

A person's profile is visible on the left side of the image, looking towards a sunset over a vast vineyard. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The vineyard is filled with rows of green grapevines, and a small town or village is visible in the distance. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and the overall atmosphere is peaceful and scenic.

EXPLORE  
COGNAC

# TECHNICAL GUIDE

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# ACCESS

## By air

Direct flights to La Rochelle from London Gatwick & Stansted, Lyon, Manchester, Lyon  
[www.larochelle.aeroport.fr](http://www.larochelle.aeroport.fr)

Direct flights to Bordeaux from: Paris Orly, Paris Charles de Gaulle, Montréal and various routes from Europe  
[www.bordeaux.aeroport.fr](http://www.bordeaux.aeroport.fr)

## By train

LGV Atlantique / TGV:  
Paris Montparnasse - Angoulême (2h03)  
Paris Montparnasse - La Rochelle (2h49)

Charles De Gaulle - Angoulême : 3h03

TGV Bordeaux - Angoulême (0h34)  
TER from Royan to  
- Saintes (26mn) - Cognac (31mn)  
- Jarnac (10mn) - Angoulême (27mn)

TER from Angoulême to  
- Jarnac (27mn) - Cognac (10mn)  
- Saintes (31mn) - Royan (26mn)

TER from La Rochelle to  
- Saintes (48mn) - Pons (20mn) - Bordeaux (1h26)

## By road

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

# Introduction

Internationally renowned as one of the finest spirits in the world, Cognac owes its great delicacy to the exceptional region where it comes from as well as the skills of the people who have been making it since the 15th century.

Ideally located in the South West of France, between the Loire Chateaux and Bordeaux, the vineyards of cognac is only a few hours from Paris, directly connected by the high-speed train via Angoulême train station.

The vineyards of Cognac cover almost 78 000 hectares across the Charente and the Charente-Maritime départements, representing the largest white grape wine yard in France.

The vineyard stretches right from La Rochelle and the Oléron island on the coast to Angoulême and the south of Charente by the border of Périgord. In between, runs the river Charente that flows through towns like Angoulême, Cognac or Saintes all the way to the ocean across a refined countryside of charming villages and small Romanesque churches.

Cognac has managed to perpetuate its traditions and know-how and is lively all year long : the cognac experience can be enjoyed in any season and caters for both the curious and those who are already ardent fans of this famous drink. From the great names of Cognac (Baron Otard, Camus, Hennessy, Martell, Rémy Martin, Hine and Courvoisier) to winegrowers

and distillers, from museums to numerous associated festivals, this region remains authentic. Its vines and all these exceptional landscapes delight the many visitors who, each year, discover or rediscover Cognac thanks to special and exclusive visits.

The Cognac vineyard is a varied and unique place, where tradition meets modernity perfectly. Discover the treasures of the making, live the french art de vivre, learn more about the history of the international best brands, meet passionate people and local producers, and stay in one of the best hotels the destination has to offer.













© Aurélien Terrade / BNIC



# Location map



**Légende**  
Legend

<b>VOIES DE COMMUNICATION PRINCIPALES</b> TRANSPORTATION ARTERIES		<b>SITES REMARQUABLES</b> OUTSTANDING SITES	
	<b>Voies de chemin de fer</b> Railway lines		<b>Villes principales</b> Major cities
	<b>Autoroutes</b> Motorways		<b>Sites UNESCO</b> UNESCO places
	<b>Voies fluviales</b> Waterways		<b>A ne pas manquer</b> Not to be missed
	<b>Aéroport</b> Airport		<b>Vignobles</b> Vineyards
	<b>Port de plaisance</b> Marina		<b>Parc Naturel Régional</b> Regional nature park
			<b>Lacs</b> Lakes
			<b>Station thermale</b> Health and spa resort

©CRINA - 2020



# THE SPIRIT AND VINEYARD

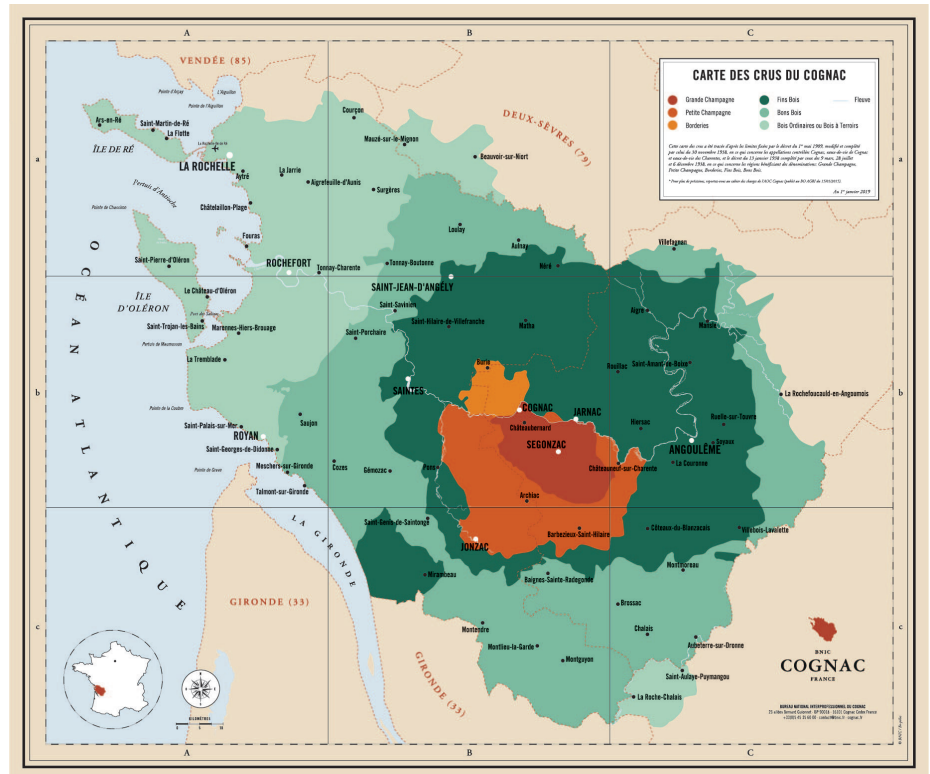
# Cognac, the Spirit and Vineyard

Grown on an outstanding terroir, Cognac is rooted in a land of plains and gently rolling hills, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and crossed by the Charente River. Driven by its centuries-old traditions and the French way of life, Cognac has showcased its native homeland around the world for over four centuries!

Cognac has always been a great traveller. Even its creation was the result of a journey, since distillation first appeared to help transport wine towards the kingdoms of northern Europe. While it can now be found all over the world, it will always stay true to its Charentes roots.

The Cognac region, spread out over 6 crus, was officially delimited in 1909. It benefits from a sunny climate conducive to high-quality production: ideal temperature variations, countryside bathed in a unique, warm light, clay-limestone soils... Each wine spirit draws on these natural resources to develop its specific aromatic characteristics. Three white grape varieties are primarily grown on this distinctive, generous terroir: Ugni Blanc (widespread), Colombard, and Folle Blanche. Cognac is a living heritage which has shaped the land where it was created. Viticulture has modeled the rural landscape until the present day, while beautiful dwellings and aging cellars have been built by distiller families and négociants. The quality of materials used, as well as their ornate details, contribute to the Cognac brand image.

Cognac is the result of the unique expertise of all those who work daily to produce a high-end product. Their challenge is to combine creativity and innovation with respect for traditions, while complying with a shared commitment to high standards based on quality, authenticity, and attention to detail. This is



what makes Cognac so special.

From winegrowers to cellarmasters, from distillers to cooper to boilermakers, Cognac expertise has been passed down over the centuries. It all started with distillation, a process introduced in the 15th century by the Dutch to preserve the quality of Charentes wines during transport. Three centuries later, the stills were redesigned, marking the arrival of double distillation. Then came the practice of aging in oak barrels, which helped further improve the quality of wine spirits. The Cognac market began to develop in the 19th century when the first négociant houses were established. Bottles then replaced oak barrels for wine spirits shipments.

In the 1870s, all French vineyards were struck by the phylloxera crisis. It took many years for the Charentais to recreate their prized elixir from grafted vines.

The vines were replanted and the Cognac journey resumed. In the 20th century, Cognac regulations

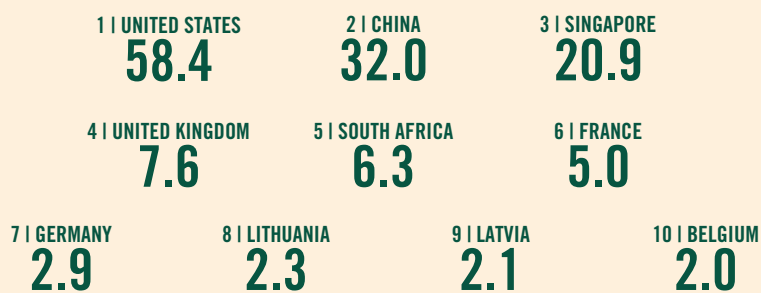
were introduced and in 1936, the Appellation d'origine contrôlée or AOC (today's protected designation of origin, or PDO), was created. The entire industry is thus committed to protecting a product with a growing reputation.

Cherished expertise is now passed down to a new generation which aims to preserve and develop it in the quest for even greater quality. Modernisation and environmental protection are the watchwords for these new winegrowers.

To learn more about Cognac IG : [cognac.fr](http://cognac.fr)

# Key figures for Cognac

## TOP 10 DIRECT SHIPMENTS IN MILLION BOTTLES



### CATEGORY

**60,000**  
PEOPLE  
WORK IN THE  
COGNAC  
INDUSTRY



**4,416**  
WINEGROWERS

**258**  
MERCHANTS

**119**  
PROFESSIONAL  
DISTILLERS

### VINEYARD / COGNAC YIELD



cognac.fr     @Cognac\_Official

# PINEAU DES CHARENTES

Pineau des Charentes, a fortified wine made from a blend of grape juice and cognac.

The rich, bold aroma of Pineau des Charentes is the fruit of a unique expertise. For more than 4 centuries, the winegrowers and cellar masters have shaped this delicate wine by adhering closely to traditional production methods passed down through generations. The grape must and cognac eau-de-vie come from the same estate, the same vineyard, and made by the same people. Their expertise is passed on from generation to generation.

The harvested grapes are pressed and the cognac from the previous year is added, then it is stored in oak barrels for a long time to give it the distinctive taste, whether white, red or rosé pineau. So Pineau des Charentes shares much of its history with cognac, both draw on the same traditional skills and expertise.

The Pineau des Charentes was awarded AOC status in 1945.

Try it as an 'apéritif' or get inspired by local chefs for tasty recipes!

