

The Secrets of the Vines

In and around Salagou

From its red-coloured rock known as "ruffe" to its white dolomites, Lake Salagou likes to play hide-and-seek with visitors. Salagou and Mourèze, which are part of the Grands Sites de France heritage network, offer unexpected views. Vines are interspersed with olives on the hillsides of Salagou (IGP), whilst, a little further on, you come to the home of Clairette du Languedoc wine: derived from a single grape variety, this wine was found as far back as Gallo-Roman times – and the Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée dates to 1948! You can find the wine in Aspiran, Adissan, Le Bosc, Cabrières, Ceyras, Fontès, Lieuran-Cabrières, Nizas, Paulhan, Péret and St-André de Sangonis. The Languedoc-Pézenas and Languedoc Cabrières appellations also await discovery here.

1 Clermont l'Hérault

The oil mill cooperative, which will show you 1001 uses for olives and olive wood, is not to be missed, whilst the tours organised by the tourist office will introduce you to the old town, St Paul's church, the remains of the chateau and Clermont l'Hérault's industrial heritage.

2 Lake Salagou: a different world

Salagou's bumpy red terrain is a source of inspiration to the winemakers who came to the region in search of a complex subsoil consisting of basalt, sandstone, quartz and clay, which gives their wine a peppery, mineral character. Carry on to the fortified settlement of Nébian, which once lodged the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller.

3 Aspiran: at the heart of antiquity

Villa St. Bézard, the oldest known Gallo-Roman winery, prospered for more than 500 years, its huge installations reflecting a highly-organised structure: a tower that served as a loft, baths and a workshop for storing amphorae (with fifteen or so ovens), all of which suggests the high quality of the wines produced in the heart of Hérault in ancient times.

Towering vineyards

A religious heritage

Enjoy a stroll in the foothills of Larzac... At the foot of the Escalette, the cool climate and patchwork of deep soils are attracting increasing numbers of winemakers who choose to move here to be closer to nature. Throughout this circuit you can discover the region's religious history, pretty villages and the pilgrim routes of St. Jacques. There are also numerous views where you can look down on the terraced fields of vines enclosed in stone walls.

1 Grand Site de Navacelles Visitor Centre

The view of the Cirque de Navacelles as it overlooks the huge boulders is breath-taking, and together with the dry vegetation, gives the site a dizzying dimension. Navacelles, which will soon be enshrined as a Grand Site de France, bears witness to the powerful effect of water on a geological scale: it is our very own Grand Canyon! Carry on in the direction of St. Privat via the Col du Vent as far as:

2 St-Jean-de-la-Blaquière

A medieval village with fortified remains, a tower and chateau. Beautiful 12th century church. Continue to Loiras.

3 Loiras

Loiras is situated amid vineyards and olive groves. Take the time to meander past the medieval houses to the church with its Romanesque chevet. Go through Usclas du Bosc (with its disc-shaped steles) until you come to St-Privat. Head towards Soumont, just a few kilometres away:

4 Usclas du Bosc

The inhabitants were called "the pilgrims": a hospital once greeted St. Jacques walkers, who had a special cemetery devoted to them. Numerous buildings, such as the 17th century chateau, feature the shell of St. Jacques.

4 Paulhan

Wander through the narrow streets of this village built in concentric circles, visiting the church of the Holy Cross, the old covered market and the Romanesque chapel of Our Lady of Virtues. The traditional vineyard of Clairette, situated on the banks of the river Hérault with its erstwhile mills, invites you to enjoy a fine wine in its cellars.

5 Fontès

It was the great Gallo-Roman settlements at the foot of Ceressou (such as Les Pradesses and Carlenças) that demonstrated the value of a terroir occupied since prehistory. Parts of the village wall still remain, together with the beautiful 13th century church of St. Hippolyte (a listed monument). Traces of old volcanoes can be seen around the village, which gave the local Fontès wine its reputation – a wine that even has its own guild, «The Brotherhood of St. Hippolyte». Enjoy a tour of the cellars and go to the Rosé Evening, the village's iconic festival, in early August.

