of art, culture and heritage are visited: Angoulême, Cognac, Saintes and Rochefort itself. You can hire houseboats (no need for a licence) for a week or more and enjoy being captain! And... swim, practise water sports, cycle thanks to trails such as La Flow Vélo, savour Cognac and Pineau des Charentes, discover Roman heritage, comic books and links with French naval history. Let's not forget the local gastronomy nor delightful villages such as Port d'Envaux...



*Sports
nature*

Six sites in Charente, including Angoulême and Ruffec, have been accredited. Activities in the heart of nature include climbing (licence necessary), canoeing, all terrain biking, orientation, triathlon, horse-riding and for the real enthusiasts, a 650km ATB trail, Le Tour de Charente that takes in the whole of the département.



Art de vivre

Characterful villages amongst the most beautiful in France, Charentais gastronomy and famous chefs, Cognac and Pineau des Charentes, luxury hotels, well-being and thalassotherapy... a long list of pleasures awaits the traveller seeking to savour a way of life that appeals to so many.

Highlights



COGNAC biodiversity trail

Created by Maison Boinaud, the trail takes visitors from the production centre on a two hour, 4km walk amongst the vines, finishing back at the cellars and, of course, a tasting. Their philosophy is simple: "we respect the land where our vines grow and the healthier our soil, the more fertile it will be". A mobile phone app connects to 12 interactive terminals throughout the itinerary. The cellar contains 41 alembics and is the largest family-owned distillery in the region.

www.boinaud.com/en



MARTELL, the Vitiscoot and the boutique

Vitiscoot: all-terrain electric scooters that enable the visitor to discover sustainable viticulture and also enjoy magnificent views of the Charente. The house of Martell has also created an innovative boutique-workshop that encourages new experiences. For example, the client fills his personalised and numbered bottle directly from the cask of a special blend of just 610 litres. The bottle can then be engraved and the message painted in gold or silver. And of course there is an opportunity to taste the best Cognacs, such as XO or Cordon Bleu...

www.martell.com/en-uk

Micro distillery in Charente-Maritime

Camille and Luce are creators of limited edition, artisanal spirits; their two hundred year old alembics produce inspired exotic concoctions. Such as marsh pepper (Alexanders), wild plum, hollyhock. They are also adept at recycling the leftovers from chocolate and ice cream makers for their award winning creations. Their bottles are returnable and this has brought them the Cyclab prize for recycling. Convivial tastings, visits of their laboratory for the curious or specialists. Their botanic garden where no doubt ideas for the latest blends and flavours are already being dreamed up, is under way.

www.instagram.com/disent.elles





© Marion Berry Martin

AN ENCHANTING BREAK at Longeville

Yannick and Mélanie have transformed a 17th and 18th century property of some 450m² into a 4* gîte with 7 bedrooms and 6 bathrooms that is perfect for a family get-together. A separate chambre d'hôtes is equipped for people with reduced mobility. And there's a vast, heated indoor pool... Set in the undulating countryside of Charente-Limousine, near the village of Esse and close to the small town of Confolens, a "Petite Cité de Caractère".

domaine-de-longeville.com

RÉMY MARTIN and the Méhari

A newly converted electric Méhari takes up to 3 visitors on a two and a half hour excursion starting at the renowned house of Rémy Martin in Cognac. After travelling through vineyards and enjoying the sublime panoramas, the visit doesn't end with the tasting of Cognac in an historic cellar but encourages the visitor to discover how this famous brand deals with environmental issues.

www.remymartin.com



Sheer luxury at Massignac

The Domaine des Etangs is in the top ten hotels in France, Paris excepted, voted for by the Condé Nast Travellers Readers' Choice Awards 2022. Set in 1000ha of grounds, the 13th century château and its outbuildings were transformed in the 1980s into a hotel of exceptional quality with a cuisine based on organic produce from the site, a well-being centre, indoor and outdoor pools.

domainedesetangs.com/en



Domaine des Etangs © World Chassigneux



© Domaine de Longeville

LUXURY & TRANQUILITY in Cognac

Spring 2023 sees the opening of Domaine de la Nauve in Cognac, transformed from a distillery by talented Charentais artisans. Just twelve luxurious, individually designed rooms, a gastronomic restaurant managed by a top Parisian chef, cocktail bar and brasserie + every facility you expect from a 5* Relais & Châteaux establishment. The remarkable 4.5ha park is centred on a majestic sequoia and the kitchen garden provides fresh vegetables and herbs, the basis of a local and eco-responsible cuisine.

www.lanauve.com/en



© Château de Puy Vidal

FROM CALIFORNIA to Puy Vidal

It all happened in 2021 when Julia and her family bought the 13th century Château de Puy Vidal at La Rochefoucauld. Closed to the public since 2018, the 3ha of listed gardens and the château will soon be welcoming guests in chambres d'hôtes as well as to courses on the arts, workshops, festive events. The move from the USA could have been horrendous but the family's desire to become chatelains overcame everything else!

www.theladyofthechateau.com



© Villa Amazone

NATURE & MODERNITY at Villa Amazone

Just a few metres from the Grande Conche beach and 2km from the centre of Royan, the 190m² Villa Amazone is a perfect blend of elegance, charm and modernity. Sea view of course, well-being space with spa and sauna, three bedrooms and two bathrooms ... The semi-hotel concept is ideal for spending a holiday that is genuinely "tout confort".

