

# LES ROUTES DU BONHEUR GRAND SUD-OUEST

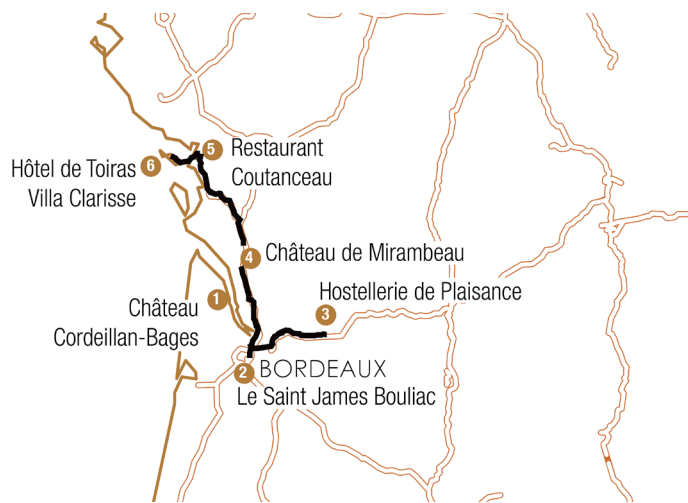
“ Our insiders share their favorite destinations in Bordeaux and the South West region, to enjoy on your first trip or on a return visit ”

# FROM PAUILLAC TO ÎLE DE RÉ



OUR RELAIS & CHÂTEAUX PROPERTIES  
CHÂTEAU CORDEILLAN BAGES  
LE SAINT-JAMES BOULIAC  
HOSTELLERIE DE PLAISANCE  
CHÂTEAU DE MIRAMBEAU  
RESTAURANT CHRISTOPHER COUTANCEAU  
HÔTEL DE TOIRAS – VILLA CLARISSE

## WINE TOURISM, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE HOTTEST DESTINATIONS!



### ABANDONED TREASURES: INGENUOUS RENOVATIONS

Key to discovering the energy of Bordeaux, these former abandoned sites have been renovated to highlight local treasures. Simply not to be missed!

#### The Darwin district, Bordeaux

🕒 15-minute drive from Le Saint-James

A renovated disused urban site located in the Bastide district, the Darwin Eco-System brings together organizations, artists and companies to focus on ecology and sustainable development. This alternative destination bubbles with energy and effervescence. Its slightly hipster vibe always makes it an exciting place to visit. You can even sample some truly local food and drink at the now renowned Magasin Général, a bistro/canteen/grocery store that roasts its own coffee and serves its own specially brewed beer. Enjoy its completely organic menu amid stylish salvaged decor. For more information: <http://darwin.camp/>



## The Submarine Base, Bordeaux

- 20-minute drive from Le Saint-James

Situated in Bassins à Flots, Bordeaux's new hot spot, this gigantic bunker built by the Nazis in 1940 is now open to the public and is home to an exceptional 12,000 m<sup>2</sup> cultural center. The program of temporary exhibits, concerts, plays and shows put on at this unusual site will draw you in while the works enhance and put a new spin on the location's past.

For more information: <http://www.bordeaux.fr/o271/base-sous-marine>



## WINE TOURISM: THE LIFE OF THE VINES

It would be unthinkable to cross the region without experiencing its most authentic manifestation: its vines and the fantastic wine-growing heritage of Bordeaux.

## Bages Village

- on the same site as the Château Cordeillan-Bages

This picturesque old wine-growing village has been restored, and is now home to an elegant vintage brasserie, a top-quality butcher's shop, a jovial high-end market that features delights such as wines from the Cazes family (Château Lynch-Bages, Château Ormes de Pez, Château Villa Bel-Air, Château Cordeillan-Bages and more), and a bike hire service so you can cycle along the marked routes. A wine tourism pioneer.

For more information: <http://www.caruso33.net/village-de-bages.php>

## Hot Air Balloon at the "La Ferme du Ciel," Laruscade

- exactly halfway between Hostellerie de Plaisance and Château de Mirambeau

Board a two- or four-person hot air balloon for an unforgettable late-afternoon experience. Discover the vines, châteaux, and forests of Gironde as you soar higher and higher into the expansive sky. A fine wine tasting and the pilot's anecdotes only add to the enjoyment. Perfect before setting out for your next adventure or, depending on the option you choose (from €189 to €350), the crew can come to collect you from wherever you are staying.

For more information: <http://www.lafermeduciel.eu/index-eng.html>

## A tour of the wine routes on a Harley-Davidson

- leave from Saint-Emilion (5 min. from Hostellerie de Plaisance) or Bordeaux (leave from Le Saint-James).

This experience is as wild as the stories you'll have to tell. Take a Harley-Davidson on a one-hour road trip along the UNESCO wine routes. And of course stop off at a Grand Cru Classé château for a tasting session. A journey to savor without moderation—your experienced biker guides will see to your every comfort.

For more information: <http://tourochateaux.com/index.php/en/>



## TYPICAL AND MYTHICAL

Don't miss out on these local heritage jewels between your stops.

### Île de Ré's donkeys in pants

- 5-minute drive from Hôtel de Toiras - Villa Clarisse

The island's iconic animals—the Poitou donkeys—are also France's most stylish thanks to the charming pants that they have worn for the past century and a half. Although traditionally used to protect the donkeys from pests and the salt, today it's mostly to delight children, who can ride them in Parc de la Barbette near Saint-Martin de Ré port.

