

destination *Auxerre* et l'auxerrois

PRESS RELEASE



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communauté
de l'auxerrois

Epicurean destination 100% Burgundy

Welcome to Auxerre, welcome to Burgundy!

Auxerre and Auxerrois offer an authentic taste of Burgundy terroir: a simple, authentic, affordable, convivial and timeless Burgundy.

If we talk about Burgundy we are talking about wine



For centuries, the Auxerrois vineyards have been supplying their great wines to the capitals of Europe via Paris thanks to the waterways that cross it.

Archaeological excavations in Escolives-Sainte-Camille, a few kilometers from Auxerre, uncovered a bas-relief illustrated with a bunch of grapes and dating from the 2nd century: this discovery meant that the Auxerre vineyards are reputed to be the oldest in the region.

In the Middle Ages, vines occupied almost all the arable surface of the commune of Auxerre and its wines were much-prized and well-renowned.

The phylloxera crisis destroyed almost all the auxerrois vineyards at the end of the 19th century.



In the city of Auxerre, 4 hectares remain, those of "Clos de la Chaînette". Formerly the property of the Benedictine Monks of the Abbey Saint-Germain, the Clos de la Chaînette is the only surviving vineyard within the city of Auxerre. It is also one of the oldest proven wine estates in France (7th century). The wine villages of the auxerrois, located to south-east of Auxerre, produce a wide variety of appellations: Irancy, Saint-Bris, Burgundy Chitry, Burgundy Côtes

d'Auxerre, Burgundy Coulanges-la-Vineuse and Crémant de Bourgogne . The latter is cradled in the hamlet of Bailly (municipality of Saint-Bris-le-Vineux). Bally Lapierre produces its sparkling wines in an astonishing setting: an underground stone quarry, providing unique natural conditions.

The famous vineyards of Chablis are only 20 km from Auxerre.

If we are talking about Burgundy we are talking about gastronomy

We have plenty of local specialities to tempt you: Burgundy snails, truffles, parslid ham, gherkins, blackcurrants, our famous gougères, eggs en meurette, beef bourguignon, plus all the regional cheeses such as Epoisses, Soumaintrain or fresh goat's cheese, spiced bread ... and yet more local delicacies, such as ham Chablisien, andouillettes (chitterling sausage), as well as numerous varieties of cherries which are produced in the auxerrois.



Cultural Destination 100% Discovery

A rich cultural heritage

Auxerre has enjoyed the status of "City of Art and History" since 1995 and is a protected area of 67 hectares, second only in the region to that of Dijon, Capital of Burgundy. Auxerre and its surrounding area enjoys a remarkable heritage: the abbey, the cathedral, the narrow streets lined with half-timbered houses ...



Take a journey back in time ...

A crossroads of roads and waterways

The name Auxerre comes from the Gallo-Roman Autessiodurum. Crossed by the river Yonne and Via Agrippa which connected Rome to Brittany, the city is an ideal crossroads of trade routes. For centuries, wood from the Morvan and wine from the hills of Irancy and the auxerrois have been transported from Auxerre to Paris and even as far as the royal court itself.

The birth of the Gallo-Roman fortress towards the end of the 3rd century and its position on an elevated site, have always defined the shape of the city of Auxerre. In the 5th century, the most illustrious bishop of Auxerre, Saint-Germain, a man of the cloth and an astute politician, initiated the program of the building of the monasteries that surround the city, thus constituting a "holy wall".



In the Middle Ages, Auxerre saw urban development springing up around religious communities, thus forming a new enclosure towards the end of the 11th and the beginning of the 12th century. Suburbs and fortresses then constituted an urban entity where the culture of the vine and the land, the floating of wood to Paris and commerce were the main economic activities of the city. Trade by water gave rise to a powerful community of sailors.



Unmissable monuments, evidence of 2600 years of history

The Abbey Saint-Germain and the Saint-Germain museum in Auxerre

The most illustrious of the bishops of Auxerre was Saint-Germain, born about 380 and ordained bishop in 418. Queen Clotilde, wife of Clovis, dedicated a small basilica to him in Auxerre built on the site of his tomb. As miracles reputedly occurred there, the place became a Benedictine abbey and a popular place of pilgrimage. The abbey was an important focus during the intellectual and spiritual renaissance of Carolingian Europe. The crypt remains the most important testimony of the Carolingian Renaissance. Its frescoes dating from the ninth century are the oldest discoveries to date in France. The Saint-Germain Museum is housed on 2 floors in the former dormitory of the monks in the 17th century.



