

office de tourisme
CONQUES
MARCILLAC

2020 PRESS KIT



Reporter, correspondent, blogger, influencer or TO... Cinema, Press, TV or Web.

www.presse.tourisme-conques.en



OUR ASSETS

Our destination Conques-Marcillac located in North-West AVEYRON has much to offer.

- **CONQUES** – A heritage nationally and internationally recognized ; an important halt on the Route to **Santiago de Compostela** ; a major place for Romanesque Art (**Abbey-church and Treasure**) and Contemporary Art with the **stained-glass windows by Pierre Soulages**.
- **A DESTINATION** of unspoiled landscapes, proof of a human history at one with nature ; of **vineyards** built on terraces, the **AOP Marcillac** (PDO) and local IGP wines (vin de Conques...) ; multiple **outdoors leisure activities** including a permanent Trail space (**TERRA TRAIL**) ; **quality services** combining a rich gastronomy and fine dining listed in famous guides (Guide Michelin, Gault et Millau...) ; **quality labels, local producers awarded** for their skills, **artists and craftsmen/women highly creative...**

We will be pleased to welcome you and lead you through your professional project.

Do not hesitate to contact us.



Office de tourisme Conques-Marcillac
& Service Patrimoine de Conques

www.tourisme-conques.fr
contact@tourisme-conques.fr
00.33 (0)5 65 72 85 00



Our destination Conques-Marcillac from the Lot Valley to the gateways of Rodez

Belcastel Chemin de Bournazel Compostelle
Conques Salles-la-Source
Vignoble de Marcillac
 Vallées du Lot et de l'Aveyron

Clairvaux

Vin AOP de Marcillac

Château de Bournazel

Mirabel

Belcastel

Vitrail de Saulayges (Conques)

GRANDES MISES Occitanie

AVEYRON VIVRE VRAI

Activités nautiques sur le Lot

Vous êtes ICI

ESPACE TerraTRAIL CONQUES-MARCILLAC

- Aéroport Rodez-Aveyron
- Gare SNCF
- Office de Tourisme / Syndicat d'initiative
- Plus Beaux Villages de France
- Grand Site Occitanie
- GR 65: chemin de Saint-Jacques
- GR 62B et Conques - Toulouse
- GR 62 - GR 65
- Village de caractère
- Cascade
- Eglise romane
- Vigneron
- Artisan, artisan d'art
- Site de visite (eau, château, parc animalier...)
- Points de vue
- Station d'interprétation du paysage (table d'interprétation ou d'orientation)

www.tourisme-conques.fr

Office de Tourisme de Conques
 Le Bourg - Conques
 12320 CONQUES-EN-ROUERQUE
 Tél : 05 65 72 85 00
 E-mail : contact@tourisme-conques.fr
 Ouvert 7J/7 toute l'année

Office de Tourisme de Marcillac
 52, Tour de Ville - 12330 MARCILLAC
 Tél : 05 65 71 13 19
 Email : marcillac@tourisme-conques.fr
 Ouvert toute l'année

www.tourisme-pays-rignacois.com

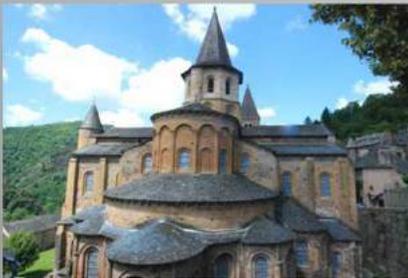
Office de tourisme du Pays Rignacois
 Place du Portail-Naut - 12390 RIGNAC
 Tél : 05 65 80 26 04
 Email : contact@tourisme-pays-rignacois.com
 Ouvert toute l'année

En saison, bureaux d'information touristique à Belcastel - Tél : 05 65 64 46 11 (juin-septembre)
 Email : contact.belcastel@tourisme-pays-rignacois.com
 et Bournazel - Tél : 06 45 27 82 47 (juillet-août)



CONQUES

AN OUTSTANDING HERITAGE



AN INTERNATIONAL FAME

Conques benefits of its national and international fame, welcoming **each year more than 500 000 visitors**.

