

Summary

2015

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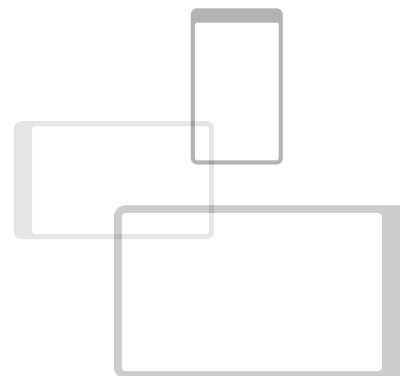
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Location

Ardèche is located where Provence begins, in the south-east of France, along the river Rhône, a natural border stretching for 135km, between Lyon and Avignon.

Its climate and vegetation are influenced by the Mediterranean Sea in the south of the county and by the Massif Central in the mountainous area in the western part.

- **Size** : 5,529km², among them 172,000 hectares of forests (31% of the county).
- **Highest mountain** : Mont-Mézenc, 1,754m
- **Inhabitants** : 327,000 with a density of 58 inhabitants/ km²
- 339 parishes.

Accommodation

Ardèche has 284,000 tourist beds, among them 174,000 are in 34,796 second homes (61%).

- **149 classified hotels, 64 non-classified hotels**

(among them 35 “Logis de France”) :

- 9 campsites 5*
- 3 hotels 4*
- 24 hotels 3*
- 97 hotels 2*
- 15 hotels 1*
- 15 hotels with no star

- **257 classified camping sites :**

- 16 campsites 4*
- 100 campsites 3*
- 108 campsites 2*
- 24 campsites 1*

147 collective holiday complexes : 8 holiday villages, 21 holiday centres, 3 tourism residences, 106 group accommodation for holidays or hikers, 9 other accommodation.

2,768 self-catering accommodation, among them 2,160 classified Gîtes de France and 608 Clévacances. 687 guesthouses, among them 635 at Gîtes de France and 52 at Clévacances.

Tourist nights

In 2010 : 16,1 million tourist nights.

49% of those nights cover the period from April to June and from September to October, 55% of them in July and August.

The tourist expenses are estimated at 442 million Euros.

Tourist origins

French tourists : 79,5% - 60% come from 4 regions : Rhône-Alpes, Paris-Ile de France, Nord-Pas de Calais and Provence Alpes Côte d’Azur.

Foreign tourists : 20,5 % - 93% come from 5 European countries : the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Great Britain and Switzerland.(Source : survey 2010)

More information :

<http://pro.ardeche-guide.com>

(chapter Observatoire Départemental du Tourisme) in French.



How to get there

Distances to Privas :

Paris : 600 km – 373 miles

Lyon : 140 km – 87 miles

Marseille : 210 km – 130 miles

By train : Eurostar / TGV and Thalys

Valence ville / Valence TVG stations

Montélimar station

Avignon station

Airports :

Grenoble, Lyon Saint-Exupéry, Marseille, Montpellier, Nîmes.

Agence de Développement Touristique de l’Ardèche / Ardeche Tourist Board

4 Cours du Palais – 07000 Privas

Tel. +33 (0)4 75 64 04 66

www.ardeche-guide.com

Films (French & English) :

www.ardeche-tv.fr

Press contact :

Lucile CLARA – tel. +33 (0)4 75 64 01 04

lucile.clara@ardeche-guide.com

www.facebook.com/lucileclara

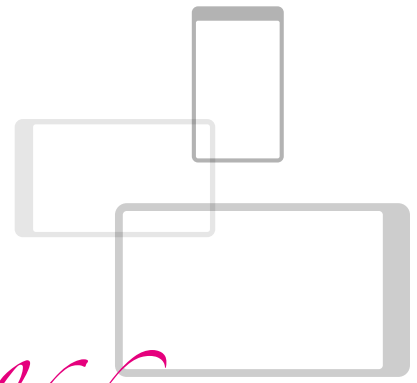
Twitter (English) : @ardechetourism

Twitter (French) : @ADT_Ardeche

Facebook : « A la conquête de l’Ardèche »

www.facebook.com/ardeche.saga

Instagram : #ardeche



World heritage **UNESCO**

**THE PONT D'ARC DECORATED CAVE
KNOWN AS GROTTTE CHAUVET
awarded World Heritage status
by UNESCO**

JEWEL OF HUMANITY

36,000 years ago, our ancestors painted an outstanding collection of artwork on the walls of a limestone cavern known today as the Pont d'Arc Decorated Cave or Grotte Chauvet. Untouched for tens of thousands of years, the vast natural cathedral was discovered on 18 December 1994 at Vallon Pont d'Arc in Ardèche by three amateur cavers Jean-Marie Cahuet, Eliette Brunel and Christian Hilaire.

This unique site brings together three attributes rarely found together - age, a high level of preservation, and the richness and abundance of the works. Amongst the 1000 drawings are 425 animals of 14 different species, most of them dangerous (cave bears, woolly rhinoceros, mammoths and big cats) and some of them unique in the history of paleolithic cave art, including a panther, owl, and the lower part of a female body.

The Pont d'Arc Decorated Cave is remarkably well preserved and of immeasurable value for scientists from across the world.

In June 2014, the World Heritage Committee unanimously agreed to add this prehistoric gem in southern Ardèche to its World Heritage list, the oldest cultural treasure ever classified by UNESCO.

The new award fits perfectly with the importance and support given to the Grotte Chauvet by the Ardèche General Council and the Rhône-Alpes region. It guarantees the conservation of the cave and underlines its heritage value. It also places the cave and its local environment in a global context, attracting international scientists specialised in underground spaces and cave art.

At the same time, the general public will be able to enjoy the extraordinary cultural legacy left by our ancestors through the Pont d'Arc Cavern, a state-of-the-art replica cave which opens to the public on 25 April 2015 on the plateau above Vallon Pont d'Arc. This unique attraction will provide thousands of visitors with a moving journey back to the dawn of art.

The Pont d'Arc Cavern

The figures speak volumes – 3000m², 35 international companies, 30 months of work, 51 million euros, and an estimated 300,000 visitors a year. There has never been anything like the Pont d'Arc Cavern – a visitor destination which is almost beyond imagination.

The opening of the new attraction on April 25 will be the event of the year in Ardèche, a faithful replica of the Pont d'Arc Decorated Cave – the Grotte Chauvet – and its 36,000-year-old paintings. Highly skilled artists have copied the artworks to the last detail, but the atmosphere of the Pont d'Arc Cavern also includes the humidity, smells and temperature of the original cave to provide a spine-tingling visitor experience.

In the course of a 1-hour guided tour, visitors will discover the secrets behind the paintings and the techniques used, both in prehistory and the present day. The discovery centre will enhance their visit with the background story to the prehistoric artists and their lifestyle, and will also feature an exhibition about the construction of the Cavern, the largest replica of a decorated cave anywhere in the world. In the education centre, children will be able to take part in workshops about cave art, fire, hunting and other related themes. Also on site is an area for special events and a restaurant with terrace overlooking the valley. Here visitors can take in the view from the Razal plateau whilst enjoying dishes based on seasonal local produce.

Project financed by the Ardèche Regional Council, the Rhône-Alpes region, the French state, and Europe. The site is managed by Kléber Rossillon, a company specialised in the management of cultural and tourist sites, in conjunction with Sodexo Loisirs.

i **Caverne du Pont-d'Arc**
Montée du Razal
07150 Vallon Pont d'Arc
Tel: +33 (0)4 75 94 39 40

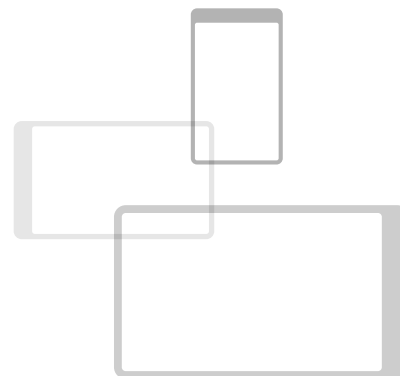
www.cavernedupontdarc.fr
Tickets bookable on line



////// AROUND THE CAVERN

Prehistory Centre at Orgnac l'Aven

February 2014 sees the final transformation of the old regional prehistory museum at Orgnac-l'Aven into a dynamic new discovery centre, La Cité de la Préhistoire. The two-year project has resulted in a larger, more interactive facility that explains 350,000 years of European prehistory, against a backdrop of the Pont d'Arc Cavern project.



Situated close to the Aven d'Orgnac – classified amongst the elite band of Grand Site de France – the 1374m² discovery centre will be accessible to visitors at several different levels. So whatever their age or degree of interest, visitors can discover men from the past via touch tables and videos, models, wall panels, workshops and temporary exhibitions. From Neanderthal man to the Iron Age, in Europe but particularly here in Ardèche, our ancestors left clues to their way of life, ensuring that Ardèche would become an unmissable heritage destination many thousands of years in the future.

i **Grand Site de l'Aven d'Orgnac,**
La Cité de la Préhistoire, 07150 Orgnac l'Aven
Tel: + 33 (0)4 75 38 65 10

www.orgnac.com

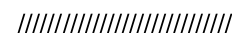


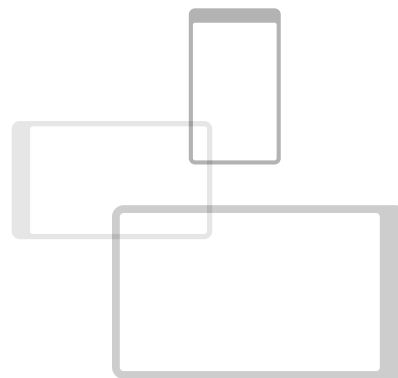
MuséAl, Alba-la-Romaine

The recent opening of the new museum is a milestone in the history of Alba-la-Romaine, showcasing the archeological discoveries made over the last 20 years and, in particular, the superb statue of an emperor found on the Gallo-Roman site. The collections will be displayed in both temporary and permanent exhibition halls and the centre includes an auditorium and education rooms. Themes dealt with include urbanisation, daily life, gods and death. Covering 870m², the museum uses the latest educational techniques such as interactive terminals and themed workshops. Located on the edge of the village, the architecture is also amazing, a massive rectangular building behind a forecourt covered by a vast awning. Outside the museum, visitors step back into ancient times along an old street fringed with shops, and in temples and a theatre which stages a festival every summer.

i **MuséAl - Ancient site of Alba, RD102,**
07400 Alba-la-Romaine
Tel: +33 (0)4 75 52 45 15

www.ardeche.fr





Ardèche

by bike

'On the trail of the Ardéchoise'

Follow the 13 different stages of the famous Ardéchoise cycle race at your own pace and at any time of year along routes labelled, 'Sur les routes de l'Ardéchoise'. The shortest stage measures 85km, the whole route 620km, but it's easy to pick a shorter section to suit your ability. So whether you want a sporting challenge or a gentle pedal through the countryside, the routes offer something for everyone. Along the way, accommodation providers labelled 'Accueil vélo' offer special facilities for cyclists including repair kits, luggage transport and super-nutritious breakfast.

Mobile app using GPS technology to provide practical information on repair centres, accommodation and restaurants, as well as personalised challenges to complete.

Dedicated website for building your itinerary, reserving accommodation...

www.monardechoise.com //

Cycle routes - green ways, gentle cycling throughout the year...

In all seasons the Ardèche offers grandiose natural sites punctuated by chestnuts, oaks, vines, pines, and lavender, plus a rich heritage embodied by character villages that feature castles, churches, squares and fountains. Discover the area along the Green Tracks or 'Voies Vertes', on foot, cycle, roller skates, or on horseback, travelling at your own pace and in complete safety.


In total, there are nearly 300 km of priority itineraries identified in Ardèche that will enrich the possibilities for gentle discovery throughout the department... natural sized hapsness!



Cycle package on the Dolce Via

Take advantage of everything the Dolce Via has to offer thanks to Françoise Batifol, manager of La Teyre campsite close to the start of the route in St-Martin-de-Valamas. Awarded the 'Accueil vélo' - Bikes Welcome - label, the site offers cycle touring packages to help visitors explore the trail. An annotated map shows sites of interest along the way, as well as places to eat or simply relax. The itinerary goes gently downhill, making it idea for children, and the return journey can be done by bus.

The 'Freewheeling along the Dolce Via' package for 3 days and 2 nights involves 3 days of cycling and costs from 280€ per person with a variety of options as to the route.

 **Françoise Batifol**
Tel: +33 (0)6 08 21 51 24

<http://www.pmpv-ardeche.com/fr/>
(French only) //

The Dolce Via - take life gently on two wheels

You don't need to be hugely sporty to tackle the Dolce Via. With a gradient of just 1%, this former railway track in the Eyrieux valley has been given a new lease of life as a trail for walkers, cyclists and mountain bikes stretching for 45km. The route currently links Saint-Laurent-du-Pape to Le Cheylard but will eventually join the ViaRhôna at La Voulte and on towards St Agrève and Lamastre to create a 73-km trail. Travel with friends, family or as a couple to explore the Eyrieux valley and enjoy picture-postcard landscapes and fresh, country air. Along the way are opportunities to have lunch on a restaurant terrace, relax at a shady café or picnic in the rocks. You can even hire a canoe.

www.dolce-via.com



Vallée de la Payre:

A new lease of life for this old railway line! Initially created in 1861, the Pouzin / Privas railway was the 1st railway line to enter service in Ardèche. At this time Ardèche was among the leading industrial counties of France and the railway allowed the transport of iron ore extracted from the mines in the Privas basin. Reserved for passenger transport by 1910, it was again used to transport local production, before closing altogether in 1994. This old route has many interesting structures: tunnels, viaducts, bridges, footbridges, and hydraulic works. Abandoned in recent decades, this heritage line consequently now needs work and a programme of restoration is now under way. The first 4 km section was delivered in 2012 between Chomérac and St-Lager-Bressac and allows the circulation of non-motorised vehicles (walkers, mountain bikes, hybrid bikes...).

La Voie Bleue - The Blue Trail

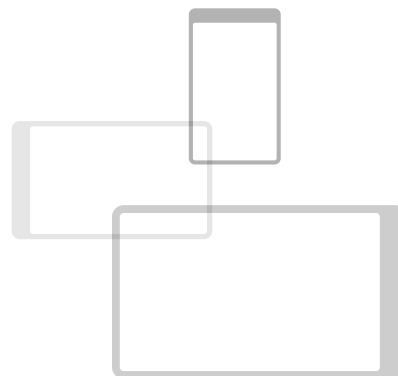
This 12km trail for walkers and cyclists runs alongside the Rhône between Guilherand-Granges and Châteaubourg.

Heading towards Guilherand-Granges, users can join the trail just 100m from the ViaRhôna car park at Pont des Lônes, direction Soyons. However the north-bound junction with ViaRhôna for the 2km between Châteaubourg and Glun, is still to be completed. Half the trail has been resurfaced, the rest covered with tarmac.

Most of the trail follows the river bank, passing through an unspoilt natural environment rich in fauna and flora, and car parks and picnic areas along the route provide easy access for everybody. At various points, the Blue Trail also links into 300km of walking trails that spread through the 13 communes that make up the Rhône Crussol area.

The Via Rhona from Lake Geneva to the Mediterranean:

This cycle route project aims to link Lake Geneva to the Mediterranean by following the Rhône. This 700 km itinerary will pass through the Ardèche and the Drôme. The Ardèche route is 92 km is divided



into 4 sections: from Sarras to Glun, from Soyons to La Voulte-sur-Rhône, from Pouzin to Rochemaure and from Viviers to Bourg-St-Andéol.

Discover outstanding feats of engineering such as the first suspension bridges in the north of Ardèche and the new Himalayan-style footbridge built to take the ViaRhôna using the supports of the Old Bridge at Rochemaure.

The Le Pouzin / Rochemaure itinerary will allow ramblers to discover the two medieval cities (start and end of the itinerary) and to marvel at the remarkable Roman abbey of Cruas.



Cycle package on the Via Rhona 4 days/3 nights from Vienne to Montélimar

A cycling trip along the Rhône river. All down the valley you will enjoy pedalling at your own rhythm through a rich and varied built heritage, and the broad Côte du Rhône vineyards. Peach trees, cherry trees and apricot trees are a delight in spring, in addition with the Villages with exceptional Character of Beauchastel and Rochemaure. An opportunity to discover the suspension bridges such as the one in Tournon-sur-Rhône, the Roman bridge in Le Pouzin and the Himalayan-style footbridge in Rochemaure.