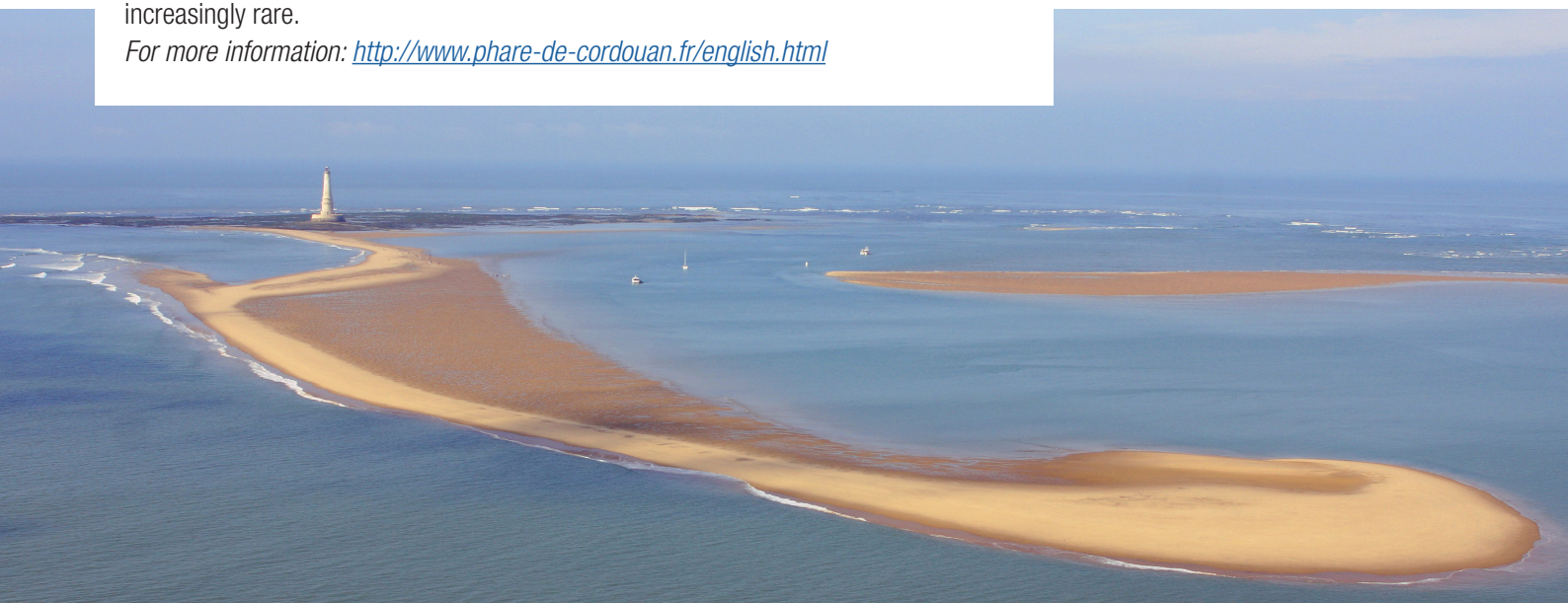
For more information: <http://www.ane-en-culotte.com/>

### Cordouan Lighthouse

- boat leaves from Le Verdon-Sur-Mer, 50 minutes from Château de Cordeillan-Bages

The oldest French lighthouse still in use, first listed as a historical monument in 1862, this 68-meter-tall building is an architectural feat and boasts an interior that has earned it the nickname “the Versailles of the Sea.” Cordouan is a must-see for two more reasons: it's a World Heritage Site candidate, and the chances to visit a working lighthouse are increasingly rare.

For more information: <http://www.phare-de-cordouan.fr/english.html>



### The Marché des Capucins

- 15-minute drive from Le Saint-James

Conclude a wild night out or begin an exhaustive tour of Bordeaux with a stroll through the food stalls of the Marché des Capucins, open Tuesday through Sunday. Night owls and early birds alike flock to Chez Jean-Mi to savor oysters from the bay with a glass of white.

For more information: <http://marchedescapucins.com/>

### The Île de Ré Méharis

- 10-minute drive from Hôtel de Toiras - Villa Clarisse

With its folding roof, this lightweight vacationer's car has become forever iconic of the island in summer. Citroen's emblematic 1970s Méhari model is the ultimate vehicle for touring the island. There's nothing quite like driving a legendary car with the wind in your hair!

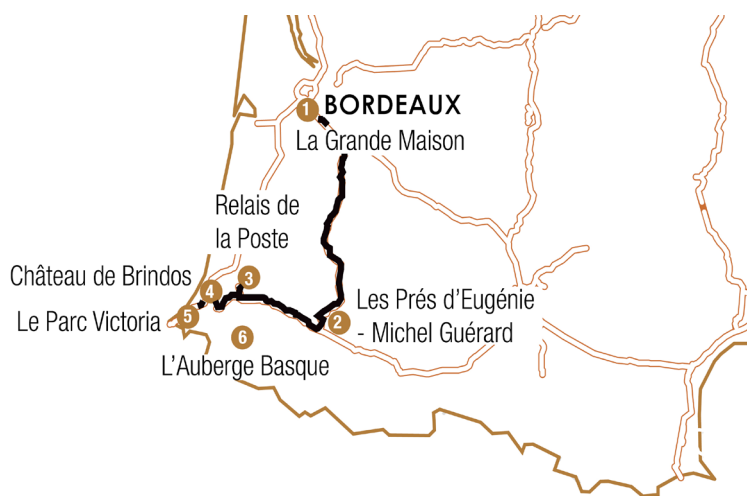
For more information: Le Bois-Plage-en-Ré Tourist Office +33 (0)5 46 09 23 26

# FROM BORDEAUX TO THE BASQUE COAST



OUR RELAIS & CHÂTEAUX PROPERTIES  
LA GRANDE MAISON DE BERNARD MAGREZ  
LES PRÉS D'EUGÉNIE - MICHEL GUÉRARD  
RELAIS DE LA POSTE  
CHÂTEAU DE BRINDOS  
LE PARC VICTORIA  
L'AUBERGE BASQUE

POWERFUL SENSATIONS, THE SEA,  
NATURAL SCENERY AND TAPAS!



## WONDERFUL WATERING HOLES

These hot spots pop up every summer, offering an ambiance as warm and welcoming as the region as a whole. They make every night a village fiesta.

### Chez Renault, Saint-Jean-De-Luz

🕒 6-minute drive from Hôtel Parc Victoria

Taking over a 600 m<sup>2</sup> former auto garage every year from June through September, this pop-up bar has become an unmissable spot in Saint-Jean-de-Luz in the space of just three years. And for good reason—this incredible hangout somehow manages to be big yet welcoming. Taste a homemade bagel, Ibérico ham or mussels à la plancha with a beer, mojito or a caipirinha and listen to charming mixes or live concerts ranging from rock bands to feel-good Caribbean beats. It's the perfect place for a great night out with friends or as a couple.

