

Pouilly-sur-Loire Getaways



 Tourist Office
and La Tour du
Pouilly-Fumé

 Market
Friday morning

 Church

 Course

 Parkings

 Way to follow
to enjoy it even more

 Pavillon du
Milieu de Loire

 Town Hall

 Main Shopping
Street

 Train Station

Distance: 2,5Km
(almost 2 miles)
1h00

The Loire



Let's start with a bit of History...

Pauliacum - from the domain of Paulus - is first mentioned in the Vth century. Located on the extreme western limit of the bishopric of Auxerre, the site and its vines were bequeathed two centuries later to the Notre-Dame-La-D'Hors Abbey before passing into the hands of the Benedictine brothers of La Charité-sur-Loire, attached to the very famous order of Cluny. The latter, thanks to their significant financial means, then developed the viticultural vocation of the territory while relying on its second pillar: the Loire, essential vector of the commercial exchanges with Pouilly before the arrival of the railway.

While facing many setbacks - the Norman invasion, the Hundred Years' War and religious wars, climatic vagaries or the phylloxera crisis - the city and its vineyards have taken on the face that we know today and still benefits from two world-renowned AOCs today!

AOC = Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée (controlled designation of origin)

After these few words, it's time to start the tour.

Did you know?

If during your holidays in the south of France you cross many cities whose names end in -ac, meaning at home, here -y is in the spotlight (Pouilly, Donzy...). The suffix "iacus / iacum" has simply turned into -y in **langue d'oïl** and -ac in **langue d'oc**.

Yes, then you realize that in Gallo-Roman times the sites of Pauillac and Pouilly wore the same name: **Pauliacum** !

La Tour du Pouilly-Fumé



Around you, a set of buildings stands out: the first part - which houses the shop of La Tour

du Pouilly-Fumé and the reception point of the Tourist Office - is a classical style mansion of the late XVIIIth century. The central part of the house surely dates from before the main house but has been renovated recently.



The famous tower of the early XVIth century stands imposingly at the back of the courtyard and has a staircase leading to several floors. You will also notice that there is a room dedicated to the winegrower Paul Chabanne for his action in favour of the appellation at the beginning of the last century.

Finally, the outbuildings disappeared but today remains a **chai*** on the left at the end of the courtyard. On the right is the cellar of the winemakers where the latter still meet regularly.

* Find our glossary on page 11.

Like the other big houses in the city, La Tour du Pouilly-Fumé has a cellar: it is the famous Aroma Cellar! Don't forget to go and have a look at it!



Leave the courtyard of La Tour du Pouilly-Fumé and turn left.

Did you notice it?

After taking a few steps, you can observe, on the pilaster of the right end of the facade of the luxurious house from the pavement opposite, a date and a name: Eugène Peschot, 1880.



Turn left onto Laubespain avenue then stop at the corner of the latter and the rue des Murs (first street on the right).

Eugène Peschot's house

2



Here he is again: **Eugène Peschot** has decidedly left his mark on the urban face of the city. Native of Pouilly, this entrepreneur signed several houses along this street, specially traced to connect the city centre and the railway station opened in 1861. He did not stop his work there and we owe him a lot since the refurbishment of the **Château du Nozet**, the churches of Pouilly and Saint-Andelain

as well as the cathedral of Nevers was done thanks to him.

His house is meant to be the showcase of his know-how and also a catalogue of the materials we can find locally! The polychrome glazed bricks immediately catch the eye and their work on the chimneys, around the windows or on the corner of the building catches our attention the most.



Take the rue des Murs.

The Rue des Murs

3

As you walk down this street, you follow, without knowing it, the route of the city's **ancient fortifications**.

Indeed, from the XIth century Pouilly was protected by a rectangular enclosure: it was more expensive than a round enclosure but was typical of cities located along rivers. To the south, it is doubled by the Loire and, to the east, by the stream of the Nozet while along its entire length stand flanking towers and corner towers (the last of which was destroyed in 1925).

Today, the fortifications are gone but if you take a quick look at the current plan, you can still guess the contours of the old rectangle!

You are here



At the end of the street, turn left.

Did you notice it?

In front of you is an old guardhouse which would have given way to a post house around 1850. On this road leading from Paris to Lyon, there was a relay house every fifteen kilometres at the time!

The Route Nationale 7

4



Yes, you are on the famous **holiday route** which has led several generations of Parisian holidaymakers to the Mediterranean!

Imagine: one sunny July morning, you are leaving the gloomy capital city with your suitcases and children to reach the sea, the beach and the olive trees! Today, the motorway leading to your destination is of little interest to you but in the 50s and 60s - the

golden age of the Nationale 7 - the route was marked by numerous stops.

