

press kit

VALENCE ROMANS

DESTINATION DOUCE DRÔME



SEASON **2026**





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**Take the time to explore.
To experience.
To live every moment.
Welcome
to Valence Romans.**

In the heart of Drôme between the Vercors mountains and the bucolic hills of Ardèche, this is where to come to slow down and take in every moment. The climate here is mild and unusually sunny, the perfect backdrop for the French way of life, played out over the seasons.

Just 35 minutes from Lyon and an hour by TGV from Marseille, this vibrant and accessible corner of Drôme opens the door to a friendly, personal holiday experience where you drink in the local atmosphere.

In the 54 villages and towns that make up Valence Romans, there's a delightful discovery on every corner: a shady square, a local market, a buzzing café terrace and local heritage and traditions communicated with passion.

Here, there's history in every pretty village, delicious meal and local encounter.

Walks and rambles, bike rides, riverside picnics, fine dining in our Michelin-starred restaurants and fresh farm produce from the locals, fun family festivals and foot-tapping concerts...

What's not to like? Every moment is an opportunity to soak up the wonderful pace of life here.

Destination Valence Romans

some numbers

54

municipali-
ties

3,08

in 2025

million **overnight stays**

252

arts and
crafts workshops

2nd

**largest
organic
depart-
ment of
France**

105

**days of
sunshine/
year**

223 000

inhabitants

11

communes
included in the
**Vercors
Nature Park**

5

**Michelin-
starred
chefs**



Including Maison Pic,
**voted best restaurant
in the world** in 2024

542 km
of hiking trails

324 km
of road cycling

Recent ranking :

**The only French city
selected by the OECD in 2025
as a European model**

Sources :

Soluxtec
Étude du baromètre Arthur Loyd
Tripadvisor



Tourisme & handicap

**Valence Romans Tourisme has signed up to the
Tourisme & Handicap certification scheme.**

At the Tourist Office, we open the door to accessible ways of enjoying our attractions and accommodation, offering practical information to help visitors living with disabilities organise their holiday with us. The Tourisme & Handicap scheme is designed to open up the complete range of options for people with different motor, visual, hearing and neurodiverse needs to enjoy their holiday with us to the full, guaranteeing access to the facilities and services on offer around the region.

Sustainable mobility

**With a host of dedicated cycle routes and
greenways, including links to the ViaRhôna and
Belle Via long-distance routes, Valence Romans
is the perfect place to explore in the saddle.**

At the Tourist Office, we encourage sustainable mobility by promoting our facilities and practical solutions that enable visitors to get around on foot, by bike and using public transport.

Want to feature the region? We're here to help all year round

Do you have an idea for an article, feature or press trip? Are you looking for a destination, information, a contact, photos or to catch up with what's happening in the region? We are here to help, with you every step of the way and waiting to welcome you to the place we call home.

YOUR PRESSE CONTACT

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News 2026

Hubert Robert & Fragonard Exhibition



From 7 March to 21 June, the Valence Museum of Art and Archaeology is hosting an exhibition of works by Hubert Robert and Jean-Honoré Fragonard. Through nearly 80 paintings, engravings and drawings, the exhibition highlights the artistic dialogue between these two great 18th-century painters and their shared appreciation of landscape.

New luxury hotel in Romans: Villa Kara



Scheduled to open in early June, Villa Kara promises an enchanting getaway in a peaceful haven in the centre of Romans: 10 unique rooms nestled within over 5,000 m² of lush greenery.

Les halles terroir



Located in the lower town of Valence, the local produce market is set to open its doors in 2026. It will house around twenty food stalls and a restaurant. The 1,246 m² of the former Jean Bouin market halls will be dedicated to high-quality local produce.

Exhibition: 'Modern Times: Palawan, Philippines'



The Armenian Heritage Centre's new exhibition, "Modern Times: Palawan, Philippines" by Pierre Vallombreuse, takes us to the Philippines. From 27 February, this immersive experience—combining photography, sound and sensory elements—invites us to meet the Palawan, the indigenous people of the mountains. The exhibition prompts us to reflect on our own relationship with nature and on the transformations of the contemporary world. Meanwhile, the permanent exhibition has undergone an update of its key content. After a month-long closure in January, the permanent exhibition reopens its doors in February, inviting visitors to discover what's new!

The cathedral gardens



The majestic staircase will make it easier to travel between the town centre and the lower town by creating a direct link between the cathedral forecourt, the recently landscaped Place des Ormeaux, the town centre and the lower town; a second route will allow visitors to cross the gardens from north to south, from Rue de la Cathédrale to Place Pie VI and the boulevards. The South Staircase will link Place Mirabel Chambaud to the cathedral forecourt via a series of five flights.

The first phase of the works is expected to be completed by spring.

Equestrian cabaret venue in Indian's Vallée



The Indian's Vallée site is expanding and will open a new equestrian cabaret venue in May. The aim is to be able to offer a programme of equestrian cabaret performances throughout the year.

Echo Restaurant



Chef Etienne Borde is opening his restaurant, Echo, in Bourg-de-Péage (on the site of the former Ôde Marine). The restaurant serves gourmet, French, modern and inventive cuisine, with 2-, 3-, 5- and 7-course menus available at affordable prices. Opening in February.

Brigitte Bardot at the Shoe Museum



The Shoe Museum is paying tribute to Brigitte Bardot over a period of several weeks through three display cases highlighting BB's significant role in launching fashion trends (ballerina flats, thigh-high boots, etc.). Her links with Romans are also highlighted: a pair of trainers that she donated to the museum in 2018 are on display.

Reopening of the Train Théâtre

Following a refurbishment, the Train Théâtre, a state-subsidised theatre of national interest in Portes-lès-Valence, is set to reopen its doors.



The history of Valence

Set in the sweeping Rhône Valley and enjoying a Mediterranean climate, Valence is often described as the 'Gateway to the South of France'.

Between the Vercors plateau and the hills of Provence, its geographical location attracts tourists from far and wide. Named by the Romans as Valentia (the Vigorous), the city grew up on the fertile ground of three alluvial terraces overlooking the River Rhône, because it was the Romans who put Valence on the map.

The great battle of 121 BCE between the Roman legions and a coalition of Gaulish tribes paved the way for the conquest of Gaul. Valentia became a Roman outpost, a strategic stronghold at the crossroads of several major communication routes.

Later, the lower town grew up around the river port and arsenal, while the medieval city remained protected inside its late-Roman-Empire walls, strengthened in 1570 under Charles IX. Valence may have taken refuge within its walls, but the city maintained its ties with the Rhône, a major trade route and until the 15th century the border between the kingdom of France and the Holy Roman Empire. In the 16th century, Valence's military importance grew and it became a citadel.

The strong walls protected the elegant mansions and grand town houses that sprang up at that time. The ornately decorated Maison des Têtes is one of the finest examples of the impressive architecture that blossomed then. The 17th century saw a major turning point in the city's history, when several religious orders became established there. The city evolved into a centre of religious, administrative and judicial influence, with trade taking a back seat. The historical centre of Valence has retained its medieval feel and narrow back streets. It was not until the 19th century that the city outgrew its walls, which were replaced by broad urban boulevards from 1860 onwards. Many remains of the medieval period, the Renaissance and 17th, 18th and 19th centuries are still very much in evidence in the city centre.

Today, Valence's economy is driven essentially by the food production, metallurgy, mechanical engineering and electronics industries.



The history of Romans

Romans-sur-Isère began with an abbey founded by Barnard, Archbishop of Vienne, in 837. The abbey came under the protection of the pope in Rome, giving the town its name which means 'the town that grew up around'.

The first bridge over the River Isère was built in 1049 to facilitate trade, chiefly between Romans and Bourg-de-Péage, giving rise to the latter's name of 'toll town', after the significant revenue raised from people paying to use the bridge.

Rumans d'Isera, as it was known, became an important market town thanks to its position on the River Isère, where it developed a flourishing textiles industry renowned far and wide for nearly seven centuries. In the Middle Ages the first tawers and tanners settled in the town's Presle district, making good use of the excellent river-side location there.

