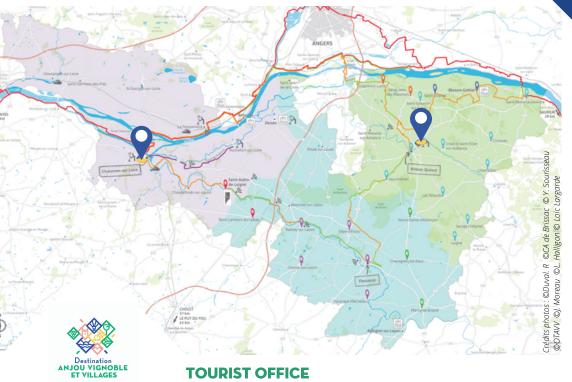
TOURIST INFORMATION



TOURIST OFFICE
ANJOU VIGNOBLE ET VILLAGES

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- Place de l'Hôtel de Ville 49290 CHALONNES-SUR-LOIRE
- 🌢 8 place de la République Brissac-Quincé 49320 BRISSAC LOIRE AUBANCE

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Office de Tourisme Anjou Vignoble et Villages

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HERITAGE

winding way through many famous vineyards.

Aubance, were two distinct towns.

Brissac-Quincé: a wine-growing village in the heart of the Aubance vineyards

At the southern gates of Angers, the Loire Layon Aubance region is an invitation to bring together the various characteristics of Anjou – between blueschist and white tuffeau. Enjoy a getaway in Aubance to discover Brissac Loire Aubance (Brissac-Quincé), a wine-growing village crossed by the Aubance – a small river that makes its

In the Middle Ages, it was a fortified village that developed upon the hillside. An initial, fortified castle then appeared below this village, one of the 32 walled towns of Anjou. In the 12th century, Brissac was a place of passage and trade. It was only in 1964 that it would merge with Quincé. Until then, Brissac and Quincé, separated by the





Formerly known as Place du Minage, it changed its name after the First World War. This site was an important place of trade, and remains so today, hosting the town market every Thursday morning. At the time, it was home to multiple businesses (tanners, butchers, bakers, printed-cotton shops, hatmakers, etc.). This was a commercial crossroads and a place of passage between Touraine, Poitou and Brittany. Here, we can see a range of different houses (half-timbered, 19th-century tuffeau and 15th and 16th-century timber-framed buildings).

 $m{\mathcal{R}}$ It is in this square that we find the Crypte (a glass cube), closed to the public.



Crypte

Brissac is built on a network of underground tunnels. These were all closed up by order of Mayor Humeau, and later rediscovered during excavations in 1974. The Crypte is an underground refuge dating from the 13th or the beginning of the 14th century: it is not a tomb. Built from schist and tuffeau, this site, which served as a defensive structure in times of unrest, was also used as a place of worship during the Wars of Religion (sheep bones were found in the wall, indicating towards the east). The village had a significant network and system for defence. Today, a vault dating from the 13th century has been found intact within the Crypte, with its last step representing the healing stone.

Head up the square along the right-hand side and take the first street on the right (Rue du 14 Juillet). You'll then reach the washhouse at the corner of Rue des Jardins.

<u>Washhouse</u>

This 20th-century washhouse (1954) was built in concrete. At the time of its construction, it was a modern washhouse in Brissac, that arrived at the same time as drinking water.

It uses the municipal water supply, rather than a spring. From 1954 to 1975, residents washed their laundry at home, but would still come to the washhouse for rinsing.



Originally, the Château de Brissac was surrounded by water: with the Aubance on the one hand, and the pond and marshes on the other. In 1790, the Duke of Brissac gave the order to clean up and drain the pond in order to make the surrounding land suitable for cultivation and avoid flooding the Château's flowerbeds. From 1790 to 1795, 35 workers were set to work vaulting the river in order to channel and fill it. This man-made channel represents an impressive feat of masonry with its 240 metres of length, measuring 3 metres wide and 3 metres high in its central section, with a semi-circular vault. The schist brickwork, with its fieldstone key, reveals the skill of the workers of the time. Over the years, the Aubance has undergone a number of modifications, and the river's calibration put an end to the channel's real activity, which was gradually filled with alluvium and became clogged. In the 2000s, the Cercle d'Etudes of the Duchy of Brissac undertook to rehabilitate this work and restore its heritage – as one of few examples of its type remaining in France today.

