

An aerial photograph of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, there's a sandy beach with gentle waves washing onto it. A river or estuary flows from the background towards the beach, with a large, curved sandbar in the middle. The riverbanks are lined with dense green forest. In the background, there's a flat landscape with fields, some buildings, and a distant horizon under a clear sky. A large, thin teal heart outline is positioned on the left side of the image, partially overlapping the text.

Press Pack  
**The Vendée,**  
Holiday Destination

Collection 2016

[www.vendee-tourism.co.uk](http://www.vendee-tourism.co.uk)

# Where is the Vendée?

The Vendée is an area of Western France which lies on the Atlantic Coast, south of the Loire, between the cities of Nantes and La Rochelle. It is about 600 km from the UK.



## How do I get to the Vendée?

It is really to get to the Vendée, thanks largely to the proximity of the airports at Nantes and La Rochelle, both of which are less than an hour's drive away and served by scheduled flights from the UK. The area has also opened up to road and rail traffic, making travel by car (via ferry or tunnel) or train equally viable.

### By air (about 1 hour):

#### To Nantes-Atlantique Airport (83 km from the Vendée)

From London City (Air France by Cityjet)  
From Manchester, Southampton (Flybe code share Air France)

From Liverpool, London Gatwick (Easyjet)

From Dublin and Shannon (Ryanair)  
From Glasgow

#### To La Rochelle/Ile de Ré Airport (94 km from the Vendée)

From London Stansted, East Midlands and Dublin (Ryanair)  
From London Gatwick and Bristol (Easyjet)  
From Birmingham, Manchester and Southampton (Flybe)  
From Leeds-Bradford and Edinburgh (Jet2)

### By rail (about 6 hours):

From London Saint Pancras to Lille Europe (Eurostar), then TGV from Lille Europe to La Roche sur Yon/Les Sables d'Olonne

From London Saint Pancras to Paris Gare du Nord (Eurostar), then TGV from Paris Gare Montparnasse to La Roche sur Yon/Les Sables d'Olonne  
Main stations in the Vendée: La Roche sur Yon, Challans, Saint Gilles Croix de Vie, Les Sables d'Olonne, Montaigu, Luçon.

### By road via ferry/tunnel (about 7 hours):

#### To Saint Malo (265 km from the Vendée):

From Portsmouth (Brittany Ferries)  
From Weymouth, via the Channel Islands  
From Poole (Condor Ferries)

#### To Caen (393 km from the Vendée):

From Portsmouth (Brittany Ferries)

#### To Roscoff (402 km from the Vendée):

From Plymouth and Cork (Brittany Ferries)

#### To Le Havre (421 km from the Vendée):

From Portsmouth (LD Lines)

#### To Cherbourg (428 km from the Vendée):

From Portsmouth (Brittany Ferries)  
From Poole (Brittany Ferries)

#### To Dieppe (484 km from the Vendée):

From Newhaven (LD Lines)  
From Dover (LD Lines)

#### To Boulogne (604 km from the Vendée):

From Dover (Speedferries and LD Lines)

#### To Calais (636 km from the Vendée):

From Dover (P&O Ferries and SeaFrance)  
From Folkestone (Eurotunnel)

#### To Dunkerque (676 km from the Vendée):

From Dover (Norfolkline)

# Highlights



## A dynamic tourism economy:

- Tourism is a top-tier component of the Vendée economy,
- The first tourism département in France on the Atlantic seaboard with nearly 35.8 million nights booked for tourism,
- 5 million tourists welcomed each year,
- 87% are French clients (Western France, Paris region, etc.),
- 13% are international clients (from Great Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, etc.),
- Reception capacity of 820,000 beds,
- Average trip duration is 10.5 days,
- The tourist season now lasts six months from April to September with nearly 90% of nights booked,
- A strong trend towards year-round attraction.

## A diverse, high-quality tourism offering:

- A diverse, high-quality accommodation offering,
- 250 km of coastlines with 80% protection, 140 km of fine sandy beaches,
- An unexpected variety of landscapes including dunes and forests, wild, rocky coastlines, bocages and wetlands,
- Over 100 natural, protected areas covering more than 2,000 hectares,
- Two islands (Yeu and Noirmoutier), 18 seaside resorts and eight marinas (moorings for 6,400 vessels),
- Two convention centres, two thalassotherapy centres, five 18-hole golf courses and one 9-hole course,
- Over 1,000 km of cycling tracks,
- A vast range of water activities for every season,
- Fine cuisine takes centre stage with four Michelin-starred restaurants,
- Over 500 events held every year,
- World-famous events: Vendée Globe, Tour de France,
- Over 300 sites to visit or for leisure activities,
- A unique sight-seeing venue that now welcomes over 2 million visitors each year: le Puy du Fou® (voted the best theme park in the world in 2012 and in Europe in 2013).

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### Adventurous activities in Vendée

- **Abbaye Saint Pierre** (Maillezais)
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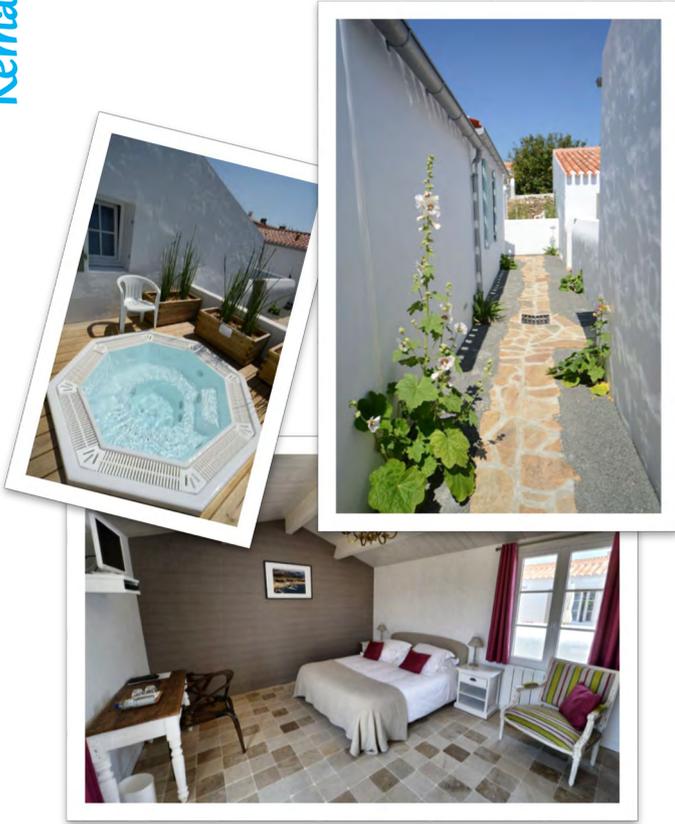
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# Remarkable B&Bs in Vendée

## On the Vendée coast

Do you like fine sandy beaches and a wild coastline? The Vendéen coastline is sure to please with its 250 km of protected coast which includes 140 km of sandy beaches. It boasts excellent bathing water quality and gently sloping beaches which guarantee fun and safety for all the family on holiday in Vendée.



### Les villas du Port à Port Joinville (Ile d'Yeu)

This charming, perfectly presented, peaceful and relaxing property is located in Port Joinville. The grounds feature an alleyway that leads to the 3 bedrooms and the family suite, all of which are available to guests. Each bedroom has its own, small outdoor garden surrounded by a stone wall.

The house has a dining room and terrace, where breakfasts and meals prepared by the hosts are served. The outdoor relaxation area includes a spa.

New for 2015: the terrace is now covered by a glass roof, thereby creating an outdoor extension of the dining room.

Price: from €85 per room, based on 2 people sharing (including breakfast and tourist tax)

*Les Villas du Port – 1 impasse des Ramendeuses - Port Joinville – Ile d'Yeu*  
[www.lesvillasduport.fr](http://www.lesvillasduport.fr) – tel. 00 33 (0)2 28 12 99 46  
 Contact : Marie-Louise et Dominique

### La Villa Tobago (Ile de Noirmoutier)

#### New for 2015

Noirmoutier en l'île is the focal point of the island, with its "Heritage Port", its narrow streets, its old mediaeval castle, shops and market. It is a charming town that is bustling all year round.

The Villa Tobago is run by Dany and Jean-Marc. It is located at the heart of the salt marshes, just a stone's throw from Noirmoutier en l'île and the beaches of Bois de la Chaise. The attractive bedroom, with its "marine" décor and ship's deck parquet flooring, is located on the first floor and is accessed by a separate outdoor staircase.

Guests will also enjoy the flower-lined garden, the heated swimming pool (28°C) and the peaceful surroundings.

If you're into classic cars, the owners will be more than happy to share their enthusiasm with you. There are three classic MG cars on site!

Price: from €75 per room, based on 2 people sharing (including breakfast)

*La Villa Tobago - 4 clés Clévacances – 3A chem. de la Chapaude – Noirmoutier en l'île*  
[www.chambredhotels-noirmoutier.fr](http://www.chambredhotels-noirmoutier.fr)  
 Tél. : 00 33 (0)2 51 93 54 20 ou 00 33 (0)6 18 42 63 06  
 Contact : Dany et Jean-Marc Bourson



## Ciel d'Ouest (Saint Gilles Croix de Vie)

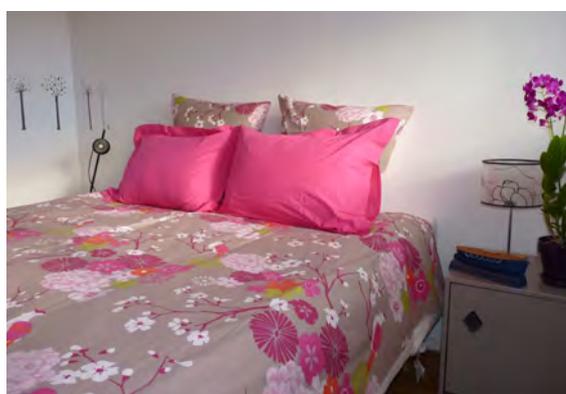
The Ciel d'Ouest B&B is located in the residential neighbourhood of Boisvinet, a trendy district of Saint Gilles Croix de Vie. This attractive family home was built by an architect in 2009 and was fully renovated in 2013. Ciel d'Ouest is located just 300 m from the beach and the boarding point for boats to the Ile d'Yeu. It is the ideal destination for a relaxing holiday, or for those looking to explore the island by bike. It boasts 3 peaceful, bright and tastefully decorated bedrooms. On certain evenings during the off-peak season, the owners offer a "table d'hôtes" service (booking required), featuring a light dinner made with local produce – new for 2015. The property stands in relaxing, shaded grounds, where guests can bring tables and chairs outside to dine in the sunshine... Just like being at home!

The property is also popular with cyclists, since it is located just 300 m from the cycling trail that runs along the Vendée cliffs – the central section of the "Vélodyssée" trail (the French part of the "EuroVelo 1" trail). The property also features a vast awning for added privacy, one bedroom with direct access, pumps, small-scale equipment and specific documentation.

Children are welcome at Ciel d'Ouest, and the property has a range of books, toys, children's bikes and baby accessories, to make sure our younger guests feel at home.

Price: from €50 per room, based on 2 people sharing (including breakfast)

*Ciel d'Ouest - Label Accueil Vélo et Famille Plus - 46 Avenue du Dr Potel - Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie  
www.ancreame.fr - Tel : 00 33 (0)6 88 25 32 83  
Contact : Sophie Guillet*



## Le Manoir de l'Eolière (Landevielle – near Saint Gilles Croix de Vie)

**New for 2015**

Boasting the ideal location between Les Sables d'Olonne and Saint Gilles Croix de Vie, Le Manoir de l'Eolière (part of which dates back to 1885, and was built by the Count of Graslin) stands in stunning natural surroundings, just a few minutes from the beaches of Brétignolles sur Mer. The bedroom and two suites (each covering 29-34 m<sup>2</sup>) are located in the former servants' quarters of the manor house. They offer peace and quiet, private access, luxury amenities and individual terraces with a view over the estate. Guests will enjoy unrestricted access to the 3-hectare grounds, which feature a variety of different plant species, including several stunning, ancient trees. The estate is well-stocked with game, including deer, hares and other woodland species.

Price: from €95 per room, based on 2 people sharing (including breakfast)



*Le Manoir de l'Eolière  
Lieu dit « L'éolière » - Landevielle  
www.manoir-eoliere.fr  
Tél. : 00 33 (0)6 32 31 66 85  
Contact : Etienne et Céline Chaillot*





## Oze (La Chaize Giraud – near Brétignolles sur Mer)

Opened in 2014/2015 – New for 2016: a private tennis court available for guest use

Michaël Ezanno, a sculptor by trade, welcomes you to this Gîtes de France approved property in the heart of La Chaize-Giraud. This former 19th century wine-producing farm is located close to Brétignolles and Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie, and is ideally situated for a relaxing countryside break.

Each of the three rooms at Oze has its own terrace overlooking a colourful garden. They are decorated in a tasteful yet understated style, featuring modern yet simple works by the artist himself. Two of the rooms are adjoining, and can be combined to create a family suite. Communal facilities are available, including a library and Wi-Fi internet access. There is also a "table d'hôtes" service, where the owner creates original, modern and spicy dishes that reflect his personality.

Price: from €68 per room, based on 2 people sharing (including breakfast)

*Chambre d'hôtes Oze - 3 épis Gites de France - 4 place de la Mairie  
La Chaize-Giraud  
[www.leschambresoze.fr](http://www.leschambresoze.fr) - Tél. : 00 33 (0)6 58 70 84 69  
Contact : Mickaël EZANNO*



## Villa Les Grenadines (Les Sables d'olonne)

New for 2015 – a fourth room available from April 2016

Villa Les Grenadines was built in the early 1900s, in the best seaside resort on the Côte de Lumière. It still retains its original elegance and architectural quality, reflecting the bourgeois residences of the era.

Located just 100 m from Promenade Clemenceau and its sandy beach, this vast, charming house, arranged over three floors, was fully renovated in 2015 to showcase its indoor and outdoor architectural heritage, while adding a touch of modernity and comfort.

Inside, the villa has been decorated to create a cosy, warm atmosphere, with antique and restored furniture and objects standing alongside more contemporary elements. Particular emphasis has been placed on guest comfort, in the 3 bedrooms ("Blanche", "La Colombine" and "Au Balcon"), as well as in the communal areas.

In April 2016, the villa will add a fourth bedroom, decorated in the romantic style of the Louis XV era.