During the Hundred Years' War, a second wall was built around the town, taking in the suburbs which had grown up in the Presle, Pavigne and Saint-Nicolas districts.

This wall was demolished in around 1830, but some parts of it are still visible today: a tower in rue des Remparts Saint-Nicolas and sections of wall on Quai Sainte-Claire and in the Cemetery of Saint-Romain.

In the early 15th century textiles from Romans were exported as far away as the Middle East and all over the town rich merchants built opulent residences in the Flamboyant Gothic style. In 1516 a rich and pious Romans merchant, Romanet Boffin, built a Way of the Cross in the town leading up to the Récollets Calvary. This place of pilgrimage was conceived as an alternative to the pilgrimage to Jerusalem in the Holy Land, which was very costly and had become perilous since the Turkish conquest. The Romans pilgrimage quickly became a huge success. The stations of the Way of the Cross and Calvary have seen many ups and down through the ages, but they remain a part of the town's living heritage today. Every year on Good Friday, hundreds of believers follow the 'Grand Voyage' up to the Calvary.

After 1850 the development of the shoemaking industry in Romans brought about a profound change in the town's economy and society. Having reached the luxury end of the market between the two world wars, in the late 20th century the industry declined, with the last famous names shutting up shop (Stéphane Kelian in 2005 and Charles Jourdan in 2008). However, a footwear industry of sorts has continued in Romans-sur-Isère. In 2019 a new Cité de la Chaussure was opened to provide a home for the main players in today's shoemaking industry.



HAVE A TASTE OF YOUR DELICACIES

Here, every mouthful gives you an genuine taste of the region. Known for its fine organic produce and culinary expertise, Drôme is best explored through the people who live here: on the farm, at a farmers' market or in one of our gourmet restaurants.

Here, every taste tells a story and every encounter is an authentic experience. Come and find out for yourself.



Local produce and fine food



Drôme, France's leading organic department

Since the 1970s, the Drôme has been growing its organic sector: agriculture, agri-food, cosmetics, wellness... Ranked 1st organic department in France in number of farms for several decades, the Drôme has always been a pioneer in organic farming.

The Drôme is now known for its excellence in agriculture, particularly in arboriculture and viticulture. With its 1728 farms engaged in organic farming in 2021, the Drôme is the 2nd organic department of France. It holds 60,438 ha in organic areas, which places it 3rd after the Gers and the Loire-Atlantique. After several decades of rule, the Drôme is still a major player in the bio...*

Since 2007, the Drôme department has been hosting the Tech n bio show every two years. Organized by the chambers of agriculture and some sixty partners, the professionals share the most innovative techniques for a sustainable farming performance.

La Vallée de la Gastronomie - France @

La Vallée de la Gastronomie is a single concept that covers several regions, stretching from Burgundy and Franche-Comté to Auvergne

Rhône-Alpes, Provence and the department of Gard in Occitanie. These regions have brought together their gastronomic offerings to delight the palate and provide unforgettable gourmet experiences in warm, welcoming surroundings.

The Vallée de la Gastronomie brand is our way of introducing chefs, restaurateurs, producers, artisans and wineries to our visitors, helping them to explore the gastronomy and way of life of our unique destination.

Local markets

Whether you're visiting a large city-centre market, a village market, a local food or producers' market or any of the region's host of other markets to buy clothes, books, curios or flowers, it's always a lovely experience filling your basket with local purchases and soaking up the market atmosphere with your family or friends.

Our markets often occupy quaint little squares where you can browse the many stalls, share a smile and try out your French with a stallholder, become a part of local life, buy organic products direct from surrounding farms and stock up on regional and local specialties.

Vineyards

Running through the heart of the Rhône Valley, the Valence Romans Sud Rhône-Alpes region is a favourite with wine buffs.

Vineyards producing some of France's most prestigious appellations d'origine cover the hillsides here: Southern Côtes du Rhône, Saint Joseph, Crozes-Hermitage, Saint-Péray, Cornas and Hermitage are made according to age-old tradition, giving our region a much-deserved reputation for its wines.

A selection of market times

VALENCE

Halles St Jean

Tuesday : 4pm→8pm

Place des Clercs

Saturday : 7am→2pm

ROMANS

Place Maurice Faure

Sunday : 6am→1pm

CHABEUIL

Place de la poste

Tuesday : 8am→1pm

* Source Agence Bio



Truffles

France's famous truffle region of Drôme des Collines covers the territory of 33 towns and villages. It accounts for 15% of south-east France's total truffle production, which lays claim to 75% of the whole country's production! Known locally as le diamant noir ('black diamond'), the truffle found in Drôme, Tuber melanosporum, has an exceptionally powerful earthy flavour.

As one of the region's flagship gastronomic products, it is much in demand from chefs around the region. A number of truffle farms continue the tradition of truffle growing and collecting, including La Baume Saint-Antoine farm at Romans-sur-Isère.

Interesting fact: cavage, the practice of using a specially trained animal (usually a dog) to sniff out black truffles (which grow underground), takes place in winter.

Where to go

TRUFFIÈRE DE LA BAUME SAINT-ANTOINE

*2922, route des Balmes,
26100 Romans-sur-Isère*



The fruits of Drôme

Drôme is full of sunny fruits! As soon as spring arrives beautiful flowers are observed on the Drômois fruit trees and from the month of May cherries arrive then apricots and peaches during July.

Producers like Le Clos Fougères offer on-the-farm experiences, including educational tours, hands-on activities, pick-your-own opportunities, and of course, a farm shop where you can buy their products at producer prices.

Where to go

CLOS FOUGÈRES

*265, route de Fougères,
26300 Châteauneuf-sur-Isère*

ASENCIO

*2249 route de Fouillouse
Quartier Le Milieu Est,
26500 Bourg-lès-Valence*

Walnuts

Originally from the East, walnuts were introduced to Europe by the Romans. Its nutritional virtues were already peddled by ancient medicine.

In 1938 the walnut was the first fruit in the world to receive a Controlled Designation of Origin (AOC)

In the 11th century, nuts supplied the family oil needed for food and lighting. It was also used for the composition of walnut wines, the making of cakes, the famous walnut cake, bread, the preparation of medicines or even the elaboration of dyes. The walnut fits with many dishes such as cheese, honey or chocolate. It can be enjoyed at any time of the day: as an aperitif, in salad, crushed in certain dishes or at the end of meals accompanied by cheese, honey or bread.

Where to go

NOIX ET COMPAGNIE

*Impasse des Matras,
26300 Beauregard-Baret*

TOP CERNO - RIEN QUE DES NOIX

*1135, Chemin des Mosaïques,
26750 Saint-Paul-lès-Romans*

The culinary specialities



Raviole

This speciality consisting of pasta squares stuffed with cheese and parsley is a cousin of Italian ravioli and Russian pelmeni; indeed it would seem that they share similar origins. The story goes that Italian charcoal burners and woodcutters who came to work in the Royans-Vercors area simply came up with a variation on their native ravioli, replacing the meat inside (a rare treat in France at the time!) with goat's cheese.

Once regarded as a poor man's version of ravioli, it soon became a popular treat on public holidays. In the early 20th century, professional raviole cooks, known as ravioleuses, popularised the dish, which by then was regarded as a proper dish in its own right. Mère Maury (Marie-Louise Gélibert) was one of the first generation of ravioleuses, serving up the speciality in her famous café-restaurant.

Where to go

RAVIOLES "MÈRE MAURY"

33, boulevard Gabriel Péri, 26100 Romans-sur-Isère

RAVIOLES SAINT-JEAN

44, avenue des Allobroges, 26100 Romans-sur-Isère

RAVIOL'ADIE

141, rue des Clochers, 26750 Montmiral

SECRET DE RAVIOLES

Rue Col des Limouches, ZA "Porte du Vercors", 26300 Châteauneuf-sur-Isère
Pas de vente sur place



Caillette

Delicious eaten hot or cold, caillette is a small and tasty pressed-meat dish of pork and herbs. Depending on the recipe, it can also contain spinach, chard, and/or cabbage.