6 Cabrières

Cabrières lends its name to one of the smallest and oldest vineyards in Languedoc. Don't miss the Estabel wine cellar and museum, which relates the history, geology, archaeological heritage and viticulture of this very special terroir. A wine-trail unravels the secrets of the Cabrières appellation and its remarkable inheritance: take the 9 km "Vissou Tells All" tour of discovery or the 11 km Crêtes de Vissou circuit.

7 Villeneuve

A former royal cloth-making centre, Villeneuve pays testimony to Colbert's desire to develop the industry in the kingdom in the 17th century. It was one of the jewels of the cloth business in Hérault, and has a touch of poetry to it as well as exuding a timeless atmosphere. Return to Clermont l'Hérault.

On your way... our addresses

Aspiran Domaine Villa Symposia 09 88 66 90 32 Café de la Poste 04 67 96 24 89	Paulhan Domaine Clochers Terroirs 04 67 25 01 50 Domaine Mas Nicolas 06 86 25 73 81 Miel Rouquette 04 67 25 04 40	Octon Caveaux Les Vignerons de l'Occitane Clamery - Octon 04 67 96 08 95 04 67 39 07 39 Domaine Mas du Salagou 04 67 96 26 01 Restaurant La Calade 04 67 96 19 21
Clermont l'Hérault Producteur Oli d'oc 04 67 96 10 36	Mourèze Auberge du Val Mourèze 04 67 96 06 26	Villeneuve Restaurant La Source 04 67 96 36 95

5 St-Privat and les Salces

Set against the foothills of Larzac, the village is thick with staggered dwellings. The houses are made of sandstone, and some bear signs of Renaissance architecture. Abundant springs feed the cultivated plots of land between St-Privat and Les Salces. The listed church of Notre-Dame-des-Salces has a semi-circular Romanesque nave in three sections and a seven-sided apse.

6 Priory of St-Michel-de-Grandmont

Founded in the 12th century, the priory is a small gem of religious Languedoc architecture. The building was converted into a vineyard in the 19th century, when the church was turned into a barrel storehouse – an ironic fate for a priory belonging to one of the strictest orders of the Middle Ages. Be sure not to miss the megaliths and Coste Rouge dolmen with a view overlooking lake Salagou, all the better to embrace the Mediterranean.

7 Lodève

Lodève is a town of art and history, and is recognised as one of the Plus Beaux Détours de France. Make sure you visit the special exhibitions in Lodève museum, the soap factory (with its exceptional carpets), and the arts and crafts centre.

Carry on via Poujols

8 Pégairolles-de-l'Escalette

At the foot of the Larzac plateau, where the sea of vines meets the bulwark that is the Massif Central, the village of Pégairolles was built. The vineyard, consisting of small plots, is one of the most picturesque sites in Languedoc. The old village is surrounded by a landscape of terraced fields and clapas shaped by generations of winegrowers. The houses, ramparts and chateau hark back to the 12th and 17th centuries. The cooperative winery, founded in 1927, now boasts 58 co-operators, and the grapes turned into wine by the cooperative are the fruit of a very special soil. The grapes are harvested entirely by hand.

On your way... our addresses

Saint-Maurice-Navacelles Maison du Grand Site du Cirque de Navacelles 04 67 88 86 44	Le Puech Auberge du Lac 04 67 44 45 40	Lodève Les Vignerons de l'Occitane Caveau de Lodève 04 67 44 06 48 Restaurant de La Paix 04 67 44 07 46
Salleles du Bosc Domaine Château Vaillé 06 85 55 30 29	Poujols Domaine du Pas de l'Escalette 04 67 96 13 42	Pégairolles de l'Escalette Les Vignerons de l'Escalette 04 67 44 09 93
Le Caylar Producteurs La Maison de Pays de l'Hérault 04 67 44 55 00	Le Bosc Artisan Gourmand : L'épicurien 04 67 88 90 00 Domaine Mon Réve 06 82 28 67 97 La Réserve 04 67 88 50 22	Celles Restaurant Le Mas de Riri 04 67 44 63 95