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/chezrenauld/>



## La Guinguette chez Alriq, Bordeaux

- 13-minute drive from La Grande Maison de Bernard Magrez

Chez Alriq could easily be the quintessential open-air bar, part of a new wave of similar establishments that have inspired widespread enthusiasm in recent years. While this festive spot, ideally situated on the banks of the Garonne, has all the classic features of an open-air bar—paper lanterns included—its philosophy of social and intergenerational diversity makes it a firmly modern establishment. Whether for tapas, food, or just drinks, you're sure to dance the night away to an eclectic program of music evenings with jazz, bluegrass, rock, world music and more. A true cabaret atmosphere perfect for partying together.

For more information: <http://www.laguinguettechezalriq.com/en/home/>



## THRILL-SEEKING

You're just a stone's throw away from the capital of board sports and high-flying activities—all the more reason to try out some thrills and chills between the comfort of two stopovers.

## Watermansport Surf School, Hossegor

- 30-minute drive from Relais de la Poste
- 35-minute drive from Château de Brindos

It's impossible to travel along the Basque Coast without trying the delights of board sports. Hossegor's waves are so beautiful that you simply must try them once in your life, no matter your level. With its expert instruction, Watermansport Surf School will soon have you ready to experience your first thrills. The institution provides day courses and also loans out its superb boards to experienced surfers.

For more information: <http://watermansport-surfschool.com/>

## Skate Park 162, Saint-Jean-De-Luz

- 8-minute drive from Hôtel Parc Victoria
- 16-minute drive from Château de Brindos

To relive your childhood slips and slides, initiate your kids, or just admire the local skaters, this 1,200 m<sup>2</sup> skate park offers everything you could ever need for a daring day out. The standards are high, so the spectators often outnumber the fearless skaters participating in the regular events held at the park.

For more information: <http://162skate.org/>

## Héli-Béarn, Pau

- 45-minute drive from Les Prés d'Eugénie Michel Guérard

Want a bird's-eye view? Experience the wonders of a helicopter flight over the Pyrenees. The majestic Cirque de Gavarnie (UNESCO) serves as a backdrop to this high-flying adventure with peaks of over 3,000 m. Soar over the region's geographical wonders, including the hills of Jurançon, the Col de Marie-Blanque pass, the Vallée des Gaves, the legendary Col du Tourmalet pass and the famous Pic du Midi Observatory.

For more information: Patrice Burgio, +33 (0)6 50 59 44 45,

[www.helibearn.fr/fr/contact](http://www.helibearn.fr/fr/contact)





## THE CALL OF THE OCEAN

You'll be able to savor produce from the Atlantic Ocean at many of our Relais & Châteaux stops. So why not take a closer look at the devoted individuals who live off the ocean all year round?



### The Pinasses of Cap Ferret

- 50-minute drive from La Grande Maison de Bernard Magrez

The Pinasse—Arcachon Bay's iconic boat—was originally used for fishing and oyster-farming, but started to be used as a pleasure craft in the 19th century due to its friendly ambiance and understated comfort. Become part of the legend by embarking on a private cruise to discover the bay and its ecosystem. If you wish, you can even stop off for an on-site oyster tasting or take a break with a picnic.

For more information: <http://www.pinasse-bassin-arcachon.com/en/>

### Itsas Arima, Bayonne

Leave from Bayonne Port

- 18-minute drive from Chateau de Brindos  
30-minute drive from Hôtel Parc Victoria

Since its inception, the Itsas Arima association has monitored marine mammal populations on the Basque and Landes coasts, given the threats posed by environmental issues and human influence. To raise awareness of these problems and to mix purpose with pleasure, Itsas Arima offers boat trips to the Gouf de Capbreton. This is an ideal place to observe sea-dwelling mammals, which are only rarely seen along these coastlines. Lunch is served on board and the boat returns to the dock at the end of the day. Be sure to book in advance to avoid missing out on this special day.

For more information: <http://itsasarima.com/>

### The famous fly fishing, Made in River

- a 30-minute drive from L'Auberge Basque

A family activity to discover a fishing area in Basse-Navarre and Labourd Navarre depending on the season. Both children and adults will be instantly captivated by the river fauna, its aquatic insects, and other fish. Fly fishing will no longer be a mystery to you!

For more information: +33 6 66 60 84 42 / [glenn@madeinriver.fr](mailto:glenn@madeinriver.fr)



## TASTING THE BEST OF NATURE

True gourmets enjoy tasting nature as much as experiencing it—these two destinations serve as triumphant and tantalizing proof.

### B-Winemaker

- 20-minute drive from La Grande Maison de Bernard Magrez

Before or after you savor the delights of La Grande Maison de Bernard Magrez, you can try to match its wine-making expertise. Rise to this considerable challenge at the B-Winemaker workshop. During this unforgettable experience, you'll choose your grape varieties from Château Pape Clément, Château La Tour Carnet or Château Les Grands Chênes and then make your own blends in the creative workshop. You'll then have the chance to taste your own personal cuvée before it is bottled and labeled. Last but not least, you'll have the privilege of tasting a Bernard Magrez wine—to remind you that making wine is a true art form.

For more information: <http://www.b-winemaker.com/home>

### Poetic Agriculture

- 20-minute drive from Les Prés d'Eugénie Michel Guérard

When Clément Baillet took over his grandparents' mixed livestock farm (Pyrenean goats, Gascon pigs and Toulouse geese) in 2010, he created the «Agriculture Poétique» (poetic agriculture) label, which centers on his main motivations and values: respect for traditional production methods and environmental resources, local consumption and distribution, and raising awareness among the general public.

Experience a day in the life of the three-hundred-year-old Ferme Bacotte, from caring for the animals to producing cheese, followed by a lunch at the farm.