Today the town of Chabeuil near Valence continues the caillette tradition by cooking up this tasty dish. The origins of this regional specialty, which has many variations, are believed to date back to the Middle Ages. It was likely created in the countryside, where pork was a staple of the local diet. Making caillette allowed people to use leftover meat after butchering the pig.

Where to go

BANCEL

8, chemin des Méannes, ZA, 26540 Mours-Saint-Eusèbe

CHARCUTERIE DES LIMOUCHES

Quartier des Allemands, 26120 Châteaudouble

LESICKI TRAITEUR

7, rue de l'Hôpital, 26120 Chabeuil

MAISON BUISSON

2, place Albert Camus, 26320 Saint-Marcel-lès-Valence

MAISON GRIMAUD

Quai Pré Brun, 26300 Marches



The Pogne

Flavoured with orange blossom, pogne is a traditional kind of brioche that hails from the Romans-sur-Isère region. Known to have been around since the Middle Ages, traditionally it was eaten at the end of Lent, when good Christians were forbidden from eating eggs. Pogne contains lots of egg, celebrating the fact that over the Easter feast days eggs were back on the menu!

Nowadays this speciality brioche is available all year round, having lost its original religious significance over time.

Where to go

BOULANGERIE BEDOUIN

64, place Jean Jaurès, 26100 Romans-sur-Isère

BOULANGERIE LIONNETON

9, avenue Georges Pompidou, 26300 Bourg-de-Péage

MAISON PASCALIS

1, avenue Victor Hugo, 26100 Romans-sur-Isère



The Suisse

This 200-year-old Valence favourite is effectively a 'shortbread man' flavoured with confit orange peel and orange blossom.

Its unusual shape is said to have been inspired by the death of Pope Pius VI in 1799. It is said that a Valence baker came up with the biscuit in tribute to the soldiers of the Vatican's Swiss Guard, who guarded the pope's remains. Its fun shape appeals to children, but its delicious flavour makes it a hit with adults too! A suisse makes a tasty treat at any time of day, particularly when washed down with a cup of tea or coffee.

Where to go

MAISON NIVON

17, avenue Pierre Semard, 26000 Valence

1, rue Chantecouriol, 26000 Valence

PÂTISSERIE GIRAUD

5, place de la République, 26000 Valence



The Pangée

This biscuit invented in June 2001 contains apricots, honey and almonds. This delicious sweetmeat is supposed to represent the earth's original supercontinent, Pangaea, which formed around 250 million years ago.

How's that for an original idea? Don't complain if you buy one and find some of it missing, though. It's meant to be like that, to represent the first fault that formed in Pangaea. And the apricot in the middle is meant to symbolise Drôme, at the centre of the world.

The locals are lovely people, but they do seem to think the whole world revolves around them!

Where to go

PÂTISSERIE CHOCOLATIER ALAIN VIOLET

32, avenue des Auréats, 26000 Valence

PÂTISSERIE GUILLET

78, place Jean Jaurès, 26100 Romans-sur-Isère

BOULANGERIE LIONNETON

9, avenue Georges Pompidou, 26300 Bourg-de-Péage

Michelin-starred restaurants



Anne-Sophie PIC

Cooking has always been in the family in the Pic household, and today Anne-Sophie Pic has taken up the reins. For three generations, Maison Pic has been an institution close to the hearts of the people of Valence, creating its own unique gastronomic aura. It was Anne-Sophie's great-grandmother who was the first to put her culinary talents to good use!

Anne-Sophie's plaudits have included 2007 Chef of the Year followed by Best Female Chef in the World in 2011, and in 2013 she became the female chef with the most Michelin stars.

She follows in the footsteps of her father and grandfather, consistently combining a warm welcome, sophisticated and creative cuisine and perfect attention to detail in her presentation. She opened a smart bistro, Bistrot André, which serves up elegant cuisine in an old-style bistro setting.

She opened Le Bar Rose in 2021 — an exclusive experience blending the art of mixology with the enchanting, intimate setting of the Maison Pic gardens. A true ode to aromas and flavor profiles, featuring creative dishes made for sharing. Since 2023, she has also been offering indulgent afternoon treats ("4 o'clock delights") in her Michelin-starred restaurant, for those with a sweet tooth!

Maison Pic ***

RESTAURANT GASTRONOMIQUE

285, avenue Victor Hugo,
26000 Valence

☎ 04 75 44 15 32

Bistrot André

RESTAURANT BISTRONOMIQUE

285, avenue Victor Hugo,
26000 Valence

☎ 04 75 44 53 86

www.anne-sophie-pic.com



La Cacheette *

MASACHI IJICHI

Japanese chef Masachi Ijichi has been passionate about French cuisine since his early childhood. On arriving in France he perfected his skills working for Anne-Sophie Pic.

Masachi opened his own restaurant, La Cacheette*, in 2005, and his high-quality blend of European and Oriental cuisine soon proved a great success. Masachi's cooking is a subtle combination of flavours complemented by friendly service and a warm welcome.

And if La Cacheette* — which has held one Michelin star since 2009 — is a must-try dining experience in Valence it is also because of the totally fresh ambiance created by the clean lines of the uncluttered decor. In 2020, inside La Cacheette restaurant, he opened le Bac à Traille, which boasts an innovative and frequently changed menu.

16, rue des Cévennes,
26000 Valence

☎ 04 75 55 24 13

📍 La Cacheette / Le Bac à Traille



Les Cèdres *

LES FRÈRES BERTRAND

In the Bertrand family, it is the sons who are in demand! Worthy successors to the gastronomic heritage of their father and grandfather before them, Jacques (in the kitchen) and Jean-Paul (front of house) represent the third generation of the hugely talented Bertrand family.

But the two brothers are not just starting out in the business — far from it! Before re-joining the bosom of the family, Jacques perfected his technique with the Gleize family (at the Bonne Etape in Château-Arnoux) and at Maison Pic (when Anne-Sophie's father Jacques was in charge there), while Jean-Paul learned his trade at the Oustau de Baumanière in Les Baux and Chez Maxim's in Paris. Their approach focuses on the 'gastronomic emotion' generated by this culinary duo who maintain the fine line between balance, precision and service.

25, rue Henri Machon,
26600 Granges-lès-Beaumont
☎ 04 75 71 50 67

www.restaurantlescedres.fr



Epithèque *

BAPTISTE POINOT

Awarded one Michelin star and three toques by Gault & Millau, Baptiste Poinot opened his restaurant Flaveurs* in 2006, which became Epithèque* in 2025. Baptiste trained in the kitchens of Chabran (Michel Chabran's one-star restaurant in Pont-de-l'Isère).

Designed as an invitation, Epithèque* offers a unique multi-sensory experience — flavors, textures, and sensations that engage all the senses and speak to every generation.

In a relaxed yet refined setting, guests can enjoy his colorful, generous, and slightly nostalgic cuisine. A culinary experience built around "reimagined terroir" dishes, paired with a curated selection of exceptional regional wines. The wine bar was conceived as a lively, joyful space for everyone who, like Baptiste Poinot, loves to share life's simple, flavorful pleasures.

32, Grande Rue,
26000 Valence

☎ 04 75 56 08 40

www.baptistepoinot.com



Mandibule *

MAXIME SZCZEPANIAK

Located in the circular village of Alixan, Maxime Szczepaniak's restaurant was awarded a Gault&Millau toque in 2024 and a Michelin star in 2026. His cuisine is described as 'accessible' and 'committed', featuring excellent local produce (all sourced within a 20-kilometre radius, except for the coffee). The ever-changing menu promises a culinary journey, allowing diners to discover unique flavours that are representative of the region.

5, place de la Mairie, 26300 Alixan
☎ 04 75 73 02 44

www.mandibulerestaurant.com

Other top dining destinations



L'Agopé

Sevag Agop learned his passion for cooking from his mother. He describes his cuisine as 'contemporary'. Taking traditional French gastronomy, Sevag adds a twist of influences from other countries picked up on his travels far and wide. From starter to desert, everything is made in-house using only local or French produce that is in season. Keen to please diners of all preferences, this modern chef has created a non-meat version of each of his dishes. L'Agopé is in Grand Rue in the centre of Valence, just a stone's throw from the Moorish House.