BOUTIQUE HOTELS COLLECTION and its new member: Le Grand Large

Inspired by the architecture of Le Corbusier, Le Grand Large, on the west coast of the île d'Oléron enjoys unparalleled views over the ocean, wonderful beaches of fine sand and a background of forest and dunes. The 4* hotel, currently undergoing renovations, reopens on 1st April, in principle with a fifth star. The 31 rooms are luxuriously appointed and some have a private spa. The hotel boasts sauna, hammam, indoor pool and a new beach restaurant. Elegance and comfort are the watchwords.

leboutiquehotelscollection.com/etablisements/le-grand-large



© Hotel Le Grand Large

OCTOPUS at La Rochelle

Octopus is not just a restaurant. A way of life perhaps, closed only between 2 and 8 in the morning. It's a bar, a restaurant and a rooftop perched on a quayside in the port of Les Minimes, La Rochelle. Decorated and furnished with exotic wood and greenery. A meeting place for all the generations, locals, students. The three floors offer astonishing views of the ocean, the port and beautiful La Rochelle.

octopus-larochelle.fr



★ CHARENTAIS CHEFS

LES SOURCES de Fontbelle

A restaurant with 1* Michelin, a Bistrot (La Forêt des Sources) and chambres d'hôte (La Maison des Sources) at the same site, the chalk cliff of Eaux-Clares, in the heart of dense vegetation yet just minutes from the bustling centre of Angoulême. Guillaume Veyssière, the chef, has a clear philosophy: satisfying the client through discovery of his culinary universe, using locally sourced produce depending on the season.

sourcesdefontbelle.com



CHRISTOPHER COUTANCEAU

Set resolutely facing the Atlantic on the Concurrency beach at La Rochelle, the 2* Michelin restaurant and its eponymous chef is probably the best-known restaurant in the Charentes. Its specialities are sea-based: oysters, scallops, lobster ... The cellar is home to over 20,000 bottles from the four corners of France. La Table du Chef enables up to eight lucky guests to watch the calm preparations in the kitchen, far from the excitement of TV chefs. And there's a Bistrot too, La Yole de Chris. The hotel is a Relais et Châteaux, the luxurious Villa Grand-Voile.

christophercoutanceau.com/en

Must-SEE

© Stéphane Charbeau

COGNAC

A charming town on the banks of the Charente that gave its name to a famous drink consumed all over the world. And to a vineyard of some 80,000ha that is the exclusive source of the white grape (Ugni Blanc) from which it is made. The vineyard extends mainly across Charente-Maritime and Charente. The great Cognac houses, such as Martell or Rémy Martin have a range of organised visits that appeal to all, ending of course with tastings. They share their history and the intricate process of blending different ages and crus to produce the perfect beverage. The secret of Cognac is the concept of double distillation that produces the famous liquid that is then stored for many years in oak casks before blending and sale.

www.cognac.fr/en

PINEAU DES CHARENTES

A very special drink of around 17° produced by blending grape juice and Cognac. The law requires that both elements are from the Cognac appellation vineyard. Aged in oak casks for a minimum of one year up to 10 years for very old Pineau. Its colour, and of course taste, will depend on the grape varieties used (Merlot, Colombard, Ugni Blanc amongst others) ranging from white, via rosé to red. It is best served chilled and ideally in a large wine glass as an aperitif. It also adds a delicious touch to melon or fruit cocktail. Old and Very Old Pineau are however perfect accompaniments for foie gras, goat's cheese and even chocolate-based desserts.

www.pineau.fr/en

WINES from the Charentes

Perfect for any occasion! Rosé, white and red wines produced from emblematic grape varieties such as Merlot, Cabernet and Sauvignon amongst others. They benefit from being geographically protected (IGP) and reflect the personality of their "terroir", a palette of tastes that give these wines their diversity. Widely available in good restaurants.

vinscharentais.fr

SEA AIR and seafood

Oysters from Marennes-Oléron are the result of the intense work of producers and the marriage with nature. Unique in the world, the "fine de claire" is matured in seawater renewed with each tide. Charente-Maritime mussels (protected by the European "Traditional Speciality" label) are grown on cords attached to stakes. Fish? Well, there are sea bass, red mullet, sole, langoustines, prawns, sea bream, sardines, scallops... Concentrated on the île de Ré and in the Marennes-Oléron basin, the production of "white gold" (sea salt) is a thriving artisanal activity.



© Flo & Clem

GASTRONOMY, food for thought...

The Charentes are home to so much delicious produce. You could start with new potatoes (protected by an IGP) from the île de Ré with their distinctive flavour. Black truffles are a recent and extremely tasty market. Chocolates from La Rochefoucauld, Galettes Charentaises (a tradition in Saintonge), chicken from Barbezieux, veal from Chalais... Caviar from the estuary of the Gironde: try with a glass of Cognac chilled to -18°.

FOOD AND DRINK workshops

Cookery classes from some of the best chefs in the Charentes are the perfect opportunity to discover not only their secrets but where you'll also learn to use the best ingredients. And after all the work... share the results with friends or family!

A real rarity: following the instructions of a cellar-master, you will learn how to blend "eaux-de-vie" to make your own Cognac or to create a Pineau des Charentes. After an exclusive visit of the cellars, you'll leave with your personalised bottle!



