



ANJOU 2019

Friends of the Countryside Extra Day and Post Tour June 16 - 20 2019

FRIENDS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE **EXTRA DAY AND POST TOUR JUNE 16–20 2019**

Private family businesses in historic places and the history of France

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* Please refer to the Information Programme
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CONTACT

FCS General Assembly and registrations

Jehanne de Dorlodot Verhaegen
Email: coordination@elo.org
Tel: +32 497 93 05 30

POST TOUR programme

Sophy Smits van Oyen-Maltzoff
Email: events@elo.org
Tel: +32 479 22 31 92

FCS General Assembly

Gabrielle Cubillo
Email: gabrielle.cubillo@elo.org
Tel: +34 610 25 96 97

YOUNG FRIENDS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

Alberto Hermosel
Email: alberto.hermosel@elo.org
Tel: +32 2 234 30 00

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who so willingly accepted to host the Friends and Young Friends for Anjou 2020 without whom this General Assembly and visits would not have been possible.

Please note that all details are correct at the time of going to press but are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.



Small multi-coloured butterflies fluttering in a pale blue sky!

Those who pre-ordered their unique tie, it will be available at dinner on Thursday June 13.

It is still possible to order your tie by sending a mail to:

coordination@elo.org

Limited quantity!

100% silk, Made in Italy. Price: 75€

Dear Friends

Once again, it is our pleasure to invite you to the 22nd General Assembly of the Friends of the Countryside which will take place in the 'Garden of France', the Loire Valley. The event will take place from Thursday June 13 to Sunday June 16, 2019.

The Loire Valley is an extraordinary UNESCO World Heritage Site, steeped in history, with world renowned chateaux, fertile fields, and a rich tradition of wine making.

To make sure you have a deep dive into the history of land management and ownership in the region, the theme of the FCS Conference will be "Facing the challenges of a changing world - a French perspective". The event will focus on the role and difficulties of landowners in France and the heritage of the Loire region.

The assembly will begin on Thursday June 13 with a welcome dinner in Angers at the Galerie David d'Angers, followed by the assembly and conference the next morning, June 14, at the impressive Chateau de Serrant. The Gala Dinner that evening will take place at the magnificent Chateau de Brissac hosted by Marquis and Marquise Charles-André and Larissa de Brissac.

On Saturday June 15 you will have a choice of 4 different tours including hunting, forestry, agriculture, vineyards, Natura 2000, and real estate – many of our tours include hidden gems that are not open to the general public. The tours will be followed by an informal dinner at the Jean Lurçat museum in Angers.

On Sunday we have arranged an optional Extra Day which will include a visit of the vineyards and vegetable garden at the chateau de Valmer owned by the de Saint Venant family. This will be followed by a prestigious guided tour

of the unique Renaissance Chateau de Chambord, the first Wildlife Estates label in France, with dinner in the prominent hunting halls of the castle and a stay at the Relais de Chambord, a stone's throw from the chateau.

The Post Tour, which includes the Extra Day, commences on Monday June 17, will include such prominent chateaux as Villandry, Cheverny, and the Abbaye de Fontevraud. The tour will begin with an exciting 4x4 tour of the Chambord grounds!

I hope that both our conference and exciting visits of private estates will ensure that you join us in France and reserve Thursday June 13 to Sunday June 16 in your agenda. For those of you who are able to extend your stay, the post-tour will treat you to an extraordinary, in-depth tour of the Loire.

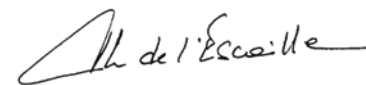
As always, the General Assembly provides a chance for us to meet, see how others manage historic places, interact with the public while maintaining a private life, and prepare the next generation for managing our extraordinary estates and traditions.

We look forward to seeing you among the splendours of the valley of chateaux.