15 Grande Rue, 26000 Valence
T. 09 83 05 59 89

Vert mi Sel

In quiet, welcoming surroundings, this restaurant offers a choice of three starters and three mains, with something for vegetarians. The menu, which changes every two months to keep pace with the changing seasons and tastes, is popular with local gastronomes. Located in a quiet back street in the city centre, Vert mi Sel is easy to reach on foot, by public transport and by car.

21, rue Bayard, 26000 Valence
T. 06 36 41 08 32

Maison Grislaw

Maison Grislaw is a gastro restaurant that serves up healthy, seasonal cuisine made with locally sourced produce. The restaurant's main claims to fame are its exceptional cellar (with more than 1,001 different wines in stock) and its desserts, crafted by Philippe Rigollot, a 'Meilleur Ouvrier de France'. Located in Avenue Victor Hugo, the restaurant has a lovely terrace and garden for dining al fresco on warm summer nights.

116, avenue Victor Hugo, 26000 Valence
T. 04 75 44 00 04

Le Café des Lys

Situated in the heart of the bustling city centre, on Place Maurice Faure, Le Café des Lys serves delectable, delicately flavoured dishes made with seasonal produce. The flavourful bistronomic cuisine of young chef Romain Authié stands out for its emphasis on fresh produce grown locally. The menu changes four times a year, in line with the seasons.

10 place Maurice Faure 26100 Romans-sur-Isère
T. 09 82 71 71 95

Ici et là Véore

Ici et Là Véore in Chabeuil boasts a fine menu comprising local, seasonal produce. This restaurant offers an alternative to the conventional dining experience, giving diners the opportunity to compose their own meal to suit, instead of proposing a menu of set dishes. As well as a restaurant, Ici et Là boasts a wines and spirits cellar and fine-food delicatessen offering gourmet delights for sale. The perfect place for some friendly time out, this destination combines culinary pleasures with a warm welcome in pleasant surroundings.

3, avenue de Valence, 26120 Chabeuil
T. 06 33 73 41 62



Vegetarian restaurant



L'Auberge des voyageurs

Open from April to September, the Auberge des Voyageurs welcomes visitors to the charming village of Montmiral, in the north of the region. Whether you choose international or French cuisine, the flavours are rich and the ingredients are locally sourced. Classic dishes are given a vegetarian twist. You can therefore try the Foi Graal or the oyster mushroom rillettes – all plant-based! The chef can cater to all dietary requirements (provided you specify this when booking).

188, rue des 2 clochers, 26750 Montmiral
T. 04 75 02 29 27

CED & JUS

Juices, soups, snacks, salads, smoothies – CED & JUS is the healthy restaurant in Valence town centre, offering a wide range of vegetarian dishes. You can eat in or take away.

38 Grande Rue, 26000 Valence
T. 06 66 47 78 87

L'Atelier du Jus

The only 100% vegetarian venue in the area, L'Atelier du Jus serves vegetarian dishes and healthy drinks, all made with locally sourced produce. Whether you're looking for Sunday brunch, lunch or an afternoon snack during the week, the restaurant welcomes you at Place Maurice Faure in Romans-sur-Isère.

13, place Maurice Faure, 26100 Romans-sur-Isère
T. 09 51 02 64 72

Fleur de farine

Fleur de Farine isn't just a biscuit shop. Pierre-Hugues, the manager, prepares a different dish every day to eat in or take away. Whether savoury, sweet, vegetarian or not, there's something for everyone. Lasagne, ravioli, roasts, pies, gratins, as well as fruit tarts, cookies and chocolate biscuits – all products are made using local ingredients.

43, rue Bouffier, 26000 Valence
T. 07 88 17 71 87

La cuisine de Léna

In the centre of Valence, opposite Fleur de Farine, Léna introduces diners to the traditional cuisines of Armenia and Lebanon. Every dish is prepared using her family recipes, updated for modern tastes. On the menu: a selection of mezze or pizza. The vegetarian menu offers a selection of tasty and exotic mezze that is, above all, very substantial.

42, rue Bouffier, 26000 Valence
T. 04 75 56 30 36

Tamper & Yummy

This coffee shop, located next to Valence Town Hall, offers a vegetarian and gluten-free option every day as part of its lunch menu. Whether you're eating in or taking away, you'll find salads, bowls, sandwiches, slices of tart and other tempting pastries, with the menu changing daily. Everything is homemade, and the welcoming, friendly atmosphere makes this the perfect spot for a tasty break. A wide variety of drinks is also available.

16, rue Dauphiné, 26000 Valence
T. 09 80 48 25 37

Subtil & Thé

In the heart of Valence's old town, Patrick and Bénédicte's restaurant offers four set menus each week: the 'Land' platter (meat), the 'Sea' platter (fish), the 'Flavour' platter and the vegetarian platter. Open for lunch only, this friendly restaurant is often a victim of its own success, such is its popularity among the locals.

2, rue Pelleterie, 26000 Valence
T. 04 75 56 75 06



ENJOY THE FRESH AIR

Flanked by the Vercors, River Rhône and hills of Ardèche, Valence Romans is an endless outdoor playground. In the saddle, on foot, on the water and in the air, here you can get out and about and take a breath of fresh air. Family rambles, mountain biking, climbing, hiking, water skiing and more... Nature welcomes you with open arms for an outdoor adventure at your own pace under the sunny skies of Drôme.



Pottering and urban greenery



The canals

VALENCE

Canal du Thon, Canal de la Grande Marquise: these evocative names feature among the more than 17 km of open-air canals around the city. They are a haven for urban plant and animal life. The canals are a highly original part of Valence's ecological and historical heritage and a treasure that must be protected. Their origin lies in the rainwater that infiltrates down through Vercors Mountains and Valence Plain, ending its journey at impermeable layers of rock, from where it emerges to form wetlands and countless springs, which are fed into the network of canals. Today, some 20 kilometres of canals are underground.

Medieval records illustrate how important the construction of these canals has been to Valence since time immemorial. The water in them powers the wheels of a number of mills. Two of the largest, which once ground wheat but now press walnuts for their oil, can be found on the Canal des Moulins near the city's Saunière gate. In the 19th century, factories were built on other canals, particularly the Canal de la Fabrique, using the water to provide power for fulling mills, forges and silk manufactories. Water wheels were constructed along the Canal des Malcontents to power a variety of small industries, including a marble sawmill, a baryte

factory and various munitions and metalworking businesses. Today, all the mills and industrial buildings have gone and the canals have become peaceful watery byways. The remains of the odd wash house can still be found here and there, particularly on the northern branch of the Malcontents, showing that in addition to the water's use in industry and farming it was an important domestic resource.

3 suggested walks

THE CANALS OF L'ÉPERVIÈRE 5,8 km / 1 h 35

This greenway running through the Jouvet, Trinitaires, Marcel Paul and Épervière Parks takes you as far as the marina.

THE CANALS OF CHÂTEAUVERT 6 km / 1 h 40

This walk explores the city's Châteauevert quarter, where you can see the springs fed by the underground water of the Vercors.

THE CANALS OF LE CHARRAN 2,5 km / 30 min

This district has held on to the village feel it has had for centuries. The canals here irrigate a host of little private and communal gardens.

Parc Jouvet

VALENCE

A swathe of greenery just a stone's throw from the famous Kiosque Peynet bandstand, as one of the city's biggest urban parks this open space is central Valence's green lung. Every day, the locals pour through the monumental gates in their droves for a breath of fresh air and a bit of peace and quiet.

Officially designated a 'Jardin remarquable' in 2006, Parc Jouvet is home to 700 species of trees and flowers.

It's the perfect place for a picnic, where parents can relax and unwind while the children play happily. There's a little train, animal house, aviary of parrots and budgerigars, children's playground, trampolines and more... in short, plenty of places to let off steam. In the early 2010s, the warden's house, built in 1908, was converted into a venue for temporary exhibitions, adding yet another string to Parc Jouvet's bow.