© Faid Makhlouf - Destination Côte Atlantique



© Philippe Vaures

Chefs and stars

The Charentes are also a gastronomic delight. "Coutanceau" in La Rochelle enjoys 2* Michelin, an oceanside restaurant that specialises in very freshly caught seafood. Among the restaurants with one star to their name are "L'Hysope" at La Jarrie, "La Ribaudière" at Bourg-Charente, "L'Aquarelle" à Breuillet, "Le Moulin de la Tardoire" at Montbron, "Les Sources de Fontbelle" at Angoulême, "Les Foudres" at Cognac and the new one near Angoulême, "Aumi" at Puymoyen.

www.atlantic-cognac.com/charentes-michelin-star-red-restaurants/



DELIGHTFUL Charentais villages

More than 600 Romanesque churches bear witness to the heritage of Charentais villages and today, this heritage is best exemplified by the accreditations that many villages have acquired. Such as "Plus Beaux Villages de France" (eg Talmont-sur-Gironde), "Petites Cités de Caractère" (eg Confolens) or "Villages de Pierre et d'Eau" (eg Saint-Savinien). These accreditations reward not only architectural heritage but also the collective desire of the community. Villages that reflect the best the region has to offer, whether ancient buildings or scenery but also that indefinable quality "douceur de vivre". Villages that the visitor can feel at home in, where s/he wants to just stroll or soak up the atmosphere while enjoying a drink or a meal.

<https://www.atlantic-cognac.com/fall-for-the-charm-of-the-prettiest-villages-in-france/>



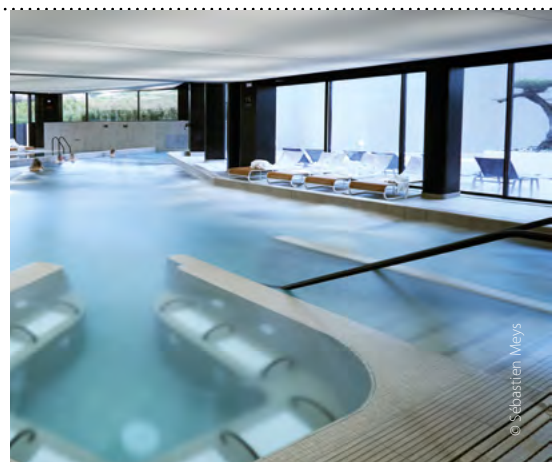
MADE IN THE CHARENTES

If you're looking for presents or souvenirs, local producers and crafts people will be able to help. Here are a few suggestions, all available from boutiques or workshops: donkey's milk soap from the île de Ré, comic books, "Charentaises" (traditional, iconic slippers), gold embroidery, locally made beers, foodstuffs of all kinds such as walnut oil or vinegar made from Pineau des Charentes, chocolates, artisanal balsamic vinegar aged in oak barrels, sea salt, caramels. You'll be spoilt for choice!

Thalassotherapy and balneology

The Charentes, with 3 spa resorts and 5 thalassotherapy centres are the top destination in France for wellness. The spa resorts (Jonzac, Rochefort and Saujon) draw their resource from hot springs between 200 and 1,850m below ground and are beneficial for dealing with ailments such as rheumatism. The sea-water centres at Royan, Châtelaiillon-Plage, on Oléron and 2 on the île de Ré, are principally concerned with rejuvenation and wellness.

www.atlantic-cognac.com/thalassotherapy-my-me-time





Culture

Outstanding Romanesque churches in the heart of sleepy villages, historic towns with links to an Anglo-French past, astonishing 1950s architecture, a 400 year old lighthouse, important Roman sites, festivals of all kinds of music, countless museums, the capital of the comic strip... there's so much to take in!

Highlights



CHÂTEAUX in the Charente

These are but two of the numerous châteaux that have so marked the history of this region, whether stately homes or fortresses. La Roche Courbon, between La Rochelle and Saintes dates from 1475 and has magnificent gardens, the whole acclaimed by the writer and explorer Pierre Loti. Today it makes for a wonderful site for weddings... and escape games! La Rochefoucauld, east of Angoulême, dates from 1019 but new constructions have taken place over the centuries, especially during the Renaissance, that have given the château an aura of power and prestige. It is a remarkable place to hold a seminar or a wedding breakfast. Don't ignore Taillebourg or Crazannes, close to Saintes...

<https://www.atlantic-cognac.com/our-10-most-beautiful-chateaux-open-to-visitors/>

NEW FRANCE and the Quebeckers

More and more Quebeckers make the pilgrimage to Marennes-Oléron, departure point for their ancestors who sailed across the Atlantic to New France in the 17th and 18th centuries. They want to discover their family roots and seek out the birthplace or origins of their forebears. Samuel de Champlain, navigator, explorer and founder of Quebec City, was probably born at Brouage, then a fortified port, around 1570. A dedicated public website offers suggestions for visiting the area.

www.terresdenosancetres.com



| Turn, turn, turn...

The historic Moulin de la Brée, dating from at least 1686, stands in the north of the île d'Oléron. After many years of painstaking restoration by experts in traditional mills, it will open to the public in late Spring 2023. This is a working windmill, not just a curiosity. The miller produces flour (estimated at 38t this year) from locally grown cereals, thus contributing to the development of short supply chains and sustainable agriculture and thanks to partnerships with local bakers and farmers.

www.explore-oleron.com/sites/le-moulin-de-la-bree



| STREET ART in Angoulême

Over the last 40 years, Angoulême has become renowned for its 29 "Painted Walls" that have multiplied across the capital of the Charente. UNESCO has designated Angoulême as a Creative City, thanks to its annual festival celebrating the comic strip (BD) and associated activity, such as the BD museum, schools specialising in the image and residences for BD authors. The huge murals have been created by some of the best known names in comic strips and feature stars such as Astérix, Lucky Luke, Blake & Mortimer... The difficult task of painting these trompe-l'oeil is carried out by local artists, linked to the Cité de la Création, based in Lyon and creator of painted walls elsewhere.

