



AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES

PRESS KIT 2018



A region at the heart of Western Europe

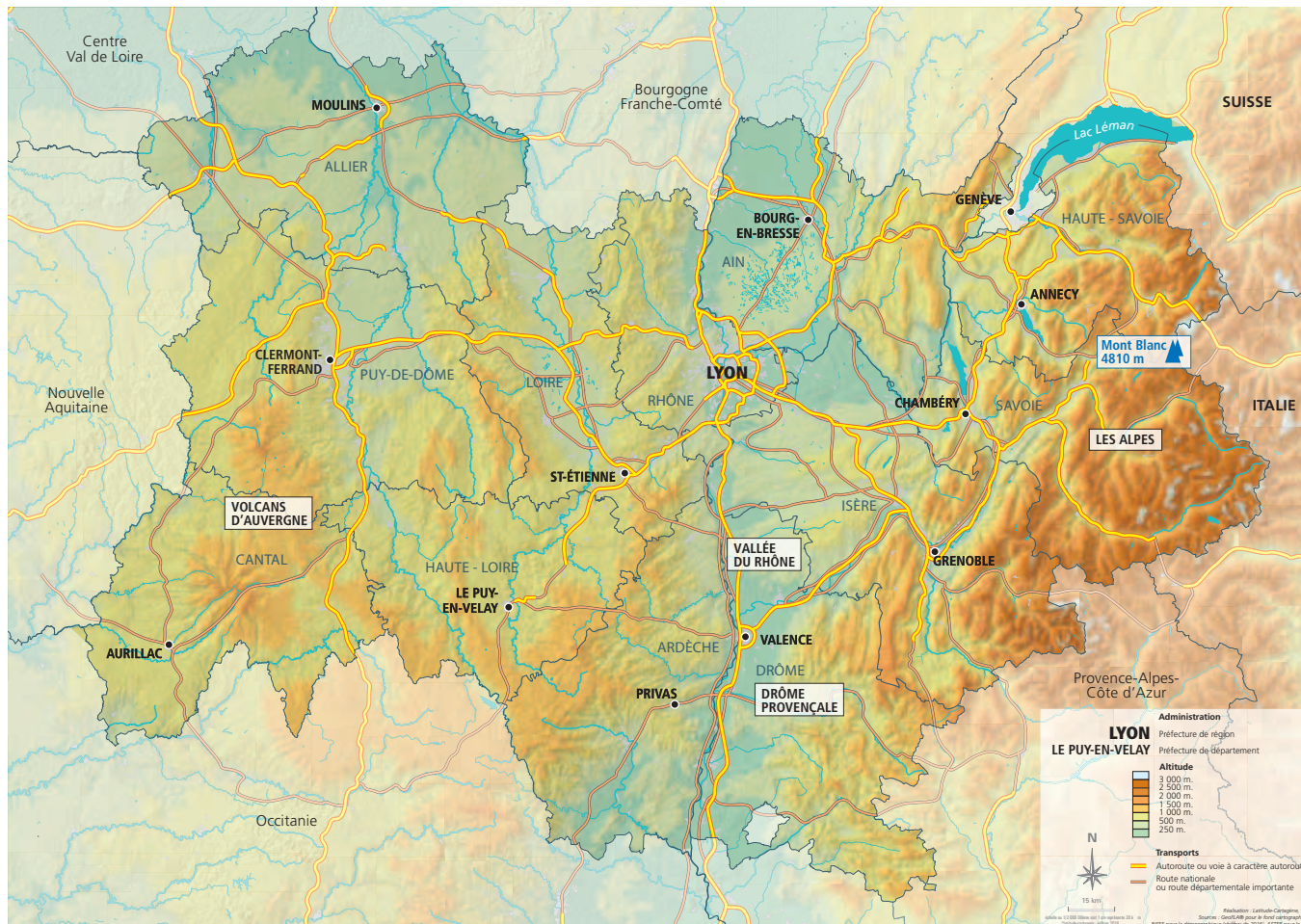
The Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region offers a collection of destinations to satisfy every taste, including **Lyon**, France's famous gastronomic city, **Mont-Blanc**, the "roof of Europe", the **Ardèche** and **Drôme** area, both reminiscent of Provence, the **Auvergne** with its immense tracts of land and range of dormant volcanoes.

In the winter season, the famous ski resorts of the **French Alps** attract tourists from all over the world: **Chamonix**, **Courchevel**, **Megève**, **Méribel**, **Val d'Isère**, **Val Thorens**, etc.

The Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, with approximately **180,6 million bed nights in 2016**, is always looking to refresh and enhance what it offers to its clientele.

Every year, **1.4 billion Euros** are invested in tourism, of which 524 million Euros in commercial accommodation (hotels, holiday residences, camp sites, holiday villages, gîtes de France) and 247 million Euros for the improvement and expansion of the ski lift system.

(source Atout France 2014 - 2016 - Triennial average).



AN EASY-TO-ACCESS REGION



BY AIR:

- Lyon Saint Exupéry international airport: www.lyonaeroports.com
 - Geneva International airport: www.gva.ch
 - Clermont-Ferrand airport: www.clermont-aeroport.com
- Two airports for use during the winter season:
- Chambéry Savoie airport: www.chambery-airport.com
 - Grenoble Isère airport: www.grenoble-airport.com

BY RAIL:

- Connection with Brussels: Thalys
- Connection with London: Eurostar London
- By TGV: Paris-Lyon: 2hrs (30 daily TGV) / Paris-Geneva: 3h40
- TGV from Paris to the ski resorts: Winter season
- International routes: <https://uk.voyages-sncf.com/en/>
- Regional express trains: www.sncf.com/en/trains/ter

BY ROAD:

With more than 1,300 kilometers of highway, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes is one of the best-served regions in France for roadways. www.via-michelin.com

10 GOOD REASONS TO CHOOSE AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES



#1 TRAVEL IN TIME?

Explore and admire the rich cultural heritage.

Among its many treasures: 8 Unesco sites, marvellous towns such as Lyon, 20 «Villes et Pays d'Art et d'Histoire» and 22 «Plus beaux villages de France».

#2 GASTRONOMY ENTHUSIAST?

Savour and discover unique wines and food products.

The region boasts 93 Michelin star chefs, 10 wine areas including the Beaujolais, Côtes du Rhône and Savoie wines –and is the largest PDO cheeseboard in France with 21 origin-controlled cheeses.

#3 DOWN THE SLOPES?

Have fun with family or experience winter thrills.

With 173 downhill or cross-country ski resorts, the region boasts the world's largest ski area with traditional Alpine villages to internationally famous ski resorts like Chamonix, Megève and Val d'Isère.

#4 NATURE LOVER?

Enjoy the unique and unspoilt landscapes.

Paradise of nature with 9 regional natural parks, 2 national natural parks (la Vanoise, les Ecrins) and 49 natural reserves (32 national & 17 regional).

#5 LAKESIDE DREAMER?

Go swimming, take a tour by bike, on foot or on roller blades.

Nestled beneath the Alpine peaks are three of the five largest lakes in France – lac Léman (Geneva), lac du Bourget and lac d'Annecy.

#6 ON TOP OF A VOLCANO?

Walk on one of the most famous volcanoes.

The puy de Dôme (1,465 m) which offers unrivalled views over the Chaîne des Puys and its 80 domes and craters, or the puy Mary (1,797 m), the largest stratovolcano in Europa.

#7 OUTDOOR ADDICT ?

Discover the Europe's biggest natural adventure playground.

Among the varied and extensive choice of awesome activities, the most populars are hiking with 69 GR® routes and 77 GRP® routes, and cycling with over 820 km of cycle ways.

#8 NEED TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF?