A Grand Site de France vineyard

St-Guilhem-le-Désert / Gorges de l'Hérault

This site, which is part of the Grands Sites de France network, lies at the heart of a land where nature, wine-growing villages and history share equal billing. Stroll through hamlets and small villages, and discover our traditional winemakers. The recently-awarded Terrasses du Larzac appellation denotes the excellence of the local soil: the high and rocky ground creates a landscape full of character: cultivated terraces, an array of mazets (stone huts) and plots of land surrounded by walls. The Grands Sites de France label encompasses the country's most iconic sites in recognition of their exceptional character and the need to preserve their integrity.

1 Grand Site de France Visitor Centre

The on-site reception centre and shop sell regional crafts and products, and wine is given pride of place in the Vinothèque store. Wine buffs will enjoy the wide selection of local labels, free tastings, workshops and "Meet a Winegrower" events. The Bridge of Angels (designed by Rudy Ricciotti, architect of the celebrated MuCEM in Marseilles) leads to the 11th century Devil's Bridge, listed by UNESCO as part of the Routes of St. James of Compostela.

2 St-Jean-de-Fos

This circular-shaped village is famous for its ceramics, an industry that dates back to the 15th century. It is now home to the Argileum, an interpretation centre dedicated to pottery and designed for the general public

3 Montpeyroux

Montpeyroux lies in the shadow of Mt. St. Baudille (848 m). Visit the traditional Castelbarry cellar, which offers a fun walk for all the family. Here you will discover drive ways, the salt route, the Road to St. Jacques and the famous Castellas. These trails remind us that Montpeyroux is part of the Causse and Cévennes UNESCO-listed agro-pastoral cultural landscape.

4 Arboras

This village stands at the base of the foothills of the Larzac and dominates the entire plain as far as the sea. The high-lying soil above the village adds to the flavour profile of the local wines.

Seigneurs de Montpellier itinerary Starting from Gignac

As the plain begins to toy with the hillsides, the fortified villages tell the tale of their thousand-year-old, circular-shaped hamlets, built on land that once belonged to the Guilhems, the seigneurs – lords – of Montpellier in the 10th century. Situated at the heart of a noble vineyard, the cellars and vaults invite you to meet the people who make the wine and their famous vintages: Languedoc Terrasses du Larzac AOC, Grés de Montpellier and Vicomté d'Aumelas IGP.

1 Gignac

Don't miss Gignac's cultural heritage: the 18th century bridge, the monumental tower, the remains of the town's ramparts, the fortified clock tower and private mansions. There is also Notre Dame de Grâce, a 17th century church with a surprising ochre façade in the Florentine style, and, higher up, 14 listed chapels! And don't forget to try out the local sport: a game of tambourine.

2 Popian

Popian's chateau was first mentioned in 996, and its hanging garden is the ideal spot for a picnic. Sightings include the Pont Levis portcullis and the renovated washhouses near the bridge over the Aurelle.

3 St-Bauzille-de-la-Sylve

The village's winegrowing heritage reflects the boom in viticulture in the 19th century. Around the village, numerous mazets (stone huts), fountains, wash houses and canals give up their secrets. The Chappe telegraph tower has recently been restored.

4 Le Pouget

Take your time to visit the churches of St. Jacques and St. Catherine of Alexandria, the fountain in Place du Griffé and the communal oven. You can also look for "Dark Street", the "Street Called Straight" and "High Square" in this circular village. And stay a while at the Gallardet dolmen.

5 Puilacher

Sightings include a local and colourful curiosity: a modern house from the 1920s situated on the village square.

5 St-Saturnin-de-Lucian

This is one of the oldest vineyards in Languedoc. The reception area, which serves both as a showcase and education centre, encourages visitors to deepen their understanding of the vineyard. The "Poets' Wine Trail", created in honour of the Occitan writer Max Rouquette, starts at the wine cooperative: enjoy an enchanting walk in the company of poets (with the free loan of an Mp3 player).