ITS HISTORY: During the Carolingian reign (end of 8th century), the hermit *Datus* (Dadon) chose this remote place to retreat from the world. This was the birth of the Benedictine monastery. With the arrival of the relics of St-Foy (*St-Faith*) from Agen in 866, Conques became a pilgrimage site. The worship upon St-Foy gained all western Europe. Donations multiplied in favour of the monastery allowing the construction of an exceptional abbey-church, the enrichment of the Treasure of goldsmith art and turning the town into a major halt on the Route to Santiago.

AN UNSPOILT NATURAL SITE

During the 12th century, a fortified town developed little by little around the monastery. With its Romanesque entrance gates and fountains, its half-timbered houses, Conques is nowadays listed among the **Most Beautiful Villages of France**. The remoteness of the site, its topography and the protective regulations saved Conques from ungraceful constructions.

THEY WROTE ABOUT CONQUES

one thousand years apart...

"Once the shelter of beasts and melodious birds, Conques was unknown to the human held back by its wild aspect". Ermold LE NOIR, Court poet (circa 824)

"I was not prepared to find so much richness in such a desert". Prosper MÉRIMÉE, Historical Monuments Inspector (1837)



A MAJOR HALT ON THE ROUTE TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

FROM MEDIEVAL TIMES UP TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST BY UNESCO

12th century

"[In Conques], many blessings are granted to the healthy and sick alike; in front of the doors of the basilica runs an excellent stream, which virtues are more admirable than may be said".
Aymery PICAUD (Guide du Pèlerin, 12th century).

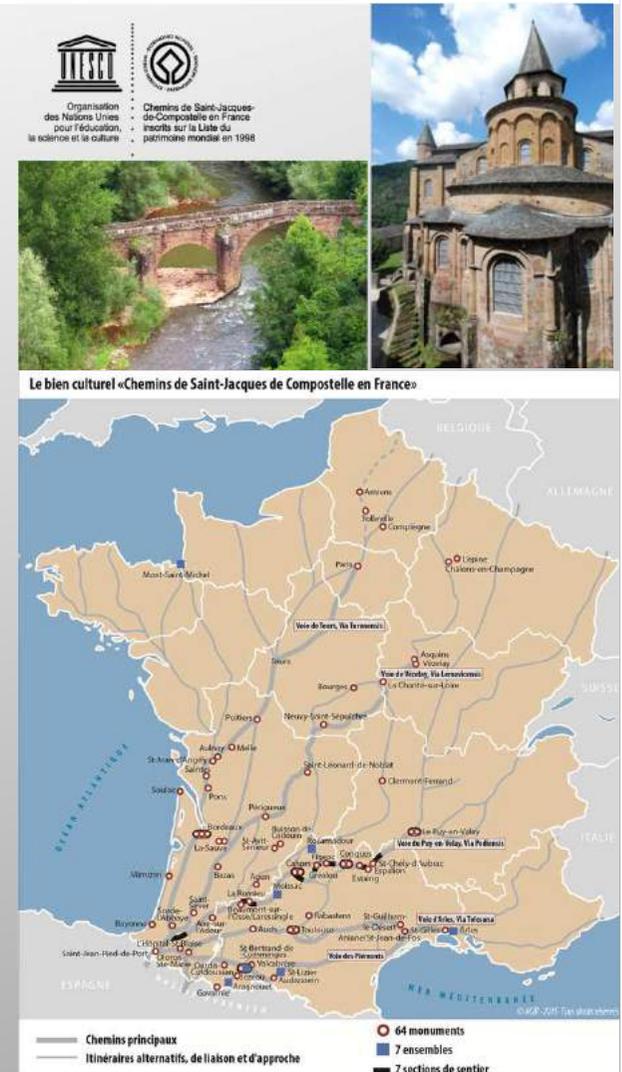
All along the Middle Ages, Santiago of Compostela was a major destination for numerous pilgrims from all around Europe. Four symbolic roads leaving from Paris, Vézelay, Le Puy and Arles summarize the countless ways used by travellers of the past. Conques was one of these major halt on the Via from Le Puy.

20th century

In 1998, the cultural entity "The Routes to Santiago de Compostela in France" has been registered in the World Heritage Sites list by the UNESCO for its outstanding universal value. UNESCO recognized the key role of such pilgrimage routes in religious and cultural exchanges and developments during the later Middle Ages. The collection counts 71 buildings and 7 sections of Routes, illustrating the itineraries then taken by the pilgrims towards the Pyrenees. **St-Foy Abbey-church and the pilgrim bridge called "romain" above the Dourdou River are listed** since that date and for this reason, in the World Heritage Sites list by the UNESCO.