Be surprised by health and wellness benefits provided by thermal spa waters.

24 thermal resorts, almost a quarter of the total number in France, to enjoy relaxing moments, with worldwide well-known such as Vichy or Evian.

#9 CITY BREAK ADDICT ?

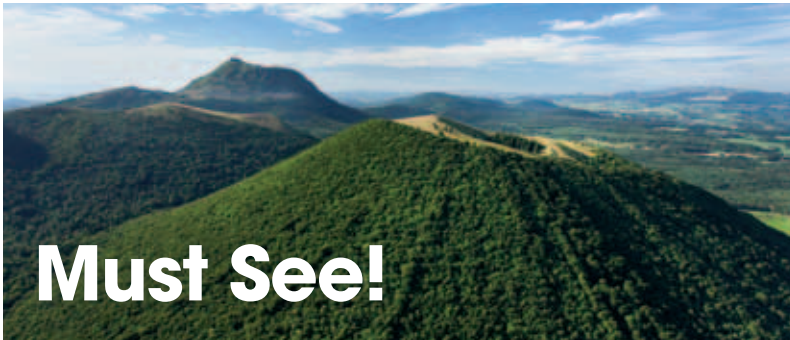
Be amazed by the vibrant mix of art, history, shopping and nightlife.

You are spoiled for choice: Lyon and its UNESCO World Heritage, Clermont-Ferrand, Grenoble, St-Etienne, Valence, Chambéry, le Puy-en-Velay.

#10 SHOW TIME!

Discover the sights, sounds, thrills.. By taking part in the iconic international events.

Design in Saint Etienne, Animation Film in Annecy, Street Theatre in Aurillac, Short Film in Clermont-Ferrand, Light festival in Lyon...



Must See!



CHAMONIX MONT-BLANC

As the world capital for mountaineering, [Chamonix](#), located at the foot of the **Mont-Blanc**, is an animated city full of activities and sites that are not to be missed. The **Mer de Glace**, an ancient glacier accessible by the little Montenvers railway, offers an unparalleled view of the surrounding countryside, like the Aiguille du Midi cable car and the Brévant cable car, which link the two highest peaks in the region. On the terrace of the **Aiguille du Midi**, at an altitude of 3842 meters, you can find the highest attraction in Europe: “Le Pas dans le Vide”, a glass cube that allows visitors to see the void in an exceptional manner and admire the high views for an unforgettable experience. [www.chamonix.com](#)

THE MYTH OF THE ALPS

From the alpine giants in the eastern part of the Massif Central to the foothills of the Jura, the region offers an incomparable range of mountain landscapes. Dominated by Mont-Blanc, the so-called “world above” includes peaks, passes, valleys and pastures from Chablais to Beaufortain, from Tarentaise to Belledonne, from Maurienne to Oisans. Sentinels shaped by time and elements, these colossuses of stone and ice, from the Aiguille du Midi to the Meije, take on the most daring conquests, close to the sun and adorned with eternal snow.

THE LARGE ALPINE LAKES

Lac d’Annecy is among the most popular destinations in the region, and is considered today one of the purest lakes in Europe. Annecy, the “Little Venice of Savoie,” is home to many canals. Over the water, Old Annecy unveils its streets and arched houses with the Alps as a backdrop. Visitors can take a festive cruise over lunch or for an evening’s entertainment. [www.lac-annecy.com](#)
Lac du Bourget, the largest and deepest natural lake in France, inspired Lamartine’s famous poem “The Lake” and welcomed prestigious visitors like Queen Victoria to its spas in Aix-les-Bains and Bourget-du-Lac. Today, visitors still appreciate the soothing benefits of the healing waters as well as activities offered on the lake, like sailing, swimming and fishing. [www.aixlesbains-rivieradesalpes.com/](#)
Lac Lemman, known internationally as Lake Geneva, forms a natural border with Switzerland. The Rhône-Alpes side is a true Riviera, with spas and seaside resorts like Thonon-les-Bains and Evian-les-Bains and many fishing villages like Yvoire. <https://www.thononlesbains.com/en>
[www.evian-tourisme.com](#)

SCENTS OF LAVENDER

In June and July, lavender flowers blanket the fields in the south of the region in an elegant shade of purple-blue. Originally used by the Romans to do laundry and perfume baths, lavender has been rediscovered today for many uses: fragrances, essential oils, soaps, sachets, herbal teas, honey or even vinegar. A visit to a lavender distillery adds still more charm to this multi-purpose plant.

[www.ladrometourisme.com](#)

THE VOLCANOES OF AUVERGNE

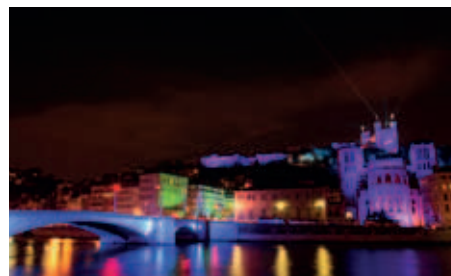
The Auvergne Regional Volcanoes Nature Park is a natural treasure trove unique in Europe. The puy de Dôme, the most famous of these dormant giants, officially a “Grand site de France®”, rises to 1465 m, offering an unrivalled panorama of the 80 volcanoes in the Chaîne des Puys. It is accessible both winter and summer on “Le Panoramique des Dômes” cog railway. And at 1886 m, the puy de Sancy is the highest point in the Massif Central. The puy Mary, another “Grand Site de France®” (1758 m) in the Cantal Massif, is also a fine example of France’s natural heritage. Unspoilt villages, flavoursome local cuisine, volcanic lakes, no end of outdoor activities... the Volcanoes of Auvergne are an inexhaustible source of exploration. [www.auvergne-tourism.com](#)

VULCANIA

The only one of its kind in Europe, Vulcania is an attraction and theme park based on volcanoes and earth sciences. Situated right in the middle of Auvergne’s regional natural volcano park, the venue allows visitors the chance to have fun at the same time as discovering the secrets of volcanoes via this fun, scientific adventure. Both young and old will learn about the awesome dimensions and mysteries of the Earth and discover breathtaking attractions which prove the strength of volcanoes. Every year over 300,000 visitors come to the park for an adventure. [www.vulcania.com](#)

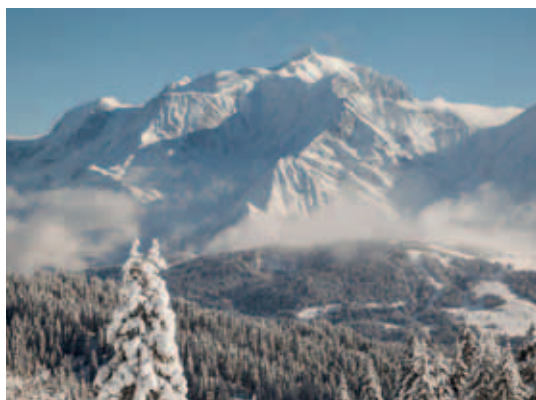
TOWNS AND CULTURE

The **Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes** region is the vibrant heart of French culture. Its cultural heritage is both simple and generous! Among its many treasures: **romanesque art and buildings**, one of the richest castle regions, 22 of France's **Most Beautiful Villages** and eight **UNESCO sites**. **Contemporary art** is omnipresent in the region with many museums and contemporary neighborhoods. Don't miss the numerous **international festivals** highlighting the unique culture of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region such as Jazz à Vienne, the Biennale of Contemporary Art of Lyon, the International Design Biennale in Saint-Etienne, the Festival of La Chaise Dieu, the Festival of Ambronay, the International Short Film Festival in Clermont-Ferrand, the International Street Theatre Festival in Aurillac, Nuits Sonores in Lyon... **there's something for everyone!**