Price: from €90 per room, based on 2 people sharing (including breakfast)

*Villa Les Grenadines - 17 rue Guynemer - Les Sables d'Olonne  
[www.villa-les-grenadines.fr](http://www.villa-les-grenadines.fr) - Tél. : 00 33 (0)2 51 04 26 07  
Contact : Marie Rocard*

## Le Logis de la Vénerie (Olonne sur Mer)

Standing on the outskirts of Les Sables d'Olonne, Elisabeth and Fabien welcome you to their charming home, an 18th century house with a fascinating history.

Make the most of the proximity of Les Sables d'Olonne from here whilst breathing in the countryside and its peace. The 5 guest rooms have been tastefully decorated. The tree-lined grounds and heated swimming pool are the perfect place to spend sunny days, while the owners' cat and chickens will make great companions for children. Bicycles are available to guests on request.

Price: from €85 per room, based on 2 people sharing (including breakfast and tourist tax)

*Le Logis de la Vénerie – 3 épis Gîtes de France  
7 rue des Hannetons – Olonne sur Mer  
<http://logisdelavenerie.com>  
Tel. 00 33 (0)9 54 00 86 04 / 00 33 (0)6 21 43 58 84  
Contact : Elisabeth et Fabien Richard*



## Les Fermes de Terre Neuve (L'île d'Olonne)

The first B&B in Vendée to receive a "5 épis" rating (2015)

This former stone house with barn appeared on the Cassini map produced in the late 1750s. It is the ideal place to appreciate the life of luxury, with its vast library and Renaissance-period fireplace, its antique furniture and family portraits, luxury bedrooms, delicious, sumptuous breakfasts and candlelit evenings, including certain evenings when the hosts are present. The "Montgolfière" room pays homage to the first hot air balloon flight, with its patterned Toile de Jouy fabric. With its twin beds, it makes the ideal room for children. The "Dame Au Camélia" room reflects the romantic, floral atmosphere depicted so elegantly by Alexandre Dumas, with its super-king size four-poster bed and its sumptuous bathroom. The "Kipling" room pays homage to the Bombay-born novelist, some of whose works can be found in the library. It features an authentic Anglo-Indian queen size, four-poster bed and a copper bathtub in the bathroom.

The building stands among grounds of more than 450 hectares. The property is a haven of peace and tranquillity close to the sea but far from the hustle and bustle of the beaches. It has been fully renovated in harmony with the nature and history of this ancient building, yet offering all mod cons. The property features a 20-metre, non-chlorinated pool (heated in summer), various relaxation areas where guests can read or simply do nothing, and a number of footpaths and trails for invigorating walks in the adjoining woodland.

Guests come here for the environment and for the warm welcome offered by the owner, Marie-France!

Price: from €140 per room, based on 2 people sharing (including breakfast)

*Les Fermes de Terre Neuve – 4 épis Gîtes de France - La Girardière  
L'île d'Olonne  
<http://lesfermesdeterreneuve.com>  
Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 23 17 39 / 00 33 (0)6 16 72 74 50  
Contact : Marie-France de Vaire*



## La Maroterie (Talmont Saint Hilaire)

New for 2016: a third room available

This former farmhouse is located just a few kilometres from the stunning surroundings of Pointe d'Arçay and Plage du Veillon, nestled between the sea and the town, in a peaceful, rural setting. This charming property, owned by Bertrand Boissinot, stands in grounds of 3.8 hectares. It features two B&B rooms. It also boasts a pool (5 x 10 m) with sunloungers, located amidst tree-lined, floral gardens – the perfect place to relax. In spring 2016, a third "studio" style bedroom will be opened at La Maroterie.

Price: from €95 per room, based on 2 people sharing (including breakfast)



*La Maroterie – 3 épis Gîtes de France  
Lieu-dit « La Maroterie » – Talmont Saint Hilaire  
Tel : 00 33 (0)2 51 20 34 67  
00 33 (0)7 70 61 63 33  
Contact : Bertrand et Christine BOISSINOT*



## La petite Borderie (Talmont Saint Hilaire)

This former farm, now renovated, is located 1,500 m from the sea, among the salt marshes, in the protected Payré estuary (listed as Vendée's leading remarkable site). It is located at the centre of the Le Port de la Guittière, an oyster farming village.

According to a guest review: *Frédérique is passionate about what he does and he treated us like friends. He also makes excellent cakes.* Walkers and cycling tourists are welcome here. The "Vendée vélo" and "Vélodyssée" (Eurovélo route 1: Roscoff/Hendaye) cycle trail is 50 metres from the property. Guests have free use of two hybrid bicycles.

Price: from €70 per room, based on 2 people sharing (including breakfast)



*La Petite Borderie – Port de la Guittière  
Talmont Saint Hilaire  
<http://www.lapetiteborderie.ovh>  
Tel : 00 33 (0)6 07 75 21 79  
Contact : Marie-Christine et André Martineau*



## La Grande Voile (La Tranche sur Mer)

New for 2015

La Grande Voile features a 24 m<sup>2</sup> room adjoining the owner's house, in the seaside resort of La Tranche sur Mer with its large, fine-sand beach. Guests have their own private entrance and enjoy access to the covered pool.

Price: from €50 per room, based on 2 people sharing (including breakfast)

*La Grande Voile – 5 chemin des Chétives - Bourdaisies  
La Tranche sur Mer  
Tel : 00 33 (0)2 51 30 00 33 – 00 33 (0)6 34 36 98 37  
Contact : Marie-Christine et André Richard*



## La Maison salée (L'Aiguillon sur Mer)

New for 2015

Come and explore the thriving mussel and oyster farming ports of L'Aiguillon sur Mer in southern Vendée. La Maison Salée features one room, the "Chambre au Trophée". This room, with its exposed stone walls, is a comfortable cocoon that remains cool in summer and features a wood-burning stove to keep warm in winter. Dolorès offers guests a generous breakfast, and a gluten-free option is available on request. Bicycles are also available to guests.

Price: from €60 per room, based on 2 people sharing (including breakfast)

*La Maison salée – 29 bis rue Jacques Moreau – L'Aiguillon sur Mer  
<http://lamaisonsalee.jimdo.com> - Tel : 00 33 (0)6 10 33 29 92  
Contact : Dolorès Paitraud*



## Southern Vendée

A remnant of the former Gulf of Poitou, the Marais Poitevin is one of the most beautiful man-made landscapes there is. A stone's throw from the marshes are picturesque villages nestled around the Mervent-Vouvant forest.



### Aux 4 Cornes (Longèves)

Opening: 2014

In 2013, Stéphanie and Pascal decided to embark on a new, simpler way of life. They began searching for a home that matched their new plans. They discovered this former fortified farm with its unusual tower, and fell in love with it immediately. It was this strange tower that gave the place its name, "Aux 4 Cornes".

They carefully renovated one of the former farm outbuildings, seeking to preserve the existing architecture as far as possible. It now houses four of the property's five guest rooms, each with its own unique ambiance (So-design, Grain de sable, Charme d'antan, etc.). The fifth room is located in another part of the house, and is accessed via an external staircase.

The B&B also boasts a heated pool at the foot of the tower, and its very own "table d'hôtes", where the lady of the house produces dishes based on seasonal produce and her own inspirations.

Price: from €80 per room, based on 2 people sharing (including breakfast)

Aux 4 Cornes – Panteuil – Longèves / <http://aux4cornes.com> – tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 50 54 38 – 00 33 (0)6 30 29 92 04  
Contact : Stéphanie Laurent

### Le château de la Goujonnerie (La Loge Fouge-reuse)

A passion for interior design

Three young men of different nationalities (Michel, French, originally from Vendée), Hassan (Malaysian) and Stefan (Swedish) have created a small, fun, glamorous empire in the heart of London's ultra-trendy Shoreditch district. Their business is an interior design store selling decorative antiques, vintage objects and contemporary pieces. The store also features a surrealist-themed restaurant, "Les 3 Garçons".

The three friends subsequently decided to embark on a brand-new adventure. In 2011, they purchased Le Château de la Goujonnerie, an attractive property dating from around 1871 and located in Vendée. This stunning property, located in peaceful, relaxing surroundings between Le Puy du Fou and the Marais Poitevin, now features a total of five bedrooms, each of which is named after members of the British royal family (Victoria, Elizabeth, Kate, William, and Charles and Diana). The lounges and bedrooms feature stunning and surprising décor.

The château and its outbuildings stand in magnificent grounds. Guests can also enjoy swimming in the heated pool between May and September.

Price: from €105 per room, based on 2 people sharing

Le Château de la Goujonnerie – 4 clés Clévacances  
41 rue de la Goujonnerie - La Loge-Fougereuse  
Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 69 32 – 00 33 (0)6 26 74 83 58  
Contact : Stefan



## Beaux Esprits (Fontenay le Comte)

### New: Caroline's workshops

The Beaux Esprits B&B is located in the old centre of Fontenay-le-Comte, in a tastefully restored and decorated 18th century town house. It features three rooms, each decorated in the style and spirit of their era. The property offers a warm welcome and generous breakfasts, which are served in the large dining room. There is also the "Charles Louis Perreau" meeting room, which can accommodate 20 to 30 people, on the ground floor of the property.

Caroline, the owner, organises a range of events and meetings, such as workshops, demonstrations, private sales, beginners' courses, exhibitions, reading sessions, artist meetings, lectures, philosophy discussions, literary discussions, knitting and tea workshops and crochet workshops. So whether you're into needles or words... there's something for everyone!



Price: from €95 per room, based on 2 people sharing (including breakfast)

*Beaux esprits - 9 rue Goupilleau  
Fontenay Le Comte  
www.beauxesprits.com  
Tel : 00 33 (0)9 81 45 08 77 – 00 33 (0)  
6 09 42 64 30  
Contact : Caroline Blanc Gillier*



## Le Portail (Moreilles)

### New for 2015: the Père Joseph suite

Le Portail boasts five rooms in the outbuildings of Le Château (itself a romantic B&B located in a former Cistercian Abbey in the Marais Poitevin, where Richelieu was ordained).

Each room is on the ground floor, with separate access, and has its own private terrace with sunloungers... just like a Secret Garden. The rooms also feature a private wellness area with professional-standard infinity jacuzzi, hydrotherapy equipment and a Tÿlo sauna.

The new suite of B&B rooms at "Le Portail" was developed in summer 2015, in homage to Père Joseph, Richelieu's powerful confidant and advisor. Each room has particular monastic qualities, with their high ceilings, three 17th-century exposed beams, ancient floor tiles and austere design. A round water bed stands at the middle of each room, and each room also has a round jacuzzi with space for two people.

Price: from €189 per room, based on 2 people sharing (excluding breakfast)

*Le Portail – Le Château - 5 clés Clévacances - Moreilles  
www.portail-marais-poitevin.com – Tel : 00 33 (0)2 51 56 17 56  
Contact : Renaud-Pierre Renard*

## The Bocage Vendéen

In the Bocage, history and verdant nature combine around broom bushes, winding rivers, abbeys and châteaux. History can be found round every corner. Must-visit destination: Le Puy du Fou, the world's best theme park.



### Les 4 chênes (Les Herbiers)

Opening in 2015

Les 4 Chênes is an eco-property run by Maurice and Geneviève, located in Les Herbiers, close to the Mont des Alouettes. After a day's sight-seeing, come and relax and recharge your batteries in the peaceful surroundings, enjoy other leisure activities such as Le Puy du Fou, or explore the steep hills around the Les 4 Chênes estate.

The little owl – always present but discreet and invisible – will accompany you on your travels. The five B&B rooms boast a contemporary yet woodland feel, and each is named after a tree species (pine, lime, birch, hornbeam and maple).

Price: from €90 per room, based on 2 people sharing

*Les 4 chênes – 4 clés Clévacances – 16 rue du Maréchal Ferrant  
Les Herbiers*

*<http://les4chenes.fr> – Tel : 00 33 (0)6 78 15 54 62*

*Contact : Geneviève et Maurice Lajenette*

### La Closerie de la Glossetière (Saint Etienne du Bois)

New for 2015

At La Closerie de la Glossetière, calm and comfort are the watch-words! This former 18th-century farm, nestled between the land and the ocean, is the ideal place to come and recharge your batteries. The "Les Moineaux Rigolos" master suite, located in an independent maisonette, is particularly noteworthy.

The hostess offers a range of beginners' workshops in "picassiette" mosaic art and scrap-booking, as well as laughter workshops.

Guests have access to garden furniture, a pool and terraces.

A "table d'hôtes" service is also available (prior booking required).

Price: from €66 per room, based on 2 people sharing (including breakfast)

*La Closerie – 3 épis Gîtes de France – 21 La Glossetière  
Saint Etienne du Bois*

*<http://lacroserie-vendee.fr>*

*Tel : 00 33 (0)2 51 40 70 04 – 00 33 (0)6 88 30 42 08*



### Le Logis de la Benetière (Treize-Vents)

New for 2015

This property is located in the open countryside and features 4 B&B rooms. This former 19th century house is now the ideal place to relax and recharge your batteries, and is only 10 km from the famous Le Puy du Fou theme park!

Price: from €79 per room, based on 2 people sharing (including breakfast)

*Logis de la Bénetière – 3 épis Gîtes de France – La Bénetière – Treize-vents  
[www.logisdelaBenetiere.com](http://www.logisdelaBenetiere.com)*

*Tel : 00 33 (0)2 51 63 92 69 – 00 33 (0)6 26 44 78 20*

*Contact : Chrystelle et Fabien Grattepanche*



# Exceptional self-catering properties in Vendée

Exceptional self-catering properties in Vendée

## Le Chromatic, a self-catering property for musicians (Grosbreuil)

### Large-capacity self-catering property

France (designer, decorator and musician) and David (artistic director and former music label director) left the hustle and bustle of big city life to set up in the country and live a different lifestyle. By combining their skills and experience, they wanted to give the place artistic colour and share their passion for music, cinema, literature, painting and more.

France and David converted the former stables into an unusual self-catering property where the charm of the stonework combines with pure, contemporary lines designed by the owners and built in partnership with architects Philippe Rizzotti and Daya Bakker. The décor is inspired by the work of the great designers en vogue, Michel Ducaroit, Herman Miller, Le Corbusier, Charles Eames and Olivier Mourgues, but also features recycled furniture and objects of all kinds given new life. The architecture is resolutely modern with its metal structure, large glazed surfaces and polished concrete flooring. The soft touch in the interiors comes from birch wood and stonework.