The astronomical Clock Tower in Auxerre

Located in the heart of the pedestrian area, the second protected area of Burgundy and surrounded by beautiful half-timbered houses, sits the Clock Tower, formerly known as Tour Gaillarde. Flamboyant Gothic in style, it was built in the 15th century on the site of a fortified Gallo-Roman tower. Before being transformed into a clock and a belfry, it served as a prison for the Count's palace. Still with its original hands, the dial shows the phases of the moon and the position of the sun.

Saint Etienne Cathedral in Auxerre

In the 13th century the current Gothic building was erected on the site of a Romanesque building dating from the 11th century. Two fires had ravaged the previous cathedral and the city itself. The original imposing crypt is all that remains in the new Romanesque church. There painted with local ochre, one can see an extremely rare fresco: the only known example of a Christ riding a white horse. The treasury of the cathedral contains, among other precious objects, 13th century enamels, miniatures and ancient manuscripts from the 15th and 16th centuries.



Renaissance gates in Saint-Bris-le-Vineux

The Saint-Prix-Saint-Cot church, dating from the 13th century is one of the most beautiful in the department. It is in the choir of the church that we find its real treasure: an enormous mural painted in 1500 and depicting the Tree of Jesse. The Renaissance gates adjoining the building are listed as an historic monument. The village is also home to pretty half-timbered houses.

The archaeological site at Escolives-Sainte-Camille

The excavations, started in 1955, have partially uncovered evidence of human occupation from the Neolithic to Merovingian periods. You can see Gallo-Roman sculptures from the 2nd century, Gallo-Roman and Merovingian furniture, sarcophagi ... There is also an exhibition of objects from everyday life as well as much rarer artefacts.

Destination nature

100% Getaway with a focus on barging, biking, and hiking

The charms of the city in the countryside

Here nature is bountiful and offers a plethora of activities and open spaces for peaceful walks where can get away from it all. Parks, fields, vineyards, cherry trees, forests, canals, the river all come together to create a wonderful playground just 1h30 from Paris.

Along the Yonne and the Nivernais canal, immerse yourself in a rejuvenating natural setting, both relaxing and invigorating ...

Take a barge cruise

Passed through by the Yonne and the Canal du Nivernais, the auxerrois is an ideal destination for river tourism and nautical activities: barge rentals, boat rentals, water skiing, canoeing, fishing ... Formerly a supply route for wine to Paris and the major cities of Europe, the waterways of the region are now a haven for visitors looking for a more gentle way of exploring the area.



At the rhythm of the water



Hiking tours in the heart of the Burgundy countryside

On solid ground, the auxerrois offers a wide range of circuits, walks and hikes to discover its wonderful hilly landscape, whether on foot, by bike, quad ...

Along the canal

Cycling enthusiasts will be able to follow the greenway along the Nivernais Canal from Auxerre, as part of the "Le Tour de Bourgogne à vélo" itinerary.



The mythical road to Santiago de Compostela

Auxerre is an essential stop on the pilgrims route to Saint Jacques de Compostelle, before passing through Vézelay and its eternal hill. The Hikers House (La Maison des Randonneurs), is a stop-over gîte in the heart of the city and home to the Yonne Compostelle association offering low-cost accommodation where friendliness and sharing are the order of the day.

Want to go cycling?



In the vineyards or along the canal you can explore the wineries of the surrounding areas by electric or standard bicycle, or just enjoy the scenery. Rent a bicycle and go for a ride!

If you want a really nice trip check " Burgundy Cycling Tours ®" a mixture of greenways and cycle routes, usually along the canal towpaths, but also along disused railway lines and minor roads or via paths through the vineyards.

In short, everything you could want for a complete change of scenery and pace of life is just 1h30 from Paris! Why not come and see for yourself !

Press contact : promotion@ot-auxerre.fr