Yours sincerely,



Michael zu Salm-Salm
President

Thierry de l'Escaille
CEO & Secretary General

> **Sunday June 16: Extra day**

Departure from Angers: 10.45am

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Chateau de VALMER:

<https://www.chateauvalmer.com/en/>

Lunch, wine tasting and visit.

The chateau and grounds were built by the advisor to Francois I, Sieur Binet and later owned by Charles VII. Tragically the chateau was lost to a fire in 1948, with yews now marking the limits of where it once stood. The buildings you see today, the portal, the outbuildings and the Petit Valmer are the work of Sieur Thomas Bonneau, advisor to Louis XIII. A remarkable site of 300 hectares overlooking the Brenne valley that includes a walled park, Renaissance inspired terraces and Italian style gardens, a rare troglodyte chapel from the 16thC. (classified as a Historic Monument) and woods of bicentenary trees.

The owner, Countess Alix de St. Venant, is a renowned garden architect while her son Jean is the 5th generation (since 1888) of the de Saint Venant

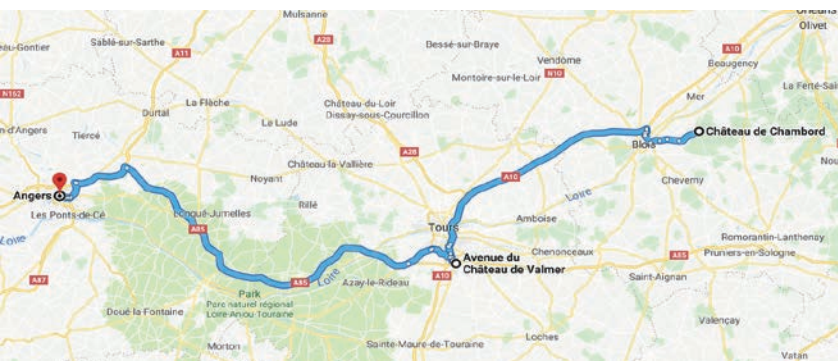


Comte Jean de Saint Venant

© Leonard de Serres



Comtesse Alix de Saint Venant © Gary Rogers



family to work the Valmer vineyards that surround the terraced gardens. The clay-limestone soil produce sparkling, dry, semi-dry and sweet white wines including Vouvray from the Chenin grape. The wine is fermented in glass concrete vats, then bottled and laid to rest in the beautifully preserved 500m long tufa cellars dug in the 16th century under the High Terrace.

Our visit will include a buffet lunch in the Trianon pavilion accompanied by their own Vouvray sec 2016, Touraine rosé 2017 and Vouvray Méthode Traditionnelle followed by a visit of the gardens, chapel and Tufa wine cellars.

The property is labelled as 'jardin remarquable', 'monument historique' and 'vigneron indépendant'





Chateau de CHAMBORD :

www.chambord.org/en/

A prestige visit at 06:30 pm followed by dinner at 08:00 pm in the Hunting Hall with managing director Jean d'Haussonville.

The year 2019 marks the half-millennium of the outset of construction, in 1519, of Francois I's most eminent Renaissance castle in the world welcoming over 1 million visitors in 2017 and projecting to welcome 2 million visitors a year. How to reinterpret this enigmatic monument for the 21st century?

New projects have been launched to present to the visitor a radically transformed and magnified Chambord. To read it as it was thought out by its founder, Francois I, and its inspiring architect Leonardo da Vinci, to show the original construction material as well as the symbols of the immaterial.

A major exhibition "1519-2019 : Utopia at Work" delves into the architecture of the chateau and the involvement of da Vinci. A permaculture vegetable garden will be introduced where once the stables stood providing also training seminars and hosting young visitors. 14 hectares of organic vines were planted in 2015 using the grape varieties of yesteryear (Francois I's Romorantin) - the first bottles will be on sale this year. The maintenance of the 32 km-long stone wall will train 40 people annually providing social value. A colloquium sponsored by UNESCO to consider how to conserve its endangered heritage. These list but just some of the new projects envisaged for the half-millennium celebrations.