Head up to the car park to reach Rue de l'Aubance. Continue heading left towards the Pont des Barrières. At the intersection, take the pedestrian crossing to reach the Croix de Mission, in the centre of the crossroads.

Croix de Mission des Barrières

Following the mission declared in the church of Brissac (from 3 March to 1 April (Easter Monday) 1861), the decision was taken to erect a Calvary at the foot of the town of Brissac. This neo-Renaissance carved stone cross was made in the St Joseph d'Angers workshops. Its position, though somewhat low, was preferred to any other site, as this point serves to unite and bring together the two municipalities of Brissac and Quincé.



From the cross, take the second pedestrian crossing to head up to the Tourist Office, following the bends, which is located in front of the castle by the Square Jeanne Say.



Square Jeanne Say

Marquise de Brissac, Jeanne Say a ordonné que les deux derniers étages ouvrant sur la façade Est du château soient aménagés en théâtre. Le petit théâtre du château de Brissac est inauguré en 1890.

Jusqu'à sa mort en 1916, Jeanne Say y organise, chaque année au mois de septembre, un festival réputé, "Les séries d'automne du Château de Brissac".



Every Thursday morning in July and August, you'll find a winegrower from the Aubance at the market, who will be delighted to introduce you to his wines through a tasting, available between 9 am and 12 pm, during the weekly market held in Brissac-Quincé.

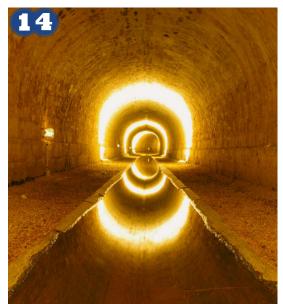
The Brissac vineyard is associated with two wine appellations (AOC/AOP) which have earned renown thanks to the quality and originality of the products they offer. Anjou-Brissac and Coteaux de l'Aubance are renowned appellations for mellow reds and whites.

Continue along the path on the left to reach the college, and walk through the car park. 🏌 Follow Rue Humeau on your right and continue until you see a small courtyard on the right-hand side. This is the Air Terminal, where the hot-air-balloon pilots gather.

Montgolfiade

For several years, the Anjou Arc-en-Ciel association has been organising a large hot-air-balloon gathering (the Montgolfiade) in Brissac-Quincé, as well as both French and European championships in certain years. The "Aubancine" is a rainbow-coloured balloon that boldly bears the name of Brissac-Quincé.

At the end of the street, turn right to reach the swimming pool. Follow the twists and turns that lead you to cross the St-Michel footbridge which spans the Aubance. On the other side, at the end of the path that runs along the Aubance, you will see the entrance to the man-made channel.



Man-made channel (closed)

This channel forms part of a long hydrological history - dating back to at least 1140, as a pond was dug out upon the orders of Geoffroy le Bel or Plantagenêt Comte d'Anjou. When the pond began to overflow, from a certain level, the channel or weir of Aubance would come into action. It was also used during periods of low water (the lowest point of the watercourse) to supply the mills located downstream.

Its route: it crosses the road heading towards Vauchrétien and passes under the Square Jeanne Say to reach the Pont des Barrières bridge.



Continue along the Rue du 14 Juillet before making your way up Rue du Maréchal Foch on your left, which leads to the Place du Général de Gaulle.

Place Général de Gaulle or Place du Champ de Foire

A fountain was constructed in this square in 1869. It was then covered up for over 50 years. With the construction of two water towers, it no longer served any purpose, and it was only in 2001 that it would regain its former activity and interest.

Two village festivals, dating back many years, breathe life into Brissac-Quincé in July and September: the Rillaudée (July) and the Saint-Maurice (September). These celebrations perpetuate a tradition of trade and festivities.



Cross the square and continue straight on until you reach the town hall, located on your right.