This park really does offer something for everyone, regardless of age or interest. If you're coming to Valence, it is simply a must!



L'île parc-Girodet

BOURG-LÈS-VALENCE

In 12 hectares of unspoilt surroundings a stone's throw from the town, this is the place to come and stroll along the Rhône riverside or enjoy your favourite sport such as cycling or running, in peace and quiet. And it's the perfect spot for a family picnic or barbecue, perhaps followed by a spontaneous game of boules while the kids are busy in the playground or skipping through the sprinklers to cool down.

With picnic areas, barbecues, boules terrains, a 5,000m² esplanade, a children's playground and a water jousting basin, there's enough to keep you occupied all day long!

In the summer, an outdoor bar serves drinks and local tapas, which you can enjoy while sitting among the greenery and watching the magnificent sunset



L'Épervière Park and Marina

VALENCE

France's leading river-based leisure facility, Epervière Marina offers wonderfully relaxing surroundings just a short hop from Valence city centre. The long-distance cycle route ViaRhôna also takes you here. The marina has moorings for more than 420 boats, available for rental seasonally or all year round. Covering an area of 32,000 m², Epervière Marina offers extensive leisure facilities used daily by a host of sports clubs: sailing, canoeing, rowing, swimming and more...

And that's not all: the Water Park boasts 700 m² of leisure pools open all year round. There's an aqua zone, well-being centre and not forgetting the water slides with flowing river and the high-adrenaline water drop.

Thanks to its strategic geographical position, Valence is easily accessible not only by road but also by river; a centrally located haven just a day's navigation from the Mediterranean Sea.

Bois des Naix

BOURG-DE-PÉAGE

The Bois des Naix, the second-largest urban park in the entire Rhône-Alpes region, is a beautiful 12-hectare green space right in the middle of the town of Bourg-de-Péage.

This park is the perfect place to spend time, and people come here to chill out, walk, run, relax and more... Children will enjoy the fun playgrounds, and besides jogging, sporty types can use the 17 workout stations along the fitness trail.

Nature and history lovers have not been forgotten either. It may have been planted and shaped by man, but the Bois des Naix is still a green space in its own right. Home to a diverse collection of flora and 140 species of animal, some regarded as 'remarkable', the Bois des Naix forms its own ecosystem harbouring a particularly rich biodiversity that deserves to be protected. For this reason, the council is determined to maintain it as naturally as possible. No chemicals or pesticides are permitted, the grass is left to grow long using eco-friendly methods to preserve the wild insect and flower population, and pests are caught using natural methods. Every effort is made to protect this ecological corridor running through the town.

Exploring the countryside



The foothills of the Vercors

VALENCE ROMANS AGGLO

From pretty much anywhere in Valence Romans you get a stunning view of the foothills of the Vercors. The Vercors Mountains, which span the two départements of Drôme and Isère, form a beautiful natural backdrop, and both locals and visitors can't get enough of the view. From everywhere in town you can see the impressive crags rising in the distance, the mountains visible from morning to night and changing colour as the weather comes and goes.

There are lots of footpaths on the mountainsides of La Raye and the Monts du Matin, with plenty of views along the way. But you can also explore them on a mountain bike, fly overhead in a paraglider, go rock climbing nearby, and more...

Since 2025, 11 communes of Valence Romans Agglo are now part of the Vercors Natural Park.



Parc de Lorient

MONTÉLÉGER

The 17-hectare Parc Départemental de Lorient near the village of Montéléger attracts some 200,000 visitors a year, who come here for recreation and relaxation in unspoilt surroundings. With woodland, grassy areas, a river, picnic spots and plenty of walking trails, it's the perfect place for any number of activities.

A Protected Nature Area, the Parc de Lorient is home to nature in all its unspoilt finery. Here, you'll find up to 151 species of flowers, 37 species of birds, butterflies, dragonflies and lots of mammals too (squirrels, rabbits, brown hares and also red foxes and European badgers all call this place home).

There are plenty of activities on offer here, with a choice of trails enabling visitors to explore at their own pace. Joggers come here to exercise, and there are tennis courts too, for those who want to work up a sweat. Here and there around the park, there are also a number of Anima Motrix art installations, inspired by different animal habitats.



La Tour de Barcelonne

BARCELONNE

From the Tour de Barcelonne near Valence, the surviving tower of the old feudal castle that once stood here, there are uninterrupted views of the Valence Plain.

Little is known about the origins of this medieval defensive tower perched among the foothills of the Vercors. It is thought to be the remains of a castle built here in the 12th century and dismantled in the 17th century under Louis XIII. This tower was probably originally the castle keep. Restored by the owner between 1970 and 1985, today it stands 15 metres high and is accessible from both Barcelonne and Combovin.

If you're coming from Combovin, it's also worth taking in the Chapelle Saint Marguerite that overlooks the village. It's quite a hard climb up, but from the top you get a fabulous view of the edge of the Ardèche mountains. This short, quick walk is a great way to get some fresh air!



Pangée, Centre of the earth

LA BAUME-CORNILLANE

Follow the discovery trail to explore this area with an important history to an incredible view of the Valence Plain and the ruins of the castle, of which little more than the keep remains today.

On the different stages of the walk, you learn about the geological uplift that formed the Alps, the flora and fauna and the rock marking the centre of Pangaea. This rock takes you back around 240 million years to a time when the world was made up of a single supercontinent. Today it symbolises the centre of the world as it was originally formed.

Hiking on foot



Pas des Pellafols BARBIÈRES

A playful card and mischievous little elves, the Pellafols have taken their place on the panels and help the children in their discovery.

On 4 km, 14 information panels mark the route and allow visitors to enrich their knowledge of the industrial history of this rural village, with the lime kilns of the 19th century and the kaolin factory that flourished until the 2000s. Not to mention the local flora and fauna!

Circuit of 4 km – 1h15



Le sentier des 2 renards CHABEUIL

Two young foxes, Kaia and Aldo, left their family cocoon in search of a territory. Follow their journey through the nature of Chabeuil and discover the life of some animals of the territory in a bucolic, sensory and imaginary walk created by the League for the protection of birds

*Circuit of 4 kms – 2h
Parking behind the sewage treatment plant*

Le chemin des Carriers CHÂTEAUNEUF-SUR-ISÈRE

Along the route of the quarries, discover part of the heritage of yesterday and today.

Through a ten-step game, learn more about troglodyte houses, local history and gastronomy.

Map and game to download on:
chateauneufsurisere.fr

*Circuit of 9km - 2h30/3h30 with reading of the panels.
Parking of the center - from the chapel Saint Hugues*

L'hostunoise HOSTUN

A family-friendly heritage and nature trail with 17 information panels. This circular ramble passes through the hamlet of St-Martin-d'Hostun, where the 11th-century church was first added to the national Historical Monuments register in 1978. Along the way you'll come across a stone quarry, a château, a walnut press, walnut groves, the Isère Valley, and more...

6km circuit with a total ascent of 230m. - 2 h 30

L'envolée des corneilles LA BAUME-CORNILLANE

Leaving from the village, let us guide by Lina, Mia and Corneilla, the three crows symbols of the village. Discover through the orientation, the history and the biodiversity all the beauty of this town.

*3 routes between 2 and 5 kms
Parking under the townhall.*

Le pas du loup ROCHEFORT-SAMSON

One of the particularities of this sector is a serie of four well marked pertuis or "goulets" between Beauregard Baret, Rochefort-Samson, Barbières and St Vincent la Commanderie. The torrents of the Monts du Matin, then more vigorous, built large cones of dejection or "portals" dug into the mountain. These wide, clear notches at the foot of the mountain contrast with the green landscapes of the heights.

The Oyans valley, which opens onto a landscape of valleys and hills, is one of the most beautiful gullies of the Monts du Matin. The narrow gorge was dominated in the Middle Ages by the castle of Rochefort which controlled the access.