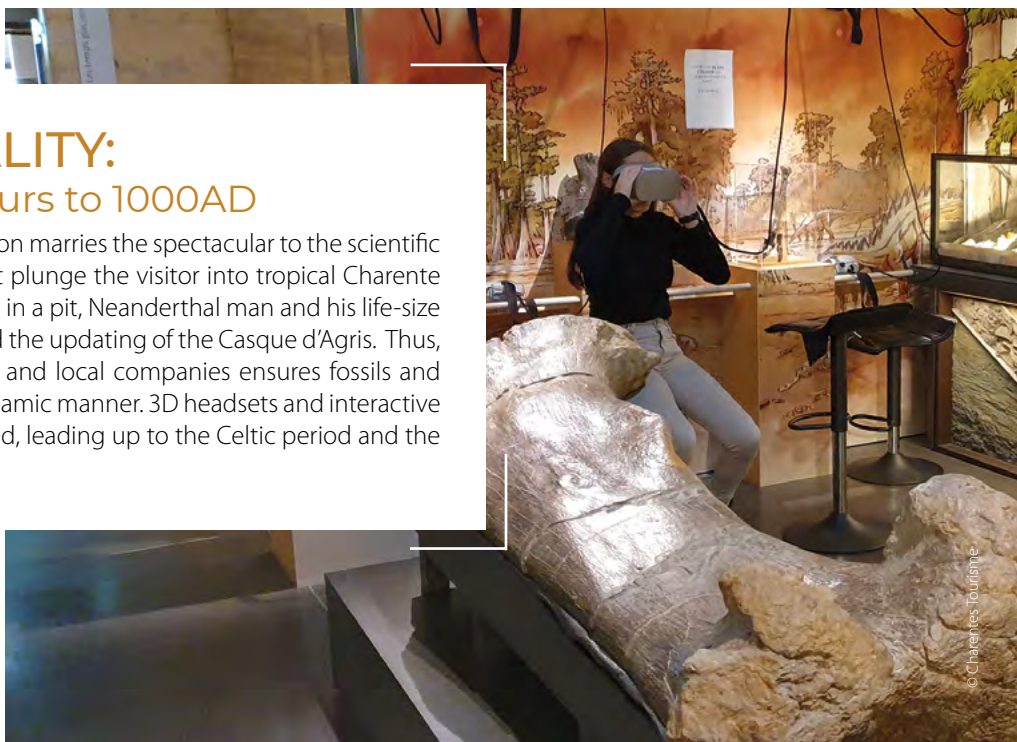
<https://www.angouleme-tourisme.com/en/2021/12/29/les-murs-peints/>



| AUGMENTED REALITY: from the time of Dinosaurs to 1000AD

The Museum of Angoulême's new presentation marries the spectacular to the scientific thanks to augmented reality animations that plunge the visitor into tropical Charente at the time of the dinosaurs: trapping a bison in a pit, Neanderthal man and his life-size son playing hide and seek with the visitor and the updating of the Casque d'Agris. Thus, the collaboration between palaeontologists and local companies ensures fossils and objets d'art are brought to life in a fun yet dynamic manner. 3D headsets and interactive screens show how prehistoric man developed, leading up to the Celtic period and the reconstitution of an early defensive castle.

maam.angouleme.fr/musee-dangouleme





© Sébastien Lamy

MUSICAVENTURE in Saintes

The Abbaye aux Dames in Saintes, home to a 12th century church (Sainte-Marie) an emblem of Romanesque architecture, has long been a centre of musical excellence and diversity. In Spring 2023, an exciting new development (the Basilik) will be inaugurated. The modernist carousel, already likened to the futuristic Pyramid at the Louvre, will be home to the Odyssée, an experience for children or adults to discover not only the city of Saintes and its history but also the secrets of baroque music, the possibility to compose your own music and to share with family and friends.

www.abbayeauxdames.org/en



© David Compain

ROCHEFORT celebrates the centenary of Pierre Loti

The remarkable Pierre Loti, flamboyant naval officer, explorer, writer, member of the Academy died in June 1923. Alas, the essential works on his Rochefort birthplace will not be finished before 2024 but a series of celebratory events run throughout 2023 with the centrepiece during the weekend of 10th June. Schoolchildren, museums, theatre, conferences, street art, exhibitions will all be contributing to bringing this larger than life personality to the forefront both in Rochefort and nationally.

Geocoaching, Poi'z and Terra Aventura

Geocaching is a cultural activity that encourages exploration of villages and countryside. A new circuit for cyclists of 10km lasting around 3 hours has been created in Crazannes that enables participants to discover the multitude of strange sculptures near the famous Crazannes quarry, stone from which was used in the construction of Fort Boyard and Cologne cathedral. The Terra Aventura app guides people to caches where the treasure (badges of tiny creatures called Poi'z) may be found. The newest of 80 trails in the Charentes.

www.terra-aventura.fr



© Charentes Tourisme



Must-SEE

© Farid Makhlouf - Destination Côte Atlantique

AUTHENTIC La Rochelle

The three emblematic towers in the old port are magnets for visitors, offering wonderful views of the islands, the town and Fort Boyard but they are also symbols of the town's rich architectural heritage. The sixteenth century Protestant city, besieged by the crown, was the departure point for many seeking a new life in the New World. The extensive arcades are perfect for strolling around on a hot summer's day and lead the visitor to the newly restored Town Hall. Today, La Rochelle is also known for its gastronomy, its rugby team, its university, its world-famous aquarium and as being one of the top French towns to live in.