From 440 €/person, accommodation, luggage transfers, road books and maps included.



Safran Tours

Tel: +33 (0)4 75 25 78 78

www.safrantours.com

info@safrantours.com



The Great Mountain Bike Route of the Monts d'Ardèche (150km)

With an ascent of 3200m and a descent of 4000m between Saint-Agrève and Les Vans, the Great Mountain Bike Route of the Monts d'Ardèche has been designed for mountain bike touring. It largely follows the GR7 and GR4, passing through the Massif Central and the Cévennes, and over the famous mounts of Mézenc and Gerbier de Jonc. Accessible to all, the trail is clearly marked 'Grande Traversée de l'Ardèche' and is the first central section of a route crossing the whole department. A map and guide edited by the Park is available from Tourist Offices.

Discover the Ardèche landscapes on an electric trekking bike

Take the effort out of cycling with a boost from an electric bike and travel for miles, through valleys and over passes, without getting tired. An easy way to discover the landscapes of Ardèche.

La Burle - tel +33 (0)4 75 37 07 83
www.laburle.com

Geo - tel +33 (0)4 75 37 44 33
www.ardeche-canyon.com

St-Félicien Tourist Office - tel +33 (0)4 75 06 06 12
www.tourisme-saintfelicien.fr

Inter Sports Tournon - tel +33 (0)4 75 08 54 17

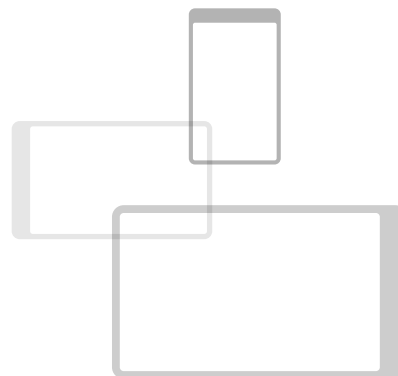
AMC7 - tel +33 (0)4 75 35 98 29
www.amc7.com

A whole network of electric bikes rentals in the Ardèche mountains :
www.la-montagne-ardechoise.com

Cycling events in 2015 : Tour de France (19 July), the Ardéchoise in June, the 'Boucles du Sud', the international female cycling tour...

More info:

<http://en.ardeche-guide.com/ardeche-bike>



ARDECHE Forever
Une histoire très personnelle

L'Ardèche à Vélo
Ardèche by bike

Depuis toujours et pour toujours

www.ardeche-guide.com

ardèche
TOURISME



Cultural heritage & sites

Nature @ Tourist

////// CULTURAL HERITAGE

Villages with Character



Clinging bravely to the mountainside or hidden in valley bottoms, these villages glow gold in the southern sun. Tiny streets run between ancient houses with stone slab roofs that blend perfectly with the wild hills and flower-covered balconies shimmer in the crystal clear waters of the mountain torrents.

These are truly exquisite villages, each with its own distinctive character.

The 19 listed villages are :

Ailhon, Alba-la-Romaine, Antraigues, Balazuc, Banne, Beauchastel, Boucieu-le-Roi, Chalencon, Chassiers, Désaignes, Jaujac, Labeaume, Meyras, Naves, Rochemaure, St-Vincent-de-Barrès, Thueyts, Vinezac and Vogüé.

<http://en.ardeche-guide.com/villages-outstanding-character>

Facebook: 'Villages de Caractère de l'Ardèche'

Portrait: Tom Charbit - potter and artist in Balazuc

Ceramicist and artist Tom Charbit creates his artworks in Balazuc, classified amongst France's Most Beautiful Villages and as a Village de Caractère. Here Tom shapes his raw materials, working with their imperfections as well as their beauty and vitality. Much of his work is influenced by the serenity of Japanese ceramics and he frequently shows his

pieces at exhibitions across France and overseas. In 2012, Tom enjoyed the accolade of becoming an Exclusive member of the Ateliers d'Art de France - Art Studios of France - and he is very proud to be amongst the artists permanently on display at the Cavin-Morris Gallery in New York, alongside such major talents as Ryoji Koie, Shozo Michikawa, Robert Fornell, and Jeff Shapiro.

i Tom Charbit - Poterie de la Forge

Le village - 07120 Balazuc

Tel +33 (0)4 75 87 24 63

Mobile +33 (0)6 42 79 16 07

www.tomcharbit.com - tom@tomcharbit.com

NEW: Alice and Tom will welcome you all year long in a self-catering accommodation for 2 in the very heart of Balazuc, with a 180° overview on the cliffs, the river and the sky!

www.180.fr - contact@180.fr //

Vivarais 'Pays d'Art et d'Histoire' status

With more than 80 classified and protected monuments dotted across the area, the Vivarais Méridional is now designated as a Pays d'Art et d'Histoire. Awarded in summer 2010, the classification will give the area a higher tourist profile, as well as helping to protect local heritage and promote awareness of its importance. Located in the far south of the Ardèche department, the Vivarais Méridional offers rich history and unspoilt countryside, with a diverse heritage that includes archaeological remains as well as buildings from the Middle Ages, Renaissance and industrial periods. Amongst the many visitor attractions are the Paleolithic decorated

caves at Figuiers; the Champvermeil dolmens at Bidon; Iron Age strongholds; the Gallo-Roman site at Alba; chateaux, perched villages, and mansions; and working communities such as Teil and Cruas.

Pays d'Art et d'Histoire - Syndicat Mixte du Vivarais Méridional

Tel +33 (0)4 75 91 45 09

www.vivaraismereidional.fr //

The Bishops' Palace in Bourg-Saint-Andéol

On the right bank of the Rhône, close to the Ardèche Gorges, Bourg-Saint-Andéol boasts the largest number of protected monuments in the department, amongst them the Bishops' Palace. Established in the 13th century, the once splendid palace had suffered from neglect, but work going on since 2001 has restored the fabulous interior to its former glory, including the large study hall, the neo-gothic chapel, and the medieval kitchens. New visitor circuits have been opened up and, most recently, the library reading room. The palace's nickname - 'The Palace of 100 Rooms' - gives an idea of the work involved in this huge project. With a full programme of concerts, exhibitions and costumed events, the Bishops' Palace truly has a new lease of life for the 21st century.

www.palais-des-eveques.fr //

The Castle Museum at Tournon-sur-Rhône

Before you head inside the impressive Castle Museum at Tournon-sur-Rhône in Green Ardèche, pause in front of the huge wooden door studded with nails. This imposing feudal castle close to Valence once stood on an island in the centre of the river and protected the harbour. Today, it stands on the right bank and only one wall overlooking the inner courtyard remains from the 10th century.

On the south terrace, a restored 15th century chapel is home to a magnificent triptych by Jean Capassin, a Florentine painter from the 16th century. Today this historic building has a contemporary purpose as a venue for concerts, museum nights, music and theatre festivals, wine tastings and even Easter egg hunts.

www.hermitage-tournonais-tourisme.com //

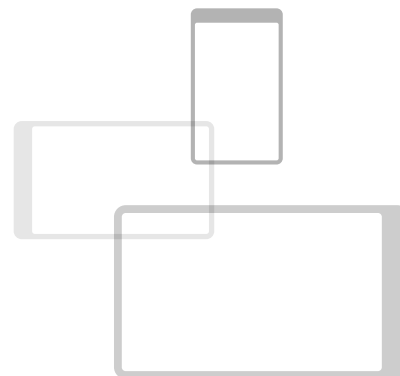
Art in the great outdoors

Enjoy country walks dotted with works of art, a celebration of nature by artists who have been inspired by the beauty of a particular location.

Along the Lauzes Trail

This walking route through the heart of the Drobie valley near Joyeuse is marked by pieces of art that gradually unfold to reflect and explain the local heritage.

www.surlesentierdeslauzes.fr //



The Path of the Five Senses

Enjoy a moving journey through woods and beside rivers at Saint Christol, where every year around a hundred artists combine to create a dialogue with nature.

www.otlecheylard-ardeche.com //

Le Tchier de Borée

Backdrops don't come much more dramatic than here at the small village of Borée where a circle of megaliths stands out against the wild landscape of Mont Gerbier de Jonc.

<http://boyer.verse.free.fr> //

NATURE SITES

The Ardèche Gorges

A deep, breathtaking «defile», with unexpected, impressive viewpoints, unspoilt, peaceful scenery..., the Ardèche Gorges are known far and wide, thanks to the Pont d'Arc!

This series of sinuous canyons is a superb natural, open-air museum, and a paradise for those who love canoeing.

Since 1932, the 20-mile descent of the Gorges, which includes twenty-five rapids, has been a must for all who wish to enjoy the ultimate in thrills in this challenging sport!

Walkers can complete much the same route in around 12 hours.

The Ardèche Gorges tourist route :

At each viewpoint, tourists will find a linear representation of the river and the route engraved in a stone in the ground, as well as a totem indicating the viewpoint name and engraved blocks representing plant and animal species symbolising the Gorges. Tastefully combining stone and metal, these viewpoints are perfectly integrated into the landscape overlooking the Nature Reserve - a real aid to the 1.5 million tourists expected to follow the route each year.

 **Vallon-Pont-d'Arc Tourist Office**
Tel +33 (0)4 75 88 04 01

www.vallon-pont-darc.com

Mont-Mézenc

Culminating at 5,755 ft, this massive natural barrier marks the watershed between the Mediterranean and Atlantic. The panoramic view from the summit is unforgettable with its rich flora.

Mont-Gerbier de Jonc

The source of the Loire lies at the foot of this breathtaking, 5,089 ft high, natural belvedere which - unofficially - rises in an ancient cowshed nearby!

The view from the top is magnificent, taking in the Alps, the Boutières, the Rhône Valley and the Cévennes.

Ray-Pic Cascades

A truly unforgettable waterfall, it was classified as an outstanding natural site as early as 1931, the water pouring over a 200-foot high basalt lava flow that solidified some thirty to forty thousand years ago.

Please note bathing/swimming is forbidden at the site.

Païolive Wood

Near Les Vans in the Ardèche Cévennes, The Païolive wood is a petrified forest of rock in the midst of a durmast oak wood that forms a vast natural labyrinth, creating a strange and fascinating area of cliffs, towers, arches,... The people of the Cévennes call it the forest of the fados (fairies) and many of the rocks have their own special stories!

Make sure you see the lion and the bear, facing each other for all eternity in some long-forgotten fight.

River Rhône

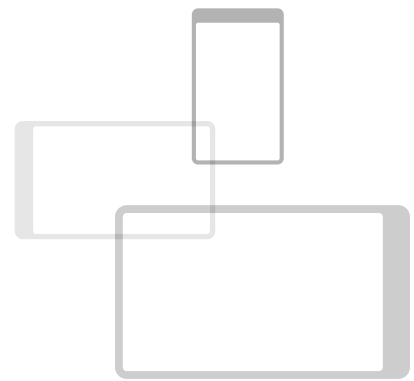
The greatest of French rivers, the Rhône marks Ardèche's eastern boundary for 85 miles. Several boats take visitors on theme-based cruises, making Tournon and Viviers-sur-Rhône their ports of call in Ardèche. The river is still the scene of popular boat jousting competitions in Tournon and Serrières.

Issarlès Lake

At an altitude of 3,300 ft, the 225-acre Issarlès Lake lies at the bottom of the crater of an ancient volcano. The colour of the incredibly Mediterranean blue waters is due to its exceptional depth of over 450 ft! A tour of the lake takes just over an hour on the shady, three-mile footpath.

Saint-Martial Lake

An artificial lake made from a natural water resurgence. Water-based leisure activities are on offer for children, as well as a fitness trail with views on the volcanoes of Mont-Gerbier-de-Jonc and Mont-Mézenc. A botanical path and many walking, horse-



riding and mountain-biking tracks depart from the lake surroundings.

River Eyrieux

The Eyrieux river rises north of Lake Devesset, then runs towards the Rhône valley, crossing Saint-Martin-de-Valamas, Le Cheylard, Saint-Sauveur-de-Montagut, Les Ollières-sur-Eyrieux down to Beauchastel. The river is a wild paradise for advanced canoeists, for cyclists and mountain bikers who can follow (following) the former winding railway track, or simply for swimming.


River Doux

In 'Green Ardèche', this river stretches from the Ardèche plateau to the Rhône valley. It is a subtle mixture of harmonious landscapes, wild gorges, forests, meadows and fruit orchards. The surprising gorges are mostly inaccessible by car, especially between Boucieu-le-Roi and Tournon-sur-Rhône and the Doux is a natural playground for canoeists, kayakers and swimmers.

The Monts d'Ardèche Regional Natural Park, created in April 2011, is the 40th most important park in France and the 6th in the Rhône-Alpes region.

//////////////////// THE MONTS D'ARDECHE REGIONAL NATURE PARK

The Park's objective is to provide visitors with high quality tourist facilities, and above all enable them discover the local territory and its heritage and landscapes, giving priority to the shoulder seasons and spreading visitors throughout the whole area, right into the deepest valleys.

 **Parc Naturel Régional des Monts d'Ardèche**
Maison du Parc - Château de Rochemure
07380 Jaujac - Tel. +33 (0)4 75 36 38 60

www.parc-monts-ardeche.fr

contact@parc-monts-ardeche.fr

Exhibitions to discover

The Nature Park organises exhibitions such as the ones at the Moulin de Mandy in Pranles near Privas.

The Park takes part in the restoration of buildings such as the former spinning mill at the Ecomusée de Chirols or the Maison du Gerboul in Thines where visitors can find books and local products.

Walk in the Park : more than 4,000 km tracks

Walks here are perfect for families who can have fun discovering the cultural heritage of the Monts d'Ardèche, on short routes or longer tracks. Theme-based walks deal with volcanism, Protestantism or the chestnut in Ardèche.

Accommodation with the label "Accueil du Parc"

In the heart of a chestnut tree grove or by a river, each of the 50 self-catering properties or guesthouses is a genuine small paradise. Character buildings such as old barns and silk factories have been turned into welcoming visitor accommodation. Enjoy walks, bathing, and discovering the fauna and flora without forgetting produce from the farm, orchard and garden.

Les Monts d'Ardèche – 5th Geopark in France – 'Geopark' label is UNESCO listed

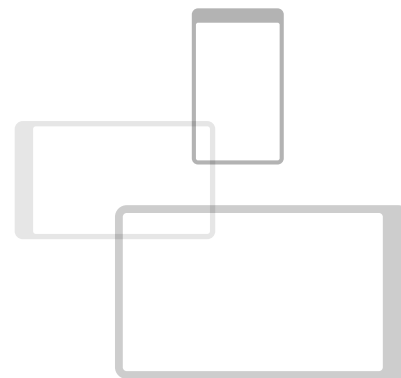
The Monts d'Ardèche Park is the latest member of a group of 111 exceptional landscapes across five continents that includes 46 'Geosites'. Volcanic cones, granite formations, sedimentary rocks, traces of mining, and vineyards on sandstone are just some of the geological riches of the Monts d'Ardèche Park. Few sites can match the diversity or the time span of the new Geopark, which represents every era for 300 million years, and new developments will progressively help visitors to better understand this unique natural heritage.

Focus on the basalt flow at Jaujac ...

The young volcano at Jaujac is classified strombolian. The single lava flow from the volcano – one of the most beautiful in Europe – has partly collapsed the crater to leave a horseshoe-shaped opening facing north. The 3.5km eventually followed the Lignon river, which changed course and cut through the lava to reveal basalt prisms. Here it's easy to see the different stages in their formation.

From Jaujac, you can see different types of rocks along the river – organ pipes, basalt columns and metamorphic rocks – and other volcanic formations.

www.geopark-monts-ardeche.fr //



////////// THRILLING OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

'Vertigo hike 'in the Aven d'Ornac

An unusual discovery in the heart of Ornac cavern, 50m above the cave floor.

Stéphane Tocino guides teams of up to six people for an extraordinary experience ! Using a mixture of via cordata and speleology, follow a technical itinerary towering over the traditional visit 50m below ! Another way of discovering the marvels of the cave, at your own pace. Thrill to the final challenge of a 50m long vertiginous Tyrolean rope at the end of an unforgettable visit.