« Contrary to the hand-me-down idea of a hunting lodge, Chambord was initially conceived and designed as an ideal city, consisting in not just the monument, but the estate in its entirety. At heart, the project we are conducting today epitomizes the idea of utopia at work. »

Jean d'Haussonville, managing director



Dinner: Hunting Hall, Chambord.

Embellished with red stag trophies, stuffed animals, and paintings depicting hunting scenes, the hall epitomizes the venerable tradition of hunting in Chambord. With its embroidered green and gold tapestries, a heritage of French President Pompidou, the room is suffused with a subdued and pleasant atmosphere.

Dinner will be catered by the local and innovative Eldorado, with chef Laurent Camus



Hotel : Relais de Chambord ****

Newly restored with full respect for the exceptional location at the heart of the domain of Chambord. The charm of a country house with the comfort of a contemporary hotel lying within a stone's throw from the chateau.



09:30 am Monday June 17

For those not continuing with the Post Tour, please check with Jehanne de Dorlodot for details of buses and departure times.

> June 17 - June 20 : Post tour

Private Family Businesses in historic places and history of France

Monday June 17

Chambord Forest and Park: 09:00 am to 11:00 am

A ride in 4x4's of the NATURA 2000 grounds of Chambord with Etienne Guillaumat, Chambord's director of forestry and hunting.

When Francois 1er became king in 1515 he was already a passionate hunter and so decided to build Chambord in the heart of the Boulogne forest providing ideal hunting grounds. By enclosing it with a limestone wall, Chambord is still the largest walled forest and park in Europe covering 5,440 hectares - the size of Paris!

The park contains a large number of stags and boars for observation by the public. Only a few roe deer, about 100 Corsican mouflons and a wealth of regional forest animals and birds. The grounds include 200 hectares of agri-



cultural fields, 160 hectares as prairie for boar and 200 hectares for the village. The rest is covered with oak and Scots pine. The clay soil retains the water to create ponds and marshes, thus an abundant flora that is biodiverse.



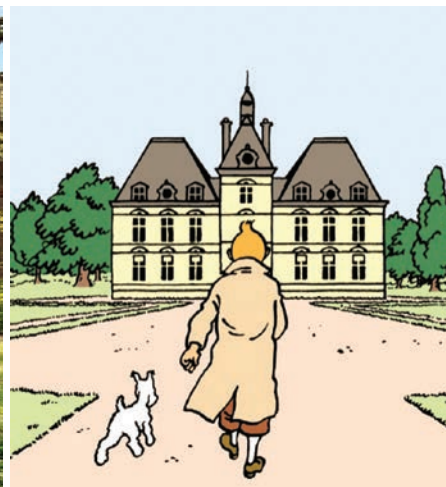
A brunch will be served as of 11:00 am at the **Thibaudiere** which is modeled on a Russian dacha, an inspiration of president George Pompidou. Facing a magnificent pond, it remains one of the hideaways of Chambord.



Domaine LE PORTAIL vineyards, Cheverny.

<https://www.cadoux.fr/en-fr/>

A short visit with the owners Damien and Delphine Cadoux of this small family run entreprise that was once a monastery. The 35 hectares of vines are produced using sustainable methods certified TERRA VITIS. The visit will be followed by a tasting of their various Cour-Cheverny Appellation wines using Francois I's Romorantin grapes.



Chateau de CHEVERNY, Cheverny.

<https://www.chateau-cheverny.com/en/>

The estate of the chateau de Cheverny has been owned by the same family since 1315. The present day classical building from 1625 that has been lived in continuously will be shown to us by owners Marquis Charles-Antoine and Marquise Constance de Vibraye, both very active in the running of the estate. In 1922 it was one of the first chateau to open its doors to the public displaying its wonderful range of well preserved furniture and interior decoration.

Hergé fans will recognise that Cheverny was the inspiration for Captain Haddock's Marlinspike Hall - a separate building houses a museum dedicated to the comicstrip!