6 Jonquières

The 13th century fortified chateau, a fine example of Languedoc architecture, was transformed into a lordly vineyard in the 17th century. The wine estate offers a warm welcome, whether you are visiting its cellars or are looking for accommodation. Wine tours are organised throughout the summer.

7 St-André-de-Sangonis

In the far distance on the plain of Hérault you can see the lofty spire (nearly 50 m high) of the mighty bell-tower of the great parish church. The large monumental fountain and municipal belfry are also worth visiting.

8 Gignac

Don't miss Gignac's cultural heritage: the 18th century bridge, the monumental tower, the remains of the town's ramparts, the fortified clock tower and private mansions. There is also Notre Dame de Grâce, a 17th century church with a surprising ochre façade in the Florentine style, and, higher up, 14 listed chapels! And don't forget to try out the local sport: a game of tambourine.

9 Aniane

A rich heritage is packed into the heart of the village: the church of St. Saviour, the celebrated abbey of the Order of St Benedict founded in 792; the Chapel of the Penitents; the corn market; and the old wash houses all testify to the town's illustrious past. And all around there are famous large wineries awaiting discovery.

On your way... our addresses

Aniane Mas Daumas Gassac 04 67 57 88 45 Domaine des Conquêtes 04 67 57 35 99 Mas de la Séranne 04 67 57 37 99 Produits du terroir Maison du Grand Site 04 67 56 41 97 (April to November) La Brasserie du Terroir 04 34 35 38 47 Le Tonneau Rouge 04 67 57 44 83	Montpeyroux Castelbarry Coop. Artisanale 04 67 96 61 08	St Saturnin de Lucian Domaine Virgile Joly 04 67 44 52 21 Cave Coopérative 04 67 96 61 52 Restaurant Le Pressoir 04 67 96 70 59	St-André-de-Sangonis Domaine Combes 04 67 57 82 48 06 76 48 78 97	Saint Félix de Lodez Les Vignerons de St Felix - St Jean 04 67 96 60 61	Saint-Jean-de-Fos Domaine Alexandrin 04 67 57 72 09 06 70 02 38 69 Domaine des Grécaux 04 67 57 38 83 Restaurant La Pourpre et les Oliviers 04 67 57 27 50 06 73 82 11 99
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6 Belarga

Make sure you see the beach, mill and newly-renovated wind turbine on the banks of the Hérault.

7 Campagnan

Campagnan is a former guesthouse that belonged to the Abbey of Gellone in the 12th century. The wine-growing economy expanded as a result of a new railway line. Sightings include the small, restored station, and be sure to taste the locally-grown grapes.

8 St-Pargoire

The streets in this circular village follow the shape of a snail shell, a totemic animal that is said to have rescued the inhabitants from starvation. There is also a remarkable southern Gothic fortified church.

9 Vendémian

The local delicacy are delicious grapes to eat: Chasselas and Servant. As in Gignac, the sport that is typical of Hérault is the order of the day, played with a tambourine.

10 Aumelas

(Mas d'Arnaud) The imposing outline of the castellas rises high on a ridge to the right of the road. It was built on a site that has been fortified since the Middle Ages. It can be reached on foot from the village, and there are outstanding views over the plateau and plain of vines.

The Vicomté d'Aumelas vineyard

The vineyard stretches over the hills that back onto the plain of Aumelas, which is overlooked by the stately chateau. The wines, which are heavily influenced by the special environment found in the Hérault valley, are elegant when it comes to the reds, and fresh and fruity for the whites. It is said that the Guilhems from Montpellier were exporting the wines throughout Europe as far back as the 11th century! Today, you can find them on the tables of all five continents. Return to Gignac.