Rates : 43€/person (only for sports people)


Grand Site de l'Aven d'Ornac
La Cité de la Préhistoire – Stéphane Tocino - 07150 Ornac l'Aven
Tel +33 (0)4 75 38 65 10

www.orgnac.com //

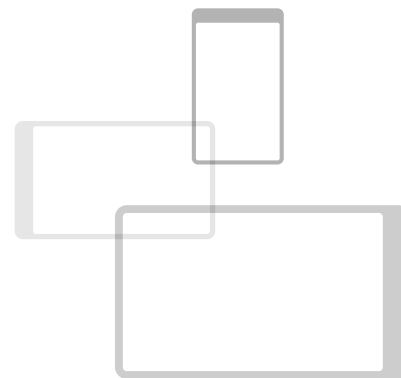
Giant abseil – 180m – at Autridge pillar in the Ardèche gorges

In the heart of the Ardèche gorges nature reserve, Autridge pillar towers 230m above the Ardèche river. Just a few minutes' walk with your guide brings you to the starting point, then travel down through 180m of thin air without touching the cliff ! From that point the view is just amazing with the discovery of hidden treasures in the cliff and the surroundings. The arrival point is at 60m above the river, followed by a steep itinerary to reach the parking area. So the return journey is quite a challenge too !

Rates : 55€ with a guide and full equipment

 **Base Canyon de la Besorgues**
Quartier Labro - 07600 Labastide-sur-Besorgues
Tel +33 (0)4 75 38 67 37 or (0)7 86 22 78 45

www.canyon-besorgues.com //



Via Ferrata by the Devil's Bridge in Thueyts

An important area for climbing, Ardèche has over forty quality sites with every kind of rock: granite in the Haut Vivarais, limestone in southern Ardèche, phonolite in Boutières.

On the programme: a total of more than 20 miles of rock to be climbed.

In Thueyts, navigate the via ferrata of the Pont du Diable - the Devil's Bridge.

i Information and equipment rental : Thueyts
Tourist Office tel +33 (0)4 75 36 46 79

www.thueyts.fr

www.viaferrata.org //

Aquarock Adventure in the Eyrieux valley

Half-way between accrobranching and via ferrata, Aquarock Adventure promises some exciting experiences. With helmet on and harness securely attached, you travel above the Eyrieux river on five different circuits, the first one for children over 2.5 years old, the others suitable for families and including two giant zip wires of 250 and 300m.

The via ferrata circuit for anyone over 6 which hugs the rocks along the right bank. Whilst the other routes incorporate all the classic accrobranche components of tightropes, barrels and trunk-to-trunk tests, this new via ferrata requires climbers to cross the river on a monkey bridge, follow the river with their chest against the cliff, and climb over the rocks in order to come back down on an 80m zip wire - a 30-minute adventure which even the most adventurous will remember for a long time!

i tel +33 (0)6 81 15 96 98

www.aquarock.fr //

TOURIST SITES

The Ardèche steam train or the 'Mastrou'

The train now leaves from the historic station of St Jean de Muzols - 3km from Tournon-sur-Rhône - which has been rebuilt using archive photos. The regular journey will be between St Jean de Muzols and Colombier le Vieux, passing through the magnificent protected landscape of the Doux valley, inaccessible by road. But on certain days, the train will go as far as Lamastre with its local produce market. An unforgettable journey for young and old.

i tel +33 (0)4 75 06 07 00

www.trainardeche.fr //

Vélorail

Enjoy an unusual journey through the wild, lush valley of the river Doux on a pedal-powered cart on wheels that runs on a disused 12km rail track. Completely silent and requiring very little effort, the trip starts in Boucieu-le-Roi and finishes in Troyes station, passing wonderful works of art along the way. Each vélorail can carry four passengers and the activity is suitable for all ages. The return journey is made on board the 'billard' train.

Reservations essential -tel. +33 (0)4 75 08 20 30

www.velorailardeche.com //

Annonay - Birthplace of the hot air balloon

On 7 June 1783, the Montgolfier brothers took off in the very first hot air balloon and every year, on the first weekend in June, a festival takes place with period costumes and a paper balloon in Annonay's central square. Marc Seguin, nephew of the inventors, took after his uncles too, inventing a tubular boiler that revolutionised rail and sea transport in the 19th century; his suspension bridges also appeared all over the world. Since June 2002, Annonay has been classified as a historic airbase by the Americans.

www.oti-annonay.fr //

Peaugres Safari

4 continents displayed on 80 ha: a genuine journey in the animal life! Close your car windows and drive 'safari style' through lions, bears, bison and hippos. Then leave your car vehicle to walk safely amongst other park dwellers such as giraffes, seals, snakes, monkeys and antelopes, not forgetting the fawns.

Highlights for families include five 'animal tracks' cabins where children have to identify the sounds and

smells of the animal kingdom; the new elephant house where visitors can watch the professionals interact with their charges; and the Gitaki play area themed to European biodiversity.

i Safari de Peaugres - 07340 Peaugres
Tel +33 (0)4 75 33 00 32

www.safari-peaugres.com //

//////////////////// THE SECRET WORLD OF CAVES

Aven d'Orgnac, 'Grand Site de France'

This exceptional natural cave is remarkable because of its huge volume, beautiful condition, and fabulous stalagmites and stalactites. The guided visit is a fantastic journey through underground cathedrals decorated with formations that resemble piles of plates and forests of palm trees, rows of organ pipes and flowing drapes. At the end of the 121-metre circuit, the magnificent 'nave' is showcased in an unforgettable sound and light show before visitors are whisked back to ground level in a lift.

i Tel +33 (0)4 75 38 65 10

www.orgnac.com //////////////////////

Madeleine Cave :

a multitude of stalactites of 2-million-years old, light and sound show, site including a viewpoint over the gorges and the House of the Reserve

i Tel +33 (0)4 75 04 22 20

www.grottemadeleine.com //////////////////////

Aven Marzal :

striking entrance and rich colours, prehistoric zoo in the park outside, light and sound show.

i Tel +33 (0)4 75 04 12 45

www.aven-marzal.fr //////////////////////

St-Marcel-d'Ardèche Caves :

with its extensive deep pools, beautiful chalk stones, light and sound show.

i Tel. +33 (0)4 75 04 38 07

www.grotte-ardeche.com //////////////////////

Forestière Cave :

with its astonishing cave zoo.

i Tel +33 (0)4 75 38 63 08

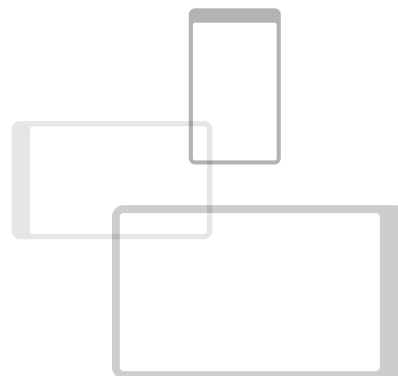
www.avengrottelaforestiere.fr //////////////////////

Soyons Prehistoric Caves

2 prehistoric caves: 'Neron' cave, a journey in the heart of prehistory and the 'Trou du Renard' cave, a discovery of the underground world. An archaeological museum on site.

i Tel + 33(0)4 75 60 88 86

www.soyons.fr



//////////////////// LAVENDER : SCENTS OF THE SOUTH

More than twenty species of lavender exist but three of them prevail in Southern Ardèche : «lavandin», «l'aspic» and the «lavande vraie». They are particularly well adapted to dry and limestone soils on Plateau des Gras and the Ibie valley near the Ardèche gorges.

Lavender Museum The Saint-Remèze Distillery

Near the Gorges of the Ardèche, lavender has always grown on the Plateau des Gras but the first crops were created in the early 20th century. Lavender evokes childhood memories of our grandmothers' wardrobes or holidays in the sun. In the distillery, you will learn everything about the extraction of essential oil and how it becomes perfume. Lavender plants and shop on site.

Open from 1st April to 30th September

i Musée de la Lavande - 07700 Saint-Remèze
Tel +33 475 04 37 26

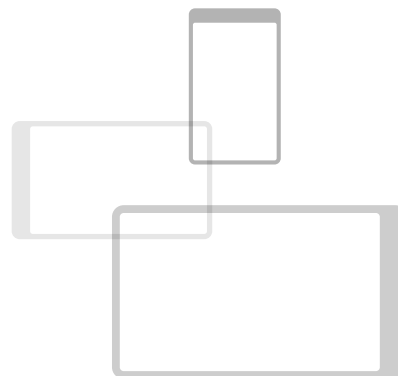
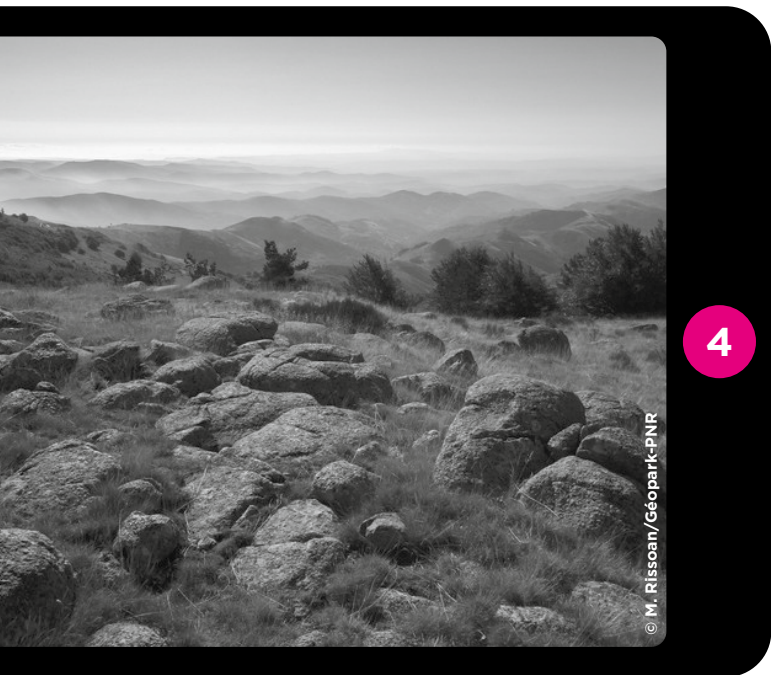
www.ardechelavandes.com //////////////////////

Lavender in an organic farm Mirabel

'Lavande à la bioferme' is a farm located in Mirabel since 1986. The land is cultivated without any chemical fertilizers or synthetic substances. All crops (flowers, vegetables and fruit) are in harmony with the stars and in accordance with the principles of biodynamics. The lavender walk takes you on a discovery of 40 different varieties. In the shop, you will find essential oil made from organic flowers, distilled by pure and natural steam (low temperature) like in the old days, without any additives.

i Lavande à la bioferme
Corine Ingen Housz and Roland Sjoerds
Les Valettes - 07170 Mirabel
Tel +33 475 94 71 57

www.lavandealabioferme.com //////////////////////



RESPONSIBLE *Tourism*

THE “ESPACES NATURELS SENSIBLES” (ENS) - the ‘Nature Sites in need of protection’

Thanks to the wide variety of its landscapes and climates, Ardèche welcomes a large natural biodiversity : 159 bird species (273 in France), among them the Bonelli eagle (only 26 couples in France), 69 mammalian species (135 in France), 39 fish species (83 in France), 14 amphibians (29 in France) or 21 reptiles (39 in France) as well as 2,261 plant varieties (50% of French ones)

A network of 14 nature sites represent this diversity. And 9 sites organise educational events about nature that are open to tourists: the high valleys of the Cance and Ay rivers, the Mézenc-Gerbier Massif, the Tanargue Massif, the Montselgues plateau, the Paiolive Wood and the Chassezac gorges, the Boissine geological site, the Boutières Serres, the Ardèche gorges and Pont-d’Arc, the Crussol and Soyons Massifs.

<http://www.ardeche.fr/226-espaces-naturels.htm>
(in French) //

// ECOTOURISM SITES

Melvita, the organic beauty range

Miel et vie - honey and wine - combine in Melvita, a brand created in 1983 by Bernard Chevilliat. His concept was to create a range of natural beauty products, made from honey and entirely organic. Thirty years on, his gamble has paid off. Melvita has become one of the leading French brands of its kind, still with the values and ethics that were the guiding philosophy of this biologist and beekeeper. Today,

the enterprise is light years away from the isolated little farm in the heart of the Ardèche where Bernard began the business with his brother. But the spirit of the brand is still the same, its boundaries pushed ever further with advances such as the photovoltaic panels installed on the roof, the measures to become an eco-enterprise, and the recent addition of behind-the-scenes visits to this international brand. Find out about the values that drive Melvita, its raw materials, and its laboratories. The free visit is full of surprises, and finishes with a honey tasting and a hand exfoliation using honey products.

i Melvita - La Fontaine du Cade - 07150 Lagorce
Tel.+33 (0)4 75 88 78 00
www.melvita.fr //

The Ecole du Vent - ‘The Wind School’ in Saint-Clément

Known for its basalt flows and breathtaking view over the Boutières, the little village of St Clément perched on the edge of the Ardeche mountains volcanic plateau now has a unique visitor, The Wind School. This interactive museum has been set up in a restored house with a frame in the shape of an upturned boat. Discover how winds form, the relationship between wind and landscape, how to live with the wind, and how birds use it in flight. See how snowdrifts are formed, experience vertigo in a flight simulator and try flying with your own wings on an unusual bicycle. You can even listen to the sounds of different winds. Open all year, whether it’s blowing or snowing!

i L’école du Vent - Le village - 07310 Saint-Clément
Tel +33 475 30 41 01
www.ecole-du-vent.com //

Ardelaine, the wool in all its shapes

The Ardelaine cooperative is situated at Saint-Pierre-ville in the heart of the valley of Eyrieux. Its activity processing the wool from 230 sheep farmers has allowed the creation of about thirty jobs. The on site shop offers a complete range of articles made by the business using environmentally sound procedures. Two tour routes, include 'the secrets of wool' up to today, where you can see sheep, demonstrations, machines, events...

i Ardelaine - 07190 Saint Pierreville
Tel : +33 475 66 66 11

www.ardelaine.fr



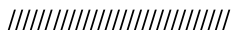
TASTY ADDRESSES

Ferme-Auberge La Framboise mouth-watering menus from organic smallholding

Organic farmers for more than 25 years, Frantz Leppert and his partner Jacqueline serve customers with food grown and harvested from their 3-hectare organic garden. Together they have restored the attic of their historic fortified farmhouse and opened La Framboise, a 'ferme-auberge' that offers meals made from the very best local produce. The dining room features exposed stone walls, magnificent chestnut beams, and wrought-iron furniture, all set behind a vast window overlooking the garden and valley beyond. Jacqueline creates memorable dishes using home-grown produce wherever possible, but otherwise sourced from neighbouring farms. Lunch or dinner at La Framboise – The Raspberry – is a gourmet experience, full of flavour, local aromas and creativity.

