

THE VENDÉE

A DYNAMIC REGION

The Vendée is located in the west of France, on the Atlantic coast, south of the Loire, between Nantes and La Rochelle. It has several assets which make the region a major French tourist destination:

- The Puy du Fou, Europe's leading theme park and no2 in the world on TripAdvisor (Travellers' Choice Award);
- The diversity of its landscapes between coastline, countryside and Marais Poitevin;
- Its vibrant Economy.

It is also the 1st tourist department of the Atlantic coast in terms of accommodation capacity and the region welcomes an average of 5 million tourists per year*.

*Based on the report "Key figures for Tourism in the Vendée 2019", published by Vendée Expansion.

HOW TO GET TO THE VENDÉE?



BY CAR: 2 motorways (A83 et A87)

424 km - Paris 803 km - London 70 km - Nantes 922 km - Amsterdam 1468 km - Berlin 255 km - Bordeaux 493 km - Toulouse 735 km - Brussels 786 1052 km - Nice km - Luxemburg 894 km - Marseille 935 km - Bern 631 km - Lyon 1714 km -Rome 638 km - Lille 986 km - Madrid



2 airports : Nantes-Atlantique and La Rochelle-Ile de Ré All destinations and timetables on: www.nantes.aeroport.fr and www.larochelle.aeroport.fr

1 airfield: Les Ajoncs à La Roche sur Yon

All destinations and timetables on: www.larochesuryon.fr/aeroport



BY TRAIN:

Nearest TGV stations: La Roche sur Yon, Les Sables d'Olonne, Nantes, Niort, La Rochelle.

SNCF stations with connections: Saint Gilles Croix de Vie, Challans, Luçon, Montaigu.

All destinations and timetables on: www.oui.sncf



BY FERRY: from England to France

Dover to Calais: Ferry Operators DFDS and P&O Dover to Dunkirk: Ferry Operator DFDS Newhaven to Dieppe: Ferry Operator DFDS

Plymouth to Roscoff: Ferry Operator Brittany Ferries Poole to Cherbourg: Ferry Operator Brittany Ferries Portsmouth to Saint-Malo: Ferry Operator Brittany Ferries Portsmouth to Caen: Ferry Operator Brittany Ferries Portsmouth to Le Havre: Ferry Operator Brittany Ferries



TOOLBOX



PRESS KIT:

Looking for additional information on the gastronomy in the Vendée, nautical activities or even the Marais Poitevin?

Discover and download the Vendée Tourisme press kit on : tourisme.v endee-expan -sion.fr/espace-presse/dos- siers-de-presse



PHOTO LIBRARY:

To gain access to our photo Library, go to: tourisme.vendee-expansion. fr/ kit-de-communication

Fill in the boxes on the right to obtain access to the communication kit. You will then receive them by email, where you will discover over 900 photos and more than 30 videos.



PRESS TOURS:

Looking for an unusual subject or need to discover the specific characteristics of the region? Do not hesitate to contact our press service. We can offer you our press tour programmes or even organise a tailor-made visit based on your needs.

THE VENDÉE IN FIGURES





14

MARINAS

 $250\,\mathrm{km}$

PROTECTED-COASTAL AREAS $140\,\mathrm{km}$

FINE SANDY BEACHES



2

BEAUTIFUL ISLANDS







18

S E A S I D E RESORTS MORE 300

LEISURE FACILITIES

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TRENDS: EVEN CLOSER TO NATURE IN THE VENDÉE



LE POTAGER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Created in 1995 in La Mothe Achard, the Potager Extraordinaire is initially a 1.5-hectare community garden and cucurbit (gourd) conservatory. The site is frequented by gardening enthusiasts who come to discover new growing techniques and a wide variety of food plants. In 2018, the Potager Extraordinaire closes and moves one year later to the Beautour site, in La Roche sur Yon. Once the residence of the Vendée's naturalist, Georges Durand (1886-1964), Beautour is a contemporary building with thatched walls and a wooden bioclimatic framework. At the heart of this **7-hectare park**, the building has received numerous architectural awards.

After more than two years of renovation work, it is a real educational park that will open on the 1^{st} July 2023.

Intended for both children and adults, this immersive park has a market garden, a mini farm, a bizarretum where giant plants grow, an experimental vegetable garden, a vegetable library, an exotic garden, and a tunnel covered with gourds and tomatoes. For children, there is even "low tech" play area. The park's concept also includes making people aware of the importance of healthy eating.

As a result, visitors will be able to enjoy recipes concocted by Nathan Cretney, a chef from La Roche Sur Yon who has been awarded the Gault et Millau label, using produce from the Potager.

In addition, **participatory workshops** will be held, from the field to the plate, this is part of the fight against waste.

Visitors will be able to wander around the pathways of the Potager Extraordinaire following in the footsteps of Iris, an adventurous character who travels the world to preserve seeds and plants. Fans will be able to follow the adventures of their heroine in the comic book by the famous Belgian cartoonist and adopted Vendéen: Didier Crisse.

Route de Beautour, Curzais, La Roche-sur-Yon www.potagerextraordinaire.com







RIVER TOURISM IN THE MARAIS POITEVIN

A major new feature of 2023, river tourism invites itself to the Marais poitevin!

After nearly 10 years of work, the departements of the Deux-Sèvres, the Vendée and the Charente-Maritime have rendered the Sèvre Niotaise a navigable river.

From Port Boinot at Niort to the Carreau d'or lock in Marans, it is now possible to navigate a total distance of 60 km through the heart of the Marais poitevin with its preserved and inspiring nature.

Completed in 2022, two comfortable houseboats have been designed for families, allowing them to discover the Sèvre Niortaise in a leisurely way.

Both boats are electrically powered, making them ideal for exploring the Marais poitevin, making less noise when approaching local wildlife. No boating licence is required, a short training session will be given before departure to familiarise you with the boat and the waterways navigating rules such as operating the locks. Each houseboat can accommodate 8 passengers (3 bedrooms and a berth in the dining area).

In the Vendée, 3 stops are possible: Maillé, Courdault and Damvix. An opportunity to discover the traditional villages of the Marais poitevin and explore the surrounding countryside in a different way.

www.auboutdumarais.com

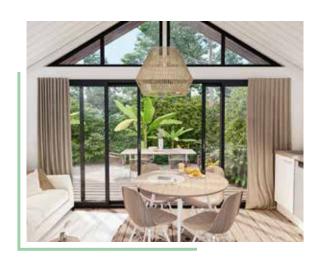
THE VILLAS DU BOIS MARIN

Grégory Jolivet, manager of La Forêt campsite in Saint Jean de Monts, decided to move away from the standard industrial accommodation offers, with the creation of **14 exceptional villas**, combining natural materials to respect the environment as much as possible. Designed as open-air suites, these luxurious properties are **surrounded by 1,700 trees and shrubs planted on only 4,500m²**. The villas are located in the heart of **a 100% pedestrian area**, to respect the ecological commitments of the site. Aimed at customers who want to spend a really peaceful holiday, close to the sea, the forest, the hiking trails or the coast as well as the numerous cycle paths, the Villas du Bois Marin offer a setting that is both preserved and unique.

See page 28 for more information.

190 Chemin de la Rive, Saint Jean de Monts

www.villasduboismarin.com/en



BULLE NATURE

In Poiré sur Vie, Bulle Nature is a place where you can recharge your batteries. Karine, the owner, offers **zootherapy sessions** for families, children, teenagers, or people suffering from burn out. Through animal mediation, this therapy allows visitors to free themselves from emotional problems and re-focus on themselves. Located at La Prévisière, the site has a two-hectare pond surrounded by trees and fields where the animals (llamas, donkeys, draught horses, etc.) graze, a natural swimming pool and a shaded pathway along the La Vie River. To prolong the experience, **two charming gîtes** are available: the first property, "**Les Coquelicots"**, is a 80 m² two-storey gîte with 2 bedrooms and the second one "**Bouton d'or"** is roughly 70m² and is equipped for 2 to 3 people. Both properties are authentic 18th century village houses built of local stone. Two other unusual types of accommodation are also on offer: the **Jap'yonnaise cabin on stilts** which offers a wonderful view of the pond and paddocks from its room, and the "**Ia Toue Cabanée**", a genuine traditionally made Loire toue, in which visitors can enjoy a unique historical and local experience

La Prévisière, Le Poiré sur Vie www.bullenature.net

GÎTE ALPAGAS DE LA MONTAGNE

Listed as "Bienvenue à la Ferme" and "Gîtes de France" property, **the alpagas de la Montagne gîte** is located near Commequiers, in the Saint Gilles Croix de Vie area. The gîte is in the heart of **an alpaco farm** that covers 26-hectares. These animals produce a high-quality wool which allows the owners to sell it to the public, as well as other products that can be made from it after processing: jumpers, scarves, and other accessories. The products are eco-friendly and made entirely by hand in France, without chemical treatment. Each product is unique and made to order. The gîte has two bedrooms, a shower room and separate toilet, a large living area with a lounge, a dining room and a small fully equipped kitchen. There is an independent entrance and there is a walled garden. Guests can enjoy the swimming pool open from 01/05 to 30/09, the jacuzzi and the terraces. A summer kitchen is also available for those guests who wish to get to know the farm animals: the alpacas are accompanied by the horses, donkeys, and chickens.







GÎTE LA GATAUDIÈRE

Awarded with "Accueil Paysan" label, **La Gataudière** is an ecological gîte for 4 people, an "eco-place"set in the middle of nature, where conviviality and environmental preservation are the key words. Located only 2 km from the charming village of Foussais-Payré, listed as a "Petite cité de caractère", this gîte is described as unusual: its renovation was entirely carried out using ecological materials, which explains the name "eco-place". There, almost everything is home-made, re-cycled and re-used. Food comes straight from the vegetable garden. The 4G coverage is rare. The toilets are supplied with rainwater, those outside are dry. So, everything is geared towards disconnecting and living with nature! The owner proposes "zero waste" workshops which differ according to the season: harvesting, production ... They can welcome between 5 and 10 people, either those staying in the gîte or others just passing through, on a day or half day basis. The little bonus: a donation box on site, which is used to collect any objects (in good condition) that you wish to donate. Nothing is wasted, everything is re-cycled!

Sérigny, Foussais-Payré www.ecolieu-la-gataudiere-gite-vendee.fr



Our talented Chefs

With one 2-star Michelin restaurant and four 1-star Michelin restaurants, the Vendée is confirming its position as a new gastronomic destination.





Benjamin Patissier Chef 1 star La Chabotterie, Saint Sulpice le Verdon, Montrévert

In Saint Sulpice Le Verdon, the Restaurant La Chabotterie reopened in 2021 is once again establishing its noble reputation. Benjamin Patissier the new chef, invites you to discover his gastronomic universe in this symbolic place of heritage and fine dining.

Originally from Nantes, Benjamin was awarded the title of Meilleur Ouvrier de France in 2015, and trained with some of the very best: Pierre Gagnaire, Anne-Sophie Pic, Olivier Samson, Patrick Henriroux and Christian Née... In 2021, he was named "Great of tomorrow" by the Gault et Millau guide and in 2022 Benjamin joined the very prestigious circle of the Michelin guide by obtaining his first star.

