



RELAX AND UNWIND...



GETTING OUT AND ABOUT ...



CYCLING...

# PRESS KIT 2021

## SLOW TOURISM IN THE LOIRE VALLEY







# NATURE, CULTURE AND ART DE VIVRE AN EXCEPTIONAL BLEND



The Loire Valley offers countless leisure options for lovers of nature, heritage and gastronomy.

To get here, nothing could be simpler:

- from Paris: TGV train to Tours (1hr), regional trains to Chartres (1hr), Orléans (1hr) or Bourges (2hrs)
- from Roissy-CDG airport: direct TGV to Tours (2hrs)
- from Nantes: regional trains to Tours (1hr 45mins), Blois (2hrs 30mins), Orléans (3hrs)

Listed as **UNESCO World Heritage** since 2000, the Loire Valley is the heart of the surrounding region. Nicknamed the **Valley of the Kings**, it is home to countless châteaux including fifteen which are listed as **"Great Sites of the Loire Valley"**, like the Château of Chambord and the Château of Chenonceau. Indeed, before Versailles, it was in the Loire Valley that the Kings of France had their residences!

The Loire Valley is also known as the **"Garden of France"** because of its fertile ground and variety of soil types that are ideal for growing fruit and vegetable and making a **wide range of wines**. Red, white, rosé, sparkling, dry or tannic... there something for every taste!

There's no better way to discover this region while still preserving its natural beauty than by cycling along **La Loire à Vélo**, a cycle route that follows the Loire, its vineyards and châteaux over 900km!

To the south of the Loire Valley lies **Berry**, a little-known countryside region dotted with countless gems including **small private**

**châteaux** such as the Château of Ainay-le-Vieil, **secrets gardens** such as those of the Domain of Poulaines or the flower park in Apremont-sur-Allier, **internationally known vineyards** such as those in Sancerre, lively towns such as Bourges and **nature reserves** such as the Regional Nature Park of Brenne. This countryside area is a holiday destination in its own right and with treasures to discover.

To the north, there is a different ambiance. Enjoy a city break in **Chartres** with its cathedral listed as UNESCO World Heritage or discover the authentic but still little-known **Eure valley** with villages such as **Maintenon**, known for its château and unfinished aqueduct that was the fruit of a wild idea of Louis XIV.

To help you unwind and discover all the top locations in the region, the Comité régional du Tourisme has launched a new website dedicated to slow tourism, the values of which are presented in this press kit: [www.enrouelibre-centre-valde Loire.com](http://www.enrouelibre-centre-valde Loire.com)



## Solo trip along La Scandibérique

with Estelle



**La Scandibérique is the French section of EuroVelo 3 which goes from Trondheim in Norway to Santiago de Compostela in Spain.**

Although the idea of traversing Europe from north to south was appealing, I couldn't take that much time off work so I decided to settle for a few days on the Paris-Tours section..

The route started by following the Seine to Fontainebleau and then joined the Loing. I was quite taken with the town of **Montargis**, nicknamed "the Venice of Gâtinais" with its 131 bridges and footbridges spanning a multitude of little rivers. After enjoying a few **Praslines Mazet**, the local speciality, I left the banks of the Loing and joined the **Briare canal**. The tow path was a pleasant ride and I had fun waving to the passengers on the canal boats that regularly passed by. I passed through typical little Loiret villages like **Châtillon-Coligny** before arriving in Briare.

The panoramic view of the Loire from the canal aqueduct there was breathtaking! Here, the Briare canal crosses over the Loire on a bridge built by Eiffel, creating two separate water courses like I've rarely seen before! I then headed due west along the banks of

the Loire in the direction of **Orléans**.

At this point the route follows **La Loire à Vélo**, which I rode a few years ago, but I really enjoyed discovering it again. That evening, I decided to stop at the campsite in **Gien** after hearing good things about it from Paul, a cyclist I met the day before. I tried out their Abri-cyclo which means I didn't have to put up the tent. Luxury!