Tour of 8,6 km - 3 h 30

Cycling routes



ViaRhône

As in many other regions of France, these days cycling is one of the most popular leisure pursuits in the Valence region. Lots of cyclists pedal the ViaRhône greenway on a daily basis, particularly from springtime onwards with the return of the warm sunshine. As its name suggests, the ViaRhône runs alongside the River Rhône. And it is not just open to cyclists; you'll find people walking and rollerblading along it, and you may even see the odd unicycle! The ViaRhône greenway will eventually run for 815 km, from Lake Geneva all the way to the Mediterranean. Running through the regions of Auvergne Rhône- Alpes, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Languedoc-Roussillon Midi-Pyrénées, it leads cyclists and travellers on a discovery of the towns, villages, local dishes and typical countryside of the South of France. It even takes you right into Valence city centre, from where Epervière Marina is just a short ride away.

In 2024 a new ViaRhône route was completed. This starts to the north, where the Bourg-lès-Valence cycle bridge connects Girodet Island with the old town. The route then continues on dedicated cycle lanes through Valence's lower town to Epervière Marina via Parc Jouvet and the Rhône riverside. The idea is to make cycling through the town a more attractive proposition, giving cyclists the opportunity to visit the city centre.

www.viarhona.com

La Belle Via

And it's not just the Valence area that has a car-free route. The Romans region does too, with the La Belle Via. The path runs alongside the River Isère and is open for cycling, rollerblading and walking. It's a great place to unwind and see the countryside, offering lovely views of the Vercors and Monts du Matin mountains and accessible to all non-motorised forms of transport.

Along the way there are footbridges across the river to enable you to get from one side to another, particularly between Bourg-de-Péage and Romans-sur-Isère. And heading away from the Rhône riverside, you can easily reach the foot of the Vercors at Saint-Nazaire-en-Royans.



Facilities to make getting around easier

Valence has set up "vélobox" to allow the cycling visitors to put their bike and luggage in boxes for free and have the possibility to visit the old town.

Outdoor activities



Trot Trot Trot GÉNISSIEUX

Trot Trot Trot offers unique all-terrain electric trotting tours on various routes in the Drôme des Collines (departure from Génissieux, 5 min from Romans sur Isère/20 min from Valence) in the vineyards of Tain l'Hermitage or in the heart of the Drôme, in Chabeuil.

Leisure or more technical, family outing, with friends, or professional, there are different tours adapted to your level, so that everyone can have fun and discover (or re-cover everything else) corners of beautiful nature.

You ride a scooter (standing up) a bit like a mountain bike (big wheels, suspension, disc brakes, etc.) but the comparison stops there! Your scooter gives you a comfortable and environmentally friendly all-terrain ride. And it's electric, so you glide silently by. And above all it's easy to use, making it accessible to everyone, providing a smooth, fun and safe ride (speed limited to maximum 25 km/h) with no effort required.

Trot Trot Trot also organises 'apéro'trot' trips, combining sightseeing with local produce tasting!

www.trot-trot-trot.sitew.fr



Land of Golf AGGLO

With 2 golfs 18 holes on the territory, The Chanalets Golf in Bourg les Valence and the Saint Didier golf in Charpey, we are here in a real paradise for golf players beginners or confirmed. For those who would like to discover this sport, trainings are proposed.

www.golf-chanalets.fr
www.golfclubvalence.com



Acrobois PEYRINS

On 5 ha, l'Acrobois proposes 15 routes with all levels of difficulties, which make it the biggest of the Drôme.

The park is adapted either for adults and children. The first level (the easier) is ok for children aged two years old. Le 15th level (the more difficult) even firemen and militaries don't finish it. All courses are in a continuous life line: you can never get off. The Saferoller does not require manipulations, it is one of the most efficient at the moment. It even offers an external laser game on a field of almost 1 hectare, from 3 to 20 players.

Obligatory support under 5 years.

www.romans.les-acrobois.fr



La Truite du Père Eugène BEAUMONT-LÈS-VALENCE

La Truite du Père Eugène is a fishing lake and activities centre a few kilometres outside Valence where you can have a great time with your family or friends.

It's a relaxed, family-friendly place that offers something for everyone. It is open all year round, but spring and summer are the best times to come here. La Truite du Père Eugène specialises in trout farming, and you can come here to fish. The equipment – fishing rod, bait and a bucket – is provided free of charge, enabling everyone to try their hand at fishing for trout. Or if you'd rather simply take a fish home with you, freshly caught trout are on sale too.

And there are plenty of other things to do here besides. On a hot summer's day, there's nothing better than chilling out on the beach and swimming in the other part of the lake. There are plenty of shady spots under the trees for a picnic, or if you prefer a cooked meal there is a very good restaurant. There is also a mini-golf on site – great fun for all the family!

www.latrutedupereuegene.fr



Upie Zoo UPIE

The original Jardin aux Oiseaux was opened in 1976 by Bernard Liauzu, a passionate bird watcher and nature lover.

Over the years, as the garden was progressively stocked with other animals, Le Jardin aux Oiseaux became Upie Zoo. Now you can see wallabies, turtles, lesser flamingos, great green macaws and more... Home to more than 215 animal species in grounds of six hectares, Upie Zoo is now an endangered species breeding and conservation centre.

This fun and educational attraction includes a birds of prey demonstration, parrot experience, mini-farm, bird feeding, tropical glasshouse and more, all in totally natural surroundings!

In 2020, a number of new species arrived at the Zoo, including meerkats, ringtailed lemurs, porcupines and radiated tortoises.

www.jardin-aux-oiseaux.com

Étoile Park 26, outdoors center ÉTOILE-SUR-RHÔNE

Etoile Park 26 at Etoile-sur-Rhône, 15 minutes from Valence, is a lake set in unspoilt countryside where you can enjoy a host of fun activities. It's a lovely relaxing spot with something for everyone: inflatable play structures, kitesurfing, a donut ride, paddleboarding, pedalos and more... Kitesurfers can receive tips through an earpiece from an instructor to improve their technique.

In addition to water sports, there are also boules terrains and beach areas for volleyball and other ball sports. There's a food outlet too, selling crêpes, sandwiches, French fries and more.

The facilities are rustic, simple, laid back and relaxed. In summer, there are even music evenings. The many different activities on offer at Etoile Park will delight everyone in the group!

www.etoilepark26.fr



Sporting activities



Mountain biking

VALENCE ROMANS AGGLO

Whether you're a newbie or a pro, this where to come for fun (and safe) mountain biking! There's something for every age and every ability, with graded routes and endless biking adventures on 9 MTB trails:

- 2 green trails offering a gentle biking experience, ideal for beginners. These trails feature bends and fun features in a totally safe introduction to the discipline.
- 2 blue fun trails for learners and improvers. These trails include features for learning to jump, increasing your speed and mastering berms.
- 2 red trails for perfecting your jumping, reaching higher speeds and improving your technical riding.
- 1 black trail for expert riders, where you can express your MTB talents and hone your biking skills.
- 1 double black trail for pro riders going all-out for speed and height. This extreme trail puts your biking skills to the ultimate test!

There is a host of other MTB trials in the region too, especially in the foothills of the Vercors.

www.vcbbikepark.com
www.sitesvtt.ffc.fr



Horse riding

DRÔME

Saddle up! If you love riding, come and explore our beautiful countryside on horseback! The La Drôme à Cheval association waymarks riding routes and provides visitor information about circuits, equestrian centres and riding holidays, and not forgetting horse-friendly accommodation.

www.drome-a-cheval.com

Rock climbing

VALENCE ROMANS AGGLO

Outdoor climbing:

The foothills of the Vercors are home to some amazing crags that attract climbers of all abilities, from beginner to expert.

RocheFORT-Samson boasts more than 70 routes ranging from A0 to 8b+, and Barbières has 31 routes from 4c to 8a.