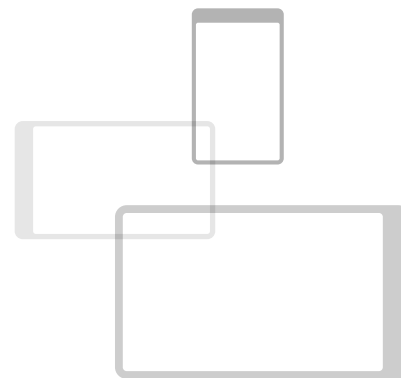
i Ferme-Auberge La Framboise - Lamadès - 07450 Burzet - tel. +33 (0)4 75 94 52 03

www.la-framboise-bio.com



Ferme-Auberge de Corsas 100% home-made

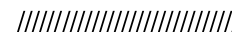
Sébastien and Julie consider themselves farmers first and foremost, a profession of which they are both fiercely proud and which has prompted them to share their passion for the land with appreciative diners. At their 18th century farm in the north of the Ardèche – 20 minutes from Tournon-sur-Rhône – they raise chickens, pigs, pigeons, sheep and goats, as well as growing fruit and vegetables. Their attention to detail even goes as far as making their own elderflower syrup. In their restaurant, converted from a former stable block, Julie serves duck with apricots, quail with herbs, meat roasted in wine, and pumpkin gratin ... all prepared according to Sébastien's philosophies. 'Everything is made here using products from our own farm that have not been treated with chemicals,' he insists. So when guests sit down to eat beneath the whitewashed walls of the spacious dining room, they enjoy an authentic taste of the area, created



by a truly dedicated couple. Four B&B rooms also available.

i Ferme-Auberge de Corsas
Corsas - 07410 St-Victor
Tel. +33 (0)4 75 06 69 30

www.fermeaubergeardeche.fr



Restaurant "la Cerise sur l'Agneau"

The collective adventure of this unusual small enterprise created in 1982 in a local wool spinners has been transformed into a social and economic success. Throughout all these years the Scop Ardelaine has encouraged a policy of investment. After the creation of the living wool museum in 1991, the "la Cerise sur l'Agneau" restaurant opened its doors on the Ardelaine site. Local seasonal products, mostly from organic agriculture are emphasised.

i Ardelaine - 07190 Saint Pierreville
Tel : +33 475 66 66 11

www.ardelaine.fr



The Viel Audon in Balazuc

Very close to Balazuc, a classified village of character and the most beautiful village in France is a cooperative hamlet (access on foot only) that has, over time, become the nursery for projects ruled by know-how and life style knowledge transmission. There, you can see and take part in goat rearing, bread making in a wood oven, gardening work (organic agriculture), plant gastronomy, stone construction, walks in the garrigue scrub, sustainable development awareness and training. There is a farmer's shop with the products of their farm and region.

i Association le Mat - Le Viel Audon - 07120 Balazuc
Tel +33 (0)4 75 37 73 80

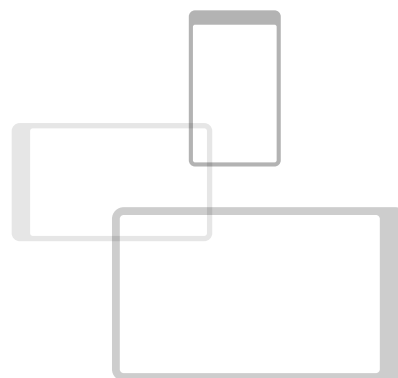
www.levielaudon.org



'NATURAL' ACCOMMODATION or 'Sleeping Green'

Self-catering accommodation, guesthouses or camping sites that have received certification for their environmentally friendly approach to construction, recycling, water management, or natural landscape protection. Some of them are awarded the European Ecolabel.

<http://en.ardeche-guide.com/ecotourism/sleeping-green>



GASTRONOMY

////////////////////// **THE CHESTNUT OF ARDECHE, THE QUEEN OF CHESTNUTS !**

The Ardèche chestnut was given the «**AOC Châtaigne d'Ardèche**» in June 2006. This applies to fresh chestnuts and five types of conserved nuts - dry chestnuts, pieces of dry chestnuts, chestnut flour, entire peeled chestnuts, chestnut purée.

Just a few figures :

- 5,500 tons : Ardèche is the leading France department to produce chestnuts with 50% of the national production
- 6,000 hectares of exploited chestnut groves
- 65 varieties with the 19 main ones representing 75% of volumes, the most famous ones being Comballe, Bouche Rouge, Sardonne, Précoce des Vans, Merle...
- 60% are sold as a fresh, 40% are transformed.

More information :

www.chataigne-ardeche.com



“Marron Glacé”

The most famous way of processing chestnuts is doubtless the “marron glacé”. They have to be sorted, graded and thoroughly peeled, and are then enveloped in a net. They are ready to be transformed into confectionery, a delicate operation in which a syrup made from sugar is allowed to penetrate to the heart of the nut by osmosis. Only nuts that are still in perfect condition are taken for glazing. Then, placed on a grill, they are sprayed with icing sugar and dried in an oven for a few seconds.

This small-scale production process was first transformed into an industrial one when Clément Faugier set up his business in Privas in 1882. Sabaton was founded in Labégude in 1907, and finally, Maison Imbert in Aubenas in 1920.

Marrons Imbert
www.marrons-imbart.com

Sabaton
www.sabaton.fr

Clément Faugier
www.clementfaugier.fr

‘Farming Secrets’ – local brand of chestnut products

Look out for Secrets Fermiers, the brand name adopted by five farmers and processors of chestnuts from the Monts d'Ardèche Regional Nature Park who joined forces in 2009 to sell their own crystallized chestnuts produced by traditional methods.

 **Association Secrets Fermiers – Patrice Galiana**
Tel +33 (0)4 75 88 95 88

Other ways of preparing chestnuts

The chestnut, extremely rich in vitamins, has important dietetic and energy-giving qualities. Besides being delicious fresh, it can be made into flour or jam, used in soup, stews and purée, in cakes and jams, and even glazed... the chestnut is a famous ingredient in Ardèche cuisine, a delight for gourmet and gourmand alike:

- **Lou Pisadou** : made from natural and puréed chestnuts, Lou Pisadou is a delicious, crisp flat cake whose recipe was created in 1994 by the Syndicate of Pastry Chefs, Confectioners and Glazed Fruit Manufacturers and Etablissements Sabaton.
- **Purées, natural chestnuts**, chestnut or marron jam and flour are all on sale in local shops and are also sold direct by several farmers who process their own chestnuts.
- **Chestnut beers** from the Bourganel Brewery in Vals-les-Bains
Brewing started in the spa of Vals-les-Bains. The same brewer has another speciality, bilberry beer. A Christmas beer and a spring beer joined their older sisters, as well as the verbena beer and the nougat beer !

 The brewery and shop are open to visitors from beginning of April to beginning of October.

Tel +33 475 94 03 16 or +33 475 94 39 39

www.bieres-bourganel.com //

Two sites dedicated to the glory of the chestnut :

The Chestnut House in St-Pierreville

Opened in 1993 and covering three floors, it retraces the economic, cultural and symbolic importance of the chestnut tree through a series of everyday objects, tools, photos, documentary recordings, archives and by tasting local produce.

 **La Maison du Châtaignier - 07190 St-Pierreville**
Tel +33 475 66 64 33

www.maisonduchataignier.fr

The Chestnut Grove Museum in Joyeuse

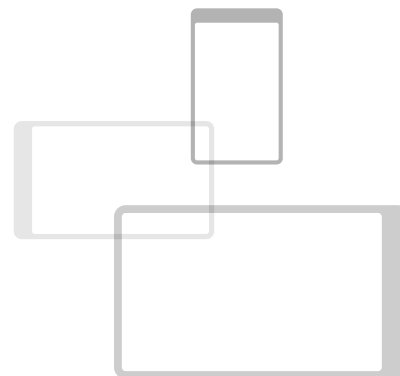
In a very beautiful 17th century building, a former Oratorians College, this museum pays homage to the "Cévennes bread tree" and to the way of life based on chestnut farming. It displays a large collection of old tools, deburring machines and everyday objects to tell the story of the chestnut.

 **Musée de la Châtaigneraie - Parvis de l'Eglise**
07260 Joyeuse - tel +33 475 39 90 66

www.musee-chataigneraie.fr //

The Autumn Sweet Chestnut Festival: from mid October to mid November 2015

Formalised in a "Log book", the "Castagnades" Chestnut Festival is the asset at the heart of the territory: It is an invitation to come and meet the inhabitants of the Ardèche Mountains in their most emblematic season. As well as just taking part in the events, it is also the occasion for the visitor to take the back roads to enjoy the countryside and visit the producers in the very heart of their farms. In the festival environment the restaurants offer "Castagnades" menus by agreeing to serve Ardèche chestnuts. The producers and manufacturers offer "rendez-vous terroir" country gatherings to introduce you to the collection and manufacture of the famous chestnut spread... Accommodation owners offer discovery weekends, and for the more sporting, excursions on foot or horseback.



The Castagnades "Log book" will be available in September 2015 on request to the Monts d'Ardèche Regional Nature Park and will be available for download from the website.

www.parc-monts-ardeche.fr and www.castagnades.fr

//////////////////// FROM STARTERS TO DESSERTS !

Did you know ? Ardèche boasts a range of fizzy **mineral waters**, such as **Vals, Reine des Basaltes, Ventadour, Chantemerle, Vernet, Arcens** and **La Ferrugineuse Incomparable**.

A quality label for Ardèche delicatessen

Hams and dry sausages from Ardèche now benefit from an «IGP» - Indication Géographique Protégée in French, equivalent of an «AOC». In other words, this label certifies the savoir-faire and the quality of delicatessen made in Ardèche from pigs born and raised in this area. Pork has always played an important part in Ardèche inhabitants' food. In the 19thC. a journalist declared Ardèche as being «a paradise for gourmets» and talked about Saint-Agrève as «the delicatessen Mecca».

Apart from dry sausages, the typical recipes are «**Caillette**», a mixture of pork meat and Swiss chard wrapped in caul, like a small round pâté, and «**Maouche**» or «**Maocho**», a pig's stomach stuffed with kale and dried prunes. The stuffed stomach is then plunged into boiling water and cooked for several hours before being grilled in the oven.

AOC Beef «Fin Gras du Mézenc»

After a long period of work which started in 1995, the official label «Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée» was given on 27 March 2006 to the Fin Gras du Mézenc.

It is a beef meat from the «Easter Beef» production. Animals were born and grown on the Mézenc Massif between Ardèche and Haute-Loire at an altitude more of 1,100m high, an area with a typical soil. The Fin Grans is eaten between February and June only. Each year in June, a celebration is organised «Fête du Fin Gras du Mézenc et du Cercle des Sources», with music, parades of cattle, tastings, walks...

 **Association Fin Gras du Mézenc**
Tel +33 (0)4 71 59 59 86

www.aoc-fin-gras-du-mezenc.com

«Many's the long night I've dreamed of cheese...» Robert Louis Stevenson

Picodon is an AOC goat's cheese (awarded in 1983). A family affair in times gone by, production today - whilst still a craft industry - has become commercially important, with the result that there are almost as many Picodons as there are producers.

Made from full cream goat's milk from the Saanen and Alpine Chamois breeds, Picodon is a small golden disc of soft cheese with a flowery rind. The flavour becomes stronger as it matures. It can also be served grilled, or macerated in white wine, in eau-de-vie or olive oil. Its cousin and neighbour, the unsalted Saint-Félicien Cottage Cheese, has a limited number of consumers as it is produced in very small quantities. This is a very creamy cheese made in the village of **St-Félicien** to the north of Ardèche.

Two other cheeses are steadily winning a wider market: they are made with cow's milk from the Ardèche mountains. **Goudoulet** takes its name from the tiny village of Sagnes-et-Goudoulet which comes directly from the French, «goût du lait», the taste of milk, and is made with unpasteurised cow's milk. With a mild flavour, this cheese has a delicious bouquet and a soft light texture. **Coucouron** is made in the traditional way by the cheese dairy in Coucouron. It is also sold in blocks.

www.picodon-aoc.fr

Terra Cabra

from the goat to the Picodon

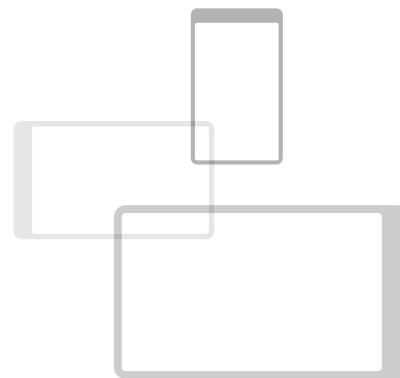
Opened in June 2012, the Terra Cabra museum explains every stage in the production of Picodon goats cheese from feeding and milking the goats to manufacturing the cheese itself. Located at Planzolles, above the Peytot cheese maturing workshop that serves 15 local producers, a visit to Terra Cabra is both entertaining and educational. There are hands-on activities for children, a film, and a variety of touch and taste experiences to try. Learn the whole story of the 800,000 cheeses that leave here each year and, at the end of the visit, sample traditional cheeses from the Ardèche Cévennes at different stages of aging.

Visits available in English, Dutch and German.
Terra Cabra - Christine Noublanche - Quartier de l'Eglise - 07230 Planzolles
 Tel. +33 (0)4 75 39 92 31

www.terracabra.com

The Joyeuse macaroon: its manufacture goes back to the XVth century!

This small irregular shaped biscuit; light in the mouth, crunchy and with a subtle caramelised almond flavour has been made since 1581 in the small mediaeval city of Joyeuse. In 1581 on the marriage of the Duke of Joyeuse to the sister in law of Henri III, Catherine de Médicis (his mother) had a new delicacy called a "macaroon" sent from Italy for the festivities. The Duke de Joyeuse was captivated, and returning



to the city, he asked his pastry makers to produce these macaroons. These were the first macaroons in France! Since then, the secret recipe has been perpetuated from generation to generation. Today, Maison Charaix (pastry maker in Joyeuse) still makes this small cake using artisan techniques and 100 % natural ingredients.

Where to buy them: the Grande Epicerie de Paris, at Maison Charaix's partner distributors.

Maison Charaix - Avenue François Boissel
07260 Joyeuse - Tel +33 (0)4 75 39 66 70

www.maisoncharaix.com

THE OLIVE TREE

Symbolic tree of hope

The olive tree has been growing in Southern Ardèche since the 12th century. Once there were 500,000 trees due to the big frost in 1956, many were replaced by vineyards and fruit trees. Most of the 36 olive oil mills closed.

Nevertheless, since 1995, olive growing has been increasing with an average of 5,000 trees planted each year, without taking into account the restoration of old olive groves.

In two years, two new mills in Bourg-Saint-Andéol and Brès near Payzac joined the last three which stayed open in Saint-Sauveur de Cruzières, Les Vans and Vallon-Pont-d'Arc.

Nowadays, an average of 150 to 200 olive tons are pressed in Ardèche each season. More than twenty varieties grow in Ardèche and the main one is «Rougette» which goes into making of an AOC olive oil.

Several villages in Southern Ardèche celebrate the olive tree through village festivals, such as :

- **Vallon-Pont-d'Arc** : Exhibition, large photos, tastings, explanations on how to maintain an olive tree...

Information :

Vallon Tourist Office +33 475 88 04 01
www.vallon-pont-darc.com

- **Les Vans** : Walk in the land of the olive tree, visit of an olive oil mill, local products fair, Olive Brotherhood...

Information :

Les Vans Tourist Office +33 475 37 24 48
www.les-vans.com

- **Discovery walks in the land of olive trees** : from Easter to September

Information at Les Vans Tourist Office
Tel +33 475 37 24 48

www.les-vans.com

NEW: Domaine le Pigeonnier in Payzac

Nestled amongst olive and chestnut trees on the slopes of the Cévennes, the Domaine le Pigeonnier olive farm grows several different varieties including Blanche de Payzac, Rougette and Negrette de l'Ardèche. Visitors can buy three different olive oils and, by appointment, enjoy a themed walk 'Through vines and olive trees'.

i **Jocelyn Vigouroux**
Le Pigeonnier
07230 Payzac
Tel: 06 24 15 10 90

Domaine la Magnanerie

Spreading over 10 ha with a dozen different varieties, all cultivated through organic agriculture. This precious liquid from 3 different varieties, Aglandau, Bouteillan and Picholine, answers to the gentle name of "wild vintage". This extra virgin oil is renowned among great restaurants. It was also selected as among the 500 olive oils in the world by the prestigious guide from the Italian Marco Oreggia! On site, a shop, a processing area behind glass, a state-of-the-art mill and guided visits.

i **Domaine La Magnanerie – Eric Martin**
Hameau de Massargues – 07150 Orgnac l'Aven
Tel +33 (0)6 74 11 57 45

www.domainelamagnanerie.com

The "Olivier de Vincent"

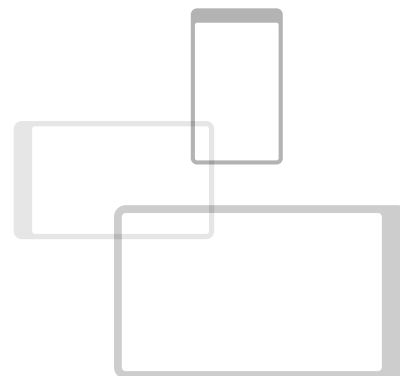
In the hamlet of Brès near Payzac, it is a family tradition as Dominique Vincent's great-grandfather was the very last miller in this area of Ardèche. There one can press his own oil with only 50 kilogrammes of olives – up to 150 kilos.