[www.pineau.fr/en](http://www.pineau.fr/en)



# CHARENTAIS WINES

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

[vinscharentais.fr](http://vinscharentais.fr)



# THE COGNAC HOUSES

# The famous houses of cognac in Cognac & Jarnac

## Château Royal de Cognac - Home of Baron Otard & D'Ussé

Overlooking the Charente river, le Château Royal de Cognac was initially a 10th-century fortress designed to stop Norman invasions, and then in the 15th century became a stately home which was the birthplace of one of France's most illustrious kings, Francis I. Baron Otard, who had founded his Cognac House in 1795, quickly understood that the thick walls provided exceptional aging conditions for his eaux-de-vie. He purchased the Château, saving it from total destruction. Le Château Royal de Cognac, which has become a historic monument, is therefore a witness to French history as well as a Cognac House. We are offering a variety of tours combining two aspects of history: the history of France and the history of Baron Otard Cognac up to the present day. Booking recommended for visits.

127 boulevard Denfert Rochereau  
16100 Cognac  
+33 5 45 36 88 86  
[www.chateauroyaldecognac.com](http://www.chateauroyaldecognac.com)

## Camus Cognac

Founded in 1863, Camus is the largest Cognac House to remain family-owned and still independent, keeping a passion for exceptional Cognacs with no compromises in the making. Discover their intensely aromatic cognacs through multiple conducted tasting options: the crus, the vintages, the Borderies, horizontals and verticals of their products. A guided-tour of each step in the production of Cognac, from grape to glass, is provided with all the tastings. For an unforgettable experience, book a Master Blender session and create your own cognac: return home with your own personalized bottle to share with your own friends. Master Blender workshop all year round by appointment.

21 rue de Cagouillet  
16100 Cognac  
+33 5 45 32 72 96  
[camus@camus.fr](mailto:camus@camus.fr)  
[www.camus.fr](http://www.camus.fr)

## Courvoisier

Ever since its creation, the history of this major cognac house based in Jarnac has been marked by the shadow of Napoleon. Its designer building which opens out onto the River Charente backs onto an imposing 19th century château. The tour of the museum emphasises the shared history of Courvoisier and the Empire under Napoleon. In opening the doors to the Château, The Premium tour invites you to explore the soul place of Courvoisier and legacy. The exploration of the Paradis cellar, the sanctuary of the most precious eaux-de-vie, and the tasting will conclude this privileged moment.

2 place du Château  
16200 Jarnac  
+33 5 45 35 55 54  
[www.courvoisier.com](http://www.courvoisier.com)



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## Hennessy

For over two centuries, Hennessy, the world's leading cognac Maison, has enjoyed international standing from its base on the banks of the Charente, in France. It offers visitors an innovative, rich learning experience that blends history and modernity. An invitation to discover the many sides of the brand.

Quai Richard Hennessy  
16100 Cognac  
+33 6 77 45 41 92  
[www.lesvisites.hennessy.com](http://www.lesvisites.hennessy.com)

## Martell

Maison Martell is offering a brand new visitor experience at its historic site in Cognac. Via a contemporary scenography, the oldest of the great cognac houses invites visitors to map out their own individual journey of discovery. The themed concept offers an immersion into the House's heritage, terroir and savoir-faire. Different spaces allow visitors to step back in time, to travel across continents and to appreciate the range of artisanal skills which produce Martell cognacs, renowned throughout the world for their elegance, intensity and finesse. The culmination of the journey is a tasting with one of the House's experts. Before leaving, visitors can spend time at the Fondation d'Entreprise Martell, a space devoted to artistic production and contemporary creation in all its forms. On the top floor of the building is the Indigo by Martell bar, a vast roof terrace with a welcoming ambiance which offers spectacular views over the town, as well as an inventive cocktail menu.

16 avenue Paul Firino Martell  
16100 Cognac  
+33 5 45 36 34 98  
[www.martell.com](http://www.martell.com)

## Meukow

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

26 rue Pascal Combeau  
16100 Cognac  
+33 5 45 82 32 10  
[visite.meukow@cdgcognac.com](mailto:visite.meukow@cdgcognac.com)  
[www.visitemeukow.com](http://www.visitemeukow.com)

## Rémy Martin

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

20 rue de la Société Vinicole  
16100 Cognac  
+33 6 79 19 27 29  
[stephanie.wolski@remy-cointreau.com](mailto:stephanie.wolski@remy-cointreau.com)  
[www.visitesremymartin.com](http://www.visitesremymartin.com)



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# Other houses of Cognac & winegrowers

## A. de Fussigny

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

11 rue des Gabariers  
16100 Cognac  
+33 5 45 36 61 36  
[contact@adefussigny.com](mailto:contact@adefussigny.com)  
[www.adefussigny.com](http://www.adefussigny.com)

## Bache-Gabrielsen

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

32 rue de Boston  
16100 Cognac  
+33 5 45 32 07 45  
[www.bache-gabrielsen.com](http://www.bache-gabrielsen.com)

## Bertrand Cognac

In the heart of the 'Petite Fine Champagne', one of the two premier growing regions of Cognac, the Bertrand family has passed down from generation to generation, since 1731, the art of cultivating the vines. A respect for the traditions of their past is reflected in the nature and authenticity of their products. Their trademark, the Windmill of Bel'Air, the last of the town of Reaux, is surrounded by their vines, symbolic of their history, their heritage, and the quality of their cognacs.

Domaine des Brissons de Laage  
17500 Réaux  
+33 5 46 48 09 03  
[contact@cognac-bertrand.com](mailto:contact@cognac-bertrand.com)  
[www.cognac-bertrand.com/en](http://www.cognac-bertrand.com/en)

## Bourgoin

Bourgoin Cognac is a handcrafted vigneron cognac. The family estate is located in the village of Tarsac, in the municipality of Saint Saturnin, Charente (France). Our cognacs are sincere and authentic. No long speeches, the truth is inside the bottle. You will find the emotion of a great cognac. Receive this punch like a gift. Glare or light stupor, our micro barrique xo cognac aromatic range will not leave you unscathed.

14 rue du Puits  
16290 Saint-Saturnin  
+33 6 81 59 71 72  
[contact@bourgoincognac.com](mailto:contact@bourgoincognac.com)  
[bourgoincognac.com](http://bourgoincognac.com)



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## Château Montifaud

The Vallet family owns the Château Montifaud for 6 generations, that means more than 150 years of expertise and passion. They produce blended and vintage cognacs made solely with grapes grown in its 140-hectare vineyard on the best soils in the Petite and Grande Champagne areas. The cognacs are made using traditional methods during vinification, distillation and ageing. Discover one immersive and fun guided tour ranging from the vine to the glass and mixing discovery, creativity and tasting of Cognac, Pineau and their Gin from grapes.

36 route d'Archiac  
17520 Jarnac Champagne  
+33 5 46 49 50 77  
[www.chateau-montifaud.com](http://www.chateau-montifaud.com)

## Delamain

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

7 rue Jacques et Robert Delamain  
16200 Jarnac  
+33 5 45 81 08 24  
[delamain@delamain-cognac.com](mailto:delamain@delamain-cognac.com)  
[www.delamain-cognac.com](http://www.delamain-cognac.com)

## Domaine Castels-Sablons

A family history for 4 generations - The Roux family are winegrowers and distillers for more than a century, producing and cognac, Pineau des Charentes and 'verjus' (natural grape juice without alcohol used in cooking since the Romans) on their 6-hectares estate. Try the traditional 'brûlot charentais' - a tasty coffee flambéed with cognac.

Le Bourg  
17520 Saint Maigrin  
+33 5 46 70 05 20  
[contact@castel-sablons.com](mailto:contact@castel-sablons.com)  
[www.castel-sablons.com](http://www.castel-sablons.com)

## Domaine du Chêne

Since 1865, the skills in making wine, Cognac and Pineau des Charentes have been passed down from generation to generation. Domaine du Chêne brings the best of Charentaise tradition to a modern, human scale technique. For more than 15 years they have made the protection of their environment part of their production, from the vine to the bottle.

Best XO Cognac' by the World Cognac Awards 2020.

20 rue des Chênes  
17800 St-Palais-de-Phiolin  
+33 5 46 70 90 53  
[contact@ledomaineduchene.fr](mailto:contact@ledomaineduchene.fr)  
[ledomaineduchene.fr](http://ledomaineduchene.fr)

## Domaines Francis Abecassis

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

Domaine de Chez Maillard  
16440 Claix  
+33 5 45 66 35 72  
[contact@abk6-cognac.com](mailto:contact@abk6-cognac.com)  
[www.abecassis-cognac.com](http://www.abecassis-cognac.com)

## Frapin

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

1 rue Pierre Frapin  
16130 Segonzac  
+33 5 45 83 40 03  
[info@cognac-frapin.com](mailto:info@cognac-frapin.com)  
[www.cognac-frapin.com](http://www.cognac-frapin.com)

## Frères Moines

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

1 rue de la Boucle  
Villeneuve 16200 Chassors  
+33 5 45 80 98 91  
[contact@moinefreres.fr](mailto:contact@moinefreres.fr)  
[www.moinefreres.fr](http://www.moinefreres.fr)

## Grosperin

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

1 rue de Courbiac  
Port Rousselle  
17100 Saintes  
+33 5 46 90 48 16  
[ggrosperin@cognac-grosperin.com](mailto:ggrosperin@cognac-grosperin.com)  
[cognac-grosperin.com](http://cognac-grosperin.com)

## Maine Giraud

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

Le Maine Giraud  
16250 Champagne-Vigny  
+33 5 45 64 04 49  
[contact@mainegiraud.com](mailto:contact@mainegiraud.com)  
[www.mainegiraud.com](http://www.mainegiraud.com)



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## Normandin Mercier

Since 1872, Normandin-Mercier Cognacs are the result of a long family tradition. On the outskirts of the city of La Rochelle, Edouard Normandin makes wisely mature the best crus of Cognac, from Grande Grande and Petite Champagne.

1 impasse de la Péraudière  
17139 Dompierre sur Mer  
+33 5 46 68 00 65  
[info@cognacnm.fr](mailto:info@cognacnm.fr)  
[normandin-mercier.fr/en](http://normandin-mercier.fr/en)

## Tiffon-Braastad

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

29 quai Ile Madame  
16200 Jarnac  
+33 5 45 36 87 00  
[braastad.com](http://braastad.com)

## Thomas Hine & co

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

16 quai de l'Orangerie  
16200 Jarnac  
+33 5 45 35 59 59  
[www.hinecognac.com](http://www.hinecognac.com)

**LEARN  
MORE  
ABOUT  
COGNAC**

# Discover the Cognac culture & traditions

## MACO - Musée des Arts du Cognac

This Cognac museum devoted to the famous local drink traces the industrial, economic, social and technological history of cognac in more than 1,600m<sup>2</sup> of permanent exhibition space, as well as temporary exhibitions, themed tours and workshops devoted to appreciating the unique fragrance of cognac.

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

[www.musees-cognac.fr](http://www.musees-cognac.fr)

## Ecomusée du Cognac

The wine-grower will welcome you to this 19th-century vineyard. To see: Wine-growing Museum, audiovisual show, perfume organ, 600m<sup>2</sup> of exhibitions. Available on site: tasting of Pineau des Charentes, old cognacs and chocolates for sale. Permanent exhibitions about Cuba: its chocolate, coffee, and worm-famous Havana cigars. Exhibition of collector's vehicles and equipment for the 1950/60s.