At noon, you would arrive in Pouilly where many restaurants emerged from the ground to satisfy you: Chez Mémère, les 200 Bornes, le Relais Fleuri, Le Bon Accueil, La Bouteille d'Or, l'Écu de France, Chez Nénette, Le Relais de Pouilly, l'Espérance or l'Hôtel Neuf. It must be said that you had time at the time to eat well since it was necessary anyway for your car engine to rest. At the Michelin-starred restaurant Le Relais Fleuri - currently called le Coq Hardi -, travellers and locals loved to eat fish from the Loire while they could taste at Chez Mémère a hot mousse made with poultry livers or a salmon braised with Pouilly wine; it is said here that the stand up comedian **Fernand Raynaud** was very fond of them!

On the way out of Pouilly, the Relais des 200 Bornes - still in operation - symbolized the first two hundred kilometres travelled to reach the sea. Courage, there were still 796 kilometres left to reach Menton! Besides, the 996 kilometres separating this destination from Paris gave its name to the very famous French card game called 1000 Bornes (One Thousand Milestones)

Did you know?

Confectionery products were also very appreciated on the Nationale 7. If in Nevers we find the *Negus*, in Pougues-les-Eaux the *Pougatine* and in La Charité-sur-Loire the *Charitois*, in Pouilly we have the **Pavé de la Route Bleue (the Paving Stone of the Blue Road)**. Created by the chocolatier Weiss in the 1930s, this chocolate treat made with praline cream is still produced today at the *Crackers of the Loire Valley* shop, which is not far from *La Tour du Pouilly-Fumé!*



Take the first street on the right (direction Sancerre).

The Loire bridge



Here you are **halfway between the source and the mouth** of the Loire.

As strange as it may seem - given the consi-

derable importance of the river in the development of the city - Pouilly had to wait for the construction of its bridge until the XIXth century ...



A quick look back at the history of the crossing of the Loire: in the Middle Ages, a simple ford - or a rudimentary bridge - stood in the current town of Mesves (located five kilometres south). There, the famous **Pepin the Short** even had a base during his campaign against the Aquitaine people in the 760s! If we go a little further back in time, we can notice that there were only a dozen of bridges between Roanne and Nantes in the XVth century. Far away from them, Pouilly has fortunately benefited from a ferry service very frequently used until the beginning of the last century. Besides, the **ferryman** was a key figure in local life!

In the 1890s the elected officials from Pouil-

ly and certain surrounding municipalities expressed the wish to breathe new life into the local trade following the misery caused by vine diseases (mildew and the phylloxera epidemic). The department of Cher - on the other side of the Loire - refused to participate in the financing of a bridge and the city of La Charité also opposed the project for fear of seeing its own economy decline. Despite these inconveniences, the first stone was laid in 1899.

As Jean de La Fontaine said so well: «it is no small glory to be a bridge over the Loire»!

If you want to contemplate the river again and again, go and discover Cosne-Cours-sur-Loire after your getaway to Pouilly.



In front of the bridge, turn right and follow the quays.

Did you notice it?

On your right, you can see the walled vineyard Le **Clos** des Chaumiennes. Know that this clos is the only one that remains inside the city and that the word «chaumienne» refers to the Latin *calmis* which indicates a stony wasteland.



Take the steep street which is on the opposite pavement (second street on the right from the bridge).

Did you know?

In the 1970s local archaeologist **Alain Bouthier** discovered here a mosaic attesting to the presence of a villa in the IInd century AD. A whole network of **hypocausts** was also brought to light!



Take the first street on your left.

The treasures of the Rue André Chabanne

6

At number 12, you can see a large bourgeois property. It was initially composed of a watchtower from the XVIth century - necessary to watch the Loire - but a second tower was built in the XIXth to recall the first one: if at first glance the resemblance seems striking, important differences emerge as soon as we scan the building closer!

Watchtower from the XVIth century

Tower built in the XIXth century



A Nevers earthenware plaque also reminds us that here the master earthenware maker Gabriel Montagnon produced a piece of work.

The **Montagnon earthenware factory** was nicknamed the factory at the end of the world because of its distance from the town centre of Nevers but it was above all the oldest earthenware factory in France! You may have at home a few pieces signed with the famous green bow characteristic of the brand?

A little further down the street, you will pass the Hôtel-Dieu de Pouilly built during the reign of Louis XIV. Today still, the ironwork of the balcony contains the letter C after the name of the man behind the construction: André Colbert (cousin of the famous Jean-Baptiste). You can even see the wear of the stone under the door dated from 1713...

Finally, you will find on your right a plaque reminding everyone of the location of the city's three old common ovens.

Did you notice it?

When you get to the first small square, you can see two weather vanes on your left. Which do you like the most?



Go down to the church.

The Mollet brothers square and St. Peter's Church

7

If you had walked here before 1794, you would not have arrived on a square but right in the middle of a cemetery!


Today you can see a war memorial decorated with **grape clusters** and surmounted by a bronze cast iron rooster singing victory. It is also on this square - known as the Mollet Brothers square in homage to two coopers from Pouilly deported during World War II - that a market is held every Friday morning.