The top cultural sites in 2016:

Musée des Confluences: www.museedesconfluences.fr	767 509 visitors
Caverne du Pont d'Arc: http://en.cavernedupontdarc.fr/	502 853 visitors
Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon: www.mba-lyon.fr/mba	333 835 visitors
Musée de Grenoble: www.museedegrenoble.fr	210 268 visitors
Musée miniature et cinéma de Lyon: www.museeminiatureetcinema.fr/en	209 101 visitors
Château de Grignan: www.chateaux-ladrome.fr/en/ chateau-of-grignan	184 910 visitors
Palais idéal du Facteur Cheval: www.facteurcheval.com	163 903 visitors
Musée d'Art Contemporain de Lyon: www.mac-lyon.com	135,000 visitors
Château-musée d'Annecy: musees.agglo-annecy.fr/ Chateau-d-Annecy	122 475 visitors
Château de Murol: http://murolchateau.com	105,000 visitors
Monastère Royal de Brou: www.monastere-de-brou.fr/en	98 951 visitors



UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN THE AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES

Any site that attracts international interest, whether for natural or cultural heritage, can be considered for classification as a Unesco World Heritage site. The Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region is dotted throughout by places of cultural or natural heritage, amazing examples of the past from prehistory to the Modern period.

THE PILE DWELLING SITES AROUND THE ALPS, listed in 2011. A selection of 111 archeological sites that have “outstanding universal value”, remains of dwellings dating from 5000 to 500 BC and situated in the lakes and rivers, along the shoreline or in the wetlands, of the Alpine and sub-Alpine regions of six countries, 11 of which are in France. Of those, four can be found in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region: the lac d’Aiguebelette (1 site), the lac du Bourget (4 sites), the lac d’Annecy (3 sites) and the French side of lake Geneva (1 site).

THE HISTORIC SITE OF LYON was listed in 1998. 10% of the city of Lyon is listed as a Unesco World Heritage Site, including the districts of Vieux Lyon, the Fourvière and Croix-Rousse hillsides and the Presqu’île. Two rivers, two hills, four riverbanks... Such is the setting for the historic heart of Lyon, whose continuous urban development has been recognised by Unesco. Visitors to the city can see 2000 years of History spread before them from the top of Fourvière.

www.en.lyon-france.com

3 GEOPARKS: the Monts d’Ardèche (2014), the Chablais (2012) and the Massif des Bauges (2011). Confirming the great geological diversity of the region, these geoparks are genuine natural laboratories showing the evolution of our lives and civilisations. The Beaujolais geopark should be labelled in 2018.

THE CAVE PAINTINGS AT PONT D’ARC, known as Grotte Chauvet, listed in 2015. Discovered in 1994, the cave paintings at Vallon-Pont-d’Arc (Grotte Chauvet) capture one’s imagination because of their excellent preserved state and the vibrancy of the paintings themselves. A real cultural, scientific and technological project, the Caverne du Pont d’Arc recreates all of the paintings, sketches and major geological and archeological elements of the Grotte Chauvet to the very highest degree. The characteristics of an authentic underground environment (cold, humidity, lack of light) have also been meticulously recreated. Opened in 2015.

<https://en.ardeche-guide.com>

THE ARCHITECTURAL WORKS OF LE CORBUSIER: a contribution to the modernist movement, consisting of 17 sites. 11 are in France, of which two are in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes: the Maison de la Culture de Firminy: <https://sitelecorbusier.com/en/> and the Couvent de la Tourette in Eveux, both listed in 2016: www.couventdelatourette.fr/home.html

THE SAINT-JACQUES DE COMPOSTELLE PILGRIM ROUTES (cultural asset, consisting of several buildings, listed in 1988) which involves several regions. In our region we can find the church of Notre-Dame-du-Port in Clermont-Ferrand: www.clermontferrandtourism.com/discovery/sites-monuments, Notre-Dame cathedral and Hôtel-Dieu Saint-Jacques in Puy-en-Velay: www.ot-lepuyenvelay.fr

LYON

The beautiful city of Lyon, as well as being partly listed as a UNESCO world heritage site, has a vibrant cultural life.

One of France's most prominent museums is located in the city, the [Musée des Beaux-Arts](#), which is housed in a magnificent 17th century building. Novel in the world of European museums, the musée des Confluences creates a dialogue between sciences in order to understand the history of humanity. Elsewhere, the [Institut Lumière](#), situated in the Villa Lumière, houses the [Musée du Cinéma](#): a trail that is aesthetically pleasing and of scientific and historic interest, recounting the invention of cinematography by Louis Lumière in 1895.

Located in the Cité Internationale, the [Musée d'Art Contemporain](#) is totally given over to temporary exhibitions. Lastly, but by no means least, the [Gallo-Roman museums](#) in Lyon and Saint-Romain-en-Gal focus on the many remains from Gaul in the region: the museums, housing ceramics, jewellery and statues sit side-by-side with archeological sites such as thermal baths, Roman theatres...

www.en.lyon-france.com / www.museedesconfluences.fr

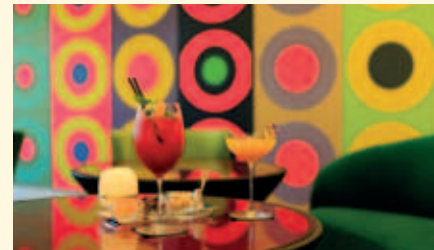


BRAND NEW! April 2018

Opening of "The French outlet village"

On 4th April 2018, the designer shopping centre The Village will open in Villefontaine, just 25 minutes from Lyon and 90 minutes from Switzerland. There will be 90 shops and restaurants in a 22,000 m² shopping area and over 1,900 parking spaces. The Village will be much more than just a shopping centre. Its architecture, lake with its water features, its restaurants and free play areas for children will make it a great place to spend time with family or friends. A temple of fashion, there will be fashion shows as well as special events showcasing both fashion and regional highlights. The centre wants to become THE place for "French fashion" selling brands such as Zadig & Voltaire, Sandro, Maje, Claudie Pierlot, The Kooples, Galeries Lafayette... www.thevillagelyon.com

Villa Maïa, Lyon's new 5* hotel



Opened in March 2017, Villa Maïa is Lyon's latest 5* hotel. With its decisively modern design, the concrete building covered by a glass shell, blends into the surrounding architecture of listed historic monuments. It offers 37 suites and rooms conceived as cocoons: chic, warm and comfortable. The bedrooms with their balconies offer breathtaking views over Lyon or quiet views over a garden created by landscape designer Louis Benech. The décor at Hotel Maïa is equally stylish: there are works of art everywhere, trendy furniture, unusual lighting, marble and velvet. The added plus: the hotel's thermal spa. www.villa-maia.com



CLERMONT-FERRAND

Nestled at the bottom of the volcanoes, the capital city of Auvergne - Clermont-Ferrand - has two thousand years of history tucked away in the heart of the city, boasting a rich heritage. Its medieval and Renaissance architecture is as equally impressive in the old centre of Clermont as in Montferrand.

The basilica of [Notre-Dame-du-Port](#) is the crowning glory of Auvergne's Romanesque art and is a World Heritage site, whilst the idiosyncratic gothic cathedral built out of black lava stone, dominates the city because of its height. The city's cultural season is especially vibrant, with the [Comédie de Clermont-Ferrand](#), a theatre of national prominence; the [Coopérative de Mai](#), one of France's finest venues dedicated to contemporary music. The city has a strong industrial heritage, serving as the headquarters for the world's leading tyre manufacturer and offering "[L'Aventure Michelin](#)" a 2000m² museum space with a scenic trail evoking the history, present and future of Michelin, from the first removable tyre to the future lunar wheel.