As well as the biodiverse park, the grounds hold a kennel of 100 Anglo-French hunting hounds - the hunting heritage is very much alive with chasse à courre twice a week.

Charles-Antoine will discuss with us the management of a private domaine with 350,000 visitors each year and open 365 days of the year.



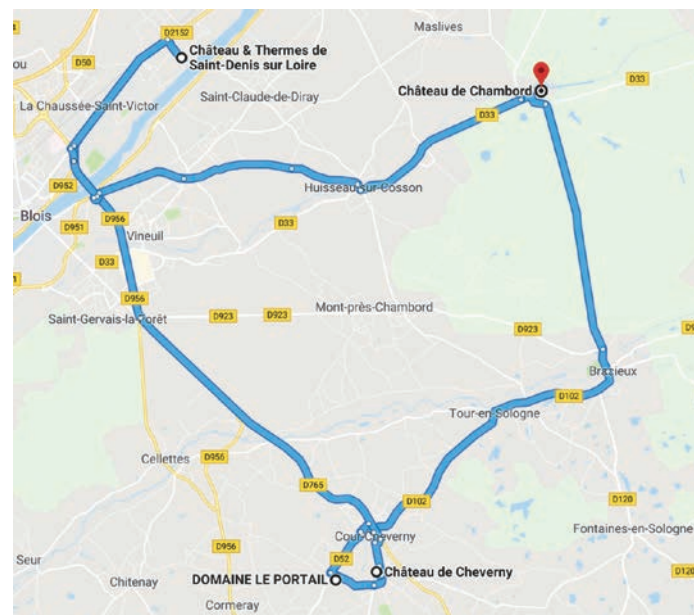
Constance and Charles-Antoine de Vibraye with their children.

Chateau and thermal springs of St.-Denis sur Loire, St-Denis sur Loire

<http://www.saintdenissurloire.com> (French only)

A sacred fountain for the druids, the thermal springs located here were later visited by Louis XII with his court as well as Francois I, Henri II and his wife Catherine de Medicis who later restored the springs. Marie de Medici, the wife of Henri IV, carried out further improvements to these waters reputed to have medicinal benefits. After nearly 150 years of neglect the springs were restored in 1850 and an elegant pavilion was built. Further developments to build a "Las Vegas, Le Touquet and Deauville" (Le Journal de Dimanche) style complex were fortunately blocked by public pressure.

The grounds of the chateau have been owned by the Hurault family since 1341 with various restoration projects of the chateau over the centuries. The



Neo-classical style building we see today dates from 1804. Research is ongoing to restore the chateau as well as the gardens of the 18th century.

The chateau offers meeting rooms for congresses and seminars, a beautiful suite in the chateau to stay as well as stays in the gite in the grounds

Drinks served at 05:00 pm in the grounds of the chateau..

Dinner at the **Restaurant Grand St Michel** at the Relais de Chambord with a view of the Chateau de Chambord with Michelin recognised chef Alexandre Trazères.



> *Tuesday June 18*

Departure 9.30am



Chateau de Villesavin, Tour-en-Sologne

http://www.chateau-de-villesavin.fr/?page_id=11234

The chateau you see today looks practically the same as it was when built in 1527 by Jean le Breton. He was the finance secretary under Francois I who entrusted him with overseeing the building of the chateau de Chambord. Francois I offered these grounds to Jean le Breton who used the same master builders from Chambord to build this chateau as well as his other home Chateau de Villandry.

This private chateau is now owned by the 3rd generation Count and Countess de Sparre who have opened a museum dedicated to weddings, a museum of horse drawn carriages, a mini animal farm, the hiring of the orangerie for private receptions and a treasure hunt in the chateau as well as many other activities throughout the year.

We shall have a shortstop visit here.



