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IN GRAND PIC SAINT-LOUP

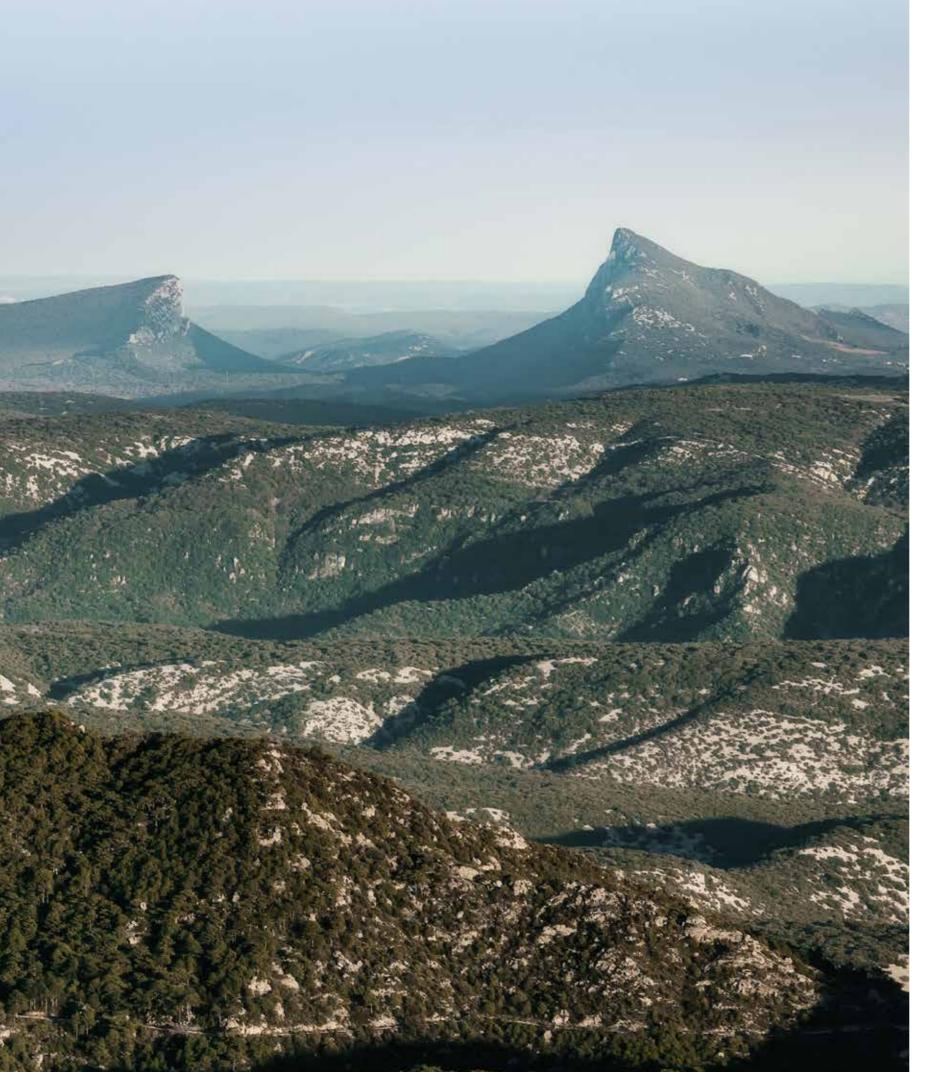


In praise of biodiversity PDO Pic Saint Loup

ACCOMMODATION

Immersive stopovers





From the shores of the Mediterranean Sea to the foothills of the Cévennes, the Grand Pic Saint-Loup unfolds its landscapes like an invitation to travel and to get away from it all.

We invite you to this beautiful territory for a fascinating journey, rich in new sensations and amazing discoveries.

Nature is omnipresent. The equipped sites encourage outdoor sports activities, in harmony with a well-protected environment. From stretches of scrubland to limestone cliffs, your walks will take you to astonishing panoramas, combining joy of the great outdoors and contemplation.

Discover and meet the world of winegrowers who make great wines and help you better understand the intimate history between a terroir and its producers. Wine growing and agriculture have shaped our landscapes and are a precious link between our environment and the authenticity of our products.

Visit the medieval villages, castles, churches and museums that are part of this cultural journey. Enjoy the shows, festivals, concerts, guinguettes...

Finally, every journey ends with a stopover: our gites, inns or guest houses will be there to welcome you. Restored farmhouses, sheepfolds or silkworm factories will be the ideal backdrop for your stay in close harmony with nature.

We invite you on a fulfilling and enlightening journey in keeping with a more sustainable tourism, in harmony with the reality of its territory. An all yearround destination, to rediscover the simple pleasure of appreciating and sharing every moment.







Editorial

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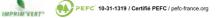
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- P01 Editorial
- P04 Contents
- P06 An all year-round experience
- **P08** PRAISE FOR BIODIVERSITY
- P10 Grand Site de France
- Fauna & Flora of the Garrigue P11
- P14 THE GOOD, THE ORGANIC & THE GOURMET
- P20 GIFT IDEAS
- P22 FILE: THE PIC SAINT LOUP AOP

P26 • AROUND THE VINES

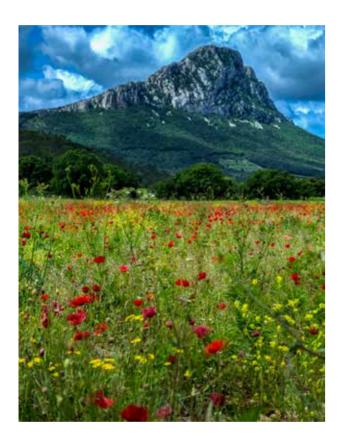
P27	Excursions in the vineyards
P28	Wine tourism inspirations
P29	The guinguette spirit

- P30 ACCOMMODATION
- P34 WEEKEND IDEAS
- P38 THE CAR-FREE PEAK
- P39 TRAVEL IDEAS
- P46 SPORTS THE NATURAL WAY
- P48 ART AND MATTERS
- P49 FAMILY WORKSHOPS

P50 • HISTORY AND HERITAGE

- P50 The Val de Montferrand community
- P51 The Pic Heritage
- P52 Fortified villages
- P53 Romanesque gems
- P56 FESTIVALS, SHOWSANDPERFORMINGARTS
- P57 EXHIBITIONS AND LITERATURE
- P58 PARTNERS
- P66 THE TOURIST OFFICE
- P67 MAP

An all year-round **experience**



Spring

Colourful flowers dot the landscape. The trees take on multiple shades of green. The wildlife is omnipresent. How pleasant it is to be in the open air and enjoy all that nature has to offer. It is also the opportunity to get moving. There is so much to do: walking, hiking, climbing... Why not sign up for the Challenge du Pic sports races? In the villages, spring is welcomed: Saint-Jean-de-Cuculles celebrates its traditional Flower Day on May the 1st, Saint-Jean-de-Buèges unwinds its ball around the sheep with its agricultural meeting. It is also outdoors that young and old alike will laugh, be moved and applaud the shows of Pic'Ambule and those proposed by Bouillon Cube. As for the museums, they will open their doors to showcase new exhibitions.



Summer

As soon as summer arrives, the rhythmical song of the cicadas envelops the garrigue. When the sun goes down, other musics can be heard. Villages festivities and other festivals take over. Just like the open-air cinemas, the guinguettes in the vineyards... The nocturnal hikes or horseback rides and the winegrowers' Vins & Saveurs walks invite you to discover the landscape in a different way. During the day, you can try potholing or water-based activities such as canyoning or canoeing on the Hérault river... Have fun indoors with the Tourist Office's creative workshops designed for all ages. Join the coolness of the cellars of our wine growers and discover another way of life.



Autumn

The flamboyant colours of autumn sublimate the landscapes, enhanced by the blushing vines. The harvest is over and it is time to celebrate the winegrowers and their wines during the Festa Vendémia in Valflaunès and throughout the Grand Pic Saint-Loup with the Fascinating Weekend of Vignobles & Découvertes. Heritage is also celebrated on dedicated days. The region conceals many treasures: viticultural buildings, medieval villages, Romanesque churches, Neolithic remains... The soft lighting of this late season will accompany you throughout these discoveries and during your walks in the countryside. Stroll along the banks of the rivers and discover little corners of paradise.



Winter

Temperatures are cooler, the days shorter. The urge for a cozy chair is growing. Warm moments are often shared around the table. Visit the local farmers' markets in Valflaunès or Saint-Mathieu-de-Tréviers to find good local products and tips on how to prepare them. At the truffle market in Claret or at the Journée Paysanne of Saint-Jeande-Buèges, you will meet people passionate about healthy and tasty food. Don't forget the Soup Festival in Claret, where, in a festive atmosphere, you can taste the soups and go home with a few recipes and new ideas for your own homemade soup. A ray of sunshine always slips in during these wintry times, so make the most of the clear landscape by taking a short walk and look out for the first signs of the new spring to come.

In praise of biodiversity

Let us remain curious and aware, let us marvel at the diversity of the world.

Naturally yours

Mediterranean culture.

Those who walk in the Grand Pic Saint-Loup will marvel at the diversity of its landscapes. The oak and pine forests, the green valleys and the fragrant garrigues provide a wide range of habitats for the wildlife. During a hike, a picnic or a swim, you will come into contact with a whole tiny world of animals and plants, an extraordinary biodiversity, which shares its ecosystem and habitats with us.

Stroll through the scrubland and you will come across lizards and butterflies, warblers and falcons. Because the landscapes are varied, you can find various types of the same species, each adapted to a different habitat. For example, the Mediterranean warbler has six species in the area: some prefer wooded areas, also popular with squirrels, while others prefer to indulge themselves on the insects living in low vegetation.

There are rare species, some protected. For example, the cave bats that nest in the Hortus cave. They feed on mosquitoes and species undesirable for agriculture. On the banks of the Hérault river, the humidity benefits the ash trees and the poplars. Wetlands are fragile but essential spaces. For example, the European otter, a protected breed, has made its return to the banks of the Lamalou. You may be lucky enough to come across it or to see a kingfisher, recognisable by its electric blue plumage. It skims the water like an arrow to spot the fish and the fry that abound in the river. Upstream, dragonflies take advantage of the coolness of the Buèges river where the tree chaffinch sings alongside the black cicada. In the ponds of the plain of Londres, the southern tree frog has taken up residence. We can each at our level to contribute to maintaining this wealth. During your stay, opting for soft mobility, purchasing local products,

In the Grand Pic Saint-Loup, we are very devoted to a precious asset: a remarkable biodiversity, legacy of our

getting information from the professionals and the local community is a nice way to enrich your trip, develop your curiosity and meet new people. Discovering and learning are also part of the journey...

BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The Mediterranean basin is the third richest hotspot in the world in terms of plant diversity and is home to an exceptional fauna. In 2019, the territory was awarded the "Territoire Engagé pour la Nature" award. There are four Natura 2000 sites in the area of the Grand Pic Saint-Loup: Pic Saint-Loup, Hautes Garrigues du Montpelliérais, Gorges de l'Hérault and Lez. These geographical areas are home to natural environments and wild species, both animal and plant, identified as rare or fragile. The objective of the European Natura 2000 programme is to preserve this biodiversity while taking into account the economic, social and cultural realities of the people living in these areas. The intermunicipality of the Grand Pic Saint-Loup, which is responsible for the "management of natural environments for the Natura 2000 ecological network", is the coordinator of the Natura 2000 Pic Saint-Loup and Hautes Garrigues of the Montpellier region.

www.grandpicsaintloup.fr Actions and projects section

Grand Site de France Gorges de l'Hérault

The gorges of the Hérault are forging a territory with a unique identity. A sense of place preserved and protected at the Grand Site de France initiative.

> In the gorges of the Hérault, a listed site, the river has sculpted the landscape by carving out the limestone. With its many tributaries, this impetuous or seemingly gentle river offers an enchanting setting rich in fauna and flora. As a source of life, it has facilitated the movement and settlement of people; numerous reminders testify of this ancient and current presence. Between the Pont de Saint-Étienne d'Issensac and the Devil's Bridge, a very distinct identity emerges. An entire culture, a medieval history, irrigate these places, punctuated by magnificent and varied landscapes and many remarkable buildings such as the Romanesque churches still visible today.

The Grand Site de France is also a very lively territory with its wine growers, its skilled potters, its breeders,... Not forgetting its visitors! The national label Grand Site de France label, awarded in 2010 and renewed in 2018, recognises the commitment of those involved on the ground to preserve this unique site and promote it in a spirit of sustainable development.

The three communities of communes* on which the Grand Site is located, including the Grand Pic Saint Loup, are raising awareness of the environment and the preservation of these landscapes... The guides and climbing club maintain the routes and have committed themselves, for example, not to create new ones in order to limit the number of visitors and the spread of human activity. They organise themselves to better manage the flow of hikers. Inhabitants or visitors, all nature lovers, let's take care of this unique and oh! so fragile landscape.

www.gorgesdelherault.fr



: Communauté de communes Vallée de l'Hérault / Communauté de communes des Cévennes gangeoises et suménoises / Communauté de communes du Grand Pic Saint-Loup

Life experiences

The Grand Site de France Gorges de l'Hérault is a tribute to the beauty of the landscape and encourages unique experiences, close to a protected environment, more intimate with natural sites.



TO THE DISCOVERY OF THE **RAVIN DES ARCS**

The Ravin des Arcs is one of the jewels of the Grand Site de France. Here, the Lamalou, tributary of the Hérault river, has carved out a narrow canyon bordered, in places, by high cliffs. The bed of this river, which often dries up in summer, is punctuated by gours and giant potholes, culminating in an impressive natural arch shaped by erosion. Spectacular and wild, this classified site shelters some protected species (birds, bats, dragonflies...). From the 15th of January to the 15th of June, during the breeding season, stay on the signposted paths and keep your dogs on leash for the well-being of the fauna and the blossoming of the flora.

www.grandpicsaintloup-tourisme.fr

Hiking section

mune, a few metres away from the Hérault river, this climbing spot offers around thirty routes in a dolomitic limestone rich in routes rich in shapes and colours. Come learn or improve your climbing skills with our professional service providers all year round (except July and August). In the high season, they will suggest other sites such as those in the Buèges Valley. The cliff is also home to protected species such as birds of prey and bats; climbers often act as sentinels to prevent and avoid

Climbing section

a nest!