The "Le Chromatic" self-catering property offers unusual accommodation in Vendée with an indoor 10-m pool heated to 29°C all year long, accommodated in a 70 m<sup>2</sup> lounge.

An unexpected touch: musical instruments are available in the lounge area (piano, guitars, drum kit and percussion instruments), along with a video projector system, a hi-fi system, the latest iMac with a music playlist, video and TV. Piano, guitar and singing lessons can even be arranged.

Live at the pace of the seasons, of unforgettable sunrises and sunsets in a 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> property in the middle of fields but near the sea and without overlooking neighbours. Watch the flight of buzzards, resting deer, the peaceful life of cows and listen to the birdsong. There is no visual or sound pollution, just nature and you!

Guests can also stay at the property for one or two nights on a B&B basis, at a rate of €110 per night, based on two people sharing, and excluding breakfast (on weekdays only, outside school holidays). Evening meals can also be arranged, subject to prior booking (local caterer).

### New: workshops at Le Chromatic

France, your host and founder of the "Les Jolies Choses" brand, offers **knitting lessons**. Work with the co-founder of Les Jolies Choses, Marcelle "Mummy" Durez, to create a piece of your choosing.

Beginner's knitting lessons: €50 per 90-minute lesson (1-3 people) / €65 per 2-hour lesson (up to 5 people)

Pénélope, France's friend, also visits Le Chromatic to offer **doll creation workshops**. But there aren't just any old dolls! The "Happy To See You" doll is a hand-made item created using traditional techniques. The ideal way to create something beautiful that brings back childhood memories! Price: €85 per adult/teenager, materials provided, minimum group of 5 people. 6-hour workshop tailored to your requirements, over a single day.

*Gîte "Le Chromatic" (4 clés Clévacances, 4-star), La Coutancière, Grosbreuil (17 km from Les Sables d'Olonne)*

*Capacity: 6-12 people*

*www.lechromatic.com – Tel. 00 33 (0)6 62 82 02 22*

*Contact: France and David*





## O'Prieur, a designer, "suspended" self-catering property (Nieul le Dolent)

### New for 2015 – Large-capacity self-catering property

This renovated barn, with its raw, contemporary styling, offers exceptional views across the surrounding, uninhabited, undulating countryside.

The vast 300 m<sup>2</sup> hangar houses a 10-metre pool, which is heated to 29°C all year round. The pool surround, covering 150 m<sup>2</sup>, features a number of different spaces:

- A vintage lounge area overlooking the pool
- A central lounge, adjoining a winter garden with a barbecue, toys and games for adults and children alike
- A dining area, which can be converted into a games area (table tennis) at any time of day
- A "solarium" terrace, where guests can relax with a stunning panoramic view across the undulating, tree-lined grounds (2.4 hectares).

The main living space is located in the heart of the house, and covers 120 m<sup>2</sup>. With its 6-metre-high ceilings, it is a truly imposing space. The interior is laid out like a loft apartment, with an 18-metre-long wall featuring an entrance hall, a luxury fitted kitchen, a library, a lounge and an office. Guests have access to top-of-the-range of audio equipment, including a latest-generation iMac, video projection equipment and Wi-Fi Internet.

At night time, the ground floor boasts three large bedrooms, each with its own bathroom and a terrace overlooking the countryside. On the first floor, there are four smaller bedrooms and a relaxation area, which appear to be "suspended" in the air, like tree houses.

### Interview with Morgane Soland and David Chausse, owners and designers of the O'Prieur self-catering property

*"We both have long careers in the entertainment industry, and we have travelled a lot," explains Morgane Soland. "We draw our inspiration from the places we have visited. We decided that we wanted to create a place where we could accommodate guests, share our journey... an unusual place in stunning surroundings, that reflects our passion for travel."*

How did you come up with the idea for a "suspended" self-catering property?

For us, the magic of entertainment and travel represents a sort of "pause" in time. We wanted to find a place with the right buildings and surroundings, where we could reflect this notion of suspension, like "suspended time". Here, the trees and the vast buildings meant that we could create a space with clean, resolutely modern lines, like the suspended birch walkway created by Dutch architect Daya Bakker. The property's décor is inspired by great modern designers such as Herman Miller, Le Corbusier, Charles Eames and other Scandinavian designers. We've also placed interesting objects, furniture and curiosities around the property, to take our guests on a voyage through time and to explore the themes and concepts that inspire us.



Gîte "O'Prieur", Lieu-dit Le Prieur, Nieul Le Dolent  
 Capacity: 14 people  
 www.oprieur.com – Tel.: 00 33 (0)6 60 76 17 77  
 Contact: Morgane Soland and David Chausse

## La Ferme du Marais Girard (Brétignolles sur Mer)

**An ecolodge, an innovative living space, and a vast environmental project!**

La Ferme du Marais Girard is located in Brétignolles sur Mer, a seaside resort half-way between Les Sables d'Olonne et Saint Gilles Croix de Vie. It is a new tourist destination with strong environmental values, open all year round.

The property stands on the site of a former farm located 300 m from the beach and standing at the heart of a wetland area fed by a swale. This extraordinary holiday destination forms part of a vast environmental project. Interestingly, Damien and Marylène Lamy (known as Marylou), the couple behind the concept, used many of the old materials removed from the demolished farmhouse and the former barn. The entire project has been designed to reduce the overall environmental impact.

La Ferme du Marais Girard features two large spaces. **On one side, the luxury holiday village:** pontoon villas on stilts (the only examples of this particular design in France), situated among the reeds and powered by solar energy; studios in a former farm building, with stone walls and beams from the farmhouse that retain their original charm; a non-chlorinated pool; and, most astonishingly of all, a drying room where guests can dry their garments. The building uses the same clean air circulation techniques used in tobacco drying houses.

**On the other side, the former barn, known as "Le Comptoir",** designed as a shared living space for holiday-makers and locals, and entirely dedicated to organic produce. This multi-purpose space, which is particularly suited to hosting family events, features the "Garde-Manger" (a small organic delicatessen), an exhibition and organic market space (home-made organic dishes, bread, selection of teas and infusions, etc.) that can be transformed into a function room, a bar area featuring an authentic zinc bar dating back to 1950 and serving home-made lemonades and iced teas, organic pressed fruit juices, home-made pastries, and locally brewed organic beers. To the rear, the former cowshed has been converted into a stunning tearoom, where guests can relax on hay bales. The bales feature colourful covers made from recycled textiles, attached to hanging rails, for added comfort.

La Ferme du Marais Girard also offers a range of other services, including **organic catering and support for local producers (new)**. The "Garde-Manger" is equipped with a professional kitchen, where Marylou and Petra create primarily vegetable-based organic dishes, which are then sold in the market area. Marylou, a self-taught cook who is passionate about vegetables, trained under Gilles Daveau, a specialist in alternative cuisine. The 2016, Marylou has launched a range of home-made dishes made from 100% organic produce.

The greenhouse adjoining the barn at La Ferme du Marais Girard is also home to a local market gardener from Brem sur Mer, who **sells organic fruit and vegetables directly to customers**.

### First edition of the "Rendez-vous du Marais Girard" in 2016

In July and August, La Ferme du Marais Girard will play host to a programme of weekly tasting and meeting events with local producers (a total of eight events, featuring wine, tea, coffee and plants), environmental-themed exhibitions such as "art and recycling", open-air dance concerts and aqua-gym and yoga sessions.

*La Ferme du Marais Girard, 116 rue du Marais Girard, Brétignolles sur Mer  
Capacity: 4-6 people (villas of different capacity)  
www.lafermedumaraisgirard.fr – Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 33 08 70  
Contact: Marylène and Damien Lamy Papin*



## La Groizardière (Chateauneuf)

**New for 2015 – Large-capacity self-catering property**



This rustic, single-storey, 340 m<sup>2</sup> traditional former barn in north-western Vendée dates back to 1855. It is now a fully renovated self-catering property with heated indoor pool, making the ideal destination for a break with family or friends, located just a few kilometres from the beaches of Saint Jean de Monts and Noirmoutier Island.

The 90 m<sup>2</sup> living space, with fully equipped kitchen and modern amenities, features a dining area, lounge area, laundry room with appliances (washing machine, clothes dryer, etc.) and a separate entertainment room (TV, DVD player, etc.) opening out onto a terrace. The living room provides direct access to the indoor heated pool, measuring 9 m x 3.5 m, with a water temperature of 29°C all year round, as well as two terraces (east-facing and south-facing).

The sleeping quarters consist of five bedrooms, three of which have en-suite shower rooms (shower and toilet) and access to the terraces, while the remaining two rooms have a shared toilet and shower.

The garden, which covers a total area of 1,300 m<sup>2</sup>, features a patio and a selection of children's toys – the ideal place for young and old alike to enjoy the great outdoors. La Groizardière also has its own enclosed car park.

*La Groizardière, Chateauneuf*

*Capacity: 12 people*

*[www.lagroizardiere.com](http://www.lagroizardiere.com)*

*Tel. 00 33 (0)6 62 28 98 93 or 00 33 (0) 6 37 58 60 50*

*Contact: Florian and Aurélie Le Clere*



# Remarkable hotels in Vendée

## L'Hôtel d'Alexandre Couillon (Noirmoutier en l'île)

New 2016

Michelin-starred chef Alexandre Couillon (2 Michelin stars) and his wife Céline are embarking on a new project. After opening the La Marine restaurant and the La Table d'Elise bistro, the pair have now acquired an attractive property adjoining the two restaurants, opposite the Herbaudière fishing port and marina in Noirmoutier en l'île. In 2016, the property will be converted into a stunning, highly exclusive hotel with 5 bedrooms. The project is scheduled for completion in early 2017... watch this space.



*Restaurant La Marine, 5 Rue Marie Lemonnier, Port de l'Herbaudière, Noirmoutier en l'île*  
[www.alexandrecoillon.com](http://www.alexandrecoillon.com)  
Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 39 23 09  
Contact: Alexandre and Céline Couillon



## Hôtel Esperanza (Noirmoutier en l'île)

New 2016

Hôtel Esperanza is located just 100 m from the centre of Noirmoutier en l'île, with its mediaeval château and its heritage port, in a quiet side street. The hotel is currently having a makeover. Laurence, the new owner, is overseeing the initial phase of the renovation works, and 8 of the 25 rooms will be fully redecorated in traditional Noirmoutier colours and tones (natural wood and blue).

As well as its ideal location, the hotel also boasts landscaped grounds where breakfasts are served on warm days. Guests can hire bicycles on site.

*Hôtel L'Esperanza (2 stars), 10 A Rue du Grand Four, Noirmoutier en l'île*  
[www.hotel-esperanza.fr](http://www.hotel-esperanza.fr) – Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 39 12 07 –  
Email: [hotel.esperanza@free.fr](mailto:hotel.esperanza@free.fr)  
Contact: Laurence Geslain



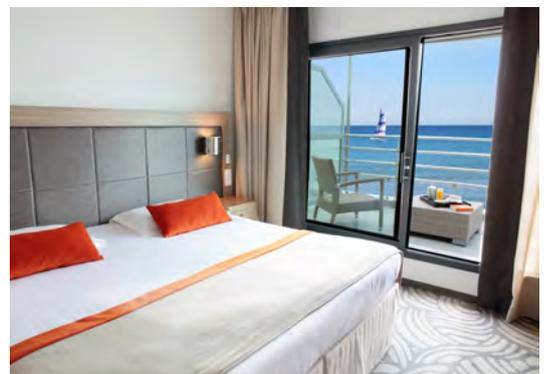
## Atlantic Hôtel & Spa (Les Sables d'Olonne)

New: wellness area

The Atlantic Hotel stands on the promenade along the beach in Les Sables d'Olonne and is one of the resort's finest establishments. It boasts 34 bedrooms, including 15 rooms with a private loggia overlooking the sea, and 3 superior rooms with a sea view and terrace on the 6th floor. The hotel has been fully renovated in recent years, and is now a warm, intimate and carefully designed space, equipped with the very latest technology. Guests can relax in the hotel's very own swimming pool, which is heated to 29°C. The Le Sloop restaurant serves up exquisite dishes all year round. The head chef composes mouth-watering dishes with tastes that switch between land and sea. It is a style of cooking that glorifies local products and highlights their quality and freshness.

A brand new spa opened at the Atlantic Hotel in 2015. The spa is a dedicated area for total relaxation, with an infinity jacuzzi, a steam room with twinkling ceiling lights, an ice fountain, an infrared sauna, a multi-sensory dual shower and a tea room. The treatment area features two "single or dual" cabins.

*Atlantic Hotel (4 stars), 5 Promenade Georges Godet, Les Sables d'Olonne*  
[www.atlantichotel.fr](http://www.atlantichotel.fr) – Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 95 37 71  
Contact: Jean-Etienne Blanchard



## L'Hostellerie du Général d'Elbée (Ile de Noirmoutier)

New for 2016

The new owners, directors of a Vendée-based manufacturing firm, recently acquired the stunning Le Général d'Elbée hotel, having fallen for the charms of Noirmoutier Island and its riches in their childhood. This 18th-century building – a listed Historic Monument – has now been given a new lease of life.

The establishment is now run by Emilie Frelon and her partner Vincent Lebouteiller. They have lofty ambitions for the property: to turn it into a 4-star hotel and to offer guests sumptuous surroundings, exceptional services and the very best comfort, all year round.

The work began in January and will be completed in May 2016, just in time for the new tourist season. The hotel is scheduled to undergo five months of intensive work, including a complete overhaul of the existing spaces to bring them in line with current standards (disabled visitor access standards, safety standards, etc.), thermal insulation and sound-proofing, a new heating and air-conditioning system, Internet access in all rooms and communal areas, and re-design and decoration work.

The overall aim of the project is to create a more luxurious, higher-end hotel. This new positioning will involve the launch of new services, in addition to the existing offering, including a new wellness area developed in partnership with prestigious cosmetics brand Nuxe, to meet growing demand for this type of service. Building on the brand's knowledge and expertise, Nuxe Spas have developed a reputation as a leading brand, offering a combination of effectiveness, well-being, elegance and pleasure. This new partnership will help the Le Général d'Elbée hotel to cement its position as the leading destination on Noirmoutier Island, in all seasons.

In summer, guests will be able to enjoy the pool in the middle of the lush, green gardens and admire the sunset from the bar, serving delicious cocktails with views over the port. In winter, guests will be able to relax by the warmth of the fire in the lounge after enjoying a relaxing session in the wellness area or a romantic walk along the Jacobsen jetty. The lounge areas will be available for private seminars, family functions or business meetings.