This demanding chef places great emphasis on working with natural local produce in a way that does not alter their character and thus presents them in the best possible way. He combines culinary art with the pleasure of enjoying food. His cuisine is of the highest quality, with textures and flavours that transport you, all of which is complemented by very good wines. Benjamin and Audrey, his wife, warmly welcome you to a beautiful 18th century farmhouse tastefully renovated with a zen atmosphere, in pastel blue-green tones, halfway between vegetal and mineral, to enjoy an exceptional taste experience.



Saint Sulpice le Verdon, Montréverd www.lachabotterie.com

OTHER MICHELIN STAR RESTAURANTS IN THE VENDÉE

Alexandre Couillon – Chef 3 star La Marine – Noirmoutier en l'Île www.alexandrecouillon.com

Jean-Marc Pérochon – Chef 1 star Les Brisants – Brétignolles sur Mer www.lesbrisants.com

Nicolas Coutand – Chef 1 star Les Genêts – Brem sur Mer www.restaurant-les-genets.fr

Xavier Giraudet – Chef 1 star La Robe – Montaigu-Vendée www.restaurant-la-robe.com

Valentin Morice – Chef 1 star La Table du Boisniard– Chanverrie www.chateau-boisniard.com

New 2023

Simon Bessonnet - Chef 1 star Maison Desamy - Mareuil sur Lay www.restaurant-maisondesamy.fr

Boris Harispe - Chef 1 star L'Abissiou - Les Sables d'Olonne www.labissiou.fr

Nathan Cretney - Chef 1 star Les Reflets - La Roche sur Yon www.restaurantlesreflets.fr

THE BIB GOURMANDS IN THE VENDÉE

2 Place du marché - La Chaize Giraud www.lachaizegourmande.com

L'Assiette au Jardin 9 Rue du Robinet - Noirmoutier en l'Île www.lassietteaujardin.fr

Le Care des Arts

2 Rue de la Poste - Beaulieu sous la Roche www.lecafedesarts-beaulieu.com

Les Reflets

227 Rue Roger Salengro - La Roche sur Yon www.restaurantlesreflets.fr

L'Auberge de la Rivière

Rue du Port de la Fouarne - Les Velluire sur Vendée

www.hotel-riviere-vendee.com

La Table d'Elise

5 Rue Marie Lemonnier - Noirmoutier en l'Île facebook/Restaurant-La-table-dElise-Noirmoutier

Le Petit Saint Thomas

25 Rue de Lattre de Tassigny - La Garnache www.restaurant-petit-st-thomas.com

L'Envers du decor 23 Rue de la Bienfaisance - Les Herbiers www.envers-du-decor.fr

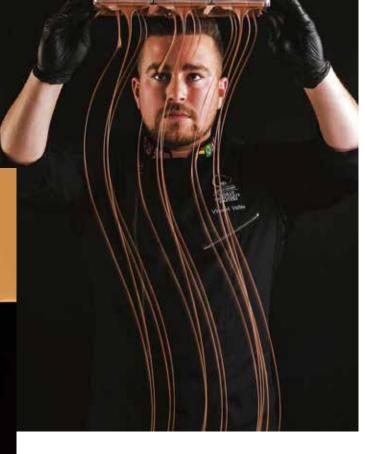
Havours of the Vendée

VINCENT VALLÉE JOINS RELAIS DESSERTS

Vincent Vallée, **world champion pastry chef and chocolate master** from Sables d'Olonne is now a member of the Relais Desserts association, a very prestigious appointment as the club brings together the world's top French pastry chefs. In this association, which is accessible through sponsorship, some great names from French patisserie are present, such as Pierre Hermé, Vincent Guerlais... etc. It is a worldwide association, with a total of 19 countries represented.

2 bis Allée Titouan Lamazou, Les Sables d'Olonne www.vincentvallee.fr/en











THE VRIGNAUD DISTILLERY OPENS ITS DOORS IN CORPE

It is no longer a secret that for the past 4 years, the Mourat family has focused on updating and developing the image of this emblematic Vendean distillery. They have done this by reviving their flagship products and targeting the spirits markets.

Today, the Vrignaud distillery is laying its new foundations in Corpe, not far from the vineyards. A **brand new 900m² building, backing onto a 16th century house** will be used for the **production, development and preparation of its liqueurs and other spirits**, designed as a place to spend time and exchange ideas. The teams will move into the new premises in January, and the boutique will open to the public in the spring: there will also be a sales outlet and visitor's area as well as a conference room.

The perfect opportunity to sample its products, visit the facilities, learn about the profession, and listen to the fascinating story of this establishment, whose speciality is Kamok.

55 rue Mainclaye, Corpe www.distillerie-vrignaud.fr

^{*}L'abus d'acool est dangereux pour la santé. A consommer avec modération.

Restaurants to try

EXCEPTIONAL SPOTS

RESTAURANT - CHÂTEAU DE PUYBELLIARD

Located in Chantonnay, this restaurant offers a prestigious and warm setting, in the **Château de Puybelliard** dating from 1856, with a beautiful view of its 2.5-hectare park.

Chef Mickaël Fenot offers refined and savoury dishes prepared with fresh and seasonal products. The three rooms can accommodate up to approximately 50 people. **Two gîtes with a swimming pool** are also available to prolong the "life in a château" experience.

17 Rue des Dames, Chantonnay www.chateau-de-puybelliard.eatbu.com





RESTAURANT LE QUAI DES SAVEURS

This chic and highly reputed address located on the fishing port of Les Sables d'Olonne, is the perfect place to discover the culinary world of Chef Maxime Dourdin. Two toques in the Gault et Millau guide in 2022, this Chef trained with some of the very best - Guy Savoy, Philippe Labbé, Michel Sarran, and David Bizet at the Four Seasons of the famous Georges V, has opted for fixed menu using fresh, local, and seasonal products. His cuisine is meticulous, unexpected, and creative, combining flavours, colours, and textures, all in perfect harmony with the proposed wine list.

10 quai Guiné, Les Sables d'Olonne www.lequaidessaveurs.net

LA TABLE DE LA VILLA SAINT JEAN

After la Chabotterie, Karine BUCHY has taken on a new challenge with the Villa Saint Jean in Les Sables d'Olonne. Her **restaurant**, **facing the ocean**, **offers refined**, **gourmet and generous home-made dishes based on fresh seasonal products**. Excellent desserts and a selection of local wines ensure a delightful experience for your taste buds.

For the best of both worlds, you can book one of the 19 rooms with a sea view at the hotel and enjoy the charming private cove!

It is also possible to book a conference room to organise functions and professional meetings overlooking the sea...

45, promenade Édouard Herriot, Les Sables d'Olonne www.lavillasaintjean.com



LOCAL AND SEASONAL CUISINE

RESTAURANT L'INATTENDU

This restaurant located in Saint Gilles Croix de Vie, not far from the beach, is aptly named, with an on-site vegetable garden. The Chef Paul Bonneau, who worked alongside Amélie and Nicolas Coutand at Les Genêts proposes a simple cuisine, with fresh products based on what is most important.

Inspired by the local producers and artisans with whom he works, and a strong vegetal and wild herb influence, the dishes change regularly depending on what is available, making it a **lively and spontaneous cuisine.**

The **eco-responsible approach** that motivates the team enables them to be in constant contact with nature by re-cycling and composting waste to nourish the vegetable garden. They even go so far as to re-cycle peelings into a powder or broth to re-use them in the kitchen.

18 rue de la plage, Saint Gilles Croix de Vie www.restaurant-l-inattendu.fr



LES EPICURIEUX

"Les Épicurieux" is a new **cellar dining** venue with a cosy, bohemian-chic decor, located in Brétignolles sur Mer. As modern as it is appetising, the restaurant relies on carefully **selected local and organic products.** Every day, a variety of dishes are on offer, with a micro-menu for simple and fresh cuisine. The restaurant has also chosen to work with a chocolate maker from Challans, called Maurice Créateur, the ice-cream maker and master craftsman Antolin, as well as a traditional baker from the Maison Templier. **Blind wine tasting sessions** are regularly organised in addition to concerts and themed evenings. The restaurant faces the sea and offers a magnificent panorama of the Parée beach.







RESTAURANT LES AJITÉS

Located in La Roche sur Yon, close to the place Napoléon, this **gastronomic restaurant** opened on 7th July 2022, with a casual yet chic setting. The young Chef Jean Brugié offers refined French cuisine based on fresh local ingredients that combines flavours and textures that are as surprising as they are delicious. Théo the sommelier offers a superb list of locally produced wines that go perfectly with the chef's cuisine. Jean trained with leading Michelin-starred chefs, Nicolas Rondelli and Alain Lorcas, Stéphane Buron and Eric Frachon of the Bristol in Paris. Théo specialised in sommellerie (wine waiting) with Michelin-starred chef, Daniel Rose, alongside Jonathan Bauer Monneret, the Best Sommelier de France in 2014 and also spent 2 years with Thierry Drapeau, the Two-star Chef of La Chabotterie.

3 rue Paul Doumer, La Roche Sur Yon www.restaurant-les-ajites.eatbu.com

RESTAURANT BISTRONÔM BY OMNUBO

The Omnubo Collection opened **a bistronomic restaurant "Le Bistronôm"** in June 2022 at Saint Mars La Réorthe in the heart of the Vendean countryside not far from the Puy du Fou_®. The chef Guillaume Boyer, offers an inventive and creative cuisine, made with fresh local products, to be enjoyed in a trendy and relaxing atmosphere overlooking the attractive indoor patio. This is a great place for a pleasant lunchbreak with friends or family. The attractive patio is an invitation to enjoy a signature cocktail featured on the menu.

Omnubo Collection, 1 Les Rochettes - Saint Mars la Réorthe www.hotel-omnubo.com



LA TABLE DE MÉLUSINE AU DOMAINE MÉLUSINE

The Domaine de Mélusine, a 4-star residence located in the Vendean countryside near Les Epesses, a stone's throw from the Puy du Fou is made up of 111 comfortable cottages designed for a holiday surrounded by nature. The restaurant, **La table Mélusine** offers simple but tasty food prepared by Chef Gian Luca Manzo. The menu is composed of a clever blend of traditional Vendean cuisine, inspired by his Italian origins and his trips to Asia. The dishes on the menu change according to the seasons and the products supplied by local producers, as well as the **aromatic herbs grown in the chef's vegetable garden.**

70 Rue du Puy du Fou, Les Epesses www.domainemelusine.com

L'ESPRIT D'ICI

"L'esprit d'ici" is a unique concept that has existed for more than 8 years. It is the result of 35 local farm producers being brought together on the same site. Initially, it was a farmers' market set up in a shop in La Tardière. In September 2022, l'Esprit d'Ici opened its restaurant next to the shop, where the atmosphere is warm and friendly. The food is traditional, tasty, and made with products from the farms belonging to this cooperative. This original approach allows the customer to discover the farm products - from the producer to the plate, an ideal way to taste local and seasonal products.