St. Peter's Church was consecrated in 1120 before being rebuilt once in the XIIIth century. Its remarkable bell tower porch, supported by four imposing buttresses, dates from the 1550s. Shortly after, the building was a victim of the Wars of Religion because of its proximity to three Protestant strongholds: Saint-Andelain, Sancerre and La Charité-sur-Loire. The church was finally rebuilt one last time in the XIXth century.



Loire side, you can admire its arched portal where two very beautiful niches surmounted by **canopies** have now been emptied of the statues that were there before.



 Take the small street that goes down to the Loire (rue Poterne Mouron).

The castle

8


Originally a medieval building and an integral part of the city's defences on the Loire, the castle became in the XIth century property of the Benedictines of La Charité who then had become the lords of Pouilly. Indeed, **Humbault the White**, Lord Temporal of Pouilly, had donated his land to the priors of Charente before going on a crusade: including a clause to get the castle back if he returned from the Orient but we never saw him again...

The castle was also rebuilt on numerous occasions, notably during the Hundred Years War and the Wars of Religion. Ruined and rebuilt one last time in 1651 - as evidenced by an engraved stone at the main entrance -, it still marks today the Pouilly landscape with its two towers topped with pepper-pot turrets looking out over the Loire.



Did you know?

In this street there used to be a postern, that is to say a small door hidden in the fortifications.

 At the end of rue Poterne Mouron, turn right.

The quays of the Loire

9

Until the XVIIIth century, Pouilly had no feet in the water!

It was not until 1793 that the Loire was somewhat deviated. Problem: following this transformation, the current arrived too violently on the shore and hindered the work of the mariners. Therefore, the idea of creating a «footpath» emerged and the construction of retaining walls in dry stone was decided. Following work completed in 1809, the quay of Pouilly was officially opened as well as a **spacious station** where boats could pass each other and navigate freely. Yep, don't forget that the word «station» originally belongs to the vocabulary of river navigation.

Still today, the quays are maintained by some three hundred sheep coming to graze in fine weather after a transhumance of a few kilometres!

Did you know?

The Loire, its flora, its fauna and its landscapes are in Pouilly protected within the framework of the national nature reserve of Val de Loire. The latter extends over nineteen kilometres between the municipalities of La Charité-sur-Loire and Tracy-sur-Loire.



Walk along the quays until the n° 7 of the Quai Jules Pabirot and take the very small alley that runs along the house on your left (opposite the small square where there is a stone bench).

Did you notice it?

The house with the n° 7 is the former home of a sailor.

The proof: we can still see anchors represented upside down - typical of the Loire navy - above the front door!



If you turn left at the end of the lane, you will be free to admire some vines more closely and, after walking a few steps further, have a breathtaking view of the roofs of Pouilly!

You can also simply turn directly right.



After taking beautiful photos or having directly opted for the second option, continue straight on to the Place des Frères Mollet. Once in front of the church, take the main street on your left and turn right at the end of it.

Did you know?

Georges Simenon, the Belgian author and father of the very famous Maigret, wrote a novel - The White Horse - whose intrigue took place in Pouilly at the beginning of the 1940s!

The town hall and the coat of arms of Pouilly



The building housing the municipal administration is a bourgeois residence built in the early 1830s and acquired by the city in 1853.

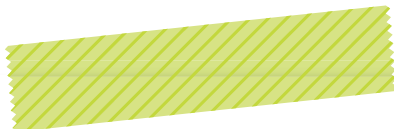


Above its main door, you can immediately spot the **city's coat of arms** made up of a fleur de lys and three golden purses on an azure blue background. This color refers to thinking, wisdom and science – words which apply perfectly to oenology for Pouilly – whereas the purses symbolize generosity, abundance and trade. The fleur de lys was added to please the king. Please notice that this coat of arms is normally surrounded by **vine leaves**: with all this information, we can easily understand that the richness of Pouilly comes from the reputation of its wines.



Cross the street and enter the courtyard which is on the right of the town hall.

Take the stairs in front of you to reach the school then turn right. Continue straight on to the end of the street.



Did you notice it?

In the winegrowers' cellar, a door has been positioned high up to allow easier loading of the barrels.

We find this kind of architectural originality in some other wine estates in the city: for example, a door which has been rounded to make the passage of barrels easier.



Turn right and again right: the tour is now finished!

Lexicon

Chai: place where wine is stored.

Clos: vineyard property closed by walls as opposed to an open field vineyard.


Dais = canopy: decorated vault that we can find above a place intended to receive a statue.

Hypocaust: underfloor heating system used in Roman times.

Acknowledgments: Mr. Pierre Bousard, Mrs. Françoise Crottet-Figeat, Mrs. Dominique Massounie and the town hall of Pouilly-sur-Loire.



The Tourist Office Loire, Vignobles and Nohain

Just like you, we 
our planet.

Bring us back this booklet
and we will give it a
second life.

Reuse me

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for Cosne-Cours-sur-Loire
and Donzy !