

## Chapter 1 : Discover France's Best Kept Secret, the Languedoc Wine Region

*Of the 4 million tourists that come to Nice every year, few know that Nice has its own vineyards that produce high-quality AOC stamped wine. Let us take you off the tourist trail and help you to discover Nice's best kept secret on this bike tour to our favourite Bellet vineyard.*

Share via Email Quaff the beaten track Vineyards have flourished on Montmartre since the Romans built a temple here dedicated to Bacchus, god of wine. A Benedictine abbey was created on the hill in the 12th century but destroyed during the French revolution, although Clos Montmartre was spared. In the early 20th century phylloxera destroyed the vines, and due to the annexation and subsequent urbanisation of Montmartre by the city of Paris, the vineyard lay fallow and almost became victim of property developers. But in the early 30s a group of local artists led by Francis Poulbot, a famous illustrator, petitioned the government to grant them the land so they could replant the vines. Now funded by the Mairie de Paris, it covers 1, sq m and yields 1, half-litre bottles of gamay and pinot noir annually. Most of the wine, in bottles with labels designed by local artists, is auctioned for local charities during the festival, and is considered "decent enough" by critics. European regulations restrict the creation of new vineyards, so most are experimental, educational and community projects, but some are open to visitors. The vineyard is relatively easy to find: There I found the sloping vineyard, punctuated with miniature peach trees and colourful plants. There are great views of the city on a clear day you can see the Eiffel Tower. I met Francis Gourdin, a top oenologist who has advised Clos Montmartre since With capricious Paris summers, the wines have their highs and lows, and we fret about attacks of mushrooms and fungus. Otherwise, entry to the vineyard has to be arranged through the Montmartre tourist office, at Place du Tertre, two minutes from the vineyard. They usually require you come in a group of at least 12 though smaller groups may be lucky if the vineyard is not too busy and you pay for a tasting, although the tour is free. Each year the festival recruits an A-list marraine and parrain godmother and godfather, invited to lead the festivities by the mayors of Paris and Montmartre. Also flying the flag for the event is Daniel Vaillant, charismatic mayor of the 18th arrondissement Montmartre for 15 years. I met him later that day at his office in the district town hall, where we toured the wine cellars and tasted the wines. At the event, exhibitors in pointy, medieval-style tents give tastings of wines from France, as well as Spain, Argentina, Canada and Slovenia. There are culinary demonstrations and workshops, and mouthwatering regional products are stacked high on decorated tables, showcasing the bounty of France: The fete culminates in a big firework display. This sort of event is typical of Montmartre, a self-declared "republic" created in the s by a group of artists to preserve the rebellious local spirit and help the poor and needy. The important thing is that we give pleasure to a wide cross-section of people.

### Chapter 2 : Secret Vineyards tour - Review of eBike the French Riviera, Nice, France - TripAdvisor

*Other secret vineyards of Paris include: Coteaux de Suresnes (Vin de Table) The only commercial wine in Paris (for the moment), Coteaux de Suresnes is a white wine, a blend of Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and SÃ©millon.*

Come festival time August , it is not yodelling you hear, but mariachi music. Le Grau-du-Roi, Languedoc "There is a case to be made for isolated creeks, deserted beaches and dinky fishing villages unchanged in a millennium," says Frank Preston. And it can be rewarding for parents, too, to be among people with their sunny sides out. Such considerations lead you to Le Grau-du-Roi. There is nothing vague or undefined about the French Atlantic coast as it bangs into Spain: Cliffs, heathland and woods drop to beaches harder-won than the vast stretches of sand of the flat littoral zone to the north. The ocean rolls in over rocks, chucking surfers about like incompetent seals. Sea and sky are huge. The Mediterranean coast seems effete by comparison. Portbail, Normandy "In high summer, and on market day Tuesday , Portbail fills up with day trippers, but the rest of the time, you may have the place to yourself," says Greg Ward. Cancale, Brittany Greg Ward writes: The tides here at the western tip of Mont-St-Michel Bay "yes, the namesake abbey stands silhouetted on the horizon " are among the largest in the world, leaving scores of fishing boats stranded on the silty seabed. Walk it off afterwards with a bracing hike to the dramatic Pointe du Grouin. Calanques National Park, Provence An expanse of amazing limestone cliffs and hiking routes just south-west of Marseille. There were only half a dozen visitors when I was there in August, all French. The Loire is the big, grand one. The Loir is its tributary running roughly parallel to the north, before ducking down to join up around Angers. It is both more discreet and a lot more charming than its featureless big sister. In town, it splits into dinky little channels, criss-crossing alongside lovely old buildings and gardens, walkways and trees. But the real Loir Valley experience is to wander from village to small town, beside curving river, field, rock and woodland - feeling that few have been this way before.