The hotel is more than just a place for guests to sleep. It is a brand new, vibrant destination on Noirmoutier Island, holding cultural events in a venue that is perfectly designed for exploration and discussion.

The hotel will feature 26 individually designed rooms, ranging from traditional double rooms to the "Général" suite and the family apartment. The proprietors have commissioned the services of Chantal Peyrat to help bring this charming and surprising vision to life. Chantal is an interior architect with extensive experience of working on large hotels, including properties owned by the Barrière chain. She immediately shared the new owners' love for this property, with its exceptional location at the heart of Noirmoutier-en-l'Île, overlooking the old port and close to local shops and businesses, nestled between the mediaeval castle and the famous Jacobsen jetty.

The entire team working on this project is committed to restoring the Le Général d'Elbée hotel to its former glory, retaining its authentic charms while adding a touch of quirkiness and modernism.



## L'Hostellerie du Général d'Elbée

### Interview:

*You and your partner, Vincent Lebouteiller, have taken over this property and plan to give it a new lease of life. Did you fall in love with this property the first time you saw it? Why did you choose this hotel in particular?*



*First of all, it's important to stress that we've undergone a complete career change. So we're approaching the hospitality industry with a fresh, external perspective. We're looking to build on our past experience and our passion for travel, architecture and personalised service. Given that we're relatively young (28 and 31 respectively), we have the energy that this project demands!*

*It's a fresh start for both of us. Both my partner and I are embarking on an entirely new career.*

*I'm originally from Vendée, but I've spent most of my career to date working in Paris as a personal coach and psychologist. It's a particularly useful background, since I have plenty of experience working directly with people and listening attentively to their needs – important skills for anyone running their own business, especially in the hospitality sector. So now I'm getting back to my roots, returning to my home region to be closer to my family.*

*Vincent is Parisian and has previously worked as a corporate lawyer, before completing a Cultural Management degree at a business school in Paris (ESCP -EAP). He then worked in the market research and communication strategy sector. This is why our plan is to turn the Le Général d'Elbée hotel into more than just a tourist destination. We also want to make it a cultural hub, for both hotel guests, external parties and the local population of Noirmoutier.*

*For us, it's more than just a business – it's a personal project and, of course, a family project too. My partner and I are embarking on this journey together, with the support of the family-owned business, which is the major shareholder. By chance, the company offered us an opportunity to take over the running of the Le Général d'Elbée hotel. It was a crazy idea, that came completely out of the blue, yet we didn't hesitate for even a second!*

*In answer to your question, I wouldn't say that we "fell in love" with the place. It's more than that. This hotel is part of my childhood memories, just as it is for many people who spend their holidays and their summers on the island. For local residents on Noirmoutier, the hotel is an institution!*

*All of this makes the challenge even more daunting for us. The locals have a strong attachment to the hotel. This was demonstrated when we held an open sale to clear out all the old furniture from the hotel. Everyone came along to get their hands on a piece of history, and to take away a souvenir of the place. Most people are delighted that the hotel is in new hands and is being renovated. That's the most important thing to us – we want to make sure that the local people are happy with our project.*

*Although I've known this place for many years, I'd never been inside it before. The building can seem rather imposing, but as soon as you step inside you get a sense that it has a unique "soul" and a singular atmosphere. It's a place packed with character.*

*The first time we visited the hotel, we could see its potential straight away. Our eyes were drawn to the charming nooks and crannies in every area of the property, including the lounges, the garden, patios, the verandas... and, of course, the bedrooms, each of which is different and has its own, unique charms.*

*Our aim is to create a place where people feel comfortable, at home and at ease... while offering a level of service that they can't get at home. In our view, this is the key to success. Although we still have a lot of work to do, we can all see the vast potential that this property holds. We can't wait to get started in the new season!*



*L'Hostellerie du Général d'Elbée, 1 Place d'Armes, 2 Quai Cassard, Noirmoutier en l'île  
Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 39 10 29 or 00 33 (0)6 77 10 28 26*

*Contact: Emilie Frelon and Vincent Lebouteiller*



## Côte Ouest \*\*\*\* Wellness Hôtel Thalasso & Spa (Les Sables d'Olonne)

Just like an ocean liner...

The Côte Ouest Wellness Hotel Thalasso & Spa \*\*\*\* faces the ocean with an outstanding view of Les Sables d'Olonne bay. Tucked away in a 3.5-hectare pine forest by a lake, the establishment makes the most of its west-facing exposure which provides great light from sunrise to sunset. The site's features guided the renovation style for the hotel in 2013: Destination Côté Ouest, the ambiance of a cruise ship in the 1930s.

"Set your sights on the lighthouse, put down your luggage and untie the mooring ropes!"

More information on page?

*Hôtel Côte Ouest (4 stars),*

*Route du Tour de France, Lac de Tanchet, CS 20339,*

*85109, Les Sables d'Olonne Cedex 9*

*Owners: Sylvie and Jean-Paul Dubreuil*

[www.hotel-coteouest.com](http://www.hotel-coteouest.com) – Tel. 00 33 2 51 21 77 77 – [H1078@accor.com](mailto:H1078@accor.com)

## Terragora Lodges (Les Epesses)

A charming, unusual and eco-friendly hotel

In Les Epesses (the same municipality as Le Puy du Fou®), "Terragora Lodges" has invented a new universe with its hotel complex focusing on eco-tourism. Close to the Sèvre Nantaise area, in a natural valley bathed in silence, combining stone, water and woodland along with flowering meadows, the new Eco Lodges complex was created for the start of summer 2013. Standing in 19-hectare, protected grounds, the complex boasts 8 unusually shaped lodges, 16 cabins and a central 250 sq. m. area for the living area (library and lounge) with fireplace. The complex is open all year round, and is particularly popular with lovers of the great outdoors.

The "Nymphéa" rooms, on stilts, overlook the wetlands and are adorned in silver birch. Sleek lines contrast with lush nature in the midst of nature... The "Terrier" rooms in bare earth emerge like lunar igloos to round out the space. The "Chrysalide" cocoon rooms are decorated in copper, wood and zinc, stretching up towards the treetops. Cabins in chestnut wood blend into the forest and overlook the stream meandering between blocks of granite. Three cabin themes make for very comfortable havens in touch with nature.

Some 70% of the hot water is produced using solar energy and heating is provided in part by stoves and fireplaces. For the owners, the ecological consistency of the project is paramount. It includes both energy-saving criteria and a choice of natural materials along with a certain ideological approach to life in nature with harmonious and aesthetic constructions.

*Terragora Lodges, La Poizelière, Les Epesses*

*www.terradora-lodges.com – Tel. 00 33 (0)6 24 70 75 99*

*Contact: Sylvie and Jean-Pierre Gaborit*



## Domaine de la Boulaie (Treize Vents)

New for 2015 (August)

Once upon a time... there were some unusual lodges  
Véronique and Christophe Payré have created a timeless village of 14 lodges, standing in grounds of 30 hectares, steeped in history and surrounded by ancient and luxurious plants and trees.

The Domaine du la Boulaie is an innovative accommodation concept, featuring unusual wooden lodges, all designed to reflect a common, timeless theme that echoes the surroundings:  **fairy tales**. Guests can sleep in the Donkeyskin refuge, succumb to Prince Charming, explore the Sorcerer's Cave or the Ogre's Den... and enjoy a family break in a fairy tale kingdom.

Enjoy a meal at "La Table presque Ronde du chevalier" (the almost-round knights' table), a small country grill lodge serving grilled vegetables, duck breast, etc. and offering picnic hampers – perfect for a day out at Le Puy du Fou, less than 10 km away.

*Le Domaine de la Boulaie, Treize-Vents*

*Capacity: 4-8 people (lodges of different capacity)*

*www.domaine-de-la-boulaie.fr – Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 65 71 94*

*Contact: Véronique and Christophe Payré*



Remarkable hotels in Vendée



## Domaine de la Chabotterie (Saint Sulpice le Verdon)

New restaurant: "Bistrot Côté Potager"

Near the Logis de la Chabotterie and the restaurant with two Michelin stars, Chef Thierry Drapeau and his wife Karine have opened a unique luxury hotel in a pure style in harmony with nature. It is strongly bound to the atmosphere that can be felt in the restaurant and in the fine cuisine of Thierry Drapeau... The idea being to ensure continuity after dinner.

The 14 rooms are certainly luxurious with contrasting colours. Designed to be part of nature, the hotel has 6 "Superior" rooms, 5 Junior Suites and 3 suites. Each room features a flat-screen television, mini bar, access to free broadband Wi-Fi, a safe, an Illy coffee machine and a terrace overlooking the countryside. There is even a heliport for those in a hurry.

The **unique concept** of the Thierry Drapeau hotel is based on the **creation of a bakery, chocolate shop and tea room and boutique** selling products made on site at the heart of the hotel. What could be better than to wake up in the morning to the scent of fresh pastries? Prize-winning chef Thierry Drapeau comes to meet his customers every morning at breakfast (served in three services). At weekends, groups of families and friends can come and enjoy "brunch" on Saturdays and Sundays (from €29 per person).

There is a **wellness area with** jacuzzi and sauna for the ultimate in relaxation.

**New: the "Bistrot Côté Potager" restaurant by Thierry Drapeau**

In February 2016, Thierry Drapeau will be opening the "Bistrot Côté Potager" restaurant on the ground floor of the 4-star hotel.

The restaurant will be located in open countryside and 200 m from the fine-dining restaurant opened in 2001 in the former servants' quarters of the Logis de la Chabotterie. The chef is returning to his roots, producing dishes such as hay-smoked veal with butternut and leek cream, or fish "cotriade". And for dessert, Thierry will be serving up a unique trolley of around 15 different pastries.

*Hôtel Domaine de la Chabotterie (4 stars), La Chabotterie, Saint Sulpice le Verdon*

*www.restaurant-thierrydrapeau.com – Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 40 00 03*

*Contact: Thierry Drapeau*



## Château Hôtel du Boisniard (Chambretau)

Vendée's 5-star hotel

On the slopes of Le Boisniard, which appears to have been inhabited from the dawn of civilisation, now stand a château, a small manor, annexes and... wooden houses. It is here that Jean-Michel and Louisianne decided to restore the Château du Boisniard to its former glory and to make it a focal point for fine living in Vendée.

In the château and manor, fine rooms with evocative names give free rein to dreams and romance. The newly arrived wooden houses blend into the green landscape of the grounds of the château... like a prestigious, comfortable version of Robin Hood.

The hotel's exceptional services include a spa, and cookery lessons given by the chef from the "La Table du Boisniard" restaurant.

### New for 2015: a talented young chef at the "La Table du Boisniard" restaurant

In order to enhance its fine-dining provision, the restaurant at Château Hôtel du Boisniard has recently employed the services of a talented young chef, Aurélien Jousseau. The young chef, aged 27 and originally from Vendée, has already earned his spurs at prestigious restaurants such as *Le Guy Savoy* (3 Michelin stars, Paris), *Le Grand Vétour* in Paris, *La Table de Monstequieu* in Gironde and, most recently, *l'Hostellerie de Plaisance* (2 Michelin stars, Saint Emilion), the restaurant owned by famous TV chef Philippe Etchebest.

## Hôtels Ibis and Ibis budget

### (Mouilleron le Captif - La Roche sur Yon)

The **Ibis hotel** in Roche sur Yon is committed to reducing paper consumption in the hotel, and in particular newspapers and magazines. The hotel has therefore recently purchased five iPads, which are available in the hotel's restaurant. Customers can download the app free of charge and enjoy unlimited, 24-hour access, allowing them to browse new stories from more than 3,500 titles.

Renovation work on the 88-room **Ibis Budget Hotel** will be completed in two phases. The work will commence in December 2015 and will last for three months. The renovation work will involve the creation of 16 family rooms that can accommodate up to 5 adult guests. The hotel's owners have commissioned the services of an architect to create family spaces that "feel like home". The rooms will also be targeted at guests looking for comfort, with space to work and relax in their room.

The second phase of renovation work will focus on the rooms on the second and third floors. These will be converted to "100% Cocoon" rooms, in line with the latest Ibis Budget room standards.

The outdoor areas were extensively overhauled in 2014. Renovation work will continue on the façades of both hotels (Ibis and Ibis Budget).

*Ibis Hotel, 160 Rue du Clair Bocage, Mouilleron le Captif*  
*Ibis Budget Hotel, 180 Rue du Clair Bocage, Mouilleron le Captif*  
 Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 37 82 82 or 00 33 (0)6 32 53 16 16  
 Contact: Mathieu Parent

## Hôtel Mercure (La Roche sur Yon)

This hotel, located in the centre of La Roche sur Yon, underwent a full renovation of all 67 rooms in 2015, with a modern, colourful style. Baroque influences combine with ultra-contemporary decorative elements to great effect. The hotel also features sculptures by Vendée-based artist Sylvie Delorme, including an animal totem pole on the first floor, like a new twist on the "hunting trophy".

*Hôtel Mercure (4 stars), 117 Boulevard Aristide Briand, La Roche sur Yon -Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 46 28 00*

*Château Boisniard (5 stars) (restaurant: 2 forks in the Michelin Guide),  
 Chambretau  
 www.chateau-boisniard.com – Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 67 50 01*



# Wellness and thalassotherapy in Vendée

## Sea Mud: exclusive to the Thalasso (Saint-Jean-de-Monts)



The Thalasso de Saint-Jean-de-Monts is the only salt-water spa treatment centre that capitalises on the benefits of sea mud from Bourgneuf bay. This fresh, non-recycled mud is applied at a temperature of 45°C or less, according to the doctor's prescription. This mud is rich in mineral nutrients and possess analgesic, healing properties.

It comes from the nearby Bourgneuf bay, which is famous for the quality of its water, rich in plankton and responsible for the development of a vast oyster population between the mainland and Noirmoutier Island.



The mud is made up of fine sediments transported by the tides of the Loire and carved out of the banks by the sea. Over time, they are washed repeatedly by the waves and the tides, accumulating slowly on the bed of the bay. These rich terrestrial compounds are supplemented by marine elements such as plankton, algae and mineral salts, deposited in layers to create complex, microscopic structures known as "honeycombs", which trap molecules of sea water inside.

### New for 2016: the "Essentiel Thalasso" treatment

Enjoy the full benefits of the sea and give your body a deep cleanse: this programme gets straight to the point, helping to recharge body with minerals and marine mineral nutrients.