Logis des Bessons - 35 route des Bessons  
17770 Migron  
+33 5 46 94 91 16

[tesson@wanadoo.fr](mailto:tesson@wanadoo.fr)

[www.domaine-tesson.com/ecomusee-du-cognac](http://www.domaine-tesson.com/ecomusee-du-cognac)



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## Maison de la vigne et des saveurs

House of the Vine and Savours - Discover the flavours of the vineyard through cognac, Pineau des Charentes and local wines. There is an interactive information area, some workshops or cookery lessons, many activities for the kids and the chance to meet people in the industry. You can also buy local produce and books about the area.

La Pierre Brune  
17520 Archiac  
+33 5 46 49 57 11  
[mvs@haute-saintonge.org](mailto:mvs@haute-saintonge.org)  
[www.maisondelavigneetdessaveurs.com](http://www.maisondelavigneetdessaveurs.com)

## Normandin Mercier

At the end of a chestnut-tree-lined avenue, in the middle of a small wood of century-old oaks, Jules Normandin, who founded the Cognac house in 1872, built his ageing cellars on the property of a former 17th-century hunting lodge, a stone's throw from La Rochelle. Here visitors can enjoy Cognac tastings paired with chocolate or blending classes.

[info@cognacnm.fr](mailto:info@cognacnm.fr)  
[www.normandin-mercier.fr/](http://www.normandin-mercier.fr/)

## Chai du Rouissoir

The Chai du Rouissoir is a family estate which has been cultivating vines for several generations. In 1973, Guy and his son Didier decided to install a still and make their own Cognac.

Here from November to March, visitors can experience the unique moment of distillation. They will enjoy a hearty local breakfast at the foot of the still.

[chaiduroissoir@hotmail.com](mailto:chaiduroissoir@hotmail.com)  
[www.vigeneronautrement.com](http://www.vigeneronautrement.com)

## Escape Game Spirits

Discover cognac in a different way with our Escape Game, unique in Charente. You are locked in a room and you have one hour to get out: solve riddles, find codes, open locks and many other mysteries to get out on time!

7 rue du Coteau  
Lieu-dit Biard  
16130 Segonzac  
+33 5 45 83 41 95  
[info@guillon-painturaud.com](mailto:info@guillon-painturaud.com)  
[www.cognac-guillon-painturaud.fr](http://www.cognac-guillon-painturaud.fr)

## Vignoble Vincent

A sustainable agriculture to respect the environment - Vignoble Vincent produces cognac, pineau and wines respecting the soil and people. Come to discover their tradition by visiting the vines, the cellars, the distillery and a tasting session.

73 rue des Chateliers  
17310 St Pierre d'Oléron  
+33 5 46 47 03 97  
[infos@vignoble-vincent.com](mailto:infos@vignoble-vincent.com)  
[www.vignoble-vincent.com/en/our-domain-guided-tour](http://www.vignoble-vincent.com/en/our-domain-guided-tour)

## Maison Boinaud

Dive into the history of De Luze with a behind-the-scenes tour of our Cognac production. Discover one of the largest family distilleries in the Grande Champagne region and the art of ageing in an authentic working cellar with walls blackened by the small amount of Cognac that is always lost due to evaporation, known as the "angels' share". Then, enjoy a breathtaking view of our vineyards from the top of the old mill while tasting De Luze Cognacs, served with gourmet snacks.

[visites@boinaud.com](mailto:visites@boinaud.com)  
<https://cognacdeluze.com/visits/>



© Aurélien Terrade / BNIC

# Know-how of the Cognac industry

## Tonnellerie Allary

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

29 route de Cognac  
17520 Archiac  
+33 5 46 49 14 59  
[www.tonnellerie-allary.com](http://www.tonnellerie-allary.com)

## Hennessy Cooperage

Constructing new barrels and caring for the venerable barrels in which our eaux-de-vie mature requires patience, precision and an absolute mastery of woodcraft. Discover the Hennessy Cooperage and meet our master coopers, who pass on their knowledge from generation to generation.

[www.lesvisites.hennessy.com](http://www.lesvisites.hennessy.com)

## The Oak Tour

The Oak Tour is an experience for visitors, allowing them to discover the entire Cognac creation process through the people who make it happen, meeting a host of passionate professionals.

[contact@moinefreres.fr](mailto:contact@moinefreres.fr)



©BNIC

# GASTRONOMY

A rich  
culinary  
heritage

The world of Cognac offers up a gastronomic journey with delicious regional products and a chance to meet locals who love to share the experience of living and eating well!

The cuisine here is refined yet accessible, both traditional and daring, and is a great means of exploring the region's rich diversity. The oysters, the Charron mussels and a wide variety of fish and seafood, the salt and the fine 'fleur de sel', the caviar, the produce from the vineyards such as cognac, Pineau des Charentes and Charentais wines... make the reputation of the destination and are not to be missed by the tables of top chefs, in many markets or at local producers.

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

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

2 'AOC' (protection designation of origine): cognac, Pineau des Charentes (fortified wine made from a blend of grape juice and cognac).



© Aurélien Terrade / BNIC



© Aurélien Terrade / BNIC

# Local products & gourmet delights

## Iodine flavours



The Atlantic's precious 'stones' - Marennes Oléron oysters and Charente-Maritime oysters are the result of the perfect marriage of nature and the know-how of the producers. The wide variety of fish and seafood is another authentic delight to be tasted: céteau, sea bass, meagre, red mullet, sole, langoustine, prawn, sea bream, sardine, scallop... and here, from sea to plate, there is only one step!

## Caviar



The sturgeon is one of the most ancient species of fish still living today. It has always been appreciated for the flavour of its caviar - a very refined product that, as eaten, gives a delightful taste of the sea. Taste it in the Charentaise style, with a cognac 'frappé'!

[www.caviar-gensac.fr](http://www.caviar-gensac.fr)  
[www.caviaromanov.fr](http://www.caviaromanov.fr)

## Truffles



Truffles have always lived comfortably next to vines, and their scent can be found in cognac's array of aromas. Many truffle patches have been developed in Charente, producing the prized Tuber Melanosporum, better known as Périgord black truffle. Open to everyone, the famous Jarnac truffle market is held every Tuesday from December to February and brings together the region's truffle growers. After the experts have ensured the truffles' quality by cutting into them with a knife and certifying each one, the market opens officially to the sound of horns - a unique (and fragrant) experience!

## Chocolate



Good news for chocolate lovers - their favourite product is also a priority for foodies in the region. The chocolatiers will gladly help you discover their chocolate Marguerites (created for Marguerite de Valois, sister of Francis I and patron of the arts), and some will even share their secrets during a workshop or tour.

[www.chocolaterie-letuffe.com](http://www.chocolaterie-letuffe.com)  
[www.gourmandise-et-chocolat.fr](http://www.gourmandise-et-chocolat.fr)

  
Come and visit the ports of La Rochelle and La Cotinière on the Oléron island and enjoy a guided tour to discover the backstage of a seafood auction.



## Cheeses



Round off your meal with some local cheeses as a French tradition - a large choice of fresh artisanal ones produced in the area will delight your taste-buds: Chabichou, Mothais sur feuille (goat's milk cheese wrapped in a leaf), Manslois (smooth texture and creamy flavour, to be tried in savoury dishes as well as sweet ones), Jonchée (wrapped in natural rush and most often flavoured with almond, to be eaten extra fresh), Taupinette (a delicate goat cheese with subtle hazelnut and forest floor notes) and more...

# Cocktail bars

## Bar Luciole

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

14 place du Solencon  
16100 Cognac  
+33 5 45 81 70 11  
[info@bar-luciole.com](mailto:info@bar-luciole.com)  
[www.bar-luciole.com](http://www.bar-luciole.com)



## Bar Louise

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

3 place Francois 1er  
16100 Cognac  
+33 5 17 22 31 67  
[www.barlouise.com](http://www.barlouise.com)

## Indigo by Martell

On the top floor of the Martell building is the 'Indigo by Martell' bar, a vast roof terrace with a welcoming ambiance which offers spectacular views over the town, as well as an inventive cocktail menu.

On the top floor of the Fondation d'Entreprise Martell, this vast terrace offers a welcoming ambiance and spectacular views over Cognac, from the historic centre to the banks of the Charente river.

The Indigo by Martell bar serves a creative cocktail menu - from mixology classics to revisited recipes - and the complete collection of Martell cognacs.

16 avenue Paul Firino Martell  
16100 Cognac  
[www.martell.com](http://www.martell.com)

## Bar Le 1838 & Guinguet'

The 5-star Hotel Chais Monnet & Spa offers 2 bars to visitors : a jazz bar located in a former cooperage with live music and for the summer a rooftop terrace overlooking Cognac.

50 rue Paul Firino Martell  
16100 Cognac  
[www.chaismonnethotel.com](http://www.chaismonnethotel.com)

## Le Mary Lili

When in La Rochelle, stop at the Mary Lili bar, the first cocktail bar in the city. In a distinctly urban and neo-industrial atmosphere, the Mary Lili is the leading mixology destination in this maritime city. Inside, visitors will find a creative menu which changes regularly according to the season, filled with innovative cocktails.

[www.lemarylili.fr](http://www.lemarylili.fr)

# Food and drink workshops

## Oriane Chambon - Sommelier

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

06 67 24 17 46  
[orianechambon@gmail.com](mailto:orianechambon@gmail.com)

## Masterclass for gourmets

Experience something special by attending a culinary workshop in the kitchen of one of the Charentes' best chefs around Cognac or in La Rochelle: you will discover their secrets and learn to sublimate the best raw ingredients from the region... And share a tasty moment with your friends or family!

### Chef Grégory Coutanceau

[www.laclassedesgourmets.com](http://www.laclassedesgourmets.com)

### Chef Ludovic Merle

[www.restaurant-du-chateau.com](http://www.restaurant-du-chateau.com)

## Mixology classes

Learn all about cocktail creation and the story of Cognac and make your own cocktail alongside the bartender in several bars in Cognac or in La Rochelle.

In Cognac :  
[www.barlouise.com](http://www.barlouise.com)  
[www.bar-luciole.com](http://www.bar-luciole.com)

In La Rochelle :  
[www.lemarylili.fr](http://www.lemarylili.fr)



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## Michelin starred restaurants

### Les Foudres

Chef: Mathis Debize et  
Alexandre Mornet

Situated in a stunning «Chais» surrounded by ancient Cognac Barrel, the gastronomic restaurant of Hotel Chais Monnet invites guests to enjoy a local, creative and refined cuisine in a unique setting. Every dish is a journey to new horizons for a memorable tasting experience. Chef Marc Antoine Lepage was awarded his first star in the Michelin Guide in 2021.

50 avenue Paul Firino Martell  
16100 Cognac

+33 5 17 22 32 23

[www.chaismonnethotel.com/en/dining/les-foudres/](http://www.chaismonnethotel.com/en/dining/les-foudres/)

### Aumi

Chef : Mickael Clautour

The Chef draws his inspiration from his experiences and travels. He uses local, responsible produce and carefully selects the products and producers with whom he wishes to work.