More than 20.000 walkers reach Conques each year. Their nationalities are as multiple as their numbers (France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, USA...).

"We are not the owner of the world. Our children lend it to us".
African proverb



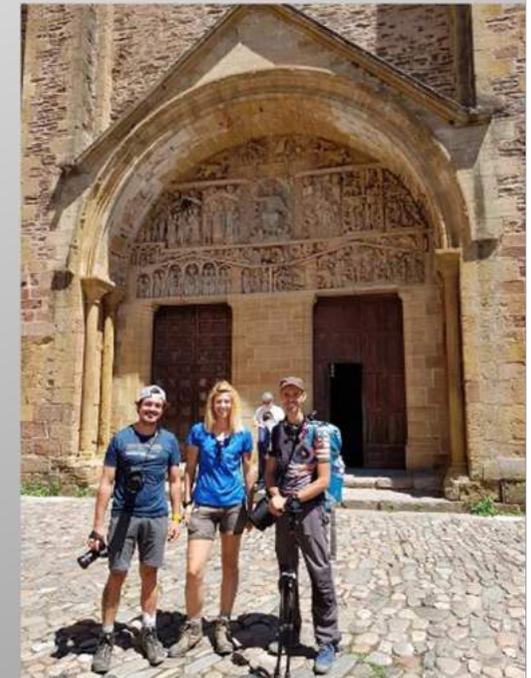
A THOUSAND YEARS OLD HISTORY

A site that invites to take the time

The Medieval times bequeathed us two major Romanesque heritage treasures: **STE-FOY ABBEY-CHURCH** (11th-12th centuries) with its famous **TYMPANUM OF THE LAST JUDGMENT** and the **TREASURE OF GOLDSMITH ART** unique in France, established by the Carolingian kings, enriched throughout the centuries and saved by the population during the French Revolution.

The late **Middle Ages, Renaissance and Modern times** entrusted us a preserved small town rich by its handicrafts and trades then thriving and its half-timbered and corbelled dwellings, with mullioned windows and slate roofs (cut schist called *lauze*), along narrow alleys, all of it nested in a natural green bower amongst vineyards and chestnut trees.

The **Contemporary Art** found in the Abbey-church a soul of stone, where the light vibrates. The **STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS BY PIERRE SOULAGES** inaugurated in 1994 magnify this powerful Romanesque architecture.



THE TREASURES OF ROMANESQUE ART

ST-FOY ABBEY-CHURCH

This high place of Romanesque art has been the subject of many reports, articles and university studies. This abbey-church is a reference in Art History for professors, academics and researchers.

The **TYMPANUM OF THE LAST JUDGMENT** (12th c.), one of the major work of art, gets illuminated in the peak season during the **CONQUES BY NIGHT SHOW** to reveal a revisited polychromy.

A MEDIEVAL TREASURE OF GOLDSMITH ART

Unique in France

One of the five European great treasures

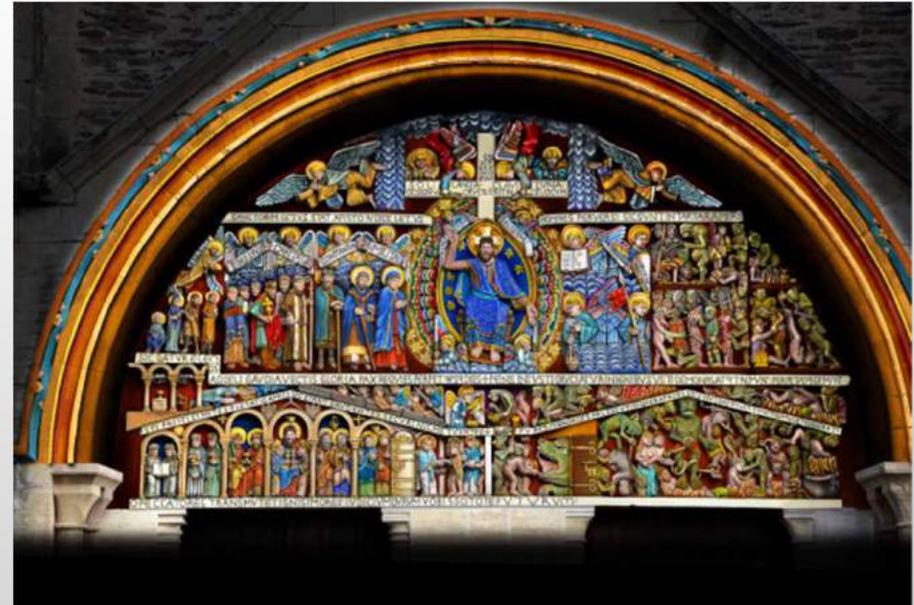
This one thousand years old collection saved by the population of Conques during the French Revolution counts numerous reliquaries made of gold, silver and covered of enamels, cameos, intaglios and precious gems. Among them stands first the famous reliquary-stature called "Majesty of St-Foy".