After the **Château of Sully-sur-Loire**, the first of the Loire châteaux on my route, I travelled through **UNESCO World Heritage countryside** and enjoyed taking in the spectacular scenery. I ticked off the stages: Orléans, Blois, Amboise, Tours; the surrounding landscape alternated vineyards, châteaux, forests and small villages... And so I arrived at the end of my journey, my mind and heart filled with happy memories of the experiences I enjoyed and the people I met.

I spent the last night at the youth hostel in **Tours**, The People Hostel, which reserves a special welcome for cyclists. There was a friendly atmosphere and I met Thomas and Hugo and we discussed our respective bike trips together. I'm already keen to go back!

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



### Practical information

#### Duration

1 week for the Paris-Tours section, 1 month for the whole of La Scandibérique

#### Time of year

From April to October

#### Budget €

#### Things to do

stand-up paddle or canoeing on the Briare canal or the Loire.

#### Places to visit

the town of Montargis  
the Château of Sully-sur-Loire,  
the Château of Saint-Brissson,  
the Loire châteaux along the section of La Loire à Vélo between Orleans and Tours

#### Where to eat

Oh Terroir, 100% local and organic fast food in Montargis and Orléans

#### Where to sleep

the campsite in Gien  
The People Hostel in Tours





## UNESCO world heritage, châteaux and boating as a couple

with Christophe and Isabelle



It's now been 20 years since the Loire Valley was first listed as UNESCO World Heritage. It was time for Christophe and I to discover this still relatively little-known part of France!

We arrived in the village of Meung-sur-Loire in the late afternoon. To better discover the Loire, the surrounding scenery and wildlife, we boarded a boat with Denis from the Coeur de Loire association. Denis was a true freshwater sailor and the trip was enjoyable and peaceful in the late-afternoon sun.

The next day, we headed to Chambord. There was no way we could miss out on this great architectural feat! And to think that the forest surrounding it is as big as the centre of Paris... It's huge! While waiting to visit the new permaculture vegetable garden and the vineyard surrounding the estate, Christophe got out his camera. It had to be said the location was picture-perfect!

That evening, we slept in a château! We spent a pleasant evening with Victor and Maria, the delightful Swiss owners of *Le Manoir de Contres*.

We were just a stone's throw from the *Château of Cheverny*, on which Hergé based his works "the adventures of Tintin". We discovered their new orchards, called the "sweet gardens", and enjoyed a trip on the river running through the park in an electric boat. The

avenue of century-old cedars leading to the landing stage was stunning!

At the *Domaine of Chaumont-sur-Loire*, we had lunch in the sunroom of the gastronomic restaurant «Le Grand Vélum». Our meals were decorated with flowers, which I found very refined. Unfortunately, the same can't be said of Christophe... Him and flowers! We went for a digestive stroll in the Domaine's vast park and admired the numerous works of art placed at different points within it. We ended the day at the International Garden Festival which, for its 30th edition, is on the theme of "biomimicry in the garden».

In the evening, we ate outside on the lawns of the *Royal Château of Amboise*. Held for the first time the year before, these evening picnics with a panoramic view are organised on certain days in summer and offer the opportunity to admire an exceptional sunset over the Loire accompanied by music.

On the last day we visited the iconic Renaissance *gardens at Villandry*. I admired the work of the gardeners who keep them perfectly maintained without using a single chemical!.

At the end of our trip, we headed west to the Vendée to visit our grandchildren. Next time they'll be coming with us, that's for sure!

[www.loirevalley-france.co.uk](http://www.loirevalley-france.co.uk)



### Practical information

#### Duration

4 to 5 days (or more)

#### Time of year

all year round

#### Budget



#### Things to do

a trip on a traditional Loire boat  
a panoramic picnic at the Royal Château of Amboise

#### Places to visit

the vineyards and vegetable garden at the Château of Chambord  
the Château of Cheverny  
the Villandry gardens

#### Where to eat

in Le Grand Vélum at the Domaine of Chaumont-sur-Loire

#### Where to sleep

on a Coeur de Loire boat in Meung-sur-Loire.  
in a château at Manoir de Contres

Au Charme Rabelaisien \*\*\*\* in the centre of Amboise



Hand in hand in the land of fine wines

with Paul and Léa



To make the most of the end of summer, Paul and I treated ourselves to a romantic weekend away. As lovers of good wine and heritage, the Loire Valley has appealed to us for a long time and, after a little research, we decided to go to Chinon.