CLIMBING AT THE MOULIN DE BERTRAND

Located in the Causse-de-la Selle comor close certain routes when they discover

A NIGHT AT THE HAUTS D'ISSENSAC

Nestled in the heart of nature, overlooking the Buèges Valley and offering a beautiful panorama on the surrounding massifs, this 17th century farmhouse is located at the confluence of the Buèges and Hérault rivers. The river, which can be seen meandering below, is readily accessible to enjoy a pleasant swimming, far from the crowds. This ideal place to recharge your batteries is also a starting point for walks and hikes. The owners of Les Hauts d'Issenssac, experts of the region, will help you to make the most of your stay.

www.grandpicsaintloup-tourisme.fr

www.hauts-issensac.com

The fauna and flora of the garrigue

Under the sun that bathes the scrubland, the attentive walker will discover a world of plants and animals that have been able to adjust to specific conditions. Its richness makes it one of the biggest Mediterranean ecosystems.







EUROPEAN BEE-EATER Merops apiaster

AN ASTONISHING DIVERSITY

Composed of herbaceous plants and fragrant shrubs - including thyme rosemary and juniper - the scrubland becomes fragrant in hot weather. Wild lavender and mint also grow here, powerful scents that invite you to first explores the garrigue with your nose. Wide open and sparse, it flourishes on a limestone soil, punctuated by olive trees and groves of kermes oaks. This vegetation appeals to the wildlife, which find in it shelter and cover. The Hermit butterfly flutters about, accompanied by the bees who create a distinctive honey, while the ocellated lizard scurries about for berries, beetles or small snails. You may see it basking on a stone warmed by the sun. It is the largest lizard in

Europe. It has beautiful green and bright blue scales, which can turn black when it camouflages itself. Continue on your way, and look up. You may see a kestrel, a hoopoe, or a bee-eater. Recognisable by its black beak and its yellow, red and blue plumage, this colourful bird looks like an exotic species. Its name comes from its diet: this insectivore prefers hymenopte-



rans. Wasps, bees and hornets make up its menu. When night falls, listen carefully: the crickets take over from the cicadas, and the Great Horned Owl hoots as it goes hunting.

The good, the organic and the gournet

It is our entire agricultural history that is told through the scents, aromas and products of our territory: a healthy return to the essential.



As you stroll through the medieval streets of Les Matelles, you come across the Vinaigrerie Montpelliéraine. A small shop that immediately sets the tone: be part of an environmental approach and give vinegar back its letters of nobility.

Why vinegar?

I wanted to develop a natural and authentic product. Vinegar is a forgotten flavour; its production has been abandoned to industry, even though seasoning is essential to cooking. All chefs will tell you: good products, good cooking time and good seasoning...In our region we have great wines and all the flavours of the garrigue; everything is gathered to give back to this ancestral production its terroir identity.

An agro-responsible approach and zero waste?

Vinegar is made from wine; it is a natural process. I use aluminium vats and oak or chestnut barrels. The delivery is done with recycled wooden crates. I chose refillable clay flasks for packaging. All the selected wines are local organic wines. Everything is certified "Organic" and "Eco-Challenges". The production process follows the

"Orléanaise" method with 12 months maturation time in oak barrels; for the red wine vinegar, the selected wines are made from Syrah* and Grenache* grape varieties. They are flavoured with shallot or elderflower. For the white wine vinegar, the grape varieties are Marsanne* and Roussanne*, flavoured with honey, blackberries or Kumquats. Balsamic vinegar ha a different production method: 3 years of maturing in chestnut barrels with no added sugar thanks to the reduction of grape must.

Vinegar, a product that can be used in other ways?

Of course; we are working with Mr. Cabiron, a well-known caterer in Montpellier, on a project of vinegar pearls. Ideal for oysters! I am finalising the production of refillable sprays; I have already made mustard with artisans and other projects are underway: pickles, gherkins... Vinegar can be used in every possible way ... And if you want to change a dish, use our vinegars to skim the fat off... It's magic!

www.vinaigrerie-montpellieraine.fr

THE GOOD, THE ORGANIC AND THE GOURMET • P.15



BOUGRE D'ÂNE



(*) Grape varieties of cultivated vine plants

_aure & Émilie

RESTAURANT J'ADORE & LA FERME DE FONTANILLE

Cultivating the link between gastronomy and local products



THE LOCALS

Laure is the chef of the restaurant "J'adore" in Saint-Clément-de-Rivière: Émilie has created her bvery own freerange pig farm in Notre-Dame-de-Londres. Portrait of two passionate women, who together, defend local products and gastronomy.

What brought you together?

Laure : For our restaurant, collaboration with local producers is essential. Émilie and I got along right away. Probably because our paths in the Grand Pic Saint-Loup have something in common, but also because we have the same high standards. Émilie : I had built my project around direct sales: markets and individuals. Laure brought me a complementary vision, one that is more structuring and that stabilises my business. And it's also a great way to highlight my products.

Why pigs?

Émilie : Once I had finished my agricultural studies, I did my first internships with free range farmers. I immediately loved the animal, the products but also the life in the countryside!

Laure : It's an underrated meat but it's my job to bring out the best in the products. By mastering the cutting, the low temperature cooking, the seasoning ... The result is unexpected softness and flavour, with excellent nutritional qualities. Pork is just one example. We work with many other products, always with the idea of protecting the ecosystem of our territories. The markets or the the farmers' day in Saint-Jean-de-Buèges, at the beginning of the year, are great opportunities to meet people. We have also created recipes with snail breeders, and even a dessert made from fresh goat's cheese, figs and baked apples following a meeting with Christelle, a breeder in Frouzet; another way of turning a simple and authentic product into a delightful dish.

www.jadore-restaurant.fr \mathbf{O} lafermedefontanille

Pastoral stories



The Grand Pic Saint-Loup has always been a land of itinerancy for cattle. The movement of the herds follows a virtuous and sustainable logic: it harvests a natural forage resource, following its maturation cycle.

> In the Neolithic period, our ancestors became sedentary. Having become farmers and stockbreeders, they gradually modify their environment by adapting it to their new needs. The vegetation at that time was known as a "closed" environment, meaning, a heterogeneous tangle of diverse plant species, difficult to go through. To start cultivating the land and to facilitate grazing, the first farmers and herders had to "open up" this environment, work the land, create paths, etc. The herds, which moved according to the seasons in search of green and nourishing food, will contribute to this work by grazing on grass, plants and shrubs as they moved around.

fits. The clearing of the vegetation and the access of the soil to sunlight will encourage the development of a biodiversity and a fauna and flora that were previously limited. We are witnessing the creation of a new landscape, emblematic of our region: the garrigue. Pastoralism is therefore an ancestral practice, which has contributed and still contributes today to the identity of the Grand Pic Saint-Loup. The herds continue to naturally maintain an open and accessible scrubland. The consumption of grass and shrubs reduces the volume of combustible biomass, limiting the risk of fire. The grazing of the animals encourages the natural and regular maintenance of the landscape. It is also a link between the inhabitants and the farmers, who welcome the herds throughout their itinerary. At the end of spring, some shepherds perpetuate the transhumance, taking their animals to where the grass is greener, on the Mont Lozère or the Mont Aigoual.

The opening up of environments brings many bene-

Finally, rangeland farming, which moves from pasture to pasture, is the most respectful for the animals and the environment. The shifting, the open air, the quality of the food quality are healthy practices. adapted to small volumes which result in very good products. Milk, cheese and meat are all authentic products of very high and nutritional quality.



THE LOCALS

Guy Giner Laetitia Masson Julien Dubroc

DOCKS DU GR

Gastronomy, wines and local products, an entire territory celebrated.





In Saint-Martin-de-Londres, Guy Giner presents with Laetitia Masson (sommelier) and Julien Dubroc (chef) the "Docks du GR", a new establishment dedicated to culinary arts and local products.

An innovative project for the Grand Pic Saint-Loup?

Guy Giner : There is of course a restaurant, a place in which Julien and Laetitia will be able to express their talents. But it is also a showcase for the products and culinary art of the region. We are all keen to work together to promote our region and its touristic potential. We want to highlight the flavours and scents that make up our identity with an engaging place to share and exchange. This is why you will also find a grocery store, a wine cellar, a catering service, cooking and pastry workshops, tasting sessions, exhibitions...We will put all our energy into making it the not-to-be-missed rendez-vous for epicureans Grand Pic Saint-Loup.

Julien Dubroc : As for me, I want to share my passion for our culinary heritage, from the Mediterranean to the Cévennes. I work with fresh products, noble products, with a particular taste for land/sea combinations seen through the flavours of the garrigue. And as cooking is also a story of conviviality, we have set up a "bocada's" area or "bouchées" in Occitan, the equivalent of the traditional "tapas" but in more "Occitanian" terms... everything is set to promote long talks around a nice bottle of wine whilst discovering new food and wine combinations.

Laetitia Masson : The cellar is a place in itself. It will have 200 references, including both established names and new gems. This will allow us to make the best possible combinations according to Julien's menu for the restaurant! The cellar is of course open to direct sale with wine merchant rates.

www.lesdocksdugr.fr



3 inspirational destinations to discover a cuisine that combines local products and modern creativity.

IN VINA TERRA SAUTEYRARGUES

Located at the roundabout between Claret and Sauteyrargues, In Vina Terra is a Wine house with a wide selection from the estates of the Pic Saint-Loup, a local delicatessen and a restaurant with a patio for the summer months. The chef prepares traditional home

His signature dish: grilled cuttlefish, authentic Sète aïoli made with potato starch served with its Scandinavian potatoes.

cooking based on fresh products.

www.invinaterra.com

SAINT-JEAN-DE-BUÈGES

Perched on a hill in the medieval village of Saint-Jean-de-Buèges, the Auberge de la Vallée offers, from its terrace, a picturesque view of the valley and of the majestic Séranne massif. Éric and Christiane prepare a local cuisine based on regional products and offer a wide choice of regional wines. Their signature dish: Aubrac beef with satay sauce.

> Their signature dish: bœuf d'Aubrac au saté.

THE GOOD, THE ORGANIC AND THE GOURMET • P.19

IN GRAND PIC SAINT-LOUP

L'AUBERGE DE LA VALLÉE

www.auberge-lavallee.com

LE CLOS DES OLIVIERS SAINT-GÉLY-DU-FESC

Located north of Montpellier, the Clos des Oliviers, with its carefully designed interior, has a pleasant terrace and garden. This restaurant offers only fresh, local and quality products.

Its signature dish is part of a "Terroir du Pic Saint-Loup" menu from which you can choose a lamb from the Gaec of Cambous, with a "Hunter's" sauce made with red wine from the Pic Saint-Loup and seasonal vegetables from Le Lutin Jardin des Matelles.

www.clos-des-oliviers.com

GIFT IDEAS Shopping

Take home a little bit of the Grand Pic Saint-Loup, with a selection of locally made healthy products.





Shaving box

Healthy materials to give you the freshness and softness baby's skin!

ARTESIAN MONTPELLIER Gartesian.savons.et.autres.creations



Grape juice Ideal for all ages and for all occasions.

GUZARGUES

DOMAINE DE LA TRIBALLE

www.la-triballe.com

Picholine olive oil and puree

featuring the iconic Picholine varietv from the South.

DOMAINE DE L'OULIVIE COMBAILLAUX www.oulivie.com





The Mute Goddesses Tribute to the statue-menhir discovered in the heart of the Cazarils burial site, Viols-le-Fort.

VICA SCULPTURE SAINT-GÉLY-DU-FESC www.vica-sculpture-modelage.blogspot.com



Red pottery A home-style breakfast set: Unique and 100% handmade!

COULEURS DEMESTERRES CAUSSE-DE-LA-SELLE www.couleurs-demesterres.fr

Jewellerv set

The elegant and simple look of a stoneware set, using the raku technique.

SIMPLEMENT TERRE VIOLS-LE-FORT www.simplementerre.fr

Beer and Cola

To be served chilled. perfect for sipping under the inspiring sun of the *Pic Saint-Loup!* BRASSERIE HOPPIC SAINT-GÉLY-DU-FESC



() hoppicbrasserie



Salts and aromatics

A wild, conscious and responsible harvest to enhance your recipes.

LES CUEILLEUSES SAUVAGES MONTPELLIER www.les-cueilleuses-sauvages.fr

Local products to find in our shop in Saint-Clément-de-Rivière and in click & collect on : boutique.tourisme-picsaintloup.fr



4 postcards with the effigy of the Pic Share your memories, make the territory travel.

LES ILLUMINÉS MONTPELLIER www.illumines-communication.fr



Garrigue, juniper and cicada soaps

Inspired by the Saint-Louvien environment, a natural setting that does you good.

> NATUR'AILE VALFLAUNÈS www.natur-aile.com



Montpellier honey and lavender honev

Scented amber from the beekeeper of Claret.

AUX DÉLICES DE MAYA CLARET www.shop-domaine-de-villeneuve.com

AOP Pic Saint Loup A COLLECTIVE ADVENTURE



Benoît Viot chairs the Syndicat of the Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) Pic Saint Loup. He is the ideal guide to help us understand better what the designation means.

> Benoît Viot arrived in Grand Pic Saint-Loup with his family in 2001, he will then perfect his experience by working for and with others. This field learning, this process of sharing and transmitting will guide him towards the creation of his own estate "Le Chemin des Rêves" in Saint-Gély-du-Fesc in 2003, and then today to the presidency of the PDO Syndicate.

How did you come across the PDO?

In 2005 I discovered the appellation through the "Vignes Buissonnières". It's a beautiful event which enables people to discover our terroir and taste our wines along with the catering of great chefs, through a journey of discovery in the vineyards. It allowed me to meet other winemakers... At first I was just looking to learn but deep down, I wanted to get really involved in a common approach. I then was a member of the union's board, for 8 years, under the presidency of Guilhem Viau (La Bergerie du Capucin). Then with the following president, Régis Valentin (Le Château de Lancyre), I became vice-president, before taking up the presidency in 2022.