For more information: Ferme Bacotte, Clément Baillet, +33 (0)6 87 44 90 36

<https://agriculture-poetique.com/a-propos/>

<https://www.facebook.com/fromageriebacotte/>





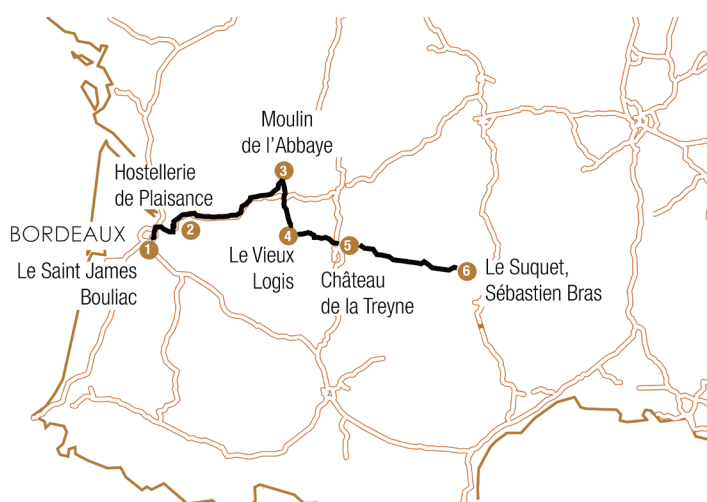
# FROM BORDEAUX TO AUBRAC

## THE GARONNE, THE DORDOGNE, CHEESE AND ART



### OUR RELAIS & CHÂTEAUX PROPERTIES

LE SAINT-JAMES BOULIAC  
HOSTELLERIE DE PLAISANCE  
MOULIN DE L'ABBAYE  
LE VIEUX LOGIS  
CHÂTEAU DE LA TREYNE  
LE SUQUET, SÉBASTIEN BRAS



### ESCAPE TO PILAT

Before you head east to savor the delicacies of Aubrac, don't leave the Saint-James without making a trip to the ocean. The Dune of Pilat is perfect for spending your day in a big way.

### Pyla Parapente

🕒 48-minute drive from Le Saint-James

Experience unforgettable beauty as you take off from the Dune of Pilat and time stands still. Soar high and join the other swirling multicolored paragliders while relishing the exceptional views of the Landes forest, the Banc d'Arguin and the Arcachon Bay. Seasoned instructors will guide you on your first flight, allowing you to bask in the splendor of this extraordinary natural landmark and its 4,000 years of history.

For more information: <http://www.pyla-parapente.com/>





## AN ARTY EXCURSION

Art meets design, from Soulages's black creations to Starck's colorful bric-a-brac. Awaken your inner artist with these two stops.

### Soulages Museum / Café Bras

- 58-minute drive from Le Suquet, Sébastien Bras

Continue the theme of Sébastien Bras's indulgent cuisine and pay a visit to his contemporary bistro, combined with a tour of Rodez's museum devoted to the art of Pierre Soulages. Admire the biggest donation ever made by an artist during his lifetime amid exceptional architecture in this permanent exhibition space spanning 1,700 m<sup>2</sup>. Immerse yourself in the art of the man who reinvented black. Step into the adjoining Café Bras and order a now famous Miwam sandwich, an unusual creation made from organic cereals. You'll soon recover your color vision.

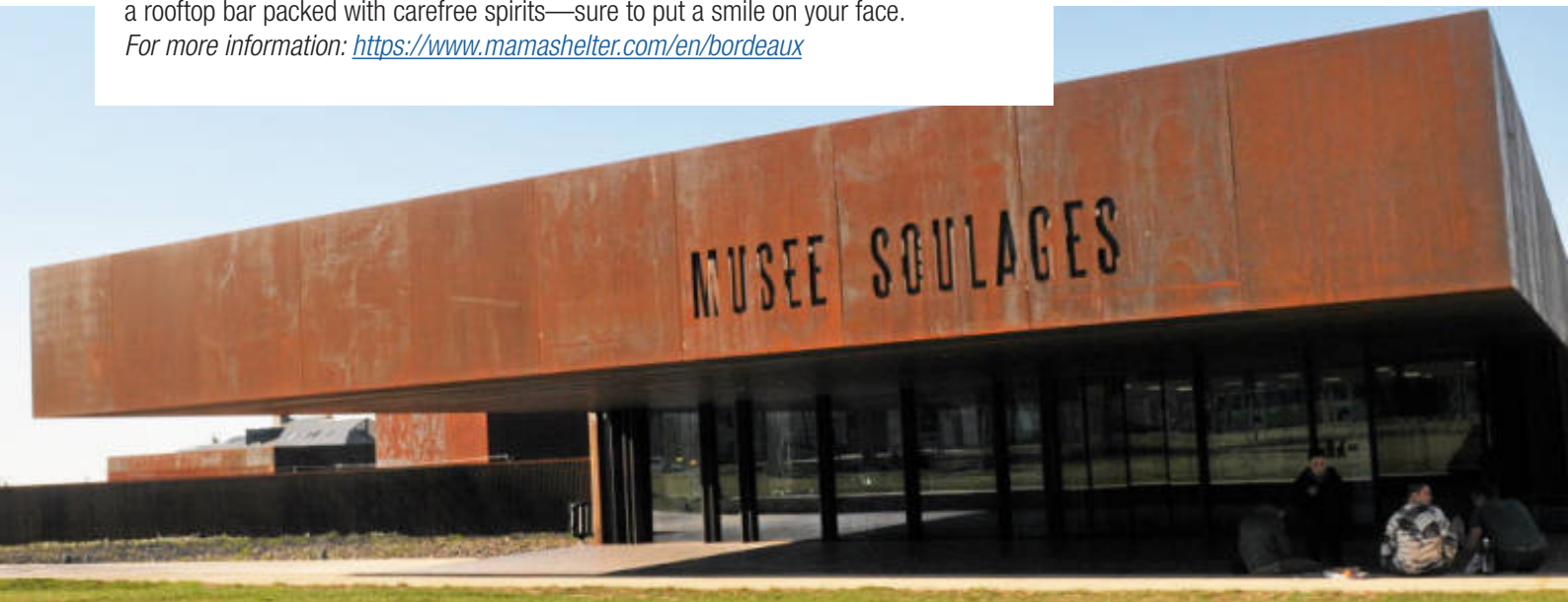
For more information: <http://musee-soulages.rodezagglo.fr/>

### Mama Shelter Bordeaux

- 20-minute drive from Le Saint-James

The fruit of Trigano and Starck's visionary and mischievous minds, Mama Shelter hotels provide an inspired mix of French hospitality and fun. Finish off your stay in Bordeaux with wacky decor created by the designer, a friendly boho vibe, lavish and clever cuisine, and a rooftop bar packed with carefree spirits—sure to put a smile on your face.