We began the weekend with a visit to the **Fortress of Chinon**, a must-see among the greatest sites in the Loire Valley! Using the **Histopad**, the visit was an entertaining one that plunged us into the history of the site. Outside, the panoramic view of the city and surrounding vineyards was stunning.

After a quick lunch in the **guinguette** (open-air cafe) in Chinon, we set off for a rather unusual vineyard visit... it was time for a Segway ride through the vineyard at **Domaine Pierre & Bertrand Couly!** It's a great activity that allowed us to discover the vines in a fun way.

At the end of the day, another unusual experience awaited us. **Domaine de Noiré** organises gourmet tastings on the Vienne aboard a gabare boat. Our boatman served us a glass of the Domaine's wine and a few local products, including **poires tapées** from Rivarennnes. It was a moment where time seemed to stand still at the end of our first

day.

The following day, we headed off to **Cave de la Sybille**, just a few minutes' drive from Chinon, to discover the tale of Rabelais and the sybil. We were plunged straight into the story thanks to the unique scenography of the site and the sculptures on the tuffeau stone walls. The visit ended with a tasting of local wines in the shop.

**Chinon wines** are both light and full-bodied and dense as well as structured according to soil they were grown in. Paul particularly appreciated a Chinon Red with notes of spices **aged in oak barrels**, but I preferred a lighter wine with red fruit notes, perfect for a pre-dinner drink! We bought two bottles of each

To end the stay, we visited the gardens and **Château of Le Rivau**. We wandered among the roses, works of art and the vegetable in the kitchen garden. A second later, we had the pleasure of finding the same vegetable on our plates in the château's restaurant, the "**Jardin Secret**". We discovered that you can even book accommodation at the château!

At the end of our romantic weekend, we went home with stars in our eyes!

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



## Practical information

### Duration

1 weekend (or more!)

### Time of year

all year round

### Budget € €

### Things to do

a Segway ride through the vineyards  
a trip on the Vienne in a traditional boat with wine and nibbles

### Places to visit

the Fortress of Chinon  
the Château of Le Rivau  
Cave de la Sybille

### Where to eat

the open-air cafe in Chinon  
the gastronomic restaurant at the Château of Le Rivau

### Where to sleep

in a tree house with La Batelière sur Loire





## La Loire à Vélo as a family, from Orléans to Blois

With Marie and her family



For our first cycling holiday we chose the **Loire à Vélo**, a flat easy route that is safe for families.

We arrived in **Orléans** by train and immediately set off in the footsteps of **Joan of Arc**, whose story quickly captured the children's attention. Then, after an enjoyable evening in the open-air cafe, we headed off to the hotel for a good night's rest..

Our hire bikes were delivered directly to the hotel for us with helmets and panniers. We didn't go for the «**luggage transfer**» option, although it is a very practical service offered by the hire company. With our panniers fastened and our helmets strapped on, it was time to go!!

We rode along the Loire with Jeanne in the trailer attached to Thomas's bike and Titouan on his shiny green one. After 10km, we stopped at **Pointe de Courpain** to admire the flocks of migratory birds. It was so calm and relaxing! A little later on, we stopped for a leisurely picnic lunch in **Meung-sur-Loire** before going into the château. The visit with Walter the robot was really well designed for children, ours didn't get bored for a second! It was nearly time for an afternoon snack, so we cycled off again in the direction of the **La Corne des Pâtures** open-air cafe. Everything was local and homemade, we loved it!

The next day, we continued our route towards **Saint-Dyé-sur-Loire** where we were to spend the night on a boat. We arrived at lunchtime and stopped at Le Bistrot Vélo, a cafe-bar that reserves a special welcome for cyclists!

The **Château of Chambord** was only 7 km away and, since we still had some energy left, we cycled there and back in the afternoon. It was very awe-inspiring arriving at Chambord by bike, it made us feel so tiny!

