

Summer holiday week at Chessy in the Beaujolais, 15 to 22 August 2020

PRESENTATION :

The summer holiday week 2020, from 15 to 22 August, will be in the Rhone department, at the village of Chessy-les-Mines in the southern Beaujolais.

Sitting on the banks of the River Azergues (whose source lies at the foot of the **Col de la Casse Froide FR-69-0739**), Chessy is only 30km from the Place Bellecour in the heart (and hearts) of Lyon.

If it is the statue of Louis XIV that stands over Lyon's Bellecour, it is that of Napoleon that will welcome us to the **Col des Echarmeaux FR-69-0712**, an important crossroads between the Saone valley and the Charollais, on the 22 August for our traditional international assembly ! Jean Molette, a son of Poule-les-Echarmeaux, and, according to our President, the most famous admirer of Corsica, spent eight years sculpting this statue at the end of the nineteenth century.

But to return to Chessy, the village lies in the heart of the Pays de Pierres Dorées, so named for the colour of the stone used to build houses and public buildings, mainly from about 1850 to the early years of the twentieth century. It was also in this period that this wine-growing region enjoyed a great prosperity : the wine flowed easily to the nearby city at a time when it was considered an essential part of the diet, and when it wasn't unusual to see the daily quantity awarded to workers specified in their contracts !

The church, the castle and the town hall amongst other buildings, were constructed with this golden stone which took its colour from the presence of iron oxide within its composition.

The stone used hadn't come far : we can still visit today the magnificent quarry of Glay (also known as the Oncins quarry) less than 2km from Chessy.

The village owes its location to the copper mines, whose exploitation lasted from Roman times until 1877. All that remains now is rubble, the buildings having been demolished.

For more information, see <http://www.chessy69.fr/>

COLS AND CIRCUITS

The Rhone department's many cols are mostly found in the high Beaujolais. It has therefore been possible to offer enough circuits for a full week, enough to satisfy the most ardent colbaggers. The roadies can count on 75 cols (including 5 easy off-road ones), while the mountain-bikers will be offered 68 cols. A few other isolated cols may make an extension to one or other of the circuits, even if there won't be many that escape the nets of our col-hunters.

The cols are situated on two main ridges – one, the Beaujolais hills themselves (overlooking the vineyards of the Saone valley), and the other beginning in the Macon country and crossing the areas of Thizy and Cours-la-Ville as far as Tarare (traditionally a textile region). The GR7 and GR76 will be the common theme of the week – they each follow for most of their length the two ridges. Let's not forget also that many of the week's cols lie on the Atlantic/Mediterranean watershed, and that one of them, the **Col des Sauvages FR-69-0723**, is a BPF point.

An important part of the landscape, the high Beaujolais forest (Henri Crepet can tell you more about it) has been well restored after the great storm of 1999, even if access to the **Col de la Roche Perrin FR-69-0795** and **Col de la Croix Bouillard FR-69-0769** have certainly been made a mess of. This wooded country will not disorientate those who were at St.Dié des Vosges in 2019, the sole difference being the colour of the rock – from the red sandstone of the Vosges to the ochre limestone of this small Rhone region.

The Lyon hills, further south, will be the object of particular circuits, road and off-road, that will display the panorama of the city of Lyon : the Fourviere Basilica, the Incity Tower, and the famous 'pencil', the nickname for the unusually shaped tower, officially named after a well-known Lyon bank.

As usual, the descriptions and tracks of the circuits will be placed on our website a few weeks before the start

ACCOMMODATION

We will be staying in the Maison Familiale Rurale (MSF) in the centre of Chessy. This is an educational centre that offers residential sandwich courses, mainly in the field of landscape conservation.

The building has 44 rooms of 2-4 beds for a total of up to 144 people. The quality is appropriate to the nature of the place : while some rooms have their own showers, others only have a washbasin. But there are large communal toilet and shower areas on each level. Catering will be by an external supplier attached to the MFR. Parking at the MFR is very limited, but there are several car parks in the immediate vicinity (the blue zone is suspended in August).

For mobile homes, we have negotiated with the mayor the possibility of using 2 car parks (not equipped for mobile homes) at 300/400 m from the MFR, on the other side of the railway (no trains at night) with an underpass to walk cross the railway and the main road. Motorhome owners will have to deal with electricity, water and waste water issues. An access map will be put on the site a few weeks before the stay. There is also a campsite at Lamure-sur-Azergues, 28 km from Chessy.

