



STROLL IN POUILLY-SUR-LOIRE

LET YOURSELF BE GUIDED BY
BOURGOGNE
COEUR DE LOIRE
THE TOURIST OFFICE



Tour itinerary

~ Distance 2.5 km • Estimated time 1h00 • Available to all



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

Pauliacum (*meaning the domain of Paulus*) was first mentioned in the 5th century.

Located on the extreme western edge of the bishopric of Auxerre, the site and its vineyards were bequeathed two centuries later to the abbey of Notre-Dame-La-D'Hors, before passing into the hands of the Benedictine friars of La Charité-sur-Loire, attached to the famous Order of Cluny.

The latter, with their considerable financial resources, were to develop the winegrowing vocation of the region while relying on the second pillar of the region: **the River Loire, an essential vector for trade in Pouilly** until the railway was developed.

While facing many setbacks (*The Norman invasion, the Hundred Years War and the wars of religion, climatic hazards and the phylloxera crisis*), the town and its vineyards took on the shape we know today and still benefit from two world-renowned AOC wines (*Protected Designation of Origin wines*)!



If on your vacations in the south of France you come across many towns whose names end in -ac, here it's -y that is in the spotlight (Pouilly, Donzy...).

~ After those few words, it's time
TO START THE TOUR!

1 La Tour du POUILLY FUMÉ

Around you, a group of buildings stands out: the first part (which houses *La Tour du Pouilly Fumé's shop and the Tourist office's reception point*), is a late 18th century mansion in the classical style.

The central part of the dwelling probably predates the main building, but has recently been renovated.

The famous tower, dating from the early 16th century, stands at the far end of the courtyard and contains a staircase deserving several floors.



4~Stroll in Pouilly-sur-Loire

If you're curious about Pouilly wines...

Don't hesitate to visit **La Tour du Pouilly Fumé**. Educational films, the **Cave aux Arômes® of Pouilly Fumé**, human encounters, learning about wine tasting. Experiences made up of sensations and emotions...

...That's EVERYTHING La TOUR du POUILLY FUMÉ has to offer!



Like the great houses of the town, La Tour du Pouilly Fumé has its own cellar: **the famous Cave aux Arômes® of Pouilly Fumé!**

In the beautiful vaulted cellar, discover the aromatic families of Pouilly's white wines.

In each retort, the aromas are recreated using only natural products.

A MAGICAL experience!



~ Turn right out of the courtyard of La Tour du Pouilly Fumé.

2 The TOWN HALL and Pouilly's COAT OF ARMS

The building housing the municipal administration is a middle-class residence built in the early 1830^s and acquired by the town in 1853.

Above its main door, you can immediately spot **the town's coat of arms**, featuring a fleur-de-lys and three golden purses on an azure blue background. This colour refers to reflection, wisdom and science (words that apply perfectly to Pouilly's oenology), while the purses symbolise generosity, abundance and trade.

The fleur-de-lys was added to please the king. Note that this coat of arms is normally surrounded by **vine leaves**: with all this information, **we can easily understand that Pouilly's wealth comes from the fame of its wines.**



If you'd like to wander through the vineyards and discover a bird's-eye view of the city, head for the cobbled lane dating back to the 18th century but **known here as the Voie Romaine**.

~ Take the Waldeck Rousseau street towards Paris and turn left after the railway bridge. The start of the Voie Romaine will be on your right.



Pssst...

Georges Simenon, the Belgian author and father of the famous Maigret, wrote a novel called "**Le Cheval Blanc**", set in Pouilly at the dawn of the 1940^s!



~ After the Town Hall, take the second street on the left to reach the church square.

5~Stroll in Pouilly-sur-Loire



3 FRÈRES MOLLET'S SQUARE and Saint Pierre's church

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

Today, you can see a war memorial decorated with **bunches of grapes** and topped by a bronze cast-iron cockerel crowing victory. This square (known as the Place des Frères Mollet in honour of two Pouilly coopers deported during the Second World War) is **also the site of a market held every Friday morning**.

Saint-Pierre church was consecrated in 1120 before being rebuilt for the first time in the 13th century. **Its remarkable bell tower**, supported by four imposing buttresses, dates from the 1550^s.

Shortly afterwards, the building fell victim to the wars of religion, due to its proximity to three Protestant strongholds: Saint-Andelain, Sancerre and La Charité-sur-Loire.

The church was finally rebuilt one last time in the 19th century.

On the Loire side, you can admire its **pointed arch portal**.

~ Follow Ferdinand Gambon's street to reach the Loire.



4 The quays of the LOIRE

Pouilly didn't have its feet in the water until the 18th century! In fact, it wasn't until 1793 that the Loire was diverted slightly.