Was it the collective approach that attracted you?

A PDO is necessarily a collective. Even if each winegrower has his own personality, we all respect the same specifications with the aim of promoting a terroir and its singularities. We have a common requirement to take care of the image and the perception of the designation. A PDO is a brand, which must be identified and recognised. It is a work of education and awareness that we carry out on a daily basis.

What would you say are the priorities of a PDO?

Naturally, the quality of the wine and the respect of its identity. We are of course very attentive to the care given to the vineyard. It is our tool for work and expression. Finally, long-term economic sustainability is always part of our concerns. Of course, we can't complain, we have a magnificent terroir, a very good reputation, opportunities offered by the proximity of Montpellier; we are well aware of our privileged position. But this remains fragile and we can never stop questioning ourselves; to keep on progressing, to improve. It is not necessarily visible, but our profession requires investment, hard work and people... the work in the vineyard is important, and we use as little mechanisation as possible.

What are the upcoming projects?

When I arrived at the union, I was impressed by the quality of the work done by the teams gathered in commissions; we have work groups that do a great job involving the winegrowers, the cooperative cellars, the internal teams and all the external skills that we may need to call upon.

We have commissioned three new groups:

- The Vineyard and climate change: we know that it is essential to adapt to a still uncertain future in terms of its impacts. We would like to make an inventory of the experiments underway, to compare them, share them, reproduce them... We are going to involve scientific research teams in Montpellier and we'll be able to share our results. For the moment, we are working on 3 themes: frost, thermal stress* and hydric stress**.

- The crus*** and the parcelling of land: we want to go further in our knowledge of our parcelling; identify the best plots, adapt the harvests and vinification methods to seek excellence.

- The whites: the designation is historically more focused on red wines, but we already have a good selection rosé wines, real wines that are not tampered with. We want to promote the lovely character of our whites, and we are working on it.

A lot to keep you busy then?

Yes, but it's a fascinating job, closely linked to the men and women who build our vineyard and magnify our terroir.

*Thermal stress: the vine's reaction to excess heat. **Hydric stress: the vine's reaction to a lack of water. ***Cru: the notion of cru is used to designate a specific vineyard, more precise than a PDO designation.

A shared passion, a story to be told.





To this day, the young generation of winegrowers is writing a new chapter in the history of the PDO. Classified as a VDQS (superior quality designated wine) in 1955, then CDO Languedoc - Pic Saint Loup in 2007, it is in 2017 that the PDO Pic Saint Loup was created. It is the recognition of the work accomplished by many generations of winegrowers. A human adventure; the story of a group of men and women who have rallied themselves around a project.



LES VIGNES BUISSONNIÈRES

The Vignes Buissonnières is an itinerary (different each year) punctuated by gourmet stops where each one, at its own pace can taste a wine, discover a dish, meet a winegrower, admire a landscape. It is an opportunity for all the winegrowers of the designation to help you discover their work, their land and the passion that drives them.





Each generation writes its own chapter. The children have been able to travel, learn, discover the world and return with new ideas and current trends. A new generation is working to keep writing a beautiful story and forge a bright future.

Tasting, terroir and landscapes

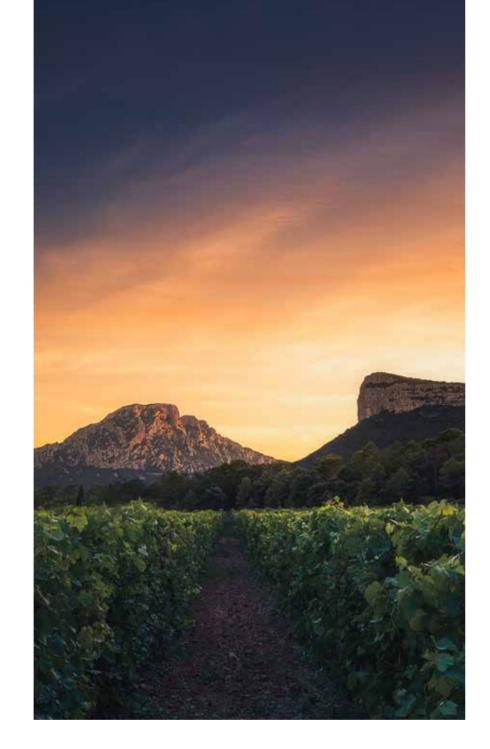
The wines of the PDO Pic Saint Loup owe much to the work of men, but also to the unique terroir and climate which find their origins in the geology and geography of the area.

The history of this area is wonderful; at the beginning this was a poor area, with a harsh environment, populated by sheep breeders and farmers. But the winegrowers of the time believed in its potential. The space was scarce... which limited the production of large volumes. Therefore, creating great wines is not only a choice of passion but also of reason.

The stones had to be removed and the soils and landscapes shaped; plots of land had to be reclaimed from the garrigue; this is what is known as clearing vineyards or "engarrigued vineyards". This creates a mosaic of landscapes, alternating vines, olive trees, pine forests, stretches of scrubland and limestone sculptures forged by time.

This open garrigue that mingles with the vines is a whole universe of flavours and scents: thyme, rosemary, menthol, liquorice... a richness and diversity that brings freshness and vivacity and contributes to the aromatic complexity of the PDO wines.

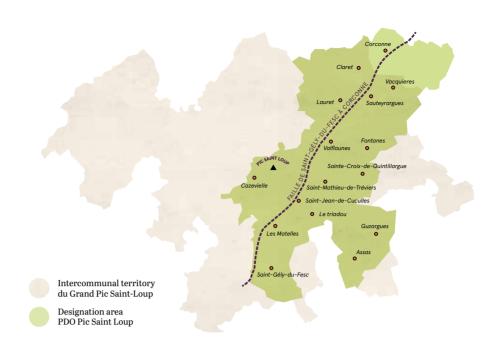
If we go back further, the PDO terroir has its origins in the very formation of the Pic Saint-Loup. At the end of the Jurassic period, the region was covered by the ocean. Millions of years of sedimentation will create the limestone which today, makes our garrigues. During the surrection (*) of the Pyrenees 40 million years ago, this limestone was pushed over tens of kilometres. Sliding along the fault line from Saint-Gély-du-Fesc to Cor-



conne, the limestone strata will bend and rise to form the Pic Saint-Loup.

It is on either side of this fault that you will find today the plots that make the Pic Saint Loup designation area. It is the backbone of the appellation, its link, its visceral anchorage to its geological history. From this history the land will retain a palette of extremely varied range of soils: hard limestone, soft limestone, conglomerates dolomites, scree, fluvial limestone and marls. A geological diversity that guarantees both the drainage and and the water retention necessary for the water balance.

If you pay attention, you will be able to detect a reference to these limestone soil in the tasting of the wines. It emerges towards the end like a subtle touch, very delicate, with extremely fine and smooth tannins. *Surrection or uprising: The gradual uplift of a portion on the Earth's crust to form a mountain



Finally, the Pic Saint Loup PDO benefits from a unique and very favourable climatic situation, at the crossroads of a continental and a Mediterranean climate. The Mistral and the Tramontane bring a fresh and dry air which protects the vineyard from the advances of the humid "marin", a factor of diseases. Thanks to the Cevennes foothills, the Causse de l'Hortus and the Pic Saint-Loup, these winds, which can be violent, are regular and moderate here. The sea entries, on the other hand, bring substantial rainfall, essential for any crop, by clinging to the first reliefs of the Cévennes. With this favourable microclimate, the temperature range between day and night is wide. It is also this nocturnal freshness that can be felt on the palate and contributes to very elegant wines, with subtlety and a rich and delicate aromatic complexity.

www.pic-saint-loup.com

The others designations

PROTECTED DESIGNATION OF ORIGIN (PDO)

The PDO is a European label (AOC in France) which guarantees the origin and the production methods according to precise specifications. It is an approach that aims to protect and promote a region, its know-how and the typical character of its products.

The Grés de Montpellier PDO

This designation concerns 8 communes of the Grand Pic Saint-Loup, in the south-south-east of the territory, near Montpellier. 10 estates awaiting you. www.gres-de-montpellier.com

The Terrasses du Larzac PDO

The 5 communes of the Grand Pic Saint-Loup in the area of this PDOare located in the Buèges Valley and at the western end of the territory. *www.terrasses-du-larzac.com*

The Languedoc PDO

The appellation stretches from the Spanish border to Nîmes, resting on the foothills of the Montagne Noire and the Cévennes. 52 estates welcome you in the Grand Pic Saint-Loup. www.languedoc-aoc.com

The Pic Saint Loup PDO

DESIGNATION AREA 17 communes 73 estates 3 cooperatives cellars

THE WINES 90% red 10% rosé

MAIN GRAPE VARIETIES (RED AND ROSÉ WINES)

Syrah at least 50% for reds and 30% for rosés

Grenache noir Mourvèdre

MINIMUM AGEING PERIOD (FOR THE RED WINES)

12 to 24 months on average, depending on the vintage

PRODUCTION 45 000 hl/year 6M bottles 38 hl/ha average yield

PROTECTED GEOGRAPHICAL INDI-CATIONS (PGI)

The PGI is a European label that identifies a product whose quality, reputation or other characteristics are linked to its geographical origin. 3 PGIs are present on the territory.

The Pays d'Oc PGI

www.paysdoc-wines.com

The Pays d'Hérault PGI www.igp-herault.fr

Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert Val de Montferrand PGI

www.igp-herault.fr/les-igp/ saint-guilhem-le-desert

Around he vine

Great landscapes, small and great stories, fun or instructive activities, beautiful encounters... The world of wine opens its doors to you

ountain bike ride with the Cycles du Terro



Excursions in the vineyards

To discover a magnificent region, its history and its winegrowers... Follow the guide.

The Grand Pic Saint-Loup is a land of great wines. But it is also a land of great landscapes, of women and men who have shaped the vineyard, a wonderful history... A whole culture around the vine and its terroir. A culture that guides and agencies would like you to discover. And to complete the experience, they combine it with workshops, sampling sessions, epicurean tasting and the discovery of local products, as well as fun and cultural activities. These professionals know the land and the region inside out. They have forged links with winegrowers whom you will meet to discover viewpoints some not to be missed and information and fun facts about the wines and the region. They also know how to make the sometimes technical words clear and can adapt to both the expert and the novice.

You want to discover a vineyard on board a

dashing 2CV, on foot or by bike, learn how to prune or blend vines, understand the art of wine tasting, go on a winegrowing road trip, discover the wines of the Grand Pic Saint-Loup in the sunset? Meet these wine tourism professionals...they will help you build your very own tailor-made programme responding to any particular wish you may have.



Vianobles & Découvertes Découvertes highlights destinations with tourist and wine-producing destinations that offer a wide range of products, complementary and of high quality. Find the catalogue of all the Vignobles & Découvertes wine tourism experiences at the back of this magazine.

VIGNO'VINS

The two friends Benoît and Benoît have a passion for wine and the desire to pass it on. Certified as wine tourism animators, they offer meetings with winegrowers and their wines and invent activities such as escape games

www.vignovins.com



MONTPELLIER WINE TOURS

Specialised in visits of wine cellars and vinevards around Montpellier, Montpellier Wine Tours is an approved travel agency. It organises stays in wine-growing estates and develops fun activities. The 2CV ride, bucolic and tasty, is a must! www.montpellierwinetours.com

LES PÉPITES DE NOËLLE

Noëlle offers workshops to learn about the making of a wine, the work in the vineyard and the tasting. She designs other more poetic ones such as Wines and Flowers. She has also created vinevards and territory Discovery tours all over the Hérault. www.lespepitesdenoelle.com

Wine Tourism **Inspirations**

To combine pleasure and discovery, to experience the vineyard in a different way, the winegrowers are not short of inspiration...

Wines and Cheese

DOMAINE HAUT-LIROU SAINT-JEAN-DE-CUCULLES

Which wine to choose to compliment a cheese? The Domaine du Haut-Lirou has selected three different cheeses and the cellar master has paired them with the wines of the domain. Gourmet matches which can be classic or off the beaten track to help you discover new combinations.

www.lesdomainesjeanpierrerambier.com



CHÂTEAU DE LANCYRE VALFLAUNES

Discover the vineyard of Château de Lancyre through a 4.5 km, about 2 hours walk in the vineyards. The walk, punctuated by thematic boards, reveals the history of the estate and of the Pic Saint Loup designation, the secrets of the vine and the wine and the riches of this cultural, geological and natural environment. Continue the experience with wine tasting under the 16th century vaults of the cellar.

www.chateaudelancyre.com

Wines and Treats

CHÂTEAU DE LASCAUX VACQUIÈRES

The workshop begins with a comprehensive visit of the estate: wine-making cave, barrel storehouse, bottling line, cellar. It continues with a gourmet and unusual tasting of wines and treats. The wines of the estate are served with madeleines and chocolates made are locally made. It's up to you to choose your favourite pairings! By appointment only.

www.chateau-lascaux.com



Culture invites itself on the estates

CHÂTEAU LASCAUX "Organic" photo exhibition by E. Perrin

DOMAINE HAUT-LIROU Concert "Vin Art & Jazz en Blanc"

SCAN ME

DOMAINE SAINT-CLÉMENT "Les Théâtrales au domaine" with the Symposie band









The spirit of guinguette

To enjoy the mild summer evenings with friends or family, discover the in the Grand Pic Saint-Loup.

When the weather's fine, several wineries open their doors for friendly, open-air evenings. This is your chance to discover the different wines of the estate while enjoying a wonderful evening. Food trucks, barbecues, ice-cream parlours, local produce, seafood... there's plenty to tempt epicureans and share a good time to the sound of live music and, who knows ... maybe even a little dancing.