At the end of the day, we enjoyed a trip on the Loire in a **traditional boat**. Jean-Pierre was an enthusiastic guide and we learned plenty of things, even managing to spot a beaver!

On the last day, we arrived in **Blois** late morning, which left us enough time to visit the city, the Maison de la Magie, the Parc des Mées and the Loire Observatory. In the evening, we were all spellbound by the sound and light show in the courtyard of the **Royal Château of Blois**!

Something tells me this won't be the last time our family does 65km by bike.... We're already thinking about our next holiday, and it will definitely be a cycling one!

[www.loirebybike.co.uk](http://www.loirebybike.co.uk)



### Practical information

Duration  
3 to 4 days

Time of year  
From April to October

Budget € €

Things to do  
a trip on the Loire in a traditional Loire boat in Saint-Dyé-sur-Loire

Places to visit  
the Château of Meung-sur-Loire  
the Royal Château of Blois  
the towns of Orléans and Blois

Where to eat  
César et Firmin, in Beaugency  
Les Petits Instants, in Meung-sur-Loire  
La Corne des Pâtures open-air cafe

Where to sleep  
on the Outre-Loire boat in Saint-Dyé-sur-Loire



## Canoeing, cycling, food and drink, from Chartres to Dreux

With Pierre and his friends



**We love mini adventures with our mates! This time we went to Chartres for the weekend and it was Nico who organised everything.**

We met at 5pm at Paris Montparnasse train station with our bikes. That said, we rarely go anywhere without them! It's free to travel with them on regional trains. An hour later, we arrived in **Chartres**. We followed Etienne who took us to a house surrounded by greenery with ducks and chickens, just 2km from the station. A spot of countryside in the city!

It was time for a drink, so we all trooped off to the **La Petite Venise** open-air cafe on the banks of the Eure to enjoy a couple of local beers. With its expanses of crop fields, the region around Chartres is known as "the grain store of France" and the number of **craft breweries** is exploding!

Night falls. We got back on our bikes to explore Chartres by night. Nico promised us we would be amazed, and we were not disappointed! **Chartres en Lumières** is an evening light show that illuminates all the buildings in the city centre, bringing them to life with an exceptional choreography.

The next day, we visited the **Chartres cathedral** first, which is listed as UNESCO World Heritage, then went to the market to buy provisions for lunch. Cheese from Perche, multigrain bread, a generous serving of **pate**

**from Chartres...** and we were on our way!

We cycled along the **Véloscénie**, a 450km route from Paris to Mont-Saint-Michel. We were 20km from **Maintenon**, where we stopped to visit the château. And what a château! It once belonged to Madame de Maintenon, Louis XIV's mistress. They even got married here in secret. The park was magnificent and we couldn't resist a quick break in the picnic area.

We left the Véloscénie and joined the **valley of the Eure** for 6km until we reached our next destination: an unusual gite on the banks of the river. We enjoyed a great evening around the barbecue provided by the owners.

In the morning, 15km of cycling to the water sports centre in **Mézières-Ecluzelles** awaited us. Nico had planned a canoe trip on the Eure for 2hrs30mins and I was keen to give it a try! The valley of the Eure is very peaceful, bordered by attractive houses and the journey was easy and relaxing.

After returning to the water sports centre, we continued our route for 6km to the train station at **Dreux**, the final stop of our mini adventure. In less than an hour we were back in Paris, both relaxed and excited!

[www.tourisme28.com](http://www.tourisme28.com)

### Practical information

Duration  
a weekend

Time of year  
From April to October

Budget €

Things to do  
cycling along the Véloscénie or in the royal Valley of the Eure  
an evening walk in Chartres to discover the Chartres en Lumières light show

Places to visit  
the Château of Maintenon

Where to eat  
The "La Petite Venise" open-air cafe in Chartres

Where to sleep  
Le Clos Chedeville in Chartres, a countryside spot in the city!  
Les Clefs de Milton, in an unusual gite on the river's edge





## A girls' city break for Le Printemps de Bourges

with Mathilde, Estelle and Océane



Le Printemps de Bourges opens the music festival season in France every year. We're all music lovers so this year we wanted to be there as soon as it starts!