<https://laventure.michelin.com>
www.clermontferrandtourism.com



CHAMBÉRY



Chambéry is a city of water with its medieval centre built...on stilts!

Formerly the capital of the Duchy of Savoy, the city centre conceals a historic past with Italian flourishes. The famous symbolic Fontaine des Eléphants, was built in memory of General de Boigne, the city's benefactor. The Musée des Beaux-Arts houses a large collection of Italian paintings from between the 14th and 18th centuries. It also exhibits some fine examples of Florentine, Venetian, Napolitan and Bolognese art. Further to the south of the city is the "must visit" Maison des Charmettes, with its pretty grounds, which was home to Jean-Jacques Rousseau for a number of years. The philosopher described this lovely place in "Les Confessions" as well as in "Les Rêveries du promeneur solitaire".

www.chambery-tourisme.com

Le Petit Hôtel Confidentiel, 5* property in Chambéry voted the most beautiful hotel in France

A delightful hotel located close to the Château des Ducs de Savoie. A stunning 15th century palace which has been given an elegant, designer makeover. It offers 18 bedrooms and suites, all extremely well appointed, plus a wellbeing centre and lots of other projects to come...

Classed as the finest 5* hotel in France by the Trivago Awards 2017.

www.petithotelconfidentiel.com/en/



GRENOBLE

Grenoble is the heart of the Alps, a city encircled by mountains. Here you can follow in the footsteps of French writer Stendhal and even visit a museum dedicated to his life and work. Or there is the Musée de Grenoble which has over 900 masterpieces of western paintings dating from the 13th to the 21st centuries. The Fort de la Bastille, accessible via the famous "bubbles", is another place that is well worth the visit: a military fort, the Musée des Troupes de Montagne, a contemporary art centre, the Acrobastille and some breathtaking views from the top.

www.grenoble-tourisme.com



The Musée de la Grande Chartreuse

In the heart of the Chartreuse Mountains, this unique site is just two kilometers from the famous monastery founded by St Bruno in 1084.

The visit allows you to better understand the mystery of the Carthusian Order, its 900 year history and the monks' way of life.

www.musee-grande-chartreuse.fr/en



SAINT-ETIENNE

Saint-Etienne is the only Unesco Design city in France. It claims to be a visionary, creative and design city surrounded by a green cluster of 45 communes. In addition to the major, forward-thinking event that is the Biennale Internationale Design, the city is constantly organising major exhibitions in its many museums: Puits Couriot-Parc Musée de la Mine, Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Musée d'Art et d'Industrie, Musée des Verts, as well as other big events throughout the year.

www.saint-etiennetourisme.com

LE PUY-EN-VELAY



Along its narrow streets, lined with stunning town houses, le Puy-en-Velay boasts a rich and varied mixture of influences and heritage, all of which have contributed to its distinctive identity. It is also a city of pilgrimage, the departure point for the Via Podiensis which is one of the four great routes leading to Saint-Jacques-de-Compostelle. Since 1998, Notre-Dame-du-Puy cathedral, the city's Hôtel Dieu together with 7 sections of the route between Le Puy-en-Velay and Ostabat have been listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites. www.ot-lepuyenvelay.fr



VALENCE

The old city, with its pedestrian shopping streets, its shady squares lined with welcoming terraces and its pastel-coloured walls, has managed to retain its old-fashioned charms. In the historic centre of old Valence, the former bishop's palace now houses the Musée de Valence with its collections which trace the history of Man and the arts, from regional Prehistory through to contemporary art. www.valence-romans-tourisme.com



The Palais Idéal du Facteur Cheval in Hauterives

In 1879, during one of his deliveries, postman Cheval discovered a curiously-shaped pebble in Hauterives. The next day, having found another one, he decided to launch himself into a madcap plan: to build the "perfect Palace" using these famous stones. He imagined an uninhabitable palace, in the middle of a lush garden, occupied by an extraordinary beast as well as mythological characters, waterfalls and architectural styles from every corner of the earth. The result, an architectural masterpiece that is as indescribable as it is universal. The only one of its kind in the world, the Palais Idéal has inspired artists for more than a century. Built without any heed to architectural regulations, it was much admired by surrealists and is recognised as a masterpiece of naïve art. It was listed in 1969 as a Monument Historique under the naïve art heading.

www.facteurcheval.com



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES IN FRANCE

Association seeks to protect and promote the heritage of exceptional French villages. There are 157 such villages, 22 of which are in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes. Amongst those Montpeyroux, Pérourges or Le Poët Laval but they are all jewels. www.les-plus-beaux-villages-de-france.org



GASTRONOMY AND WINE

The Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region is a key destination for gastronomy and local produce. Its grass pastureland, orchards and vineyards all combine to create the best food-store in France, with amazing resources:

A RICH AND VARIED RANGE OF LOCAL PRODUCE

79 AOP (Origin-Protected) of which 43 origin-protected wines and 21 origin-protected cheeses (almost half of origin-protected French cheeses, the largest cheese board in France). Amongst the famous names: Reblochon, Beaufort, Saint-Nectaire, Cantal, Bleu d'Auvergne, Abondance, Picodon, Fourme de Montbrison...

Many iconic products, often famed worldwide (Saint-Nectaire and Beaufort cheeses, Weiss and Valrhôna chocolates, Volvic and Evian mineral waters, black olives and olive oil from Nyon, Puy green lentils, Bresse poultry ...)

MONTÉLIMAR NOUGAT

This delicious sweet makes up part of the traditional thirteen desserts of Christmas but is popular at many more times of the year than that. It can be enjoyed at whatever time of the year. Montélimar is obviously the capital of nougat. It is worth noting that there are about 15 nougat factories, including a dozen artisanal producers and almost all of them are open to the public. The oldest of the factories is well worth the visit: the artisan Arnaud Soubeyran exists since 1837. The visit includes a tour of the kitchens where the nougat is made, a tasting and, of course, a visit to the shop which is real treasure trove selling lots of different types of nougat.

www.nougatsoubeyran.com/en/

THE REGION HAS TWO ROUTES DES FROMAGES

During the 35 stages of the Route des Fromages AOP d'Auvergne (farm producers, dairy producers, ripeners), you can learn all about the diversity of the areas, the flavours and the production secrets of these five origin-protected cheeses: Bleu d'Auvergne, Cantal, Fourme d'Ambert, Saint-Nectaire, Salers.

You just have to follow the signposts marked "Route des Fromages AOP d'Auvergne" and at the same time enjoy exploring the various natural sites, heritage, villages and Auvergne gastronomy along the way ...

www.fromages-aop-auvergne.com/route-fromages/

In Savoie Mont Blanc, the Route des Fromages de Savoie has 62 places to discover and to taste the 8 cheeses (AOP and IGP) of the area: Abondance, Beaufort, Chevrotin, Emmental de Savoie, Raclette de Savoie, Reblochon de Savoie, Tome des Bauges and Tomme de Savoie.

www.fromagesdesavoie.fr/fen/





MAJOR ORGANIC REGION:

4219
FARMS

2nd
REGION
(source Agence Bio)

**FRANCE'S
TOP REGION**

FOR MINERAL WATER PRODUCTION
(Vichy, Badoit, Châteldon, Volvic or Evian...)

150
MICRO-BREWERIES
1st place in France.

14

SITES REMARQUABLES DU GOÛT
(quality label denoting outstanding flavours of France)
representing 20 % of the 70 sites throughout France
(in particular Salers cheese, Tricastin black truffle, Puy green lentils and Ardèche chestnuts).