Chateau de la Boudaisière, Montlouis-sur-Loire

<https://www.labourdaisiere.com> (French only)

There is little that remains of the medieval fort built to defend Tours from the attacks of the English and the Renaissance chateau that was subsequently



built over the fort has also gone through many modifications throughout the years and seen many different owners. The present owner, Prince Louis-Albert de Broglie, acquired the chateau in 1991 and will welcome us on our visit.

Louis-Albert de Broglie has completely renovated the chateau to offer 29 beautifully decorated rooms available to stay. Visitors are welcome to the tea salon or the tomato bar during the summer months where tomato juice, garden fruits and herbal teas are served all coming from the biological vegetable garden. The chateau also offers rooms for seminars, weddings, private receptions and an underground reception hall in the Tufa rock.

A highlight of the grounds is the unique biological collection of 700 varieties of tomato that come in all shapes and colours! Another part of the grounds holds 400 different varieties of the biodiverse Dahlia and nearby lies an orchard. All gardens have explanatory panels for the public. Various agricultural fairs and music festivals take place all year round.

A micro farm was set up in 2013 as an ambitious social project that promotes agriculture based on the principles of agroecology and permaculture.

Lunch will be served at the Tomato Bar.

Chateau de Villandry, Villandry

<https://www.chateauvillandry.fr/en/>





The chateau de Villandry was one of the last built in Renaissance style by Jean Breton the finance secretary of François Ier (see Château de Villesavin) but still includes a tower of the previous Medieval fortress. The Marquis de Castellane made various Neoclassical renovations in the 18th century which were successful in the interior but rather deformed the façade. We can thank Dr. Joachim Carvallo, owner as of 1906, for giving Villandry its former Renaissance grandeur. It is his grandson,

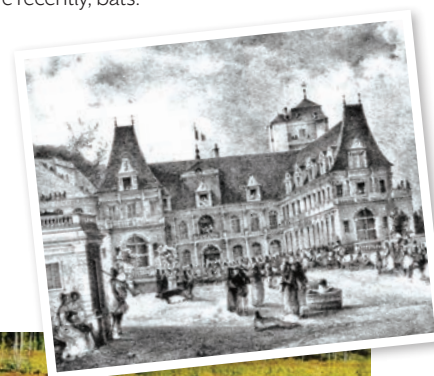
Henri Carvallo, who now carries on the maintenance of the chateau and gardens open to the public since 1920. Henri will greet us for a presentation of this unique place and how to combine private family life with 350 thousand visitors a year.

The chateau de Villandry is one of the jewels of the Loire thanks to its splendid gardens. Already Jean le Breton made way for ornamental and kitchen

gardens that already then earned quite a reputation and the Marquis de Castellane enlarged them to lay out a formal garden with an ornamental lake, flower beds, orangeries and terraces. When Joachim Carvallo took over he painstakingly reinvented the gardens to what we see today - the salon of crosses, love and music. In 2009 the gardens became solely organic with the philosophy of "observe to prevent, prevent to avoid..pesticides" and listed as a LPO Refuge for birds and more recently, bats.

Look for the website for useful gardening advice! The chateau and gardens are open all year round, through all seasons.

Tea will be served at "La Douce Terrasse".





Fontevraud
CITÉ DURABLE

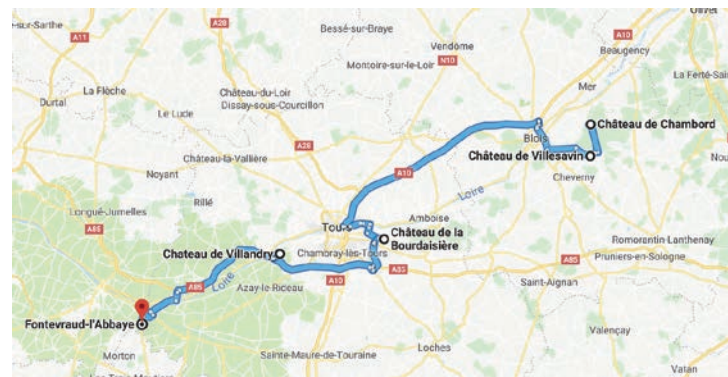
Royal Abbey of Fontevraud, the sustainable city where ancient stones meet cutting edge modernity.

