



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.



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](#)

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 towards our next accommodation just outside of Amboise. Spend the afternoon settling in before we dine together in the center of Amboise this evening.

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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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. After we return to our hotel, it's time for one more tasting in Amboise. Take a journey through 500 years of Loire Valley winemaking in cellars dating back to 1463, enjoying Vouvray whites just as kings once did. The evening is yours to spend as you wish: return to the riverside town of Amboise to explore its charming medieval streets and choose your preferred restaurant for dinner on your own.

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](#)

DAY
4

Through da Vinci's Eyes

Start the morning with an illuminating visit to Le Clos Lucé, the one-time home of Leonardo da Vinci; it is rumored that the artist arrived holding the Mona Lisa and spent the final years of his life at this whimsical estate. After, hop in the saddle and ride quaint village roads to La Grange, where we tie on our aprons and learn to prepare a beautiful zero-waste meal with herbs and vegetables from the garden. Back on our bikes after lunch, we'll cycle through the town of Chaumont-sur-Loire, enjoying a pastoral panorama en route to our final hotel. Regroup this evening to savor regional cuisine at a local *auberge*.

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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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 a 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](#)

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