For more information: <https://www.mamashelter.com/en/bordeaux>



## AN AUBRAC CHEESE PLATTER

Any gourmet worth their salt should taste Aubrac as they cross it.

### Cheese cooperative, Aubrac-Laguiole

- 20-minute drive from Le Saint-James

As the primary producer of Laguiole A.O.P. unpasteurized whole-milk cheese, Coopérative Fromagère Jeune Montagne perpetuates traditional know-how inherited from the monks of Aubrac. Visit the cheese factory, discover its traditional production methods and savor its aged cheeses. Then spoil yourself with the cooperative's other products in the boutique, which include the essential Aligot and Tome Fraîche de l'Aubrac.

For more information: <http://www.jeune-montagne-aubrac.fr/>



## FROM THE GARONNE TO THE DORDOGNE

The region's rivers and life-giving streams have forged its identity, culture and pastimes, so they are well worth a visit.

### Les Marins de la Lune

- 17-minute drive from Le Saint-James

On the riverbanks at Les Chantiers de la Garonne, an atypical association has teamed up with the Darwin Eco-System—a must-see series of renovated disused buildings in new Bordeaux—to bring water sports to the heart of Bastide Niel. Gaze out at the Quai des Chartrons as you try out stand-up paddleboarding, kayaking or dugout canoing on the Garonne—an unmissable experience.

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/lesmarinsdelalune/>

### Fishing in the Dordogne

- a short walk from Château de La Treyne

Lot is a land of plenty for fishing enthusiasts. Pristine streams, rivers, ponds and lakes provide you with endless ways to enjoy your passion. In the Dordogne, the locals fly fish with their boots in the water. Join Luc—a true enthusiast and fine connoisseur of fishing in the Dordogne valley—on a fishing trip and he will kindly let you in on some of his carefully guarded secrets.

For more information: *contact Château de la Treyne directly*



## THE FUTURE OF PÉRIGORD'S PAST

When past meets present, it gives rise to the very best kinds of experiences.

### Lascaux IV

- 55-minute drive from Vieux Logis or Château de La Treyne

Since December 2016, you can once again enjoy the “Sistine Chapel” of cave art thanks to the exact replica at Montignac’s International Center for Cave Art, which offers a digitally-enhanced experience with interactive rooms, 3D immersion and a virtual art gallery. The concisely and cleverly laid out museum provides an unforgettable and moving mixture of new technology and 17,000 years of history.

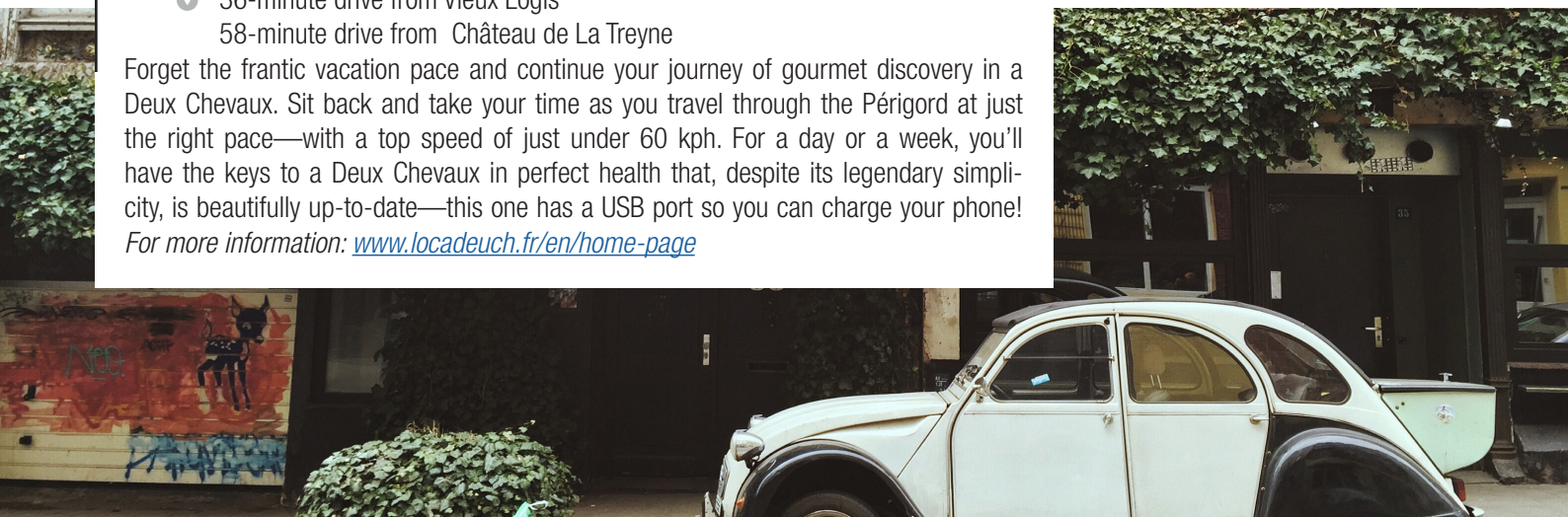
For more information: <http://www.lascaux.fr/en>

### LoCa Deuch'

- 36-minute drive from Vieux Logis  
58-minute drive from Château de La Treyne

Forget the frantic vacation pace and continue your journey of gourmet discovery in a Deux Chevaux. Sit back and take your time as you travel through the Périgord at just the right pace—with a top speed of just under 60 kph. For a day or a week, you'll have the keys to a Deux Chevaux in perfect health that, despite its legendary simplicity, is beautifully up-to-date—this one has a USB port so you can charge your phone!