It was also an opportunity to spend time with the girls! We had barely arrived and we were already at the foot of the main stage for the opening performance. Tryo got us in the mood and brought back memories of my high school years, then Calypso Rose took over, giving off an incredible sense of energy with her Cuban music, despite being 80 years old!

After a short night's sleep and a delicious breakfast in our charming hotel, **Villa C**, we were eager to discover the centre of Bourges. "Nothing is impossible with a valiant heart" as Jacques Coeur once said, whose fascinating story we learned about during a visit to the **Palais Jacques Coeur**. We continued to **Saint-Etienne cathedral**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and had fun carefully examining every nook and cranny, because legend has it that the sculptors carved several pairs of hidden buttocks!

An abbey! It was in the heart of a 17th century abbey that we had lunch, in the "**Les Petits Plats du Bourbon**" restaurant. The setting was exceptional and our mouths watered just thinking about the food!

After this cultural morning, it was time for a bit of shopping! The streets of Bourges and **Rue d'Auron**, which was lined with half-timbered houses, were full of little shops to satisfy our every desire. It was very pleasant walking around Bourges, even during the festival period when the whole city was buzzing with activity.

Near the **walk along the ramparts**, Océane spotted a tearoom called **Cak T**. We entered a beautiful, vaulted room and fell under the charm. The bottles of **Monin syrup** lined up on the counter were almost enough to make us forget the generous cakes and pastries on display. We gave in to temptation. We needed to keep up our strength for the evening!

We were not going to the main stage today, we wanted to discover something new on one of the other stages set up across the city during the festival. The evening was full of surprises and we danced late into the night!

We were feeling pretty tired in the morning but we nevertheless set off to walk through the **marshes**, a real haven of peace in the city centre. A little peace and quiet after two nights of partying was just what we needed!

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



### Practical information

#### Duration

a weekend or more

#### Time of year

4 to 9 May for the festival, all year round outside of the festival

#### Budget € €

#### Things to do

attend concerts during the festival and discover the open stages  
walk through the marshes

#### Places to visit

Palais Jacques Coeur  
Saint-Etienne cathedral


#### Where to eat

Les Petits Plats du Bourbon  
Cak T

#### Where to sleep

Villa C





## A quiet visit to tucked-away gardens in Berry

with Christophe and Isabelle



**This summer we chose a holiday destination in the countryside away from the busiest tourist destinations: Berry and its secret gardens!**

We started in the village of **Apremont-sur-Allier** which is listed as one of the Most Beautiful Villages in France. We walked through the quiet streets and along the banks of the Allier then visited the **flower garden**. A real gem! With its oriental-style pavilions and bridges, it soon transported us to the far-off lands of the Byzantine Empire and China..

We continued our journey to Sancerre to discover a real treasure: **the Pesselières gardens** which are traversed by a stream and boast an alley of three-hundred-year-old boxwood trees as well as a maze and a vegetable garden. We made the most of this haven of peace..

After a relaxing night in Sancerre, we visited the gardens and arboretum at **the Domain of Poulaines**. Valerie, the owner, explained that she also had gites in the garden and sold local produce in the tearoom and hand-crafted items in the shop, such as hats made of stinging nettles. Since it was sunny, I treated myself to one and barely took it off for the rest of the holiday!

The **Château of Bouges**, 10 minutes away, reminded us of the Petit Trianon at Versailles.

We enjoyed strolling through the French formal gardens, the leafy park and the flower garden, which was stunning at that time of year.

As a keen admirer of **George Sand**, I was interested to discover **the Domain of Nohant**. The writer spent part of her childhood here and later received the great artists of the time at the domain, including Eugène Delacroix, Franz Listz, Alfred de Musset and her lover, Frédéric Chopin. The visit of the house and gardens was filled with tales about the life of this strong-willed woman!

After this literary break, we went to the **medieval gardens at the Prieuré d'Orsan**, carefully maintained by the new owners, Cyril and Gareth, where we travelled back in time. We had lunch in the middle of the gardens with a view of a fantastic topiary heart against an old stone wall. The location is imbued with a sense of calm and serenity!

