

## To see, to discover

Montlouis lies on the banks of the Loire between Tours and Amboise and is famous for its jazz festival, vineyard and surprises galore.

Bondésir island.

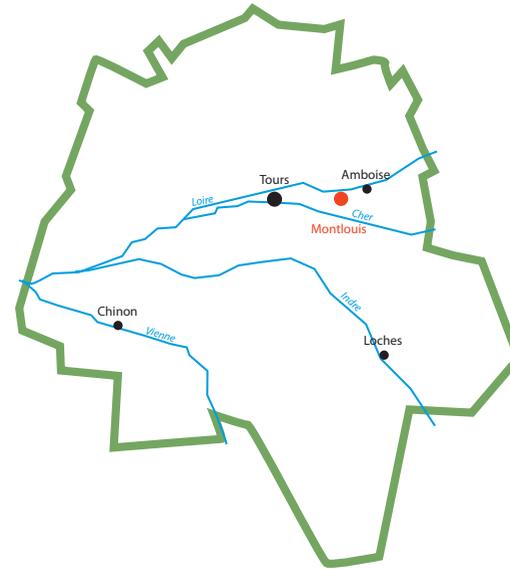
Maison de la Loire.

Jazz festival.

Château de la Bourdaisière.

The Loire by bike.

Wineries.



## Technical information

GPS DEPART N 47°39.053 - E 0°83090

ELEVATION + 107 m

## Be careful

D 751 to cross

## Accommodation/Catering

Holidays rentals, restaurants

Railway station

## Tourist office of Montlouis-sur-Loire

4 place Abraham Courtemanche

37270 Montlouis-sur-Loire

Tél. : 02 47 45 85 10

[www.tourisme-montlouis-loire.fr](http://www.tourisme-montlouis-loire.fr)

[officedetourisme@ville-montlouis-loire.fr](mailto:officedetourisme@ville-montlouis-loire.fr)

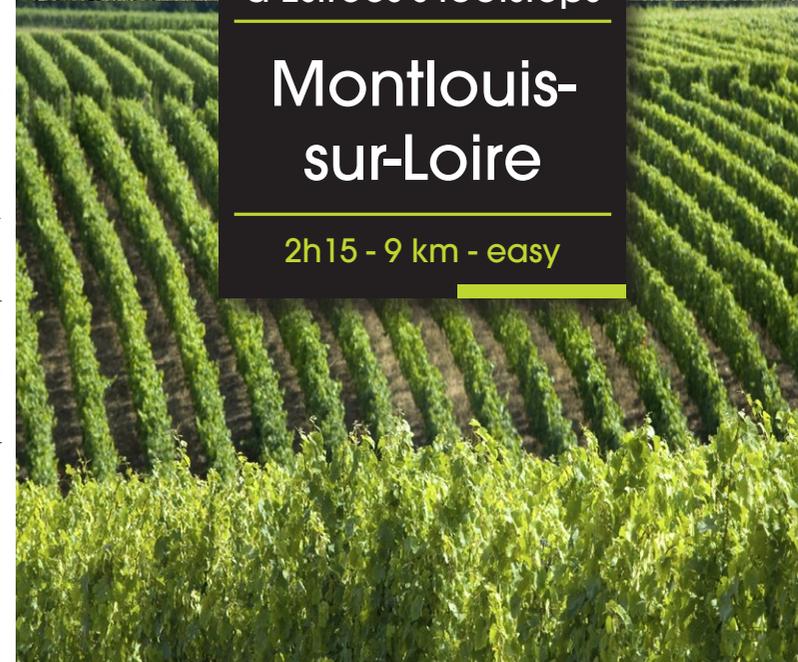
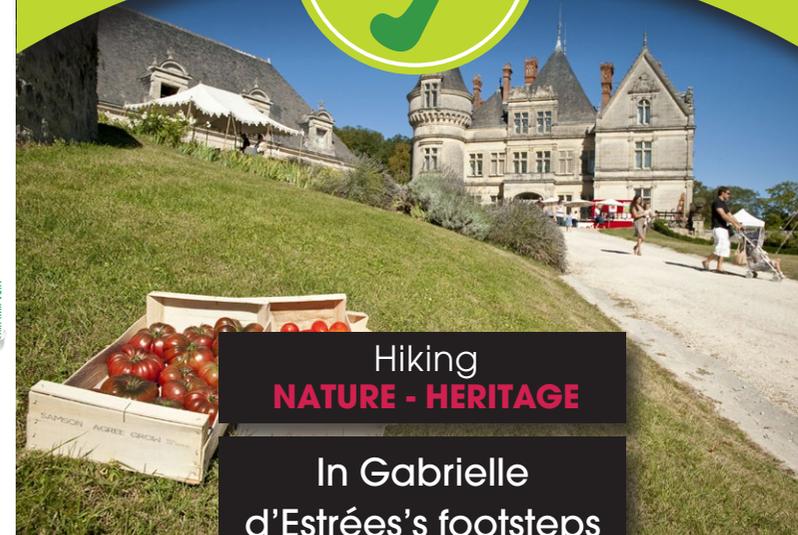
## Walking charter