www.holidays-la-rochelle.co.uk

ROCHEFORT, the naval city

In the mid-17th century, Louis XIV and his minister Colbert decided to build a dockyard on the banks of the Charente at Rochefort where warships of all sizes would be built and refitted. The magnificent ropeworks, "La Corderie Royale" is today an exciting hands-on museum. The National Maritime Museum has exceptional collections dealing with the town's past. Accredited as a "Grand Site de France", Rochefort has much to offer the visitor: 17th and 18th century architecture, links with the film world and of course its naval past. Just a few km away is the remarkable Transporter Bridge at Échillais, the sole remaining working bridge of its type in France.

www.rochefort-ocean.com/en



© Aurelie Stapf / portraituredesign.com

ROYAN and the estuary

An intriguing blend of unique "Belle Époque" villas and classic post-war constructions such as the church of Notre Dame, the market and the convention centre. The principal attractions for most visitors though are the beaches and coves, notably the 3km long "Grande Conche" and they make Royan and its neighbouring communes a major site for family holidays. Here you can swim, kitesurf or simply watch the world go by. The world-famous La Palmyre zoo and delightful villages such as Talmont-sur-Gironde and its breath-taking site are just a few km away. In the distance, at the mouth of the Gironde estuary, stands the imposing, 400 year old, UNESCO-listed, Cordouan lighthouse.

www.royanatlantique.fr/en



© Farid Makhoul - Destination Côte Atlantique

SAINTES, a town of art and history

The first capital of Roman Aquitaine, Saintes is renowned for its Roman past. Witness the Arch of Germanicus or the huge amphitheatre. But there are also three remarkable jewels of Romanesque art: the cathedral of Saint-Pierre, the church of Saint-Eutrope and its impressive crypt and last but not least the Abbaye aux Dames. The abbey has become a centre for music and concerts, and the Festival of Saintes takes place in July. Two excellent museums. The Charente flows through the centre of the city and there are opportunities to enjoy the river on a unique, solar-powered cruise-boat.

www.saintes-tourisme.fr



© Sébastien Laval

ANGOULÊME and the world of comics

The jewel in Angoulême's crown is the magnificent Saint-Pierre cathedral that dominates the city. But there are other more recent jewels too: the 19th century covered market, the Museum with its impressive collections of arts from Africa and Oceania as well as the exhibition from the renowned archaeological site at Angeac. And there's the world of comics that includes the International Festival in January, the dedicated museum and the painted murals across the city by local artists. Angoulême has joined the UNESCO Creative Cities network. There are cruises on the Charente and you can follow the bucolic river by bike.

www.angouleme-tourisme.com/en



© Aurélie Stapp (aurelie@angeac.com) - Maxime Mendizabal



© Stéphane Charbau

COGNAC, an exceptional brand

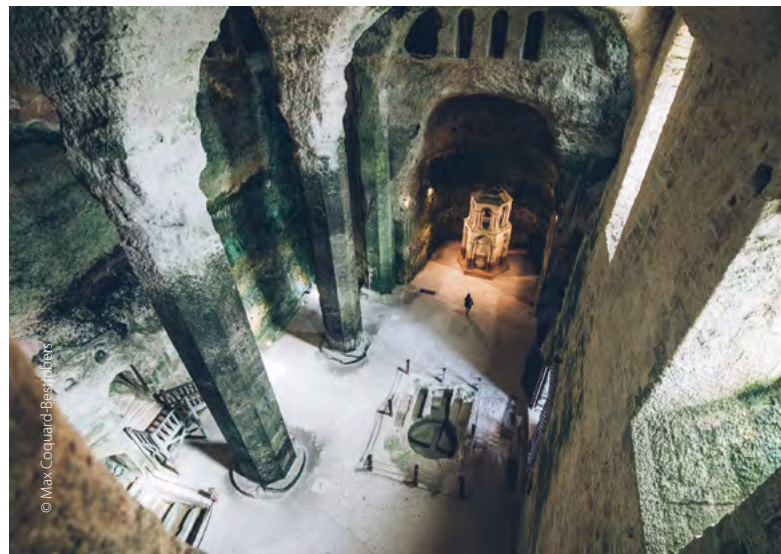
Birthplace of François 1er, Cognac has given its name to one of the most famous drinks in the world. Here you can enjoy visits to some of the great names: Hennessy, Martell and Rémy Martin or, on a boat trip, to Courvoisier. A city of art and history, Cognac is a delight for strollers and lovers of architecture. It's also home to a large variety of festivals. The town is surrounded by vineyards, many of which welcome visitors with a range of activities for all ages. And the villages with their Romanesque churches, chapels and abbeys set in rolling countryside. Explore the town and enjoy this exceptional region.

www.tourism-cognac.com/uk

AUBETERRE-SUR- DRONNE, and its subterranean church

At the border between Dordogne and Charente stands this agreeable village with painters' workshops and galleries. In the centre of the village is the unique church of Saint-Jean, built under the château, torn from the rock by the hand of man: 27m long, 16m wide and with a ceiling 20m high. After the visit, picnic by the river Dronne!

www.sudcharentetourisme.fr



© Max Coquard-Besnier



SAINT-AMANT-DE-BOIXE

Romanesque architecture

More than 1,000 years old, the imposing abbey is a masterpiece of Romanesque architecture that enables visitors to come to grips with how life was for the Benedictine monks. Thanks to a fun interactive tour with models, screenings, illustrations and archaeological finds, the process of construction is brought to life. Guided visits, lectures and exhibitions.