We slept in **the Château of Ainay-le-Vieil** and visited the gardens in the early morning. Even in July the rose garden was still stunning and the roses perfumed the park while the morning sun added an intimate feel to the location.

We've really fallen in love with the Berry countryside, so peaceful and unspoilt.

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



### Practical information

#### Duration

5 days

#### Time of year

From April to October

#### Budget € €

#### Things to do

a gardening workshop at the Prieuré d'Orsan

#### Places to visit

the Apremont-sur-Allier flower garden  
the Pesselières gardens  
the Domain of Poulaines  
the Château of Bouges  
George Sand's house  
the Château of Ainay-le-Vieil

#### Where to eat

the restaurant at the Prieuré d'Orsan

#### Where to sleep

at the Château of Ainay-le-Vieil  
at Domain of Poulaines



## Birds, vegetarian cooking and horse riding in Brenne

with Marie and her family



This year we wanted to get away for a few days of peace and quiet to unwind and enjoy the countryside. Just 3 hours from Paris, the Regional Nature Park of Brenne was our chosen destination.

With more than 3,000 lakes, numerous birds and its European pond turtles, Brenne is a natural haven! We started by going to the **Maison du Parc** in Rosnay to find out all we could about the park and the best places to visit. Because travelling makes you hungry, we also took the opportunity to try **battered carp**, a local speciality. Delicious!

We then went to the **Le Blanc outdoor activity centre** where we had reserved 4 mountain bikes. It's the best way to travel to explore Brenne at your own pace. We stopped to admire several lakes and watch the flocks of birds from the **observation huts**. After a good bike ride, we headed for our gite for the night.

**Le Sanglier Hirsute** (the Hairy Boar), what a funny name! Valérie provided us with warm welcome and the rooms were well-equipped and cute. After a restorative night's sleep, we began the following day with a cooking

class with Valérie who introduced us to her delicious vegetarian cuisine. Then it was time to go to the **Haute-Touche** reserve to admire animals from all over the world living in semi-liberty. We visited the nursery, where our hearts melted at the sight of the baby European pond turtles, the **«cistudes»**, an iconic species of Brenne.

We then visited the **Château of Azay-le-Ferron** which was just a few kilometres away. The inside was very modern and our guide, Nestor, told us plenty of tales about the history of the château. We then took a short walk in the park.

Today was our last day in Brenne! We began the day with a **horse ride** with a guide from the Maison du Parc. He showed us hidden spots and explained all about the local wildlife. At the end of our enjoyable trip we decided to spend the afternoon swimming. We went to **Bellebouche Lake** where there are multiple water activities available. It was great for the children!

After this refreshing stay surrounded by wildlife, it was hard to return to Paris...

[www.parc-naturel-brenne.fr](http://www.parc-naturel-brenne.fr)

### Practical information

Duration  
3 to 4 days

Time of year  
all year round (spring and autumn for migratory bird watching)

Budget €

Things to do  
a vegetarian cooking class  
a nature outing with a guide  
a bike ride through the lakes

Places to visit  
The Maison du Parc in Rosnay  
The Haute-Touche Reserve  
The Château of Azay le Ferron

Where to eat  
the Maison du Parc

Where to sleep  
Le Sanglier Hirsute



# GOOD FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION NEW RECOMMENDATIONS

## Loire Valley Lodges

Situated 15km south of Tours in a private 300-hectare forest, this concept hotel promises a unique experience for unwinding and soaking up the positive vibes from the forest. 18 modern lodges, each decorated by a contemporary artist, are equipped with all you need and even have a private spa on each of the terraces.

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



## Les Sources de Cheverny

This new luxury hotel complex combining wine therapy, wine tourism and wildlife was inaugurated in autumn 2020. Les Sources de Cheverny, situated on an estate of forty or so hectares including an 18th-century château and a farmhouse, offers 49 rooms and suites, a Caudalie Spa, a bistro and a gastronomic restaurant due to open in the spring of 2021.