All year-round details to be found in the agenda on: www.grandpicsaintloup-tourisme.fr

Rosé Thursdays

DOMAINE PUECH SAINT-CLÉMENT-DE-RIVIÈRE

Rosé Thursdays return to the heart of this century-old olive grove from the 1st of June to the 3rd of August from 7pm. With food trucks, oysters, homemade ice creams and wines from the estate. A succession of DJs will bring a different atmosphere every Thursday evening. www.domainepuech.com

Thursdays at La Roque

CHÂTEAU LA ROQUE FONTANÈS

Set in the enchanting grounds of the Château, Thursday evenings at La Roque are held from mid-July to mid-August, starting from 7pm. Our chosen caterers will prepare meals to accompany the wines. All this, topped with live music, of course.

www.chateau-laroque.fr

Guinguette du Massillan by Monsieur Jules

DOMAINE MASSILLAN TFYRAN

Until 15 September, the guinguette opens its doors, every evening from 6pm, in the middle of the vineyards. You can taste wines from the cellar and craft beers, tapas and home cooking; dance to one of Monsieur Jules' soundtrack and opt for a game of pétanque.

www.guinguette-massillan.fr

Les Apéros de la Chouette

LA CHOUETTE DU CHAI CAZEVIEILLE

The Apéros de la Chouette are set in the heart of the garrigue. These evenings are also themed, with a musical group and a film screening. Three dates are scheduled in July and August, starting at 7.30pm.

www.lachouetteduchai.com

Guinguette du Haut-Lirou

DOMAINE HAUT-LIROU SAINT-JEAN-DE-CUCULLES

Created last year, the fledgling guinguette opens its second season on the 21st June at 7pm. It will be held every Thursday in July. You'll find food trucks, the estate's wines and a musical atmosphere with a DJ or live band.

www.lesdomainesjeanpierrerambier.com

P.30 O ACCOMMODATI

ACCOMMODATION LEXPERIENCES Immersive stopovers & travel stops

To enjoy the great landscapes and the vineyards, book your accommodation in the Grand Pic Saint-Loup. You'll be at the best possible place to access the most beautiful sites at the best moment of every day.

> Each accommodation provides an experience of its own, with unique features and particular appeal. Perched on a causse plateau, nestling in the heart of a historic village, close to the Hérault or Buèges rivers, on the edge of a vineyard or in the heart of the garrigue, a stay in the Grand Pic Saint-Loup is always an invitation to contemplate and discover.

> By staying here, you can take your time. The time to relax in exceptional surroundings; or to set off for a cool hike at dawn, when nature awakens. You can end the day with a horse ride in the setting sun, or organise an aperitif with friends in the heart of nature. The guinguettes organised by the winegrowing estates will also offer you enjoyable eve-

> nings where good time mixes with tastings, street food and live music.

You'll be a few steps away from medieval villages, castles, churches and museums for days of discovery and leisurely paced itineraries.

Last but not least, the outdoor activities and sports sites will be on your doorstep; walking, cycling, paddling... you can plunge right into the heart of the countryside.

CHARACTER COTTAGES

Whether you're looking to get together with family or friends, the gîtes have some wonderful surprises in store for you. You'll discover old farmhouses, silkworm farms and renovated sheepfolds... You'll enjoy breath taking views of the Pic and the limestone cliffs of the Hortus; you'll surrender to the charms of lodges set amidst vineyards or in little corners of paradise in the heart of nature... Once there, your hosts will often be your best guides. Passionate about their region, they'll help you make the most of your stay through pleasures and discoveries.

INNS, HOTELS AND BED AND BREAKFASTS

For an itinerant trip, a few nights in comfort or an à la carte stay, the inns and bed and breakfasts welcome you in the villages, garrigues and countryside. You'll find a warm and friendly hospitality, as well as on-site or nearby restaurants, open-air brunches and breakfasts on the terrace.

Find all the accommodation in the Grand Pic Saint-Loup on: www.grandpicsaintloup-tourisme.fr Michel Wack LA BERGERIE DE FENOUILLET



Another idea of accommodation: a former agricultural estate surrounded by vineyards.

Follow a small, steep road at the exit of Vacquières. If you feel you're getting lost, don't worry, it's all part of the journey. We're only a dozen of kilometres from Montpellier, Nîmes or Alès, but you immediately feel disconnected from the urban world. The farm, initially dedicated to vineyards (classified in the Pic Saint Loup appellation area), now offers travel gîtes.

What is the spirit of the place?

We started with the old farm buildings; we kept the exterior features but designed the interior in a contemporary way, respecting the history of the building. The walls have been covered in plaster-lime, the insulation consists of cork board and wood wool, and the partitions are made of hemp blocks... an eco-responsible approach to renovation. The house's design is inspired by the Cévennes region with a few winks to Italian Tuscany.

We wanted the gîtes to be very open to

outside and our farming activities; eve-

ryone can come and see the work in the





vineyards or the cellar. The proximity to nature is immediate. We have a flock of ewes raised in the open air. To the sound of their bells, Stan and Frédo, the estate's donkeys often respond, adding their touch this the acoustic landscape.

In 20 years, we've brought back fruit trees, pomegranate trees, olive trees... It's fascinating to see how, in one generation, you can breathe new life into the landscape. Our own beehives, are looked after by Renaud Notteghem (Le Rucher du Pic) who produces the honey that will be sold in the cellar where you can also find our certified organic wines. Our visitors feel completely free; a few makeshift benches are a reminder of impromptu tastings at the top of the slopes in the middle of the vines, facing the sunset over the Pic Saint-Loup.

www.fenouillet.com

Anne-Sophie Lancia LE MAS DES VIOLETTES

Rediscover the charm of a family home, at the foot of the Pic Saint-Loup.

Just outside Valflaunès, take the narrow road that leads up to the causse de Pompignan.

Turn left onto a small bridge under the trees, and you will discover a vast estate, where large stone buildings form a small hamlet surrounded by greenery.

The Mas des Violettes "A well-hidden treasure?

It's a bit like that... Above all, it's a magical place to come to in order to recharge your batteries; It oozes a soothing serenity. Here you'll feel at home and really take the enjoy life.

Each gite is independent and situated around a small square. You will find shaded terraces overlooking a huge meadow, ideal for watching children play. It's like a big house where you can stay with family or friends, but also to enjoy the surrounding countryside and activities.



Nearby, it's easy to go horse-riding or on magnificent walks among the vines, and to discover the most beautiful views of the Pic and the Hortus. In the morning, cvclists have an ideal playground and there is no shortage of mountain bike trails. You'll discover some lovely villages and

their farmers' markets; the wine cellars and wineries are not to be missed, and you'll always be welcome. It has to be said that this you are in the heart of the Pic Saint Loup designation area.

www.masdesviolettes.com



Henri et Calista Bernabé LE MAS DE FOURNEL

Combining a taste for arts and culture, a passion for the vine and the pleasure of entertaining.

In the immediate vicinity of Montpellier, on a wooded hill, the Mas de Fournel offers a total change of scenery, with a breathtaking view of Saint-Clément-de-Rivière

You offer accommodation but also the chance to discover your wine estate?

Yes, we do. The Mas de Fournel is a collection of carefully designed gîtes, each with its own artistic touch, in the middle of a magnificent and unspoilt

setting planted with pines, Atlas and Lebanese cedars. We also have a wine estate, Domaine Saint-Clément, which is just a stone's throw away from the accommodations. We cultivate our own vines and elaborate our own wines, with the desire to retain a certain freedom in our blends. We like to be creative and cultivate the artistic imprint that defines us. In fact, our cellar is regularly open to artistic and festive events. This allows us to offer a more complete wine tourism package, with quality accommodation, a cellar, events... all designed to provide our visitors with a more 'sensitive' experience of our region.

Do you pay particular attention to the environment?

Our vineyards are on the banks of the Lez, very close to its source. Water is a precious resource for our business, and we work every day to maintain biodiversity in our vineyards. Our vines are grassy vines, and in the spring they are home to some extraordinary wildlife: ducks, herons, butterflies... A pleasure for the

Peter Dütschler et Mathias Hervet LE LAMALOU - GÎTES DU PIC SAINT-LOUP

Former outbuildings of the Château de Notre-Dame-de-Londres and now travel gîtes, in the heart of the garrigue.

On the banks of the Lamalou, it's a small hamlet that opens up on the north face of the Pic Saint-Loup. The former hunting lodge, dating from the 11th century is now a renovated tourist accommodation for visitors looking to get away from it all, discover new things or simply enjoy some idle peace and quiet in the heart of the garrigue.

What do your guests appreciate most?

The feeling of being in the middle of nowhere, even though we're only 30 minutes away from Montpellier... We have a splendid view of the Pic Saint-Loup and of the Romanesque church of Rouet. You can breathe in the absolute peace and quiet, yet vineyards, wine cellars are just around the corner, just like the producers' shop in Saint-Martin-de-Londres.

The hamlet is in the middle of the garrigue. The buildings were used as outbuildings in the 11th and 12th century for the castle of Notre-Dame-de-Londres, which has the particularity of being attached to its Romanesque church. The former sheepfolds have now been convertedinto accommodation. We have created the gîtes in the stone buildings that were once used as a hunting lodge.

The Lamalou is just next door, and all you have to do is leave the gîte to step right into the heart of the countryside. There's a dolmen a few hundred metres away and even the tiny road through the garrigue is an adventure in itself. If you head west, the Buèges Valley is close by. And to the east you will find the glassmakers' path. Just a little bit further on, the Mas Neuf estate offers, after a short stroll, a 360° view from the Cévennes



eyes and a waterside ecosystem that we are committed to preserving.

What does "travelling differently" mean to you?

It's being made very welcome; it's a journey made up of encounters in a preserved and unspoilt environment.

www.masfournel.fr



to the Buèges Valley and the remains of a Chalcolithic village (2300 years BC). These are just a few examples, the region is fascinating and informing our visitors is for us a great pleasure.

www.gitesdupicsaintloup.fr

aeas The nueekena

Immerse yourself in nature, uncover a heritage, savour local produce, relax, share... There are so many good reasons to visit the Grand Pic Saint-Loup and linger there for a while. Here are a few ideas for inspiration!

A short break with friends

Sport, relaxation, tasting, contemplation and an epicurean road trip.





Golf for everyone

SAINT-GÉLY-DU-FESC

Courses for all levels and even the possibility of taking lessons. The Pic Saint-Loup golf course is designed for pros and beginners alike, and offers a lush green setting with views of the Pic Saint-Loup.

www.golf-pic-saint-loup.com

A meal at the Coulondrines

SAINT-GÉLY-DU-FESC

It only takes a few metres to go from the golf course to Les Coulondrines restaurant. You can sit on one of the three beautiful terraces or opt for the air-conditioned room. And everything is homemade. www.coulondrines.com

Discover the village and the Maison des Consuls

LES MATELLES

As you wander through the cobbled streets of the medieval centre of Les Matelles, you'll come across some pretty houses and vaulted passageways. Among the buildings, the Maison des Consuls houses the Museum of Arts and Archaeology, which brings together the results of excavations carried out in the area. This permanent exhibition is combined with temporary exhibitions of contemporary art.

www.grandpicsaintloup.fr

One night at Le Castellas du Pic Saint-Loup

SAINT-MATHIEU-DE-TRÉVIERS

The old wine cellar has become a contemporary house tastefully decorated by its owner, an architect by trade. You will love and enjoy the breathtaking view on the majestic Pic Saint Loup mountain from the terrace ... www.au-castellas.fr

Tasting at Domaine Pech-Tort VALFLAUNÈS

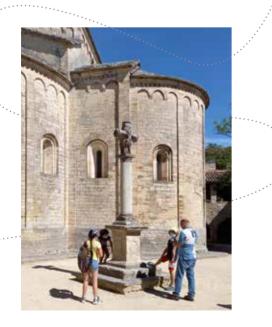
The former wine cellar has become a contemporary house tastefully decorated by its owner, architect by trade. Le Castellas du Pic Saint-Loup offers a breathtaking view of the majestic mountain, and the terrace provides a superb panoramic backdrop.

www.domaine-pech-tort.com

Weekend with the family

A breath of fresh air with the children, wide open spaces and great visits to learn while having fun!





Journey into prehistory on the Cambous site

VIOLS-EN-LAVAL

How did our ancestors live around 5,000 years ago? At the prehistoric site of Cambous, archaeologists have revealed the remains of houses and reconstructed a dry-stone dwelling. These houses, being spread over an area of 2 hectares, the visit becomes a stroll through the garrigue. **www.prehistoire-cambous.org**

A meal in the open air at Chez Tony restaurant

SAINT-MARTIN-DE-LONDRES

Children will love the play area. Parents will be able to watch them, comfortably seated on the shaded terrace. All this in a relaxed and family atmosphere. **www.tony-pizza.eu**

A recreational discovery rally

SAINT-MARTIN-DE-LONDRES

Become a family of valiant explorers to discover the medieval village of Saint-Martin-de-Londres. To get from one place to another, you'll need to solve a series of riddles. *www.grandpicsaintloup-tourisme.fr Experiences to Live section*

Restful night in guest rooms of BnB à la Carte

VIOLS-EN-LAVAL

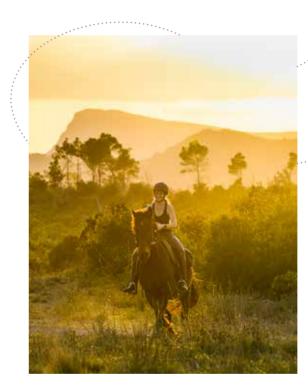
Their grown-up children having fled the nest, Stacia and Thierry have opened up the rooms of their cosy and original home with garden at the foot of the Pic Saint-Loup. **www.bnbalacarte.com**

Tractor ride in the olive grove

COMBAILLAUX

L'Oulivie is a beautiful family estate counting around 10,000 olive trees. Take a seat on board a tractor for a pleasant ride through this 30-hectare site and its biodiversity. You'll discover the work of an olive grower and share the passion for a profession and a land. **www.oulivie.com**





Romantic weekend

Be together, take the time to discover and enjoy the moment.