HIGH QUALITY RESTAURANT NETWORKS:

Bouchons Lyonnais: www.lesbouchonslyonnais.org/en/

Bistrots de Pays: www.bistrotdepays.com

Bistrots Beaujolais: www.beaujolais.com/en

The Toques Blanches Lyonnaises: www.toques-blanches-lyonnaises.com

The Toques d'Auvergne: www.toques-auvergne.fr

ABOUT 400 KM OF NATIONALE 7: the historic Route linking tourism and haute cuisine since 1936 (the iconic route covers more than 1000 km), from Villeneuve-sur-Allier to Pierrelatte including several famous Michelin-starred restaurants along the way: Troisgros in Roanne, Bocuse in Lyon, Patrick Henrrioux - la Pyramide in Vienne, Anne-Sophie Pic in Valence...

**92 GREAT MICHELIN-STARRED CHEFS,
INCLUDING EIGHT CHEFS AWARDED THREE STARS:**

- Régis and Jacques Marcon at Saint-Bonnet-le-Froid: www.regismarcon.fr
- Paul Bocuse in Lyon/Collonges-au-Mont-d'Or: www.bocuse.fr/en/
- Emmanuel Renaut - Flocons de Sel in Megève: www.floconsdesel.com/en/
- René et Maxime Meilleur - La Bouitte in Saint-Marcel/Saint-Martin-de-Belleville: www.la-bouitte.com
- Georges Blanc in Vonnas: www.georgesblanc.com/en/
- Troisgros who moved in February 2017 to Ouches: www.troisgros.eu
- Anne-Sophie Pic in Valence (the only woman in France with three stars !): www.anne-sophie-pic.com/en
- Since February 2017, Yannick Alléno in Courchevel, "Le 1947" restaurant: www.yannick-alleno.com/en/

1. Régis Marcon - 2. Maison Décoret - 3. Anne-Sophie Pic - 4. Léo, Marie-Pierre, Michel, César Troisgros et Fanny Pratus - 5. Paul Bocuse

NUMEROUS RESOURCES LINKED TO WINE TOURISM:

400
WINE CELLARS
 involved in
 welcoming visitors

10
ORIGIN-PROTECTED
VINEYARDS
 including 3 internationally-
 renowned names
 (Beaujolais, Côtes du Rhône
 and Vins de Savoie)

10
LABELLED
VIGNOBLES & DÉCOUVERTES
DESTINATIONS
(VINEYARDS & DISCOVERIES)
 out of 66 in France

3 major wine producers linked to wine tourism: Duboeuf, Jaboulet, Chapoutier...
 An existing wine tourism offer that is both extensive and varied:
 cellar visits, sites and activities - linked to wine (walks, tastings, events, wine routes...),
 accommodation options in vineyards, etc.



**PHIL HOWARD OPENS HIS OWN RESTAURANT
 IN LA PLAGNE**

Phil Howard, the London-based chef and one of the most respected in Great Britain, is opening his own restaurant this winter in the heart of Plagne-Montalbert. Having spent the last 25 years heading up a restaurant with two Michelin stars, he is keen to set up a project which is completely different from his normal everyday life and in the village to which he has returned for over 10 years. With a completely new décor, his plan is to cook food for hungry skiers and non-skiers alike in the aim to please all his clients. To achieve this, he will create a team of chefs working on his signature menu and he will return to chef in the kitchen during his holidays. The restaurant will be a cosy place, in a mountain setting that is both modern and relaxed.



<http://presse-laplagne.com/en/a-2-star-chef-in-la-plagne/>

IN 2019 **OPENING OF**
LA CITÉ INTERNATIONALE DE LA GASTRONOMIE IN LYON

Lyon, considered the world capital of gastronomy will see the opening of the Cité Internationale de la Gastronomie in 2019. This unique place will showcase the pleasures of the table, health, wellbeing and lifestyle at the heart of the Grand Hôtel-Dieu, which is currently being totally renovated. La Cité de la Gastronomie de Lyon will offer visitors a 3600 m² space, set out like a "trail of taste" that is both educational and interactive. A permanent exhibition will highlight the history of food throughout the world, wellbeing and how to eat well. This will be complemented by temporary exhibitions on the subject of a specific product or country. Visits will be marked by sensory experiences (touch, taste and feel the products) and there will also be a demonstration space for professionals (chefs, pastry makers, cheese makers, butchers, wine producers...).

www.grand-hotel-dieu.com

The project has already spawned other plans such as the Vallée Mondiale de la Gastronomie which will stretch from Dijon via the Beaujolais, Lyon, Valence (also planning to have a Cité de la Gastronomie from 2019), Tain l'Hermitage, Avignon (Carré du Palais) as far as Marseille.

Lyon is a major destination boasting UNESCO World Heritage sites and many museums, the culinary capital of the world is also the ideal city for a cultural trip. www.en.lyon-france.com/

OUTDOOR

From the **summits of the Alps**, topped by Mont-Blanc (4810 m), to the **craters of the Chaîne des Puys** and its iconic puy de Dôme, via the endless fields of lavender, great alpine and volcanic lakes, the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region is France's number one region for outdoor activities based on the number of open-air sports facilities and the places to swim other than on the coast. It is also **Europe's top mountain region**: 80 % of its territory is in the mountains, with Mont-Blanc considered the "roof" of western Europe. And it is also France's **number one region for places to swim** that are not on the coast, with its great alpine lakes such as lac Léman (Lake Geneva), lac du Bourget, lac d'Annecy and the volcanic lakes of Auvergne.

The region also has 826 km of cycle ways and greenways, including the legendary mountain passes of the Tour de France to be climbed.

There are two major water courses: to the east is the **Rhône** with its tributaries, which crosses the region from north to south and spills into the Mediterranean; to the west is the **Loire**, France's longest river, with its main tributary, the Allier.

The Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region is one of the most mountainous areas in Europe, with two main ranges – the **northern Alps** and the **Massif Central** – ten or so regional or national **natural parks** and major **hiking or cycle routes** that are known worldwide: **St-Jacques de Compostelle routes**, the **ViaRhôna**, the **Grande Traversée des Alpes**, the Sur les Pas des Huguenots trail...

ALPINE LAKES

Lac Léman, also known as Lake Geneva (the largest natural lake in western Europe), lac d'Annecy, lac du Bourget (the biggest glacial lake), lac d'Aiguebelette... there are four alpine lakes in a cluster round Annecy and Aix-les-Bains. Within this idyllic setting, get a bit of height and take a tandem paragliding flight over the lakes! Or enjoy their turquoise waters with an introduction to paddle boarding! Aix les Bains - lac du Bourget / Sevrier - lac d'Annecy / Thonon les Bains - lac Léman, these three resorts are part of the France Stations Nautiques network, which has 34 members throughout France.

The "**France Station Nautique**" label guarantees the standard of the resort in terms of local organisation, facilities and range of nautical activities on offer:

www.station-nautique.com

<http://inspirez.savoie-mont-blanc.com/lacs/>

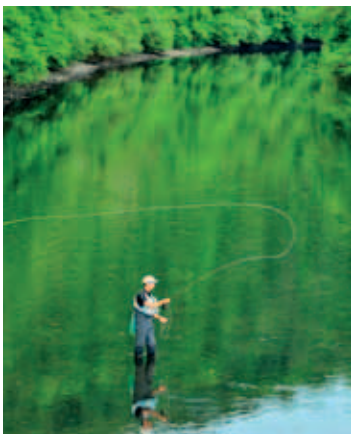
AUVERGNE VOLCANOES

The **Massif du Sancy** stretches around **the puy de Sancy** (1.886 m), the tallest volcano in the Massif Central.

This area lies at the heart of the **Parc Naturel Régional des Volcans d'Auvergne** with its national Réserves Naturelles, offering lots of different activities, both in winter and summer: biking, hiking, trail running, Via Ferrata, swimming, Nordic and alpine winter sports.