OPEN EVERYDAY

Only 2 days of closing time per year (Jan. 1st & Dec. 25)

We organize your tour.
Previous authorization required for
filming and shootings.

Information: + 00.33 (0)5 65 72 85 00



CONQUES AND CONTEMPORARY ART

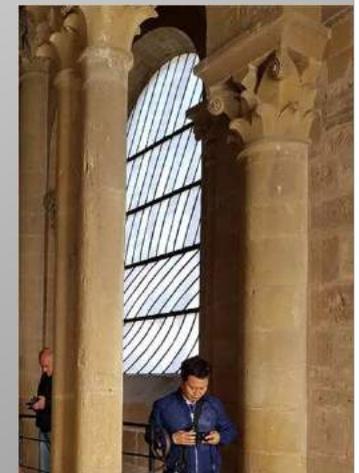
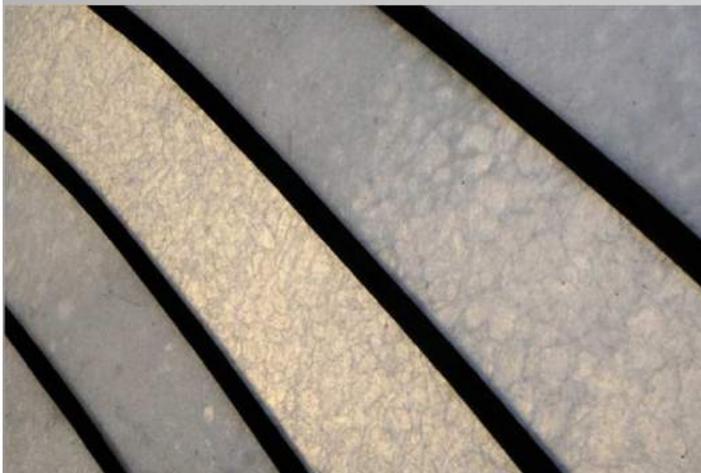
THE STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS BY PIERRE SOULAGES A MASTERPIECE ENHANCING THE ARCHITECTURE

"Conques is the site of my first artistic emotions". Pierre SOULAGES

Ordered under the French Culture Ministry and inaugurated in 1994, the 104 stained-glass windows of St-Foy abbey-church are the creative works of Pierre Soulages, a contemporary painter worldwide known. These windows made with special grain sizes respect and magnify the Romanesque architecture allowing a modulation of luminous tones.

THE PRIVILEGE GUIDED TOUR "STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS" from the upper-gallery of the church is an unique moment at close hand from the masterpieces.

WE CAN LEAD YOU IN THIS DISCOVERY!



PIERRE SOULAGES FROM CONQUES TO RODEZ

www.tourisme-conques.fr/en/en-conques/stained-glass-windows-of-soulages

TWO EMBLEMATIC SITES IN AVEYRON



- **CONQUES** and St-Foy Abbey-church, the site of his first artistic emotions and the 104 stained-glass windows.

The stained-glass windows by Pierre Soulages are nowadays a full part of the recognized architecture of Conques' abbey-church, its history and its collective memory. When the visitor hurries from the world towards Conques, it's to discover at once the building architecture, the treasure and the stained-glass windows enhancing a living light.



- **RODEZ** and Soulages museum – Collection of paintings, the full engravings from the artist and a room fully dedicated to the preparatory templates of the stained-glass windows of Conques (video presentation, touchscreen, tools, etc...). Year round temporary exhibits of contemporary artists are also held on regular basis in the museum.