For more information: [www.locadeuch.fr/en/home-page](http://www.locadeuch.fr/en/home-page)



# FROM BORDEAUX TO FRENCH CATALONIA

## TASTINGS, DISCOVERIES AND ESCAPES



OUR RELAIS & CHÂTEAUX PROPERTIES

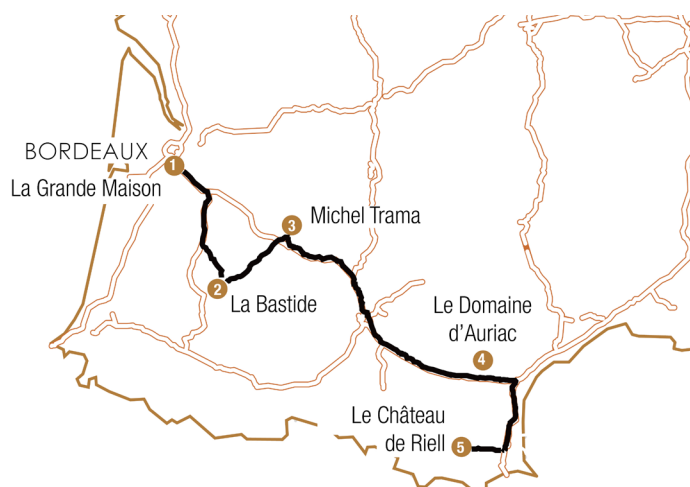
LA GRANDE MAISON

LA BASTIDE

MICHEL TRAMA

DOMAINE D'AURIAC

LE CHÂTEAU DE RIELL



### WINE MIXOLOGY

Because moderation calls for the exceptional!

#### Symbiose, Bordeaux

- 🕒 8-minute drive from La Grande Maison Bernard Magrez

How is it that a group of twenty-something friends have managed to win over the whole of Bordeaux with their bar-restaurant on Quai des Chartrons? By being simply perfect at everything, with a five-course bistro menu, breathtaking cocktails and divine taps. Their creative, stylish, cool yet unpretentious food is accompanied by pretty plates and a speakeasy vibe that makes the aptly named Symbiose (“symbiosis”) one of those places where you feel like a regular as soon as you walk in the door.

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/symbiosebordeaux/>



### **Le Bar à Vins de la Cité, Carcassonne**

- 📍 2-minute drive from Domaine d'Auriac

From the word go, this large, shaded courtyard nestled among medieval ramparts encourages you to unwind and let go. Its extraordinary setting along with its friendly atmosphere, even during peak hours, make Le Bar à Vins de la Cité an essential stop on a night out with friends or as a couple. Run by Marie-Hélène Rigaudis, the Maîtresse de Maison of Domaine d'Auriac, every element is of the highest quality, from the menu of tapas to the discerning choice of music. And that's not even mentioning the wine selection...

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/le-bar-%C3%A0-vins-124283230935371/>

### **La Coccinelle, Barbotan-les-Thermes**

- 📍 2-minute walk from La Bastide

This traditional family-owned bar-restaurant transforms into a speakeasy-style bar when night falls. The young boss masters all the tricks of the trade, artfully concocting great cocktail classics that draw in all the young people from the local vineyards. Come midnight, the curtain falls and the celebrations continue among friends.

For more information, call: +33 (0)5 62 03 77 07

### **Caves Byrrh**

- 📍 39-minute drive from Château de Riell

Sometimes the stories told by factories can be as interesting as those told by medieval castles. This is most definitely the case for the captivating industrial heritage of Thuir, which is home to a slightly old-fashioned aperitif: Byrrh, a sort of tonic wine with hints of spices. Take one of the themed and dramatized tours of the cellars and immerse yourself in the history of a unique and enterprising family adventure. The world's largest oak vat is sure to take your breath away!

For more information: <http://www.caves-byrrh.fr/uk/>



**SHOPPING IN THE GRAND SUD**

Top-quality products made in France

### **Maison Quinta, Perpignan**

- 📍 40-minute drive from Château de Riell

This 900 m<sup>2</sup> mansion house showcases the Catalan art of living with a warm and welcoming display of decorative objects, lamps, tableware, fabrics and regional products. This temple of southern French aesthetics turns home decoration into a true art form, as the objects call to be admired and touched. Don't miss the sublime Toiles du Soleil fabrics, woven just a few miles from Maison Quinta in the department's last surviving manufacture, which now boasts the Entreprise du Patrimoine Vivant (living heritage company) label.

For more information: <http://www.maison-quinta.com/>



## NEW VEHICLE, NEW VIEWPOINT

Leave behind your ordinary auto and get a new perspective on your journey.

### Ride & Châteaux

- 15-minute drive from La Grande Maison Bernard Magrez

If you're a biker without a motorcycle and the idea of getting back in the saddle takes your fancy during this gourmet journey, Ride & Châteaux has a fleet of lively and versatile BMW bikes available for solo or supervised rides along the region's remarkable roads. To stay true to the spirit of your trip, don't miss the Saint-Emilion Wine Tour, for a journey through the vines accompanied by a memorable tasting of a Grand Cru Classé.

For more information: <https://ride-chateaux.com/>

### Alain Machelidon Photographer

- meet at Domaine d'Auriac

To master the art of travel, you need to learn how to observe and know where to look. Increasingly popular photo walks offer a different view of the town beyond its tourist traps, while allowing you to benefit from the tips of a knowledgeable local expert. Alain Machelidon, who has been a professional photographer for more than 40 years, will take you on a photo walk through Carcassonne. You'll come back with plenty of pictures and unusual perspectives of the town.