6 chemin des Rochers  
16400 Puymoyen  
+33 5 45 70 76 19

[www.aumirestaurant.com](http://www.aumirestaurant.com)

### La Ribaudiere

Chef: Thierry Verrat

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

16200 Bourg-Charente  
+33 5 45 81 30 54

[laribaudiere.com](http://laribaudiere.com)

### L'Hysope

Chef: Nicolas Durif

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

25 rue de l'Aurore  
17220 La Jarrie  
+33 5 46 68 52 21

[www.lhysope.fr](http://www.lhysope.fr)

### Christopher Coutanceau

Chef: Christopher Coutanceau

A regional gastronomic reference, 3 Michelin stars, a member of the 'Relais & Châteaux' and the 'Grandes Tables du Monde', Coutanceau combines traditional and innovative cuisine with a refined and warm atmosphere.

Plage de la Concurrence  
17000 La Rochelle  
+33 5 46 41 48 19

[www.coutanceaularochelle.com](http://www.coutanceaularochelle.com)

### Le Moulin de la Tardoire

Chef: Matthieu Brudo

Located on an island bordered by the Tardoire river, close to two 15th century castles, the mill has been entirely renovated. In this enchanting setting, they offer a gourmet and gastronomic cuisine combining the French classics with the most modern techniques for the creation of dishes prepared with precision. Chef Matthieu Brudo was awarded his first star in the Michelin Guide in 2020.

Lieu-dit 'Forge'

16220 Montbron

+33 5 45 66 41 46

[www.mouлиндelatardoire.fr](http://www.mouлиндelatardoire.fr)

### Les Sources de Fontbelle

Chef: Guillaume Veysièrè

Just 5 min away from the city center, Les Sources de Fontbelles is a unique place nested on a limestone cliff in the heart of a dense and varied vegetation. Awarded one Michelin star in 2021, Chef Guillaume offers an elegant and audacious cuisine that carefully respects the seasons and local sourcing. The property features as well a bistro and a guest house with 5 stylish bedrooms.

1 bis, rue des Meules à Grains  
16 000 Angoulême  
+33 5 45 23 51 75

[www.sourcesdefontbelle.com](http://www.sourcesdefontbelle.com)

## Other gourmet restaurants

### Cognac and around:

- Les Foudres & La Distillerie in Cognac  
[www.chaismonnethotel.com/en/dining](http://www.chaismonnethotel.com/en/dining)
- Poulpette in Cognac  
[www.poulpette.squarespace.com](http://www.poulpette.squarespace.com)
- La Maison in Cognac  
[www.restaurant-lamaison-cognac.fr](http://www.restaurant-lamaison-cognac.fr)
- Le Restaurant du Château in Jarnac  
[www.restaurant-du-chateau.com](http://www.restaurant-du-chateau.com)
- Le Verre Y Table in Jarnac  
[www.restaurant-leverreytable.com](http://www.restaurant-leverreytable.com)
- L'Essille in Bassac  
[www.hotel-restaurant-essille.com](http://www.hotel-restaurant-essille.com)

### Angoulême and around:

- Cokotte in Angoulême  
[www.restaurant-cokotte.fr](http://www.restaurant-cokotte.fr)
- Le Terminus in Angoulême  
[www.le-terminus.com](http://www.le-terminus.com)
- La Cigogne in Angoulême  
[www.la-cigogne-angouleme.com](http://www.la-cigogne-angouleme.com)
- Les Sources de Fontbelle in Angoulême  
[www.sourcesdefontbelle.com](http://www.sourcesdefontbelle.com)
- Domaine du Chatelard in Dirac  
[www.domaineduchatelard.com](http://www.domaineduchatelard.com)

### Saintes:

- Le Parvis  
[www.restaurant-le-parvis.fr](http://www.restaurant-le-parvis.fr)
- Les Saveurs de l'Abbaye  
[www.saveurs-abbaye.com](http://www.saveurs-abbaye.com)
- La Table du Relais du Bois St-Georges  
[www.relaisdubois.com](http://www.relaisdubois.com)

### Near Jonzac:

- Les Deux Lévriers at Château de Mirambeau  
[www.chateauxmirambeau.com/fr/restaurant-les-deux-levriers-relais-chateaux](http://www.chateauxmirambeau.com/fr/restaurant-les-deux-levriers-relais-chateaux)

### La Rochelle and around:

- La Yole de Chris in La Rochelle  
[www.layoledechris.com](http://www.layoledechris.com)
- Les Quatre Sergents in La Rochelle  
[www.les4sergents.com](http://www.les4sergents.com)
- Les Flots in La Rochelle  
[www.les-flots.com](http://www.les-flots.com)
- Le Mail in La Rochelle  
[www.restaurant-le-mail.com](http://www.restaurant-le-mail.com)
- Le Gaya in Chatellaillon-Plage  
[www.la-grande-terrasse.com/restaurant-gaya](http://www.la-grande-terrasse.com/restaurant-gaya)

### Ile d'Oléron-Bassin de Marennes:

- Manger sur la Plage in Marennes-Plage  
[www.dormirsurlaplage.fr/mangersurlaplage](http://www.dormirsurlaplage.fr/mangersurlaplage)
- Le Relais des Salines in Grand-Village-Plage  
[www.facebook.com/lerelaisdessalines](http://www.facebook.com/lerelaisdessalines)
- De l'île aux papilles in St-Pierre-d'Oléron  
[www.ile-aux-papilles.fr](http://www.ile-aux-papilles.fr)
- L'Ecume in St-Trojan-les-Bains  
[www.restaurant-lecume-oleron.fr](http://www.restaurant-lecume-oleron.fr)

### Royan and around :

- Le Blue Bar in Royan :  
[www.bluebar-restaurant-royan.fr](http://www.bluebar-restaurant-royan.fr)
- Le restaurant du Golf in St-Palais-sur-Mer  
[www.restaurant-du-golf-de-royan.eatbu.com](http://www.restaurant-du-golf-de-royan.eatbu.com)
- L'Hôtel de la Place in St-Palais-sur-Mer  
[www.hoteldelaplage-stpalais.fr](http://www.hoteldelaplage-stpalais.fr)
- Le 7367 in Vaux sur mer  
[www.le-7367-le-sens.com](http://www.le-7367-le-sens.com)
- Le Cottage in Vaux sur mer  
[www.lecottagerestaurant.com](http://www.lecottagerestaurant.com)
- Le Presbytere in Epargnes  
[www.restaurantlepresbytere.com](http://www.restaurantlepresbytere.com)
- La table du cèpe at La Tremblade  
[www.latabledelacepe.fr](http://www.latabledelacepe.fr)
- Les Roselières in Saujon  
[www.restaurant-roselieres.com](http://www.restaurant-roselieres.com)
- Le Seudre Océan Express between La Tremblade and Saujon  
[www.seudre-ocean-express.fr](http://www.seudre-ocean-express.fr)



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# HERITAGE

## COGNAC - a drink, a town and a vineyard



©Pailloncy CRTNA

Making Cognac is a complex and subtle process that requires passion, demanding standards and knowledge passed down over generations. The precise characteristics of the soil in which the vines are growing, the quality of the oak used to make the barrels in which the Cognac is aged, the double distillation in a red copper still, the experience and talent of the master blender

who mixes the different 'eaux-de-vie'; all these are important factors in creating the flavour and balance of a cognac that inspire bartenders and chefs all over the world.

Cognac is also an historic town - 'Ville d'Art et d'Histoire' - situated on the Charente river where the great houses of cognac opens their doors to visitors. Explore the town by wandering its cobbled

streets with half-timbered houses and 19th century mansions and visit the Royal Castle, birthplace of King Francis I. In the surrounding countryside, in summer under the heat of the sun or in winter in the warmth of the distilleries, meet the winemakers who will convey their passion for their craft and unveil the mysteries of cognac.

[www.destination-cognac.com](http://www.destination-cognac.com)

## ANGOULÊME



©P.Baudry CRTNA

With its International Festival in January, the dedicated museum to the 'ninth art' and the painted murals tour, Angoulême has joined the UNESCO Creative Cities network and confirmed its title of comics capital of the world. This town of Art and

History offers the visitor a journey through its rich culture, from Cathedral Saint-Pierre, a jewel of Romanesque architecture to the 19th century covered market. The Angoulême Museum holds one of the largest collections of arts from Africa and Oceania in France and

an exceptional paleontological exhibition from the local excavation site of Angeac.

[www.angouleme-tourisme.com](http://www.angouleme-tourisme.com)

# SAINTES



Wedged in a loop of the river Charente, certified 'Town of Art and History', Saintes intrigues for the abundance of its history dating back to antiquity: the prestigious remains of the ancient capital such as the Gallo-Roman amphitheatre, the jewels of Roman art like the

Cathedral Saint-Pierre and the contemporary audacity with the Abbaye aux Dames offering its innovative Musicaventure, a visit with spatial 3D sound. Discover the town and the river with guided visits on a 'gabare' - a traditional flat-bottomed boat that used to

transport merchandises when the town had a thriving port- or on an electro-solar boat unique in Europe.

[www.saintes-tourisme.fr](http://www.saintes-tourisme.fr)

# JONZAC

In the southern Charente-Maritime lies the town of Jonzac, ideally located between Cognac, La Rochelle and Bordeaux. Surrounded by breathtaking landscapes and cognac vineyards, Jonzac is a busy historical and activities centre, with well-maintained historical buildings and streets, some of which can be traced back to the Romans. Leisure activities: 'Les Antilles de Jonzac' pool, a brand new congress center, a casino, a spa center, mills... Many more activities are available in Haute Saintonge: discovery of cognac's history and production, Europe's largest Estuary, hikes and many more!



[www.jonzac-haute-saintonge.com](http://www.jonzac-haute-saintonge.com)

## AUBETERRE-SUR-DRONNE



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

[www.sudcharentetourisme.fr](http://www.sudcharentetourisme.fr)

Between Angoulême and Aubeterre-sur-Dronne stands a castle with an impressive 220-metre long facade, the Château de la Mercerie nicknamed 'the little Versailles of Charente'. Its story begins in 1924 when two brothers bought a 19th century manor house. Nothing was too beautiful or too expensive for their huge ambition to create a new Versailles, with colonnades and balusters, luxurious woods and Italian marbles or a superb collection of Spanish tiles.

Alphonse and Raymond Réthoré were ruined in the 1970s before their dream came true but local residents banded together in 2011 to restore this unique piece of heritage. The castle regained its former splendor and is now open to visitors for guided tours and festive events.

[www.chateaudelamerцерie.fr](http://www.chateaudelamerцерie.fr)

## LA ROCHELLE



The three famous towers of La Rochelle - Saint Nicolas, La Chaîne and La Lanterne lighthouse - are the most famous vestiges of the medieval maritime fortifications of the town, all offering some magnificent views on Fort Boyard,

the old Marina and the islands. Follow a guided tour to discover the glory days of La Rochelle, a rich and rebel merchant city, its historical links with England, its monuments like the towers in the Old Port or the magnificent Town's

hall... Walk around the arcades and admire La Rochelle heritage, here a church or a temple, there a museum, take a stroll in a park or a patio...