Indoor climbing:

La Cité de l'Escalade in Valence is in a 16m-high building with a surface area of 2,900 m². It is open daily for climbing and hosts athlete training camps and national competitions. It also hosted delegations of top climbers under the Terre de Jeux 2024 scheme and for the Paris Olympics.

www.mineral-spirit.fr

Opened in 2024, **Roof Vercors** in Bourg-de-Péage features a bouldering area, outdoor bouldering wall, training zone, roped climbing area and kids' zone. It's also a great place to hang out at the centre's bar/restaurant, organises events and works to encourage and promote outdoor sports for all.

www.vercors.theroof.fr

Playfull activities



Water park and leisure centre

VALENCE & BOURG-DE-PÉAGE

Épervière Water Park is a sports and leisure facility on the Rhône riverside in the heart of the 12-hectare wooded Épervière Park in Valence. Boasting 700 m² of recreational pools open all year round and a host of fun and innovative leisure facilities, this new-generation aqua centre offers something for everyone: an indoor/outdoor water park open all year round, a spa treatments and relaxation centre, a white-water run with surfing simulator, and giant water slides.

The outdoor facilities are designed for swimming, relaxing and playing, with an outdoor pool open all year round, kiddies' water play equipment, a wild river, a high-adrenaline water drop, a water slide and even a sunbathing garden. The water park also boasts a gym and exercise suite.

The Diabolo leisure centre near Romans features two pools for training and recreational swimming, a spa-relaxation zone and kiddies' water play area, along with extensive outdoor areas offering a range of facilities open over the summer months including an aqua centre with a 25-metre competition pool, a spa-leisure pool with play and massage bubble benches, geysers, counter-current stream, outdoor areas with solarium and green spaces (water slide, beach soccer and beach volleyball court, water play equipment, zip wire, giant chess board) and a spa centre with 2 treatment cubicles and 2 cold therapy showers, 2 saunas, 2 Turkish baths, a jacuzzi, a chill-out room with herbal teas, facial and body treatments, sculpting massages, etc.

Diabolo also offers a range of aquatic exercise and fitness classes for children and adults (aquagym, swimming lessons, water baby sessions, and more).

www.centreaqualudique-eperviere.fr
www.valenceromansagglo.fr



Escape game

VALENCE ROMANS AGGLO

The region is home to a number of indoor and outdoor escape games on various themes: The Treasure of Mandrin, Crazy Science, Mission Extraterrestrial, the Circus, and more... Choose the mystery for you! Four indoor escape games in Valence and one in Romans.

www.closed-escapegame.com
www.thecase.fr
www.eyescape.fr
backtoescape.fr
escapegamesaintbarnard.com



DISCOVER OUR LOCAL GEMS

In Valence Romans, history is present in every cobbled street, every picture-postcard village and every monument. Officially recognised as a 'Pays d'Art et d'Histoire', the region boasts Roman remains, remarkable architecture and a thriving arts and crafts scene.

In Romans, our living artisan, artist and local manufacturing traditions have kept our heritage alive and given it new life in a town where the shoemaking industry once enjoyed a golden age.



Valence's architectural heritage



Kiosque Peynet VALENCE

Of all Valence's monuments, the Kiosque Peynet is the most famous. This bandstand, built in 1862 on Place du Champ de Mars, was designed by the famous 19th-century architect Eugène Poitoux, who also created the city's Monumental Fountain.

The romantic story connected with the Kiosque Peynet came about one summer's evening in 1942 when the illustrator Raymond Peynet, staying in Valence at the time, drew a cartoon of the romantic scene he saw there. A young long-haired violinist was playing alone in the bandstand, under the admiring gaze of a single young girl. His illustration *Les amoureux de Peynet* became famous all over the world. The Kiosque Peynet was designated a Historical Monument in 1982.

Maison des Têtes VALENCE

This building in the heart of Valence old town owes its name to the many carved heads decorating its façade. This unusual and original embellishment suggests that this was the home of a wealthy person, and the house did indeed belong to a rich 16th-century Valence consul who also taught at the university.

The house also has a stunning and finely decorated internal courtyard, including two complete statues. But what do the carved heads represent? The statues on the first floor are depictions of Fortune and Time, while the carvings above them represent the four winds (north, south, east and west), which make their presence felt in Valence at certain times of year.

A new cultural centre opened on the ground floor in June 2023. It is home to a permanent exhibition about the Valence plain – which stretches from the Rhône to the foothills of the Vercors Plateau – that explains the history, geology and architecture of the area, along with a museum recounting the town's military connections and a space for temporary exhibitions.

The Pays d'Art et d'Histoire also organises a series of guided tours and workshops for children.



Cathedral of Saint-Apollinaire VALENCE

The cathedral, one of Valence's oldest monuments, was consecrated on 5 August 1095 by the pope while on his way to preach the First Crusade. Since then the cathedral has undergone many transformations, particularly during its reconstruction in the early 17th century following the Wars of Religion. A staging post on the pilgrimage route, it has an ambulatory to accommodate travellers.

Inside there is a bust of Pope Pius VI containing his entrails. This statue commemorates one of the defining moments in the cathedral's history, when the pope was taken prisoner during his flight from Rome, which had been taken over by the Directory.



Le Pendentif VALENCE

Le Pendentif, one of the first buildings in France to be declared a Historical Monument (in 1840), remains one of Valence's most mysterious buildings. It takes its name from its unusual architecture, a cupola supported by a kind of vaulting called pendentives. Built in 1548 in the cloister of the Cathedral of St Apollinaris, Le Pendentif consists of a material found mainly in Drôme: a soft sedimentary rock called molasse. Today it is a listed monument, but it is thought to have been used for all sorts of weird and wonderful purposes in the past, such as a bar, a cellar, and even a cesspit at one time!

The Saint-Jean district VALENCE

To many visitors, Valence is like a jumble of mini-districts, each with their own unique atmosphere and surroundings. The Saint Jean district is home to the city's most vibrant artistic and foodie communities.

Place Saint Jean is a quaint square with a lovely atmosphere. The church here has a neo-Romanesque bell tower that dominates the city. And it is here you'll find the market hall, where weekly produce markets and occasional arts and crafts markets are held. With its distinctly artsy feel, the Saint Jean district also boasts many of the city's best restaurants, with lots of dining choices on offer all year round.



Maison Mauresque VALENCE

This house represents a break with the city's traditional architecture. Located right in the city centre, it forms a striking contrast with the old buildings around it. Its unusual design is meant to evoke the wonders of the Orient.

In 1858, the city decided to widen Rue de la Préfecture to 14 metres and align all the façades along the street. One plot of land on the street was sold to a Monsieur Ferlin, who then had to build an asymmetrical house on it, with one 2m façade to the east and one 4m façade facing west!

A frequenter of the city's artistic community, Monsieur Ferlin drew inspiration from Oriental design for his façades, earning the building the nickname 'La Mauresque à Ferlin'. The building's façade was completely refurbished in April 2019.

Valence's cultural heritage



The museum of Valence, Art and Archaeology

VALENCE

It was officially established in 1850 and moved into the former bishop's palace in 1911, just a stone's throw from Saint-Apollinaire Cathedral. Since then, its walls have witnessed and been part of countless stories and anecdotes. In December 2013, after seven years of refurbishment, the Valence Museum reopened its doors, unveiling a project entirely different from its predecessor. Redesigned in both its architecture and visitor layout, it takes visitors to the heart of collections centred on Art and Archaeology. 20,000 works are on display in the permanent exhibition, taking the public from prehistory to the present day, from archaeology to painting, including the work of notable artists such as Pierre Boncompain and Fragonard.

The tour ends at the top of the building, where the viewing platform offers a 360° view of the Rhône Valley, the Vercors, the river and the rooftops of the city of Valence. Each year, alongside its permanent collection, the Valence Museum presents one or two temporary exhibitions that showcase its unique collections!

The building is also home to a reference library containing more than 10,000 works on Art and Archaeology.

Place des Ormeaux, 26000 Valence
T. 04 75 79 20 80
www.museedevalence.com



The Armenian Heritage Centre

VALENCE

The CPA is unique in Rhône-Alpes as the only place in the region dedicated to the history of the region's Armenian population and the story of their exodus to the area. Through personal and collective accounts and from a general historical perspective, the Centre explains an important episode in our history, when thousands of Armenians fled their homeland for Valence during the Armenian genocide.