The problem was that, as a result of this change, the current was too strong on the shoreline and it hampered the work of the bargemen. As a result, the idea of creating a **"footpath"** emerged and it was decided to build dry stone retaining walls. Following the completion of the work in 1809, the quays of Pouilly were officially created, along with a spacious station where boats could pass freely.

Yes, we shouldn't forget that the word 'station' originally belonged to the vocabulary of river navigation.



In Pouilly, the Loire and its flora, fauna and landscapes are protected as part of the Val de Loire National Nature Reserve.

This extends over 19 km between the communes of La Charité-sur-Loire and Tracy-sur-Loire.

~ Follow the quayside up the Loire for a few dozen metres before turning left into Poterne Mouron's street.



Pssst...

Did you notice?

The house at number 7 was once the home of a bargeman.

Proof of that: you can still see the **upside-down anchors (typical of the Loire navy)** above the front door!

7~Stroll in Pouilly-sur-Loire

6~Stroll in Pouilly-sur-Loire



In this street used to be a **poterne**, a small door hidden in the fortifications.

5 The CASTLE

Originally a medieval building forming an integral part of the town's defences on the Loire, the castle became the property of the Benedictine monks of La Charité in the 11th century, when they became the lords of Pouilly.

In fact, **Humbault le Blanc**, temporal lord of Pouilly, had donated his land to the monk of La Charité-sur-Loire before leaving for the crusades: he had included a buy-back clause if he returned from the East, but he was never seen again...

The castle was also rebuilt many times, notably during the Hundred Years War and the wars of religion. Ruined and rebuilt for the last time in 1651 (*as attested by a stone engraved at the main entrance*), **it still marks the landscape of Pouilly today with its two lamp base turrets topped with pepperboxes overlooking the Loire.**

~ Turn right behind the church into Chabanne street.

6 The TREASURES of ANDRÉ CHABANNE's street

On your left, you'll find a plaque reminding everyone the location of the town's three former communal ovens.



A little further down the street, you'll pass the Hôtel-Dieu of Pouilly, built during the reign of Louis the 16th. Even today, the ironwork on the balcony contains the C in the name of the man who built it: **André Colbert** (*cousin of the famous Jean-Baptiste*).

You can even see the wear on the stone under the door dating from 1713...

At number 12, you can see a large bourgeois property. It originally consisted of a 16th century watchtower (*needed to keep watch over the Loire*), but a second tower was built in the 19th century to echo the first: **although at first glance the resemblance may seem striking, major differences become apparent as soon as you take a closer look at the building!**

A Nevers earthenware plaque also reminds us that it was here that the **master Gabriel Montagnon** wrote a book.

The Montagnon earthenware factory was nicknamed the "factory at the end of the world" because of its distance from Nevers town centre, but above all it was the oldest earthenware factory in France. **In fact, you may own a few pieces bearing the famous green bow that is so characteristic of the brand?**

~ At the end of Chabanne street, turn right.

7 MARCEL LABAUME Street

Formerly known as "rue basse" or "rue du puit Moreau", its name since 11 November 1946 commemorates one of the victims of the Resistance during the Occupation.

Marcel Labaume did not hesitate to sabotage enemy telephone installations. He joined the FFI maquis in the Jura in July 1944. He was captured and shot on September the 7th, a quarter of an hour before General Leclerc arrived.

The former "rue basse" is certainly one of Pouilly's oldest streets lined with houses.



N°26

Some of you may still remember the washerwoman and ironer at N°26.

Imagine her taking her load of washing down to the Loire via the ramp at the bottom of Labaume street towards the quay, a load that then had to be hauled back up!

A shoe-maker, Grobois, occupied the current N° 19.

N°19

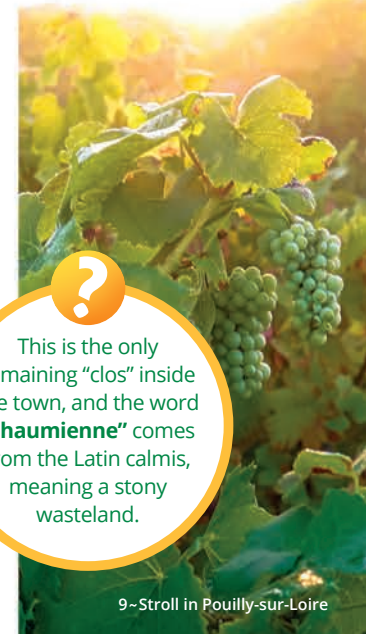
And at N° 30, a grocery shop has only been gone for a few years.

N°30

~ When you reach the Loire, turn left to reach the bridge along the Clos des Chaumiennes.

Pssst...

On your left, you can see **the Clos des Chaumiennes vineyard**.



This is the only remaining "clos" inside the town, and the word "**chaumienne**" comes from the Latin calmis, meaning a stony wasteland.