[www.holidays-la-rochelle.co.uk](http://www.holidays-la-rochelle.co.uk)

# OLÉRON ISLAND

The Oléron Island, commonly nicknamed the 'Luminous' is, with its 175 km<sup>2</sup>, the largest French island on the Atlantic coast. Linked to the continent by a toll-free road-bridge, Oléron is a paradise for nature and sport lovers. Rich on contrasting landscapes, the Oléron Island and the Marennes Basin have a remarkable heritage made of picturesque villages, ancient citadels, numerous sandy beaches, forests and marshlands, and a colorful gastronomy.

[www.oleron-island.com](http://www.oleron-island.com)



# ROYAN ATLANTIQUE

Royan Atlantique is a territory that combines in the plural with its seaside, wild, oyster and wine ambiances.

From the Seudre estuary to the Gironde estuary, 32 municipalities surround Royan, facing the Atlantic Ocean. From the sky, we have the most beautiful views of the territory. We realize the diversity of natural spaces that make it up.

The Royan Atlantique vineyards benefit from varied soils and the mild Charente climate. It helps the grapes develop unique characteristics giving rise to IGP

"Charentais" wines, AOC Pineau des Charentes and Cognac with a distinctive character.

Whether you are a fan of Charente wines, Pineau des Charentes, Cognac or simply curious to discover the local grape varieties, we will meet those who shape the wine identity of Royan Atlantique. To go further, some winemakers offer the discovery of their wine estates during visits with tasting. The opportunity to perceive all the diversity of their products.

[www.royanatlantique.fr](http://www.royanatlantique.fr)



# UNESCO World Heritage Sites

The Charentes region counts five UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Pilgrimage Hospital at Pons, Church of Saint-Eutrope in Saintes, Citadelle of Saint-Martin-de-Ré, Church of Saint-Pierre d'Aulnay de Saintonge and Royal Abbey of Saint-Jean-d'Angély. A sixth site is expected to be classified: the Phare de

Cordouan, the Gironde Estuary lighthouse dating from the 17th century. And Angoulême just joined the UNESCO Creative Cities network, only one in France in the 'Literature' category with the comics world.



# WATER ALL AROUND

# THE RIVER CHARENTE

The river has its source in the Haute-Vienne and meets the ocean in Rochefort. It winds through 35 villages, the cognac vineyards as well as several towns of Art and History: Angoulême, Cognac, Saintes and Rochefort. Riverboats accommodating 2-12 people can be rented with no license for a week or longer to sail along as your own captain. Electric boats or barges - 'gabares' - allow you to discover the river at a quiet pace. Cyclists can travel along the valley, stopping here and there to enjoy the local gastronomy or to visit exceptional sites by the riverbanks. The majestic Charente river has something to amuse everyone, whether you're keen on watersports, wildlife, cognac and Pineau des Charentes, Roman heritage, comic books or naval links.

## Houseboats rental

**Les Canalous** in Cognac  
+33 3 85 53 76 74  
[www.canalous-lot.com/fr/croisiere-fluviale-charente](http://www.canalous-lot.com/fr/croisiere-fluviale-charente)

**Le Boat** in Jarnac  
+33 4 68 94 42 80  
[www.leboat.fr/croisiere-fluviale/france/charente](http://www.leboat.fr/croisiere-fluviale/france/charente)

**Intercroisières** in Sireuil  
+33 5 45 90 58 18  
[www.intercroisieres.com](http://www.intercroisieres.com)

## River cruises

**Gabarre & E-boats**  
in Saintes  
+33 5 46 74 23 82  
[www.saintes-tourisme.fr/Decouvertes/Balades-sur-le-Fluve-Charente](http://www.saintes-tourisme.fr/Decouvertes/Balades-sur-le-Fluve-Charente)

**Le Bernard Palissy III**  
- electric and solar cruise boat  
in Saintes  
+33 5 46 96 17 17  
[www.croisieres-palissy.fr](http://www.croisieres-palissy.fr)

**Gabarre 'La Renaissance'**  
in Saint Simon  
+33 5 45 97 33 40  
[www.village-gabarrier.fr](http://www.village-gabarrier.fr)

**La Reine Margot**  
- cruise boat in Angoulême  
+33 6 60 17 36 96  
[www.charentecroisieres.fr](http://www.charentecroisieres.fr)

## Sea cruises

Boat tours are a great way to discover the Atlantic Coast, thanks to a wide range of cruises: commented sea trips around Ford Boyard, links between the islands (Oléron, Ré, Aix) or stopover for a day, discovery of sailing aboard a catamaran, evening cruises by the sunset... the choice is yours!

**Croisieres Inter-Iles**  
+33 5 46 50 55 54  
[www.inter-iles.com](http://www.inter-iles.com)

**Sea cruises Navipromer**  
+33 5 46 34 40 20  
[www.navipromer.com](http://www.navipromer.com)



# WELLNESS

The Charentes are the 1st destination of France for wellness with 6 thalassotherapy centres (Ile de Ré, Châtelaiillon-Plage, Ile d'Oléron, Royan) and 3 spa resorts (Rochefort, Saujon, Jonzac). And many hotels offers wellness equipments to their guests such as spas with steam room, jacuzzi, sensorial shower... for a total relaxation of body and mind.



The Oléron island offers one of this thalassotherapy centres specialised in wellness and rejuvenation with sea water:

## Novotel Thalassa Oleron

109 suites & rooms - From 120€

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

Plage de Gatseau  
17370 Saint Trojan Les Bains  
+33 5 46 76 02 46  
[H0417@accor.com](mailto:H0417@accor.com)  
[thalassa-ile-oleron.com](http://thalassa-ile-oleron.com)

In Jonzac, the center of thermal baths draws its benefits from secret springs for medical prevention or for curing.

## Les Thermes de Jonzac

Troglodytic baths with a surprising decor: an old stone quarry with a cathedral. The thermal establishment reveals itself between sturdy rock pillars that give the treatment areas an intimate setting. 3 ideal cure orientations to treat the whole family: rheumatology, respiratory tract and phlebology. 4 complementary programmes: Back, lumbar and cervical, Natural sleep, Line and Tonus and Light legs. Apparf of 'Chaine Thermale du Soleil'.

Lieu-dit Heurtebise  
17502 Jonzac  
+33 5 46 48 59 59  
[jonzac@chainethermale.fr](mailto:jonzac@chainethermale.fr)  
[www.chainethermale.fr/jonzac](http://www.chainethermale.fr/jonzac)



See also from p.43 our hotels as Chais Monnet, La Grande Terrasse, Domaine des Etangs, etc. offering incredible Spas experiences.

In Châtelailon-Plage, on the Atlantic coast near La Rochelle, La Grande Terrasse offers the benefits of a seawater center and a Nuxe Spa where expert treatments rejuvenate body and mind.

## La Grande Terrasse

At La Grande Terrasse, wellness takes center stage with an exceptional seaside spa experience that fuses the therapeutic power of the ocean with refined luxury. The Spa Marin invites you to unwind in its marine-inspired wellness space with a heated seawater pool, hydrotherapy jets, hammams, saunas, and massage treatments tailored to release tension and revitalize body and mind – all just steps from the Atlantic shoreline. For a more indulgent escape, the Spa NUXE offers a refined sensory journey with warm jacuzzis, steam rituals, and signature NUXE body and facial treatments in a tranquil ocean-view setting, along with the option to privatize a duo suite for unforgettable shared moments of relaxation. Whether one chooses a half-day of marine wellness or immersive spa rituals, La Grande Terrasse delivers a holistic well-being experience that reconnects each and everyone with the healing rhythms of the sea.

Av. de la Falaise  
17340 Châtelailon-Plage  
[www.la-grande-terrasse.com](http://www.la-grande-terrasse.com)

In Royan, Thalazur offers a unique marine wellness experience, where seawater and expert therapies rejuvenate body and mind.

## Thalazur

At Thalazur Royan, wellness meets the sea in an exceptional oceanfront setting on France's scenic Côte de Beauté. The centre's renowned Spa Marin invites you to indulge in a 140 m heated seawater circuit with counter current swimming, jets, hydrotherapy baths, aquabikes, sauna and steam room – all designed to harness the healing power of the ocean for deep relaxation and revitalisation. Beyond the marine course, guests can unwind in tranquil relaxation lounges, enjoy personalised hydrotherapy and beauty treatments by expert therapists, and complement their journey with fitness and mindful activities in a serene, contemporary space inspired by the rhythm of the tides. Whether through a full thalasso cure, a wellness weekend or spa day treatments, Thalazur Royan offers a complete well being escape where body and mind are nurtured by the restorative benefits of the sea.

6 Allée des Rochers  
17200 Royan  
+33 1 48 88 89 90  
[www.thalazur.fr/thalasso](http://www.thalazur.fr/thalasso)



©Olivier Pravert

# OTHER ACTIVITIES

# CYCLING

One of the most popular activities in the cognac country is cycling – a family activity for which Charentes is ideally suited with 6,750 km of bicycle paths all over the area thanks to a rich network of local loops as well as 5 European and national cycling tracks: La Vélodyssée® along the Atlantic Coast, La Vélo Francette® from Normandy to La Rochelle, Le Canal des 2 Mers à Vélo® going to the Mediterranean Sea, La Scandibérique® on the pilgrims route from Norway to St James of Compostella and the most recent, La Flow Vélo® crossing the Charentes from Dordogne to Aix Island. This is a pleasurable place to cycle without stress and hard work, just enjoying the undulating scenery.

## La Flow Vélo ®

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

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

[www.laflowvelo.com](http://www.laflowvelo.com)

# HOT-AIR BALLOONS

Explore the Charentes landscapes from the sky flying over historical towns or along the coastline, from the Gironde estuary to the Marais Poitevin or between the river Charente Valley and the vineyards of Cognac... a privileged and unforgettable experience!

## Montgolfières Charente Evasion

[www.montgolfieres-charentes.com](http://www.montgolfieres-charentes.com)

## Charente Montgolfières

[www.charente-montgolfieres.fr](http://www.charente-montgolfieres.fr)



# PREMIUM GOLFS COURSES

The cognac country counts 6 golfs with 18-hole courses and 8 golfs with 9-hole courses: amongst a pine forest or facing an historic town, in the vineyards or by the sea side... there will always be a perfect place to practise your favourite sport in an exceptional setting.

## Cognac Golf Club

Designed by Jean Garaiâlde, Golf du Cognac features undulating fairways amongst vineyards, forests and the river Charente. It sits in 60 hectares, offering an 18-hole par-72 course, a 6-hole course, a large driving range and 2 putting greens. Clubhouse in an old restored farm, with a large panoramic terrace.

[www.golfducognac.com](http://www.golfducognac.com)

## Angoulême Golf Club L'Hirondelle

The 35 hectares golf course lies in a charming setting on the hills between the Bois St Martin and the city. The course requests technical game abilities and alternates short holes, challenging greens and approaches. Clubhouse to enjoy a lunch or a drink.