Lieu dit La Maquinière, La Tardière www.lespritdici.fr





Ô CLEM

This new restaurant (with 30 place settings) located in the centre of Mouilleron Saint Germain, and a short distance from Clemenceau de Lattre National Museum, opened on 28th November 2022. Karine Viaud, a trained pork butcher, and Mathieu who is in charge of the restaurant, offer **authentic**, **home-style cooking using only fresh seasonal ingredients**. The menu is short and simple, the welcome is warm and friendly. Karine, who recently trained as a Pizzaiolo, also proposes pizzas on Friday and Sunday evenings.

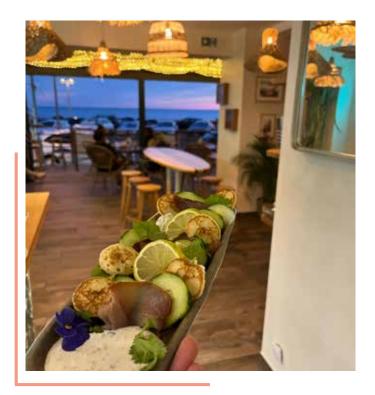
2 Place du Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny, Mouilleron Saint Germain www.facebook.com/leclem.85

FOR BRUNCH OR AFTERWORK MODE

JO BEACH BAR CAFÉ

An **afterwork experience with your feet in the sand is now possible** at Jo Beach Bar Café. Located on the Saint Jean de Monts seafront, overlooking the ocean, this café is the new spot for a meal, enjoying a drink, but above all relaxing. In the evening, you can try some tapas prepared with fresh products, accompanied by an international wine menu as well as house cocktails. The Beach bar is accessible to people with reduced mobility and pets are welcome!

24 Esplanade de la mer, Saint Jean de Monts www.chez-jo-beachbar.eatbu.com



LE MANHATTAN GEORGETTE

Located in the rue du marché in Saint Jean de Monts, this bistro has a vintage and stylish theme. It is the ideal place for **burger fans** who will discover their food both original and tasty: so, are you ready for a 4-storey burger? **everything is made with local products.**

The Manhattan Georgette, a wine bar, is the latest "rendez-vous" for a friendly get-together in a relaxed atmosphere.

29 rue du marché, Saint Jean de Monts www.facebook.com/people/Manhattan-Georgette



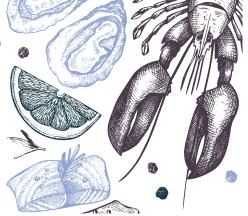


SHELLFISH AND SEAFOOD









As soon as you arrive on the Vendean coast, it is an obsession for some to find a seafood platter and top-up on the benefits of the sea air and its minerals. In the Vendée there are many excellent restaurants, discover the new places that offer a taste of the sea and the holidays!

LES BARGES

The Vendean coast is full of gourmet delights to be enjoyed without further delay!

Les Barges is a **new oyster bar located in the La Chaume area of Les Sables d'olonne**. In a modern setting with a sea view, customers can enjoy oysters as well as many other types of seafood that are caught locally.

A children's menu is also available for those who prefer something else!

7 Rue du Bargeouri, Les Sables d'Olonne www.les-barges.com



LE MANUIA

Le Manuia is an oyster and shellfish bar recently established on the Chemin des Ostréiculteurs, in La Barre de Monts-Fromentine.

This small cabin is the result of a long-term project by a couple of oyster farmers who have always enjoyed being in contact with numerous visitors. Le Manuia is becoming a trendy spot to sample their Martineau oysters while admiring a beautiful panoramic view.

Chemin des Ostréiculteurs, La Barre de Monts www.paysdesaintjeandemonts.fr/fiche/huitres-martineau





GOURMET EXPERIENCES IN THE VENDÉE



GLACE & MOI

The new traditional ice cream parlour Glace & Moi opened at the beginning of June in La Barre de Monts. The taste of its homemade ice creams will delight all those gournet palates, with 40 different flavours. These are ice creams where you can taste real fruit. The strawberries come from a local "Montois" producer, the chocolate from a culinary food shop in Saint Gilles Croix de Vie and the milk from Vendean dairy farms. The brand also offers home-made waffles, chichis, and crêpes, as well as chocolate and salted caramel made with salt from Noirmoutier.

10 Avenue de l'Estacade Fromentine - La Barre de Monts www.facebook.com/glaceetmoifromentine



GLACIER AMORINO

The world's N°1 ice cream company is moving to Les Sables d'olonne, good news for ice cream fans! This new outlet will open in 2023 on the seafront "Remblai des Sables", at "place de la Résistance". Gino Tombini who joined the brand in 2021, has decided to invest in Les Sables d'Olonne, which he loves, and is well aware of the potential that exists with the high season population. This shop will open 7 days a week, will offer a 35-seat tearoom and a terrace overlooking the well-known villa Le Palazzo Clémentina on the seafront.

1 place de la Résistance Les Sables d'Olonne www.facebook.com/AmorinoLesSablesdOlonne



FROMAGERIE FERDINAND ET DONATIEN

In February 2022, Frédéric Fétiveau who was preparing for a career change, set up his goat farm and cheese-making business in Bouin. Located near the famous Gois, the farm is ideally placed to attract the summer visitors that he meets at the nearby farmers' markets.

In 2023, the cheese dairy will offer discovery workshops – everything from milking to cheese processing based around goats - a goat milking workshop, feeding the young kids (10 people max.), and a cheese processing workshop (4 people max.) These will take place in Frédéric's lab.

Bel Air, Bouin

CHÂTEAU DE LA GARNACHE: DOUCEURS DU LOGIS

Since 15th November 2022, Claudine Vrignaud has opened her delicatessen and tearoom in the medieval Château de La Garnache. A former shopkeeper, Claudine made her dream come true when the châteaux owner agreed to rent the house, previously used as a gîte, at the entrance to the estate. **The salon de thé** (tearoom) is located on the ground floor of the property, which opens onto a terrace overlooking the castle's towers. An original idea, to say the least, which has created an activity that did not exist in La Garnache and which is linked to the local heritage. Hot and cold drinks, biscuits, homemade pancakes, Vendean brioches, Madeline cakes and macaroons are available. Next to the tearoom, Claudine has set up a delicatessen selling local and regional sweet delicacies and offers hampers made to order. A creperie will open at the end of January 2023.

1 route de challans, La Garnache www.facebook.com/Douceurs du Logis





MANUFACTURE 20°NORD 20°SUD

In this **manufacturing facility in Notre Dame de Monts,** Mélanie and her team manage all aspects of chocolate production. They transform the cocoa beans into Grands Crus chocolate, without adding fat or lecithin in order to preserve the unique taste of the cocoa origins... In the world of chocolate, "the Bean to Bar". To better enjoy these delicious **chocolates, tasting workshops** are organised "In search of the perfect chocolate/wine match": Initiation to the bean to bar, chocolate and vintage wines. Duration: 1h30.

11 route de la taillée, Notre Dame de Monts www.20nord20sud.com



Unwind at the Valdys thalassotherapy hôtel***, Thalasso & spa in Saint Jean de Monts

The Saint Jean de Monts thalassotherapy hotel over 3 000 m², set in the heart of a pine forest, dedicated to tranquillity and getting away from it all. It offers high-quality relaxation, Algo therapy and hydrotherapy areas with an **exclusive feature: wraps using mud from the Baie de Bourneuf.** This richly ionic concentrated mud is known to have beneficial effects on rheumatism and skill problems.

Hôtel Spa Valdys – Les Pins***

Part of the Thalassa, facing the pine forest, the Hôtel Spa Valdys – Les Pins*** enjoys a privileged location, facing the ocean and next to an 18-hole Golf course. The hotel has 44 spacious rooms and 3 luxurious suites, a modern decor, with a hot tub and terrace. In this charming setting, the Valdys resort at Saint Jean de Monts offers in its restaurant, Le Bois cendré, a cuisine between "Land and Sea" with unusual spices, food prepared on a Japanese barbecue and minute smoking, in the shade of the surrounding pine trees and only a few minutes from the ocean.

To find out more: see page 21.





New in 2023

Harmony break - Face Body & mind - 6 days and 3 days mini-cure

An exclusive stay that combines a series of luxury treatments focused on three aspects: the face, the body and the mind. It aims to work on both the inner and outer balance to harmonise all the senses in depth. A re-mineralising programme based on marine benefits combined with spa massages to regain a feeling of equilibrium and harmony.

Slimming break (anti-cellulite / weight loss) - 6 days (possible in 3, 4, 5 and 6 days for the anti-cellulite option)

The programme starts with a thorough and personalised assessment and then targets the priority treatment areas according to each person's needs, for visible long-term results. Alongside nutrition and thalassotherapy professional, guests can choose to focus on an anticellulite orientation or on a weight loss option, allowing the treatments to be adapted to the specific areas to be worked on.

Back and joints break - 6 days

Whatever your age or physical condition, taking care of your joints is essential for good physical health. This new, short break offers a common base dedicated to people suffering from pathologies such as rheumatism or osteoarthritis, but also to sportsmen and women who put their joints through a great deal of effort. It is also aimed at people who tend to suffer from pain and wish to benefit from preventive support. The programme can be divided into two categories to cater for individual needs: either by focusing on the back and posture or concentrating on the joints.

Exclusive to Saint Jean de Monts

The Burn-out break (6 days and 3 days of mini-cure)

To regain confidence after an episode of physical and psychological exhaustion, there is nothing like a little haven of therapeutic treatments to release tension, soothe the body and mind, and leave with newfound "energy". Throughout the stay, guests benefit from individual sessions with professional coaches trained by a relaxation therapist.

The Diabetes Response break (stay available over 6 days)

With the help of an exclusive programme based on a balanced diet and the remineralising of the body, the Diabetes response cure allows you to establish a routine that you can adopt on a daily basis. Following personalised dietary coaching, guests benefit from relaxation treatments, stimulating circulation therapy, remineralising and general toning up the body.

12 avenue des Pays de Monts, Saint Jean de Monts www.thalasso.com/destination/saint-jean-de-monts

Stopover at the **** thalasso hotel and spa Mgallery Côte ouest in Les Sables d'Olonne

The 4 star Côte Ouest hotel is located opposite the Atlantic Ocean, with an exceptional view over the bay of Les Sables d'Olonne. Sheltered by a 3,5 hectares pine forest, beside the Lac Tanchet, a short break at the Cote Ouest is like a trip abroad on a 1930's ocean liner. Everything reminds us of a luxurious cruise: antique trunks, a model ship, cane chairs, an attentive crew... it is a pleasure to sail in this charming establishment where nothing is left to chance.

The thalasso & spa, the beneficial effects of the marine environment

The tides, rocks and algae, strong vectors of ionisation, have determined the location of the Thalassa in Les Sables d'Olonne. At just 250 metres from the beach, a 10-metre deep well allows seawater to be pumped in at different tide times. The thalassotherapy centre has a discreet atmosphere and offers 26 treatment rooms in a 1,500m² area which was completely refurbished in 2019. The centre relies on the expertise and know-how of its hydro-therapists, physiotherapists, and beauticians, in addition to nutritional, sports coaching and relaxation skills.