[www.sources-cheverny.com](http://www.sources-cheverny.com)



## La Maison Tatin

An iconic French dessert known all over the world, Tarte Tatin originated in Sologne. As the story goes, it was first made by accident by the Tatin sisters in their family home in Lamotte-Beuvron. In 2021, the hotel is getting a make-over and is bringing their famous dessert to centre stage! Now called “La Maison Tatin», the establishment offers 16 refined rooms decorated on the theme of nature with large panoramic photos depicting the local Sologne wildlife as bed headboards, including a kingfisher in one room, a couple of great crested grebes in another and a northern lapwing in yet another. La Maison Tatin also has a restaurant, which naturally serves Tarte Tatin, a spa and a small museum space on the incredible history of this delicious dessert!

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



## Tours is being transformed!

In 2021, the city of Tours will be undergoing a transformation! On the banks of the Loire, near the Pont Wilson bridge, two Hilton hotels will be giving the city a brand new allure. On the east side, Hampton by Hilton is a 3-star hotel with 71 rooms. It's larger counterpart on the west side, called the Garden Inn, is a 4-star hotel with 100 rooms. The opening is planned for spring.

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



## From the vegetable garden to the table at Château of Rivau

This small restaurant with an intimate feel seats up to 20 beneath its glass roof, surrounded by greenery. Chef Nicolas Gaulandeau proposes creative and refined cuisine made using vegetables and herbs from the Le Rivau garden. There's just a few steps from the kitchen garden to the table!

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

## Dining with a view with the Château of Montpoupon

A small haven of peace away from the crowds at the busiest places, L'Auberge de Montpoupon is the new restaurant by Christophe Lunais. Situated on the edge of a magnificent forest, it offers a unique view of the Château of Montpoupon. The restaurant's chef cooks local dishes made with fresh local produce. [www.auberge-montpoupon.fr](http://www.auberge-montpoupon.fr)

## A 4-star experience in Brenne

Situated in the Regional Nature Park of Brenne, Le Manoir de Pierre Levée has been turned into a 4-star hotel offering 5 elegant and refined rooms in the heart of a leafy 9-hectare estate dotted with typical Brenne lakes. The hotel's semi-gastronomic restaurant serves food made with seasonal, organic and local produce.

[www.theoriginalshotels.com/hotels/manoir-pierre-leeve](http://www.theoriginalshotels.com/hotels/manoir-pierre-leeve)



## Life in a château at the Château of Ainay-le-Vieil

This 13th-century fortress in the heart of Berry now offers accommodation. The guest room is in one of the towers in the ramparts dating from the 13th century. Two gîtes have also been created on the estate. The first, in the château outbuildings, can host up to eight people while the second, in an outbuilding in the garden, can accommodate up to six. Needless to say, guests have access to the park and gardens for the duration of their stay! [www.chateau-ainaylevieil.fr](http://www.chateau-ainaylevieil.fr)



Something new in Loches!

## Sleep in a court... of justice!

In the spring of 2021, the former law courts of Loches will be turned into a 4-star hotel. Managed by the Best Western Plus brand, the royal city's hotel will offer the unique experience of walking through the "Salle des Pas Perdus", having breakfast in the courtroom or sleeping in the judges' room...

The hotel has 45 rooms, a spa, a heated indoor pool, a restaurant and a bar. It is also due to receive "the Accueil Vélo" or "Cyclist Welcome" and Clef Verte certifications.

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

## Arbore et Sens, new gastronomy

Behind this gastronomic restaurant is, above all, the tale of a family adventure. After travelling in different countries across the world, chef Clément Guillot finally returned to his homeland to open his own restaurant at the foot of the Royal City of Loches.

His partner, Océane, is in charge of the wine while her sister takes care of the commercial side of things. The chef serves gastronomic cuisine made with 100% local produce to promote the heritage of southern Touraine.

[www.restaurant-arbore-et-sens.fr](http://www.restaurant-arbore-et-sens.fr)





# EVENTS IN 2021 PROGRAMME

## 10 and 11 April

19th edition of the Cheverny Marathon. Several routes are available, starting from the Château and combining heritage, vineyards and gastronomy.