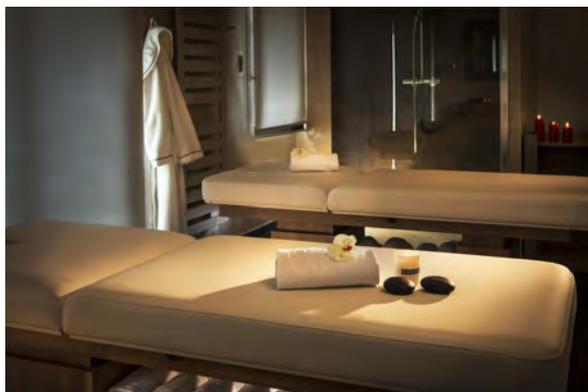
Recommended once a year or, ideally, at the changing of the seasons.

OBJECTIVES: Boost your health. Improve vitality and tone.

RESTORE LOST MINERALS: 3 algae cream wraps. 2 natural Saint Jean de Monts sea mud wraps / 2 sea-water showers / 4 hydro-massage baths with sea crystals or algae jelly.

BOOST YOUR VITALITY AND TONE: 3 aqua-activity sessions, such as aqua-biking, aqua-body, aqua-fitness, etc.

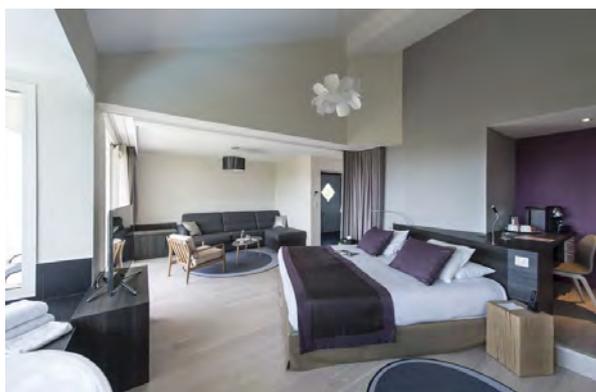
**Price: €930** for a 7 day/6 night break, per person, half-board (based on two sharing a double room), in a three-star hotel.



### The Atlantic Thalasso Hotel

The Best Western hotel is connected directly with the thalassotherapy centre. It offers an elegant combination of harmony, refinement and high-quality service.

The hotel has introduced three new "Suite Bulle" rooms, with a private indoor jacuzzi bath or outdoor jacuzzi bath on a private terrace ("Suite Bulle Horizon"). Each room has a lounge area, is south-facing and is fully air-conditioned.



*Thalasso Saint Jean de Monts, Atlantic Thalasso Hotel (3 stars), 12 Avenue des Pays de Monts, Saint-Jean-de-Monts*

*Thalasso.com – Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 59 15 15*

*Contact: Emeline Diard*



## Côte Ouest, the cruise ship (Les Sables d'Olonne)

In Les Sables d'Olonne, the Hôtel Côte Ouest & Relais Thalasso faces the ocean with an outstanding view of Les Sables d'Olonne bay. Tucked away in a 3.5-hectare pine forest by the Lac de Tanchet, the establishment makes the most of its west-facing exposure which provides great light from sunrise to sunset.

Côte Ouest was born out of a passion for the sea and antiques. It is an imaginary, yet authentic cruise ship that invites observers into the mythical world of grand cruises and round-the-world adventures.

Outside, a huge lighthouse guides you to canopies that protect you from the weather. Although the sand-bottom infinity pool draws the gaze, the 200 parking places are hidden by the pine forest.

In reception the tone is set: a desk evocative of old trunks, metal beams... in the lounge bar are club armchairs, Chesterfields, old pedestal tables, all creating an atmosphere with a hint of "British Empire" to it. The restaurant faces the sea and is reminiscent of an old, restored ship hangar with its old bricks and metal beams. The place is given that extra touch thanks to huge light fixtures with crystal pendants (Timothy Oulton). There is a lovely cosy feel to the staircase. The 94 rooms and three suites have been entirely redecorated in a "cabin" style with paintings by Rod Stribley (an English painter who specialises in old ships) and lights by Eicholtz, Flamant and Chehoma. Warm colours, thick carpets and all rooms come with balconies.

### Thalassotherapy & Spa: the benefits of the sea

The tides, rocks and algae – all with powerful ionisation properties – were the determining factors in the decision to locate the Les Sables d'Olonne thalassotherapy centre on the banks of the Lac de Tanchet. Some 250 m from the edge of the beach is a 10-metre-deep well from which sea water is pumped, in line with the tides.

The thalassotherapy centre draws on the expertise of Maison Phelippeau (a family-owned business that has already worked with the Relais Thalasso in La Baule, Bénodet and Ile de Ré). The Relais Thalasso in Les Sables d'Olonne is the first such centre operated as a franchise.

The thalassotherapy & spa centre covers a total area of 1,490 m<sup>2</sup>, and features 8 attractive treatment cabins and a dual cabin overlooking the sea. Wraps, baths, underwater jets and sculpting massages are all "flagship" rituals in thalassotherapy. In the lounges or at the Bar de la Tisanerie, waiting times become a moment to take a break. The centre relies on the knowledge and expertise of a team of water therapists, physiotherapists and beauty specialists in addition to skills in nutrition, fitness coaching and relaxation.

For an unforgettable spa break, the new cocoon area with eight booths, three of which face the sea, offers massages, relaxation and beauty treatments. Guests can also indulge in a dual multi-sensory experience overlooking the sea in a VIP suite – a space fully devoted to wellness. Enjoy the pleasures of a pair wellness ritual, including steam room, massage, salt water jacuzzi... a glass of champagne and a few delicious treats!

A range of specially selected products is used to extend the beneficial effects of the marine environment (Labiomer cosmetics, Décléor beauty products, Hormeta luxury products).

**New for 2016: wellness à la carte!** Personal guidance and assistance from health and wellness professionals, to help you understand and modify some habits that can upset your day-to-day balance (naturopath, dietician, osteopath, reflexologist and sports coach): a great way to take stock of your general health and get your body in perfect harmony (booking required).

Further health benefits can be enjoyed using hydromarin treatments: sea-water pool heated to 32°C, swan neck jets, bubble benches, counterflow walking, jacuzzi, underwater jets and an area for aqua-aerobics. The wellness area also includes a gym (with professional instructors), a sauna, an oriental steam room and an aromatherapy room.

### 2016: what's new at Côte Ouest

New bathrooms overlooking the ocean and 9 new bedrooms with panoramic terraces.

*Hôtel Mercure Côte Ouest (4 stars) and Relais Thalasso, Route du Tour de France, Lac de Tanchet, Les Sables d'Olonne*

Press contact: Cloé Martineau - 00 33 (0)2 51 21 77 81.

[www.hotel-coteouest.com](http://www.hotel-coteouest.com) – Tel. 00 33 2 51 21 77 77



## Even more wellness in Vendée

### Spa Atlantic hôtel (Les Sables d'Olonne)

A brand new spa opened at the Atlantic Hotel in 2015. The spa is a dedicated area for total relaxation, with an infinity jacuzzi, a steam room with twinkling ceiling lights, an ice fountain, an infrared sauna, a multi-sensory dual shower and a tea room. The treatment area features two "single or dual" cabins.

More information about the hotel on page????

*Atlantic Hotel (4 stars), 5 Promenade Georges Godet, Les Sables d'Olonne  
www.atlantichotel.fr – Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 95 37 71  
Contact: Jean-Etienne Blanchard*



Wellness and thalassotherapy in Vendée



### "Inner wellness" at the Résidence Belle Plage (La Tranche sur Mer)

New

The Résidence Belle Plage, in partnership with Santé Forma, offers a range of "inner wellness" courses for members of the public and professionals. The 2016 programme includes: aromatherapy essentials, Ayurvedic massage, an introduction to facial reflexology, sophrology, stress management, etc.

The property boasts an exceptional setting facing the sea, and features all mod cons, making it the ideal place to enjoy these training courses. So head to La Tranche sur Mer for a truly serene experience!

*Résidence Belle Plage – 41 bis rue Anatole France – La Tranche sur Mer  
Contact: Alain Guicheteau  
www.residencebelleplage.com – Tel. 00 33 (0)6 80 43 72 51*

### The Sion thalassotherapy centre gets the go-ahead (Saint Hilaire de Riez)

The long-awaited third thalassotherapy centre in Vendée will open in 2018. Legendary French rugby player Serge Blanco, who now heads a chain of thalassotherapy centres, was persuaded by the charms of Vendée. It is a vast project, with the centre covering a total surface area of 8,900 m<sup>2</sup> over three floors, including 1,900 m<sup>2</sup> devoted to thalassotherapy (indoor and outdoor sea-water pools, 38 sea-water spa treatment cabins, etc.)... a project to be followed with interest!



# What's new in Vendée camping

## Major investments



### Le Pin Parasol (La Chapelle-Hermier)

At the Le Pin Parasol\*\*\*\*\* campsite, which overlooks the Lac du Jaunay, tourists can benefit from a unique location perfect for holidays in harmony with nature. Guests have a choice of 379 comfortable accommodation options, all set on spacious, demarcated pitches, standing in peaceful grounds of 12 hectares. The campsite, which is open between April and September, has preserved this unique environment for more than 10 years, and was awarded the European Ecolabel in 2011. Located just 10 minutes from the beaches, it also makes the ideal base for exploring Vendée. The campsite celebrated its 20th birthday in 2014. Over the years, the team has gained extensive experience in listening attentively to customer needs and providing warmth and hospitality to guests. The campsite's managers, Céline Martineau and Patrice Garandeau, are continuing to introduce new services and features to perpetuate this tradition.



In the run-up to the 2016 season, the reception (the campsite's main hub, offering all the services of a 5-star establishment) is undergoing a vast transformation. This space will be modernised, with sober tones and trendy décors. The aim of the renovation work is to make life easier for the campsite's staff (reception and bookings) and to provide a more welcoming, high-end environment for the campsite's customers, including its VIP guests. The reception will now feature a library area, a games area, and an area featuring tourist information about Vendée. The overall aim is to provide the very highest level of service to all guests at the Le Pin Parasol\*\*\*\*\* campsite.



*Le Pin Parasol (5 stars), Châteaulong, La Chapelle-Hermier  
www.campingpinparasol.fr – Tel.: 00 33 (0)2 51 34 64 72  
Contact: Céline Martineau*

### La Garangeoire Castel Camping (Saint Julien des Landes)

**New for 2016: a 700 m<sup>2</sup> lagoon and a 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> beach**

The La Garangeoire Castel Camping five-star campsite is located just 15 minutes from the beaches at Brétignolles-sur-Mer. It is a stunning location, set among a preserved natural environment within tree-lined grounds of 200 hectares.

Guests are spoilt for choice when it comes to activities and new experiences, with fishing in the property's four fish-filled lakes, walking, horse-riding, cycling, tennis, football, basketball, archery, canoeing, pedal boats, trampolines and a go-kart circuit.

The campsite opened in May 2015 and boasts a natural beach, a lagoon with untreated water that is perfect for swimming, and a fine-sand beach covering 1,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The lagoon has been specially designed for children, and has a maximum depth of between 90 cm and 1 m.

The lagoon is open every day between 11 am and 6 pm. It is south-facing and is equipped with parasols, standing among a stunning natural environment, surrounded by wooden beach boards that give it a genuine seaside feel.

*La Garangeoire Castel Camping (5 stars), Saint Julien des Landes  
www.camping-la-garangeoire.com - Tel.: 00 33 (0)2 51 46 65 39  
Contact: Anne de Kerautem Bourgon*



## Major investments

### Domaine de l'Oiselière (Chauché)

#### New for 2016

The Domaine de l'Oiselière is an exceptional campsite, which opened in April 2015. It covers a total of 7 hectares and features 20 open pitches (250 m<sup>2</sup> each) and 14 eco and/or fun lodges.

The Domaine de l'Oiselière was set up by young entrepreneurs and is open all year round. In the first year, 20 spacious, open pitches (250 m<sup>2</sup> each) were redesigned. The pitches are now surrounded by traditional hedges composed of local plant species. A new washroom block, with disabled access, was also opened.

In 2015, the campsite opened a new 4,000 m<sup>2</sup> play area, where children can have fun in the undulating, wooded landscape. It features hiding places, tunnels, slides and sandpits. For wooden chalets were fully renovated and fitted-out to offer shelter in both summer and winter. A total of 1,500 trees and shrubs were planted to enhance the landscape.

In 2016, the Domaine de l'Oiselière is once again looking forward to a prolific year. On 15 May, a heated swimming pool measuring around 120 m<sup>2</sup> will be opened, along with a wading pool for little ones (closed from 15 September onwards). Guests will also be able to relax on a sunlounger among the plants and stone paths around the edge of the pool. The campsite will also introduce 10 new eco and fun self-catering lodges, including two "Original" lodges (eco-lodges with mezzanine), two "Lodges" (from a local supplier, made from canvas and wood, without washroom facilities), two fun "Coco Lodges" (also from a local supplier) and four "Cottages" (cosy, 45 m<sup>2</sup> renovated properties made from wood).

The team also offers high-end, innovative services, in a preserved natural environment. Services include breakfast delivered to your lodge, beds made before arrival, and personalised advice to ensure you get the very best out of your stay.

Cycling is the best way to explore the grounds and the surrounding forest. Guests have **free** use of mountain bikes, for both adults and children (deposit required).

The Domaine de l'Oiselière is the perfect destination for nature-lovers.

*Domaine de L'Oiselière (4 stars), Chauché*

[www.loiseliere.com](http://www.loiseliere.com) - Tel.: 00 33 (0)2 51 41 38 74

Contact: *Lalaina Rakotoniaina, and Judicaël and Elisabeth Rouzineau*



### L'Ambois (Mouilleron Le Captif)

#### New: a summer ice rink

This 3-star campsite is located not far from La Roche sur Yon in central Vendée, making it the ideal base to explore the entire region, including Le Puy du Fou, the Marais Poitevin and the Vendée beaches. The campsite has a covered, heated pool, a mini-farm, a mini-golf course and a go-kart circuit (new for 2016). Guests at L'Ambois can rent mobile homes, chalets, self-catering properties and open pitches, spread across a site covering 8 hectares.

In 2016, the owners will introduce Vendée's very first synthetic ice rink – environmentally friendly, recyclable and designed for fun! This new "ice rink" will provide an unusual alternative to traditional summer activities, allowing guests to enjoy an activity that is rarely on offer during the summer months... without having to suffer the cold of winter!