**Chapter 3 : The Secret Vineyards of Paris - The Riviera GrapevineThe Riviera Grapevine**

*David & Charles. Hardcover. Book is in good condition. Clipped dust jacket present. wear and to dust jacket -- Re-Read is a social enterprise that trades in and recycles books to reduce waste, save them from landfill and provide services and activities that promote literacy, education attainment and quality of life in South Yorkshire and supports Askern Community Library.*

Items like the state-of-the-art wood-burner and the modern art add a contemporary edge to this region famous for its traditions. A well-stocked fridge contains a mix of fine wines from favoured estates – a sort of grand-cru minibar. Breakfast is self-service, too, with baguettes, croissants and, sometimes, homemade patisseries delivered each morning. Up a twisting, modernist staircase are two large bedrooms and a family suite. The cellars are spectacular and well worth a visit. She suggested to a couple of guests that instead of driving to her vineyard at Clos de Vougeot they should cycle. When they returned, they were smiling from ear to ear! Upstairs, the two rooms – whose shuttered windows open to reveal views of the vineyard slopes – are larger than most Parisian apartments. Guests arriving by train can spend a couple of days here without needing a car. Twenty-two harvests later, and Bujan is still home to Pascal, Marielle and their three children. They have also found the time and resources to restore the beautiful Maison des Vignes, a 17th-century house overlooking the vine-strewn valley. In the kitchen-salon, chunky cream-painted beams and muted earth-coloured walls give a stylish and natural feel. A rustic summer "dining room" at the back of the house is perfect for barbecues; beyond are the pool and gardens. The climate and soil has a different effect on each. PR Villatade is a traditional campagne: Today only Denis and Sophie Morin live here. They had always been fond of the Minervois, so when they decided to start a new life, their quest began here, between Carcassonne and the Black Mountain. For larger groups, or those who wish to stay a week or more, there are two self-catering options. Once a barn with a hayloft above, Wine Cottage is now a beautiful split-level conversion with high beamed ceilings, terracotta floors and lime-washed walls. There are two double bedrooms and a bunkroom for kids. You can relax in the large, light living room or on the small, shady terrace. Both cottages have an open fireplace and a supply of logs. There are horses in the paddock, a potager and a well-stocked trout pond. You can explore the untamed wilderness or stroll among the well-trained vines. A diverse mix of red Languedoc grape varieties includes one of the very few grapes to bear red juice – a Spanish variety called alicante. Nearby is Carcassonne, the finest fortified medieval city in Europe. The Chamoux produce two wines: Jean-Pierre and his wife Sylvie are generous, hospitable and down-to-earth. A sympathetic eye has been used to forge three bedrooms for guests. There are stone walls, oak beams, a hallway with beautiful tessellated tiles, and bedrooms that are comfortable rather than plush. Jean-Pierre and Sylvie serve food that matches perfectly the zesty bone-dry wines. Get out early and you may glimpse a dam-building beaver. PR This fabulous property rests in the famous Chinon vineyards, on the limestone coteaux of the Vienne valley. He plants a vineyard, he prunes, he works the soil, and all the while knows many years will pass before it yields fruit. Forty seasons have come and gone since then, and the fruit of the harvest makes a rich red wine. The house, built in pale tuffeau stone, was completed in but its architectural style comes from the previous century. Set between the forest and the vineyards, the grand three-storey house and faux pigeon tower have an air of 19th-century elegance. Linking the two, a terrace and a pool overlook the verdant valley and, behind them, a troglodyte cave makes a wonderful alfresco dining room. For guests, there are two bedrooms in the tower one up, with views, one down, opening on to the pool, and a peaceful, pretty two-bedroom suite on the ground floor of the main house. Beyond the rows of shiny stainless steel vats is a gallery, m long, stocked with bottles and barrels. But each year brings with it a unique pattern of weather that influences the wine. Chinon is only 10 minutes away and the 12th-century castle should not be missed. Open-air recitals fill the summer evenings with music, and original works deck the walls of the Bastide – a stylish and opulent holiday house in the heart of the vineyards. In coral pink, with a balconied first floor above a wrought-iron arcade, the house has a serene, colonial charm. Behind the stone walls, a cool, bright interior includes a large living room full of deep sofas and a peaceful well-stocked library. Upstairs are three big double bedrooms furnished with fine antiques