Tasting, comparing and learning are the main words in this mill widely open to friendliness. Dominique knows the olive and olive trees very well and a wide range of products ranging from the oil to the «tapenade», preserves and a cosmetic line are on display in his mill.

The "Table du Moulin" restaurant, above the mill, is run by Céline, Dominique's daughter, cooking local products with perfection and... her father's olive oil of course!

i **Olivier de Vincent – Brès – 07230 Payzac**
Tel/fax : +33 475 36 21 83

www.olivierdevincent.fr



Lou Mouli d'Oli

Ingrid Pradal only produces the fruity green olive oil growing for thousand years in Tuscany.

She is a real passionate and nearly planted 4,500 olive trees when she started. The olive oil is still pressed in the traditional savoir-faire as well as for the olive paste she makes on her own.

Guided visits and shop on site.

i **Ingrid and Olivier Pradal – Lou Mouli d'Oli**
Domaine de la Souteyranne
07700 Bourg-Saint-Andéol
Tel +33 475 54 70 54 - mobile +33 616 38 61 92

www.paroledolive.com



//////////////////// GASTRONOMY AMBASSADORS

Michelin stars shine in Ardèche!

Olivier Samin at the Carré d'Aléthus in Charmes-sur-Rhône, a 'Toqués d'Ardèche' & 'Maître Restaurateur'* 1 Michelin star

Located near the northern "Côtes du Rhône" vineyards, in the village of Charmes-sur-Rhône, this hotel-restaurant was brought back to life not far from the Gallo-Roman sarcophagus of Senator Alethius. Stéphanie and Olivier greet you at Le Carré d'Aléthus in a friendly modern, entirely renovated setting.. Nine well-lit rooms, some with a terrace, offer rest and relaxation. Enjoy Olivier's refined and creative cuisine in the dining room or on the leafy patio.

The Chef, who opened this establishment in early July 2010, has worked with such great names in gastronomy as Anne-Sophie Pic, which explains his exceptional cuisine.

i **Le Carré d'Aléthus - 4 Rue Paul Bertois**
07800 Charmes-sur-Rhône
Tel +33 (0)4 75 78 30 52

www.lecarredalethius.com



Likoké, Les Vans - 1 Michelin star

The cuisine is gastronomic but with a sense of humour as befits a starred chef who is already a regular on Belgian television. In the kitchen, Piet takes produce from the Ardèche, adds a flavour of Belgium and a touch of the Congo, where his parents lived for many years and ran a café. You can even eat in Piet's kitchen, right next to the preparation counter, as a couple or in a group of up to six diners.



Piet Huysentruyt

**Restaurant Likoké, 7 route de Païolive,
07140 Les Vans**
Tel: + 33 (0)6 27 83 98 57

www.likoke.be



'Toqués d'Ardèche'

Seven talented chefs, passionate about good food, have joined together to form an association, the 'Toqués d'Ardèche' - a toque being a traditional chef's hat. All restaurateurs and each awarded the title 'Maître restaurateur' (the only official industry title awarded by the State), their aim is to assemble a group of chefs and labels which together will form a body of restaurants where food in their own kitchens using fresh products and giving particular attention to the quality of service and welcome.

The seven 'Toqués d'Ardèche' are currently preparing a book of recipes using signature products from Ardèche such as 'Fin Gras' beef, chestnuts, potatoes, picodon and goat's cheese. Publication, June 2015.



'Les Toqués d'Ardèche' Association

President: Richard Rocle

Tel: 04 75 94 74 13

<http://lestoquesdardèche.fr/>



Portraits of 2 of them...

Richard Rocle at Auberge de Montfleury, a 'Toqués d'Ardèche' & 'Maître Restaurateur'

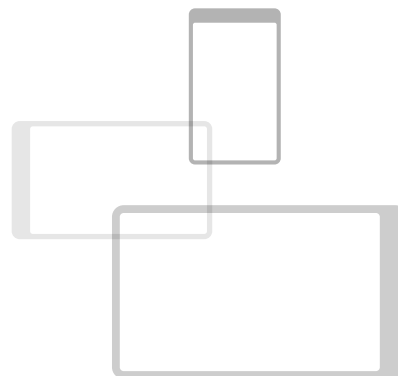
Awarded the gastronomic accolades of Maître Restaurateur and Toqués d'Ardèche, Richard Rocle is an enthusiast who loves to share his passion for locally-sourced food and to challenge his guests by using familiar produce in unfamiliar ways. In short, he turns cookery into an art form which he can show off to full advantage thanks to a recent programme of restaurant renovation. His exciting new kitchen is behind glass and now includes a chef's table where up to six diners can book to eat alongside the chefs and sample a tasting menu of small surprise dishes. Also new is a wine-themed area with one wall entirely covered in large bottles where guests can taste the best vintages selected by Angèle Rocle. There's also a new programme of cookery courses for those who want to learn some of Richard's catering secrets.



Richard and Angèle Rocle

**Auberge de Montfleury, Quartier de la Gare,
07070 St Germain**
Tel: + 33 (0)4 75 94 74 13

www.auberge-de-montfleury.fr



Claude Brioude in Neyrac-les-Bains, a 'Toqués d'Ardèche' & 'Maître Restaurateur'

Situated at the heart of the small resort of Neyrac-les-Bains, the Hotel-Restaurant du Levant has been a gastronomic stopover since 1886. A 5th-generation chef and a pupil of the celebrated Régis Marcon, Claude Brioude could not imagine any other future than in the family business. In this small hotel surrounded by hydrangeas dominating the banks of the Ardèche, he shows his passion through a modern and creative cuisine. Inspired by local markets, the menu changes with the seasons. You can savour a duck foie gras with chestnut conserve, a shoulder of lamb en croûte and his cassiolette of vegetables in Vinezac olive oil (locally produced)... All accompanied by the remarkable regional vintages: AOC Côtes du Rhône, Côtes du Vivarais or astonishing vins de pays that he tracks down from small growers.



Hôtel du Levant* - 07380 Neyrac-les-Bains**

Tel +33 475 36 41 07

www.hotel-levant.com



NEW: Comako

Newly installed at Tournon-sur-Rhône, young chef Jérôme Feix has quickly attracted an enthusiastic following. Whilst training with some of the biggest names in French gastronomy, he always dreamt of opening his own restaurant. Now he runs Comako, a word that means 'like that' in local dialect. Seasonal produce is paramount here, with local ingredients such as truffles, game, chestnuts, quince and mushrooms. 'I like to help my clients discover new foods, to mix flavours, and work with different textures,' he explains. His desserts too are legendary, made by a chef with an exceptional talent for pâtisserie.



Jérôme Feix

Comako Restaurant

66 place du Grillet

07300 Tournon-sur-Rhône

Tel: 04 75 07 48 82

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



NEW: Carabasse

When Yann and Christelle opened Carabasse in the hamlet of Pléoux near Beaulieu in southern Ardèche, their aim was to share their love of cooking and give their diners a real treat. Together they have created

a cosy atmosphere in an old stone barn, midway between a bistro and a regional restaurant. A keen cook since the age of 12, Yann transforms raw produce into delicious dishes in the kitchen. The seasons evolve with the produce on the plate and a menu that changes daily. Authentic flavours and beautiful presentation are the hallmark of this simple restaurant which serves food that's simply delicious.

i **Yann and Christelle Espenel**
Pléoux
07460 Beaulieu
Tel: 06 17 89 73 58

www.restaurant-carabasse.fr //

Tarik Mezri at the Auberge des Granges – rescued and rejuvenated

Once a thriving small business, the Auberge des Granges slowly deteriorated when former owner Léon took retirement, but then along came his grandson, Tarik Mezri, a young chef who had worked under several Michelin-starred chefs. In June 2011, Tarik reopened the Auberge and put his own stamp on the business. Beneath the stone vault of the main dining room, he serves up fresh seasonal produce in innovative dishes that showcase the techniques he has learnt from all those leading chefs, whilst still incorporating the traditions of his grandfather. This gastronomic treat includes dishes such as citrus carpaccio with grilled lobster, chestnut soup with foie gras ravioli – stylish dishes that combine contemporary cuisine with a traditional twist.

i **Auberge des Granges – Tarik Mezri**
Les Granges – 07150 Bessas
Tel +33 (0)4 75 38 02 01

www.aubergedesgranges.com //

Bernard Mathé at Restaurant Schaeffer

Settled in Serrières for thirty years, chef Bernard Mathé puts the emphasis firmly on the best Ardèche products, its “marvellous fruit and vegetable producers and the best Côtes du Rhône wines”. Duck foie gras, spiced cake, fig bread, Ardèche poultry cooked with rosemary, aubergines, crispy rhubarb cake, fresh figs with wine, and gingerbread icecream are all brilliantly combined by this chef. Bernard’s cellar is also prestigious with 450 references, reflecting his passion for these Rhône valley wines, from Saint-Joseph to Cornas, without forgetting Crozes-Hermitage, Saint-Péray, Condrieu and Côte Rôtie. He can even offer his own vintage, having bought one hectare of vineyard in the heart of the St-Joseph. In spring and autumn, gourmets can enjoy his evening “six courses, six wines”.

i **Hôtel-restaurant Schaeffer*****
Route nationale 86 – 07340 Serrières
Tel +33 (0)4 75 34 00 07 -

www.hotel-schaeffer.com //

THE BISTROTS DE PAYS

The 24 Bistrots de Pays are ambassadors for their region, promoting cultural heritage and local products from the south of Ardèche through the breathtaking landscapes of the Cévennes to the peaks of the Ardèche mountains. People come here to play cards, listen to amateur musicians and discuss the local sports scene, as well as to eat and drink. Each Bistrot de Pays has its own character – discover them and you discover different facets of the Ardèche lifestyle. And watch out for the festivals, culinary and cultural events organised at least three times a year, such as the ‘Rando Bistrots’ combining walking, meeting a local – a chef, a farmer or a craftsman – and a meal in a Bistrot de Pays.

i **Cécile Mathieu – tel. +33 (0)475 38 08 03**

www.bistrotdepays.com
 ('nos bistrots'/Ardèche chapter)

UNEXPECTED GASTRONOMY

The truffle at the Auberge la Farigoule (Bistrot de Pays) in Bidon

When snow covers the ground around the little village of Bidon, close to the Ardèche gorges, Guy and his dog Vanille hunt for black truffles in the limestone soil. This famous ‘black diamond’ with its distinctive taste and aroma is then served up in this delightful country bistrot run by his partner Brigitte. On the winter menu at La Farigoule, you can taste truffle foie gras, truffle oil salad and truffle cream, crunchy garrigue truffle, truffle omelette and truffle puree, brie with truffles and even truffle ices. Guests can also book to go out on a truffle hunting expedition and learn all the secrets of bringing this remarkable product from soil to table. Rates: 60€.

NEW: 3 bedrooms are now available above the inn – rates from 52€.

i **Auberge la Farigoule – Brigitte & Guy -**
Le village – 07700 Bidon
Tel +33 (0)4 75 04 02 60

www.auberge-lafarigoule.com

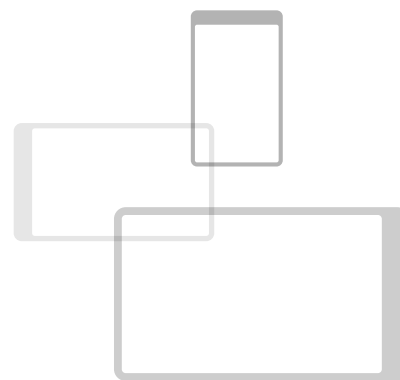
Worth knowing : the winter truffle market in Ruoms (07120) from mid-November til end February, from 10:00 to 12:00.

The Menus Curieux / ‘Unusual Meals’ Association

Sample a range of unusual dishes made that combine the natural flavours of wild Ardèche plants. Many guesthouse and restaurant owners are promoting their local environment by offering ‘Menus Curieux’. Try cream of dandelion or nettle sauce, cardamine and salad burnet salad, lavender ices, pumpkin ice cream, dogwood jam, wild flowers and herbs.

i **Association « Menus Curieux » - Mr Philippe**
Alcalde – Tel +33 (0)4 75 39 57 05

www.menuscurieux.fr //



Wine

TOURISM

////////// THE ARDECHE WINES

The Northern Côtes du Rhône: 4 prestigious names

The AOC CONDRIEU wines

An 80-hectare vineyard producing a delicate, but intense white wine, heady, but fresh. The young wine develops a bouquet of violets and apricots. It is ideal to drink with fish and poultry.

The AOC SAINT JOSEPH wines

A 700-hectare vineyard producing the most important of the Ardèche wines. The reds have a blackcurrant and raspberry bouquet and gently mature with time. The whites have a wonderful bouquet reminiscent of spring flowers, with a touch of acacia honey.

The AOC CORNAS wines

South of Saint Joseph, an 80-hectare vineyard producing full-bodied red wines. They are suitable for drinking with some of the most savoury of recipes, such as marinated meats, venison and mature cheeses.

The AOC SAINT PÉRAY wines

The Saint-Péray vineyard has come down through the ages from the Roman era and experienced tremendous growth in 1825 with the appearance of the Champagne method. The Saint-Péray AOC now offers two high quality wines, the Saint-Péray “still” and “sparkling”. The grape varieties used are

Marsanne and/or Roussanne for both “still” and sparkling wines.

In Southern Ardèche:

The AOC CÔTES DU RHÔNE wines

1,200 hectares producing three great wines. The whites are fresh and aromatic, the rosés charming as well as generous, and well balanced red wines which have a delicate, fruity as well as spicy crispness.

The AOC CÔTES DU VIVARAIS wines

An AOC (guaranteed origin and quality) vineyard covering nearly 800 hectares. The golden white wines have a delicious bouquet of aniseed and fresh fruit. The rosé wines are refreshing all summer long, and the slightly spicy, liquorice-flavoured reds bring out the best in roast and cold meats and cheeses.

IGP Ardèche vins de Pays des Coteaux de l’Ardèche

Since the 1st of August 2009, Vins de Pays have been entered in the category of Protected Geographical Indications (PGI). This is not a new category of wines, but European recognition as an official sign of quality. In Ardèche, the change to PGI is legitimate and natural due, among other things, to their identity being strongly linked to their territory and the quality of the products.

Arising from the department’s colourful geology, they offer a wide range of authentic wines of character

that lay claim to their soils. Le Viognier, a white grape variety cultivated in the Valvignières region, gives an excellent “October grape harvest”. Around Rosières, in the Ardèche Cévennes, you can taste old grape varieties like the red Chatus, which some enthusiastic vine growers have restored to current tastes.


Spotlight on ‘Vignobles et Découvertes’ – discovering Ardèche vineyards

French government ministers responsible for agriculture and tourism have singled out 19 wine-producing areas for the quality of the welcome offered to visitors at their vineyards. The label ‘Vignobles et Découvertes’ makes it easier for tourists to plan weekends and short breaks amongst the vineyards using carefully selected services. All local partners bearing the label undertake to provide a quality welcome in French or other foreign language, a special insight into the world of wine, and an enthusiasm for their natural, cultural and human heritage.

Two destinations along the Rhône Valley in Ardèche have been awarded the label:

Rhône Crussol

Crussol area is the home of AOC Saint-Péray, Cornas and St-Joseph growing on terraced slopes from Châteauboug to St-Péray.

 **Rhône-Crussol Tourist Office:**
Tel. +33 (0)4 75 40 46 75

www.rhone-crussol-tourisme.com

D’Hermitage en Saint-Joseph

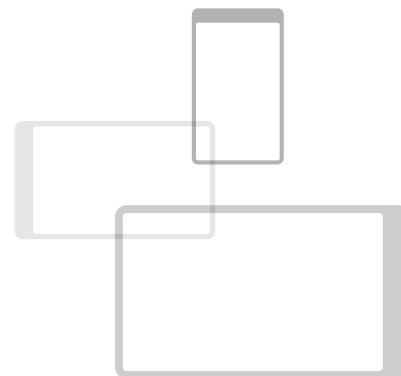
Located in the heart of the Rhône Valley, the destination ‘D’Hermitage en Saint-Joseph’ boasts three Appellations renowned for their high quality: Hermitage, Crozes-Hermitage and Saint-Joseph.

www.hermitage-tournonais-tourisme.com

////////////////////// **ACTIVITIES IN AND ABOUT THE VINEYARDS**

NEW: Go wine tasting in a spectacular underground cavern

New to Ardèche is a visitor experience that mixes vine growers with a wine cooperative and an underground cave – the ageing of wine below ground in the cave of St Marcel d’Ardèche. The limestone geology, underground water, and constant temperature of 14° provide the ideal conditions for maturing quality Rhône wines, a method that has been developed by a small group of wine growers with vineyards around St Marcel. When the cave reopens in spring 2015 for




two days each week, visitors can not only enjoy the magical underground world with sound and light show, but also taste wines from different domaines, Advance reservation recommended.