<https://musee-soulages-rodez.fr/en/>

OUR PARTNERSHIP

The Treasure of Goldsmith Art in Conques and Soulages museum in Rodez are cultural partners.

1 REGULAR FEE in one gives you 1 REDUCED FEE at the other.



HOW TO VISIT CONQUES

THE GUIDED TOURS GROUPS & INDIVIDUALS

ST-FOY ABBEY-CHURCH & TREASURE

This tour is specific to groups and is quite popular. Discovery of St-Foy abbey-church, its Tympanum of the Last Judgment and a presentation of the Treasure of goldsmith art
– Fee: 9€/adult - 5€/child - Duration: 1h30 – WITH RESERVATION - Min. 10 – Max. 50/60

ABBEY-CHURCH & TYMPANUM – For all

History of Conques, tympanum of the Last Judgment, architecture, sculpture, painting and the cloister (lower part of the church)

UPPER-GALLERY (TRIBUNES) – Public above 12 years old - The Romanesque capitals and the stained-glass windows, from the upper level of the church.

THE MEDIEVAL VILLAGE – For all (sloping and paved streets) - Discover by foot the old dwellings, the history of Conques, the construction techniques, from alley to alley...

Duration per tour: 45 min.

Tour Fee per person: 4,50€/adult ; 2,50€/child

THE PASS: 1 Guided Tour =

a reduced entrance fee for the Treasure

CONDITIONS OF TOURS

Individual: High Season (*in French mainly*)

Group (above 10 pers.): With a reservation (tour in French, English or Spanish)



The majority of our tours are adaptable and flexible according to the public. The upper level of the church is always accompanied and from 12 years old.

TOUR WITH DIGITAL TABLET

A TOTAL HISTORIC, FUN AND INTERACTIVE IMMERSION

History of the abbey-church, the cloister, the treasure... at your own rhythm, with digital tablet on rental (earphone provided, video, archives pictures, etc...)

CONDITIONS OF VISIT

- **Rentals** are possible everyday during opening hours (at the museum and Tourist Office)
- **Duration:** 1h to 1h30 – Youth and All public Tours
- **Fee:** 10€ Adult - 5€ Teen (13-17 yrs.) - 1€ Child (7-13 yrs.) (rental for a child if accompanied by an adult)
- **Group:** With reservation (max. 50 tablets)



FREE TOURS

It is possible to visit on your own and freely, without a guide or a tablet, the village of Conques (town map available at the Tourist Office), the abbey-church (except the upper-level, always above 12 years old and accompanied) and the Treasure of goldsmith art (entrance fee applied). For Conques by Night programming, please read the following page...

CONQUES BY NIGHT

A VISUAL AND ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

High season

- **9:00pm** – Presentation of the Tympanum of the Last Judgment by a friar from the local religious community (*in French*) - **Free**
- **9:30pm** – Pipe organ and light show within the church (possible visit of the upper gallery at close hand from the capitals and contemporary windows) - **6€/pers.** (access allowed from 12 years old)
- **10:15pm** – Lights and polychromic show on the Tympanum – **Free**
- **Summer times: The evenings of major concert events from the Music Festival, the presentation of the tympanum is scheduled ahead at 6:30pm. The upper-gallery tour is then not programmed.**
- **Low Season (November-March): During school holidays (autumn & Christmas times), the polychromy of the tympanum is scheduled at earlier time. The upper-gallery tour is not programmed.**
- **Off-season:** The polychromy may be programmed for a group of more than 10 persons, after a previous reservation at the Service Patrimoine / Town-hall.

**PROGRAMMING FOR REPORTS
PRESS OR MEDIA**

Please contact us ahead of time



A DESTINATION OF UNSPOILT LANDSCAPES

FROM THE LOT VALLEY TO SALLES-LA-SOURCE... Three strong geological identities

The *Segala* of Conques (alt. 200-700m): Between deep schist valleys, the haven of the chestnut tree and the half-timbered and *lauze*-covered houses, and the granitic highlands of *bocage* landscapes.



The *Rougier* of Marcillac (alt. 200m): The climate is mild, ideal for the vineyard (PDO). The landscapes are luminous, dominated by *puechs* (peaks) and rolling valleys with rich manors and sandstone villages.



The *Causse Comtal* (alt. 600m): Limestone highland of steppes and meadows, cornices and canyons with waterfalls and streams spurring out. The land of the dolmens, pigeon towers, Cistercian granaries, sheep and cereal crops...