Enjoy a bike trip up to the top of mountain peaks, walk along the crater of a volcano, have a go at climbing or a refreshing dip in one of the mountain lakes...all of these options are possible in the Massif du Sancy!

www.sancy.com



VIARHÔNA, CYCLING ALONG THE RIVER RHÔNE

ViaRhône has a grand ambition – to lead you by bike, beside the Rhône River, from Lake Geneva to France’s Mediterranean beaches!

This 815 km cycle route, still a work in progress, leads the cyclist from Alpine panoramas to Camargue beaches across emblematic landscapes of the Cotes du Rhône vineyards and those of the southern Provence: hilltop villages, lavender or olive tree fields, gastronomic discoveries. The ViaRhône cycle route covers more than 2,000 years of history and heritage treasures alternating between secure greenways and shared paths.

This cycle route runs alongside or in close proximity to the Rhône (for 65% of the distance) permitting a tour that follows the flow of the river.

It combines two ways of travelling: either along the safe greenways, only for use by cyclists (or other non-motorised transport), or on cycle routes where motorized traffic is generally light. 700 km are already finished and the whole route is signposted, even temporary sections. The end of work is aimed for the end of 2020. It is also possible to take the train to get back to the start, plan a short bike ride or even to shorten a section.

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes is home to two thirds of the ViaRhône, a stretch of 552 km. Each section gives users the chance to explore the diversity of the region. From alpine landscapes to urban river banks in the middle of Lyon, from terraced vineyards of the Côtes du Rhône to the châteaux of Saint-Vallier or Tournon, there are tourist treasures galore. Hence how the ViaRhône is able to enhance nautical and river-based activities at the same time as highlighting cultural activities and the local produce or wines that are grown along the way.

<https://en.viarhona.com/>



HIKING ON THE TRAIL OF THE HUGUENOTS

“Sur les pas des Huguenots” is a European cultural and hiking trail which closely follows the historic route into exile of the Huguenots living in the Dauphiné towards Switzerland and Germany, after the revoking of the Edict of Nantes (1685-1690). The French section of the “Sur les pas des Huguenots” trail begins at the Musée du Protestantisme Dauphinois in Poët-Laval, travelling through several valleys before arriving in the Isère. Between Grenoble and Chambéry, it meanders half-way up the Massif de la Chartreuse.

www.surlespadeshuguenots.eu/en/

NEW AND AMUSING FOR FAMILY!



Le Pal plans opening of a Yukon Quad.

Every year Le Pal amusement park opens a new attraction. Le PAL invites its visitors to discover an amazing new ride for the 2018 season: the YUKON QUAD, a scenic roller-coaster ride and the only one of its kind in France.

Created for a family audience, it has two launchers which propel the Quads at a maximum speed of 90km/h. Attached to the handle of their off-road vehicle, passengers travel through the magnificent landscapes of northern Canada, taking each bend, climb and descent one after another

over a distance of 1km. Only three YUKON QUAD rides have been built worldwide, this one being the second in Europe and the biggest attraction ever built at Le PAL. www.lepal.com/en

Le Parc des oiseaux

Thanks to its extraordinary collection of birds housed in a landscaped scenery based on their home environment, the Parc des Oiseaux takes visitors on a round-the-world trip. On the way, discover a panoramic tower (reaching 27m high), witness the feeding of Rainbow lorikeets or watch the flying show, considered to be one of the most beautiful in the world. www.parcdesoiseaux.com



WINTER MOUNTAINS



Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes has two different mountain personalities: to the west, the Auvergne part with its landscape of medium mountains and the Chaîne des Puys and to the east, the Alps with the world's largest ski area dominated by the famous Mont-Blanc. During the winter 2015/2016 season, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes numbered 173 downhill or cross-country ski resorts and welcomed 39.2 million "skier days".

THE NORTHERN ALPS, the world's largest ski area, are the ultimate winter sports region, having held the **Winter Olympics** on three occasions, in Chamonix (1924), Grenoble (1968) and Albertville (1992). Suitable for every style, every preference and every discipline, **the Alpine ski resorts** are the perfect destination for snowsports enthusiasts into everything from gentle pottering to extreme skiing.

In all, there are **17 major ski areas** here, such as the **Portes du Soleil** in Haute Savoie and Switzerland and the **Three Valleys** and **Espace Killy** in Savoie.

And with around 160 resorts, everyone is sure to find their ideal winter sports destination.

Skiers who favour unspoilt countryside and authentic experiences will love the village resorts, such as **Chamonix**, **Megève**, **Le Grand-Bornand** and **La Clusaz**. And for those looking for switched-on, all-out skiing spots, the list includes **Courchevel**, **Val Thorens**, **Tignes**, **La Plagne**,

Val d'Isère, **Les Arcs**, **Alpe d'Huez** and **Les Deux Alpes**, which offer a winning combination of adrenaline, partying and wide open spaces. The ski resorts of the Northern Alps welcome all kinds of visitors.

For example, Le Grand Bornand organises a number of activities with families in mind, while the Tignes resort is well-known for its

sporting facilities and its liveliness. Visitors to Brides-les-Bains are always pampered and can enjoy rejuvenating spa treatments. Village resorts, typically set at the heart of a preserved environment, offer an authentic holiday experience, while the Grand Domain resorts, with their interconnected ski areas, give sports lovers access to a multitude of slopes via a single ski pass. The Nouvelle Glisse resorts have facilities in place for many new winter sports, like snowparks and boarder cross tracks.

www.savoie-mont-blanc.com/en - www.isere-tourism.com

SKIING ON VOLCANOES

The Auvergne, with its five mountain ranges and three classified resorts (**Le Lioran**, **Le Mont-Dore** and **Super-Besse**) and numerous cross-country areas with their friendly ski slopes, is ideal for family holidays.

Its protected spaces make the Auvergne an absolute heaven for fans of cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, with over 950 km of groomed and marked slopes on the Plateau de l'Aubrac, from the slopes of the Sancy to the Monts du Forez. Newly renovated throughout, the Cap Guéry mountain centre offers a programme of Nordic activities.

www.capguery.com

Standing at 1886 m, Le Sancy offers about 100 km of downhill slopes.

www.auvergne-sancy.com

THE PRINTEMPS DU SKI IS MORE THAN JUST SKI!

The Printemps du Ski is the creation of a new proper ski season. This season has a lot to offer: ideal weather conditions and often great quality and abundant snow. Days are longer, temperatures are warmer, offers are attractive and choice is wider with very good value for money. As of 20th March in the French ski resorts, enjoy the opportunity for high quality ski experience combined with well being activities, sunny terraces and a festive spirit!

www.leprintempsduski.com

MICHELIN-STARRED RESTAURANTS SHINE IN THE RESORTS

The resorts in the Alps offer high quality gastronomic experiences.

Chef Marc Veyrat (who has had three stars at his restaurant on Lac d'Annecy for a long time) has recently opened La Maison des Bois in the tiny resort of Manigod. www.marc-veyrat.fr/en/

In Chamonix, generation after generation of chefs have cooked at the luxury hotel Hameau Albert 1er, where the kitchen is currently under the direction of Chef Pierre Maillet. www.hameaualbert.fr/en

A FOUR SEASONS HOTEL IN MEGÈVE

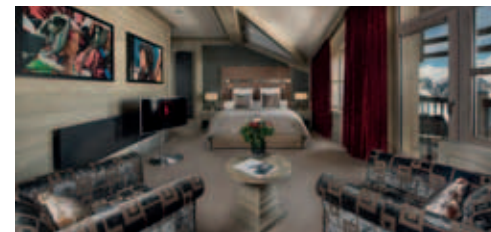
Located on the ski slopes of Mont d'Arbois, the establishment boasts breathtaking views. It is built in the style of an old farm building. Inside guests have access to a 1500 m² spa.

www.fourseasons.com/megève/

TWO NEW 4* HOTELS IN COURCHEVEL

The 4* K2 Djola (EIC) is the new jewel in the crown of the Capezone family and its K2 Collections. Situated right in the middle of the resort.

www.lek2djola.com



The 4* Hôtel Fahrenheit Seven Courchevel is perfectly situated in the heart of Courchevel Moriend, offering direct access to the slopes.

www.fahrenheitseven-courchevel.com



THERMAL WELLBEING

The Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region has 24 thermal resorts (almost a quarter of the total number of resorts in France). Representing a rich history, they are all resolutely looking towards the future by confirming themselves as much more than the therapeutic benefits for which they are known and providing options that are more focused on wellbeing and serenity, accessible to all.

