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GRAND
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VÉZELAY - VALLON
MORVAN - NIVELY - EX

THE ETERNAL HILL AND THE VÉZELIEN VÉZELAY

DESTINATION GRAND VÉZELAY

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VÉZELAY, ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES IN FRANCE

Due to the presence of Marie-Magdalene's relics, Vézelay has been the hub of christianity since the middle ages, and a main rallying point for the pilgrims on their way to Compostela.

In 1146, Saint Bernard preached the second crusade. In 1190, King Philippe Auguste of France and King Richard the Lionheart of England met there on their way to the third crusade. In 1217, Franciscan monks founded the first franciscan monastery of France, where the Chapelle de la Cordelle actually stands today. King Saint Louis made several pilgrimages to Vézelay.

Middle ages and modern times come together in Vézelay. The old tiered houses are built on the hillside with magnificent vaulted cellars, which in times gone by offered shelter to pilgrims. The alleyways winding through the gardens, the walkways atop the ramparts, the old gates... all contributes to making Vézelay one of the 'Plus Beaux Villages de France'.



La porte neuve (north)
Fortified gate situated on the ramparts (16th c)



La chapelle de la Cordelle
Located on the North side of the hill - first Franciscan chapel in France



La tourelle Gaillon
15th C corbelled turret rue Saint-Pierre

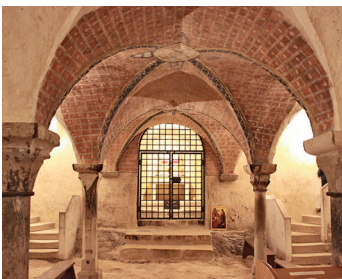
THE BASILICA, MASTERPIECE OF ROMAN ART

Vézelay abbey was a plain benedictine monastery in the 9th century, but thanks to the relics within it, became a focal point for medieval faith. Its facade is humble and austere, the design is of a latin cross. Just circling the building gives you an idea of its scale; it's over 120 meters long.

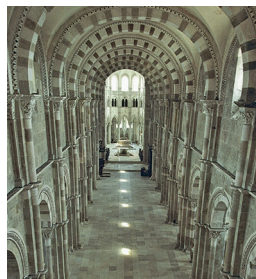
Inside, it's like an immense roman vessel, where light brings the stone to life and the sun, on summer solstice, draws a line of light in the centre of the nave. Saved from ruin and oblivion in the 19th century, thanks to the architect Viollet le Duc, the basilica has been listed on the UNESCO world heritage site since 1979. In the 11th century, Vézelay became one of the four major gathering places for pilgrims on their way to Compostela. Since 2005, it is also possible to walk to Assisi in Italy, the birthplace of Saint-Francis, the founder of the Franciscan order.



The tympanum of the narthex : Christ in glory.
Located before the nave, where pilgrims pray



The crypt : Located under the choir, the crypt contains the relics of Marie-Magdalene



Path of light : On 21st June at solar noon, the sun illuminates the nave

VÉZELAY, THE MEETING PLACE OF ARTISTS

LE MUSÉE ZERVOS

Located in the house which once belonged to the writer Romain Rolland, the museum has a remarkable collection of modern art, including works by Calder, Giacometti, Kandinsky, Miró, Léger and Picasso. *Open from 15th March to 15th November - closed on Tuesdays - www.musee-zervos.fr*

LA MAISON DE LA GOULOTTE

Located 3km from Vézelay, the house that once belonged to the Zervos family is now the Head Office of the Zervos Foundation, which every year organises exhibitions and welcomes resident artists. *Open during the summer season www.fondationzervos.com*

LE MUSÉE DE L'OEUVRE - VIOLLET-LE-DUC

In the monks old dormitory, two rooms are dedicated to medieval sculptures and moulds made by Viollet-le-Duc. *Open weekends from Easter to end of September, and from 2pm to 6pm every day in July and August*