A mosaic of colours and reliefs, typical lands and traditional buildings. A strong unspoilt nature that surprises...

THE UNMISSABLE SITES TO VISIT

GO AND DISCOVER...

Our **picturesque villages** like Salles-la-Source and its waterfall, La Vinzelle, a high-perched village above the Lot Valley, Panat dominating the vineyards, Montarnal, a medieval hamlet or even Clairvaux and its sandstone houses, Muret-le-château, etc... **A jewel in each site!**

On our destination or nearby, you may find numerous **Romanesque churches, medieval and Renaissance castles** (Vieillevie, Le Colombier, Bournazel, Belcastel).

Museums (Salles-la-Source and Rodez), **interpretation centres** with diverse themes (Terra Olt in St-Parthem, Maison de la Châtaigne in Mourjou, Terra Memoria in Bozouls), **farms of exceptional products** (Ferme des Autruches in Sénergues, Ferme des Véziniés in Salles-la-Source) and a brand new **Street Art Route** in Decazeville...

We are located at 45min. drive from 2 other Most Beautiful Villages of France (Belcastel, Estaing), **3 other Great Sites of Occitania** (Figeac, Rodez, Villefranche-de-Rouergue) and **at just 1h30 from Millau** and its viaduct leading towards the Mediterranean Sea...

www.tourisme-conques.fr/en/discover-the-destination



THE WINE ROAD

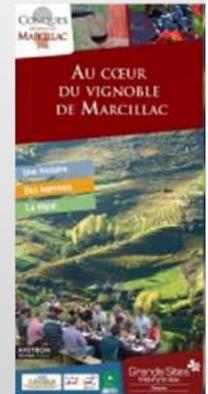
THE PDO VINEYARD OF MARCILLAC



THE "VALLON", A WELCOMING LAND

A vineyard that draws its roots in the 9th century, an authentic wine for the epicureans, a vineyard of men and women proud of their traditions.

WE PUT YOU IN CONTACT WITH OUR WINE-GROWERS
AND MAY ACCOMPANY YOU ON THE SITE - WINE TASTING OF COURSE INCLUDED!



Our destination is labelled "Vignobles & Découvertes" (a welcome of quality and wine discoveries).

A WINE ROAD punctuates our destination with a welcome in the cellars, close to the traditional skills and the secular vineyards.

A specific flyer (in French) to know all about the PDO vineyards of Marcillac, its history and identity, may be obtain upon request or is downloadable on line.

[www.tourisme-conques.fr/en/
discover-the-destination/
the-pdo-vineyard-of-marcillac](http://www.tourisme-conques.fr/en/discover-the-destination/the-pdo-vineyard-of-marcillac)



THE PDO VINEYARD OF MARCILLAC

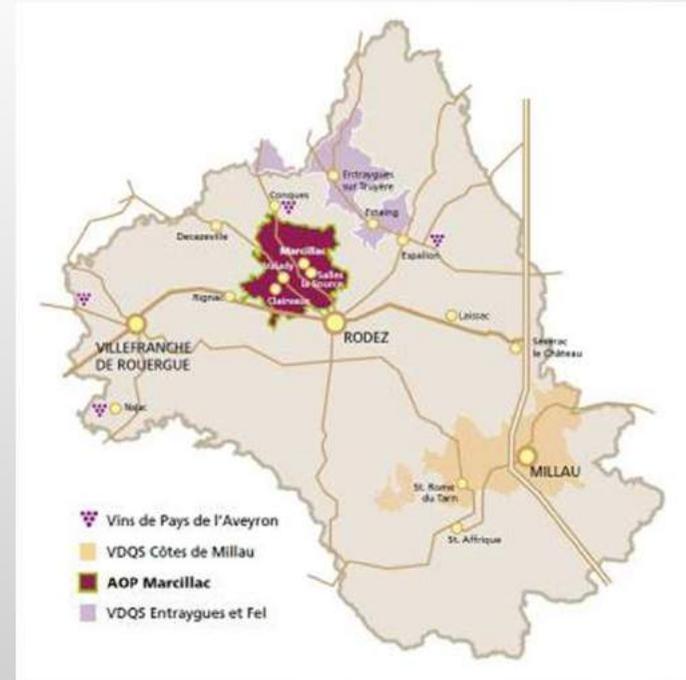
The Marcillac Vineyard spread its **200 hectares of vines** between Conques and Rodez. It is grown on terraces at the junction of the limestone Causse and the sandstone Rougier. The union of **three climate zones** (semi-continental, oceanic and mediterranean) and a strong range of temperatures between day and night are the ideal conditions for this grape variety called **Mansois, saumancés** in Occitan. Also named **fer servadou**, this grape comes from the *carmenet* family and is a close parent of the wild vine. A minimum of 90% of it is incorporated in our wines.