<http://www.fontevraud.fr/en/>

Hospitality is prime at the Abbey of Fontevraud as inspired by St Benedict and based on the philosophy of Gandhi: *"A customer is the most important visitor on our premises. He is not dependent on us. We are dependent on him".*

From motion pictures on digital screens and Ipads to access the rich history of the site, contemporary art collections, dynamic cultural programmes, a modern art museum (opening 2020), musical concerts ranging from rock to baroque, the customer is certainly well served.

Sustainable development is everywhere from the Green Energy Hub





© David Darraut



heating system using wood-chip fired boilers and photovoltaic panels to plants, birds and bio-waste, so much so that the abbey has managed to meet the requirements for ISO 26 000, a first for a historical site. The abbey is a classified LPO bird sanctuary thanks to the practices of biodiversity, the sheep enjoy eco-pasture, beehives provide honey, waste is recycled to use as fertiliser and cars used on the site are electric.

As well as all this, there is of course the historic heritage of this thousand year old abbey. The Romanesque kitchens, the effigies of Eleanor of Aquitaine and her son Richard the Lionheart, the 36 abbesses who ran this "ideal city" that included people from all social backgrounds and the horrors of the prison from the time of the French Revolution to WW2. In 1975 nine centuries of life behind closed doors was put to an end when those doors opened to visitors.

We shall be staying 2 nights in the tranquil silence of the abbey, walking alone through the monastery as night falls. The rooms respect the old stones and yet offer the cosy comfort of high quality bedding and furniture made with respect for the environment.

Dinner

will be held at the former refectory where methods also fit perfectly with the sustainable philosophy of the abbey as initiated by Chef Thibaut Ruggeri winner of the Bocuse d'Or and awarded a Michelin star in 2017.

> Wednesday June 19

We start the day with a drive along the wild section of the Loire river to Saumur, home of the eponymous wine.

LANGLOIS-CHATEAU WINERY, St-Hilaire-St-Florent, Saumur

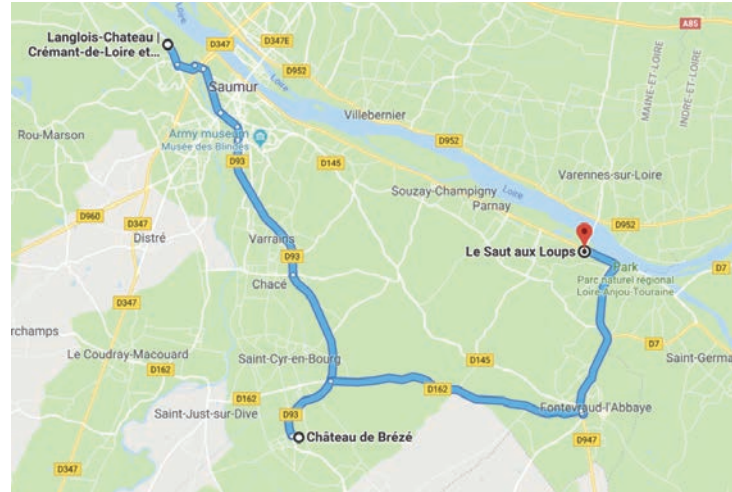
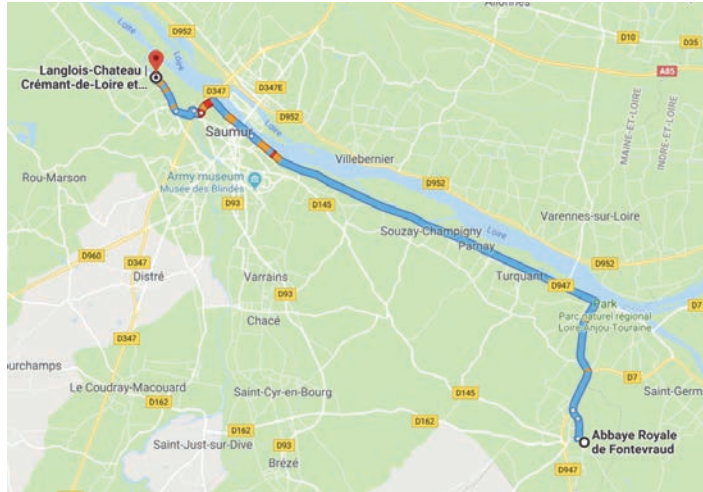
<http://www.langlois-chateau.fr/en/home/>