Cherish and respect nature. Listen to it, do not spoil it and do not harm it. Stay on the trail and be discreet. Do not damage plants or undergrowth. Do not smoke in the forest or do not light fires. Do not scare animals. Do not neglect human contact. Respect and get to know this rural world that welcomes you.

This material is funded by the Indre-et-Loire Council as part of the Footpath and Hiking Trail Regional Plan.

If you encounter any problem during the process of your walk, please inform us at [sentinelle.sportsdenature.fr](http://sentinelle.sportsdenature.fr)

LABEL BALADE  
EN TOURAINE



Hiking  
**NATURE - HERITAGE**

In Gabrielle  
d'Estrées's footsteps

**Montlouis-  
sur-Loire**

2h15 - 9 km - easy



**TO FIND YOUR WAY**

STRAIGHT ON 

CHANGE OF DIRECTION 

WRONG WAY 

**2** **Maison de la Loire**  
 Before you cross the road again to go up the hillsides, take a pitstop at the Maison de la Loire on Bondésir Island. You'll know everything there is to know about the Loire's natural and cultural heritage after a visit. There are countless events and exhibitions here all year round.

**3** **Montlouis vineyard**  
 After tackling the steepest part of the journey, you'll go through the middle of the Montlouis vineyard. The AOP designation makes dry, sweet and sparkling white wine. This terroir uses chenin, the only grape variety allowed in the designation, and can produce very fine wine. Turn right at the crossroads and take the softly sloping path then take a left and a right.

**4** **Écuries d'Anadé stables**  
 Go around the shopping centre then the Écuries d'Anadé stables. You'll reach the edge of the Château de la Bourdaisière grounds whose castle stands in the midst of its 55 hectare estate. It is home to the National Tomato Conservatory with almost 650 varieties of the fruit plus a vegetable garden made up of 150 different vegetables, a medicinal herb garden, a «Dahliacolor» with over 240 varieties of this forgetton flower.

**5** **Château de la Bourdaisière**  
 Keep to the perimeter wall and go down to the château entrance. It was built in the Renaissance and was the birthplace of Gabrielle d'Estrées, King Henri IV's mistress and confidante, and her seven sisters. The château and its outbuildings now house a hotel and... tomato bar.

**6** **La Belle Roche**  
 Go through La Belle Roche hamlet. This small village epitomises the high standard of Touraine tuffeau. This limestone was used to build countless buildings in the region. The former quarries are now used as wine cellars or troglodyte homes.

**7** **Plateau**  
 Go up the plateau back to the town and take a footpath through a leafy residential area. Montlouis' population soared from 2700 in 1954 to almost 11,000 today to become the 8th biggest town in the region.

**8** **Saint-Laurent Church**  
 Welcome to Montlouis old town. Before you go back to your start point, take some time to explore the town's narrow lanes. Stop for a few minutes to gaze at Saint-Laurent Church. On the left-hand gable you'll see a graffiti drawing of the Loire's «gabare» boat.

*The medieval wine and port trade on the Loire, which was once a very popular route, saw the town boom until the Renaissance. Being near the region's capital meant Montlouis flourished once again in the last century but has held onto its age-old charm. Make the most of this walk taking in the Loire and Cher Valleys to visit this town packed with natural heritage and history. The Château de la Bourdaisière and its fantastic grounds encapsulate this perfectly. And as the saying goes, in the land of vineyards «you drink good old wine».*

**1** **Winemaker's cellar**  
 This outing starts on the banks of the Loire in front of Tourist Information and the winemaker's cellar. Cross the D751 then go up the river. Along the banks you'll see fabulous homes such as the Art Nouveau house with two sculpted Chinese figures at number 2 or the half-timbered one at number 25.

-  picnic area
-  car park
-  water supply
-  garden
-  château