THE VINEYARD ACROSS THE CENTURIES

During the Middle Ages, the **monks of Conques** established many priories and built numerous churches. They took an important role in the development of the vineyard in the surroundings. Later the notables from Rodez, the **Earls of Rouergue**, made its glory before its almost disappearance at the beginning of the 20th century, due to the **parasite attacks** and **WWI** (loss of manpower). The closing of the mines in Decazeville and the **great frost of 1956** almost destroyed it all. From 1960, a handful of men decided to resurrect it gaining its recognition as **PDO (Protected Designation of Origin – AOP) in 1990**.

AN AUTHENTIC WINE FOR THE EPICUREANS

The red wines present a **deep red colour with purple highlights**. To the **nose**, they are dominated by **red fruit aromas and spicy notes**. To the **mouth**, these wines have a **well-balanced acidity** with **strong tannins** yet not aggressive. They have an excellent capacity for ageing (3 to 5 years depending of the vintage for the wines in vats, and 8 to 10 years for the ones matured in barrels). They will then acquire more complex aromas reminding of the liquorice or cocoa, the colour and freshness being preserved.



A RECOGNIZED DESTINATION

IN NUMBERS

200 hectares in production with the majority grown on terraces.

40 associated producers in the cellar "Les Vignerons du Vallon" and **13 domains**.

1 million bottles per year (55% produced in the cooperative cellar "Les Vignerons du Vallon" and 45% by independent winegrowers).

A hundred of local workers (producers and employees) in the wine trade in the Vallon.



NOT TO BE MISSED!

**The "SAINT-BOURROU"
On Whit Week-End (June)**

To salute the bud of the vine,
in Marcillac

LA FOIRE AUX VINS

Early August in Marcillac

With all the winegrowers from the
PDO of Marcillac

"VIGNOBLES & DÉCOUVERTES "

This label granted by Atout France upon recommendation from the High Council of Oenotourism, awards for three years the French touristic destinations structured around œnotourism.

The label objective is to create on a destination a network of hospitality structures offering all the visiting components, in coherence with the new expectations and practices of touristic guests sensitive to oenotourism.

The awarded partners make the wine culture come to life. They commit themselves to certain requirements like a welcome in French and a foreign language; a sensitivity and strong feelings towards the universe of wine; the authenticity of their location while embodying the cultural and landscape heritage of the territory of Conques-Marcillac.

You can find then with ease an accommodation of charm in the heart of the vineyards, a restaurant combining local specialties and our wines or events around the wine not to be missed...



THE WINE ROAD

The department action "Route des vins" is built around 4 PDO Vineyards and Vins de Pays from l'Aveyron, **The vineyard of Marcillac offers road signs towards its producers' cellars.**

Graphic design standards were applied to all components of these signposts for **the five designated vineyards in Aveyron: Entraygues - Le Fel, Estaing, Côtes de Millau, Marcillac and the Vins de Pays de l'Aveyron**

2020
MARCILLAC
CELEBRATES
30 YEARS
OF
PDO

WELCOME TO THE CELLAR

PRESS WELCOMING

We can organize a specific welcoming in private domains or at Valady cooperative cellar.



The majority of PDO domains welcome you with a reservation.

The destination Conques-Marcillac also offers you to discover the "Vins de pays de l'Aveyron".



OUR LEISURE & SPORTIVE ACTIVITIES



Conques-Marcillac is an ideal playground for numerous leisure activities, intense or more laid-back.

Hiking on the GR (Compostela trail), PR (hiking booklets or to download - all levels) or even with a donkey, **bike ride**, electric mountain bike, **Fun Ebike** with **AirGlobe...**

A trail zone "Terra Trail" (16 circuits, 300km in total of marked trails, 4 levels, 8 events in the year)...

