



## TOUR ITINERARY

RIDING  
LEVEL

1

Europe / France / Loire

# Loire Valley Bike Tour

Return to the Renaissance: Vouvray to da Vinci



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Cycle through the vineyards of Vouvray and sample Chenin-based wines to single out your preferred style: *sec*, *demi-sec*, *moelleux*, or sparkling
- Peruse Leonardo da Vinci's sketches, letters, and war machine replicas at Château du Clos Lucé, where he spent the final years of his life
- Let the castles of the Loire fill you with wonder, including the sumptuous Chateau Chambord, over-water gallery of Château de Chenonceau, pristine architecture of Château d'Azay-le-Rideau, and whimsical gardens of Château de Villandry
- Enjoy a Michelin-starred meal at the exquisite Les Sources de Cheverny hotel
- Learn to prepare classic French desserts as well as healthy, no-waste dishes with seasonal ingredients at a local chef's culinary garden and workspace





## ARRIVAL + DEPARTURE

### Arrival Details

- ✈ **Airport City:**  
Paris, France
- 📍 **Pick-Up Location:**  
St. Pierre des Corps Train Station
- 🕒 **Pick-Up Time:**  
10:15 am

### Departure Details

- ✈ **Airport City:**  
Paris, France
- 📍 **Drop-Off Location:**  
Blois Train Station
- 🕒 **Drop-Off Time:**  
11:30 am

**NOTE:** DuVine provides group transfers to and from the tour from the pick-up and drop-off locations stated on the itinerary. In the event your train, flight, or other travel falls outside the arrival or departure times or locations, you may be responsible for extra costs incurred in arranging a separate transfer.

### Emergency Assistance

For urgent assistance on your way to tour or while on tour, please always contact your guides first. You may also contact the Boston office during business hours at +1 617 776 4441 or [emergency@duvine.com](mailto:emergency@duvine.com).



# TOUR ITINERARY

## Tour By Day

DAY  
1

### Bienvenue to Loire

Your guides will greet you at the Saint-Pierre-des-Corps train station for a transfer to nearby Château Villandry. Our first order of business is a light lunch (and a celebratory glass of local sparkling wine) at the château: erected around 1536, it's the last of the Loire Valley's large Renaissance castles. Wander its extraordinary mazes and elegant water garden, stroll the aromatic herb gardens, and finish your visit with an ice cream tasting inspired by the garden's unique flavors. Then, we begin a warmup ride along the Loire and Cher Rivers. Pause in the town of Azay-le-Rideau to visit another iconic château built on an island of the Indre River, then continue pedaling through the countryside to our first luxurious hotel. Tonight, the château's own chef prepares our first lovely dinner.

**Meals:** Lunch / Dinner

**Destinations:** Tours, Château de Villandry, Azay-le-Rideau, Artannes-sur-Indre, Veigné

**Accomplished:** 22 miles / 37 km, elevation gain: 803 feet / 245 meters

**Accommodations:** [Domaine de la Tortinière](#) or [Les Trésorières](#)

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DAY  
2

### Back to the Renaissance at Chenonceau

Start the day with a gently rolling ride along the Cher River and past the wheat and barley fields that earned this region its nickname as the breadbasket of France. After lunch near Château de Chenonceau, we'll tour the expansive grounds and dueling gardens designed by Diane de Poitiers and Catherine de Medici. There's much to inspire the senses: Chenonceau is home to an unmatched collection of Renaissance furniture, 16th- and 17th-century tapestries, and priceless artwork. After our visit, hop back on the bike and head to our next hotel—a 12th-century manor house in the historic center of Amboise. Spend the afternoon settling in, then regroup for a journey through 500 years of Loire Valley winemaking in cellars dating back to 1463, where you'll enjoy Vouvray whites much as kings once did. Afterwards, we'll head to our friend's restaurant for a delightful dinner prepared in harmony with the seasons.

**Meals:** Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

**Destinations:** Cormery, Bléré, Chenonceaux, Amboise

**Accomplished:** 36 miles / 59 km, elevation gain: 1,296 feet / 395 meters

**Accommodations:** [Le Manor Saint Thomas](#)

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## TOUR ITINERARY

DAY  
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### Vouvray Loop

Today we set out from a sea of Chenin Blanc vineyards in the Vouvray appellation and continue cycling until we reach Montlouis-sur-Loire for a coffee break by the Loire River. A few gentle rolling hills stand between us and lunch at our friend Louisa's winery: a passionate winemaker herself, Louisa has paired our meal with some of her favorite Château de Montdomaine wines. From there, it's a short ride back to our hotel, where we'll have time to relax before our illuminating visit to Le Clos Lucé, the one-time home of Leonardo da Vinci—it's rumored that the artist arrived holding the Mona Lisa and spent the final years of his life at this whimsical estate. The evening is yours to spend as you wish: wander the charming medieval streets of Amboise and choose your preferred restaurant for dinner on your own. Your guides are happy to suggest a few of their favorite places.

**Meals:** Breakfast / Lunch

**Destinations:** Montlouis-sur-Loire, Vouvray, Chançay, Amboise

**Accomplished:** 27 miles / 44 km, elevation gain: 928 feet / 283 meters

**Accommodations:** [Le Manor Saint Thomas](#)

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DAY  
4

### Cooking in the Countryside

This morning, we leave Amboise behind, cycling along quiet country roads that meander through forest and farmland. Following the river, we soon reach the village of Chaumont-sur-Loire, where we'll pause to admire its namesake 15th-century château before continuing to La Grange. There, we'll tie on our aprons and learn to prepare a beautiful zero-waste meal with herbs and vegetables from the garden. Back on our bikes, we pedal through a pastoral panorama en route to our final hotel. Regroup this evening to savor regional cuisine at our hotel's inviting bistro.

**Meals:** Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

**Destinations:** Saint-Règle, Vallières-les-Grandes, Chaumont-sur-Loire, Cheverny

**Accomplished:** 32 miles / 52 km, elevation gain: 1,102 feet / 336 meters

**Accommodations:** [Les Sources de Cheverny](#)

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## TOUR ITINERARY

DAY  
5

### Castles and Chocolate

After breakfast, pedal scenic roads all the way to the Château Chambord—a grand castle built in the 16th century that once served as a hunting lodge for François I. The brainchild of Leonardo da Vinci and a prime example of French Renaissance architecture, this château is now protected as a UNESCO-listed monument. Climb the famous double-helix staircase or stroll the manicured gardens, then enjoy a special picnic lunch prepared by your guides. Be sure to leave room for dessert—our ride continues to a local chocolate boutique where we'll learn (and of course taste) how the chocolate is made in this region. From there, it's a short spin back to our luxurious hotel. Spend the afternoon at the spa or relax by the pool. Tonight we'll gather for a final and unforgettable Michelin-starred dinner at our hotel. *Bon appétit!*

**Meals:** Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

**Destinations:** Chambord, Bracieux, Cheverny

**Accomplished:** 33 miles / 54 km, elevation gain: 918 feet / 280 meters

**Accommodations:** [Les Sources de Cheverny](#)

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DAY  
6

### Au Revoir

Enjoy a peaceful breakfast at the château and perhaps a stroll through the grounds or one last ride, saying goodbye to the Loire Valley however you see fit. Your guides see you off at the Blois train station.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Destinations:** Cheverny

**Accomplished:** 11 miles / 18 km, elevation gain: 354 feet / 108 meters

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