The Beauty Spa has 8 treatment rooms, 3 of which have a sea view. Jacuzzi, hammam, soft music and modelling. Perfect for a moment suspended in time.

To completely disconnect, a "Zen" lounge (100m²) with an exotic feel and a large Jacuzzi offering a stunning view of the ocean, invite you to cast off.

New for 2023

Duo thalasso Bubbles

A moment of pure relaxation for two people, share a session in a duo bath with lagoon salts, with a glass of champagne, music and chromotherary (colour therapy). A unique experience in a multi-sensorial atmosphere where you can relax without a second thought.

A mummy bubble

A gentle break consisting of 3 treatments to prepare for the birth of your baby or take a moment to pamper yourself, just after giving birth.

Route du Tour de France – Lac de Tanchet, Les Sables d'Olonne

www.hotel-coteouest.com







The hotels

NEW FOR 2023

HÔTEL LE NOIRMOUTIER

Located at the entrance to Ile de Noirmoutier, 3 minutes from the famous Passage du Gois, the 4-star hotel **La Maison sur L'eau has undergone a complete refurbishment to become Le Noirmoutier, following a change in proprietor**. It has 14 exceptional rooms all with sea views, including 4 family rooms for 5 people, 9 double rooms and 1 room with disabled access, all decorated in a refined and elegant style.

The hotel's restaurant offers an authentic menu prepared with local and seasonal products.

It is impossible to miss the famous bonnotte (potatoes), the blue lobster or the fresh pasta with clams. All these dishes, of course, are accompanied by the inevitable and unmistakable salt from Noirmoutier.

Outside, the **beach bar** becomes a real lounge, where you can enjoy a cocktail or a glass of champagne in a relaxed atmosphere overlooking the sea. The **lounge and fireplace** for those cooler days, **the library**, **the heated swimming pool**, **the beach and its beach cabins**, **the slipway for stand-up paddles and sea kayaks** as well as the private car park are all waiting for their guests.

In a bohemian-chic atmosphere, Le Noirmoutier is a hotel-a restaurant-a beach bar, directly on the coast. The hotel combines a total disconnection with a fresh seaside experience.

57 Rue de la Pointe - Barbâtre - Ile de Noirmoutier







HÔTEL LE GOIS***

The Terre et Mer Hotel in Beauvoir sur mer has changed hands. In April 2022, Mr Bochu acquired the hotel and **undertook some renovation work to upgrade it from 2 to 3-star.** Located at just 3 km from the Passage du Gois, today, the hotel is now called "Le Gois" and has 38 charming rooms, equipped with TV, Wifi access and a telephone. The hotel also has a fitness room (bike, elliptical bike and weights), a library lounge for reading and a **covered, heated swimming pool** open all year round as well as a **sauna**. A nice little base for discovering the les ports chinois (Chineses ports) of Bouin, Breton Vendéen Marshes and of course the island of Noirmoutier by way of the Passage du Gois!

2 rue du Gois - Beauvoir sur Mer www.terreetmer-beauvoir.fr/en





HÔTEL-CLUB LES JARDINS DE L'ATLANTIQUE***

In a shady pine forest that smells of pinecones, this holiday club skilfully combines a family atmosphere, an invigorating fresh sea air ambiance and well-being activities. The free fitness area includes a heated indoor swimming pool, an outdoor pool, a sauna and hammam, a weights room, a squash and tennis court, a multi-sports court, and a bowling alley...

The hotel has its own **beauty institute** (modelling, exfoliation, hydrojet, multi-jet baths) to complete the package. In the hotel restaurant or bar, you can enjoy a meal or a drink with a view of the forest and the ocean.

Since 2022, the Club-Hotel has been **undergoing a complete makeover of some of its 121 rooms...** In 2023, the Club Hotel will continue with its upgrading.

300 rue du large, Port Bourgenay, Talmont Saint Hilaire www.jardins-atlantique.com/en/

HÖTEL VALDYS - LES PINS

The Valdys Group has decided to renovate the hotel associated with the Saint Jean de Monts thalassotherapy centre. The hotel's 47 rooms have a balcony, where you can enjoy your breakfast served in your room (upon request), while you admire the view of the forest or the magnificent 18-hole golf course. Courtesy trays with tea, coffee and herbal tea are also available. There are even three exceptional suites designed with modern and stylish decor, offering a private hot tub and a spacing balcony or terrace

designed with modern and stylish decor, offering a private hot tub and a spacious balcony or terrace.

The hotel's restaurant, also renovated, is now called "Le Bois Cendré". The dishes are prepared using a balanced nutritional approach, and according to the seasons. A cuisine between "land and sea" using Japanese barbecue cooking techniques, minute smoking or unusual spices, where guests can experience the atmosphere of the surrounding pine forest. To ensure that the therapy is truly beneficial, you can choose the "full board diet" option, specially developed by the centre's dietician-nutritionist

12 avenue des Pays de Monts, Saint Jean de Monts www.thalasso.com/destination/saint-jean-de-monts



THE ESSENTIALS

HÔTEL LES HAUTES MERS ****

Les Domaines de Fontenille are setting sail and moving to the Vendée, to the heart of l'Ile d'Yeu, the unspoilt treasure of the Golf de Gascogne. As of the 16th April 2022, **Les Domaines de Fontenille** will take up residence a few hundred metres from the Port Joinville pier, facing the sea. This new property offers **17 rooms and suites**, all with private terraces, most of which open onto the ocean.

This renovation also saw the arrival of a restaurant with around forty place settings, open to the public and featuring a menu based on seafood products.

The hotel's extension project will take place over two years, during the winter season, with the introduction of a spa, an indoor swimming pool, 8 additional rooms and a conference room.

27 Rue Pierre Henry, L'Île-d'Yeu

www.lesdomainesdefontenille.com/en/les-hautes-mers.html



LA VILLA MÉTIS ****

This **manor house** has a **restaurant and a hotel**, with an architectural style that combines both authenticity and a modern touch. A mixture of styles that can be found in the rooms and on your plate, with delicious gourmet cuisine. **The garden**, which reflects the Villa Métis, invites itself into the house with the use of different materials and colours. Some cosy spaces will allow you to enjoy.

47 rue de Saumur, Les Herbiers www.villa-metis.fr

VILLA ARTHUS-BERTRAND ****

Currently owned by the Arthur Bertrand family, this unique property has had one hundred and one different lives. Part of the Pélavé farm building, this romantic style Villa has been christened "Ker Joyeux" (happy place) and dates to the end of the 18th century. In the 1990's the there is the carried out to create a restaurant known as the Château du Pélavé. The establishment opened in 2021 as **a 4-star boutique hotel**.

Ideally located near to the legendary Bois de la Chaise, the villa has 18 tastefully designed bedrooms, a restaurant with 60 place settings and a new outdoor swimming pool close to the replanted palm grove.

9 allée de Chaillot, Noirmoutier en l'île www.villa-arthusbertrand.com/en





HÔTEL**** ET SPA LE GÉNÉRAL D'ELBÉE

The Général d'Elbée hotel & Spa is listed as a Historic Monument. This 18th century building is now an exceptional 4-star hotel, steeped in authenticity and tastefully renovated with the help of interior designer Chantal Peyrat. The hotel has 25 customised rooms, elegant lounges, a "petit jardin de cure" (a monastic garden) with a swimming pool and a spa by Nuxe. An ideal place to drop anchor right in the heart of Noirmoutier en l'Ile, between the medieval chateau and the famous Jacobsen pier.

1 Place d'Armes, 2 quai Cassard, Noirmoutier en l'Ile www.generaldelbee.fr/en

LA MAISON MOIZEAU ****

At the far end of the l'Ile de Noirmoutier, Alexandre and Céline Couillon continue to impress, enhancing the region with their expertise, helmsmen of La Marine, their 2-star Michelin restaurant. In a small house adjoining La Marine 2 star (at the rear of the premises with private access) 5 rooms were created in the summer of 2017. The owners of this **charming hotel La Maison Moizeau**, have chosen materials and colours that are representative of their island: wood, polished concrete, the rocks, and the different shades of the dunes. "Marine et Végétale" (Marine and Vegetable) is their motto. They wanted open spaces and windows to capture the island's light and offer their guests an unforgettable moment, while sharing their love for the island.

7 rue Marie Lemmonier, l'Herbaudière, Ile de Noirmoutier www.alexandrecouillon.com/en





ATLANTIC HÔTEL & SPA****

The **Atlantic Hotel & Spa** offers a fantastic panorama overlooking the "Baie des Sables" and the sea. The rooms have a refined and relaxing atmosphere, with light colours, top-of-the-range furniture, designer wallpaper and fabrics. Everything is designed to make your stay unforgettable: a friendly and customised service, **a heated indoor swimming pool and the Spa by Omnisens and Le Scoop restaurant known for its delicious "cuisine".**

5 promenade Georges Godet, Les Sables d'Olonne www.atlantichotel.fr/en

HÔTEL**** - RESTAURANT CHÂTEAU DE LA BARBINIÈRE

The Château de la Barbinière **4-star hotel** is open all year round and only 10 minutes from the Puy du Fou. Whether it be in the chateau or in the surrounding buildings, the **30 rooms or suites** offer a simple and refined interior design. Its **magnificent 13-hectare estate** presents its architecture in a quiet and peaceful environment, for a truly luxurious and yet modern stay. Guests can also take advantage of the **heated outdoor swimming pool**, the golf course and L'Orangerie, the hotels superb restaurant. The restaurant offers a seasonal menu and a cellar book with over 500 wine references.

La Barbinière, Saint Laurent sur Sèvre www.chateau-barbiniere.com/en





HÔTEL***** RESTAURANT CHÂTEAU LE BOISNIARD

Standing proudly on the hillside of the estate, the Chateau du Boisniard erected in the 15th century, welcomes its guests into this stately building. The domain is located at just 3 minutes from the Puy du Fou. It has a tasteful and refined decor, **27 luxurious rooms**, a gastronomic restaurant, and the staff's warm welcome, makes it a **5-star hotel** where it is a pleasure to stay. On this vast estate, **the** "Maison des bois" (wooden cottages) are built on stilts and blend perfectly into the green landscape, just like Robin Hood but more sophisticated and comfortable. There is also a **Spa and Beauty Centre** on site, not to mention the "Table du Boisniard, the gastronomic restaurant whose Chef Valentin Morice was awarded a 1-star in the Michelin Guide in 2020.