www.ruffecois-tourisme.com



CASSINOMAGUS

Gallo-Roman spa

The remain of the Cassinomagus spa at Chassenon are amongst the most monumental in Europe. On the guided visit, discover how the Gallo-Romans lived during the early Christian era. Botanic garden and initiation to archaeological digs and Gallo-Roman games. An exciting, fun escape game "The treasure of Cassinomagus" leads players to the final room.

www.cassinomagus.fr



UNESCO

sites in the Charentes

Whether for religious or military reasons, from the Middle Ages to the 17th century, the Charentes have seen the construction of our architectural heritage. Examples: the Romanesque church of Aulnay-de-Saintonge on the St James trail; the "Réseau Vauban" that takes in the fortifications designed by this 17th century engineer on the île de Ré.

www.atlantic-cognac.com/exploring-charentes-unesco-heritage

A vibrant festival scene with confetti and dancers. The background is a dark stage or night sky filled with falling confetti in shades of blue, yellow, green, and pink. In the foreground, a woman in a white top and blue skirt with a red sash is dancing, her arms raised. To her right, another dancer in a red and white outfit is visible. The overall atmosphere is festive and celebratory.

For your diary

It's all happening in the Charentes! Festivals including major events at Angoulême and La Rochelle, concerts, street theatre, dance to start with. Add the unexpected, such as the kite weekend or a marathon swim in the river Charente. What to choose first?

JANUARY

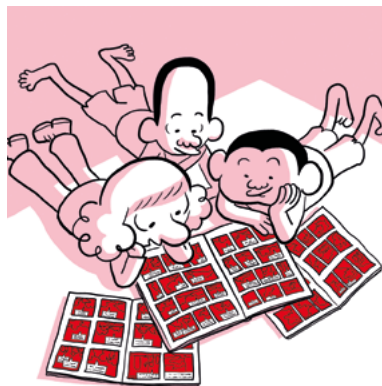
• FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DE LA BANDE DESSINÉE

Angoulême

26th - 29th January

The Comic Strip Festival celebrates its 50th birthday welcoming the author of a cult manga of the 2010s: The Titans Attack. 85 albums have been selected for the competition, with a special emphasis on the youth market.

www.bdangouleme.com



• ROCK! POP! WIZZ! QUAND LA BD MONTE LE SON

Angoulême

25th January - 31st December

More than 50 artists will transform the Cité de la BD for most of the year into a music and dance hall, using audio-visual archives as well as creations for this exceptional exhibition.

www.citebd.org

• JAZZ IN VAUX

27th January, 10th February (in Vaux-sur-Mer),
17th March (in Saint-Palais-sur-Mer), 14th April
(in Vaux-sur-Mer)

Programme of jazz concerts over 4 dates.

www.vaux-sur-mer.fr/jazz-in-vaux

FEBRUARY

• FÊTE DU MIMOSA

Saint-Trojan-les-Bains

10th - 12th February

The famous floats decorated with mimosa create a fun, party mood with people in fancy dress following the traditional parade of flowers.

www.lafetedumimosa.com

• EXPOSITION HOMMAGE À PIERRE LOTI

Rochefort

11th February - 31st December

Jean-Michel Alberola brings the ideas of the writer-cum-explorer to life by getting 9 artists to explore the world of Pierre Loti for this exhibition at the Corderie Royale.

www.corderie-royale.com

MARCH

• PIANO EN SAINTONGE

Saintes

3rd - 4th March

One after the other, three pianists perform without a break in a 30 minute programme at the Abbaye aux Dames, enabling the public to appreciate the diversity of personalities, styles and musical genres.

www.pianoensaintonge.com

APRIL

• SYMPOSIUM DE L'ARTISANAT EN SUD CHARENTE

Chalais

1st - 3rd April

Three days of creativity, sharing and transmission of craft savoir-faire.

www.chalais.net/Culture.html

• FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DU CERF-VOLANT ET DU VENT

Châtelailon-Plage

8th - 10th April

This major regional event with more than 70,000 visitors marks the official start of the summer tourism season during the three days of the Easter weekend with wind-based events for all the family on the main beach.

www.chatelaillonplage.fr

MAY

• FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DE MUSIQUE DE CHAMBRE EN CHARENTE

6th May - 4th June

Five weekends of concerts given by well-known performers of classical music from all over the world in Charentais heritage sites.

www.chalaismusique.com

• LA RANDO DES CULS SALÉS

Port Maubert
6th May

The second edition of a ramble on foot, by bike or boat along the estuary from Port Maubert to Vitrezay; all ages welcome.
www.portvitrezay.com/rcs

• MUSIQUES AU PAYS DE PIERRE LOTI

Rochefort & Oléron

13th – 20th May

A travelling festival. A musical journey off the beaten track seeking out creations and masterpieces and also French music that is rarely performed.
www.festival-mppl.com

• ASCENSION DE L'ART

Aubeterre-sur-Dronne
18th – 21st May

Festival of visual art. Painters, photographers and sculptors exhibit their works in 27 sites across the village.
www.aubeterresurdronne.com

JUNE

• MUSIQUES MÉTISSÉS

Angoulême
2nd – 4th June

A citizen's event across the generations, collective and eco-responsible. The festival takes you across frontiers with concerts, literary encounters, screenings and shows for the young.
www.musiques-metisses.com

• LE FLOW DES GABARRIERS

Châteauneuf-sur-Charente to Cognac
3rd June

A 33km non-stop marathon in the open water of the Charente for high-performance swimmers seeking a unique adventure, solo or as a team. Guest of honour: Chloë McCardel, free-swimming record-holder and living legend.
www.leflowdesgabbarriers.com