Barrel tasting for two

SAINT-JEAN-DE-CUCULLES

At the Domaine Haut-Lirou, some of our wines are matured in barrels. The VIP barrel tasting workshop reveals the secrets of this technique. In the very special atmosphere of a maturing cellar, you will be tasting aging wines at the edge of the barrel. **www.lesdomainesjeanpierrerambier.com**

Cosy meal at the Auberge du Cèdre

LAURET

A lovingly renovated winegrower's house with a large wooded park. The Auberge du Cèdre, nestled between vineyards and garrigue, is an oasis of peace. From the terrace or the restaurant, you can fully enjoy the scenery. The cuisine is homemade.

www.auberge-du-cedre.com

La Halle du Verre in complete privacy

CLARET

Glassmaking has shaped the area around Claret from the 13th to the 18th century. The Halle du Verre relates this local history and places it within the wider history of glass and glassmaking from Antiquity to the present day.

www.grandpicsaintloup-tourisme.fr Not to be missed section

Not to be missed section

Horse riding at sunset

SAINT-BAUZILLE-DE-MONTMEL

Horse-riding around the Pic Saint-Loup allows you to discover these beautiful landscapes in a different way. Living this adventure at sunset is a unique experience. And Claire, equestrian guide from Horse Aventure, will share her love of horses and of this region. *www.horse-aventure.com*

A night at l'Ombre de la Chêneraie

SAINT-BAUZILLE-DE-MONTMEL

Situated in the heart of a 3000m² oak grove, this gîte for 2 people offers a splendid view over the surrounding garrigue. From this little cocoon, you can admire the beautiful cliffs of Puech des Mourgues, with the Pic Saint-Loup looming in the distance. Bookings are for a minimum of two nights. **giteombrecheneraie.hubside.fr**

The car-free Peak

FROM MONTPELLIER

A DAY AT ASSAS LBUS NB 610, DEPARTURE: OCCITANIE - STOP: COOPÉRATIVE



Ligne 610

DEPARTURE: OCCITANIE DIRECTION: SAINTE-CROIX-DE-QUINTILLARGUES STOP: ROUTE DES AIRES

THE ONE FOR THE FAMILY: LE SENTIER **DES CHARBONNIÈRES**

This walk through the garrigue will allow you to discover the life of the charcoal burners, these men who cooked the holm oak wood to turn it into charcoal. You'll see the evidence of their activity such as lime and charcoal kilns. Interpretation panels will give you all the information you need.

→ From the bus stop. From the car park, turn left towards the village onto the Route d'Assas. Turn right towards the church. Reach the square and turn left into the narrow street, then at the end turn right. At the crossroads, turn right until you reach an intersection. Take the road on the left for 500 m to *leave the village.*



All walks are signposted. Download detailed information on : www.grandpicsaintloup-tourisme.fr (Brochures & documents section)

Bus timetables are available on : www.herault-transport.fr/lignes-regulieres

Œnorando Between Grés de Montpellier and Pic Saint-Loup

liO

This Œnorando starting from the cooperative will enable you to discover landscapes of vines unspoilt garrigue, to appreciate the beautiful views of the Pic Saint-Loup and the Hortus, to approach the village of Saint-Vincentde-Barbeyrargues before going through the village of Assas.

Visit the village

When you pass through Assas at the end of your walk, take the time to visit the remarkable monuments of this charming village: castle, city walls and towers, medieval fortifications, Saint-Martial church.

Tasting at the cooperative cellar

Every Œnorando ends with a wine tasting. The winegrowers from Le Cellier du Pic cooperative, will introduce you to wines, including some from the Pic Saint Loup PDO and share their passion.



THE CAR-FREE PEAK O P.39

Ligne 608

DEPARTURE: OCCITANIE DIRECTION: LE VIGAN STOP: VIOLS-LE-FORT (PLAN DE L'ÉGLISE)

THE GENTLE ONE: LE SENTIER DES DRAILLES

This short walk takes you through a land of pastoral farming, with its drailles, passageways for the herds, its lavogne, a man-made pond created by shepherds, and many dry-stone walls. This walk also bears witness to an older part of history, that of the Neolithic period, with a dolmen and tombs.

→ From the bus stop. A green space hosts a car park. At the back of the car park, behind the community building, take a few steps between two walls and turn left.

Ligne 617

DEPARTURE: MOSSON DIRECTION: VAILHAUQUÈS **STOP: SHOPPING CENTER**

THE SPORTY ONE: FROM ARNÈDE TO CARAVETTE

This loop, which passes through numerous holm oak woods and garrigue landscapes, is indeed a sporty one, with some tough climbs and stony stretches.

It offers panoramic views of the surrounding hills and the Pic Saint-Loup, with the chance to get up close to a dolmen, a touching megalith that was once a collective burial site.

→ From the bus stop. On the shopping centre square, go under the porch and round the buildings to the left. Turn right onto Chemin des Rossignols. After about 300 metres, turn right onto the footpath along the ditch. When you reach the road, turn right, cross the Arnède and join the signposted path.

TRAVEL IDEAS The valley of the Buèges

Pégairollesde-Buèaes

This discreet valley has preserved its intimacy and its wild character. But if you are willing to tame it, it will reveal its authentic beauty.

> Surrounded by mountain ranges, the steep-sided Buèges valley is not visible from anywhere, and there are few roads leading to it. From Saint-Martin-de-Londres, you have to climb up to Causse-de-la-Selle and then back down to Saint-Jean-de-Buèges to discover an unexpected view of this well-hidden spot. The medieval village is nestling at the foot of a rocky ridge. with the imposing Séranne massif towering above it. In the middle of this lush landscape flows a river: the Buèges. Its meandering waters mark the valley floor, punctuated by the three small villages it irrigates:

Pégairolles-de-Buèges, Saint-Jean-de-Buèges and Saint-André-de-Buèges. The landscapes are varied: garrigue, vineyards, olive groves, meadows, woods, rivers, streams... They also tell a story. Buildings, low walls, irrigation channels and more bear witness to the presence of people from ancient times in this land whose isolation has preserved the authenticity. Everything here invites you to take your time. Time to discover, time to relax, time to meet people... And time to discover its many treasures on foot or by bike. Many footpaths criss-cross the area. Some easy strolls take you close to the river banks. A perfect opportunity to swim, picnic and explore the unusual scenery unveiling itself here and there, through distinctive vegetation, colours and moods. You'll also come across rocks of various and surprising shapes: they have been sculpted by the water, which sometimes seeps into the limestone and moves underground. This valley is a complete change of scenery, an enchanted interlude in which to savour the moment and rediscovered true nature.

Saint-Jeande-Buèges

THE SOURCE OF THE BUÈGES PÉGAIROLLES-DE-BUÈGES

5

Saint-Andréde-Buèges

The Buèges rises in the hamlet of Méjanel, near the medieval of Pégairolles-de-Buèges. At least, that's where it rises from the massif de la Séranne after its underground journey. It is this resurgence that gives the clear, turquoise-blue water which contributes to the magic of this lush setting. You can picnic on site in the shade of the plane trees. However, swimming is prohibited in order to preserve the natural environment rich in fauna and the commune's drinking water resources.

LE CHÂTEAU DE BAULX SAINT-JEAN-DE-BUÈGES

A protective landmark for Saint-It was later extended to become the residence of the feudal lords. Abandoned in the 18th centurvit gradually fell into ruin. It was back, it now hosts festive and cultural events. Guided tours are also available thanks in particular to the dynamic association of the Compagnons de Tras Castel.

3

LE ROC DE TRAS CASTEL SAINT-JEAN-DE-BUÈGES

Overlooking the castle of Saint-Jean-de-Buèges with the village nestling at its foot, this maiestic cliff is a popular spot for climbing enthusiasts. Offering a magnificent viewand high-quality limestone, the Roc de Tras Castel offers a wide variety of climbs. Some are easy, others more challenging.



PONT DE VAREILLES SAINT-ANDRÉ-DE-BUÈGES

This pretty stone bridge with several arches spans across the Buèges river. Narrow, it can only be crossed by pedestrians, cyclists or horse riders. Built in the 15th century, it bears witness to the importance at the time of this road link between Saint-Jean-de-Buèges to the commune of Saint-André-de-Buèges.

5

SAINT-ANDRÉ CHURCH SAINT-ANDRÉ-DE-BUÈGES

Built in the 11th century in the commune of Saint-André-de-Buèges by the monks of Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert and Aniane, the church of Saint-André is both elegant and modest. Listed as a historic monument, this building displays typical architectural features of the Romanesque style which appeared in the Languedoc region at the time. It also includes some unique features that make its architecture even more endearing. You can contemplate heritage objects such as its gilded wooden Virgin Mary dating from the 17th century or its ivory Christ from the same period.

Jean-de-Buèges, the Château de Baulx sits proudly at the foot of the rock of Tras Castel. It was originally a watchtower built in the 12th century. restored by the local authorities in 1990. As soon as the fine weather is

HIKING From Saint-André-de-Buèges to Saint-Jean-de-Buèges

RETURN TRIP: 11 KM • 3H • MEDIUM



• From the church of Saint-Andréde-Buèges (a small and charming Romanesque church), follow the road D1E1 road leading to l'Euzière, leaving Vareilles to the right and descend towards the bed of the Buèges (often dry until it joins the Hérault).

• Before the Vareilles bridge, take the the track on the right, cross thebarrier and continue along the flank ignoring the trailheads to the right. The path follows the course of the river along waterfalls and pools. Continue to the right along the stony path that leads to Saint-Jean-de-Buèges.

A pleasant hilly walk. particularly pleasant during periods of high water (spring and autumn).

This loop is part of the GR® de Pavs Grand Pic Saint-Loup, voted " Favourite French GR" in 2021. You must follow the signs - it is advisable to buy the topoguide for a safe hike.

 \cdot Cross the small bridge over the Garrel. Turn right if you wish to visit the village of Saint-Jean-de-Buèges, before returning to Saint-André-de-Buèges along the same journey.

Walks Wines & Flavours

Accompanied by a guide specialising in oenology, take advantage of the summer evenings to discover the landscapes, the history of the Buèges Valley and the art of wine tasting. A pleasant moment spent in the heart of nature, with a variety of flavours to discover.

The walks have been awarded the "Vignobles et Découvertes" label. Wine & Flavour walks are also available at other emblematic sites of the Grand Pic Saint-Loup.

The programme can be found at www.grandpicsaintloup-tourisme.fr Vignobles & Découvertes section





Beyond the walks, hikes and landscapes, the Buèges reveals to those who take the time to discover it, a subtle ecosystem and people who love their environment and history.

How did the idea of organising walks in the Buèges valley come to you?

I fell in love with it! When I first moved to the valley, I was charmed by it and decided to give a new life to my mountain guide diploma; it seemed like the obvious thing to do in order to discover the full potential of the surrounding area.

What's special about your walks?

The idea is to combine walking with meeting people. I organise tailor-made walks, depending on walkers' level but above all according to the wishes of my customers. For example, I offer wine-tasting walks, where we explore the countryside and the valley in small groups. We talk about its history and observe its flora and fauna. and then meet up with the winegrowers of Saint-Jeande-Buèges, Domaine de Coulet - Tour de Baulx - on their vinevard.

We learn about the work of the vine, the specific characteristics of the terroir and finish the visit with a tasting in the cellar. There's no shortage of ideas to enliven your walks. In spring, you'll find little corners of paradise on the water's edge, with translucent water for lovely and peaceful moments.

that was very active

A few hiking tips? Choose your time of day according to the season. In the morning or at the end of the day in summer to avoid the heat of the sun, take water and suitable footwear. Finally, be attentive and curious, respect the paths, never make a fire and leave nature as you found it.

That travel and a change of scenery are sometimes very close by. You think you have to go far away, when there are little gems just around the corner.

www.horizons-nature.com Onicoaccompagnateurenmontagne



HORIZONS NATURE

FOLLOW THE GUIDE

Discover the valley of the **Buèges** and even more...

You can discover capitelles*, dolmens, learn to recognise the drailles*... So many traces that have withstood the test of time to allow us to relive the story of a valley

from the Middle Ages onwards. We retrace the history of magnaneries and silkworm production, as well as charcoal-making and pastoralism ... You can also meet Camille and Nicolas, a couple of herdsmen who are always delighted to let you taste their goat's cheese.

What does travelling differently mean to you?

*Capitelle

Small hut made of dry stone, i.e. without mortar, used in the past for temporary or seasonal shelter.

*Draille

A path made for transhumance generally marked by low walls of stone which widens from time to time to create wider areas, allowing the herd to gather up

TRAVELLING IDEAS Le Chemin des Verriers

Legend has it that Saint Louis granted nobles ruined by the crusades the right to practice the art and science of glassmaking.

rom the 13th century to the French Revolution, the Causse de l'Hortus will be an ideal land for these "gentlemen glassmakers". The many oak forests of the time provided wood, which, by powering the furnaces, produced the necessary energy. The lime used in production camefrom the limestone of the causse, and silica from the Hérault river. Trade routes were not far away, and products were transported to Sommières, on their way to Montpellier and the Mediterranean. The history of the region is now known as the "Chemin des Verriers". It tells the story of glassmaking in these parts and of its influence well beyond its native causse.

Numerous glassworks have been inventoried on the Causse de l'Hortus, a vast limestone plateau bounded to the south by the Hortus cliffs, to the north by the Pompignan plain, to the west by the bassin de Londres and to the east by the Claret and Valfaunès cliffs. The Couloubrines glassworks at Ferrières-les-Verreries is today the only dated evidence of this period.

The objects made by the gentlemen glassmakers were of great finesse and their talent was recognised as far away as Majorca. They produced bottles and various containers for winegrowers, perfumers and the Montpellier Faculty of Medicine.

But the business eventually collapsed. Massive deforestation, the repression of Protestantism, to which many of these nobles had converted, the replacement of charcoal by coal*, moved glassmaking closer to the coalfields. These were just some of the reasons. The Revolution of 1789 by abolishing the privileges of gentlemen glassmakers signed their demise.

The glassmakers' trail tells the story of an ancient skill, but also bears witness to an identity and a heritage. So, make the most of the paths that criss-cross the garrigue to discover this heritage. As you stroll along, you'll also come across other human stories that are told here. Some very old, like those of prehistoric man through the dolmens and the Rocher du Causse site. Others began in the Middle Ages with the charcoal burners who made charcoal in a variety of locations. Not forgetting the more recent examples of shepherds who created lavognes, artificial pools designed to allow their flocks to drink.