Aquatic activities (kayak with ASV'OLT, pools), outdoor sports and **Aventure** with Vert-TEA-JEU, **equestrian riding** (Poney-Club du Connemara, centre de la Frégière), boat ride...



FESTIVE TRADITIONS

BETWEEN TASTE AND FEAST

A LAND OF GASTRONOMY

You will find on our destination: Star rated tables and restaurants combining creativity, home-made quality and local products issued from the short trade circuit, the producers' markets or direct sale from the producers, allaying a rich taste from century-old traditions; a weekly market (Marcillac) and evening markets in summer.

A LAND OF FESTIVE SPIRITS

Aside the village festivities where good living mood is at stake, anyone may find here the occasion to celebrate, allaying gastronomy, culture and heritage all year round (Festival of Theatre in March, Feast of "Saint-Bourrou" on Whit week-end, the music festival "Les rencontres musicales de Conques" in summer, the National Day festivities and its famous fireworks and villages feasts, the Wine Fair in August, the European Heritage Days in September, the **FESTIVITIES OF ST-FOY** in Conques in October...)

... and so many others that you may find on line on our **Diary!**

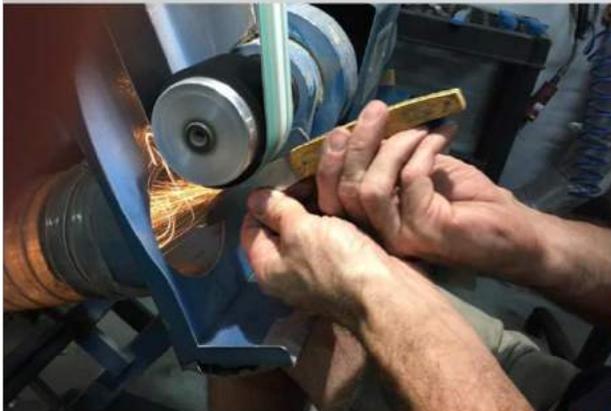


CREATORS OF EXCEPTION

OUR ARTISTS AND CRAFTSMEN / WOMEN MAKE THE CREATIVE WEALTH OF OUR DESTINATION

Creators of high talent chose our villages as the place for their inspiration and are thrilled to open the door of their studio to share their work and skills. A world of creation where the hands are acting in pair with the spirit to give birth to unique masterpieces!

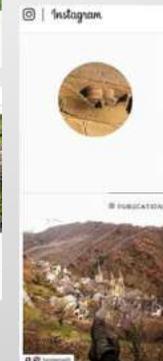
www.tourisme-conques.fr/en/discover-the-destination/en-artisteartists-and-craftsmen-women



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https://www.instagram.com/destination_conques/
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKbWC1JBPLlvFg8agmZv-rA?view_as=subscriber

A PHOTO-LIBRARY FOR MEDIA USE



ON-LINE FLYERS

You may download flyers about our Destination, directly from our Home page, as an extra support to contribute to your project.



VIDEO SUPPORTS ON REQUEST

YOU HAVE A REPORT OR SHOOTING PROJECT ?

For any authorization and technical details, please do contact **previously** the Tourist Office Management at 00.33 (0)5 65 72 85 00. We will put you in touch with the interlocutors.



A TEAM AT YOUR SERVICE



OFFICE DE TOURISME CONQUES-MARCILLAC

Le bourg – Conques - 12320 Conques-en-Rouergue
Tel. 00 33 (0)5 65 72 85 00
www.tourisme-conques.fr
contact@tourisme-conques.fr

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direction@tourisme-conques.fr
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contact@tourisme-conques.fr
Marie Marion, touristic development manager –
Tél. 00 33 (0)5 65 71 13 18 - marcillac@tourisme-conques.fr

Service Patrimoine de Conques (Heritage Service of Conques)

Tours, guide speakers, Treasure & Museum
Tel. 00.33 (0)5 65 72 85 00
contact@tourisme-conques.fr

Press Kit – 2020 edition

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G. Tordjeman, G. Amarin, C. Bousquet, Fun E-Bike, Domaine de
Cambelong, Les chambres de lumière, Cave viticole de Valady,
Domaine Matha, OTDecazeville, Château de Bournazel, Musée de
Salles-la-Source

office de tourisme
**CONQUES
MARCILLAC**