Rue du Boisniard, Chanverrie www.chateau-boisniard.com/en

LE GRAND SIÈCLE**** AT THE PUY DU FOU®

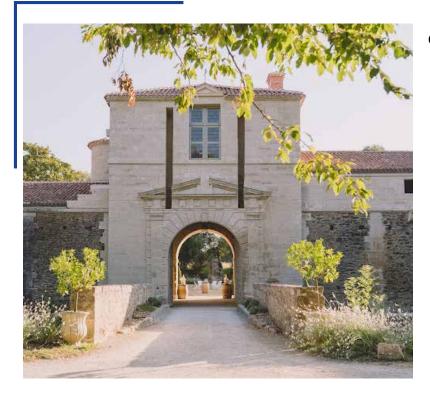
In 2020, the famous park the "Puy du Fou "opened a 6th, 4-star hotel with 96 double or quadruple rooms. This hotel was inspired by the most intimate chateau of Louis XIV (Roi soleil), who had created Versailles to receive different ambassadors and his court members. The original palace was built around another castle in Marly which the King is said to have reserved for his intimate friends. Destroyed during the French Revolution, this castle has now been recreated at the Puy du Fou. There are 8 resplendent pavilions and a magnificent restaurant, La Table des Ambassadeurs, which can seat over 500 guests. The charming French gardens enhance the entire estate and make the hotel a restful place.

The little extras: for the deaf or hard of hearing, vibrating pillows are available (on request and subject to availability). For the visually impaired or blind, large button remote controls are available (on request and subject to availability).



New bed and breakfast

LIFE IN A CHATEAU



CHÂTEAU DE LA CITARDIÈRE

Situated on the edge of the Mervent forest, the Château de la Citardière, built in the 16th century, is an exceptional place and **listed as a Historic Monument**. It is perfectly located in the heart of 5,500 hectares of forest and offers quick access to various tourist sites. Furthermore, it is also very close to the leisure facilities located in the Mervent forest. Vouvant, known as the village of painters in the land of "Mélusine" is less than 10 minutes away from the chateau. There are **6 rooms** to choose from inside. The "chambre Jeanne" often rented by newlyweds, is the most spectacular, as its bed is embedded in the original stonework. A dormitory is also available, consisting of 10 beds.

Chemin de Chantoiseau, Mervent www.en.chateaudelacitardiere.com/

DOMAINE DE LA BASSE BOBINIÈRE

In the heart of the Vendean countryside, between the Puy du Fou and the Marais poitevin, the Domaine de la Basse Bobinière welcomes you for a relaxing break amidst **3 hectares of natural surroundings.** The estate offers **4 guest rooms**, each with a desk and an adjoining lounge area where you have access to a library. The last room, which is in preparation, will offer a view of the garden and will communicate with a children's room: families will therefore be very welcome. On the estate itself, it is possible to go fishing or boating. Bicycles are also available for guests, a great way for exploring the Vendean countryside... but at a leisurely pace!

La Bobinière Basse, Thouarsais-Bouildroux www.domaine-de-la-basse-bobinière.com



A TRADITIONAL "MARAÎCHINE" HOUSE



LE MARCHÉ CLAIR

Gîtes de France 4 épis

In the heart of the Breton vendéen marshes, not far from Bois de Cené and Bouin, there is a very unusual guest house. **The Marché Clair is an old, renovated farmhouse that is surrounded by "étiers" or canals.** The large bay windows in the dining room provide plenty of light and the view of the surrounding canals and prairies is just breath-taking. In the house, a family room with a private entrance is available. It is equipped with a shower room and separate toilet. A desk, a bookcase, a walk in wardrobe as well as a TV are also provided. The garden and the barbecue are also accessible when the weather is good.

Le Marché Clair, Bois de Céné

www.gites-de-france.com/fr/pays-de-la-loire/vendee/le-marche-dair

Remarkable self-catering

OUR FAVOURITES FOR 2023

LES VILLAS LA BOSSE ET MORIN

Sleeps : 10 and 8 people. Clévacances 4 clés

Two new villas have recently been built on the island of Noirmoutier, located between the salt marshes and the "Port de Morin". The villas nearest beach, La Bosse, is about 700m and is within walking distance.

The Villa La Bosse is the perfect place to stay with family or friends. You can enjoy the garden with its **swimming pool heated at 28°**, a large south-facing terrace, **a summer kitchen** with a plancha grill overlooking the terrace, a pétanque (French boule) strip and a ping pong table. On the ground floor, there is a living room, a fully equipped kitchen, a master bedroom with a double bed (160cm) a bathroom (shower and bath) with WC as well as a separate toilet. The first floor has a bedroom with 1 bed (160cm), a dormitory with 2 bunk beds, (that is 4 single beds - 90cm), a shower with toilet. All rooms are equipped with a TV. At the front of the house, a private courtyard can accommodate 2 cars and its carport is practical for protecting the cars from the sun.

The Villa Morin has an enclosed terrace with a private spa, perfect for relaxing, as well as a gas barbecue for those summer outdoor meals. The ground floor consists of a living room with a fitted and fully equipped kitchen, a bar style table for enjoying meals which opens onto the living area, a bedroom with double bed (160cm), private shower room and separate toilet. The first floor has a bedroom with a double bed (160cm) as well as a second bedroom with 2 bunk beds (that is 4 single beds - 90cm), a shower room with toilet.

21 rue du Port, L'épine, Noirmoutier en l'Île www.villas-noirmoutier.fr





LOGIS DE LA CLARTIÈRE

Sleeps: 18 people. (3 gîtes)

The Logis de la Clartiére is situated in the heart of the Vendée, in a one-hectare park with a heated swimming pool and a pond. It has 3 gîtes that can accommodate up to 10 people. **Dating from 1779, the Logis is steeped in history:** the French Revolution, the Vendée War and more recently in 1965, the filming of "Tonnerre de Dieu" with Jean Gabin, Michel Mercier, and Robert Hossein.

In fact, the 3 gîtes are named after these three famous actors. A

In fact, the 3 gites are named after these three famous actors. A well-being area with a **spa is available for private use.** To keep the little ones busy, the Logis owners have planned a treasure hunt or an orienteering course in the grounds.

La Clartière, Falleron www.logisdelaclartiere.fr



GÎTE LE GRAND LANGONNAIS

Sleeps: 15 people

Located in Langon, this **beautiful**, **renovated property is built in the white stones so characteristic to the southern Vendée.** It overlooks a wooded park and offers top-of-the-range services in an exceptional natural environment right in the heart of the Marais Poitevin.

This large house can accommodate a large family or group of friends. It has a large living room with a fully equipped kitchen that opens onto the living area, a large dining table and lounge. The living room area opens onto another room which has a ping-pong table and a pool table. On the ground floor, there is a double room with a 160cm bed, as well as an adjoining shower room and separate toilet. The first floor has 7 bedrooms, 3 shower rooms with 2 toilets in the shower rooms. The extensive grounds have a covered swimming pool.

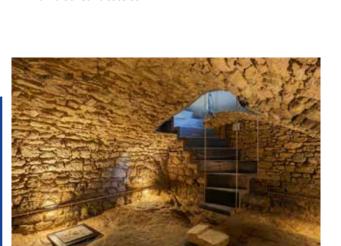
Le Langon

VILLA WITH POOL AND MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN Sleeps: 7 people.

Clévacances 4 clés

This pretty 180 m² villa located in Saint Hilaire de Riez, is the ideal place to have a pleasant and relaxing break. The house is tastefully decorated in a natural style with soft colours. It consists of a spacious and bright living room with an open kitchen, a dining area, and a lounge area where you can relax, read or watch TV on a video projector. On the ground floor, the sleeping area includes a bedroom with a double bed (160cm) and ensuite bathroom, a second bedroom with a single bed (80cm) and independent toilet. A large veranda offers a second dining area, then a wooden terrace with garden furniture, both overlooking a Mediterranean-style walled garden and a private, unheated outdoor pool.

10 Rue des Mésanges, Saint Hilaire de Riez www.mamaisonsurlacote.com



GÎTE DES CAVES SECRÈTES***** Sleeps: 6 people.

This charming house, renovated in 2022, is **in the heart of the historic village of Tiffauges**, 200 metres from the medieval chateau of Gilles de Rais. The gîte is both comfortable and friendly, decorated in a chic country style.

This property has 3 double bedrooms, a fully equipped kitchen, and a dining room with a bookcase, suitable for a family or a group of friends. **The old stone vaulted cellar is truly beautiful**. Its cosy patio on the first floor is an invitation to relax and enjoy a delightful view of the château, the church and the surrounding landscape.

27 bis Grande rue, Tiffauges www.gite-des-caves-secretes.fr

LARGE SELF-CATERING COTTAGES:

HOLIDAYS WITH YOUR FAMILY CLAN

GÎTE LES VIGNES HAUT BOCAGE****

Sleeps: 10 people. Gites de France 3 épis

This self-catering cottage has an ideal location in Les Epesses, less than 5 minutes from Puy du Fou. The first cottage "Les Vignes" can accommodate 8 and the second one "Le Bocage" from 2 to 4 people. **These two properties are adjacent to each other** and combined can accommodate up to 10 quests.

This gite has a **private 5-seater spa** with a panoramic view of the countryside and the young vines. A real invitation to relax and appreciate the surrounding landscape!

5 Le Vignaud, Les Epesses www.gites-lesvigneshautbocage.fr





GÎTE LA CHAP'ELLE

Sleeps: 15 people.

This gîte is a cross-shaped chapel dating from 1840, that belongs to an old congregation, and which is more commonly known as the Chapelle de la Salette. This unique property combines the charm of the past with a modern feel. It has 6 bedrooms, (2 of which have shower rooms), a bathroom, 3 separate toilets, a fully equipped kitchen, a living room, a recreation room with a home cinema and a stage, a "relaxation area" with a sauna and a hydromassage shower, a terrace, a private car park and a walled garden with trees.

4 rue Sainte-Marie, Chavagnes en Paillers www.gite-de-la-chapelle.fr

GÎTE LE ROYER

Sleeps: 15 people.

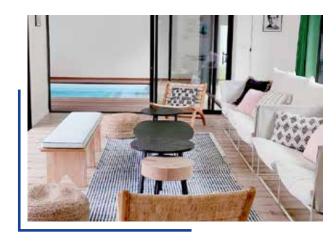
Located in Les Herbiers, a few minutes from Puy du Fou_®, this gîte has a large living space but also a beautiful area to relax in with a **covered and heated swimming pool, an indoor spa, a sauna** as well as a fitness room and a table football table.

With 5 bedrooms and a dormitory, it is ideal for holidays with friends or family.

Le gîte Royer is located on the Maison Royer premises, which has been a snail farm since 1989. Here, you can relax at the **Royer beauty Institute** and discover the range of Royer Cosmetics as well as other Maison Royer products in the shop. Ideal for a relaxing holiday, a change of scenery, and taking care of yourself all at the same time.

3 La Morlière, Les Herbiers www.legiteroyer.fr





DOMAINE DE LA CHOPINIÈRE

Sleeps: 15 people.

This estate is in the heart of the Vendean countryside, in a verdant setting of 7000m². Filled with history, charm and character, the very spirit of the estate remains in the old stones and its bread ovens. The Mediterranean feel of the decor invites you to experience a moment suspended in time, in **this old 15**th **century chateau**.

The owner offers several reception areas on the estate. Furthermore, there is a self-catering guest house where you can prolong your stay. It has 4 suites (between 22m² and 50m²), 5 bathrooms, a large kitchen of 30m², a 70m² dining room and a 30m² living room.