For more information: <http://www.alainmachelidon.com/>



### The Yellow Train, Villefranche-De-Conflent

- 17-minute drive from Château de Riell

When the mode of transport is a tourist destination in its own right, you know it's a must-see! Winding its way through the Regional Park of the Catalan Pyrenees for over a century, the Yellow Train is a true icon of the region's heritage. During the journey along peaks and slopes, you will glimpse the region's natural jewels and major tourist destinations, such as fortified UNESCO World Heritage Sites Villefranche-de-Conflent and Mont-Louis, the Têt Valley, or the Canigou and Cambre d'Aze massifs. With its sweeping panoramas, this train only has one destination: complete and utter delight.

For more information: <https://www.ter.sncf.com/languedoc-roussillon/loisirs/ligne-touristique-train-jaune>

### 2 CV Rally

- 15-minute drive from La Grande Maison Bernard Magrez

Spend a day roaming the roads of Roussillon and the south of France in a Deux Chevaux. Jump behind the wheel and let your navigator chart the course, choosing a route through vines, mountains or picture-perfect villages. You choose where to stop off, so you can explore the historical sites or enjoy a gourmet break. Be sure to make a detour via the oldest pottery workshop in the south of France—Poterie Not in Mas-Saintes-Puelles.

For more information: <https://2cv-rallye.fr/en/rental-conditions>



## FROM THE CANAL TO THE SEA

Follow the floral course of the Canal du Midi till it reaches the open sea.

### NaviCanal, Port Lauragais

- 30-minute drive from Domaine d'Auriac

The only company to hire out vessels year round, NaviCanal has a number of cozy canal boats so you can experience the dreamlike Canal du Midi as it runs its smooth and peaceful course. Available for weekend or weekly hire, navigate the locks and take the time to visit Castelnaudary, Bram and Carcassonne from the most beautiful of viewpoints. No license required, but pleasure guaranteed!

For more information: <http://www.navicanal.com/cgi-bin/index>

### Aquatile, Argelès-Sur-Mer

- 1-hour drive from Château de Riell

Whether a complete beginner or an experienced diver, this internationally acclaimed instruction center offers diving lessons for beginners and day-long explorations of the Côte Vermeille coastline. Specialized courses, including orienteering and underwater photography, will give seasoned divers an even more intense experience.

For more information: <http://aquatile.fr/>



## VISITING GERS AS A FAMILY

Whether budding astronomers or horseback riders, your children will love these destinations.

### La Ferme des Etoiles, Mauroux

- 77-minute drive from La Bastide

With Hubert Reeves as its patron, the purpose of the Ferme des Etoiles project is to preach earth science, astronomy and astrophysics to the general public. Headquartered at a grand house in Gascony filled with exceptional equipment such as a telescope and a planetarium and covered by a sky that is perfect for observation, the Ferme des Etoiles offers inductions into astronomy as well as numerous events intended to popularize these sciences that are sure to engage curious minds.

For more information: <http://fermedesetoiles.com/>

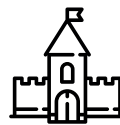
### Camp de Siège Médiéval, Larressingle

- 30-minute drive from La Bastide

How familiar are your kids with the techniques involved in medieval warfare and castle sieges? While this knowledge may be of little use in their future careers, they'll no doubt look back on this visit to Larressingle with fond memories. Life-size catapults, bows, throwing machines and gunpowder artillery can all be tried out under close supervision of a team of enthusiastic guides dressed, of course, in period clothing.

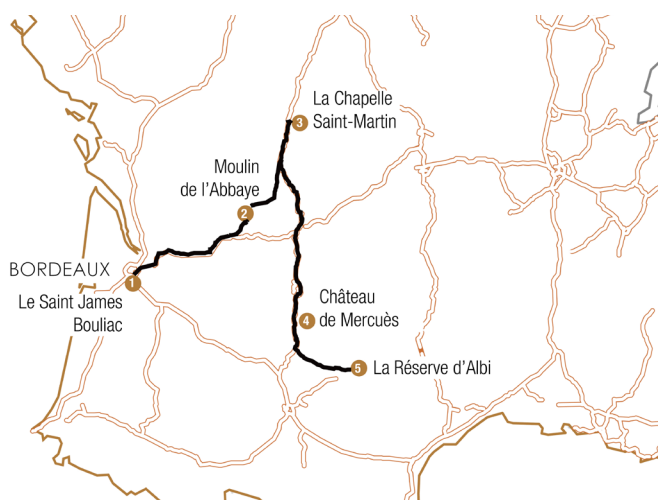
For more information: <http://larressingle.free.fr/index-gb.htm>

# FROM BORDEAUX TO ALBI



OUR RELAIS & CHÂTEAUX PROPERTIES  
LE SAINT-JAMES BOULIAC  
MOULIN DE L'ABBAYE  
LA CHAPELLE SAINT MARTIN  
LE CHÂTEAU DE MERCUÈS  
LA RÉSERVE D'ALBI

## LUXURY GOODS, ARTISTIC CRAFTS AND TAKING THE BACK ROADS



### MAJESTIC DETOURS

These wildly elegant escapades will add some sparkle to your journey.

#### Rooftop of the Grand Hôtel, Bordeaux

- 17-minute drive from Le Saint-James

The Grand Hôtel Intercontinental's Night Beach is Bordeaux's most famous nighttime beach spot. Yet there's not a single grain of sand here to spoil the feeling of bustling activity, the inimitable vibe or the breathtaking 360° panorama over the city. An à la carte menu, an impressive wine cellar, trendy cocktails, finger food and sliders make this the perfect prelude to an elegant night out.  
For more information: <https://bordeaux.intercontinental.com/en/>





## Le Domaine des Etangs, Massignac

- 43-minute drive from La Chapelle Saint-Martin

Encompassing over 1,000 hectares of forests, pastures and ponds, the Domaine des Etangs is the largest 5-star resort in mainland France. The exceptional site is home to a Michelin-starred restaurant (Dyades), an old 11th-century castle, farm buildings, a landscaped park and more. To truly embrace its splendor, indulge in a luxurious picnic in the fresh air, at the foot of a “thousand-trunk tree,” in a barn or at the edge of the pond.