5 Town hall

This building once housed the town hall and the town's public schools, built on land acquired in 1855 in the northern part of the town. At that time, community hall and the town-hall offices were located on the first floor. In 1954, before the merger of the towns of Brissac and Quincé, the classes held in the old school were abolished in favour of a better-suited establishment financed by the two municipalities. The building is undoubtedly the most beautiful in the city, with its semi-circular windows and ivy garlands.

Take the Rue Nationale in front of the town hall, then turn right on Rue de la Marne to discover the Boule de Fort society.



The Boule de Fort - Saint-Vincent Society

This real cultural phenomenon of Anjou has been practised since the beginning of the 17th century, by fisherman playing on the flat bottom of traditional Loire boats. Today, this typical Anjou game is still played by 300 societies. Each game is run by Boules de Fort clubs and societies. Each village would often be home to both a secular society and a parish society. At the start of the 20th century, there were more than 6 outdoor Boule de Fort courts in Brissac.

The not-quite-round wooden ball is launched on a curved track, aiming to come as close as possible to the jack, known as the "master".

Continue straight ahead, then turn left onto Rue de Verdun until you reach the church.



Saint-Vincent Church

This church was built in 1532 by René de Cossé, Lord of Bris. Its keystones bear the arms of René de Cossé and Charlotte Gouffier de Boissy, his wife. The church houses several remarkable stained-glass windows, such as the "choir window", with its main scene depicting the Crucifixion. This Christ on the Cross dates back to 1794. A statue of Saint Vincent can also be admired: as the patron saint of Brissac and of winegrowers.

In front of the church, and slightly to the left, head down Rue de Rollée until you reach the fountain on your right.

Rollée fountain

18th-century tuffeau fountain. This former public fountain was once the only source of water for the inhabitants of Brissac, until 1816, and was used until 1910, when running water and street lighting were installed in the town (very rare at the time). The pump's restoration was carried out entirely following traditional methods of the past.



Continue downhill to reach the castle.

Brissac Castle



Two dates of construction have been recorded for this "half-built new castle, in a half-destroyed old castle": in the 15th and 17th centuries. It is the tallest castle in France, with seven floors - earning it the nickname of the "giant of the Loire Valley". This is a family-owned castle, surrounded by the Aubance, forming part of an estate that comprises a forest, a 28-hectare vineyard and a landscaped park.

It has been constructed in the middle of a vast park, inviting you to stroll around its water features in the shade of hundred-year-old trees. Constructed for military use during the High Middle Ages, and remodelled by the Brézé family in the 15th century, it was finally passed down to the Cossé family in 1502. A century later, Charles II de Cossé undertook the building's reconstruction, though this was halted immediately upon his death in 1621, hence the incredible mix of architectures from the two different eras. The family crest bears the Brissac motto "Virtute temporare" ("through courage and patience"). The Château is still occupied today by the de Cossé Brissac family.



★ Walk along the castle walls to the left, continuing up Rue Louis Moron to cross the Pont des Barrières.

Barrières Bridge

Built in the 19th century, this bridge represents the former boundary between the municipalities of Brissac and Quincé, brought together in 1964.



After the bridge, immediately turn right on Via Caluso, then left on Rue Duchesse to take the Ruelle aux Loups on your right.

This alley is used by the pilgrims following the Way of the Plantagenets in Anjou (Way of St James). Head up this sunken lane, walking towards Quincé.

You will then leave the Ruelle aux Loups. Continue all the way along Rue Georges Pompidou.



Saint Alman Church

This former church of Quincé (now a private residence) was built in the 10th century, though the old foundations date from the 9th century. It has no elevated steeple, as the bell is instead located in a "steeple-wall". It has not been used for worship since 1791.

At the intersection, turn left on Rue Lecuit to reach the roundabout of Rue Moron (heavy traffic). Cross the road to reach the Rue du Vivier, located opposite. Follow this road until you reach the intersection, then continue to cross another intersection. Take the Chemin des Escarbilles on your left. You will then find yourself on the red path leading to the vineyards.

BRISSAC-QUINCÉ HERITAGE TOUR