By accepting the challenge to create wellbeing packages, they are responding to the growing demand of the general public for activities and holidays that are linked to revitalisation and to this new social impetus to “take care of oneself” and to remain fully fit and healthy.

Thermal spas therefore offer a guarantee of first-rate treatments provided by a multi-disciplined team that takes a holistic approach to the whole person. Thermal waters have an undeniable benefit as part of wellbeing treatments.

The Romans appreciated that fact over 2000 years' ago, by creating thermae or baths as part of their aim to maintain public health.

The thermal baths of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes combine traditional thermal treatments and more recent therapies with short break, weekend or day packages. A response that is well placed to face the ills of present day society: overworking, stress, weight gain, backache, recuperation, post-cancer support...

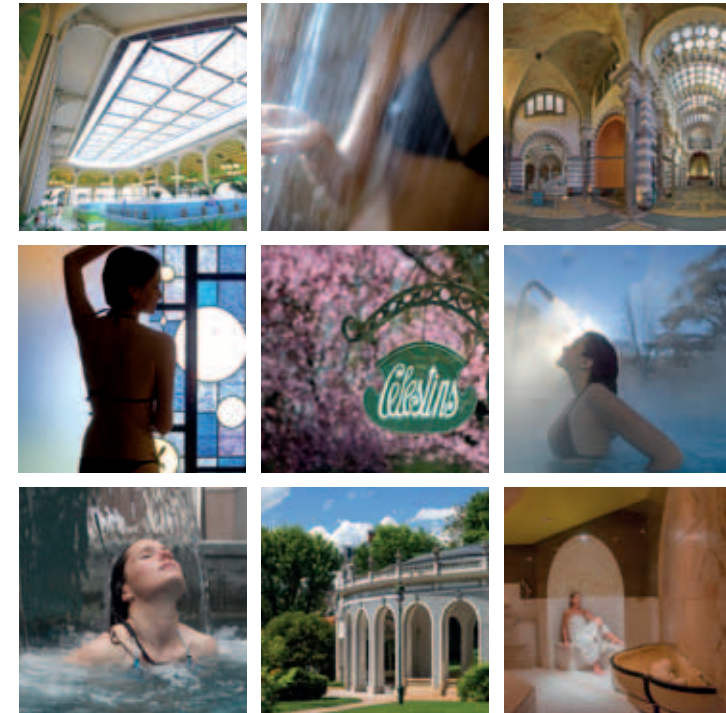


THE VICHY CÉLESTINS THERMAL SPA: EUROPE'S LARGEST MEDICAL THERMAL SPA!

Queen of the Villes d'Eaux at the time when Napoléon III used to go there, Vichy has retained all the features of a luxury thermal resort from that period: thermal baths, of course, an opera house, quirky villas, luxury hotels, two Casinos, a race track, two 18-hole golf courses... not forgetting the 140 hectares of grounds, gardens and protected spaces on the edge of lac d'Allier. The Vichy Thermal Spa les Célestins, one of the biggest and most prestigious spas in Europe, offers a programme of exclusive treatments.

Vichy's thermal medicine takes account of the individual as a whole, suggesting natural therapies with treatment programmes that follow the theme of Preventative, Predictive, Personal and Participatory in order to optimise everyone's health-beauty-fitness potential. The Spa has a global health centre as well as wellbeing spaces and anti-ageing beauty treatments, in a setting that ensures relaxation, dialogue and reflection. The holistic and individual care of all is guaranteed with the "Méthode Vichy".

www.vichy-spa-hotel.fr/en



THE GRAND SPA "O DES LAUZES" IN LA LÉCHÈRE-LES-BAINS
Perfect for lighter legs.

Located at an altitude of 440 m, La Léchère-les-Bains is a thermal resort in the heart of Savoie, the perfect place for enjoying clean air and the surrounding environment amidst glaciers, lakes and rivers.

The thermal centre at the Thermes de la Léchère is built in a big thermal park, surrounded by rare species of trees, forests and mountains.

www.odeslauzes.com

THE GRAND SPA THERMAL IN BRIDES-LES-BAINS
The sustainable slimming village.

The village of Brides-les-Bains is the only one in France where thermal doctors, health professionals and businesses are trained to help clients achieve their slimming goals.

www.thermes-brideslesbains.com



MONT BLANC BATHS

This 3 hour indoor/outdoor spa circuit, based on the natural virtues of Mont-Blanc spring water, offers visitors a unique health experience. Designed by specialist architects and therapists, it consists of 3 different phases: preparation, regeneration and healing.

www.thermes-saint-gervais.com

THE THERMAL SPA EVIAN-LES-BAINS

The benefits of a famous pure and balanced mineral water.

It is in the heart of the Alps that the natural mineral water of evian® starts its journey in a protected natural environment. The rain and snow that falls from the sky settles on a site that is surrounded by mountains, formed over 35,000 years' ago.

Renowned for its purity and balance of magnesium and calcium, the natural mineral water evian® is a water that has had very few minerals added as carbonated waters do. It is noted for helping kidney function and is therefore an excellent diuretic. This is why all the cures at the Thermes d'Evian® combine treatments of external hydrotherapy with a diuresis therapy (internal hydrotherapy).

www.evianresort.com

MAIN EVENTS

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes is very adept at promoting its qualities throughout the year: film festivals, major sporting competitions, wine and local produce markets, carnivals, music festivals, concerts, night-time events, Son et Lumière shows as well as lots of other entertainment lend a real tempo to life in the region. Below is a selection of the most iconic events.

FEBRUARY

International Short Film Festival in Clermont-Ferrand

This festival takes place annually in Clermont Ferrand and will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2018. The chance to present a "short" at Clermont-Ferrand gives film-makers an opportunity not only to win a prestigious competition but also to give the film greater visibility, even within the short film marketplace which attracts 3000 people. Masterpieces of animated film, documentaries, comedies, contemporary reality films, genre films, end of study presentations from the top film schools all compete at this international event.
<https://clermont-filmfest.org/en/>

MARCH

International Design Biennial in Saint Etienne

The event has not stopped evolving since it began in 1988 and it has become the most eclectic design event in France. Its principle objective is to democratise design and make it accessible to everyone (held on the uneven years).
www.biennale-design.com

The Printemps de Pérouges

The voices, the settings, the ambiance... Mixing renowned and just-discovered artists, the Pérouges Spring Festival is open to all audiences. It is held each year in places from Pérouges to Lyon that are both diverse and unexpected, like a church-fortress, Rapan Farm and a bird park, to simultaneously promote the region's heritage.
www.festival-perouges.org

MAY

Nuits Sonores Festival in Lyon

During the weekend of the Ascension, galleries, cinemas, museums and other iconic locations in Lyon welcome a series of electro music concerts for an unforgettable spectacle of sound and visuals. Begun in 2003, the festival welcomes artists from around the world and is known across Europe.
www.nuits-sonores.com/en/