Tel +33 (0)4 75 04 38 07

www.grotte-ardeche.com

Ardèche wines discovery centre

Much more than just a tasting cellar or wine museum, the Espace Découverte Oenologique des Vignerons Ardéchois is a centre devoted to every aspect of Ardèche wines. The brainchild of the local cooperative association, Uvica-Ardèche Winegrowers, the centre covers 1500m² and explains the diversity of local terroirs, the technical aspects of making wine, the different vintages, and so on. But it’s also a discovery trail for the senses, tantalising the tastebuds by matching food and wine together, and at the end of the visit, enthusiasts can compare the qualities of three different wines. This is a visit for all the family - whilst parents learn the secrets of wine growing, younger members can play grape-related games and try their skills as an apprentice vine grower.

 **NEOVINUM – Avenue de Vallon – 07120 Ruoms**
Tel. +33 (0)4 75 39 98 08

www.neovinum.fr

The wine trail in Lablachère

A new walking loop that starts and finishes at the Cave de Lablachère wine cooperative offers visitors the chance to discover the countryside, the cabins amongst the vines, and the work of local wine-makers. Enjoy the landscape of terraced vineyards, typical of the Ardèche Cévennes, which produce character wines such as Viognier and Chatus.

 **Cave cooperative Vinicole – La Vignolle 07230 Lablachère – Tel +33 (0)4 75 36 65 37**

www.cave-lablachere.fr

Trekking through the vineyards of Cornas

The winegrowers of Cornas invite you to discover the natural and cultural aspects of their territory on foot. The hike lasts approximately 2€ hrs, with an overall difference in altitude of 250m; hiking shoes and suitable clothing recommended.

This picturesque little village has always lived mainly from the vine. Syrah is the only vine stock in Cornas, where it found ideal conditions in the warm dry microclimate on granite slopes with poor soil. From the terraced slopes bounded by low dry-stone walls built over the centuries, you can discover splendid vistas over the Rhone Valley. NB: Cornas obtained its AOC designation in 1983.

i Rhône Crussol Tourisme
1 Place de la République 07130 Saint-Péray
Tel +33(0)4 75 40 46 75

www.rhone-crussol-tourisme.com

Tour the vineyards by electric bike

Wine expert Fabien Louis offers tours of the vineyards by electric bike. Learn about different areas of vineyard or terroirs, and about traditional methods of cultivation. Choose from guided or self-guided tours, whole or half days, with or without meals or tastings. An effortless way to discover the vineyards of St Joseph and Cornas.

i Fabien Louis - tel. +33 (0)4 75 08 40 56

www.ausommelier.com //

// RESTAURANTS AND WINE BARS

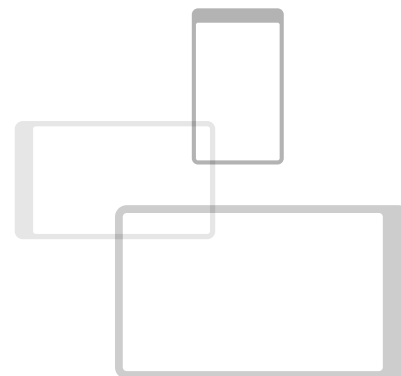
“Les Sens Ciel” Tournon-sur-Rhône

Theme sessions start with a guided tour along the Sentier des Tours in the heart of the Saint-Joseph vineyards. A shop sells a selection of wines from local producers engaged in “organic” or “biodynamic” farming. A restaurant offers salads and a menu with local specialities. Theme evenings with wine tasting, literary meetings, readings, storytelling, “wine and cooking” classes to discover how to match food and wines...

i Marie-Josée Faure
17 Rue Gabriel Faure - 07300 Tournon
Tel +33(0)6 83 08 48 55

www.vin-et-sens.com

contact@vin-et-sens.com //



Carafes en Folie Tournon-sur-Rhône

Carafes en Folie is a wine bar with contemporary decoration in Tournon-sur-Rhône, comprising a restaurant and a cellar where wine is sold, in short a place where you enjoy a convivial moment around fine wine and delectable local cuisine. ‘Apéros-vins’ are organised with a selection of local charcuterie and cheese.

i Jean-François Malsert & Amélie Claeys - 56
Avenue du Maréchal Foch - 07300 Tournon-sur-Rhône
Tel +33(0)4 75 08 19 52

www.carafes-en-folie.com

contact@carafes-en-folie.com //

La cave du Carré des Maîtres in Vals-les-Bains

Wood and bottle decor... Over 200 references for wines from here or elsewhere can be found on the bar or restaurant wine list, to taste on the spot or take away.

i La cave du Carré des Maîtres
8 rue Paul Ribeyre - 07600 Vals-les-Bains
Tel. +33 (0)4 75 88 93 64

i Le Carré des Maîtres in Aubenas
Place du Château - 07200 Aubenas
Tel. +33 (0)4 75 35 27 03

Le Bouche à Oreille in Joyeuse

With typical “bouchon lyonnais” type atmosphere, this little restaurant situated in the old town of Joyeuse offers traditional cooking based on local, and if possible, organic, products. The “cellarman” area makes it possible to discover a good range of local and regional wines that can be drunk or bought on the spot.

i Le Bouche à Oreille
53, rue de la Recluse - 07260 Joyeuse
Tel +33 (0)4 75 36 61 35

lacuisinedelorette@hotmail.fr //

Le Bouchon Littéraire in Privas

On the Hôtel de Ville square, you'll love to linger at any time of day in this tiny literary cafe, with its books and the authors who come to meet their readers during debate evenings. This convivial place also offers a small «house» restaurant so lovers of good wines and literature have everything they could wish for!

i **Le Bouchon Littéraire - 2, Place de l'hôtel de Ville**
07000 Privas - Tel +33 (0)4 75 20 80 54

<http://bouchon.litteraire-privas.over-blog.com/>

Le P'tit Bistrot with its vintners' fare - Saint-Montan

A vintners' meal at Le P'tit Bistrot means dining at a large communal table, with a single menu prepared with a vintner and his wines. The producer is present, of course, to present and oversee the wine service. The food is adapted to the wines, playing on contrast and harmony in keeping with the tradition of local products in season.

i **Madeleine Daburon & Michel Doriez - Le P'tit Bistrot Le village - 07220 Saint-Montan**
Tel +33(0)4 75 00 15 79

www.leptitbistrot.com //

Opus Wine wine bar in Annonay

A place where customers meet friends in a relaxed atmosphere, discover different wines, and appreciate the skill of the people who make them. A big fan of good wine, Marc's cellar is the perfect accompaniment to bistro food, and customers can enjoy a real flavour of the Ardèche whether they choose to have an aperitif at the bar or enjoy a meal in the subtly lit dining area.

i **L'Opus Wine - Marc Jurdit**
17 Place des Cordeliers, 07100 Annonay
Tel ++33 (0)4 75 32 04 62

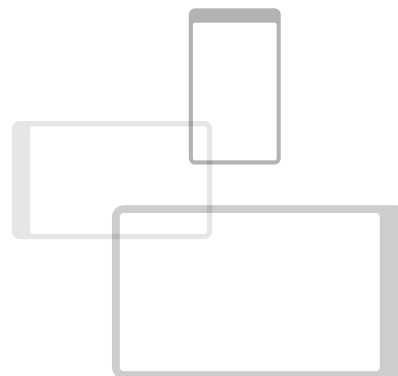
// **STAY AT A WINEMAKER'S**

Rent a holiday home in the Chapoutier vineyards

Totally secluded and equipped to a very high standard of comfort and décor, this former wine-maker's house is situated on a rocky outcrop amongst the prestigious vineyards of Les Granits in the St Joseph vineyards, which belong to Maison Chapoutier. It enjoys fabulous views over the vineyards and across the meanders of the Rhône.

i **Maison Chapoutier - 07300 Tournon-sur-Rhône**
Tel. +33 (0)4 75 08 97 41

www.chapoutier-ecole.com //



Experience the vineyard lifestyle at Domaine Notre-Dame de Cousignac

On a vineyard covering 55 hectares in southern Ardèche, Raphaël Pommier welcomes guests who like to experience authentic local lifestyle. A seventh-generation wine-maker, Raphaël has converted his 17th century stone farmhouse into a charming guest house with six bedrooms, each furnished with family furniture.

i **Domaine Notre-Dame de Cousignac**
Raphaël Pommier - 07700 Bourg-St-Andéol
Tel. +33 (0)4 75 54 61 41

www.ndcousignacvillegiature.fr //



Charming week-end with friends, Rhône Crussol and flight by gyrocopter, from Cornas to Saint-Péray

Weekend approved 'Vignobles et Découvertes'
A stay combining wine, tourism and gastronomy...
Cornas, Saint Péray, Saint Joseph wines are to be discovered, the **Rhône Crussol** appellations are ideally located on the Septentrionaux vineyards' slopes .

Therefore you will be personally welcomed by a tourist office agent who will tell you everything you wish to know a great way to discover renowned Côte du Rhône vineyards. You will have the opportunity to be personally welcomed by the best winegrowers. The accommodation is in a 18thC. wine estate amidst vineyards.

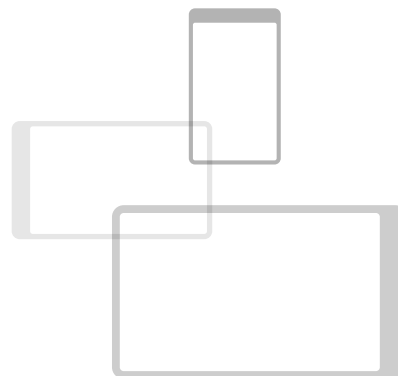
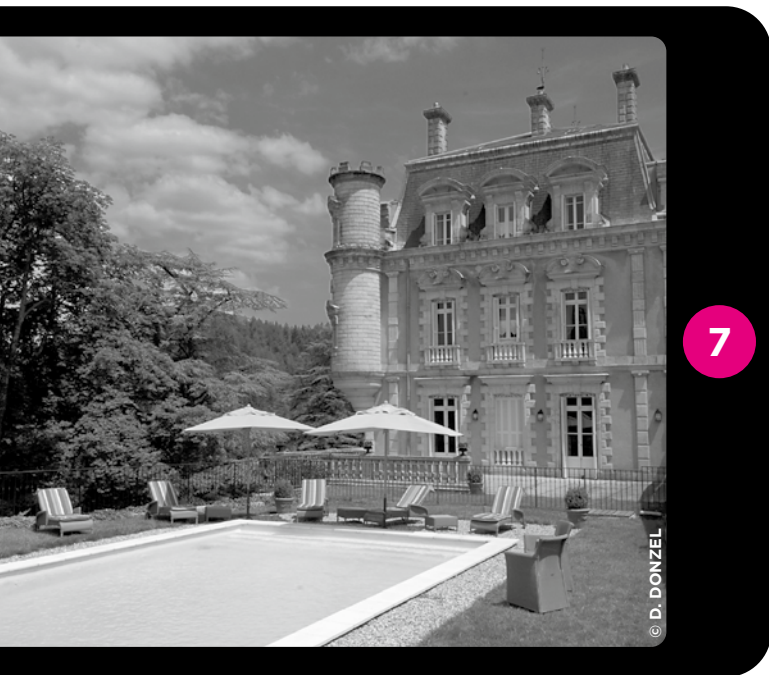
Your stay will not be complete without an unforgettable 20-minute flight above the vineyards. A must-do experience!

Advantage: You can buy white and red wines to fill your cellar up !

For a short 3 or 4 day-stay, ideal from 2 to 8 people.

i **Houlala agency - tel +33 (0)4 78 79 65 50**

www.houlala-france.com //



ACCOMMODATION OUT OF THE ORDINARY...

//////////////////// DESIGN AND CONTEMPORARY

NEW - Hôtel de la Villeon (awaiting 4*) - style and exclusivity

Built in the 18th century and passed down through a succession of wealthy families, this beautiful mansion oozes history and from every stone. Now after two years of refurbishment, it has been restored to its former glory and the 16 bedrooms welcome guests who appreciate quality service and surroundings. The interior décor mixes period furnishings with a contemporary twist, whilst the garden offers views over the rooftops of Tournon-sur-Rhône. An exclusive address in this historic town, Hôtel de la Villeon has installed a wine cellar in the old stables for tastings, meetings and workshops.

i Valérie Antomarchi
Hôtel de la Villeon
2 rue Davity
07300 Tournon-sur-Rhône
Tel: 06 11 17 43 54

www.hoteldelavilleon.com //////////////////////

NEW - Domaine de Chalvêches (awaiting 4*) - luxury suites in lodges

Green hills and valleys surround the lodges of the Domaine de Chalvêches, far from the hustle and bustle of the city but close to all essential amenities. Recently opened, the 10 detached lodges are spread out to ensure everyone has their own personal space, each suite decorated in contemporary style but using traditional materials such as wood and stone. A charming new style of hotel, the Domaine

de Chalvêches is also a stopover for food lovers with an elegant lounge-style restaurant. And to complete the feeling of wellbeing, a 19th century tower houses a hammam, sauna, Jacuzzi and treatment rooms.

i Domaine de Chalvêches - Christelle & Alan
Rouvier
Lieu dit Chalvêches - 07230 Fauçères
Tel: 04 75 35 76 16

www.domaine-chalveches.fr //////////////////////

Château d'Uzer - castle, gypsy caravans and a log cabin

Véronique and Eric fell head over heels in love, the first time they saw Château d'Uzer with its 13th century keep, vaulted ceilings and 19th century staircase. Gradually they transformed it into a charming guest house where ancient stones and beams blend seamlessly with antique furniture and contemporary comfort. Now they have extended their guest facilities to the spacious park, installing three gypsy caravans beneath the ancient trees, the perfect location for a Bohemian family holiday. Inside each are comfortable beds, an Italian shower, small kitchen and sitting area. And to one side stands the Vieille Dame, an authentic 100-year-old caravan, and the Poutifour log cabin, close to the vegetable garden.

i Véronique and Eric Meunier
Château d'Uzer
07110 Uzer
Tel: 04 75 36 89 21

www.chateau-uzer.com //////////////////////

The Auberge de Banne****, Banne

Kate and François have indulged their passion for interior design in this new hotel with 12 bedrooms. Modern colours are mixed with traditional local materials such as oak doors and cement tiles, and different style periods successfully combine to create a welcoming environment. So expect claw-foot baths and wooden bedheads alongside industrial lamps and contemporary photo art. Buffet breakfast enables guests to start their day with the very best of local produce in a 1930's style restaurant. Located on the village square, the inn has already become well known for the quality of its seasonal menus.

i Auberge de Banne, Place du Fort, 07460 Banne

Tel: + 33 (0)4 75 89 07 78 (hotel)

www.aubergedebanne.fr //

Lodge du Pont d'Arc

This eco-lodge is made up of African-style safari tents, covered with canvas canopies and built on decking platforms so as not to spoil the protected natural site. Suitable for both couples and families, the lodges are decorated with bamboo and wood, cotton and linen, in shades of cream, sand and earth. Swop traffic and town for country walks, canoe expeditions and prehistoric painted caves. Owners Corinne and Romain have one aim and that's the wellbeing of their guests, but always with total respect for their enchanting environment. Almost all the produce served in their restaurant is both local and organic. 'What else would we do?' asks Corinne. 'We are 400 metres from the Decorated Cave of Pont-d'Arc and we have to work in harmony with the land that our ancestors left us.' In addition to the lodges, four unique-decorated rooms with a cosy and natural spirit. Without forgetting the private spas in the middle of nature and the private beach, departure point for the descent of the Ardèche Gorges.

