


# Abbeys & Vineyards

Hotel-to-hotel  independent cycling

- Gentle, undemanding cycling - totally unspoiled quiet routes; very easy to get to from Paris
- World-famous vineyards, superb local cuisine; excellent value for money
- Flower bedecked villages, hidden meadows, lovely rivers and canals
- Roman and Romanesque abbeys; Gothic and Renaissance châteaux
- Riverside cafés and beaches; poppies, sunflowers, kingfishers, woodpeckers



Nine centuries of *bon viveur* tradition, one world-famous wine area and three others to check out, are packed into this short non-strenuous holiday. You'll have plenty of opportunities for gastronomic pit-stops. And you'll be able to taste several renowned *appellations*.

Starting from historic Auxerre (lovely medieval city full of interest), it's easy, undemanding cycling through a fascinating landscape of hidden villages, water meadows, woodlands and vineyards. Then, following the course of the Yonne, pleasant meanderings in and out of villages and woodlands, with swimming possibilities on the way to Ligny (and at the riverside beach when you get there). Meals throughout are superb.

Highlights include Chablis, where wine has been made for over a millenium; the celebrated stained glass at St Etienne; the ancient crypt at the abbey of St Germain; and the early Gothic Abbey of Pontigny.



## ABBEYS & VINEYARDS | DAY BY DAY



### Day 1 Arrive at Auxerre

One of France's prettiest medieval cities, on the banks of the Yonne. Two Gothic churches: the Cathedral of St Etienne (13C and 16C with magnificent stained glass windows) and the Abbey of St Germain (13C and 14C with 19C crypt).

### Day 2 Auxerre/Ligny-le-Châtel 33km/20mi or 43km/27mi

Leaving Auxerre, it's flat gentle cycling along the river Yonne and through the forest of St Germain to Seignelay (scene of the 8C defeat of the Saracens; castle remains; fine market hall; pretty views over the Serein). Head via the magnificent Abbey at Pontigny (which gave sanctuary to Thomas à Beckett) to Ligny-le-Châtel.

### Day 3 At Ligny-le-Châtel

Originally this was the Roman Lanniacum Castrum. Later Marguerite de Bourgogne lived here. See the Church of St Peter and St Paul (Romanesque on the inside, Renaissance outside). It's just a 10km/6mi cycle to the small village of Chablis, almost entirely given over to the production of the world's most celebrated white wine - masses of tasting opportunities - and don't forget, we can pick up any purchases for you. Or visit Pontigny, reputed to be home of the greatest Cistercian abbey in the country.

### Day 4 Ligny/Vermenton 43km/27mi or 48km/30mi

A longer cycling day today as you pedal from one little wine village to another - but we've planned your route to ensure lots of time for stopping along the way! After a gentle climb to Courgis - lovely picnic spot, stunning views - it's downhill through Chitry and St Bris-le-Vineux to the River Yonne and along the towpath to Vermenton.

### Day 5 At Vermenton

Perhaps walk (or take your bike on the train) to Arcy-sur-Cure (10km) and visit the celebrated caves, and intriguing Manoir de Chastenay. Then cycle to Vézelay, fortified medieval town, from where St Bernard of Clairvaux launched the second crusade. Or take the gentle towpath to Mailly la Ville where you can swim at the riverside "beach" or watch the canal boats coming in and out of the adjacent port.

### Day 6 Vermenton/Auxerre 32km/20mi

Today's undemanding route takes you along the towpath towards Auxerre. Picnic on the banks of the Yonne, or go via Irancy - the views are absolutely stunning - and visit the amazing underground Bailly caves where Crémant sparkling wines are made. Lots of time to explore historic Auxerre: abbey, cathedral, shops, etc. as well as superb indoor and outdoor swimming complexes.

### Day 7 Leave Auxerre



*"A lovely area with well planned routes...  
An excellent and local rep too."*

*Mr D Woodward*

## Dates and Prices

**Departs every two days** **Tour Only**

### 2012 departures

May 13-25, Sep 12-20	\$2,399
May 27-31, Jun 8-12	\$2,379
Sep 2-10	\$2,379
Jun 2-6, Jun 14-Jul 8	\$2,455
Aug 29-31	\$2,455
Jul 10-Aug 27	\$2,471
Child (any dates, see notes)	\$1,577

**Singles:** Add \$49 per night for sole occupancy of a double room.

**Child:** Over 2 and under 12, sharing with 2 adults.

**Room upgrade:** Prices from \$19 per person, per night, based on 2 sharing.

**Holiday type:** Independent cycling, hotel-to-hotel, no minimum group size.

**Departs:** Every two days from May 13 to Sep 20.

**Duration:** 7 days (6 nights). This holiday may be adapted into a 4 night version - just deduct \$458 per adult and \$330 per child from the prices above.

**Meals:** Continental breakfast and 4 evening meals.

**Other details:** For "What your holiday price includes," see "Holiday Planning" section pp 48-51.

## Tailor-made travel choices

### Nearest Arrival Airport: Paris CDG Airport

Flights can be arranged from most US/CANADA airports, with connecting transfers as required, prices and details on request.

**The above prices include our standard transfers:** Auxerre train station at 17:53 (transfer to hotel, 15 mins, provided).

**Return:** Auxerre train station by 12:09 (transfer provided).

**Rail options:** Paris Bercy to Auxerre 16:13/17:53. Return: Rail Auxerre to Paris Bercy 12:09/13:46.

**Second Class French Rail:** Add \$94 per person, round trip.

**First Class French Rail:** Please call for details.

**Tour only:** Transfers included from Auxerre train station at 17:53, and back to Auxerre train station departing hotel at 11:30.

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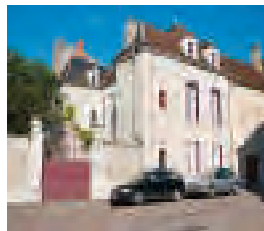
## ABBEYS & VINEYARDS | WHERE YOU STAY



**Hotel Normandie**  
★★  
Auxerre  
Days 1+6



**Relais St Vincent**  
★★  
Ligny-le-Chatel  
Days 2+3



**15 Place Voltaire**  
●●●  
Vermenton  
Days 4+5

For extra nights we recommend Auxerre, and city add-ons can be arranged in Paris.

Further details at [www.breakaway-adventures.com](http://www.breakaway-adventures.com)