La Chopinière, Sainte-Cécile www.domainedelachopiniere.com

And also a new residence

LES VILLAS D'OLONNE ROUTE DES AMIS DE LA NATURE*****

"Les Villas d'Olonne", is a premium 5-star Pierre et Vacances residence in Les Sables d'Olonne. It is ideally located near a pine forest and is only 2.5km from Sauveterre beach, with direct access on foot or by bike. A total of 54 new houses have been built, all ranging between 69 to 92m². They all have 3 or 4 bedrooms and a private heated swimming pool outside each of them. The houses are equipped with an air-conditioned living room, a fully equipped kitchen, and a private parking space right in front of the house. The added bonuses of this residence which has the Clé Verte label is that swimming lessons, bicycle hire and even a meal delivery service is available.

19 route des Amis de la Nature, Les Sables d'Olonne www.pierreetvacances.com/gb-en/fp_OEV_self-catering-premium-residence-les-villas-d-olonne?currency=GBP



Something new in campsites...

NEW IN NATURE

LES VILLAS DU BOIS MARIN ****

Grégory Jolivet, manager of La Forêt campsite in Saint Jean de Monts, decided to move away from the standard industrial accommodation offers, with the creation of **14 exceptional villas**, combining natural materials to respect the environment as much as possible. Designed as open-air suites, these luxurious properties are **surrounded by 1,700 trees and shrubs planted on only 4,500m².** The villas are in the heart of a **100% pedestrian area**, to respect the ecological commitments of the site.

Committed to a sustainable destination.

This new campsite resort offers a new and entirely **100% pedestrian area**, designed by the architect Erwan Dessberg. **Cars and other motorised vehicles** are not permitted in the Villas Bois Marin, to ensure the safety and peace of mind for its residence. The new residences in the premium area (lodges) have all been custom-built in the Vendée, with a focus on sustainable design, ensuring perfect insulation, the ability to recycle materials and a short circuit. The villas (lodges) have been installed in such a way as to be in complete harmony with their ecosystem. The private gardens are designed to freshen the private or collective areas and to ensure the correct balance between the different species living on the coast. As well as the dunes, the national forest and not forgetting the Breton Vendéen marshes.

190 Chemin de la Rive, Saint Jean de Monts www.villasduboismarin.com/en







CAMPING LA CONGE***

Located at just 900 metres from the beach, La Conge campsite is a quiet, family-run 3-star campsite of 134 places, in a natural environment with different types of trees, and a pine forest at its centre.

New for 2023: a well-being area

Created in 2022, the aquatīc area consists of a large swimming pool and children's water garden. In 2023, the campsite will add a relaxation area. This wellbeing area has a sauna(4 people) and a spa (5 people). You can also relax on the sunlounges on the wooden terrace.

10 avenue de la Pège, Saint Hilaire de Riez www.campinglaconge.com



CAMPING LE PETIT ROCHER****

Le Petit Rocher campsite is situated in the shade of the pine trees, and just a stone's throw from a vast sandy beach in a pretty cove, more than 6km long.

For the 2023 season, Le Petit Rocher in Longeville, is offering its guests the opportunity to **try a nordic bath as part of their premium lodge.** Consisting of 3 bedrooms, that can accommodate up to 6 people, there is also a large outdoor terrace ideal for relaxing after a lovely day at the beach.

1250 avenue du Docteur Mathevet Longeville sur Mer

www.olela.co.uk/campsites/petit-rocher-campsite



CAMPING LE BOIS JOLI***

Since the 2022 season, Le Bois Joli campsite has changed owners. Its geographical location on the hinterland is ideal. Located in Bois de Cené, its position allows you to discover the northern coastline, the Marais Breton Vendéen, the Ile de Noirmoutier and Ile d'Yeu.

The new owners are investing. The campsite has a lagoon which features a vast leisure area of 3000m², ideal for young and old alike, this includes fine sand and a 900m² swimming area (depth 1.20m). In 2023, Le Bois Joil plans to create a mini-African educational farm and will add new mobile homes.

www.en.camping-leboisjoli.com/





FLOWER CAMPING DU LAC DE LA CHAUSSELIÈRE***

Situated close to a lake and with plenty of trees, this 3-star campsite is renowned for its zen 'attitude'. Its wooden chalets are set in an authentic natural environment.

The campsite's new premium cabin (30m²) is a natural nest perched at 4 metres high, ideal for a unique and immersive experience. It has a master bedroom as well as a 20m² mezzanine, a fully equipped kitchen and an XXL covered terrace of 40m². The private sheltered spa allows you to recharge your batteries, as you admire the panoramic view over the Lac de la Chausselière.

Rue des Herbiers, Montaigu-Vendée www.chausseliere.com/en/



CAMPILÔ****

Not far from La Roche sur Yon in Aubigny, the campsite "Campilô" is the perfect combination between "green" holidays and various types of activities. The campsite features two fishing ponds that cover a total of 4,8 hectares and where the accommodation enjoys a splendid view over the lake. For the 2023 season, Campilô will be adding a 900m² swimming lagoon, with a fine sandy beach and two slides (one with rubber rings (buoys)), and the other going underground! While parents relax and enjoy a reflexology session by the lake, the children can take part in one of the various activities organised by the campsite. There is something for everyone!

Lieu dit L'Auroire, Aubigny Les Clouzeaux www.campilo.com/en/

CAMPING BELLEVUE

Zen and nature are the motto. Looking to relax, a change of scenery and a warm friendly welcome? Then don't hesitate, come and stay at the Bellevue. Never has a site lived up to its name as well as this one, **thanks to its exceptional sea view, right in the heart of the Belle-Henriette nature reserve.** A coastal footpath leads from the campsite directly to the beach in about 20-25 minutes.

A site, entirely pedestrian, with 40 accommodation units, a heated outdoor swimming pool, mini-golf, table tennis and a pétanque strip. At Bellevue, it's like being at home, a cosy and warm atmosphere, a real escape from your daily routine!

Boulevard Mal de Lattre de Tassigny - La Tranche sur Mer www.camping-lebellevue.fr/en/



CAMPING L'ILÔT DES MARAIS

Nestling in the heart of the Marais poitevin, the Îlot des Marais campsite in Langon offers exceptional accommodation, inviting you to completely disconnect.

It seems that among the future unusual guest accommodation ideas of the campsite is a sailing boat, which will be moored at the edge of the marshes, where you will be able to spend the night on board, but without being seasick!

5, route de Chaillé les Marais, Le Langon www.campinglilotdesmarais-vendee.com



Events not to be missed

The Vendée, has a year-round programme of events! With festivals, cultural and sporting events, concerts, traditional festivals, conferences... everyone will find something to make their stay more exciting.

The "Printemps du Livre" (book festival) at Montaigu in March, 4 jours en Chantonnay (hiking event) in May, festival Viens dans mon île (come to my island - (île d'Yeu)) end of July and beginning of August, La Déferlante d'Eté - in several Vendean towns during the summer, Autrefois Challans in July and August, Dans les Jardins de William Christie Festival in August, Face & si festival in Mouilleron le Captif in September, International Film Festival in La Roche sur Yon in October are just a few examples.

IN 2023

FESTIVAL DE TERRE-NEUVE

Come and celebrate the **20**th **edition of this event dedicated to theatre.** The Festival de Terre-Neuve is one of the major events during the summer season, celebrating its 20th edition in 2023. Each year, the Département de la Vendée presents classical plays and new productions with unique representations that have built the festival's reputation.

These performances take place in the Château de Terre-Neuve's courtyard, a 16th century building which gave its name to this renowned and important event in the Vendée.

From 17th to 24th June 2023 (dates to be confirmed)





FESTIVAL DE POUPET

Rurality also has its festival

The "Théâtre de Verdure" in Saint Malo du Bois welcomes you to its new edition. A programme of events spread over a month suitable for all ages and tastes, just a short distance from the Puy du Fou $_{\tiny \odot}$. This year, the festival will feature rappers Orelsan, Niska, Gazo, Lorenzo and Loud on 19^{th} July, and the return of the Poupet déraille XXL event on the 21^{st} July to end the festival on a high note!

From 28th June to 21st July 2023 in Saint Malo du Bois prices and practical information festival-poupet.com

AND IN 2024?

THE FLORALIES INTERNATIONALES 2024

A reference to the Olympics games in Paris

Enjoy the new edition of this internationally renowned plant and floral event, at the Logis de la Chabotterie in Montréverd. The theme will be "Jeux de fleurs" (Flower Games), referring to the fact that the Olympic Games will be held in Paris. Themes are water games, childhood games, intellectual games, garden games and physical games will be displayed to delight visitors.

From 17th to 26th May 2024





2024, YEAR OF THE VENDÉE GLOBE

Save the date, the 10th edition of the legendary round the world yacht race will set off from Les Sables d'Olonne again next year. 40 boats will be able to compete, a new record in perspective...

The race starts on 10th November 2024!

LE PUY DU FOU

Emotions are eternal

With original productions, sumptuous sets, spectacular shows, amazing technical achievements and a dive into history and its legends: get ready to experience a breath-taking journey through time!

Traverse the centuries

The Puy du Fou is a unique artistic model in the world of entertainment offering its visitors spectacular shows and immersing them in the most fabulous periods of history. Featuring 20 daytime shows as well as evening spectacles, 4 period villages, 26 restaurants and 6 themed hotels, set off on a spectacular journey back in time. From the Romans to present day.

And every evening, the dream continues with the magical night-time show

At nightfall, visitors can enjoy two magnificent shows of the Puy du Fou: "Les Noces de Feu", a musical fairy-tale that has won two awards, and La Cinéscénie, a giant masterpiece that is the world's largest night show, which lights up the Château du Puy du Fou 28 nights per year. Over the course of its 45 years of existence, La Cinéscénie has become a myth, with more than 13 million spectators, 2 550 actors performing a 90-minute spectacle on a 23-hectare stage.

The Puy du Fou, voted the best park in the world on two occasions, continues to innovate and in **2023 will present a phenomenal new production:** Le **Mime et l'Étoile**. Inspired by a world never before presented at the Puy du Fou. This show, which has been in preparation for more than 3 years, has been created in a new and original location, specially designed and built in the heart of the park. The aim is to immerse visitors in an extraordinarily ambitious creation. A great new show for the 2023 season just waiting to be discovered...

Puy du Fou, Les Epesses

www.puydufou.com/france/en





NEW TECHNOLOGY

TRÉSORS DE VENDÉE

In June 2022, Vendée Tourisme launched a brand new game app to discover the Vendée in an amusing way "Trésors de Vendée - La quête de Jeanne la pirate". With Jeanne the pirate, a heroine inspired by Jeanne de Belleville, the first female pirate in history, players visit the most emblematic places in the Vendée in a new way.

Accompanied by her faithful owl "Bavarde" who provides valuable information to visitors, Jeanne takes players on a timeless adventure in search of the "Heart of Secrets".

The game "Trésors de Vendée" is a real life-size treasure hunt where players are invited to travel from one point to another, always bearing in mind the treasure that awaits them!