[www.golf-angouleme.com](http://www.golf-angouleme.com)

## Golf de Saintes

Created in 1953, Golf Louis Rouyer-Guillet is the oldest course in the region. Large variety of game situations alternating technical difficulties for a pleasant course to play for all standards of golfers.

[www.golf-saintes.fr](http://www.golf-saintes.fr)

## La Prée La Rochelle Golf Club

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

[www.golflarochelle.fr](http://www.golflarochelle.fr)



©Unsplash

# A FESTIVE DESTINATION

Our festivals bring the destination to life all year round

Les Francfolies de La Rochelle - *3rd most important music festival in France with 150,000 spectators* - and the Festival International de la Bande Dessinée d'Angoulême - *most important comics festival in Europe with 200,000 visitors* - are unmissable but the cognac area offers an eclectic programme for all tastes: dance, street art, cinema, photography... and of course some events associated to the cognac world!



## **Festival International de la Bande Dessinée - Angoulême**

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

[www.bdangouleme.com](http://www.bdangouleme.com)

## **Festival International de Musique de Chambre**

Spring each year  
Since 2008, this festival is entirely dedicated to the rich repertory of chamber music with concerts in various sites in Charente during 5 weekends.

[www.facebook.com/FIMCEC](http://www.facebook.com/FIMCEC)

## **Mimosa Festival - St-Trojan-les-Bains**

February each year  
The mimosa has lit up the winter streets since 1959!

[www.lafetedumimosa.com](http://www.lafetedumimosa.com)

## Cognac Blues Passion - Cognac

July each year

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

[www.bluespassions.com](http://www.bluespassions.com)

## Les Francolies - La Rochelle

July each year

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

[www.francolies.fr](http://www.francolies.fr)

## La Fête du Cognac - Cognac

July each year

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

[lafeteducognac.fr](http://lafeteducognac.fr)

## Coupe d'Europe de Montgolfières

Summer each year

A world-class competition that provides an impressive show for the public. For 3 days, hot-air balloons take over the lands and vineyards of the two Charentes with an aerial meeting on Sunday afternoon

[www.mainfonds.com](http://www.mainfonds.com)

## Festival de Saintes

July each year

50th edition of the Classical Music Festival of Saintes. Always offering something innovative yet keeping the traditions of classical repertoires

[www.abbayeauxdames.org/festival-de-saintes](http://www.abbayeauxdames.org/festival-de-saintes)

## Circuit des Remparts - Angoulême

September each year

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

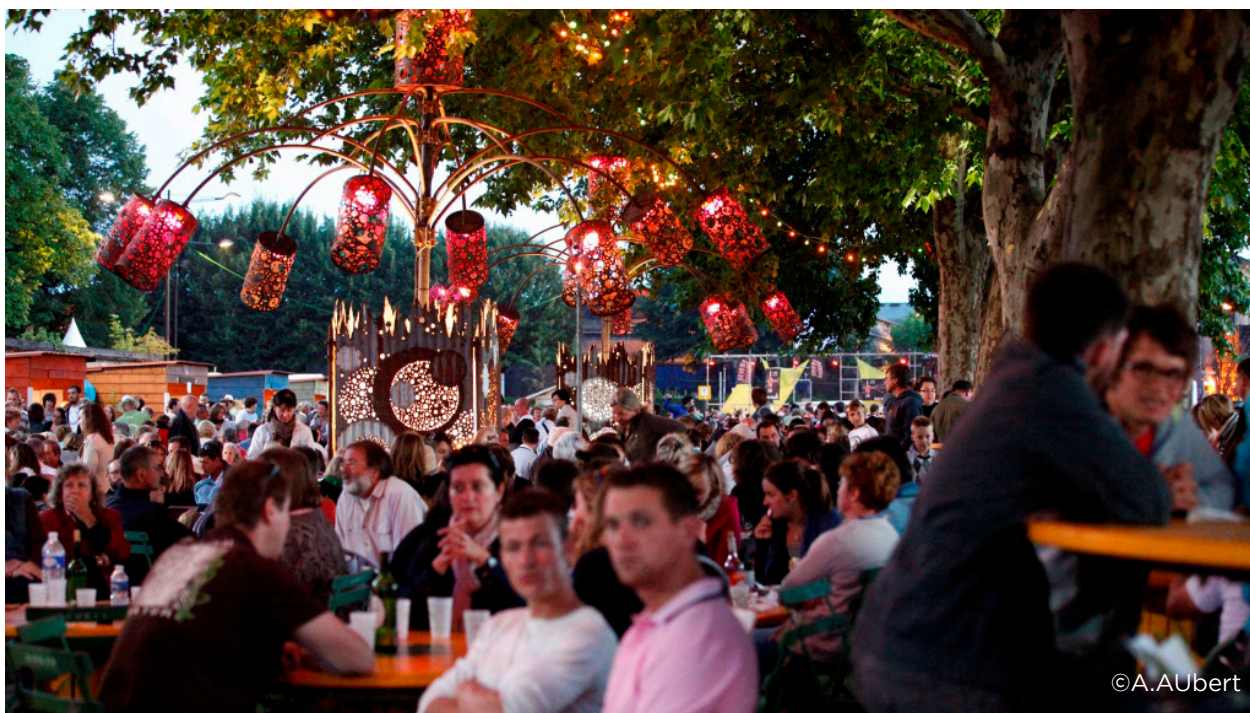
[www.circuitdesremparts.com/en](http://www.circuitdesremparts.com/en)

## Le Grand Pavois - La Rochelle

Sept/October each year

100,000 square meters of exhibition, themed spaces for all of you, 300 displayed on the water among 750 exhibited boats, more than 800 international exhibitors... The Grand Pavois La Rochelle Boat Show is the first boat show of the autumn season.

[www.grand-pavois.com](http://www.grand-pavois.com)



©A.Ubert

# TOUR SUGGESTIONS

## A 2-day itinerary between Paris and Bordeaux

**2 days / Cognac - a town, a vineyard and a drink - 20 to 40 km**

### DAY 1

Morning: Guided visit of Cognac, Art and History town, and its museum dedicated to the spirit through the industrial, economic, social and technological history of cognac.

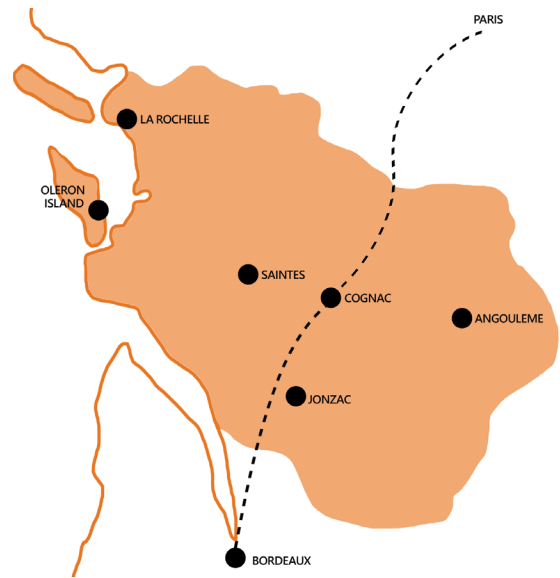
Afternoon: Visit and tasting in the vineyard at a winegrower estate. Cocktail workshop in a bar in Cognac.

Night at Chais Monnet Cognac

### DAY 2 - 20 to 40 km

Morning: Visit and tasting in one of the great houses of cognac. Option : become a master blender for a day and make your own cognac to bring back home.

Afternoon: Guided visit of a cooperage or discovery of the vineyard in a vintage car. Drinks on a rooftop bar to admire the old town of Cognac.



## A 3-day itinerary Angoulême / Cognac / Saintes

**3 days / Art and History along the river Charente - 100 to 120 km**

### DAY 1 in Angoulême

Morning: Guided visit of the town mixing Romanesque art with the cathedral and comics world with the painted murals.

Explore the exclusive collections in the 3 museums of the town to know more about the 'ninth art', the paper industry, the paleontological treasures or the arts from Africa and Oceania.

Afternoon: Discover the secrets of distillation, the aging cellars and enjoy a tasting at a winegrower in the vineyard.

Night at Hotel St Gelais

### DAY 2 in Cognac

Morning: Wander the cobbled streets with your guide to discover the old town. Visit and tasting in one of the great houses of cognac.

Afternoon: Learn the secrets of the mixology and create your own cognac cocktail(s) / or Cooking class  
Night at Hotel François 1er

### DAY 3 in Saintes

Morning: Take a quiet boat trip on the river Charente on a 'gabarre' (flat barge) or aboard an electro-solar boat. Or discover the prestigious remains of this ancient capital by foot with a guide.

Afternoon: Travel through time at the Abbaye aux Dames with the 3D visit 'Musicaventure' combining patrimony and innovation.



# A 4-day itinerary through the cognac vineyards from the very heart of the region to the Atlantic Coast

## 4 days / Heritage discoveries between Angoulême and La Rochelle

### DAY 1 - 133 km

Morning: Guided visit of Angoulême, Art and History town and capital of comics. Visit and tasting at Maine Giraud, home of the poet and winemaker Alfred de Vigny.

Afternoon: guided visit of Aubeterre-sur-Dronne, one of the Most Beautiful Villages in France, and its subterranean church of vertiginous proportions.

Night in Château de Mirambeau\*\*\*\*\*

### DAY 2 - 60 km

Morning: Visit of the Jonzac Castle Jonzac. Visit of the Pilgrimage Hospital in Pons, one of the 5 UNESCO Heritage sites of the area.

Afternoon: Visit and tasting in a great house of cognac. Guided visit of the town of Cognac and the Museum of the Cognac Arts.

Night in Cognac, Chais Monnet

### DAY 3 - 101 km

Morning: Guided visit of Saintes, Art and History town, and the Church of St-Eutrope, UNESCO Heritage site. Visit of a cognac house, a family-run business, in Saintes along the river.

Afternoon: Discovery of Brouage, one of the Most Beautiful Villages in France. Visit of Fort Louvois or the citadel of Château d'Oléron. Stop at a Cognac, Pineau des Charentes, and wine producer

Night on Oléron island, Novotel Thalassa

### DAY 4 - 73 km

Morning: Admire the view on the old port from the towers of La Rochelle and explore the town on a guided visit by foot or by bike

Afternoon: Take a breath of fresh air from the sea on a commented boat cruise around Ford Boyard



# A 4-day gourmet journey Gastronomy in the Cognac country

**4 days** – 300 to 350 km

## **DAY 1** - La Rochelle

Morning: Gourmet tour with a guide to meet producers and enjoy delicious tastings at the market. Or learn how to cook local produce in a cooking workshop with a chef.

Afternoon: Take a stroll into nature just 25 minutes out of La Rochelle to discover the Charron mussels in Esnandes.

For dinner, indulge yourself in a Michelin-starred restaurant in La Rochelle ou just outside of town.

## **DAY 2** – Oléron island

Morning: Guided visit of the fishing port of La Cotinière to know all about iodine flavors. Discover the savoir-faire of salt makers in Port des Salines and visit the salt marshes with a guide.

Afternoon: Visit at a wine growers to discover the Charentais wines and Pineau des Charentes. Visit the 'Cité de l'Huître', the dedicated museum situated in the middle of oysters beds, and taste the unique 'Red Label' oysters of Marennes-Oléron.