and decorated with paintings and engravings. The king-size beds are dressed with hand-embroidered cotton percale and each room opens on to a sunny balcony looking over the orangery and lily pond. You can bathe in a pristine circular pool or snooze in a hammock strung between century-old trees. A minute walk from the Bastide takes you through the vineyards to the wine-tasting cellar. Chantal knows her wines "and her rums: This is the family home of Didier Pierson, a fifth-generation member of a champagne winemaking family, and his English wife, Imogen Whitaker. Wanting to create their own champagne marque " Pierson-Whitaker " they moved to this house 12 years ago. From the high-walled front courtyard, a double-curved staircase leads to an airy, black-and-white tiled hall. A 19th-century oak staircase brings you to a first-floor landing, from which you reach three smart bedrooms with high ceilings, polished beech floorboards and original doors and mouldings. Downstairs is a relaxed living room filled with photographs and paintings by friends and family. You can sample a different fizz with each course: For the cheese course, Didier serves a sweet ratafia made from Marc de Champagne and chardonnay grape juice. Didier divides his time between his premier cru vineyards here and the 28 acres he has recently planted in the Meon valley in Hampshire. The Halbeisen family, whose forbears include a knight of Emperor Frederick III, came here in , starting a wine dynasty that has flourished for more than years. The winery is a short stroll from their splendid hotel and spa " La Cour du Bailli. Horse-drawn wagons once trundled through the grand arched gateway. Now the courtyard of La Cour has prettily laid tables and colourful pots and baskets. Beneath the courtyard is a dining room in the stone vaults of an ancient wine cellar. A vine-festooned gallery leads to the bedrooms where beautiful, 18th-century painted interiors and furniture, dark panelled timber floors, and oak beams have been conserved. Below the farm are treatment rooms and a spa where you can bathe in a pool built inside an ancient barrel vault, relax in the sanarium "not as hot as a sauna and less steamy than a hammam" , or try grape-based body treatments. From La Cour you cross the ramparts and the little Bergenbach river to reach the winery. Several of the wines are used to prepare rich, wholesome dishes such as terrine au muscat or coq au riesling. PR High in the hills above the suburbs of Nice, perched on a steep slope reached via vertiginous hairpin bends, is a fascinating winery. Jean Spizzo, originally from the Friuli in northern Italy, bought the house and planted the first vines here more than 30 years ago. He named the domaine "Fogolar", which means "hearth and home" in his native Friulian. From the terrace the view is inspiring: Thyme, grasses and wild flowers grow between the vine rows, and insecticides are banned.

### Chapter 4 : THE 10 BEST Vineyard Hotels in France - Nov (with Prices) - TripAdvisor

*Note: Citations are based on reference standards. However, formatting rules can vary widely between applications and fields of interest or study. The specific requirements or preferences of your reviewing publisher, classroom teacher, institution or organization should be applied.*

### Chapter 5 : The places in France you'd never thought to visit (but really should)

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### Chapter 6 : Paris's secret vineyard | Travel | The Guardian

*While it's no secret that France is home to some of the best wine regions in the world, you may be surprised to know that great French wines go beyond the bougie bottles that hail from the prestigious vineyards of Bordeaux, Burgundy, Champagne, and Provence.*

### Chapter 7 : Chablis in Burgundy a Secret wine tour - FBC

*Secret Vineyards of France by Christine Atkinson starting at \$ Secret Vineyards of France has 1 available editions to*

*buy at Alibris.*

**Chapter 8 : Grape escapes: 10 French vineyard stays | Travel | The Guardian**

*Clos Montmatre*  
*The Secret Vineyard of Paris* Written by Bob Lyons on June 19, in Guest Blogs, Paris, Romantic It was the Romans who established vineyards in Paris more than a thousand years ago.

**Chapter 9 : Welcome [www.nxgvision.com](http://www.nxgvision.com) - [www.nxgvision.com](http://www.nxgvision.com)**

*Secret Vineyards tour*  
*The half-day Secret Vineyards tour was excellent. The E-bikes are easy to ride, all tough the are a couple of more demanding hills, which may leave you a bit sweaty.*