On your way... our addresses

Gignac Domaine Tours et Terroirs d'Aniane 06 14 17 05 23 4 67 57 93 42 Le Vieux Moulin Restaurant 04 67 57 57 95	Saint-Pargoire Producteur Ferme Lafon de Lacan 04 67 88 72 66	Bélar Domaine les Quatre Amours 04 67 24 60 89 06 33 85 15 39
Montarnaud Domaine Mas Dieu Village 07 81 86 51 31	Argelliers Restaurants : Auberge de Saugras 04 67 55 08 71 Lou Felibre 04 67 02 15 07 06 31 42 89 43	Aumelas Domaines : Chateau Bas d'Aumelas 04 30 40 80 29 Clos de l'Amandaie 06 86 68 08 62

Tourists Offices

1 TOURIST OFFICES IN ST-GUILHEM LE DESERT-VALLEE DE L'HERAULT

Gignac
+33 (0)4 67 57 58 83
St-Guilhem
+33 (0)4 67 56 41 97
Maison du Grand Site-le Pont du Diabla
+33 (0)4 67 56 41 97
www.saintguilhem-valleeheraut.fr

1 TOURIST OFFICES IN CLERMONT

Clermont
+33 (0)4 67 96 23 86
Mourèze (seasonal)
+33 (0)4 67 96 61 48
Octon (seasonal)
+33 (0)4 67 96 22 79
www.clermontais-tourisme.fr

1 TOURIST OFFICES IN LODEVOIS AND LARZAC

Lodève
+33 (0)4 67 88 86 44
www.tourisme-lodevois-larzac.fr
Maison du Grand Site
Le Cirque de Navacelles
+33 (0)4 67 88 86 44

1 MOTORWAY INFORMATION POINTS

Le Caylar tourist area
A75 rest area
+33 (0)4 67 44 56 05

You can find all the business addresses in the "Vignobles et Terroir" guide available in your tourist office or visit the above websites.

Labels and Partners



On your way... our addresses

The places we recommend are all accredited businesses; you can find them on languedoc.com and in tourist office brochures.



Partners

Maps "Un Jour, un Terroir", our wines routes are designed with the help of our local partners, tourism organisations and the winegrowing world.



ALCOHOL ABUSE IS DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH. DRINK IN MODERATION.



OUR WINES ROUTES

Follow our wine routes using the series of seven maps – Un jour, un Terroir ("A Wine Region for Every Day of the Week")!

These day-tours, which include gourmet stops and visits to wine estates, will help you discover Languedoc's diverse landscape and its wealth of natural and historical treasures.



And you can consult the maps and indulge yourself at the same time! Download the maps or ask for them at your tourist office.

Hérault Tourisme Agence de Développement Touristique

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UN JOUR, UN TERROIR
OUR WINES ROUTES

ours AOC wines

ours IGP wines

Pays Cœur d'Hérault

Follow our wines routes and meet our winegrowers...
The vineyards of Languedoc are France's oldest, with the earliest traces dating back to the Etruscan occupation. Evidence of the region's winegrowers is to be found everywhere, from the coast to the highest hills. Why not join these passionate ambassadors of the region's terroir on an exploration of their local surroundings and traditions, not to mention their AOC and IGP-labelled wines? Broad terraces strewn with smooth pebbles, sandstone valleys, plateaus of shale, hillsides of clay and limestone pools... the vines of Hérault thrive all around. So, set off for Cœur d'Hérault destination and indulge yourself as you go!