• EXTREME CORDOUAN

Saint-Georges-de-Didonne
17th – 18th June

More than 300 sportspeople will attempt to conquer the Cordouan lighthouse, in the Gironde estuary, by sail or paddle following routes adapted for each format.
extremecordouan.fr

• FREEMUSIC

Lake of Montendre
22nd – 24th June

Meet up in the south of Charente-Maritime in convivial and bucolic surroundings for an eclectic programme of all kinds of music: punk-rock, metal, electro, hip-hop or reggae!
www.freemusic-festival.com



• LES SARABANDES

Douzat
23rd – 25th June

15th edition of a quirky street festival that attracts all ages: exhibitions, theatre, circus and dance.
www.lapalene.fr

• SŒURS JUMELLES : LA RENCONTRE DE LA MUSIQUE ET DE L'IMAGE

Rochefort
27th June – 1st July

Thanks to Jacques Demy's famous film, Rochefort is a welcoming centre for Music and Image. Since the first edition in 2021, the festival has created links between the two arts for both professionals and the wider public.
www.soeursjumelles.com

• FESTIVAL LA ROCHELLE CINÉMA

La Rochelle
30th June – 9th July

Major festival of cinema at the start of summer with a loyal public and films from yesterday and today from all over the world.
festival-larochelle.org

JULY

• RESPIRE JAZZ FESTIVAL

Abbaye de Puypéroux
1st – 2nd July

14th edition of this jazz festival where you can share musical emotions, a 100% organic meal and jam sessions until daybreak.
www.respirejazzfestival.com

• COGNAC BLUES PASSIONS

Cognac

4th – 9th July

30 years on, the programme of this unmissable festival starts the musical summer in the Charentes! The ever-increasing public enjoy blues and Afro-American flavoured concerts. Every year, some of the biggest stars set up shop here in the heart of Cognac.

www.bluespassions.com



• FESTIVAL DE LA VOIE VERTE

South of Charente

8th – 9th July

Animations, walks and bike rides along the Green Way.

www.sudcharentetourisme.fr

• FÊTE GALLO-ROMAINE DES BOUCHAUDS

Saint-Cybardeaux

9th July

Workshops focusing on historical reconstruction with regional artisans and producers; initiation to Gallo-Roman crafts.

www.rouillac-tourisme.fr

• FRANCOFOLIES

La Rochelle

12th – 16th July

The 38th "Franco", during the emblematic weekend of 14th July will attract over 150,000 to five days of live music at the foot of the famous towers. A programme that is popular, creative and bold focusing on French music.

www.francofolies.fr



• LES FÊTES DE LA PRÉHISTOIRE

Saint Césaire

15th, 22nd, 29th July - 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th August

Dress up in your animal skin and learn to make fire like Neanderthal man; hunt game in the Saint-Césaire bush or express your creativity in the "prehistoric art and finery" animation.

paleosite.fr

• FÊTE MÉDIÉVALE "LA ROCHE À FOUCAULD"

La Rochefoucauld

15th – 16th July

Two days of medieval festival in the park of the château of La Rochefoucauld: try the crossbow, longbow or axe-throwing! Watch craftspeople at work: wood sculptors, glassblowers, leatherworkers. And there are demonstrations of combat, juggling and falconry and events for children.

www.larocheafoucauld.fr

• FESTIVAL DE SAINTES

Saintes

15th – 22nd July

Eight days and thirty concerts in the majestic Abbaye aux Dames for the 51st edition of the Festival de Saintes. There'll be the greatest European artistes and ensembles performing music from five centuries of the classical repertoire. Not to be missed!

www.abbayeauxdames.org/festival-de-saintes

• FESTIVAL DE MUSIQUE EN RÉ

Island of Ré

20th July – 3rd August

16 concerts on the programme with 6 free in the open-air, 5 symphonic concerts in churches, 5 chamber music concerts and 1 for young people.

www.musique-en-re.com/prog.html

• STEREOPARC

Rochefort

21st – 22nd July

Stereoparc is 100% electronic music in the gardens of the Corderie Royale, in the heart of Rochefort. DJs compete to play festive music for dancing and creativity. They are the spectacle!

www.stereoparc.com



• UN VIOLON SUR LE SABLE

Royan

22th July, 25th July, 28th July

Festival of symphonic music over three concerts on the beach of la Grande Conche at Royan.

www.violonsurlesable.com

• LA FÊTE DU COGNAC

Cognac

27th – 29th July

Taste local gastronomy during the three days of the festival; try Cognac as a cocktail and dance to the rhythm of today's music.

lafeteducognac.fr



• L'HORIZON FAIT LE MUR

La Laigne

29th – 30th July

Three days of concerts that highlight the Marais Poitevin; it's the sixth edition of this warm-hearted, artisanal and eclectic festival.

www.l-horizon.fr

• JAZZ AU PHARE

Saint-Clément-des-Baleines

30th July – 3rd August

More than 120 musicians performing on six stages in thirty concerts at this unmissable festival on the île de Ré.

jazzauphare.com

• EUROCHESTRIES EN CHARENTE-MARITIME

30th July – 12th August

For thirty years now, the festival has been welcoming talented young musicians from all over the world to share music, pedagogy, encounters, discoveries, all that is human.

www.eurochestries.org

AUGUST

• ECHALL'ARTS

Echallat

4th - 6th August

The 16th festival of the plastic arts in the heart of the village of Echallat.

echallarts.com

• FESTIVAL DE CONFOLENS - DANSES ET MUSIQUES DU MONDE

Confolens

9th – 15th August

More than 300,000 spectators every year participate in this festival known world-wide to enjoy traditional music, dance and costumes from the five continents. The characterful little town of Confolens welcomes visitors and performers alike to discover, stroll, meet, listen, sing or laugh!

www.festivaldeconfolens.com

• TRIBAL ELEK

Andilly

12th – 13th August

This festival brings together world and current music, with the presence of a didgeridoo in each group.

www.tribalelek.fr

• FESTIVAL DU FILM FRANCOPHONE

Angoulême

22nd – 27th August

The 16th edition of this film festival drawing attention to the importance of Francophonie in the cinema.

filmfrancophone.fr

• MARCHÉ DES POTIERS

Montbron

26th – 27th August

Annual market for ceramicists and potters in the Charentes.