New in 2023: The treasure hunt is expanding in the Vendée with nearly 60 new sites to discover.

Download on google play or app store



Trésors Vendée

MARIUS ESCAPADES IN THE PAYS DE MONTS AREA

Pierre Pougeard, a young graduate, has set up his business in Le Perrier. He now offers 2 walking tours using tablets and markers. In the form of an escape game in the middle of nature, "un safari dans le Marais" (a safari in the marshes) is the first marked circuit covering 3.7km and taking roughly 2h30 around the village of Le Perrier. Ideal with the family or among friends. Players must solve 10 riddles and are helped by clues contained in a small bag full of surprises! Two other tours are also available, including one in Saint Jean de Monts, which will soon be available in German and English. There is also a shop on the premises.

4 grande rue, Le Perrier www.escapades-de-marius.fr

MISSION DÉCOUVERTE

Since 2017, Mission Découverte's objective has been to create unique expériences that can be shared with friends, family and colleagues through outdoor courses based on escape game codes. The are 3 missions in total and they take place in the streets of Les Sables d'Olonne. The fourth and latest mission is a sensory investigation:

"Investigation in Mission City". The players enter the office of the city's greatest detective, in his absence. Their logic and their 5 senses will be the key to solving one of his cases. The game lasts 1 hour and the difficulty level is rated at 3 out of 5.

12 bis rue de l'Hôtel de ville, Les Sables d'Olonne www.missiondecouverte.fr



THE MÉLUSINE TOWER MUST BE SAVED

This new "Fontenautes" adventure takes place in Vouvant. Accompanied by the Mélusine fairy, this experience combines virtual reality and mini games that transport you back to the Middle Ages. During the historical walk and the astonishing climb to the castle, your mission is to save the tower! The activity lasts 1 hour, and no reservation is required, however depending on the number of participants, the ascent to the tower may be slow. The rental of the virtual reality headset, access to the app and the climb to the tower are all included in the price. Players will need to have their own personal smart phone as well as a fully charged battery.

Office de Tourisme de Vouvant, Place du Bail, Vouvant www.fontenay-vendee-tourisme.com/destination/vouvant-cite-medievale/visite-virtuelle-jeu-de-piste-il-faut-sauver-la-tour-melusine

DISCOVERING THE CHÂTEAU DE COMMEQUIERS

The Château de Commequiers **new tour offers visitors** a chance to travel back in time to the end of the 15th century. Thanks to the app Legendr, available on smartphones and tablets, visitors can discover the history of this elegant feudal castle in an amusing and immersive way. The points of interest along the visit will tell you many historical anecdotes and offer you a chance to admire the fortress and its surroundings using a virtual reality reconstruction of the period. The app will be available in June. The pack, which includes the app activation code and the VR headset, will be on sale in the various Tourist Offices at the Saint Gilles Croix de Vie region.

Impasse des Tours, Commequiers www.payssaintgilles-tourisme.fr/patrimoine-culturel/chateau-de-commequiers



ADRENALINE

PARASAILING

Since 2022, the Parachute Sablais team has been offering **parasailing sessions in the Bay of Les Sables d'Olonne**. This experience, which takes place "between sky and sea" is a real adrenaline rush. Departing from the Port Olona harbour office on board a boat for 13 people, you will head for the open sea and a unique experience at about 50 metres. It is a spectacular panoramic view of one of the most beautiful bays in the world, and a thrill not to be missed. Several options are available: solo flights, 2,3 or 4 people, the sessions last about 20 minutes, supervised by qualified instructors to ensure maximum safety.

1 Quai Alain Gerbault, Les Sables d'Olonne www.parachutesablais.fr



LA VAILLANTE ACADÉMIE

La Vaillante académie, a new concept, a real driving experience.

Inspired by Michel Vaillant, a racing driver, the Vaillante academy concept allows you to live a unique experience at the wheel of a cartoon car, on several French circuits, including the one at Fontenay Le Comte. It is now possible to slip into the driver's shoes. Fans are truly immersed in the comic book world, by putting on a fireproof suit, boots, gloves, and helmet bearing the famous V. After taking a few driving lessons, the experience can begin. Using the original comic book drawings, the engineers and mechanics have built the famous Vaillante identically with blue bodywork, numbered and equipped with a 160-horsepower engine. Several examples were then built to allow trainee drivers to train on the circuit. The Vaillante Academy offers several driving course options aimed at the general public.

Circuit Automobile, 60 rue Chambouin, Fontenay le Comte www.vaillante-academie.fr

IN TUNE WITH THE (BIG) CHILDREN

LE COCON DU MARAIS

This pony club is located in Notre Dame de Monts, in the heart of the Breton Vendéen marshes between the Kulmino and Le Daviaud. It has about fifteen different ponies and small horses, adapted for lessons, and which roam freely through the year. Florence Bernard has a passion for horse riding and has been an instructor for 17 years. She will be delighted to welcome riders of all ages, (from 6 years old to advanced levels), to introduce them to horse riding in a different way, with a real family approach. Several disciplines will be presented during the school holidays: obstacles, dressage, ground training, shows, hunter... Florence also offers group lessons, workshops based on the pony, rides, adapted riding, riding exams.

La petite Ramonière, Notre Dame de Monts www.lecocondumarais.fr





RED ZONE

Red Zone, in Challans opened in September 2021. This **new multi-sports and leisure complex is spread over more than 2000 m².** It has several different universes to experience multiple sensations, all under the one roof: squash courts (in traditional mode and augmented reality), a bouldering area of $600m^2$ that includes an interactive climbing wall, a trampoline zone, with dodgeball via lines or walk wall, a Kid Zone, a play area on 4 levels (for children from 1 to 12 years old) for a maximum of 20 children. The barrestaurant with almost 80 seats completes the facilities of the complex. La Red Zone also organises sports events such as squash, climbing and pinball tournaments.

99 rue de cholet, Challans www.redzone-challans.fr

TWO WHEELER'S PARADISE

CA ROULE DANS LE MARAIS POITEVIN

Vendée Grand Littoral invites visitors to a truly immersive experience in Marais Poitevin with a 35km itinerary over 5 communities: "Ca roule dans le Marais poitevin". This new circuit is an opportunity for cycling enthusiasts to discover the natural riches and local heritage. Eleven stopping points mark out the route and at each point, information panels explain the functions and history of the Marais. By visiting each of these local communities, you can discover the numerous architectural treasures of our heritage: churches, towers, bridges, etc.

Office de tourisme, Place de la Liberté, Jard sur Mer www.destination-vendeegrandlittoral.com/quoi-faire/balade/a-velo



THE VENDEAN DOLCE VITA

Neylia Garage, Guilb'auto **offers vintage electric scooters** to hire during your holiday in the Vendée! Environmentally friendly and very economical these scooters are ideal for trips into town or the countryside. Their minimalist design makes them very attractive. They are also very comfortable and allow you to discover the region at a leisurely pace. The scooters come with all the necessary equipment: helmets, gloves, a security lock, a top case and even a phone holder. The maximum speed is 45km/h and the range is about 100km. A little bonus: delivery to your holiday destination is even possible!

43 rue du Lac, Saint Vincent sur Graon www.neylia.fr

BOCAVÉLO

Boca'Vélo is a bicycle rental service aimed at nature lovers and those who love the region. They offer several packages: **electrically assisted bike hire with accessories, turnkey bike touring experiences** through the Vendean countryside as well as the organisation of Boca'Vélo events. Various packaged experiences are available, such the Apéro'vélo outing or the Boca'vélo tour. With a view to promoting environmentally friendly forms of transport, while preserving natural areas, several routes have been developed to take advantage of the region's treasures and local produce. They are also an opportunity to meet the people who define the "Bocage Vendéen". Booking online is possible, Boca'vélo will deliver your bike with its "boca'rrosse"!

www.bocavelo.fr



JUST LIKE A FISH IN WATER

LE P'TIT NATIEN

Leaving from the famous Vendée Globe pontoon in Les Sables d'Olonne, Le P'tit Natien **offers cruises along the Vendean coast** to the l'Île de Ré. A romantic sunset cruise is also available, which includes an onboard evening meal: a splendid view and fresh local produce make for an effective cocktail! For fishing enthusiasts, it is possible to go on a fishing trip with Le P'tit Natien, all the necessary equipment is provided during the trip. For special events, the Le P'tit Natien crew, can offer a tailored-made service for an unforgettable experience.

Ponton du Vendée Globe, Les Sables d'Olonne hwww.leptitnatien.fr



MULTIPLEXE NOVA

The new NOVA aquatic complex has opened in Challans! It allows you to **enjoy unique sports and leisure experiences all year round.** Within the complex, there is a 25m² sports pool with 6 swimming lanes, but also a training pool, a paddling pool for children with adapted games, a 60m slide, an outdoor pool, a 4-lane pentagliss, and mineral and grass solarium beaches. The well-being area is made up of a spa, sauna, hammam, a balneo pool and a fitness room.

2 rue des Petits Canards, Challans www.multiplexe-nova.fr

AQUATIC CENTRE L'ODYSS

L'Odyss is the **new aquatic centre** in Chantonnay. It offers fun and educational activities in a covered area of 3500m². It has been awarded the **Tourism and Disability label**. The Odyss has a mineral beach with water games, a plant beach, a paddling pool, play facilities, outdoor equipment and play areas for all ages. Aqua gym, aqua bike and circuit training activities are also available for adults and the complex regularly organises events throughout the year.

40 Rue de la Plaine, Chantonnay www.centreaquatiquelodyss.fr





CULTURE & HERITAGE

2 NEW "PETITES CITÉS DE CARACTÈRE" IN THE VENDÉE

Mortagne sur Sèvre and Noirmoutier en l'île have just joined the exclusive club of "Petites Cités de Caractère" in the Vendée. This distinction is awarded to small towns and villages with a remarkable architectural and natural heritage. They reflect the diverse characteristics of the Vendée and has already been awarded in eight towns: Apremont, Mallièvre, Pouzauges, Mouchamps, Vouvant, Faymoreau, Foussais-Payré and Nieul sur l'Autise.

Walking through the streets and alleys of this old Medieval town, the history of Mortagne sur Sèvre is revealed through its ramparts, its elegant Renaissance houses, and dwellings as well as its mills and weaver's cottages.

Listed as a Historic Monument, the Saint-Pierre church is the main building that bears witness to the medieval history of Mortagne. A multitude of activities can be enjoyed in this "Petite Cité de Caractère": le Chemin de fer de la Vendée, Vendée Vitrail with its amusing and interactive visit, the musée du Mange-Cailloux, the Jardins de la Cure...

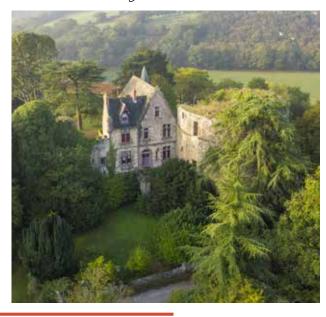
Mortagne sur Sèvre can be explored through its numerous hiking trails along the Sèvre Nantaise as well as its heritage circuit "Sur le Chemin des Dames" (Along the Ladies path), which tells the story of this ancient medieval city through symbolic women.