The wines of Pays Cœur d'Hérault

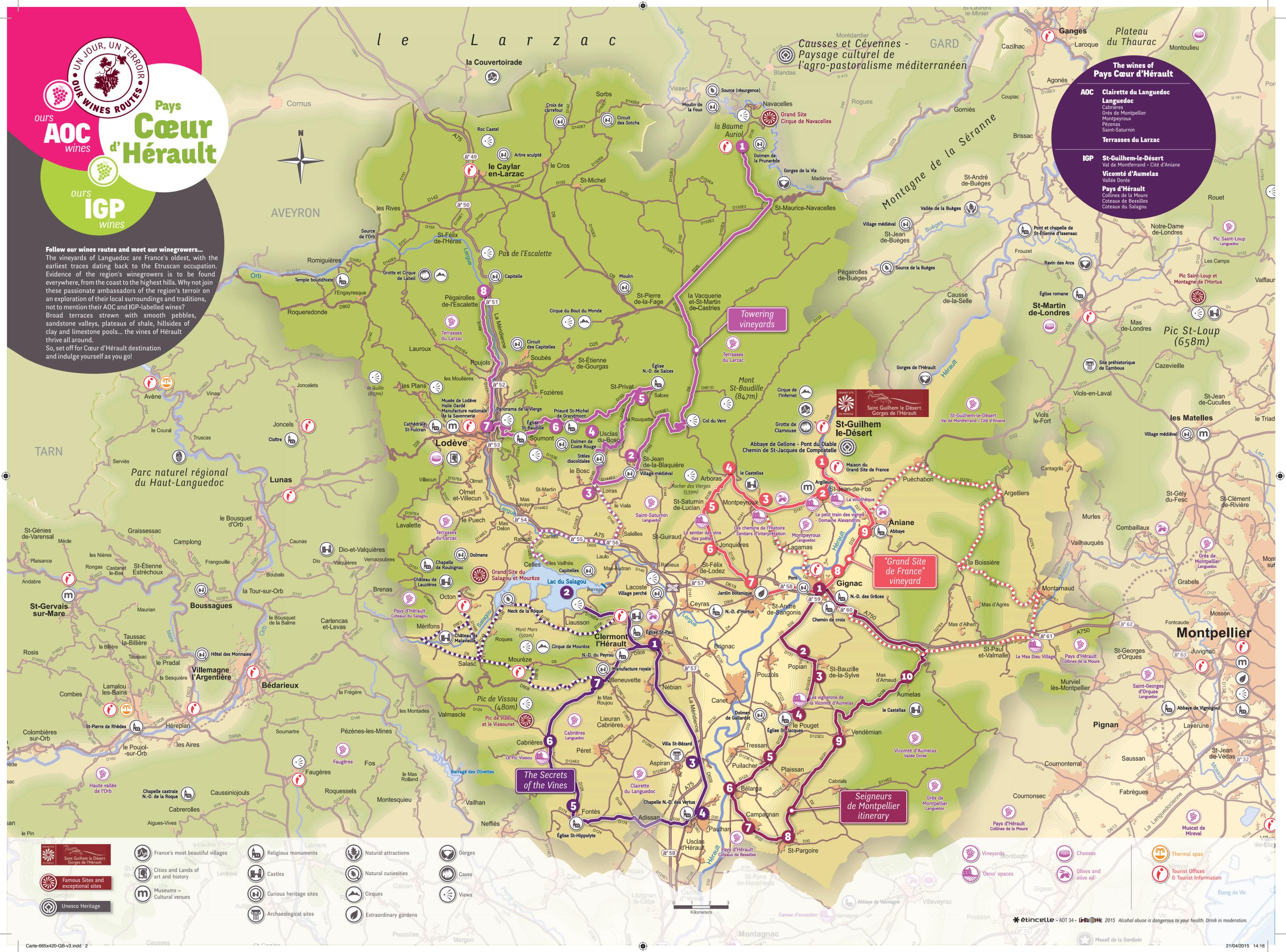
AOC Clairette du Languedoc Languedoc
Cabrières
Grès de Montpellier
Montpeyroux
Pézanas
Saint-Saturin

Terrasses du Larzac

IGP St-Guilhem-le-Désert
Val de Montferand - Cité d'Aniane

Vicomté d'Aumelas
Vallée Dorée

Pays d'Hérault
Collines de la Moure
Coteaux de Bessilles
Coteaux du Salagou



Towering vineyards

"Grand Site de France" vineyard

The Secrets of the Vines

Seigneurs de Montpellier itinerary

- Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert Gorges de l'Hérault
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- Unesco Heritage
- France's most beautiful villages
- Cities and Lands of art and history
- Museums - Cultural venues
- Religious monuments
- Castles
- Curious heritage sites
- Archaeological sites
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- Natural curiosities
- Cirques
- Extraordinary gardens
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