Only 30 minutes away, a Michelin-starred restaurant offers a small hotel to stay after dinner



## **DAY 3** – Saintes & Cognac

Morning: Guided visit and tasting at a winegrower in Saintes - and stay for lunch at the newly Michelin starred restaurant - or stop on the road to Cognac in a distillery to learn all about the subtle and complex process of making cognac.

Afternoon: Meet a cellar master in the vineyard and learn how to blend your own Pineau des Charentes. Or visit one of the great cognac houses in Cognac or Jarnac. And try a cocktail workshop with a specialist bartender.

## **DAY 4** – Angoulême and surroundings

Morning: Near Cognac, stop for a special treat at a fish farm to try the local caviar and smoked or marinated trout. Or near Angoulême, visit a chocolate factory. Stop on the way for lunch in a charming village by the river to taste the cuisine of a Michelin starred chef.

Afternoon: Go shopping in Angoulême to bring back gourmet souvenirs: chocolate, local beers, grillon charentais, walnut oil... Or Explore the countryside and meet local producers who will share their passion and know-how: goat cheese, Barbezieux chicken, Chalais veal, Charentais melon... Try the 'brûlot charentais' (flaming coffee with cognac) at one of the many winegrowers estates.

# ACCOMMODATION

## Chais Monnet & Spa\*\*\*\*\*



92 suites & rooms - From 230 €

On a site of 2ha, the Hôtel Chais Monnet has 92 rooms and suites, 9 apartments, a gastronomic restaurant, a pool and a contemporary spa for clients to recharge their batteries – all in the heart of an ancestral winery. The discreet elegance of the site matches the tastes of the most demanding with guests, whether for a business trip or for a break. Visitors will be able to savour the refined style of the hotel between visits to sites where one of the most widely appreciated spirits in the world is created – cognac.

50 rue Paul Firino Martell  
16100 Cognac  
+33 5 17 22 32 23

[reservations@chaismonnethotel.com](mailto:reservations@chaismonnethotel.com)  
[www.chaismonnethotel.com](http://www.chaismonnethotel.com)

## La Nauve Hotel & Jardin \*\*\*\*\*



11 rooms & suites – from 315 €

This elegant 5 star property, located in Cognac, just a few minutes from the city centre, offers 11 luxurious rooms. Composed of three 19th century buildings elegantly renovated in the heart of a lush garden with an outside pool, the guests can enjoy 2 restaurants – a brasserie and a gastronomic table – along with a bar. The property is part of Relais & Châteaux and invites its guests to experience the true “à la française” lifestyle.

12 rue de la Nauve  
16100 Cognac  
+33 5 48 17 03 70

[www.almae-collection.com/lanauve/en/](http://www.almae-collection.com/lanauve/en/)

## Francois Premier \*\*\*\*



4 suites & 26 rooms - From 170 €

This former private mansion in the heart of Cognac has been fully renovated: you are welcome 24h/24 in a modern setting, perfectly balancing the elegance of the mansions of the 19th century with the audacity of contemporary design inspired by the local colors of Cognac. To relax, make the most of our spa and fitness room, our cocktail bar and our garden on the roofs of Cognac. And enjoy a lunch or dinner at the walk by restaurant La Belle Epoque and its incredible patio on sunny days.

3 place Francois 1er  
16100 Cognac  
+33 5 17 22 31 70

[commercial@hfpc.fr](mailto:commercial@hfpc.fr)  
[www.hotelfrancoispremier.fr](http://www.hotelfrancoispremier.fr)

## L'Yeuse \*\*\*\*

24 suites & rooms - From 136 €

An hotel-restaurant 10 minutes from the centre of Cognac and created in a beautiful 19th century residence on the edge of what's called the Respectful Garden, a garden designed to show respect for biodiversity. Gourmet restaurant 'La Table de l'Yeuse', terrace, outdoor pool, spa and cognac room. Since 2017, the hotel has worked with a group of graffiti artists to redecorate some of the rooms of this 19th century residence with an urban art touch. Every year a new session is organized to add 4 to 5 rooms to this street art collection. Discover more about the artwork with Wonderwall, open gallery in the city of Cognac nearby.

65 rue de Bellevue  
16100 Chateaubernard  
+33 5 36 82 60

[reservations@yeuse.fr](mailto:reservations@yeuse.fr)  
[www.yeuse.fr/index.html](http://www.yeuse.fr/index.html)

## Mercure Hotel de France \*\*\*\*

3 suites & 86 rooms - From 92 €

Facing to the covered market, entirely renovated in a unique blend of modernity and history, Mercure welcomes you in the center of the capital of comics. For leisure moments, you will appreciate a fitness room with a vaulted ceiling, a lounge bar and a restaurant 'Le Bistro Bardy' featuring a creative menu and leafy terrace. Ideal for festive or professional events, it offers several function spaces and an superb private garden with a panoramic view of the town.

1 place des Halles  
16000 Angoulême  
+33 5 45 95 47 95

[h1213-gm@accor.com](mailto:h1213-gm@accor.com)

[all.accor.com/hotel/1213/index.fr.shtml](http://all.accor.com/hotel/1213/index.fr.shtml)

## Le Saint Gelais \*\*\*\*



5 suites & 7 rooms - From 115 €

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

12 rue du Père Deval  
16000 Angoulême  
+33 5 45 90 02 64

[contact@hotel-saint-gelais-angouleme.com](mailto:contact@hotel-saint-gelais-angouleme.com)

[www.hotel-saint-gelais-angouleme.com](http://www.hotel-saint-gelais-angouleme.com)

## Domaine des Etangs \*\*\*\*\*



8 suites & 3 rooms - luxury farmhouses - From 400 €

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

16310 Massignac  
+33 5 45 61 85 00

[domainedesetangs.com](http://domainedesetangs.com)

## Villa Grand Voile

11 rooms & suites - From 170 €

The Villa Grand Voile - Christopher Coutanceau is the new Relais & Châteaux by the Michelin starred chef-fisherman, nestled in a former shipowner's residence dating back to 1715. This historic building of character houses a true haven of peace, set in the heart of La Rochelle, a few minutes walk from the vibrant port and from the 3-Michelin starred restaurant Christopher Coutanceau and the bistro La Yole de Chris.



12 rue de la Cloche  
17000 La Rochelle  
+33 5 46 44 81 14

[contact@villagrandvoile.com](mailto:contact@villagrandvoile.com)

[www.villagrandvoile.com](http://www.villagrandvoile.com)

## Hotel Hemen\*\*\*\*

Nestled in the charming seaside village of Saint-Palais-sur-Mer, near Royan on the Atlantic Coast, Hôtel Hemen offers a refined and intimate luxury escape with breathtaking ocean views from every room. Designed with contemporary Basque-inspired elegance, this boutique hotel combines sophisticated comfort with a warm, welcoming atmosphere and high-end wellness amenities, including a spa, hammam, and relaxation areas. Guests can enjoy stylish dining, paddleboarding or electric bike rides along the coast, and moments of pure relaxation by the pool or on the beach – making Hôtel Hemen an unforgettable destination for those seeking serenity, style, and seaside charm.

3 rue des Bains  
17420 Saint-Palais-sur-Mer  
+33 5 86 58 04 05  
[www.hotelhemen.com](http://www.hotelhemen.com)

## Hôtel Thalazur Royan\*\*\*\*

Perched on the Atlantic coast in the vibrant seaside town of Royan, Hôtel Thalazur Royan is a four-star oceanfront retreat with 83 beautifully renovated rooms, each featuring a private balcony and sweeping sea views – perfect for soaking in the coastal atmosphere. Just steps from sandy beaches and scenic coastal paths, this elegant hotel combines modern comfort with exceptional wellness experiences, including direct access to a marine spa and thalassotherapy center, an outdoor seawater infinity pool, and refined dining at its panoramic restaurant. Whether seeking relaxation, seaside exploration, or an unforgettable getaway on France's Côte de Beauté, Hôtel Thalazur Royan offers the ideal blend of comfort, sophistication, and stunning natural scenery.

6 Allée des Rochers  
17200 Royan  
+33 1 48 88 89 90  
[inforeservation@thalazur.fr](mailto:inforeservation@thalazur.fr)  
[www.thalazur.fr/royan/hotel/](http://www.thalazur.fr/royan/hotel/)

## La Grande Terrasse - MGallery by Sofitel \*\*\*\*



72 rooms - From 119 €  
Imagine a 3 km fine sandy beach with a view of Fort Boyard, a small town with Belle Époque architecture preserved only a few kilometers from La Rochelle. Backed by the cliff of Les Bouchôleurs, a village of oyster farmers and shellfish farmers with its narrow streets full of flowers of hollyhocks, and its oyster huts, located south of the resort, the Grande Terrasse contemplates the islands of Ré, Oléron and Aix. La Grande Terrasse Resort includes 2 hotels – Mgallery by Sofitel & Ibis Styles, a gastronomic restaurant Le Gaya by Pierre Gagnaire, a SPA Nuxe and a thalassotherapy center SPA Marin. 72 rooms for the Mgallery, a bar, a panoramic terrace, an indoor pool, outdoor Jacuzzi, fitness room, a 3-hectare park, nearby the Casino of Châtelailon-Plage. The restaurant “Le Gaya” Pierre Gagnaire offers an exceptional view of the sea and fine dining - kitchen with edges of Sea.

Avenue de la Falaise  
17340 Chatellaillon-Plage  
+33 6 22 78 78 16  
[www.la-grande-terrasse.com](http://www.la-grande-terrasse.com)

## La Monnaie Art & Spa Hotel \*\*\*\*

3 suites & 38 rooms - From 99 €  
An avant-garde hotel for passionate hedonists. Combining the comfort of current equipment (video projector, wifi, screen, sound system) and an authentic setting, the hotel has a courtyard and 2 meeting rooms that can accommodate more than 60 people. This hotel, housed in an old 17th century residence, offers 41 rooms decorated with works of art, in a privileged and luxurious environment. Exceptional location in the heart of the historic centre and at the entrance to the Old Port.

3 rue de la Monnaie  
17000 La Rochelle  
+33 5 46 50 65 65  
[www.hotelmonnaie.com](http://www.hotelmonnaie.com)

## Le Champlain \*\*\*\*

39 rooms - From 108 €

Located in the heart of La Rochelle, in a beautiful 17th century convent, this charming hotel of 39 rooms is close to the city's major attractions. It is an ideal place to relax and discover the city.

30 rue Rambaud  
17000 La Rochelle  
+33 5 46 41 34 66  
[www.hotelchamplain.com](http://www.hotelchamplain.com)

## Hôtel Saint Nicolas \*\*\*\*

86 rooms - From 94 €

In an old, renovated building at the center of La Rochelle, Hôtel Saint-Nicolas delivers gracious elegance and a touch of the good life. Comfortably appointed rooms, local food products (showcased at the big breakfast buffet) and drinks, a convivial and airy glass-roofed bar, bright co-working space, four meeting rooms and bicycles for hire round out the sense of well-being on offer.