*Camping l'Ambois (3 stars Gîtes de France), 13 Lieu-dit Ambois, Mouilleron le Captif*

[www.campingambois.com](http://www.campingambois.com) – Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 37 29 15

Contact: *Carole Pousse*



## GLAMPING IN VENDEE

What's new in Vendée camping



### Village de la Guyonnière (Saint Julien des Landes)

The village is located near the Lac du Jaunay and can be accessed directly from the campsite. It stands among green, relaxing surroundings. Situated just a few kilometres from the beaches at Brétignolles sur Mer, Saint Gilles Croix de Vie and Les Sables d'Olonne, the Camping La Guyonnière campsite is the ideal base for exploring the riches of Vendée and enjoying the variety of cultural, fun and sporting activities on offer.

At the campsite, guests can rent chalets, mobile homes and pitches for tents, caravans or motor-homes. The grass pitches, each of which measures an average of 225 m<sup>2</sup>, feature open, shaded or semi-shaded spaces and are designed with comfort and privacy in mind.

La Guyonnière also offers a range of unusual "Glamping" accommodation options, including safari lodges on stilts (for 6-8 people), "Woody Lodges" with 2 or 3 bedrooms, and the very latest addition in 2015, the FAMILY ZEN. This product offers a luxury, VIP camping experience. These "new generation" lodges, located on the "Les Coteaux" field, can accommodate up to 4 people. These properties offer all the comfort and equipment of a mobile home, but with an attractive wood frame construction and untreated wood furnishings. Each lodge has a private Zen area where guests can relax in the great outdoors (incorporated into the terrace), as well as a raised private solarium with a panoramic view over the Grand Pré field and the pond.

*Village de la Guyonnière (5 stars), La Guyonnière, Saint Julien des Landes*

*www.camping-guyonniere.com- Tel.: 00 33 (0)2 51 46 62 59*

*Contact: Pierre Jaspers*

### La Pomme de Pin (Saint Hilaire de Riez)

This 4-star campsite is ideally situated just 200 m from the sea, with direct access to the beach and local shops and amenities. Guests can access the Plage des Mouettes on foot, without a car, via a coastal path across the dune. The Yelloh! Village La Pomme de Pin provides a lush, green environment for guests, with trees and flowers. Holiday-makers have access to a range of services on site, including an aquatic area, a bar, restaurant, delicatessen, a wellness area, a gym, entertainment and a children's club. Cycle trails and shuttle bus services are available at the entrance to the campsite.

La Pomme de Pin is also riding on the Glamping trend, and has introduced a number of new-generation holiday rental properties. **The lodge tent** on stilts is the ideal option for a stress-free camping experience, with an unspoiled view of the forest, the dune and the ocean (capacity: 4 people, no running water or washrooms).

**The "Cap Deseo" cottage** is an ultra-modern and comfortable option. The cottage boasts a second panoramic terrace with a small lounge area on the roof, which can be accessed via a flight of steps. The cottages have been erected on the outskirts of the campsite, with a view across the dunes (capacity: 4 people, full amenities). **The "Taos" cottage**, meanwhile, is a spacious property that offers the ultimate in comfort. It consists of a master bedroom with en-suite shower room (walk-in shower), a safe, and two further bedrooms. Linen and towels are provided. The cottage boasts a semi-covered terrace with garden furniture and sun loungers, as well as a second relaxation area with an outdoor lounge space. The ultimate in luxury camping!

*La Pomme de Pin (4 stars), 6 Avenue des Becs, Saint Hilaire de Riez*

*www.campingpommedepin.fr – Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 58 21 26*

*Contact: Gaëlle Puaud and Virginie Sarrazin*



## Unusual accommodation options

### Le Bois Joly (Saint Jean de Monts)

Located close to the centre of Saint Jean de Monts and just 1 km from the large, fine-sand beach, Le Bois Joly is a 4-star campsite featuring 382 high-quality pitches, each surrounded by planted hedges, over a site measuring 7.5 hectares. The campsite offers rented pitches, chalets, caravan-style mobile homes and furnished tents. It boasts an aqua park with solarium beach area, a heated, covered pool and jacuzzi, a large 20-metre pool with wading pool and 4 water slides.

#### Unusual feature of this campsite

The caravans: this 2/4-person caravan boasts a Bohemian atmosphere; made entirely of wood and featuring 2 bedrooms, with a fitted kitchen, shower unit and separate toilet. It also has an open-air concrete terrace.

*Le Bois Joly (4 stars), 46 Rue de Notre Dame de Monts, Saint Jean de Monts  
www.camping-leboisjoly.com – Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 59 11 63  
Contact: Mr Lousteau  
www.camping-leboisjoly.com – tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 59 11 63  
Contact : Monsieur Lousteau*



### Le Paradis (Talmont Saint Hilaire)

The Paradis is a 4-star campsite located in the seaside resort of Talmont Saint Hilaire, between Jard sur Mer and Les Sables d'Olonne. The 3.6-hectare, naturally undulating and tree-lined site is the ideal spot for family holidays by the seaside, yet with the added benefit of a peaceful countryside setting. The campsite offers a wide range of ultra-comfortable accommodation options, including mobile home rentals, chalet rentals, canvas bungalows and pitches.

#### Unusual features of this campsite

**The "Coco Sweet" lodges:** with its unique design, the Coco Suite bungalow is a brand-new, functional, cosy, fun, comfortable and fully equipped concept (capacity: 4 people – 2 bedrooms – no washroom facilities)

**The "Maori" lodges:** this lodge takes you back to camping as it should be, in harmony with nature, yet with an added touch of comfort. Rather than simple windows, the openings in the Maori lodge face upward towards the sky, the treetops and the stars! The transparent, central roof bathes the interior in light. The lodge consists of a robust wooden frame covered with flexible canvas (capacity: 4 people – 2 bedrooms – no washroom facilities).

*Le Paradis (4 stars), Rue de la Source,  
Talmont-Saint-Hilaire  
[www.camping-leparadis85.com](http://www.camping-leparadis85.com)  
Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 22 22 36  
Contact: Jean-Marie Senghor*



## Eco-properties and nature

What's new in Vendée camping



### La Dune des Sables and L'Océano d'Or (Les Sables d'Olonne and Jard sur Mer)

In November 2015, two campsites owned by the Chadotel group (La Dune des Sables in Les Sables d'Olonne, and L'Océano d'Or in Jard sur Mer) were awarded the European Ecolabel – certification that recognises the environmental work that these two establishments have done.

In order to obtain the Ecolabel, the management teams at both campsites undertook a broad programme of activities, designed to educate both employees and guests. The campsites were assessed against a panel of 90 criteria, divided into five themes: energy efficiency (50% renewable energy), reduced water usage, reduced chemical usage, environmental management, and waste.

*Campings Chadotel, 54 Rue Georges Clemenceau, Jard sur Mer  
www.chadotel.com – Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 33 05 05  
Contact: Franck Chadeau*

### 100% nature in La Ventouse (Jard sur Mer)

Shaded by a forest of holly oaks and close to the beach and the village centre, the "La Ventouse" campsite is happy to welcome you to 100% natural holidays.

Here you can enjoy the sensation of the open air, the pleasure of living freely in a calm environment for holidays with family and friends that relax you and recharge your batteries. The "La Ventouse" campsite has committed to an environmental approach by signing the camping charter in partnership with the Office National des Forêts.

In true camping/caravanning tradition, the campsite reserves a personal welcome for all guests.

Try a horse-drawn caravan or an ecolodge tent and opt for the unusual. They're comfortable, spacious and different. Enjoy staying in a surprising and original ambiance in the heart of the forest. The caravans combine functionality, design and comfort.

Want to be even closer to nature? The ecolodge tent, made from a harmonious combination of wood and canvas, is 100% recyclable, making it the ultimate in environmentally friendly accommodation. It can accommodate up to 5 people and consists of 2 bedrooms, a living room with kitchenette, and a fully covered wooden terrace with a view of the forest.

*La Ventouse (3 stars), 18 bis Rue Pierre Curie, Jard sur Mer  
www.campings-parfums-ete.com/ventouse/ - Tel. 33 (0)2.51.33.58.65  
Contact: Yvan Saugoux*



### Les Ramiers, in the heart of the forest (Longeville sur Mer)

Les Ramiers is a 2-star campsite on the Vendée coast, 5 km from Longeville-sur-Mer and La Tranche-sur-Mer. The campsite is set in green, peaceful surroundings, in a stunning national forest dominated by pines and holly oaks (452 hectares). The site was officially awarded the "**Camping Calme**" label in 2011 by *L'Officiel des Terrains de Camping* magazine. It is ideally situated just 1,500 m from a 7 km fine-sand beach that borders a forest of pines and holly oaks, as well as salt marshes. It is a truly exceptional setting. It is also close to cycle trails and signposted footpaths and bridal paths, making it the ideal base for active holidays in the great outdoors.

There is no heated indoor pool here, nor next generation water sports centre, just the calm of shady oaks. Anthony, the campsite owner, wanted to preserve the feeling of the campsites of old, with spaces for canvas tents (73 pitches) and 6 mobile homes carefully shielded by the trees.

*Les Ramiers (2 stars), 10 chemin des Pins, Les Conches, Longeville sur Mer  
www.campinglesramiers.com – Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 33 33 81  
Contact: Anthony Achalé*



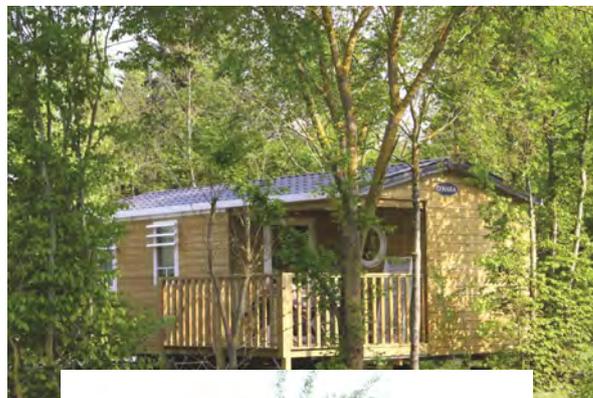
## L'île Cariot, explore the Marais Poitevin by bike (Chaillé Les Marais)

This small, three-star campsite is located in natural surroundings in Chaillé-les-Marais, at the heart of the Marais Poitevin. Set among the canals of the dry marshes, it is just 30 minutes from the southern Vendée beaches and close to Green Venice. It offers the ideal location for relaxing holidays exploring the great outdoors.

This wooded campsite boasts a friendly, family-oriented atmosphere, with 38 spacious pitches for tents, caravans or motor homes. It also has two canvas bungalows, five mobile homes and five chalets, as well as a range of services, a heated pool and a programme of events and entertainment. The pitches are separated by hedges for added privacy.

It has been awarded the "Accueil Vélo" label for being a bicycle-friendly campsite, and provides direct access to the cycle paths of the Marais Poitevin. Guests can bring their own bikes or rent one of the many bikes available at the campsite. The campsite also provide free canoes, allowing guests to travel along the canals of the dry marshland and explore the local flora and fauna.

*L'île Cariot (3 stars), Rue Du 8 Mai, Chaillé-les-Marais  
www.camping-chaille-les-marais.com - Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 56 75 27 or 00 33 (0)6 75 70 24 13  
Contact: Valérie Vermeulen*



## Le Colombier, the naturist complex (Saint Martin Lars en Sainte Hermine)

Le Colombier is a four-star naturist complex that has been awarded the "Clef Verte" label in southern Vendée. It is a haven of peace and tranquillity, set in natural surroundings close to the Atlantic beaches and among a landscape of undulating valleys, making it the perfect base for walking and cycling.

Le Colombier covers an area of 50 hectares within a valley with a stream, lake and meadows, surrounded by 14 hectares of forest. The centre of the resort is where the entertainment takes place, around a former manor farm and tower dating from the middle ages, and a large heated pool and wellness area (sauna, steam room and jacuzzi). The campsite provides everything guests need for a relaxing holiday away from the hustle and bustle of daily life. The accommodation options range from spacious pitches to rented mobile homes.

Le Colombier is the ideal place to discover naturism in a friendly, family-friendly environment. As part of our commitment to the environment, we have equipped our toilet and washroom facilities with solar panels.

The campsite is the ideal place to explore part of the vast Marais Poitevin (known as "Green Venice") and the rich heritage that Vendée has to offer.

*Le Colombier, Lieu-dit Le Colombier, Saint Martin Lars en Sainte Hermine  
Contact: Yves and Rianne Hannard  
www.lecolombier-naturisme.com – Tel. 00 33 2 51 27 83 84*

# Tourist sites in Vendée: what's new

## Leisure Parks

### Le Puy du Fou, the world's best leisure park

#### The Grand Parc du Puy du Fou

Le Puy du Fou® was voted the world's best theme park in 2014 and the world's best attraction in 2015. It offers a range of spellbinding shows and adventures for the whole family. The park covers more than 50 hectares of stunning natural grounds, featuring several villages, such as the Fort de l'An Mil, the 18th Century Village, the Market Town in 1900 and the Renaissance City.

In Puy du Fou, the natural and the authentic are the common themes in every décor. The thatched huts at Fort de l'An Mil and the drawbridge in Cité Médiévale are completely genuine. To ensure the authenticity of the location Puy du Fou has availed itself of the leading specialists, artisans and historians. There are **five major shows** that take visitors right to the heart of the action: "Triumph's Sign" (35 min), "The Vikings" (28 min), "The Secret of the Lance" (28 min), "The Phantom Birds' Dance" (33 min), and "Richelieu's Musketeer" (36 min).

Le Puy du Fou is a haven for **over 1,400 animals** that sometimes play a major role! In its Académie Équestre, the park boasts **the largest show stables in Europe** (nearly 175 horses).

The Académie de Fauconnerie boasts 500 birds of prey from 80 different species.

#### New for 2016 at the Grand Parc: "The Last Panache"

*This is the most daring and stunning show ever conceived at Le Puy du Fou!*

*In 2016, an unforgettable show venue plays host to Le Puy du Fou's latest creation: The Last Panache!*

*Follow the glorious tale of a French naval officer, a hero of the American War of Independence whose life changes dramatically in 1793 in a final battle for freedom!*

*A fast-paced, epic and moving show against a unique backdrop found nowhere else in the world!*

This will be the park's sixth major show, some 10 years after the launch of *Richelieu's Musketeer*. It is a record-breaking feat by Le Puy du Fou, in terms of budget, size and the technology needed to create the hall and the show itself. Never has a theme park invested so much in a show – €18 million, with total investment rising to more than €25 million in 2016. The park is building a monumental auditorium, covering more than 10,000 m<sup>2</sup> and featuring 2,500 seats. It is a truly innovative construction, with pivoting terraces to change the angle of view towards land or sea, and a truly breath-taking production system.