On the northern side of the island, **Noirmoutier en l'Ile's town centre is full of narrow streets, buildings and places steeped in history.** The shops, cafes and restaurants create a lively atmosphere. In the distance, the smell of maritime pines and green oaks is an invitation to discover the Bois de la Chaise and its sheltered coves.

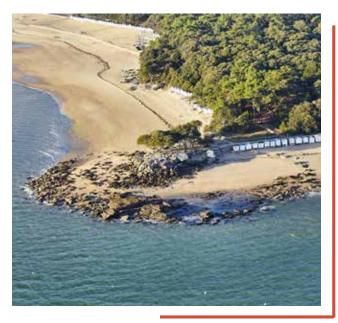
In Noirmoutier en l'île, you will discover a rich heritage such as the Banzeau quarter, one of the oldest neighbourhoods on the island, occupied since the 11th century. You can also visit the harbour and Jacobsen pier, the Jacobsen Hotel, a beautiful residence with remarkable architecture which has now become the Centre des Patrimoines maritimes on the island (Centre for Maritime Heritage). The town is full of listed heritage sites such as the Château Musée with its dungeon, which houses the various collections of the island dating from prehistoric times. Not far from there, in the crypt, is the tomb of the monk Saint Philbert, who founded the island's economy.

www.vendee-tourism.co.uk/im-interested/heritage-lovers/typically-quaint-french-villages-vendee

Mortagne sur Sèvre



Noirmoutier en l'Île



THE RIMAJURES MUSEUM

Opening on 8th May 2023

In the Saint Gilles Croix de Vie area, a new site will be opened in the spring of 2023. It will be dedicated to the **artist**, **decorator and ceramist**, **Henry Simon**. The bourrine (thatched cottage) which was his studio, will host an exhibition of his work.

The visit has been reorganised to make it easier for visitors to find their way around. The new spaces created are based around the existing buildings that have been preserved and restored:

- The bourrine, which was the artist's studio, will host an exhibition, with drawings and ceramics in a new scenography.
- The creation of a reception area and shop.
- A resource centre with access to numerous art books and magazines available on site.
- A temporary exhibition room.
- A production area for artists in residence, school children and other groups who wish to visit the site.

75 Bd Georges Pompidou, Saint Gilles Croix de Vie www.facebook.com/asimonfeuillatre





MAISON DE LA NATURE DE LA GRENOUILLÈRE

"La Maison de la Grenouillère" is an old farmhouse renovated in. Located at the northern end of the Marais poitevin, it overlooks Saint Benoist sur Mer.

This vast area flooded in winter, is home to a high concentration of migratory birds, who use it as a stopover on their journey. During the summer, this large meadow is ideal for grazing cattle.

La Maison de la biodiversité de la Grenouillère is open to the public and offers 4 interactive areas to explore - the countryside, the plants and the wildlife. In a separate area you can watch a 25-minute film called "Regard Nature" by Philippe Garguil, a wildlife photographer and filmmaker. Various interactive games ensure a pleasant and entertaining visit, for everyone. For example, the magic wall, is a perfect demonstration of commitment to biodiversity.

This digital exhibition invites visitors to discover eco-friendly methods using poetry as a backdrop. By sitting in front of the desk, they are asked to pick up various objects that will trigger the appearance of animals in the surrounding landscape. For example, by turning off the tap, a swarm of colourful dragonflies will appear.

The Tangible table, an investigation focusing on the pond: if you look carefully, you can see traces of its small occupants, here and there Thanks to the clues that emerges, you have to guess the name of the animal that has visited the pond.

18 Rue de l'Église, Saint Benoist sur Mer www.vendeegrandlittoral.fr/maison-de-la-grenouillere

LA SAVONNERIE DES COLLINES

The "Savonnerie des Collines" is expanding in 2023! In their new premises, **a new scenography** provides an interesting way to visit the site during a guided tour.

On site, you can buy a range of soaps made from donkey's and goat's milk as well as vegetable soaps.

Saint Mars la Réorthe, Les Epesses www.savonneriedescollines.com



NEW HIKES AND CULTURAL VISITS



LA BALADE D'ALEXIS

A 2.4km circuit, marked out by twelve information panels, allows you to discover the traditional and uncrowded streets of Les Épesses, as well as certain monuments in the town.

The walk starts at the "Place de l'Église". The first panel can be found on the wall to the left of the Town hall. This **treasure hunt** is free and an ideal activity for the entire family!

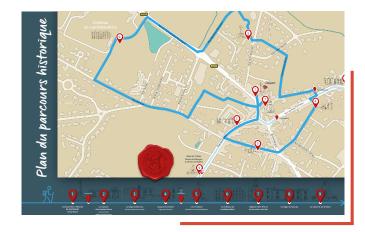
2 place Monseigneur Bonneau, Les Epesses www.vendeevallee.fr/site-culturel/la-balade-dalexis

PATRIMOINE DE LA GAUBRETIÈRE (CIRCUIT VENDÉE WARS - GUERRES DE VENDÉE)

"Sur les Traces des Guerres de Vendée" is a **new historical heritage trail** that takes visitors on a journey following in the footsteps of the "Lads of la Gaubretière" from 1793 to 1794.

Each site you visit has a link with the Vendée Wars: the Château de Landebaudière, the old medieval bell tower or the Pantheon of the Military Vendean. To explore this circuit, you should allow about 1 hour (2.9km). A small leaflet with the 9 different stages can be downloaded from www.paysdemortagne.fr or picked up at the Gaubretière town hall.

Place Sapinaud, La Gaubretière www.paysdemortagne.fr





GUIDED TOURS IN THE POUZAUGES AREA

The region around Pouzauges which is close to the Puy du Fou_® has a beautiful undulating landscape rich in history and heritage. The Tourist office offers various guided tours to discover the main sites.

Nocturnal visit: in a rustic atmosphere and with lanterns, this visit allows you to discover the "Petite Cité de caractère" of Pouzauges. During this nocturnal visit, the guide reveals the history of these narrow streets as well as the characters who have made their mark on the history of the town. Visitors can enjoy a unique view of the Vendean countryside at dusk.

The unusual visit of Sèvremont: this visit is an interactive tour that includes games, explanations and anecdotes. It allows you to discover the historical sites of Sèvremont, but in an unusual way. A very original quided tour!

Guided tours: The Pouzauges Tourist Office offers a very different way of discovering its picturesque towns: Pouzauges (Petite Cité de Caractère) and Châteaumur (seigneurial town). A visit to the bell tower of Saint-Michel-Mont-Mercure offers a magnificent panorama of the highest point in the Vendée. Visits to the Eglise in Saint-Martin de la Pommeraie sur Sèvre and the Eglise Notre-Dame in Pouzauges are an invitation to discover many secrets as well as interesting anecdotes!

30 place de l'église, Pouzauges www.tourisme-paysdepouzauges.fr

TILL THE EARLY HOURS

THE COMEDY CLUB DU HAVANA CAFÉ

Are you a fan of stand-up comedy?

Once a month, the emblematic Havana Club in Les Sables d'Olonne organises a comedy club evening.

The idea is simple: to attend the shows performed by comedians specially selected for the occasion, coming from the four corners of the west and beyond. Admission is free and the artists are paid by "passing the hat". The Havana's stand-up evenings offer a warm atmosphere conducive to making friends and enjoying a good time with lots of humour and refreshments.

20 Ter Quai René Guiné, Les Sables d'Olonne www.havanacafe.fr





LE LABO DU BRASSEUR

If you like craft beers, **the "Labo du Brasseur" a microbrewery** is now open to the public on the Avenue de la Mer in Saint Jean de Monts, a few minutes from the beach.

Each beer is brewed on the premises, in a lab visible to visitors just behind the bar. Different types of craft beers are served, all are exclusive and unique.

Beers can be flavoured with hops, spices, fruit or malt, and there is always something to please everyone. Cocktails and other hot or cold drinks can be accompanied by appetiser trays (nibbles).

The modern and warm setting of the bar is conducive to a friendly and festive atmosphere, with organised entertainment.

The large wooden terrace with a sea view is perfect for those returning from the beach, relaxing afternoons or evenings with friends.

4 avenue de la mer, Saint Jean de Monts www.paysdesaintjeandemonts.fr/fiche/le-labo-du-brasseur/

THE PLACE TO BEER

In La Barre de Monts, une cave à bière (a beer cellar) has opened under the name of "The Place to beer". A friendly place to meet and share ideas about "drinking sensibility" and "eating better". The bar offers more than 250 references of craft beers, local beers, ciders, sodas, and home-made fruit juices as well as a grocery shop with beer-related products. From April to September, a private shady terrace is available with outdoor games. A selection of "things on toasts", salami (saucissons), cold meats and cheese boards are available for those with a small appetite. To liven up the evenings, the bar organises events such as concerts (summer), entertainment, and "tasting" workshops... Both Erika and Gaëtan, the two wine experts, welcome the public all year round, and are happy to share their passion.

37 Av. de l'Estacade, La Barre-de-Monts www.place2beer.fr



LA MIFA

A new multi-generational bar, La Mifa recently opened in Noirmoutier en l'Ile.

Mifa means family in "verlan" (a form of French slang that involves reversing the syllables of a word) where the young managers wanted to create a place that reflects the large family that the Noirmoutrins represent: a relaxed atmosphere where everyone is welcome.

The bar is open every day during the summer season and for those partygoers until 2 am on Saturday evenings!

The decor is modern and bright, where you can enjoy local organic products as an aperitif at any time of the day.

New in 2023: a terrace at the rear of the premises will open in the spring where you can enjoy the pleasant spring weather!

17 Grande Rue, Noirmoutier en l'Ile instagram.com/lamifa.noirmoutier



La Gapette: a delightful combination between a **theatre** (La Cale) and a **guinguette** -an open-air dance venue, (Le Pont) that creates a country-style venue offering a cultural programme for everyone. Outside, there is a petanque area and an open-air stage with lanterns where you can enjoy the beautiful summer weather.

The concerts performed in La Cale are an opportunity to discover something new!

A variety of shows will please the children, and a wide range of music and traditional dances will delight the grown-ups.

25 Rte de Saint-Mars la Réorthe, Les Epesses facebook.com/Gapette



LE PARK

On the banks of l'étang des Oudairies and close to the town centre, **the new guinguette (an open-air dance venue) "Le Park"** provides a pleasant break from daily routine, with delicious street food, beers, cocktails and champagne. A sort of mix between a cafe and a food-court. For afterwork or with friends, a games area with a "boulodrome" boules pitch, une planche à palets (popular game played on a wooden board with cast-iron discs), darts and other wooden games provide entertainment. A giant screen also broad casts sporting events.

120 rue Newton, La Roche sur Yon www.facebook.com/LeParkGuinguette

Realisation January 2023. Press kit produced by Vendée Expansion - 33 rue de l'Atlantique - CS 80206 - 85005 LA ROCHE SUR YON Cedex - Tel: 02 51 44 90 00 - Fax.: 02 51 62 36 73...

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