[www.hotel-saint-nicolas.com](http://www.hotel-saint-nicolas.com)

## Novotel Thalassa Oleron \*\*\*\*



©Novotel Thalassa Oleron

109 suites & rooms - From 120 €

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

Plage de Gatseau  
17370 Saint Trojan Les Bains  
+33 5 46 76 02 46  
[H0417@accor.com](mailto:H0417@accor.com)  
[www.thalassa-ile-oleron.com](http://www.thalassa-ile-oleron.com)

## Maison des Ambassadeurs \*\*\*\*\*



©Maison des Ambassadeurs

29 suites & 25 rooms - From 100 €

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

43 rue du Minage  
17000 La Rochelle  
+33 5 46 28 06 00  
[info@hotel-larochelle.com](mailto:info@hotel-larochelle.com)  
[maisondesambassadeurs.com](http://maisondesambassadeurs.com)

## Hotel Le Grand Large \*\*\*\*\*

28 rooms - From 290 €

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

2 avenue de l'Océan  
17550 Dolus d'Oleron  
+33 5 46 75 77 77  
[contact@le-grand-large.fr](mailto:contact@le-grand-large.fr)  
[www.le-grand-large.fr/en](http://www.le-grand-large.fr/en)

# LOCAL CONTACTS



## Tourist offices

### Destination Cognac

Maryline Chaillou  
16 rue du 14 Juillet  
16100 Cognac  
+33 5 45 82 95 41  
[groupe@destination-cognac.com](mailto:groupe@destination-cognac.com)  
[www.destination-cognac.com](http://www.destination-cognac.com)

### Angoulême Tourisme

BP 20222  
16007 Angoulême Cedex  
+33 5 45 95 35 17  
[www.angouleme-tourisme.com](http://www.angouleme-tourisme.com)

### Saintes Tourisme

Marie-Pierre Guilhot  
2 place Saint Pierre  
17100 Saintes  
+33 5 46 74 23 82  
[reservations@saintes-tourisme.fr](mailto:reservations@saintes-tourisme.fr)  
[www.saintes-tourisme.fr](http://www.saintes-tourisme.fr)

### Ile d'Oléron Marennes Voyages

22 rue Dubois Meynardie  
17320 Marennes  
+33 5 46 47 67 00  
[groupe@marennes-oleron.com](mailto:groupe@marennes-oleron.com)  
[www.oleron-island.com](http://www.oleron-island.com)

### Offices de Tourisme Haute-Saintonge et Jonzac

Sandrine Guichard  
22 place du Château  
17502 Jonzac cedex  
+33 5 17 24 30 48  
[sandrine.guichard@villedejonzac.fr](mailto:sandrine.guichard@villedejonzac.fr)  
[www.jonzac-haute-saintonge.com](http://www.jonzac-haute-saintonge.com)

### La Rochelle Tourisme

2 quai Georges Simenon  
17000 La Rochelle  
+33 5 46 45 90 90

### Sud Charente Tourisme

Place Verdun  
16300 Barbezieux Saint Hilaire  
+33 5 45 78 91 04  
[barbezieux@sudcharentetourisme.fr](mailto:barbezieux@sudcharentetourisme.fr)  
[www.sudcharentetourisme.fr](http://www.sudcharentetourisme.fr)



## Incoming agencies

### Charentes in Flow

Laurette Didière  
16200 Mérignac, France  
+33 6 27 96 06 22  
[laurette@charentesinflow.fr](mailto:laurette@charentesinflow.fr)  
[charentesinflow.com](http://charentesinflow.com)

### Cognac Tasting Tours

Jean Luc Montembault  
17520 Jarnac Champagne  
[www.cognac-tasting-tour.com](http://www.cognac-tasting-tour.com)

## Driver service

### Taxi 2000

16100 Cognac  
+33 6 11 25 88 02  
[www.taxi2000cognac.fr](http://www.taxi2000cognac.fr)

### Arnoux Auto Prestige

20 boulevard de Javrezac  
16100 Cognac  
+33 5 45 83 80 69  
[auto.prestige.arnoux@orange.fr](mailto:auto.prestige.arnoux@orange.fr)  
[www.arnouxautoprestige.com](http://www.arnouxautoprestige.com)

### B.V.S Blanchard Voiturier Service

1 rue Villeneuve  
17000 La Rochelle  
+33 6 83 92 29 08  
[resa@bvs-voiturier.fr](mailto:resa@bvs-voiturier.fr)  
[www.bvs-voiturier.fr](http://www.bvs-voiturier.fr)

### Taxi Grande Champagne

16100 Cognac  
+33 6 35 38 14 50  
[www.grande-champagne.taxi](http://www.grande-champagne.taxi)

**EXPLORE  
MORE  
COGNAC !**

## EXPLORE MORE COGNAC !

Explore Cognac [www.explore-cognac.com](http://www.explore-cognac.com) has recently enhanced its offer with 10 brand new experiences that reveal the world of Cognac in fresh, surprising ways.

From blind tastings guided by a sophrologist to immersive vineyard-to-cellar visits, olfactory workshops, and encounters with eco-conscious producers, the destination now boasts even more opportunities for visitors to explore the spirit and the territory.

From the rolling hills inland to the waves of the ocean, this is journey which will engage all five senses while uncovering the region's rich heritage.

### A journey of senses between vineyards and water

#### **“Apéro boat” cruise with Charentes in Flow**

Along the River Charente, your clients can indulge in a peaceful cruise between Angouleme and Cognac. On board they will meet with a winegrower, who will take them through a tasting session of his Cognac, paired with local delicacies.

[www.charentesinflow.com](http://www.charentesinflow.com)

#### **“A story of water” at Cognac Paul Giraud**

This immersive tour will take the visitor from the vineyard to a very private cellar, where a spring of fresh water flows all year round. From the village ancient wash house to the distillery, each step of this walk is linked to the water, the land, the know-hows. Your clients will have the chance to taste 2 rare Cognacs directly in this wet and unique cellar, then 2 more in the warmth of the family home.

[www.cognac-paulgiraud.com](http://www.cognac-paulgiraud.com)

#### **“Sensory tasting” with Florence Vilquin**

This immersive tour will take the visitor from the vineyard to a very private cellar, where a spring of fresh water flows all year round. From the village ancient wash house to the distillery, each step of this walk is linked to the water, the land, the know-hows. Your clients will have the chance to taste 2 rare Cognacs directly in this wet and unique cellar, then 2 more in the warmth of the family home.

[www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)



© Aurélien Terrade / BNIC

#### **“The 5 senses of the estuary revealed by the vineyard” at Les Hauts de Talmont**

At the top of the cliffs of the Gironde estuary, Les Hauts de Talmont domain invites the visitors on a unique sensory exploration, where each step of the journey activates a sense. Thanks to a rare geological site and exceptional setting at the foot of the cliff, the participants will discover the secrets of the terroir, between rocks, vines, and spectacular views of the fishing huts and the Romanesque church of Talmont sur Gironde. The path continues through the biodynamically managed vineyard, before entering the contemporary winery, an architectural masterpiece integrated into the landscape. A blind tasting session, in opaque glasses, concludes this immersive and poetic experience.

[www.leshautsdetalmont.com](http://www.leshautsdetalmont.com)

## From land to glass, reveal the spirit of Cognac

### JLP Cognac AB” at Cognac Pasquet

The Pasquet family manages an organic vineyard and production. They will open their doors during this tour to explain with passion and authenticity how they manage every step of the work to be done, from the soil to the bottle.

[www.cognac-pasquet.com](http://www.cognac-pasquet.com)

### “Le Nez du Cognac” Workshop by Cognac Voyer Vaudon

Using aroma nosing kits created by Jean LeNoir – creator and author of Le Nez du Vin’ – the participants will be given the opportunity to identify the aromas of an under 10-year-old cognac and an over 30-year-old cognac. They will then take part in a game to find out the age of the mystery cognac and can win Voyer & Vaudon gift cards.

This experience also includes a tour of the estate and a tasting session of 3 Cognacs.

[www.cognac-voyer-vaudon.fr](http://www.cognac-voyer-vaudon.fr)



### “Traditions meet modernity” with Distillerie Les 1309

An immersive journey to the heart of the 1309 Distillery, where heritage meets innovation. The tour begins in the authenticity of the distillery and the aging cellars for Pineau des Charentes and Cognac, true witnesses of time and the know-how passed down over three generations. The visitors will then head to the Renclos, a modern architectural complex rarely open to the public, which embodies the future of winegrowing. Between high-tech equipment, demanding environmental standards, and family passion, this unique immersion reveals the behind-the-scenes of wine production today... and tomorrow.

[www.distillerie-les1309.com](http://www.distillerie-les1309.com)

### Floral art workshop at Maison Brillet

Visitors will be enchanted by the inspiring world of Belle de Brillet liqueur, a perfect blend of pear and cognac. In a bucolic and authentic setting, this experience offers the participants a private tour of the historic House, and its fascinating history over 10 generations. After a personalized tasting, time to create: guided by the team, they will design their own glass dome of dried flowers, a poetic echo of the identity of Belle de Brillet. A delicate, sensory and creative moment, that they can take home as a souvenir.

[www.belledebrillet.com](http://www.belledebrillet.com)

## To extend the immersion...

### Cognac tasting at Suite en terrasse guest house

Guests can take a seat on the terrace and allow themselves to be carried away for a tasting guided by Evelyne and Pascal, Cognac enthusiasts and fine connoisseurs of the terroir. They will explore all the richness of this spirit in a warm and friendly atmosphere as a preamble to a dinner at the “table d’hôtes”. Here, the tasting becomes a real exchange, a lively conversation punctuated by anecdotes and discoveries of the terroir and its producers... A unique sensory experience to learn to recognize, compare and above all find a Cognac that suits each person with new stories to tell!

[www.suiteenterrasse.com](http://www.suiteenterrasse.com)

### Immersion in the heart of cognac at Quai des Pontis hotel\*\*\*

Allow your clients to discover Cognac in a different way, through all five senses? During a stay at this iconic location nestled on the banks of the Charente, they can immerse themselves in Cognac’s heritage. After a leisurely arrival and a stroll through the century-old park, the guests will enjoy a tasting of cognacs and Pineau des Charentes in the veranda area, accompanied by an exclusive sensory surprise. The experience continues in a unique accommodation designed around the history of Cognac—including cellars, glassworks, and river landscapes—for an immersive night overlooking the river. The next day, a local breakfast will be served before a visit to a partner Cognac House to extend the exploration. A timeless escape, to be experienced right in the city centre.

[www.quaidespontis.com](http://www.quaidespontis.com)



Explore Cognac offers a myriad of opportunities to explore an exceptional spirit and territory. An unexpected and timeless parenthesis in the lands of Cognac, Charentes and their inhabitants, in the heart of Nouvelle-Aquitaine. The destination is ideally situated between Paris and Bordeaux, easily accessible by train, car and plane. Discover more on [www.explore-cognac.com](http://www.explore-cognac.com)

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# EXPLORE COGNAC, A TEAMWORK



Partenaire privé



Partenaire institutionnel





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