i Le Lodge du Pont d'Arc - Corinne et Romain Elly

Route du Pont d'Arc - 07150 Vallon Pont d'Arc
tel+33 (0)4 75 87 24 42

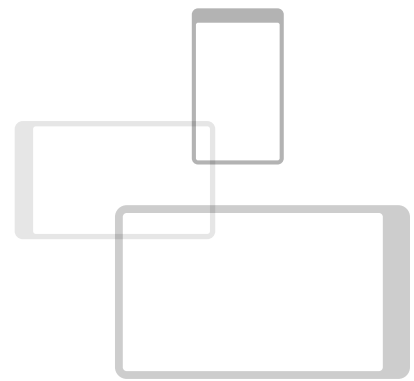
www.prehistoric-lodge.com //

Villa Elisa M****, Aubenas

After 35 years away from their native region, Elisabeth and Bernard Quenault have returned to Aubenas to undertake a project together and transform their 1930's house into a small hotel with eight stylish, contemporary bedrooms. Each elegant room is decorated with a different Ardechois theme, and equipped with every modern comfort. A new well-being centre with indoor pool opens this spring in the huge garden.

i Elisabeth and Bernard Quenault
Villa Elisa M, Rue Jean Beaussier, 07200 Aubenas
Tel: + 33 (0)6 71 34 61 90

www.villa-elisa-m.com //



L'Hôtel des Voyageurs, Le Cheylard

Long established at the heart of Le Cheylard, the Hôtel des Voyageurs has a brand new look. Bought and renovated by enthusiastic young owners Ludivine and Alexandre, the décor is now fresh and modern, with imaginative use of colour throughout. The ten rooms all have spa baths for total relaxation, and in the restaurant, local foods and flavours dominate the menu.

i Ludivine and Alexandre Fontbonne
Hôtel des Voyageurs, 2 rue du Temple, 07160 Le Cheylard

Tel: +33 (0)4 75 30 03 12

www.hotel-restaurant-cheylard.fr //

Mas de la Borne, Saint Montan

When Marine and Gérard Croizat bought this old vineyard seven years ago, it was the realisation of a dream to live in the southern Ardèche. Now, after a major renovation, former teacher Martine has opened a beautiful B&B in this traditional property with its mellow stone walls and ancient arches, surrounded by vines. Two bedrooms are decorated in natural, earth colours with subtle red highlights, exposed stone walls and a mix of both old and new collectables. A roaring fire in the hearth and home-made jams at breakfast add to the warm atmosphere of this delightful family home.

i Martine and Gérard Croizat
Mas de Borne, La Borne, 07720 Saint Montan
Tel: + 33 (0)4 75 90 03 39

www.lemasdelaborne.com //

Mas de Baume***, stylish new farmhouse hotel

At Rosières in the heart of southern Ardèche, Eric Charrat spent several months renovating an old mas - a traditional fortified farmhouse - to create a charming small hotel with ten rooms, including three suites. Each one features exposed stone, natural wood, and décor in shades of violet. Opened in June 2012, the property combines charm, elegance and simplicity, and it's easy to feel at home amongst the pale stone and beneath vaulted ceilings. Pampered by Amandine and Finn, it's easy to chill out too in the calm surroundings. Four acres of parkland and a beautiful swimming pool are the perfect place to relax in the sun.

i Le Mas de Baume
Quartier Baume - 07260 Rosières
Tel. +33 (0)4 75 93 76 88 - +33 (0)6 86 69 23 15

www.mas-de-baume.com //

Château de Balazuc

It was love at first sight when former Parisian journalists Luc and Florence Lemaire first set eyes on Balazuc Castle, built between the 11th and 13th centuries on a cliff above the Ardèche river. 'We loved the sweeping views from the terraces, the tadelakt plaster finish in the bathrooms, the flagstones from Pondichery on the kitchen floor, and the contrast between the rough old stones and the modern furniture,' explains Luc. Restored some years earlier, the building offered four guests bedrooms with contemporary décor, and a lounge with an imposing open fireplace. Outside, a swimming pool had been hewn out of the rock.

i **Château de Balazuc**
Luc and Florence Lemaire
Le Village, 07120 Balazuc - tel + 33 (0)9 51 39 92 11
www.chateaudebalazuc.com //

Château Clément in Vals-les-Bains

Marie-Antoinette and Eric Chabot are overflowing with ideas and from the moment they arrived at Château Clément, they've been adding new features to their beautiful home in Vals les Bains. Latest project is a duplex guest apartment, 'Crystal Grey'. In tones of grey and brown, the duplex effortlessly combines the spirit of the chateau and its period furnishings with contemporary touches.

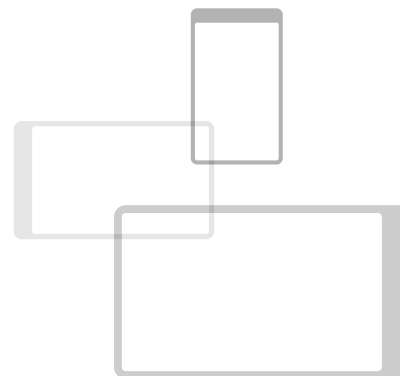
One of the castle outbuildings was converted into an ultra contemporary 200 m2 loft that completely breaks away from the Chateau architecture and decoration. There is also the chateau apartment, a 75 m2 area in the chateau garden floor rearranged in harmonious white tones, in a world of plants. In addition, 5 luxury bedrooms- suites.

i **Château Clément - Marie-Antoinette & Eric Chabot**
07600 Vals-les-Bains- tel +33 (0)4 75 87 40 13
www.chateauclement.com //

Château du Besset - history and heritage in peaceful B&B

Just 15km from Valence, this 15th century fortified house in Besset certainly has some stories to tell. After welcoming all the big names in 1980s' showbiz, this imposing property hit some lean years, but is now very much on the up again since Florence and Pablo Estradère fell in love with the house and left their native Touraine to bring it back to life. After many months of building work, they opened three suites and a bedroom, creating a stylish guest house out of the former silk farm, nestled at the heart of 25 hectares of woodland. Guests love the interior décor - a subtle blend of old stone, antiques and vintage highlights - as well as the silence which makes any stay a relaxing one. With its calming atmosphere and rich history, the Château de Besset exerts a unique charm.

i **Château du Besset**
Florence et Pablo Estradère



07130 St Romain de Lerps
Tel. +33 (0)6 64 27 92 08

www.chateaudubesset.com

Domaine du Fayet in Sanilhac, relaxation and wellbeing in a beautiful natural environment

In the heart of the Ardèche Cévennes, this old stone residence, which has been completely rebuilt and decorated by its owners, offers a spacious suite, and an additional bedroom. Using natural elements such as stone and wood, combined with contemporary materials, Karine & Pascal have been able to transform the building into a beautiful living space where natural light pours into spacious rooms. This is reinforced by the décor ... light linen coloured lime wash on the walls, the stone floors, the linen hangings and the old grey and white patina furniture. This intimate guesthouse is in perfect equilibrium with the surrounding environment, even down to the stone basin on the terrace, from which a natural spring gushes forth. Unwind by the pool, relax in the sauna and don't miss a 'wellness' massage upon reservation.

i **Domaine du Fayet - Karine & Pascal Schlüter-**
Le Fayet - 07110 Sanilhac
Tel + 33 (0)4 75 39 24 09

www.fayetardeche.com //

NEW - Moulin de Montabonnel at Devesset

In Green Ardèche, 10km from St Agrève at Devesset, Jean-Luc and Patricia Deletrez have restored an old mill beside a river 1000m above sea level and turned it into a popular guest house. Go walking around the lake and in quiet woodland before chilling out in one of their four bedrooms featuring natural wood and stone. And look forward to tea when Patricia serves crepes made from local chestnut flour and topped with honey or chestnut puree.

i **Patricia and Jean-Luc Deletrez**
Moulin de Montabonnel
Lieu-dit 'La Scie de la Bâtie'
07320 Devesset
Tel: 04 75 65 15 34

www.moulin-de-montabonnel.com //

Le Mas de la Blanche in Bessas

Between Provence and the Cévennes at the foot of the peaceful village of Bessas, stands the Mas de la Blanche. This former coaching inn, successively transformed over the centuries into farm, then a silkworm rearing house, now offers 2 beautiful bed and breakfast rooms, with pure contemporary lines. Whilst respecting the character and architecture of the place, Catherine, the owner has made this farm into a light and beautiful living space. Textured materials predominate – stone, wood, glass and iron – and a vast internal courtyard beyond the entrance porch leads into the various parts of the property. Relax on the decking terrace around the pool and eat breakfast and dinner of fresh local produce – organic whenever possible – in the large restored kitchen.

i Le Mas de la Blanche – Catherine Deleuze
07150 Bessas – Tel +33 (0)4 75 38 65 76

www.lemasdelablanche.com

////////// «SÉJOURS DE CHARME » IN ARDÈCHE»

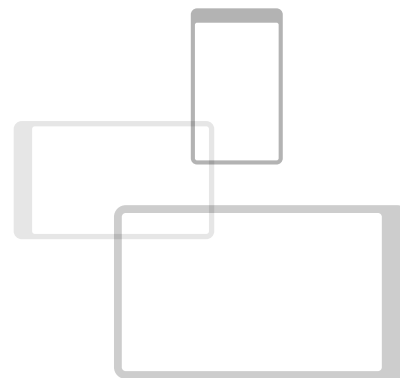
Short breaks and longer stays in accommodation with charm and character

Selected for their quiet surroundings, their style or friendly atmosphere, these properties are all steeped in tradition. Today, the range boasts more than 30 addresses, ranging from two to four star hotels, guesthouses and self-catering accommodation – all different, but all utterly charming, and fitting in to the landscape around them.

www.ardeche-guide.com

“Séjours de Charme”: Côte Cour, for the love of old stones

Patric Brunner wanted to live in the south of France but never got further than Bourg-Saint-Andéol. ‘When I first entered the hall of this 18th century private mansion and saw the huge staircase, I knew that this was the only place I wanted to set down my suitcase!’ Seven years later, Patric is running three B&B bedrooms at Côte Cour. A big fan of ancient stones, he has kept the intrinsic feel of the house, stripping back the wood panelling, keeping the original floor tiles, and the interior shutters on the windows. Tastefully blending old furniture with modern paintings, Patric has added charm and style to the property’s spacious rooms. Guests come to relax in the quiet bedrooms but also to enjoy the privacy of the interior courtyard, the solarium and the pool, whilst taking in the superb view of the Rhône, and the distant peaks of the Dentelles de Montmirail. A self-confessed gourmet who splits his time between Geneva and the Ardèche, Patric loves having guests around his table and serving up seasonal regional produce such as rabbit confit and lamb fillet with a herb crust.



i Côte Cour – Patrice Brunner – 23 rue Poterne
07700 Bourg-St-Andéol – tel. +33 (0)4 75 91 02 18

www.hotelcotecour.fr

////////// EXPECT... THE UNEXPECTED!

NEW! Koen Pinoo - Sleep in a bird's nest

Interior designer Koen Pinoo dreamed of building a wooden cabin in the heart of a forest and now his house on stilts has become a reality, an invitation to do absolutely nothing but relax. No comfort has been overlooked. Guests have their own pretty terrace, a kitchen corner, and bathroom – even a sauna and Nordic bath, also made from wood. But the real USP is the bird’s nest, perched on a rock which once served as a shepherd’s shelter. This metal structure supports a net where you can sleep under the stars – let yourself be rocked to sleep by the murmur of the breeze and feel at one with the vegetation around you.

i Koen Pinoo
Cabane Perchée
Basse Hironde
07110 Vinezac
Tel +33 (0)4 75 88 93 60/(0)6 11 76 60 10

www.cabane-perchee.com

NEW! Sleep in a family-sized barrel

Recently settled in Ardèche from Paris, Tanguy and Valérie Bouvet have restored a barn, built a swimming pool and installed an unusual kind of gypsy caravan, constructed from wood in the shape of a barrel. Designed to take three adults and two children, the caravan measures 15mD and is decorated in shades of red and grey with a pretty terrace, surrounded by trees. Unusual, fun, and romantic, this wine-themed caravan is like a cocoon nestled deep in the forest.

i Tanguy and Valérie Bouvet
Gîte les Marronniers
100 Route de Colombier
07410 St Félicien
Tel +33 (0)6 59 48 19 82

www.gitelesmarronniers.fr

////////// **CAMPING** **THE 'IN' THING**

Camping in Ardèche is a tradition, even a religion for a few. People came to Ardèche more than forty years ago to canoe in the gorges and to camp. They came back year after year. Today, their children come back to Ardèche with a different state of mind regarding comfort. They still camp but with all the quality, comfort and services. Thus five-star camping sites were born. We are talking about very beautiful establishments with swimming pools, aquatic games, sauna, spa, fitness rooms, gastronomic restaurant, children and teenagers clubs, entertainments and shows every night, nightclubs and top of the range self-catering accommodation. A higher quality in services for the customer is still the main motivation for the campsites' managers, in other words glamping !

A selection of the most beautiful campsites, the 5-star campsites :

Aluna Vacances in Ruoms
tel +33 (0)4 75 93 93 15
www.alunavacances.fr

Domaine de Chaussy in Lagorce
tel +33 (0)4 75 93 99 66
www.domainedechaussy.com

Domaine de la Plage in Meyras
tel +33 (0)4 75 36 40 59
www.lecampingdelaplage.com

Domaine Le Pommier in Villeneuve-de-Berg
tel +33 (0)4 75 94 82 81
www.campinglepommier.net

La Plage Fleurie in Vallon-Pont-d'Arc
tel + 33 (0)4 75 88 01 15
www.laplagefleurie.com

La Roubine in Vallon-Pont-d'Arc
tel +33 (0)4 75 88 04 56
www.camping-roubine.com

L'Ardéchois in Gluiras
tel +33(0)4 75 66 61 87
www.ardechois-camping.fr

Le Ranc Davaine in St-Alban-Auriolles
tel +33 (0)4 75 39 60 55
www.camping-ranc-davaine.fr

Les Ranchisses in Largentière
tel +33 (0)4 75 88 31 97
www.lesranchisses.fr

Nature Parc l'Ardéchois in Vallon-Pont-d'Arc
tel +33 (0)4 75 88 06 63
www.ardechois-camping.com


Yelloh Village La Plaine in Ruoms
tel +33 (04)75 39 65 83
www.camping-la-plaine.com

Yelloh Village Soleil Vivarais in Sampzon
tel +33 (0)4 75 39 67 56
www.soleil-vivarais.com

New this year...

Les Coudoulets** in Pradons**

Large camping pitches with private sanitary.
A new indoor swimming pool with aquabikes, spa...


 **Tel + 33 (0)4 75 93 94 95**

www.coudoulets.com

Aluna Vacances*** in Ruoms**

A brand new indoor aquatic park with swimming pool, Jacuzzi, Turkish baths and spa for relaxation.

Rituals, scrubs and massages upon reservation as well as beauty tips, manicure and make-up.

 **Tel. +33 (0)4 75 93 93 15**

www.alunavacances.fr

Camping with a difference

Wineyards and bicycles !

A discovery holiday around the wine theme... exploring in cycles ! From hilltop vineyards to the wild beauty in the River Doux gorges, with a stop off at the cellars of a Saint-Joseph wine producer... guaranteed sensations !

From 70 € per person.


A wine heritage tour

Explore the wine heritage in the Rhône valley and its history. Introductory wine tasting, aromas and textures.

Visit of the Château Museum in Tournon-sur-Rhône with its hanging gardens towering River Rhône.

From 70 € per person.

Both stays offered by:

 **Camping Les Foulons*** - awarded the 'Trophée de l'Innovation' in 2014**

Contact : Marie
220 Route de Lamastre
07300 Tournon-sur-Rhône
Tel +33 (0)4 75 08 22 72

www.camping-les-foulons.com

Live close to Nature !

Nature activities about lavender, scarecrows, windmills, night walks... as well as shared gardens for holidays makers!

Astronomy with the making of a rocket, sun and stars observation.

Prehistoric art with the 'Centre de Recherches Préhistoriques' in Vallon-Pont-d'Arc.