(*) : Coal, or the mineral commonly known as hard coal, is a sedimentary rock from the fossilisation of prehistoric vegetation.

Mas Neuf and **Rocher du Causse**

Perched on the heights of Lauret, the Mas Neuf is a vast estate teeming with footpaths and pages of history: Roman oppidum, traces of glassworks, pastoral pastoralism... And the remains of a Chalcolithic village on the Rocher du Causse, which also offers an exceptional panoramic view.



Guided tour of the **Couloubrines glassworks**

The Couloubrines glassworks remains the only restored testimony of the glassmaking past of the Causse de l'Hortus. "Léa vous dit Tout" offers you the chance to retrace its history during guided tours. In June and October, with Vignobles et Découvertes, you can take part in an event combining the tour with wine tasting.

www.grandpicsaintloup-tourisme.fr Section « Envie de... »





Stop off at the Halle du Verre to see Guillaume Domise at work

In Claret, the Halle du Verre, housed in a former glass factory, presents the history and techniques of glassmaking techniques from Antiquity to the present day. It also houses a glassmaker's workshop. Guillaume Domise offers demonstrations of glassblowing and spinning. This engaging and passionate personality demonstrates his talent and explains his technique and craft.



Randonnée des asphodèles

(charcoal kilns and graves)

LOOP • 3,5 KM • 1 H 30 MIN • VERY EASY

Located between Claret and Ferrières-les-Verreries, the Mas de Baume, former glassworks turned restaurant, is the starting point for this walk. This well-marked loop takes in the lush vegetation of the garrigue and follows in the footsteps of the people who lived here. Dry stone walls, glassmakers' hideaways, lime kilns, charcoal burners' huts and even a dolmen bear witness to their presence in the area.

Sports NATURE

With its varied landscapes, the Grand Pic Saint-Loup is the ideal setting for outdoor sports and outdoor leisure activities.

From the many footpaths that criss-cross the garrigue to the cliffs, rivers, the Hérault river and underground caves, the Grand Pic Saint-Loup is a paradise for sports enthusiasts of all levels who love this generous and unspoilt nature.

In the midst of these breathtaking landscapes, a number of sites have been developed to offer a wide range of outdoor activities. With 6 approved climbing sites, via ferrata, 1 accrobranch, 2 paragliding departures and a gliding centre, take some height to enjoy these enchanting landscapes. Fifteen signposted hiking trails and more than 250 km of GR de Pays will appeal to those with their feet firmly on the ground. Some trails can also be done on mountain bikes or horseback, for an unforgettable experience at every pace.

Let yourself be carried down the Hérault on a canoe or a kayak. Finally, explore the region's mysterious underground caverns. Accompanied by qualified professionals, enjoy a thrilling and exciting experience, while being supervised for your safety and the respect of the environment.

FAN FESTIVAL OF NATURE ACTIVITIES

Take advantage of this unique opportunity to try out, free of charge, numerous outdoor activities available in the Grand Pic Saint-Loup in the company of professionals.

There's a wide range of experiences to try: mountain biking electric scooters and longboards, slacklining, tree climbing, caving, botanical walks, etc.

Rendez-vous on the 30th of September and the 1st of October in Claret.







Artisan-creators have a workshop, more rarely a shop. They present their work at dedicated markets, temporary stalls or workshop or studio shops. Do take the time to discover them.





CRAFT WALK IN VIOLS-LE-FORT

Pottery, leatherwork, clothing design... Viols-le-Fort is home to a host of creative craftspeople. Take a stroll through the village and you'll meet some of them in their workshops or, more directly, by appointment. Most of them entrust their work to the Midi 32 studio-shop during its extended opening hours. What's more, every first Saturday of the month, from 9am to 1pm, Midi 32 offers a market of artisans and producers.

ART DES REMPARTS

To promote the work of artisans and creative artists, the association Arts des Remparts, based in the Vallée de Londres is stepping up its initiatives. This summer in Saint-Martin-de-Londres, it is organising 5 evening markets with around forty exhibitors on Fridays between the 21st of July and the 18th of August around the place de la fontaine. While on the church square, an ephemeral stall will welcome 7 creative craftspeople from the Grand Pic Saint-Loup from the 11th of July to the 27th of August.

POTTERS' MARKET

This has become a not-to-be-missed event. For over 30 years, every second weekend in December, around forty potters have been exhibiting in Les Matelles. These artisans from the south of France offer a wide variety of styles and uses. You'll find pottery for cooking, decorative pottery and jewellery. To make the event even warmer, entertainment, mulled wine and crêpes are also on the programme.

Find all the information on: *www.grandpicsaintloup-tourisme.fr*

Family workshops

Throughout the year, the Tourist Office offers fun and creative activities for young and old alike. Want to come along?





VIRTUAL REALITY WORKSHOP

Take a hot-air balloon ride over the Grand Pic Saint-Loup! Wearing a virtual reality mask, you can visit the whole area at your leisure. Zoom in for a closer look at the Buèges Valley, climb the Pic

Saint-Loup or explore the gorges of the Hérault. You'll then have plenty of ideas to discover, this time for real and on the ground!

FUN AND CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

Pottery, origami, bread-making, board games or writing workshops... Make the most of overheated days or gloomy weather to discover the fun and creative indoors activities offered by the tourist office in Saint-Clément-de-Rivière. During the school holidays, other workshops for young and old may be announced. Don't forget to book.





Nature walk booklet Explore the Saint-Sauveur wood in Saint-Clément-de-Rivière and carry out the investigation to understand the flora, geology and landscapes. The little game in your notebook will be of great help.



Discovery rally

Discover the medieval village of Saint-Martin-de-Londres and have fun. Follow Léo, the ocellated lizard through the narrow streets. Observe and answer the questions and puzzles in the booklet. Enjoy the rally!

Booklets available on **boutique.tourismepicsaintloup.fr** Section Enfants

HISTORY & HERITAGE The community of Val de Montferrand

gradually took shape. The bishop of Maguelone, who now held the authority of the count, supported these changes and rewarded the inhabitants of the Montferrand valley who had remained particularly loyal to him. He granted certain parishes and villages some privileges and advantages, detailed in three deeds dated 1276, 1285 and 1292. In practice, these were social advances that demonstrated the bishop's interest in ensuring that the people were not pressurised by subordinate lords by limiting certain burdens and ensuring greater individual freedoms.

At the end of the 13th century, village communities

The "community of the Val de Montferrand" was therefore established in the first charter of 1276. It comprised 6 parishes (Valfaunès, Saint-Mathieude-Tréviers, Saint-Jean-de-Cuculles, Saint-Sébastien-de-Casanhas (Le Triadou), Saint-Gélydu-Fesc, Saint-Étienne (Cazevielle)) and 2 villages (Combaillaux and Saint-Clément-de-Rivière). It will expand to include around fifteen parishes and/or villages such as Les Matelles, Violsle-Fort, Saint-Bauzille-de-Montmel and Vailhauquès grouped around the château. It will set up its headquarters at Les Matelles, under the authority of the bishop.represented by the lord and officer of the Château de Montferrand and organised itself into elected syndics, representing each parish or village.

In the 15th century, when the kingdom was still ravaged by the 100 Years' War, the church gradually lost its influence and the county of Montferrand moved closer to the kingdom of France.

The inhabitants of the Val de Montferrand therefore entered into direct contact with the royal authorities for permission to fortify their villages. In 1459, they obtained the right to sit on the Estates-General of Languedoc, confirming the solidity of their agreement. They will demonstrate a real sense of community. In their legal acts, sales of property, wills, criminal convictions, they specified their membership of and involvement in the village community.

The institution of this grouping of interests through clearly identified acts was to define a political unity, a representation that was necessary to carry weight against larger towns such as Montpellier, Ganges or Lunel. The Château de Montferrand, from the top of its rocky outcrop, still reminds us of this community and territorial agreement.

Interview — Alain Poulet / Chairman of Pic Patrimoine

An association for heritage lovers

Pic Patrimoine is a group of enthusiastic volunteers committed to preserve and pass on a shared heritage and history. The association's flagship project is to take part in the preservation of the Château de Montferrand, which is now a listed Monuments Historiques.au titre des Monuments Historiques.



What is the aim of your work on Montferrand castle?

We're working with the local authority on the preservation and enhancement of the castle. The site is not yet accessible to the public for security reasons, but we're hoping to be able to open part of it soon. We're clearing the undergrowth in and around the castle, which requires a great deal of commitment from our teams. Access is only possible after a strenuous walk along steep paths, carrying the equipment. A way of combining hiking and culture...

At weekends, we organise stone cutting workshops under the guidance of Frédéric Matan, Meilleur Ouvrier de France in

the field. You can catch a glimpse of this on some Saturdays, just outside the village of Les Matelles. The association has taken over a former wine cellar and is attracting new members, from 20 to 75 years old ... It's fun and friendly. This work on cutting will enable us to consolidate certain walls, redo the jambs and the arch of a door jamb and arch, as well as some archeries*. This will be followed by more complex work, including on some heavier structures which access can only be gained by helicopter. We will leave it that part to the professionals.

(*): archery: small loophole used to fire a bow or crosshou

From the 13th century, the parishes and villages of Montferrand came together under the the authority of the Bishop of Maguelone and the Chatelain of Montferrand, to form the community of Val de Montferrand.

> n 1172, the House of Toulouse seized custody of the counties of Melgueil and Montferrand. Then L in 1209, during the Albigensian Crusade, Raymond VI of Toulouse, suspected of appeasing the Cathar heresy, donated 7 castles to the church to win its good graces. The Château de Montferrand was one of them, and became part of the diocese of Maguelone. When Raymond VI failed to respect his vassalage duties, the entire county was seized from him in 1211 and given to the bishops of Maguelone in 1215, who became Counts of Melgueil and of Montferrand until 1793.





A building now registered as a listed building?

Yes, it's a great satisfaction. In June 2022, the Château de Montferrand was listed as a Historic Monument by order of the Prefect of the Occitanie Region. A well-deserved recognition. The hope is to go one step further and have it listed, which would represent a higher level of recognition, this time at national level.

Any other projects?

We're carrying out etymological research into the names of communes. We are interested in the heritage of the Vallée de la Buèges, we're taking part in the European Heritage Days and a few other ideas are still in the pipeline... We're going to continue with the excavations and the enhancement of the castle. A great project, not only for our history, but also for the support and conviviality it generates.

www.picpatrimoine.fr

The forts villagers

In the 15th century, the 100 Years' War created a climate of insecurity. Faced with the anxiety inhabitants, the villages fortify themselves. A new community identity emerges, grouped around the Château de Montferrand.

In the diocese of Maguelone, at the beginning of the 13th century, most of the fiefs and seigneuries (such as Montpellier, Ganges and Brissac) were under the episcopal and/or count suzerainty of Melgueil-Montferrand. The county is divided into two administrative centres, with the Château de Melgueil (today Mauguio) to the south and Château de Montferrand (close to the geographical area of the of the current inter-municipality) to the north.

Situated between an attractive coastline and the Cévennes, the Grand Pic Saint-Loup is an agricultural area, at the crossroads of the trade routes between the Montpellier coastline and inland. Its rather scattered settlements are organised around the manses*, castra* and churches of the various parishes.

The creation of villages in the strict sense of the word came late. During the 100 Years' War, when the fighting wasn't raging, bands of idle mercenaries roamed the region in search of looting. This lasting insecurity led the inhabitants to demand the construction of fortified enclosures to protect themselves, which the royal authorities accepted. Gradually, the inhabitants began to gather in and around these enclosures and contributed to the development and autonomy of these village forts, structures that still shape the territory today.

Montferrand, rediscover this medieval past, which can be seen in the narrow streets, architectural details, churches and fortifications.

Viols-le-Fort

Viols-le-Fort has preserved its 15th century wall, an imposing gate tower, recently listed as a Monuments Historiques. Its 12th century church was enlarged in the 19th century to accommodate population growth. As you wander discover the stalls of its craftsmen. For hiking enthusiasts, the "sentier des drailles", a lovely walk through ancient transhumance land will lead you to the dolmen of the same name.

Saint-Martin-de-Londres

The village dates back to the 12th century around a priory from the abbey of Gellone (Saint-Guilhemle-désert). Built by the monks within its fortified enclosure, the church is a treasure trove of the region's Romanesque architecture. The village streets are a haven to combine a stroll with historical discovery.

Notre Dame-de-Londres

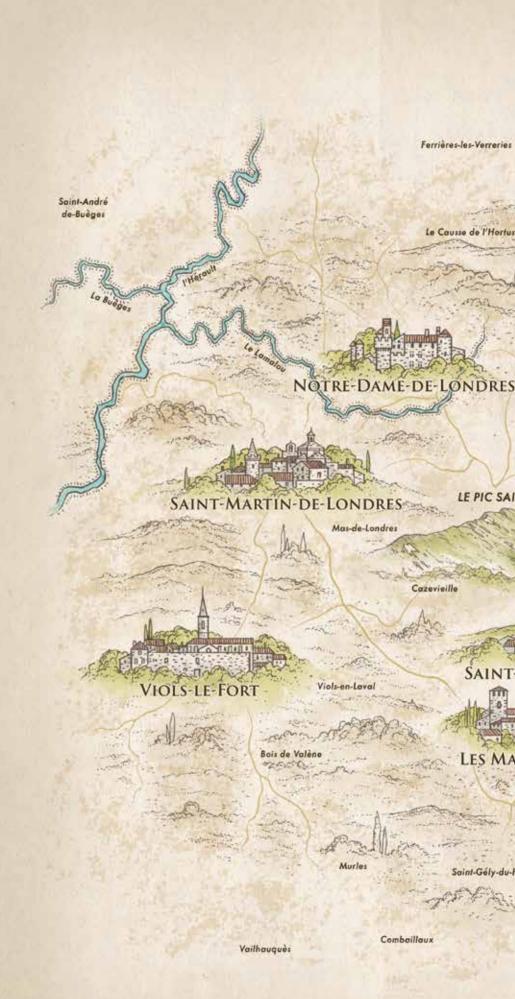
In the 15th century, the hamlet was fortified. The château communicates with the Romanesque double-aisled church via an interior passageway. It was remodelled in the 15th century around its square medieval keep that still dominates the central square. A charming village at the crossroads of picturesque roads for a soothing break.