For more information: <http://www.domainedesetangs.com/en/>



## MANUFACTURES AND ARTISTIC CRAFTS IN PÉRIGORD-LIMOUSIN

In this land of French expertise, there's every reason to be extravagant.

### Manufacture boutiques, such as Repetto in Saint-Médard-d'Excideuil

- 44-minute drive from Moulin de l'Abbaye

The greatest names in luxury goods have made Limousin their home—a region famous for its porcelain, as well as leather goods. Discover the crafts workshops and manufacture boutiques of a number of French luxury brands, including Le Tanneur, J.M. Weston and Repetto at factory prices—enough to make you leap for joy.

For more information: <https://www.lesmagasinsdusine.com/france/repetto-saint-medard>

### Pôle Expérimental Métiers d'Art, Nontron

- 20-minute drive from Moulin de l'Abbaye

With craftspeople teaching you the ways of sculpture, pottery, tapestry-making, ceramics, drawing and more, why not learn a new skill during your vacation? The center puts on classes and workshops for adults and children several days a week, and even occasionally holds workshops where parents and kids can create together. Don't forget to visit one of the cutlery factories that produce the famous Nontron knife.

For more information: <http://www.metiersdartperigord.fr/weblog/>



## FINDING OUR ROOTS

These two must-sees will make you feel like a mere speck in the grand scheme of things.

### Lascaux IV

- halfway between Moulin de l'Abbaye and Château de Mercuès

Since December 2016, you can once again enjoy the “Sistine Chapel” of cave art thanks to the exact replica at Montignac’s International Center for Cave Art, which offers a digitally-enhanced experience with interactive rooms, 3D immersion and a virtual art gallery. The concisely and cleverly laid out museum provides an unforgettable and moving mixture of new technology and 17,000 years of history.

For more information: <http://www.lascaux.fr/en>

### Gigouzac Observatory

- 22-minute drive from Château de Mercuès

The so-called “black triangle” of Quercy—the pure skies above the Causses du Quercy unspoiled by urban light pollution—makes this place an exceptional and very popular site for stargazing. The Gigouzac astronomy club meets up every two weeks and welcomes novices and amateurs to its commentated observations. A unique atmosphere reigns at this original evening event, making you feel minuscule in comparison with the stars.

For more information: <http://www.astrosurf.com/clubgigouzac/presentation.htm>





## ANYWHERE BUT AN AUTOMOBILE

Cross the Périgord with a 360° experience

### **Solex Balades, Montans**

- 30-minute drive from La Réserve d'Albi

Tarn's country roads aren't meant to be traveled at speed. Tasting stops are a must as is a cheerful mood. To follow these rules to the letter, the iconic Solex bike is the ideal travel companion, complete with an extra nostalgic touch. Enjoy a "bucolic ride" on a Solex bike from Montans, leaving you free to meander past the vines to the legendary hum of its motor. Its bug-like buzz is like music to the ears in this region.

For more information: <http://solexbalades.com/?lang=en>

### **Ultralight airplane, Bourdeilles**

- 10-minute drive from Moulin de l'Abbaye

Ultralight aircraft pilot Robert Guerre has an excellent aerial surprise in store for you in Brantôme, in the Dronne valley. Climb high into the sky with him and discover the rich and varied array of landscapes and architectural treasures that Périgord Vert has to offer.

For more information: <http://www.perigord-dronne-belle.fr/en/ulm---robert-guerre-AS-CAQU024FS0009R/>

### **Rail bike, Cognac-sur-l'Isle**

- 22-minute drive from Moulin de l'Abbaye

Perfect to enjoy as a family, take a rail bike on a 2-hour journey along a charming former railroad. The 11-kilometer round trip is filled with wonders such as bridges, viaducts, tunnels and former stations, nestled among valleys and waterways. Moulin de l'Abbaye can provide you with a picnic basket for a well-earned snack break.

Find out more: <https://www.terra-aventura.fr/?langcode=en>



## PRODUCTS OF THE LAND

When tasting delicious produce is so closely linked to discovering the region, there's no need to choose between the two.

### Fish and Gites, Souillac-sur-Dordogne

- 53-minute drive from Château de Mercuès

The portion of the Dordogne you are now entering boasts a rich and varied ecosystem of trout, grayling, perch, pike and more, making it a fisherman's paradise. The Fish and Gites teams offer refresher courses, beginners classes and expert guidance, as well as accommodation less than 800 m from the Dordogne river. Its à la carte experiences offer the best of sporting fun and human interaction.

For more information: <http://www.fishandgites.com/>

### Truffles Passion

- 49-minute drive from Château de Mercuès  
halfway between Château de Mercuès and La Réserve d'Albi

Join Marie-France on a walk through her truffle orchard in the heart of nature, where she'll share her passion for truffles and let you in on their secrets. You'll also be joined by her dog, who is always trying to sniff out these rare black treasures. In winter, you can also discover the Limogne-en-Quercy truffle market and enjoy an immersive behind-the-scenes look at truffle growing. Prepare for an exciting and welcoming experience, rounded off with a tasting.

For more information: <http://truffespasion.fr/en/>



### La Borie d'Imbert Farm, Rocamadour

- 1-hour drive from Château de Mercuès

At their farm La Borie d'Imbert, Marc and Sophie Vilard do much more than produce the delicious AOP Rocamadour cheese—awarded the gold medal at the 2017 Concours Général Agricole competition. They fully understand what it is to be a modern farm, making it a place to engage in activities, learn and relax. Enjoy a free tour of the goat farm or the eco-museum, follow a trail along the Causses, take the goats to pasture, try out hand milking, taste wines and visit the boutique. Time will fly in the company of the adorable baby goats and glorious flavors!

For more information: <http://www.laboriedimbert.com/>

### All journey long...

Embark on a full-scale treasure hunt with Terra Aventura. Collect clues using the dedicated mobile app as you travel the 200 trails spread across Nouvelle-Aquitaine. The goal is to find the GPS coordinates of a much sought-after treasure. This extremely addictive game will boost children's enthusiasm as they follow you to the most remote recesses of Limousin.

Find out more: <https://www.terra-aventura.fr/?langcode=en>