*Grand Parc opening dates: 1 April to 25 September 2016*

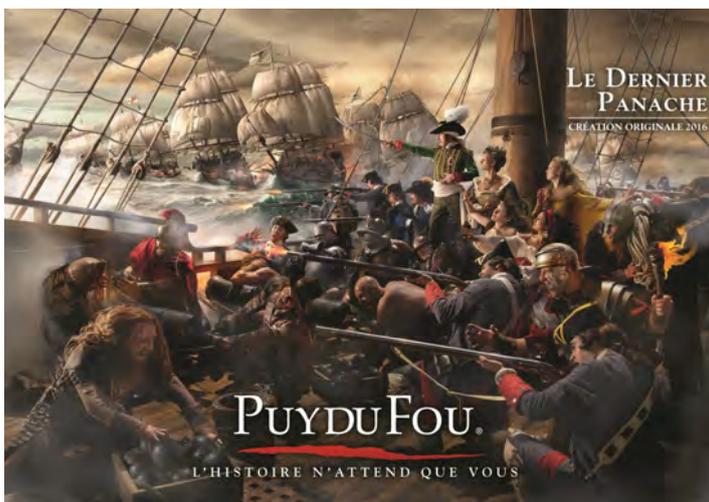
#### Cinéscénie du Puy du Fou

With over 10 million spectators already, 1,200 actors on a 23-hectare stage, 24,000 costumes, 1 hour and 40 minutes of show time and many new features... the greatest night-time show in the world has become a must-see legend.

*Grand Parc du Puy du Fou, Les Epesses*

*Contact: Sabine Tommy-Martin*

*www.puydufou.com - Tel. 00 33 2 51 64 24 14*



## O'Gliss Parc, a brand new water park for 2016

New 2016, open June 25th

The team behind the "Indian Forest" theme park (see article below) has embarked on a brand new challenge: to open one of the largest water parks in Europe.

The park will be divided into four fun areas:

Lud'O Parc: an area entirely dedicated to children

Sunset Playa beach: a beach with waves amplified by a giant ball

ExporalO: white-water rapids

Delir'space: water slides – not for the faint-hearted!

The park, situated in exotic surroundings with Mediterranean vegetation, will be designed to both amuse and relax – a place where families can enjoy quality time together, in a magical setting. The park will offer a selection of tapas bars and a traditional restaurant.

The park will meet specific environmental standards as part of a general eco-responsible strategy, combining traditional and appropriate water treatment methods, the use of rainwater to water plants, and buildings that blend into the environment and are covered with plants.

*O'Gliss Park, Route de la Tranche, Le Bernard*

Contact: Mathieu Dufour

[www.oglisspark.fr](http://www.oglisspark.fr) – Tel. 00 33 2 51 48 12 12



Tourist sites in Vendée: what's new

## Indian Forest, France's biggest adventure park, covering 20 hectares

Go hell for leather down the steep track of the Dévalkart and try to break the record! Follow in the footsteps of Passe Muraille and face the challenge of the 20 trials in Fort Débrouillard. Come and share a range of other activities with family and friends, including adventure circuits, circuits without harnesses, Maxi zip-wires, paintballing, mini-golf, Les Mystères du Bois Lambert, pony-rides, extreme jumping, *défi-fun*, circus lessons for children, water zip-wire, a *Délic Ball* space, and many more besides... Adventure welcomes you, unrestricted access for visitors!

### The Water Jump: a brand new attraction

This new attraction, unlike any other in western France, opened in spring 2014 and is now growing... Be one of the first "riders" to surf on the new attraction making waves in Vendée – the "Water Jump" at Indian Forest. Various tracks and trampolines are available to test your skills in skiing, surfing, BMX biking, rubber ring-riding, and bodysurfing... But what is the Water Jump? "It involves going down ramps of 5-10 m, depending on your level, on skis, surf boards, BMX bikes, rubber rings, body boards or even your backside. At the bottom is a trampoline that will send you up into the air, allowing more experienced users to pull off freestyle moves, before falling safely into the pool of water below."

### New for 2016: the Crazy Race

Take to the wheel of a genuine miniature racing car and try to win the race! But pay attention: reverse steering and some tricky traps set around the course mean it's not as easy as it sounds!

You can also try our "Water Jump", the only attraction of its kind in western France, take on our tree-top activity course, or rise to the challenges of Fort Débrouillard.

Our passes are a great way to enjoy a range of activities with family or friends, offering a fun, active and safe day out.

Unrestricted access to visitors

*Indian Forest, Le Bois Lambert, Le Bernard, Moutiers Les Maufaits*

Contact: Mickaël Thibaut and Mathieu Dufour

[www.indian-forest-atlantique.com](http://www.indian-forest-atlantique.com) – Tel. 00 33 2 51 48 12 12



# Adventurous activities in Vendée

Tourist sites in Vendée: what's new

## Le Château des aventuriers (Avrillé)

Le Château des Aventuriers is a park packed with mysteries and steeped in history. Located in mostly wooded grounds of 86 hectares (even bigger than Le Puy du Fou and older too, with its 5,500 year-old alignment of standing stones), it is the ideal family attraction. It offers something for visitors of all ages, including mystery trails, tablet games, castle tours, inflatable toys and walks in the forest. All of these activities are based around La Guignardière, a Renaissance castle and a listed Historic Monument (its 12 m frame is a particularly impressive feat of engineering).



### The five mystery trails:

- The Pirates' Treasure (see "what's new" below)
- Dinos & Prehistory: this interactive and educational game gives visitors a chance to explore the site's ancient history and test their knowledge (come face-to-face with a dozen dinosaurs, visit a small Neolithic village, explore standing stone alignments, etc.). The trail includes the only three complete standing stone alignments in Vendée. New for 2016: visitors can choose between a short route (1 hour) and a long route (1 hour 15 minutes).
- The Secrets of the Castle: inside the castle, visitors must solve 15 of the 30 riddles spread throughout the rooms using their smartphone or tablet.
- Around the World!: this trail is designed specifically for younger children (3-7 years old). Our young explorers will travel across the five continents, trying out new things, memorising, using their imagination... and winning a prize!
- Western City (new in 2015): Children (aged 3+) can set out on an adventure to conquer the American Wild West, with four giant inflatable structures and games of skill.

Visitors can relax and eat in the open-air or covered picnic areas, or enjoy the on-site snack bar, drinks bar and tea room.

Throughout the year, Le Château des Aventuriers hosts events such as "Jurassic Easter" (27-28/03), the "Pirates' Festival" (3-4/08), the "Jack Sparrow" challenges (all school holidays), and "Cowboys and Indians" equestrian shows (every Friday in summer)

### New for 2016: The "Pirates' Treasure"

In 2016, Le Château des Aventuriers will be introducing a new-look pirate-themed adventure trail! Pirates are an extremely popular theme loved by adults and children alike, evoking images of adventure in the great outdoors.

In 2016, the trail will feature 20 brand new riddles and a new route... bringing a fully immersive experience in unusual surroundings. Visitors will embark on a surprising adventure, exploring the remarkable history of pirates with 20 brand new riddles and games to solve. The trail will take visitors on a voyage of discovery through a world steeped in mystery, treasure, combat, music and adventure.

*Black Beard, the famous pirate, wants to marry the governor's daughter. To win her hand in marriage, he has to give her a gift of treasure... but the treasure is lost! Black Beard tasks his youngest cabin boy with finding the treasure... The adventure begins!*

The aim is to learn about the true history of pirates... and, of course, to have fun!

Château de la Guignardière, Avrillé

Opening dates: 27 March 2 to November 2016 – Price (depending on pass): from €14 per adult and €10 per child.

[www.chateau-aventuriers.com](http://www.chateau-aventuriers.com) – Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 22 33 06

Contact: Landry Quairault



## Escape if you can (L'Oie)

**New 2015**

There are only a dozen or so venues in France offering the Live Escape Game experience. This innovative new concept, which originated in Asia, is gaining great success in France's major cities. According to TripAdvisor ratings, one of the best Live Escape Game experiences is located in L'Oie in Vendée. Do you want to try this unique experience for yourself? Then head to "Escape if you can" at Le Moulin de la Rivière.

The experience is open to almost anyone, in teams of 3-5 people.

This original experience is perfect for family groups (children aged 12+) and friends. It's also a great option for stag/hen parties or corporate team-building events.

Upon arrival at the venue, you'll be briefed on the rules and procedures of the game, and what you can and cannot do. You'll also be introduced to the chosen scenario. After a brief induction session, you'll be thrust into a whole new world.

The door opens, and you enter a room where you have to solve a series of clues and perform a series of manual operations to free yourself from this world and exit the room. To earn your freedom, you'll need to wrack your brains and use your reasoning, maths and observation skills...

You will be monitored by a Game Master, who will intervene if you are unable to solve one of the riddles. After 60 minutes, either your team will have made its escape, or the Game Masters will release you. Around 50% of teams manage to get out of the room, on average. The players then meet in a lounge area for a debriefing session on their experience.



### Two scenarios

**The Haunted Water Mill:** the water has stopped flowing and the village is under threat. The only solution is to enter the mill and find out why the water has stopped. But there's a catch: the building has been haunted by the mill-keeper's ghost since his death. A few brave souls have entered the mill already, but not one of them has made it out alive. You are part of a courageous group of villagers willing to put their lives on the line to solve the mystery. But as you enter the building, you lose consciousness. When you come round, you find yourself trapped in a dungeon with no memory of how you got there. Can you find your way out?

**Danger in Rio:** you are a secret agent investigating a major drug trafficking ring. You've managed to infiltrate the criminals' headquarters, in a *favela* in Rio de Janeiro. But your cover is blown and you are locked in a drug lab with a handful of uncooperative chemists and some troublesome witnesses. In an effort to destroy the evidence, and the witnesses, the traffickers have placed a bomb somewhere in the lab. Will you make it out alive?

*Escape if you can, Le Moulin de la Rivière, L'Oie*

Contact: Alexandre Bouin and Stéphane Amélineau

[www.echappetoisitupeux.com](http://www.echappetoisitupeux.com) – Tel.: 00 33 2 51 65 50 73



## Aquakart (La Chaize Giraud)

**New**

Gliss-Speed, the very first electric water go-kart, is a unique initiative at the Lac du Jaunay. It is the only experience of its type in Vendée. "Aquakart" was born out of a desire to fill the gap between pedalo boats and jet skis. It is an activity suitable for people of all ages (ages 8+), and no licence is required. The kart itself is made in France, and is perfect for speed-lovers looking to indulge in a more environmentally friendly activity.

*Cano'évasion, Rue de la Justice, La Chaize Giraud*

Contact: Sébastien Delorme

[www.canoeevasion.fr](http://www.canoeevasion.fr) – Tel. 00 33 6 67 09 80 62



## Cultural and religious heritage

### Abbaye Saint Pierre (Maillezais)

**A fortified cathedral in the heart of the Marais Poitevin**

This ancient fortified cathedral was built in 1003 on an island in the Gulf of Picton. The building played host to famous literary names and artists, including François Rabelais and Agrippa d'Aubigné.

The esplanade of the Benedictine abbey retains a number of original, well-preserved features, including the cathedral, kitchen, refectory, pantry and salt store. Visitors can explore the premises via a set of fun, interactive displays and features, including "audio stones" along the route, which guide you through the major stages of the abbey's history. Visitors can then enjoy a spectacular 20-minute film, projected onto the walls of the residential quarters, giving an insight into the place's history and the monastic way of life.

As well as guided tours, the abbey also hosts shows, concerts and events all year round (Festival des Voûtes Célestes, Maillezais show, *terre de légendes*, heritage day, Rabelais day, Christmas market, etc.)

#### **New for 2016**

In July and August, the abbey in Maillezais will feature a new, interactive route entitled "Digital Maillezais", featuring a virtual reconstruction of the remains of the abbey.

*Abbaye Saint Pierre, Maillezais*

Contact: Clément Vanderlynden – Tel. (D): 00 33 (0)2 51 34 47 56

<http://abbayes.vendee.fr/Abbaye-de-Maillezais> - Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 87 22 80

Price: €6 per adult, children under 18 go free



## Site Saint-Sauveur (Rocheservière)

The Site Saint-Sauveur in Rocheservière is a unique place where heritage and art come together. Its aim is to combine local plastic artists with interpretations of the local area, its heritage and its inhabitants. The site consists of two separate spaces: "La Chapelle", dedicated to heritage, and "La Maison" (new for 2016), dedicated to visual arts.

### La Chapelle: promoting local heritage

The "La Chapelle" space was restored in 2010 and is now the main heritage area of the site. It features a museographic installation that highlights the art of altarpieces and includes an exhibition on the monumental tapestry of Nicole Renard, a truly unique and exceptional work. The linen tapestry has been on display since 2013, and measures 140 m in length. Nicole Renard spent 24 years embroidering 80 km of cotton, reflecting exceptional skill and dedication. The 130,000 letters tell the story of the Gospel According to John, with around 100 iconographic representations. Nicole Renard's work falls into the same category as the famous Bayeux Tapestry and the Apocalypse Tapestry in Angers. Other works by Nicole Renard on display include a cloth depicting the Mysteries of the Rosary, a book that tells the story of St Francis of Assisi, and a series of smaller pieces.

### New for 2016: "La Maison" at the Site Saint-Sauveur

This space, devoted entirely to creation, is a place for artistic research and cultural meetings, based around modern visual arts. From autumn 2016 onwards, the site will host two resident artists each year, one in autumn and one in spring. The residence programme will give artists an opportunity to work on a dedicated theme aligned with the context and heritage of the Site Saint-Sauveur. The artist will be in residence for 8 weeks and will work on a specific project, which will be exhibited at the end of the residence. The artists, chosen by an Artistic Committee, will receive a grant and accommodation, and will have their very own studio. Through lectures and studio open days, the artists will have an opportunity to talk directly to local residents.

The programme will also include two annual exhibitions.

### Key dates in 2016

**15 January to 28 February:** Off-site photography exhibition, entitled *Regards d'auteurs*. Selected works borrowed from private collections : Kristoffer Albercht, Bernard Plossu, Pentti Sammallahti, Masao Yamamoto, Bernard Descamps, Patrick Taberna, etc.