Saint-Jean-de-Cuculles

The present-day church and its cloistered enclosure bear witness to the former priory of Cuculles, which depended upon the cathedral of Maguelone. The lower part dates from the 12th century and was enhanced in the 14th century to defend it and serve as a refuge for the population. Today, it's a superb place to visit, in the middle of the vineyards and the starting point of a beautiful road that will take you to Cazevielle at the foot of the Pic Saint-Loup.

Les Matelles

The village was once the seat of the Val de Montferrand. Today, its narrow streets, so characteristic of its medieval history, are a delight. Don't miss the Maison des Consuls, home to the Musée d'arts et d'Archéologie; a lively dialogue between archaeology and contemporary art, a testament to man's skills and ability to transform its environment.



(*): manses: ancestors of mas / castra: plural of castrum: an enclosed and fortified aristocratic and peasant duelling in the Middle Ages.

Ferrières-les-Verreries Claret Le Causse de l'Hortu L'Hortu LE PIC SAINT-LOUP Saint-Mathieu de-Tréviers Cazevieille Le Chôteau de Montferrand SAINT-IEAN-DE-CUCULLES Le Triade LES MATELLES

Soint-Clémer de-Rivière Assa

Romanesque gems

From village to village, discover or rediscover these jewels of Romanesque art that dot the territory of the Grand Pic Saint-Loup.

It was often around these churches that housing gradually grew denser in the Middle Ages and that the history of the villages was written. Built according to the parish boundaries, they gave structure to an area that was mainly agricultural and rural. Thanks to their solid stone construction, rare at the time, they would stand the test of time, taking us back to an ancient past, close to the land and its villagers.



Romanesque church of Saint-Martin

Saint-Martin-de-Londres

In 1088, the lord of Montarnaud ceded the church to the abbey of Gellone. It became a priory in 1090 and grew in importance in the 12th century, leading to frequent conflicts with the lords of Montarnaud, who still own the village. This separation between the ecclesiastical and the seigneurial authorities is still visible today. The priory enclosure appears to be a fortified complex within the village itself. This conflict came to an end in 1250 with the purchase of the seigneury of Saint-Martin by the monks of Gellone Abbey. It was listed a historic monument in 1900.



Romanesque church of the Nativité-de-Saint-Jean-Baptiste

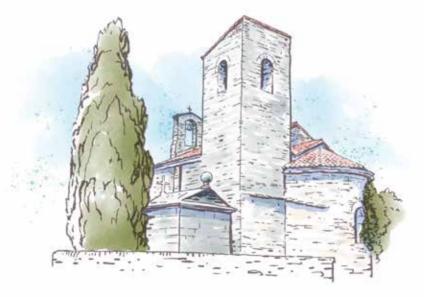
Saint-Jean-de-Cuculles

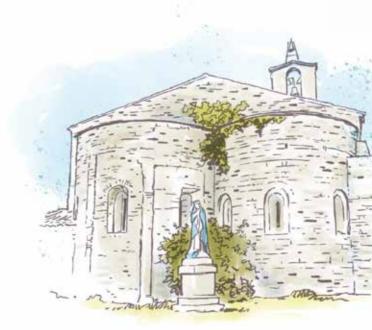
The church was built in the 10th century by monks from Aniane Abbey. They founded a priory at Saint-Jean-de-Cuculles, around which the village grew and developed. The present-day church and its cloistered enclosure are evidence of this former priory of Cuculles which depended on Maguelone cathedral.

Romanesque church

Ferrières-les-Verreries

The Romanesque church dates from the 12th century. It has a bell cast by the Montpellier foundryman, Léonard Bordes, listed historic monument. Situated on the Causse de l'Hortus, the church catches fire at sunset and the site offers a magnificent view over the plain. Nearby, the Couloubrines glassworks, bear witness to the glorious past of the" gentlemen glassmakers ".

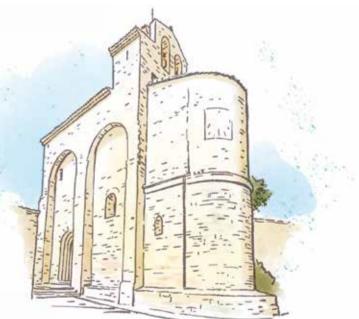




Romanesque church of Saint-Martial

Assas

This was originally the chapel of the old feudal castle, which was demolished to make way for the actual castle, a Montpellier folly dating from the 18thcentury. A pretty view to discover at sun down after visiting the village. Listed historic monument in 1987.



Romanesque church

Notre-Dame-de-Londres

It can be seen by the side of the road that runs through the village; it is discreet but hides a rare feature: a double chevet, housing a double nave. It communicates with the castle by an interior passageway, hence its name "castral church".



Festivals, shows and

BOUILLON CUBE LA GRANGE

Nestling in the heart of nature in the commune of Caussede-la-Selle, La Grange is a lively place for cultural, social and educational activities. In summer, the the Bouillon Cube association puts on shows on site as well as in the villages of the Grand Pic Saint-Loup. It also puts the spotlight on the whole family, with "La dinette", a festival which runs from May to June across the region and on site, where children and old alike will be delighted by the nap and play areas.

MELANDO

The artistic season proposed by Mélando has always been a travelling one. For over 10 years the association has toured the Grand Pic Saint-Loup, from village to village. A friendly lorry-caravan called the Nomad' has been travelling with it last year. It's a place to meet, exchange ideas and artistic practices for stopovers lasting several weeks, leaving plenty of time to create new shows with the local residents and forge many links.

www.rencontresdes culturesenpicsaintloup.fr

LE CHAP

FROM THE 28TH OF APRIL TO THE 6TH OF MAY

Street and stage art, amateur and professional performers, game fairs and nature walks. Chap is continuing its eclectic vein in the heart of Viols-le-Fort. Always with a strong local commitment and the desire to create moments of sharing, meetings and emotions.

www.chap-festival.com

JAZZ EN PIC SAINT-LOUP FROM THE 7TH TO THE 10TH

OF JUNE

Jazz returns to the foot of the majestic Pic SaintLoup and spreads over five communes: Saint-Jean-de-Cuculles, Assas, Le Triadou, Les Matelles and Saint-Mathieu-deTréviers. Local artists and international headliners come together to share magical moments in a festive atmosphere.

www.grandpicsaintloup -tourisme.fr Section Agenda

performing arts

FESTI'VAL DE LONDRES FROM THE 30TH OF JUNE

TO THE 2ND OF JULY

Tropical or folk music, pop, batucada, brass bands, songs, choirs... For three days, Saint-Martin-de-Londres vibrates to the sound of musical genres and forms. The festival mixes street theatre, circus large wooden games... and good humour. It's a merry melting pot that's sure to please young and old alike.

G FestiValDeLondres



LA DEVOISELLE The town of Saint-Gély-du-

CULTURAL SEASON OF

Fesc offers a great program of concerts, conferences, dance, theater and circus performances. To be found on Grand Pic Saint-Loup new Stage from September to July.

www.ladevoiselle.com

www.bouilloncube.fr

FESTIVALS, SHOWS AND PERFORMING ARTS

SCÈNE EN GRAND PIC SAINT-LOUP

Welcome to La Scène en Grand Pic Saint Loup : located in downtown Saint-Gélv-du-Fesc. this new cultural venue offers a rich program of performing arts from September to July, music, theater, dance and circus arts...

www.grandpicsaintloup -tourisme.fr Section Agenda



I HAVE AN APPOINT-MENT WITH YOU

French chanson has an appointment with the Grand Pic Saint-Loup. All year round throughout the region, you can enjoy the repertoire of such legends such as Georges Moustaki, Boby Lapointe and Barbara and discover unknown singers and songwriters. In November, don't miss the Georges Brassens festival in Saint-Gély-du-Fesc to enjoy again and again the texts and music by this tender and mischievous moustachu.

www.jairendezvous avecvous.fr

EARLY MUSIC IN GRAND **PIC SAINT-LOUP & GORGES DE L'HÉRAULT**

FROM THE 12TH TO THE 22ND OF OCTOBER

The highlights of the summer are over, the Ancient Music Festival in Pic Saint-Loup & Gorges de l'Hérault invites you to an autumn stroll through the villages and the wealth of a sometimes forgotten heritage. From the Grand Pic Saint-Loup to the Gorges de l'Hérault, experience the ancient repertoires of the medieval. renaissance and baroque repertoires in churches, chapels and other and historical places throughout our countryside.

www.musiqueancienne enpicsaintloup.com

Exhibitions





ON THE EDGE OF THE LANDSCAPE FROM THE 1ST OF JULY TO THE 29TH OF OCT. in the Grand Pic Saint-Loup

On the front of a building, on a square or in the heart of nature, once again this year, works of art will enchant our environment and invite us to take another look at the landscape. You can discover five creations in the villages of Saint-Martin-de-Londres, Causse-de-la Selle, Saint-Jean-de-Buèges and Pégairolles-de-Buèges, and at the source of the Buèges river.

As part of the Wine and Flavour walks, come and meet the curator of the exhibition who will be commenting on the works, on Tuesdays, the 25th of July, the 29th of August and the 22nd of October.

GLASS FINLANDIA FINNISH GLASS ART UNTIL THE 26TH OF NOVEMBER Claret - Glass Hall

This rare exhibition brings together works by the greatest contemporary Finnish artists. A majority of them belong to the collections of the Riihimäki Glass Museum. Treasures of inventiveness spanning almost a century of creations.

THE EYE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGIST UNTIL 29 OCTOBER

Viols-en-Laval - Cambous site

It's a journey through time that this exhibition of photographs in very large format invites us to. Through the archaeologist's eye, contemplate the invisible messages left by objects from prehistoric times.

AS FAR AS POSSIBLE

UNTIL THE 26TH OF NOVEMBER Les Matelles – Maison des Consuls

On a journey punctuated by creations, you will discover proposals built around one ambition: the do it yourself.

Find all the exhibitions on: www.grandpicsaintloup-tourisme.fr Section Musées et cultures

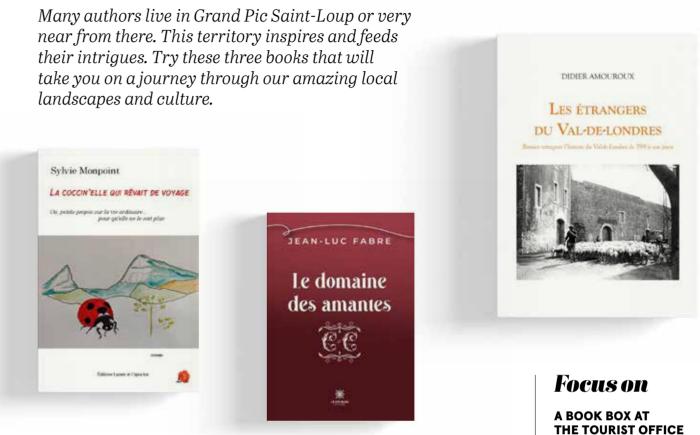
Serge Zaka Storm chaser

Tourist office Saint-Clément-de-Rivière

His photo of lightning over the bay of Cannes won the People's Choice Award for "Weather Photographer of the Year 2021", a competition organised by the Royal Meteorological Society in London. This image by Serge Zaka is on display at the tourist office in Saint-Clément-de-Rivière., alongside other photographs by this storm chaser and agro-climatology researcher.

Litterature

landscapes and culture.



LA COCCIN'ELLE QUI RÊVAIT DE VOYAGES THE LADYBIRD WHO DREAMED OF TRAVELLING Sylvie Montpoint

Éditions Lazare Et Capucine

A little ladybird decides to leave the garden where she was born to discover the world. Her journey takes her from the Pic Saint-Loup to Mont-Aigoual, the Domaine de Restinclièresand Lake Cécélès. As you follow the adventures of the young lady, you'll also be led to question the meaning of life, gossip, letting go, friendship, self-knowledge, love... A book for young and old alike.

LE DOMAINE DES AMANTES THE LOVERS' ESTATE Jean-Luc Fabre

Éditions Le Lys Bleu

At the foot of the Pic Saint-Loup, Charlotte the Occitan and Cally the Irish take over an old wine estate nestled in the heart of this prestigious terroir. Dreaming of great wines and adventure, they want to turn it into a place shaped in the image of their sensual and passionate love. And yet, the headwinds and storms of life will threaten their plans, as well as their love life.

LES ÉTRANGERS **DU VAL-DE-LONDRES** STRANGERS OF THE VAL-DE-LONDRES **Didier Amouroux**

Éditions Hello

Achille leaves the city for the Val-de-Londres and falls in love with this place, up to then, unknown to him. Perhaps it is because it's a strange and harsh country, the coldest corner of the Hérault in winter, one of the hottest in summer. Above all because it's a land of contrasts and real people who speak loudly to hide their big hearts. Achille discovers the imprint of generations on the land. This rich past takes him into another history, one that he never imagined would be so intimate or so well-travelled. His own. The novel was awarded the 2022 "Paroles d'auteurs(e)s" prize.







Tout à côté de l'Office de Right next to the tourist office at Pic Natura in Saint-Clément-de-Rivière, a book box has just been installed. Open it and help yourself. Take a book read it, bing it back or keep it. You can also drop off the books you would like to share with others. They can be be novels, essavs, comic strips or books for younger readers. Keep the box alive!