8 The Loire BRIDGE

Here you are, halfway between the source and the mouth of the Loire. Strange as it may seem (*given the considerable importance of the river in the town's development*), Pouilly had to wait for its bridge until the 19th century...

A quick look back at the history of the Loire crossing: in the Middle Ages, a simple ford (*or rudimentary bridge*) was located near the present-day town of Mesves (*five kilometres to the south*).

The famous Pepin the Short even set up a base there during his campaign against the Aquitanians in the 760^s!

If we go back a little further, we can see that there were only about ten bridges between Roanne and Nantes in the 15th century. Far from these, Pouilly fortunately benefited from a ferry service that was frequently used until the beginning of the last century. **In fact, the ferryman was a key figure in local life!**

In the 1890^s, the elected representatives of Pouilly and a number of neighbouring towns wanted to breathe new life into the region's trade following the misery caused by vine diseases (*mildew and the phylloxera epidemic*).

The Cher department (*on the other side of the Loire*) refused to contribute to the financing of a bridge, while the town of La Charité was also opposed to the project for fear of seeing its own economy decline. **Despite these problems, the first stone was laid in 1899.**



10 ~ Stroll in Pouilly-sur-Loire

If you want to see the river again and again, **head for Cosne-Cours-sur-Loire** after your walk in Pouilly.



“It is no small glory
to be a bridge over the Loire!”
Jean de La Fontaine”

At the bridge, be sure to take the traditional photo in front of the mid-Loire marker.



You are exactly in the Nièvre department, in the region of Burgundy, halfway between Mont Gerbier de Jonc and the mouth of the river.

~ Continue your walk along the quays after the bridge and turn left into “rue de la liberté” and “rue du Pouillyzot”, which will take you back to the old Nationale 7, which you will follow in the direction of Paris (*on your left*).

9 The NATIONALE 7

N7 Yes, you're on the famous holiday route that has taken generations of Parisian holidaymakers to the Mediterranean!

Just imagine: one sunny morning in July, you leave the gloom of the capital with your suitcases and children to head for the sea, the beach and the olive groves!

Today, the motorway leading to your destination is of little interest to you, but **in the 50^s and 60^s (the golden age of the Nationale 7)** the route was marked by numerous stops.

By midday, you'd arrive in Pouilly, where a host of restaurants had sprung up to serve 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 and l'Hôtel Neuf. It has to be said that, back then, you had plenty of time to eat well, as your car's engine needed a rest anyway. At the Michelin-starred Relais Fleuri restaurant (*now known as Coq Hardi*), travellers and locals alike loved the Loire fish, while at Chez Mémère they could enjoy a hot mousse with poultry livers or Pouilly braised salmon; it's said here that comedian Fernand Raynaud was very fond of them!

Leaving Pouilly, the Relais des 200 Bornes (*still in operation*) symbolises the first two hundred kilometres covered to reach the sea. **Stay strong, there were still 796 to go to get to Menton!**

In fact, it was the 996 kilometres separating this destination from Paris that gave their name to the very famous 1,000 milestone board game.



? You will pass in front of a former guardhouse that would have been a post house around 1850.
On this road leading from Paris to Lyon, there was at the time a post house every 15 kilometers!

For those with a SWEET TOOTH!

Confectionery also played a key role on the Route Nationale 7.

While in Nevers we find the Négus, in Pougues-les-Eaux the Pougatine, and in La Charité-sur-Loire the Charitois, **in Pouilly we have the “Pavé de la Route Bleue”.**

Created by the **chocolatier Weiss in the 1930^s**, this praline cream-based delicacy is still produced today at **“Craquants du Val de Loire”**, located not far from La Tour du Pouilly Fumé!

~ Continue straight ahead and reach the Tourist Office.

YOU FINISHED YOUR STROLL!

11 ~ Stroll in Pouilly-sur-Loire



Just like you,
WE LOVE
our planet.

Bring us back this leaflet
and we will give it
ANOTHER LIFE!



Reception in

Cosne-Cours-sur-Loire

In the Loire's Palace

Rue du Général de Gaulle

Shop, renting electric
bikes, lockers, wifi

Pouilly-sur-Loire

In La Tour du Pouilly Fumé

30, Rue Waldeck Rousseau

Video sessions around Pouilly's
wines, shop, wifi

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Bourgogne Cœur de Loire Tourisme 

 accueil@bourgogne-coeurdeloire.fr

 [bourgognecoeurdeloire](https://www.instagram.com/bourgognecoeurdeloire)

Also visit the area's museums to pick up tourist information.

Did you like this tour?

Two more are available for the towns of Donzy and Cosne-Cours-sur-Loire!



www.bourgogne-coeurdeloire.fr

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