1 March to 17 April: artist book and residence by photographers Camille Hervouet and Grégory Valton

**1 to 3 April:** official opening weekend

The event will feature a special exhibition of works by Tatiana Wolska, off-site resident artist in May and June 2015, and publication of the book by Camille Hervouet et Gregory Valton, also in residence since 1 April 2015.

**25 April to 19 June:** residence of artist Tatiana Wolska

21 May: Long Night of Museums, with an event entitled *Nouveaux regards sur la Broderie*

**1 July to 18 September:** summer exhibition

**17 and 18 September:** European Heritage Days

### Practical information

Opening dates in 2016: 06/04 to 19/06 – 01/07 to 18/09 – 20/10 to 18/12

Price: €3 per adult, children under 18 go free. Free entry on the first Sunday of the month during opening dates.

Site Saint-Sauveur, Place Saint-Sauveur, Rocheservière

[www.sitesaintsauveur.fr](http://www.sitesaintsauveur.fr) – Tel. 00 33 (0)2 51 94 94 05

Contact: Nelly Coupé



# The Event : Vendée Globe



## The solo, unassisted, round-the-world yacht race

**At 1:02 pm on 6 November 2016, the eighth edition of the non-stop, solo, unassisted round-the-world yacht race sets sail from Les Sables-d'Olonne.**

The **sailors** then embark on a three-month race, alone, around the world's three great **capes** - the Cape of Good Hope (South Africa), Cape Leeuwin (Australia) and Cape Horn (Chile) - on board their IMOCA 60 single-hull yacht. They will then cross the Atlantic back to Les Sables-d'Olonne. The Vendée Globe **race** covers in excess of 24,000 nautical miles. This global event takes place **every four years**.

### **The Vendée Globe: a feat of human endeavour**

The challenge of the Vendée Globe is the length of time it takes to complete the race. The Vendée Globe is a round-the-world solo yacht race, non-stop and without assistance, which tests a sailor's ability to deal with all the technical elements of sailing during moments of extreme tension. Preparation is essential, and sailors must have a clear picture of their strategy. Finding the balance between travelling light and taking enough spare equipment is the challenge which will determine the outcome of the three months of sailing.

With a year to go until the start of the race, some of the best sailors from France and around the world have already pre-registered. The race promises to pit new single-hull foilers against proven vessels. The stage is now set for the eighth edition of this thrilling adventure.

The Vendée Globe Village at Les Sables-d'Olonne will be open to the public, free of charge, from 15 October to Sunday 6 November 2016.

Vendée Tourisme is offering a selection of Vendée Globe packages specially designed with you in mind. Attend the start of the eighth edition of this solo round-the-world yacht race on 6th November 2016 at 1:02 pm!

## VENDÉE GLOBE - "EMOTION" PACKAGE

### 1 DAY - From €249 per person

Book your seat onboard a passenger boat to watch the start of the race at sea.

On Sunday, 6th November 2016, feel the emotion of the big departure along the Vendée Globe boats!

Experience the last good-byes on the pontoon, shiver when leaving the harbour, and be onsite to hear the gun shot to the start of the most extraordinary offshore solo races.

#### PROGRAMME ON DEPARTURE DAY:

**10.30 am:** welcome aboard your passenger boat.

**11.30 am:** boat leaves harbour to reach the passenger boats' dedicated area.

**12.15 am:** lunch box onboard.

**01.02 pm:** start of the race: follow the racing boats for the first few hours of the round the world race, with live commentary onboard by a professional skipper.

**04.00 pm:** return to Les Sables d'Olonne harbour.

End of hospitality event.

**The price includes:** the boat departing from the Port Olona harbour, lunch box onboard (one drink included), commentaries by a professional skipper during the first few hours of racing, a special insurance in case the passenger boats are not allowed to leave the harbour,

**The price does not include:** cancellation insurance, personal expenses, admin fees.

Possibility to buy a gift voucher for this experience (valid for 1 year from date of purchase).

[>> Book your Emotion package online or call +33 \(0\)2 51 62 76 82.](#)



# VENDÉE GLOBE - "ESSENTIAL" PACKAGE

## 2 DAYS/1 NIGHT - From €292 per person

An unforgettable week-end to experience the start of the Vendée Globe 2016. Enjoy a package leaving from la Roche-sur-Yon to be at the start of this unique solo round the world race, non-stop and without assistance on Sunday, 6th November 2016.

### PROGRAMME:

#### Saturday, 5th November 2016:

Arrival in the afternoon and check-in at your hotel. 30 minutes away from les Sables d'Olonne, the city of la Roche sur Yon is the ideal start point to explore the Vendée region or the race village.

Dinner at your own leisure and stay at hotel.

#### Sunday, 6th November 2016:

**10.30 am:** welcome aboard your passenger boat.

**11.30 am:** boat leaves harbour to reach the passenger boats' dedicated area.

**12.15 am:** lunch box onboard.

**01.02 pm:** start of the race: follow the racing boats for the first few hours of the round the world race, with live commentary onboard by a professional skipper.

**04.00 pm:** return to Les Sables d'Olonne harbour.

End of hospitality event.

**The price includes :** accommodation in 1\* or 2\*\* hotel in La Roche sur Yon (based on twin or double room reservation), the boat departing from the Port Olona harbour, lunch box onboard (one drink included), commentaries by a professional skipper during the first few hours of racing,

a special insurance in case the passenger boats are not allowed to leave the harbour.

**The price does not include:** dinner on day 1, transfer between La Roche sur Yon and Les Sables d'Olonne, cancellation insurance, personal expenses, admin fees.

Possibility to buy a gift voucher for this experience (valid for 1 year from date of purchase).

[>> Book your Essential package online or call +33 \(0\)2 51 62 76 82.](#)



# VENDÉE GLOBE - "WEEKEND" PACKAGE IN LES SABLES-D'OLONNE

3 DAYS/2 NIGHTS - From €424 per person

Arrive in les Sables d'Olonne to experience the excitement of this solo around the world race.

Enjoy a stay a stone's throw away from les Sables to experience the unique atmosphere of the Vendée Globe, solo round the world race.

## PROGRAMME:

### Friday, 4th November 2016:

Arrive in the afternoon and check in in the residence near les Sables d'Olonne.

Dinner at your own leisure and stay at hotel.

### Saturday, 5th November 2016:

Free day to enjoy the Vendée Globe race village and the town of les Sables d'Olonne.

### Sunday, 6th November 2016:

**10.30 am:** welcome aboard your passenger boat,

**11.30 am:** boat leaves harbour to reach the passenger boats' dedicated area,

**12.15 am:** lunch box onboard,

**01.02 pm:** start of the race: follow the racing boats for the first few hours of the round the world race, with live commentary onboard by a professional skipper,

**04.00 pm:** return to Les Sables d'Olonne harbour,

End of hospitality event.

**The price includes:** accommodation in a 3\* residence in Olonne sur Mer (breakfast included), lunch box onboard on day 3, transfer between Olonne sur Mer and Les Sables d'Olonne, the boat departing from the Port Olona harbour, lunch box onboard (one drink included), commentaries by a professional skipper during the first few hours of racing, a special insurance in case the passenger boats are not allowed to leave the harbour.

**The price does not include:** dinner on days 1 and 2, cancellation insurance, personal expenses, admin fees.

Possibility to buy a gift voucher for this experience (valid for 1 year from date of purchase).

>> [Book online](#) or call +33 (0)2 51 62 76 82.



## Pre-registered/registered sailors

**No fewer than 26 sailors have officially registered, including 16 sailors who have already taken part in one or more editions of the Vendée Globe yacht race:**

*Jérémie Beyou, Tanguy de Lamotte, Vincent Riou, Armel Le Cleac'h, Jean Pierre Dick, Sebastien Josse, Yann Eliès, Kito De Pavant, Jean Le Cam, Bertrand Bebroc, Louis Burton, Nandor Fa, Rich Wilson, Alex Thomson, Arnaud Boissières et Richard Tolkien.*

**Five of these sailors will be taking part for the fourth time:**

*Vincent Riou, Jean-Pierre-Dick, Bertrand de Broc, Jean Le Cam and Alex Thomson.*

However, many of the registered sailors will be racing in the event for the very first time.

## Pre-registered/registered sailors for the 2016-2017 Vendée Globe yacht race

- Jérémie Beyou (French) - **Maître CoQ**
- Tanguy de Lamotte (French) - **Initiatives-Cœur**
- Vincent Riou (French) - **PRB**
- Morgan Lagravière (French) - **Safran**
- Armel le Cleac'h (French) - **Banque Populaire**
- Paul Meilhat (French) - **SMA**
- Sébastien Destremau (French) - **Face Ocean**
- Eric Bellion (French) - **Comme Un Seul Homme**
- Jean Pierre Dick (French) - **St Michel-Virbac**
- Fabrice Amédéo (French) - **Newrest - Matmut**
- Sébastien Josse (French) - **Edmond De Rothschild**
- Yann Eliès (French) - **Quéguiner - Leucémie Espoir**
- Thomas Ruyant (French) - **Le Souffle du Nord**
- Nicolas Boidevezi (French) - **Adopteunskipper.net**
- Kito de Pavant (French) - **Bastide - Otio**
- Jean Le Cam (French) - **Not defined**
- Bertrand de Broc (French) - **MACSF**
- Louis Burton (French) - **Bureau Vallée**
- Nandor Fa (Hungarian) - **Spirit of Hungary**
- Rich Wilson (American) - **Great American IV**
- Alex Thomson (British) - **Hugo Boss**
- Arnaud Boissières (French) - **La Mie Câline**
- Richard Tolkien (British) - **Not defined**
- Alan Roura (Swiss) - **Un Vendée pour la Suisse**
- Stéphane le Diraison (French) - **Not defined**
- Romain Attanasio (French) - **Not defined**
- Alessandro di Benedetto (Franco-Italian) - **Not defined**
- Jean-François Pellet (French) - **Come in Vendée**
- Didac Costa (Spanish) - **Not defined**
- Conrad Colman (New-Zelander) - **Not defined**



An exceptional starting line-up is expected in Les Sables d'Olonne, featuring new boats, second-hand 60-foot yachts and sailors still looking for sponsors.

The deadline for pre-registration is 1 July 2016, with final registration to be completed no later than 1 September 2016.

**The Vendée Globe yacht race has established an illustrious history and a glorious list of winners throughout its past.**

Find all the latest news at the Vendée Globe website : <http://www.vendeeglobe.org/en/>



© Olivier Blanchet / DPPI / Vendee Globe



© Mark Lloyd / DPPI / Vendee Globe

# History of the Vendée Globe yacht race

The Vendée Globe yacht race has established an illustrious history and a glorious list of winners throughout its past.

Winners of recent editions and winning times:

- 1989-1990: Titouan LAMAZOU (FR, Ecureuil d'Aquitaine II): 109 days 8 hours 48 minutes 50 seconds.
- 1992-1993: Alain GAUTIER (FR, Bagages Superior): 110 days 2 hours 22 minutes 35 seconds.
- 1996-1997: Christophe AUGUIN (FR, Geodis): 105 days 20 hours 31 minutes.
- 2000-2001: Michel DESJOYEUX (FR, PRB): 93 days 3 hours 57 minutes 32 seconds.
- 2004-2005: Vincent RIOU (FR, PRB): 87 days 10 hours 47 minutes.
- 2008-2009: Michel DESJOYEUX (FR, Foncia): 84 days 3 hours 9 minutes.
- 2012-2013: François GABART (FR, Macif): 78 days 2 hours 16 minutes 40 seconds.



## Focus on François Gabart, winner of the 2012-2013 Vendée Globe

**François Gabart** won the seventh edition of the Vendée Globe at the age of 29, making him the **youngest ever winner of the race**. With a winning time of 78 days, 2 hours, 16 minutes and 40 seconds on board his single-hull Macif vessel, he became **the first sailor to complete a solo, non-stop, unassisted, round-the-world race in less than 80 days**, beating the record set by Michel Desjoyeaux in February 2009.



## Final rankings: 2012-2013 edition:

- 1 - François GABART (Macif): 78 days 2 hours 16 minutes 40 seconds.
- 2 - Armel Le CLÉAC'H (Banque Populaire): 78 days 5 hours 33 minutes 52 seconds.
- 3 - Alex THOMSON (Hugo Boss): 80 days 19 hours 23 minutes 43 seconds.
- 4 - Jean-Pierre DICK (Virbac Paprec 3): 86 days 3 hours 3 minutes 40 seconds.
- 5 - Jean LE CAM (Synerciel): 88 days 0 hours 12 minutes 58 seconds.
- 6 - Mike GOLDING (Gamesa): 88 days 6 hours 36 minutes 26 seconds.
- 7 - Dominique WAVRE (Mirabaud): 90 days 3 hours 14 minutes 42 seconds.
- 8 - Arnaud BOISSIERESoissieres (Akena Vérandas): 91 days 2 hours 9 minutes 2 seconds.
- 9 - Bertrand DE BROC (Votre Nom autour du Monde): 92 days 17 hours 10 minutes 14 seconds.
- 10 - Tanguy DE LAMOTTE (Initiatives Cœur): 98 days 21 hours 56 minutes 10 seconds.
- 11 - Alessandro DI BENEDETTO (Team Plastique): 104 days 2 hours 34 minutes 30 seconds.
- 12 - Javier SANZO (Acciona 100% EcoPowered): Did not finish
- 13 - Vincent RIOU (PRB): Did not finish
- 14 - Zbigniew GUTOWSKI (Energia): Did not finish
- 15 - Jérémie BEYOU (Maître CoQ): Did not finish
- 16 - Samantha DAVIES (Savéol): Did not finish
- 17 - Louis BURTON (Bureau Vallée): Did not finish
- 18 - Kito DE PAVANT (Groupe Bel): Did not finish
- 19 - Marc GUILLEMOT (Safran): Did not finish
- 20 - Bernard STAMM (Cheminées Poujoulat): Disqualified



## The Vendée Globe Village in Les Sables d'Olonne

The Vendée Globe Village in [Les Sables d'Olonne](#) offers visitors unrestricted access to the **pontoons** within the specified opening hours. The Village is a dedicated discussion and socialisation space, featuring **exhibition areas for sponsors, partners, associations and traders** covering more than 15,000 m<sup>2</sup>. More than 1.2 million people are expected to attend!

**Vendée Globe Village: address:** Place du Vendée Globe, Port Olona, 85100, Les Sables d'Olonne.





AMÉNAGEMENT - DÉVELOPPEMENT - TOURISME



<http://www.vendee-tourism.co.uk/>

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