LA MAISON JULES-ROY

Jules-Roy's office has been preserved as the writer left it when he died in 2000. Magnificent terraced gardens with amazing views and windows overlooking the basilica. *Open weekends from Easter to end of September, and from 2pm to 6pm every day in July and August. www.lyonne.com*

Writers, musicians, painters... all have fallen under the charm of Vézelay. Some were just passing through, others chose to live here... Girard Roussillon, Saint Bernard de Clairvaux, King Louis VII, King Philippe Augustus, Richard the Lionheart, King Louis IX aka Saint Louis, Théodore de bèze, Maréchal Vauban, Prosper Mérimée, Eugène Viollet-le-Duc, Romain Rolland, Paul Claudes, D.E. Inghelbrecht, Le Corbusier, Yvonne and Christian Zervos, Jules roy, Max - Pol Fouchet, Georges Bataille, Maurice dron, Maurice Clavel, Mstislav Rostropovitch...

Vézelay has also served as backdrop to two famous French films :

"La grande vadrouille" (1966) and "Mon oncle Benjamin" (1969)

VÉZELAY VINEYARDS, WINE AND GASTRONOMY

Wine has been growing in the area since Gallo-Roman times, and today accounts for approximately one hundred hectares between Asquins, Saint-Père, Tharoiseau and Vézelay.

In 2017, Vézelay wine was granted the "AOC Vézelay" and became the 44th 'Appellation Village' in Burgundy. The grape varieties are Chardonnay, Melon and Pinot Noir. On the culinary front, the specialities include Oeufs en Meurette, Boeuf Bourguignon, Jambon Persillé, Gougères, Charolais beef, not to mention a wide variety of cheeses, and desserts.

VÉZELAY, A LIVING LAND

Vézelay marks the North Western border of the Parc Naturel Régional du Morvan. This preserved land is cherished by ramblers, riders, cyclists and water sport and climbing addicts. During the season, numerous events are organised; concerts in the basilica and the surrounding churches, open air theatres, nocturnal visits, conferences and themed events, village fetes, brocantes and markets to name but a few. Leisure and culture, in perfect harmony.



LAND OF AUTHENTIC VILLAGES

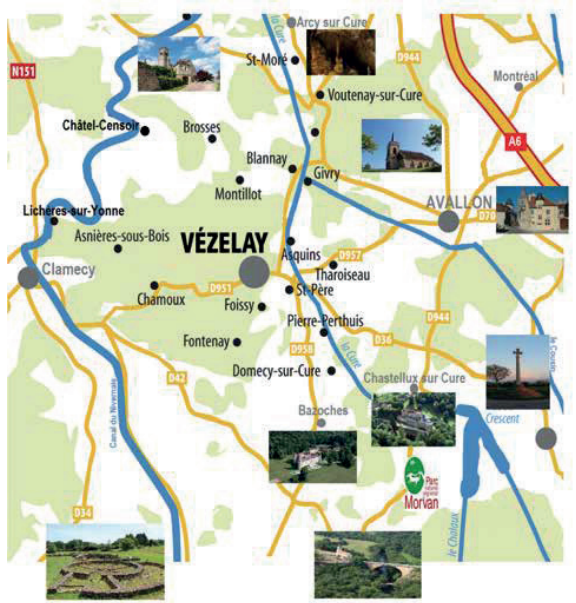
Châtel-Censoir : St-Potentien Collegiate church and its crypt. The Canal du Nivernais runs through the village.

Asquins : St-Jacques church, built between the 12th and the 13th century is on the UNESCO World Heritage list as it is part of the St-James' way. It contains a 16th century reliquary bust and 18th century wood carvings.

Tharoiseau : « Montjoie » calvary cross and magnificent views over Vezelay.

Saint-Père : Archeological site of the 'Fontaines Salées' (salt fountains), gallo-roman thermal springs which date back to the neolithic era, and a visitors centre. Gothic church Notre-Dame which is a listed building with it's superb porch which houses a 13th century tomb.

Pierre-Perthuis : Abrupt cliff faces and it's two famous bridges over the Cure river.



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