Assas

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Claret

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www.gite-la-capitelle.com La Maison Du Parc / Maison du Presbytère 04 67 02 93 80 audepaloc@claret.fr

Moun Oustal 06 12 75 22 19 -oustal fr contact@moun www.moun-oustal.fr

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www.claret.fr

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LOCAL PRODUCTS

Aux Délices de Maya 04.67.59.08.66 fraisse.villeneuve@orange.fr www.shop-domaine-de-villeneuve.com/miels

Tartines et Bestioles Guillaume Pradeilles 06 79 26 59 07 gptom@hotmail.fr www.tartinesetbestioles.fr

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Ferrières-les-Verreries

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Murles

06 14 85 20 80

Mas Bouvier

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06 45 01 96 50

06 50 69 86 59

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vtempier34730@gmail.com

Sauteyrargues

www.chateau-lascours.com

www.chateau-lascours.com

Château de Lascours

ACCOMMODATION

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xavier.vins@free.fr

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Saint-Vincentde-Barbevrargues

Veronique Tempier - Ceramique

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Vacquières

CRAFTMAN

Fileur de Verre - Guillaume Domise 0673782250 guillaumedomise@gmail.com www.fileurdeverre.fr

Yves Trucchi 07 84 27 57 29 yvestrucchi@orange.fr

WINE-GROWING ESTATE

Bergerie du Fenouillet 06 20 77 61 76 bergeriedefenouillet@orange.fr www.fenouillet.com

Château de Lascaux 04 67 59 00 08 info@chateau-lascaux.com

www.chateau-lascaux.com

Domaine Les Grandes Costes

04 67 59 27 42 contact@grandes-costes.com www.grandes-costes.com

ACCOMMODATION

Bergerie de Fenouillet 04 67 59 03 15 bergeriedefenouillet@orange.fr www.fenouillet.com

RESTAURANT

Restaurant Parc Le Duc 06 47 56 64 85 restaurantparcleduc@gmail.com www.restaurantparcleduc.com

Vailhauguès

WINE-GROWING ESTATE

Domaine Du Pouiol 04 67 84 47 57 info@domainedupouiol.com www.domainedupoujol.com

Valfaunès

CRAFTMAN

Natur'Aile- Savons et Cosmétiques Biologiques 06 51 54 44 94 contactnaturaile10@gmail.com www.natur-aile.com

Photographe Serge Zaka sergezaka@gmail.com

WINE-GROWING ESTATE

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Château de Lancyre 04 67 55 32 74 contact@chateaudelancyre.com www.chateaudelancyre.com

Domaine Pech-Tort 06 18 92 65 08 nadegejeanjean@domaine-pech-tort.com www.domaine-pech-tort.com

Mas Bruguière 04 67 55 20 97 info@mas-bruguiere.com www.mas-bruguiere.com

ACCOMMODATION

Cirta 06 76 88 65 46 danga34270@gmail.com

Le Cœur Du Pic 06 14 34 23 43 thierry.auclair@wanadoo.fr

Le Mas des Violettes 06.45.35.67.26 contact@masdesviolettes.com www.masdesviolettes.com

l'Étrier des Cabanelles cabanelles34@gmail.com 06 10 64 88 06 www.etrier-cabanelles.com

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

L'Étrier des Cabanelles 06 18 07 07 84 cabanelles34@gmail.com www.etrier-cabanelles.com

RESTAURANT

La Belle Vigne 04 67 29 14 43 contact@labellevigne.com www.labellevigne.com

Viols-en-Laval

ASSOCIATION

Site archéologique de Cambous 04 67 86 34 37 slp@prehistoire-cambous.org www.prehistoire-cambous.org

ACCOMMODATION

BnB à la carte / Côté Chêne Vert 06 71 49 74 16 stacia.petit34@orange.fr www.cotechenesverts.com

Viols-le-Fort

CRAFTMAN

Atelier Boutique Midi 32 06 87 04 94 05 atelierboutiquemidi32@gmail.com www.midi32.fr

Atelier Simplement Terre 06 33 36 52 60 chloe.bercovici@wanadoo.fr www.simplementerre.fr

À proximité

Agonès

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Canoë Montana 04 67 73 36 76 contact@canoe-montana.com www.canoe-montana.com

Kavak Herault 06 95 34 21 25 kavakherault@vahoo.com www.kayakherault.com

Aniane

WINE-GROWING ESTATE

Mas de Daumas Gassad 04 67 57 71 28 accueil@daumas-gassac.com www.daumas-gassac.com

Argelliers

ACCOMMODATION

Auberge de Saugras 04 67 55 08 71 auberge.saugras@wanadoo.fr www.aubergedesaugras.com

Boisseron

HÉBERGEMENT

Camping Domaine de Gajan 04 66 80 94 30 info@campingdomainedegajan.com www.campingdomainedegaian.com

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

E-Dventure 07 67 31 08 95 lionel@edventure.fr www.e-dventure.fr

Brissac

ACCOMMODATION

Camping Val D'Hérault 04 67 73 72 29 levaldherault@orange.fr www.camping-levaldherault.com

Mas de Coulet 04 67 83 72 43 contact@masdecoulet.com www.masdecoulet.com

Castries

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Seb Eco Bike 07 81 86 86 17 sebecobike@gmail.com www.sebecobike.fr

Cazilhac

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Immersions Herault 07 49 31 68 01 immersionherault@gmail.com www.immersion-herault.com

Ganges

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Pierre & Eau 06 77 85 17 44 pierre.eau.nature@gmail.com www.pierreeteau.fr

Juvignac

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Wisud 06 07 33 00 18 david@wisud.com www.wisud.com

Le Crès

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Perma Social Club 06 23 47 31 28 alice@permasocial.club www.permasocial.club

Le Grau-du-Roi

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Camargue Autrement 04 30 08 52 91 info@camargue-autrement.com www.camargue-autrement.com

Camargue Aventure Manade Du Levant 04 66 51 90 90 pierrot.le.camarguais@wanadoo.fr www.pierrot-le-camarguais.fr

Mauguio

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Rêve de Vélo Montpellier Sud 04 67 27 87 72 montpellier.sud@revedevelo.com www.revedevelo.com

Montdardier

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Les Accros D'Anieau 06 08 53 93 70 lesaccrosdanjeau@gmail.com www.lesaccrosdanjeau.com

Montoulieu

WINE-GROWING ESTATE

Terres des 2 Sources 04 67 73 70 21 contact@terredes2sources.com fr.terredes2sources.com

RESTAURANT

L'Alzon 04 67 99 52 48 contact@restaurant-alzon.fr www.restaurant-alzon.fr

Montpellier

CRAFTMAN

Artésian Savons 06 41 20 50 18 artesian.creation@gmail.com

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Ingeniosus 06 20 33 07 81 contact@ingeniosus.fr www.ingeniosus.fr

Montpellier Wine Tours 06 95 16 25 61 info@montpellierwinetours.com www.montpellierwinetours.com

LOCAL PRODUCTS

Les Cueilleuses Sauvages 07 67 75 85 78 cueilleuses.sauvages@lilo.org www.les-cueilleuses-sauvages.fr

Prades-le-Lez

ASSOCIATION

Les Écologistes de L'Euzières 04 67 59 54 62 euziere@euziere.org www.euziere.org

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Esprit Du Sud 04 67 59 79 06 espritdusud.herault@gmail.com www.esprit-du-sud.com

Le Clos des Cailloux 06 03 95 07 92 info.closdescailloux@gmail.com

Puéchabon

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Reconnect Land 06 38 52 91 25 contact@reconnectland.fr www.reconnectland.fr

Ribaute-les-Tavernes LEISURE ACTIVITIES

www.belletourisme.com

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

lea.chaumont@hotmail.fr

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

contact@canoelemoulin.fr

www.canoelemoulin.fr

Grotte des Demoiselles

grotte@demoiselles.com

www.demoiselles.com

contact@rocnriver.fr

Les Sains Bonheurs

www.lesaintbonheur.com

www.rocnriver.fr

RESTAURANT

04 67 65 73 44

Canoë Le Moulin

04 67 73 30 73

04 67 73 70 02

Roc'N River

06 58 94 14 07

Léa vous dit tout

0677720452

06 85 74 67 61

Belle Tourisme

06 38 16 59 45

isabelle@belletourisme.com

Saint-André-de-Majencoules

Saint-André-de-Sangonis

Office des Moniteurs du Languedoo contact@languedoc-canyoning.fr

www.languedoc-canyoning.fr

Saint-Bauzille-de-Putois

bonjour@lessainsbonheur.com

Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Le Guilhaume d'Orange 04 67 57 24 53 hotelguilhaumedorange@orange.fr www.guilhaumedorange.fr

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Canoë Rapido 04 67 55 75 75 contact@canoe-rapido.com www.canoe-rapido.com

La Compagnie des Canoës Borg de Saint-Guilhem 06 95 27 31 20 canoeborg@gmail.com www.canoe-borg.fr

Canoë Kayapuna 04 67 57 30 25 contact@canoe-kayapuna.com www.canoe-kayapuna.com

Saint-Jean-de-Fos

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Les Pépites de Nöelle 06 51 25 70 74 lespepitesdenoelle@gmail.com www.lespepitesdenoelle.com

Grotte de Clamouse 04 67 57 71 05 contact@clamouse.com www.clamouse.com

Saint-Laurent-d'Aigouze

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Vigno'Vins 06 13 60 05 14 contact@vignovins.com www.vignovins.com

Saint-Pargoire

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Naturéo Sport et Aventure 06 58 71 54 18 contact@natureo-sport-aventure.com www.natureo-sport-aventure.com

Saint-Séries

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Kavak Tribu 06 28 35 05 75 contact@kayak-tribu.com www.kayak-tribu.com

Saint-Théodorit

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Association Seven Notes 06 22 30 80 73 contact@sevennotes.fr www.sevennotes.fr

THE TOURIST OFFICE at your service!

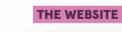


The Tourist Office of the Grand Pic Saint-Loup is here to help you discover the region and organise your stay. Contact us, drop in to one of our two Tourist Information Offices, we'll be delighted to give you all the advice you need for a successful holiday.



THE BOUTIQUE

Discover our shop and its products in our tourist information offices in Saint-Clément-de-Rivière and Saint-Martinde-Londres or by click and collect on: www.boutique.tourisme-picsaintloup.fr







TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES

Saint-Martin-de-Londres Place de la Mairie 34380 Saint-Martin-de-Londres Tél. : 04 67 55 09 59

Saint-Clément-de-Rivière 290 Parc de Saint-Sauveur 34980 Saint-Clément-de-Rivière Tél. : 04 48 20 05 28

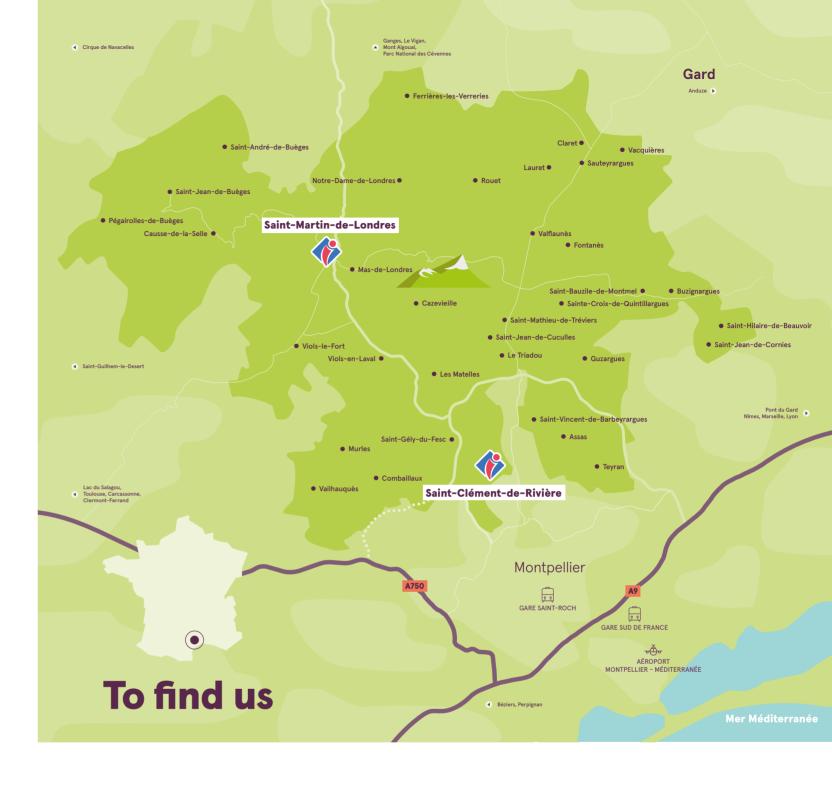
Detailed and updated timetables on our website: www.grandpicsaintloup-tourisme.fr

Contact us by email: contact@tourisme-picsaintloup.fr

Follow and share our news on social networks:

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How to get there by bus by train by car or by plane

BUS LINKS

REGULAR BUS LINES: Several lines serve the various villages from Montpellier.

Information from Hérault Transport 04 34 88 89 99 www.herault-transport.fr



Montpellier Saint-Roch station (city centre) Montpellier Sud de France station Tél. : 0 892 35 35 35 www.gares-sncf.com





→ A9 Lyon-Barcelone: Vendargues exit no. 28. → A75 Paris-Béziers: exit Le Caylar no. 49 or exit Gignac no. 57.

FROM MONTPELLIER

- → RD 986 To Saint-Martin-de-Londres and Ganges.
- → RD 17 To Saint-Clément-de-Rivière.

Shared mobility: Discover car sharing in Grand Pic Saint-Loup. Download the Rezo Pouce application. www.rezopouce.fr



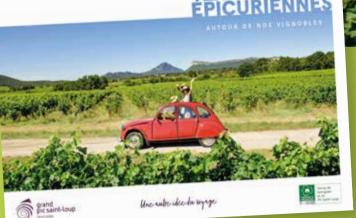
Montpellier - Méditerranée airport nerous services in France and Europe). 0 825 830 003 (0.12 €/min.) www.montpellier.aeroport.fr



CATALOGUE 2022-2023

Epicurean experiences

AROUND OUR VINEYARDS





SCAN ME

All our wine tourism activities are on: www.grandpicsaintloup-tourisme.com



Une autre idée du voyage



COHOL ABUSE IS DANGEROUS FOR YOUR HEALTH AND SHOULD BE CONSUMED IN MODERATION.