## from 4 to 9 May

44th edition of the Printemps de Bourges eclectic music festival (rock, pop, electro etc.) with Ayo, Jeanne Added, Alain Souchon and Calypso Rose among others.



## 29 & 30 May

15th edition of the Rose Festival in Chédigny, the only "garden-village" in France. Exhibition with plant nurseries, sculptors, painters and photography, musical performances etc.



## 12 June

9th Sancerre Trail, a journey through the heart of the Sancerre winemaking region with vineyards, paths and woods. Routes of 35, 18 or 5km with up to 1000m of height climbed.



## 3 April

Start of the sound and light show in the courtyard of the Royal Château of Blois which recounts the history of the major figures of the Château. **Every evening until 26 September**



## 22 April

Opening of the 30th International Garden Festival at the Domaine of Chaumont-sur-Loire on the theme of "Biomimicry in the Garden". **Until 1st November**



## Spring

(tbc) Inauguration of the new museum space dedicated to Leonardo da Vinci, painter and architect, at the Château du Clos-Lucé: virtual gallery, immersive exhibition, 3D animations, etc.



## 5 & 6 June

Festival of the Rose at the Château of Le Rivau, home to the only conservatory of fragrant roses in France. Numerous events about roses.



**2-3 July, 6-7 August**

“Nuit des Mille Feux” at the Château of Villandry. Gardens lit by 2000 candles, projections, shows and fireworks make for an unforgettable evening.



**9 & 10 July**

Cocorico Electro festival at the Château of La Ferté Saint-Aubin: classical architecture, electro music and fireworks guarantee a unique atmosphere.



**11 & 12 September**

(tbc) 23rd edition of the Tomato Festival at the Château of La Bourdaisière. 50 exhibitors proposing seeds, cookware, beauty products and decorative items.



**26 September**

7th edition of the Tours Marathon with a new route combining urban landscape, nature and culture including the city centre, the banks of the Cher and the Abbey of Marmoutiers.



**December : the magic of Christmas in the Châteaux**

Christmas works its magic in the châteaux every year, where presents and surprises abound in a programme of magical events. With facades shining with a thousand lights, rooms festooned with Christmas



**5 & 6 June**

(tbc) 19<sup>th</sup> edición de la feria Vitiloina de Tours, al aire libre, con más de 150 viticultores de las 70 denominaciones de origen de los viñedos del Valle del Loira.



**3-7 July**

10th edition of the Chambord Festival: 17 music concerts based on famous compositions by Mozart, including a concert in the forest. Fireworks on 3 July.  
**+ 1 July: Sting concert**



**16 and 30 July, 6 August, 3 September**

Picnics with a panoramic view and stargazing at the Royal Château of Amboise. Musical accompaniment, local produce and a stunning sunset over the Loire.



**22- 26 September**

Festival de Loire in Orléans, the largest river gathering in Europe. Exhibitions, boat trips, concerts, shows, boat-related activities etc.



decorations, countless Christmas trees, large-scale nativity scenes, fireside tales, creative workshops, magic shows and delicious drinks and sweets, the programme of events is as full as Father Christmas's sleigh! A great opportunity to discover the Châteaux in a different way.



# DOWNLOAD FREE PICTURES FOR THE PRESS

## Solo trip along La Scandibérique



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## UNESCO world heritage, châteaux and boating as a couple



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## Hand in hand in the land of fine wines



©J-C.Coutand, ©Histoverly, ©Château du Rivau, ©T.Martrou, ©Cave de laSibylle

## La Loire à Vélo as a family, from Orléans to Blois



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## Canoeing, cycling, food and drink, from Chartres to Dreux



©A.Lombard, ©C.Mouton, ©A.Verger, ©Ferry Van der Vliet, ©J.Damase, ©M.Lefrançois

## A girls' city break for Le Printemps de Bourges.



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## A quiet visit to tucked-away gardens in Berry



©Le Jardin de Marie, ©P.Forget, ©V.Treney, ©C.Mouton, ©T.Vincent

## Birds, vegetarian cooking and horse riding in Brenne.



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## Gastronomy and art of living



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