<https://fr-fr.facebook.com/marchepotiersmontbron/>

• FESTIVAL CHAMBRE ET JARDIN

Dampierre-sur-Boutonne

End of August

Fifth edition of this chamber music festival in the gardens of the Château of Dampierre-sur-Boutonne.

chambrejardin.free.fr

SEPTEMBER

• COUP DE CHAUFFE

Cognac

8th – 10th September

29th edition of the last festival of the summer in Cognac when the heart of the town beats to the rhythm of street arts.

avantscene.com

• L'IMPRÉVU FESTIVAL

Montemboeuf

8th – 10th September

Rural, small, simple, full of good humour... the festival mixes without distinction handicapped artistes with artistes considered "normal".

imprevu-festival.fr

• FESTIVAL DE LA FICTION TV

La Rochelle

12th – 17th September

Fifty or so showings of TV fiction for the 20,000 visitors to this festival.

www.festival-fictiontv.com

• CIRCUIT DES REMPARTS

Angoulême

15th – 17th September

Staged since 1939, this international race has attracted drivers of the finest classic cars racing round the city's walls. Watch the Aston Martins, MGs, Bugatti, Porsche, Lotus roar past the thousands of spectators...

www.circuitdesremparts.com



• FÊTE DU COQUILLAGE

Saint-Martin-de-Ré

16th September

The programme: oyster and shellfish tasting, musical animation, quiz, tombola and a DJ set.

www.holidays-iledere.co.uk

• RÉ SWIN RUN

Rivedoux-Plage

16th September

The fifth edition of this outdoor sports challenge on the île de Ré alternates foot races and swimming.

www.reswimrun.fr

• BARROBJECTIF

Barro

16th – 24th September

Alain Keler, photojournalist and documentary photographer of the MYOP agency will be present at the 22nd edition of the photojournalism festival set in the village of Barro.

barrojectif.com

• GRAND PAVOIS

La Rochelle

20th – 25th September

The fiftieth edition of the international in-water show of boats, new ideas and business for all who are excited by boating and water sports.

grand-pavois.com

OCTOBER

• PIANO EN VALOIS

Charente

Beginning of October

The 30th edition of one of the major piano festivals in Europe that targets an eclectic, balanced programme with famous artistes and young interpreters.

pianoenvalois.fr

• LE DÉFI D'ELLES

Island of Oléron

6th – 8th October

A 100% female trek that is sporting, human and collective (prevention of breast cancer). Discover the island and its heritage through different trails and activities for ATB, run/canoe and trail tests.

defidelles.co

• FORT BOYARD CHALLENGE

Fouras-les-Bains

7th – 8th October

Two days of convivial water-sports challenges centred on mythical Fort Boyard: windsurfing, SUP or Polynesian canoes. Whether amateur or expert, join with the stars of water sports.

www.fortboyardchallenge.fr



• FESTIVAL DU POLAR

Cognac

18th – 22nd October

For four days in Cognac, all forms of the crime story will be examined closely: novels, films, telefilms, plays and comic strips.

www.festival-polar-cognac.fr

• RENCONTRES CINÉMATOGRAPHIQUES VISIONS D'AFRIQUE

Saint-Pierre d'Oléron & Marennes

18th – 24th October

As every year, 20 or so African feature films will be shown in the cinemas of Marennes and Saint-Pierre-d'Oléron.

visionsdafrique.fr

• LA FÊTE DE LA COURGE

Châteaubernard

21st – 22nd October

Exhibition of local arts and crafts, concerts, shows, non-stop events on the theme of the marrow and wheelbarrow racing.

lesjardinsrespectueux.fr

• LA QUINZAINE DES SAVOIR-FAIRE

South of Charente

End of October

During the October half-term, craftsmen and artisans in south Charente invite visitors to discover a rich, innovative, diversified economic heritage.

www.sudcharentetourisme.com

NOVEMBER

• ESCALES DOCUMENTAIRES

La Rochelle

7th - 12th November

International festival of cinema documentary creation with screenings, meetings, debates and retrospectives.

www.escalesdocumentaires.org

• FESTIVAL DU FILM ET DU LIVRE D'AVENTURE

La Rochelle

13th – 19th November

A festival for all who are passionate about exploration of our beautiful planet and adventure. During the week, enjoy screenings of documentaries, meetings, exhibitions, workshops that will alert you as to the fragility of ecosystems. Programme for young people.

www.festival-film-aventure.com

• LITTÉRATURES EUROPÉENNES

Cognac

14th – 19th November

Every year Cognac becomes the literary capital of Europe as writers, journalists, interpreters and artists meet for this weekend festival.

litteratures-europeennes.com

• LES GASTRONOMADES

Angoulême

End of November

Six days to discover the gastronomy of the Charentes and Nouvelle Aquitaine. Meet winemakers, market gardeners, butchers, bakers, chefs who will happily describe their trades and their know-how.

www.gastronomades.fr



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ATLANTIC COAST COGNAC COUNTRY

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