BOOKINGS

Please note, the Booking Form attached to this ICC and/or available on the Club site comprises two pages : the Booking Form itself (please fill it in completely and sign it) and the conditions of the 'Solidarity Fund' which you should also sign. If you intend to come with your partner, please subscribe them as an associate member with your DT and don't forget to put their associate member number in the appropriate place on the form.

For those who are organising their own board and lodging, it is advisable to take the service 'Participant Only' corresponding to all the services they benefit from in taking part in the stay : cost of preparing the week and its circuits, producing the maps and trombinoscope that will be put on display, the welcome and farewell drinks, the booklet, organising members' companions' activities, insurance etc.

You can choose from the following formulas

- 'Full board' at 424 euros
- '7 evening meals only' at 128 euros, if you arrange your own accommodation, but wish to dine with your friends.
- 'Participant only' at 25 euros, if you arrange your own room and board
- 'Picnic lunch for the Col des Echarmeaux' at 12,50 euros, if you haven't taken full board, but wish to take this meal during the Annual Assembly'

If, and only if, you do not have FFCT insurance, you must take the obligatory insurance on the form for 7 euros.

Participation in the **Solidarity Fund** is included in the booking price.

You can pay by cheque or by bank transfer to the Club's account. Because of the additional costs required by Paypal, we do not accept this form of payment.

The **acceptance of bookings** will be taken in the order of payment, whether by cheque or by bank transfer. For the former, it is the postmark which counts, for the second, please send a copy of the transfer with your booking. If the stay is fully booked, a waiting list will be put in place, and acceptance will operate in the same way as the direct bookings.

If you have not already sent your photo for the **trombinoscope**, and would like to be on it, tick the appropriate box on the booking form and send your photo in jpg format by email.

Further information will be put on the Club's website in due course. Each time the person responsible for holiday weeks will put a notification on the message board. If you would like to receive these mails, and have not already joined the message board, we invite you to do so.

The last date for receipt of bookings is the 5 April 2020.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the person responsible : +33 6 78 87 33 67

PROGRAMME FOR MEMBERS' COMPANIONS

Museums, picturesque villages, hiking paths, vineyards and tastings, bathing in the Lac des Sapins at Cublize, talk on and visit to Lyon and its Roman remains with the Lyon members of the Club des Cent Cols etc. : companions won't have enough time in a week to enjoy so many imaginable and possible activities. A non-exhaustive list is available on the Club website, on the page for this holiday week.

THE VINEYARDS

The Beaujolais vineyards cover an area approximately 45km long by 15-20km wide, from Macon in the north, to l'Arbresle in the south, by the RN7.

The appellations are classed in three groups : the ten most northerly vintages (in order from north to south St Amour, Juliéna, Chéna, Moulin à Vent, Fleurie, Chirouble , Morgon, Régniè, Brouilly et Côte de Brouilly), the Beaujolais Villages in the centre, and the generic Beaujolais to the south. Most of the area is planted with the famous Gamay noir à jus blanc grape, with a not inconsiderable amount of the Chardonnay grape for white wines. The growers are now riding the fashion for rosé, and some even produce a few sparkling wines.

Even though many growers make their own wines, the Beaujolais were early adopters of the co-operative system. In the unfavourable economic conditions of the last ten years, many vineyards have found it difficult to survive, and

many co-operatives have been obliged to join together in order to keep going. The Chessy area has four such collectives.

It is a characteristic of the Beaujolais vineyards that they still retain a system of payment in kind, or sharecropping, over a quarter of the area under cultivation. In this arrangement the owner of the land and the plants provides part of the grower's needs (such as plant health products), and may also own the buildings that the grower uses. In return he receives a part of the harvest, and owner and grower each produce their own wines.

The Beaujolais has experienced some crises, the worst of which was the damage caused by the phylloxera aphid (which arrived on steamships from America) from the 1880's onwards, decimating a large part of the French wine industry. Victor Puillat became the benefactor of the Beaujolais by grafting native vines onto resistant American rootstock. His home village of Chiroubles erected a statue to him.

It's hard to speak of the Beaujolais without mentioning the 'Beaujolais Nouveau' phenomenon : 'the Beaujolais Nouveau will be good this year'. Such is the chestnut that no reader of the newspaper Le Progres can escape each year. To each to discover a taste of raspberry, of banana, or of other delicacies. The release of the first wines each third Thursday in November gives rise to a host of colourful events !

The co-operative of St.Laurent d'Oingt will welcome us for a tasting : of a wine which has, as the Beaujolais say, 'done its Easter duty' !

Sources : Websites of the villages of Poule les Echarmeaux, Chessy les Mines, MFR, Wikipedia, www.toutlevin.com, association les carrieres de Glay, InterBeaujolais.