The house of Langlois-Chateau was begun by the couple Edouard Langlois and Jeanne Chateau in 1912. The production of sparkling wines started well but was interrupted by World War I where Edouard Langlois was killed and awarded the Military Cross. Jeanne Chateau, the young widow, took over the

management of the business later aided by her son and son-in-law. In 1973 the house of Bollinger, recognising the quality of the wines, acquired a majority ownership and this led to the rapid growth of the enterprise.

All the conditions in the Anjou-Saumur region are present to produce excellent wines: diverse soils, mostly limestone, quality grape varieties (chenin for white and cabernet franc for red wines), a temperate climate and of course the ancestral know-how of wine making! Our own knowledge of wine production shall improve having followed the 4 acts offered to us by Langlois-Chateau and the obligatory tasting!







Chateau de Brézé, Brézé, Saumur
<https://www.chateaudebreze.com> and *Le Courrier de l'Ouest*.

Visit and lunch with wine from the chateau.

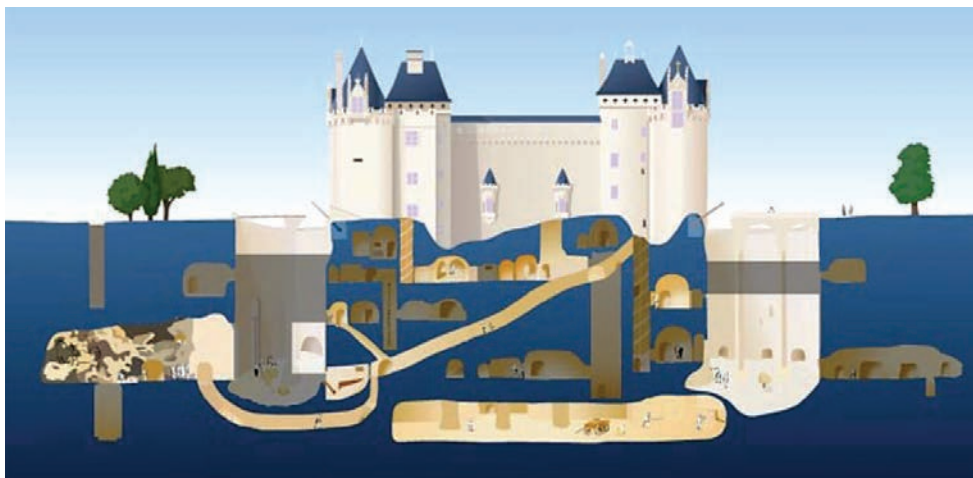
Considered as one of the most intriguing chateaux of the Loire thanks to its underground 'fortress' consisting of steep sloping galleries, large halls and cavities among which sits the largest known underground medieval bakery in France. The dry moats are also an impressive sight and are some of the deepest in France - three 16th century wine presses stand here and are still functional.

Built between the 11th and 19th centuries when it was extensively modified, the chateau lies in the heart of a vineyard producing a wine with a unique taste thanks to the high calcium content in the soil (the wines have a very low pH).

Activities held at the chateau include medieval jousts, Easter egg hunts, Halloween frights and Christmas markets as well as hiring of rooms for private functions. The owners, Mr. and Mrs. Jean and Katrine de Colbert,

descendants of Louis XIV's minister, opened the chateau to the public in 2000 and more recently some private apartments. This required a huge investment much of which is not visible to the public and running it is like managing a business enterprise (that receives close to 100 thousand visitors a year).