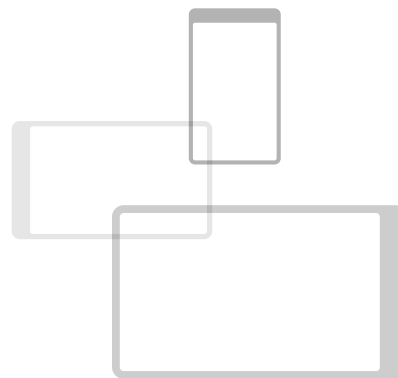
 **Domaine de Briange*****

Contact : Agnès & Frédéric
Route de Gras
07700 St Remèze

Tel +33 (0)4 75 04 14 43 /+33 (0)6 16 58 58 13

www.campingdebriange.com

www.domainedebriange.fr



MAIN EVENTS

////// SHOWS, FESTIVALS AND CULTURAL EVENTS

30 January-9 February

International Debut Film Festival in Annonay

Young film makers from all over the world come to show their debut productions in a friendly, informal atmosphere, to exchange ideas and, above all, talk to the public.

Tel +33 (0)4 75 32 40 80

www.annonaypremierfilm.org

3 April

Recreation of the Passion of Christ at Burzet

Every Good Friday, for centuries the people of Burzetin have taken part in the recreation of the Passion of Christ in costumes of the time along the way of the cross in the commune.

Information Office : tel +33 (0)4 75 94 43 99

14-17 May

Remarkable Art Festival in Banne, Chandolas & St-Paul-le-Jeune

The festival takes place in the medieval part of the village, in the fort's gigantic stables and accommodates about thirty unusual artists and their "remarkable" creations.

Banne Information Office : +33 (0)4 75 39 87 18

<http://festivaldebanne.com>

29-31 May

Mon Pays, Ma Fête - three-day discovery of southern Ardèche

Discover the secrets of southern Ardèche in this three-day festival that gives residents and visitors the chance to meet the men and women who bring the area to life. More than 50 events will take place across

the Ardèche Méridionale - most southerly part of the department - as well as a packed programme of shows hosted by the network of Bistrots de Pays Ardéchois. Mon Pays Ma Fête is an original way to discover the area and its people through sports activities, heritage visits, food workshops and tastings, with plenty to interest all age groups .

Pays de l'Ardèche Méridionale

Tel. +33 (0)4 75 38 52 24

www.monpaysmafete.com

30-31 May

Art and Image Festival in Aubenas

Based on a proposal by the late Claude Moliterni, co-founder of the Angoulême Festival, this event is staged by the town to explore the relationship between strip cartoons and new types of images. Around 30 authors and European specialists take part in a programme that includes book signings, meetings, exhibitions, conferences and workshops.

Centre Le Bournot - tel +33 (04)75 89 02 02

6-7 June

Balloon Festival in Annonay

A colourful spectacle with about fifty balloons in the skies over the town of the two inspired inventors Etienne and Joseph de Montgolfier. On Sunday morning on the Place des Cordeliers, a historic recreation of the first hot air balloon take off.

Annonay Tourist Office : tel +33 (0)4 75 34 17 40

www.mairie-annonay.fr

18-20 June

Ardèche Aluna Festival in Ruoms

Held in a stunning location on the doorstep of the Ardèche Gorges, the aim of this event is to bring together some of the big names of the French and international music scene in a lively festival before the start of the peak tourist season.

Tel +33 (0)6 24 08 92 83

www.aluna-festival.fr

2-14 July

the “Wandering Strings” chamber music festival

The Festival, under the artistic direction of the Debussy Quartet, in association with a chamber music school, brings together internationally renowned artists and young talents and offers chamber music concerts in the most beautiful heritage locations of the Ardèche.

Tel +33 (0)4 72 07 84 53

www.cordesenballade.com

July -August

Medieval encampment in Montréal

At the castle, events, craftsmen and stands open every day except Saturday. On 17 and 18 July, a medieval festival with performances, events, demonstrations and a medieval dinner.

Montréal Castle – tel +33 (0)4 75 89 91 81

www.chateau-montreal.com

10-14 July

The new Alba la Romaine festival

A popular festive event lasting 5 days, during which 45 internationally renowned artistes will guide you from the medieval village to the ancient site: Shows in the big top, lecture, youth events, clown stages, archaeological site visits by hot air balloon, and an original and ephemeral creation on the ancient theatre: “a concerto for circus artistes, musicians, tractors and frogs”....

La Cascade – tel +33 (0)4 75 54 40 46

www.lenouveaufestivaldalba.fr

18-19 July

Vals les Bains Games Festi’Vals

Have fun in the park of Vals les Bains casino and try your skills at a wide range of challenges and competitions. Try more than 400 games – ancient and modern – from five continents and play your way through cultures from around the world.

Office de Tourisme du Pays d’Aubenas-Vals

Tel : +33 (0)4 75 89 02 03

www.aubenas-vals.com

18 July - 1 August

St Agrève International Arts Festival

This festival was born from the meeting of St Agrévois music lovers and nature loving London musicians. Here the arts, music, painting and art photographs are brought together.

Tourist Office

Tel : +33 (0)4 75 30 15 06 - +33 (0)4 75 30 22 43

www.festival-des-arts.com

19-20 July

Festival Môme, Kids’ Festival at Vallon Pont d’Arc

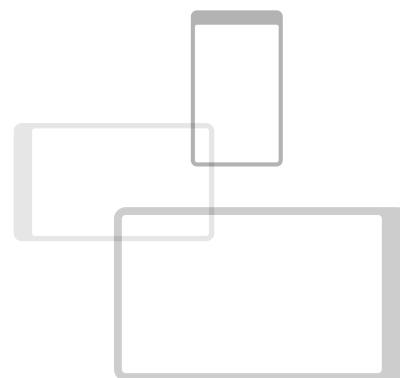
‘On your marks, get set, go!’ This is the local festival for children and families – three days of fun, games and activities during which kids play the starring roles. The village becomes a car-free zone to allow for shows and parades, craft workshops, arts and science events and sports activities. Like one big summer camp where everyone’s welcome!

Vallon Pont-d’Arc Tourist Office

Tel +33 (0)4 75 88 04 01

www.vallon-pont-darc.com

www.festival-momezemerveille.com



From mid-July to mid August

Labeaume in music – Labeaume Summer Festival

A few houses, a church, a river... It could be anywhere, and yet... Labeaume is unique. Here in the this village in southern Ardèche, a maze of steeply sloping paved streets form the unique backdrop to a programme of classical concerts.

Bureau du Festival - tel : +33 (0)4 75 39 79 86

www.labeaume-festival.org

8-9 August

Medieval Festival at Désaignes

Immerse yourself in the Middle Ages over this August weekend when Désaignes and its residents take a step back to medieval times. There’s a great atmosphere from the moment you arrive - narrow streets covered in sand, coats of arms and banners hung from facades, and colourful costumes wherever you look. Street stalls sell typical food from the period, as well as regional produce and crafts, or you can try a medieval beverage in one of the village inns. But make sure to listen out for the town criers or you’ll miss the music of the wandering minstrels ...

Tourist Information Bureau

Tel + 33 (0)4 75 06 61 19

www.desaignes.fr

14-16 August

Les Articulés Festival at Le Cheylard

Another lively and friendly festival, where local, national and international participants come together to enjoy an eclectic range of performances that include puppets, visual theatre, street theatre, clowns and singer-songwriters. And in the run-up to the festival (8-11 August), Le Cheylard also hosts artists in residence and performances in local villages. A varied programme for all tastes and ages.

Tel +33 (0)4 75 29 19 49

www.paysducheylard.fr

15 August

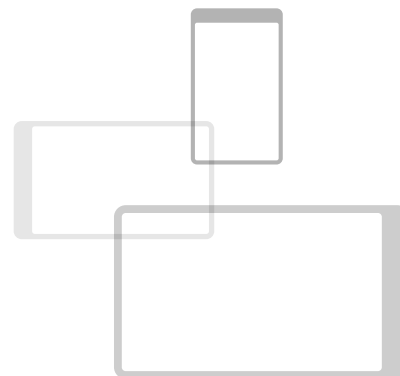
Fete de la Bouirade at Thueyts

For one night only, the narrow streets of Thueyts and the park surrounding the Château de Blou take a step back to the turn of the 20th century as 300 costumed figures recreate the trades and traditions of times past - a nostalgic look back to another age.

Anima’Thueyts, at Thueyts Town Hall

Tel +33 (0)4 75 36 41 08

www.thueyts.fr



16-22 August

Documentary Film Makers' Festival at Lussas

Film makers and producers, journalists and enthusiasts meet in the village of Lussas for a week of screenings and discussions related to documentary film-making.

Tel +33 (0)4 75 94 28 06

www.lussasdoc.org

15-22 November

"Rencontres des Cinémas d'Europe" film festival in Aubenas

A large European programme of recent works or heritage films – a homage to filmmakers. Every day a guest will talk about his work in public.

www.maisonimage.eu ('festival' chapter)

////////////////////// TERROIR AND TRADITION

25-26 April

From Farm to Farm throughout the Ardèche

Farm tours, produce tastings and opportunities to buy – something for all ages.

CIVAM - tel : +33 (0)4 75 36 77 64

www.defermeenferme.com

May

Olive Festival in Vallon Pont d'Arc

A market with olive trees as the theme, tasting local olive oils, accompanied discovery walks, talks, visits to oil mills...

Vallon Pont d'Arc Tourist Office

Tel : +33 (0)4 75 88 04 01

www.vallon-pont-darc.com

7 June

Mezenc 'Fin Gras' beef festival at Sainte-Martial

The season for prized Fin Gras beef finishes when the cattle leave their stables for the summer pastures, swapping their winter diet of hay for fresh grass. And to celebrate, farmers and residents of the Mézenc-Gerbier massif come together to enjoy a festival that includes cattle parades, street entertainment, local produce markets and themed walks.

Association Fin Gras du Mézenc

Tel +33 (0)4 75 30 61 58

www.aoc-fin-gras-du-mezenc.com

Beginning of July

Cherries and Picodon Cheese en Fête in Désaignes

Events, competitions, producers market

Tourist Information Office

Tel : +33 (0)4 75 06 61 19

www.desaignes.fr

26 July

Bilberry festival in Péreyres

Demonstrations of collecting fruit, gourmand workshops, tasting the blue gold of the Cévennes, small artisan market.

Tel : +33 (0)4 75 94 51 59

8 August

Bilberry market in Mézilhac

In the village of Mézilhac, 1100m up in the Ardèche mountains, browse stalls of wild bilberries grown in the Ardèche mountains, meet craftsmen and jam producers, and bilberry juices. And find out how to collect this little fruit.

Association 'La myrtille sauvage d'Ardèche'

Tel +33 (0)6 21 86 13 70

9 August

Winegrowers Festival in Ruoms

The great summer festival of the wines of southern Ardèche, visits, tasting, performances, regional products.

Tourist Office - tel : +33 (0)4 75 39 98 00

www.ot-pays-ruomsois.com

From mid November to mid October

The Autumn Sweet Chestnut Festival 'Castagnades d'Automne'

The celebrated sweet chestnut festivals organized on 1 or 2 days in different villages: meetings with producers, artist craftsmen, artistes, producers markets, tasting, roast chestnuts.

Parc Naturel Régional des Monts d'Ardèche

Tel : +33 0(4) 75 94 35 20

www.parc-monts-ardeche.fr

1st weekend in December

Wine market in Cornas

Wine makers from all the northern Rhône Valley vintages come to show consumers the subtlety of their productions. Over 50 wine makers offer tastings of the Cornas, Saint-Joseph, Saint-Péray, Condrieu, Côte-Rotie, Hermitage and Crozes-Hermitage AOCs

Tourist Office - tel : +33 (0)4 75 40 46 75

www.rhone-crussol-tourisme.com

//////////////////// **SPORTS MEETINGS**

28 February - 1 March

Early season cycle race, La Specialized - Boucles du Sud Ardèche

Amateur and professional cyclists from all over France and beyond will be starting the season with La Specialized - Boucles du Sud Ardèche, a bracing 90-km circuit around Ruoms between the famous Ardèche Gorges and the Rocher de Sampzon.

Tel +33 (0)4 75 39 77 11

www.ardeche-cyclisme.fr

4-5 April

Nature Race in Vallon Pont d'Arc and Kid Race 07

For lovers of extreme sensations: MTB, canoe-kayak, river fording, running in varied environments...

The Kid Raid 07: for children from 10 to 16 years old accompanied by an adult: running, MTB, canoe, archery, blow guns, tree top tracks, orienteering...

The courses are carefully set out in agreement with various institutions as part of a continuous desire to respect nature. The 'eco plus': bio degradable dishes, printing on recycled paper, creation of a customised marker tape (paint not used), food on arrival comprises organic products.

Vallon Pont-d'Arc Tourist Office

Tel +33 (0)4 75 88 04 01

www.raid-nature-vallon.com

1-2 May

Ardèche trail in Désaignes

34 or 57 km solely on paths and long distance footpaths in the middle level mountains. A great loop using the Roman Road, passing through the Château de Rochebonne with an unforgettable view over the Sucs chain.

Tel : +33 (0)6 89 40 12 78

www.trailardechois.com

23-24 May

O'bivwak Raid in La Croix de Bauzon

An event gathering hikers and pathfinders, trailers and outdoor sportsmen.

www.obivwak.net

7 June

Raid'O Féminin in Montréal

A sporting event dedicated to women, for any level. Several tours : 2 days with a night at a bivouac (45 km) or in 1 day (25 km). The activities on offer are running, mountain biking, orientation race, rifle shooting...

<http://teamraidlinks07.over-blog.com>

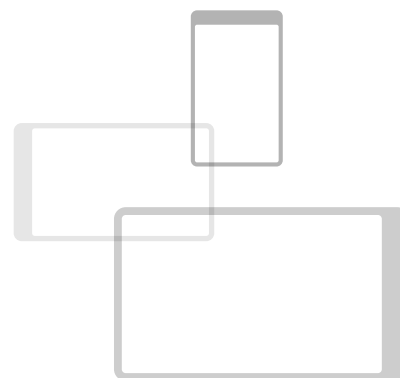
17-20 June

The 'Ardéchoise' cycling race in Saint-Félicien

The Ardéchoise, the world's greatest cycle race is open to all: sportsmen, tourists or trekkers. It attracts over 15,000 participants. Several circuits start from St Félicien and wind through the superb wild landscapes of the Ardèche. Along the way, small villages are in full festival mode with performances, competitions and tastings. An unforgettable atmosphere!!!

Tel : +33 (0)4 75 06 13 43

www.ardechoise.com



26-28 June

The Monts d'Ardèche mountain bike Race - Le Cheylard

Racing through unspoilt landscapes, the Ardeche Mountains MTB Race is an MTB event in a class of its own. Exceptional for its physical character, this race is also exceptional for its unique and astonishing setting. Lasting 3 days, it is an out of the ordinary experience in the heart of the Monts d'Ardèche Regional Nature Park.

Tourist Office - tel : +33 (0)4 75 29 18 71

www.raidvtt-ardeche.com

19 July

Tour de France

15th stage of the Tour de France will cross the wild Ardèche landscapes from Mende to Valence.

www.letour.fr/us/

21-23 August

International Triathlon of the Ardèche Gorges

More than 500 participants are expected to take part in the second international triathlon to be staged in the beautiful countryside between St Martin d'Ardèche and Vallon Pont d'Arc. The 1500-metre swim takes place at St Martin d'Ardèche, whilst the tourist route through the gorges will be reserved that day for the 40-km cycle event, and the streets of Vallon Pont d'Arc for the 10-km walk. The challenge can be attempted by individuals or by teams of two or three people. The evening before the race, the Pont d'Arc will be the starting place for an Aquathlon involving a 400-metre swim and a 5-km walk that are open to the general public.

Tel +33 (0)6 85 36 52 48

September 2015

International Female cycling race of Ardèche

A major event gathering the best female cyclists, world champions and Olympic ones.

www.tcfia.com

7 November

International Ardèche Gorges Marathon

In a friendly atmosphere of fair play, Olympic champions, world champions and top athletes join amateur canoeists and kayakers in the prestigious setting of the Ardèche Gorges for a legendary 35 km descent.

Tel +33 (0)4 75 37 12 94

www.marathon-ardeche.com