JUNE/JULY

Les Nuits de Fourvière in Lyon

Starting at the beginning of June, the Roman theatres of Fourvière, as well as other cultural sites in the city, host theatre, music, dance, opera, circus and cinema events. All the arts coexist for two months in an open, modern festival with an eclectic programme, where the only criteria for inclusion are artistic quality and an international aspect to each project.
www.nuitsdefourviere.com/en/festival

Anecy International Animation Film Festival

The biggest festival in the world dedicated to animated films, where you will find the best films and professionals in the sector. The Festival gives the general public an opportunity to attend some of the events, in particular the screenings of shorts and features.
www.anecy.org/home

Jazz à Vienne

The annual event for the big names in jazz runs each year from the end of June to mid-July in the wonderful setting of Vienne's Roman amphitheatre. Concerts are also held throughout the city during the festival.
<http://jazzavienne.com/en/>

L'Ardéchoise

An unmissable cycling race. With approximately 14,000 cyclists attending, it is the largest cycling gathering on mountain roads in Europe. There are several options for all levels of fitness: sporty cyclists, tourism cycling, bike trekkers, youths or people with disabilities and you can choose a duration of one to four days.
<http://ardechoise.com/en>

Horizons-Arts Nature in Sancy

This annual festival takes place from the end of June through to the end of September, offering a dozen or so contemporary artists (plastic arts, architecture, graphic design, landscape etc) a rather different space to express themselves – the great outdoors. They have to overcome some genuine obstacles and use amazing technical skills to achieve their aim of enhancing Sancy's stunning landscapes.
www.horizons-sancy.com



Europavox Festival in Clermont-Ferrand

The Europavox Festival has taken place in Clermont-Ferrand since 2006, a music festival which promotes the diversity of European music production. It welcomes musicians from over 20 different nationalities during three days of festivities that reveal the best of the European scene and featuring established and new performers: rock, électro, folk, hip-hop...
www.europavoxfestivals.com/en/



Fêtes Nocturnes at the Château de Grignan

Towering over the village of Grignan, the town's castle opens its doors every night during the summer for open air performances. Over a period of two months, spectators have the privilege of being able to watch theatrical productions within the castle grounds.
www.chateaux-ladrome.fr/en/chateau-of-grignan

Cosmo Jazz Festival Chamonix

This free festival features a wide variety of musical styles, some less well known than others, enabling the performers to meet their fans.
<http://cosmojazzfestival.com/en/>

AUGUST

Fête du lac d'Annecy

On the first Sunday of August, Annecy presents the greatest pyrotechnic spectacle in Europe. The shores of the lake welcome close to 200,000 spectators for a lavish, enchanting evening of fireworks and illuminated cruise ships.
<http://en.lac-annecy.com/>

Aurillac International Street Theatre Festival

Renowned as the largest street theatre festival in Europe, this event offers hundreds of open air performances for visitors to enjoy, both during the day and night, to the sound of fanfares, drummers and other frenzied percussionists. The festival's atmosphere is a mix of discovery and free expression, of art and tribal music.

www.aurillac.net



The Chaise Dieu Music Festival

The Chaise-Dieu Music Festival is a prestigious classical music festival which takes place every year at the end of August. It features mostly sacred music and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2016.

www.chaise-dieu.com/en



Ultra Trail du Mont Blanc - Chamonix

The Ultra Trail du Mont Blanc is a sporting event comprising five different trail-running races – four of which require extreme stamina in an entirely natural surrounding and for a very long time – which crosses three countries and three major Alpine regions.

<http://utmbmontblanc.com/en/ueil.php>

Festival Au Bonheur des Mômes - Grand-Bornand

The largest public cultural event for children is held each year in Grand-Bornand. It includes a multitude of demonstrations, workshops, exhibitions and games and rides, creating six days of fantasy where all types of performing arts are represented.

<https://en.legrandbornand.com>

SEPTEMBER

O'O Cup - Haut-Bugey

An international orienteering race taking place in the Jura mountains in the Haut-Bugey area, across areas surrounding Hauteville-Lompnes. Five days of challenges set on different orienteering maps. The best French and international competitors in the field will be present. www.oocup.com/

Les Biennales de la danse de Lyon

Created in 1984, the Lyon's biennial gathers every two years in Lyon, metropolis and in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region about 40 French and foreign companies. Today led by Dominique Hervieu, the biennial makes international creation and popular dimension live together. Alongside the shows, the Biennale organizes debates, conferences, workshops... and the famous parade : Le Défilé that brings together its 4 500 participants for this new edition around the theme of peace

www.labiennaledelyon.com/uk/

Icarus Cup in Saint-Hilaire du Touvet

The largest free flight event in the world is held in September, close to Grenoble. The Icarus Cup brings together more than 8,000 fans of the sky who, in displays of adrenaline and emotion, defy the laws of gravity by parachute, paragliding, wingsuit, flight or hang gliding. www.coupe-icare.org

Festival d'Ambronay

This festival highlights classic and baroque music performed in a fabulous venue with exceptional acoustics, the Abbaye Notre-Dame d'Ambronay, in the Ain. <https://festival.ambronay.org/en/>

OCTOBER

Lumiere Festival in Lyon

Each year in mid-October, the Lumière Institute in Lyon organises the Lumière Festival. The festival invites the discovery or rediscovery of classic films from around the world over the span of a week, making it a must-visit event for cultural cinema.

www.festival-lumiere.org/en/

Retour des Alpes in Annecy

A big event celebrating the mountain tradition of bringing the cows back down from their summer grazing, with crafts, demonstrations of old-fashioned trades, folk groups, parade of cows, local produce tastings. A very warm atmosphere is guaranteed.

<https://en.lac-annecy.com/>



NOVEMBER

Beaujolais Nouveau - Release of the new Beaujolais.

As the only internationally popular shindig dedicated to wine, this event is known around the world! Each third Thursday in November at midnight, it's time to celebrate the arrival of the new Beaujolais during a festive and friendly evening. www.beaujolais.com

Les Sarmantelles in Beaujeu

Tasting the Beaujolais Primeur is celebrated on the third Thursday of November, in the bars and restaurants of Lyon and the surrounding area. In Beaujeu, Beaujolais' capital, Les Sarmantelles is a popular event : a night of partying, dancing and singing. At midnight, the barrels are drilled and there is a parade of Sarmantelles (flaming torches) through the streets of Beaujeu. www.sarmantelles.com/en/

DECEMBER

Fête des Lumières - The Light Festival in Lyon

Celebrated each year on the 8th of December, this traditional festival has become one of the foremost events for light and sound worldwide. Over four days, Lyon takes on a magical air with illuminated monuments and buildings and spectacles of light and sound. <http://www.fetedeslumieres.lyon.fr/en>



Les Glorieuses de Bresse

Bourg-en-Bresse, Montrevel-en-Bresse, Pont-de-Vaux and Louhans.

Throughout the month of December, four towns in the Bresse area battle against each other during what's known as the "Quatre Glorieuses" – a competition at which a jury presents awards for the best producers of good quality poultry – chickens, capons, turkeys etc. www.glorieusesdebresse.com

Les Arcs European Film Festival

In mid-December, Les Arcs ski resort hosts this major cultural event. It's an opportunity to combine culture and skiing in a festive atmosphere, all while discovering the best of European cinema.

<https://esarcs-filmfest.com/en>

Criterium of the First Snow in Val d'Isère

The end of the year in Val d'Isère is marked by the Criterium of the First Snow, a sports competition with an international reach that opens the ski season in France and is now a stage of the World Cup.

www.worldcup-valdisere.com



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<https://discover.rendez-vous.tv/>



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