Lunch will be served with its unique wines from the surrounding vineyards.



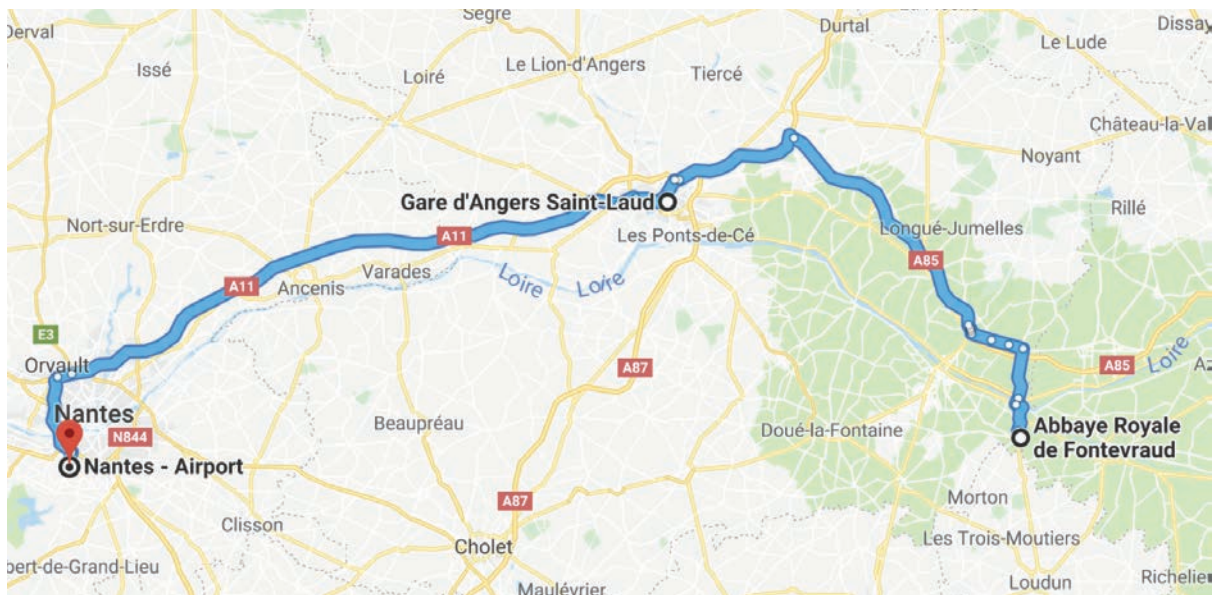
Guided visit of the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud with the history of France as a theme followed by an Informal Dinner.

> *Thursday June 20*

Departure day 10:00am

Bus back to Angers (1hour) and Nantes airport (2 hours)

For those with time to spare in Angers or with the use of a car, please consult the GA Brochure for some recommended visits in the centre and in the vicinity of Angers.





Optional nearby visit for those with their own transport:

Le Saut aux Loups : Mushroom Growing in Troglodyte caves, Montsoreau, Saumur.

<http://www.troglo-sautauxlous.com>

Troglodyte caves have existed in the valley since prehistory. From the Middle ages to the late 19th century Tufa limestone rock was extensively used for the building of chateaux and churches in the valley creating kilometres of Tufa caves all along the valley that were used as dwellings for both people and

animals including wolves, hence the name here, “the jump to the wolves”. When the excavation of Tufa rock ceased in the mid 19th century, the vast galleries here covering 2 hectares were converted to mushroom growing. This tradition still continues today now allowing 35 000 visitors a year to discover the different stages of mushroom growing.

*The temperature in the cave is a constant 13°C.
Do remember to bring adequate clothing!*

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR FOR
CORDOBA 2020




*Friends of the
Countryside*


*Young Friends of the
Countryside*