Using a variety of audiovisual resources, the CPA presents an eye-opening and informative look at these events, raising issues relevant to the society in which we live today, such as immigration, statelessness and education.

14, rue Louis Gallet, 26000 Valence
T. 04 75 80 13 00
www.le-cpa.com



Animation's cinema

VALENCE / BOURG-LÈS-VALENCE

If the animation's cinema is one of the strong points of the cultural effervescence, the 7th art, in a general way, the cinema has an important place. Most of the structures like the "Lux", national scene, and the "navire" independent cinema, value this art in all its forms: from the most traditional film broadcast to shows combining images and sounds on an open stage.

The valorisation of this cinematographic patrimony takes all its sense during the numerous events dedicated to the cinema, organised on the territory: the "Festival d'un jour" (dedicated to the animation cinema, short and feature length films), the "International Festival of Valence writers and composers", the "Spanish and Latin American cinema, "Viva cinema" (restored films, ciné- concerts...) and Festivita (Italian cinema).

The second pole of excellence in the Rhône-Alpes region, the Cartoucherie de Bourg les Valence is one of the strengths of the Valence region: its know-how in the animated image sector.

It is indeed in the heart of this territory that the folimage studios, now famous for their feature films: "Tante Hilda", "Mia and the Migou" and more recently "Gus, the little bird" and "Phantom Boy". We also find Fargo, l'Equippée, la Poudrière...

33, rue de Chony, 26500 Bourg-lès-Valence
www.lacartoucherie.fr

Lux, Scène Nationale VALENCE

Designated a National Performing Arts Centre, the Lux 2.0 began its new life in May 2014. It offers a subtle blend of performing arts and digital technology.

Presenting amazing spectacles and unique works, the Lux is a showcase for innovative and sometimes surprising takes on the show and performance formats.

The Lux's cultural role is to present art as image in all its forms to audiences of all ages, inviting them to listen, to see, touch and take in everything that is going on around them.

36, boulevard Général de Gaulle, 26000 Valence
T. 04 75 82 44 15
www.lux-valence.com



Comédie de Valence

VALENCE

Richly ornamented high walls and unusual decorations: the foyer of the Comédie de Valence gives the audience a hint of the captivating cultural experience in store through the auditorium door. Every year the theatre's programme of events presents a fascinating and varied blend of conventional theatre and new art forms.

Each new season features a new company of actors and artists in residence who present a collection of shows and original works that all have something in common. One of France's twenty official National Drama Centres, the Comédie de Valence has for years now played an important role in arts education.

Place Huguenot, 26000 Valence
T. 04 75 78 41 70
www.comediedevalence.com

Romans' architectural heritage



The tour Jacquemart ROMANS-SUR-ISÈRE

As in many French towns in the Middle Ages, in the 14th century a public clock was built in Romans-sur-Isère by popular demand. The mechanism, clock face and bell were installed at the top of the castle tower, which is today known as the Tour Jacquemart.

Every hour, the bell was struck by a wooden mechanical figure carrying an iron hammer, originally known as Jacques Bonhomme. The figure, which never failed to appear and complete his task, later became known as Jacques Marteau, after the hammer he carried, as was the custom at that time.

Over the years his name has evolved to become Jacquemart. The famous Jacquemart rang the bell in the streets of Romans for the first time on 2 March 1429.

The tower was fully renovated in November 2020, and the forecourt development was completed in April 2023.



The Collegiate Church of Saint Barnard ROMANS-SUR-ISÈRE

The moment you enter the old town you are greeted by the striking form of St Barnard's Collegiate Church. But this historical landmark is a not just popular with visitors interested in religious heritage.

The church, built in 837 by St Barnard (when he was bishop of Vienne), stands on the bank of the River Isère. A blend of Romanesque and Gothic architecture, it is home to one of France's greatest Romanesque treasures: nine embroidered wall hangings depicting the Passion of Christ. And the church contains other gems too, including 18th-century walnut panelling, hidden 13th-century murals, the slipper of Pope Pius VI and stained-glass windows by the German artist Georg Ettl.



Merchant's mansions ROMANS-SUR-ISÈRE

These opulent town houses in Romans are just as beautiful inside as they are on the outside. While you're exploring the back streets and some of the larger squares, look up and you'll see some very grand façades!

In the late Middle Ages, Romans cloth was exported as far away as the Middle East. The wealthy cloth manufacturers and merchants of the day built these splendid Flamboyant Gothic and Renaissance town houses. There are a dozen fine examples of these mansions in Romans with evocative names like Nugues, Duport-Roux (de Coursac), Clérieu, Thomé, Chabert, le Clarisse and de Loulle. The best way to see them is on a guided tour with an official Pays d'Art et d'Histoire heritage guide.

You will get to see the internal courtyards, which are not always open to the public.

Gourmet heritage Romans



La Cité de la raviole ROMANS-SUR-ISÈRE

Representative speciality of Romans, the raviole has from now its city ! Opened in June 2020, it allows to discover the know-how of the Mère Maury ravioles which dates from the 19th century. If you go to the city, you'll discover a video in which you'll discover the ravioles production and a few explanations through a museal itinerary.

For the most gourmands, the shop is now in the middle of the city and it's possible to buy all kinds of ravioles : natural, basilic tasting, goat cheese tasting, mushrooms tasting, foie gras, truffles and also chocolate tasting !



The Pogne Museum BOURG-DE-PÉAGE

After the museum visit, Pascalis Pogne won't have any secret for you ! You visit by yourself during 30 or 40 min. You'll see a film on the know-how of Pascalis factory. You'll have the possibility, in the morning only, to see the Pogne and Saint Genix fabrication. You'll finish the visit by tasting the Pogne which make the Pascale house's reputation since four générations.

You must reserve the ticket

86, Grande rue Jean Jaurès,
26300 Bourg-de-Péage
T. 04 75 02 08 46
www.pascalis.com



Romans' shoemaking industry



The history of shoemaking here began when medieval tanners and tawers realised that the town was in the perfect location, with the clean, clear water of the Isère and the canals close to the Presle quarter providing all the resources needed for tanning leather. A shoemaking industry grew up where there was an abundant source of leather.

The industry's glory days were between the two World Wars, and it reached its height between 1945 and 1970. Various related industries such as shoebox production, shoe polishes, glues and insoles also emerged. By the end of the Second World War, more than 5,000 people in Romans were working in all the different sectors of the shoemaking industry.

But in the 1970s, the industry collapsed. The relocation of manufacturing, the globalisation of trade and competition from countries with lower labour costs all took their toll and many businesses closed, leading to widespread job losses. At one time, every family in Romans was connected with the leatherworking trades in some way.

And today?

Following these dark days, the Archer group revived the industry in Romans and the shoemaking workshops started up again. The town is now a centre of small-scale, high-quality artisan shoemaking. With footwear now more of a universal product and less of a luxury, the brands have turned to creativity and innovation to win niche markets.

The birthplace of the luxury footwear and leatherworking industries, Romans continues to thrive today on its creative industries.



Authentic Romans Footwear

The label 'Véritable chaussure de Romans' certifies that the product's entire manufacturing process, from cutting to finishing, has been carried out in Romans and the surrounding area.

Brands

1083

Jeans and footwear
www.1083.fr

Made in Romans

Men's and ladies' footwear and leather goods
www.madeinromans.fr

L'atelier cuir

Footwear
www.atelier-madeinromans.fr

Max Vincent

Specialist leather sandal maker
www.maxvincent.com

Milemil

Football and rugby boots
www.milemil.fr



Footwear Museum

ROMANS-SUR-ISÈRE

If there is one place that best sums up what Romans is all about, then it has to be the International Footwear Museum. On display in the stone-walled museum foyer is an enormous pair of wooden shoes, which sets the scene perfectly: welcome to the fascinating world of footwear. With 16,500 permanent exhibits on display, the museum recounts the history of footwear through the ages in this town famous for its boot and shoe manufacturing heritage. Inside you will come across some very unusual ways of shoeing feet, from the first shoes worn by our ancestors to boots and shoes from the four corners of the world. It's a museum that makes you think again about those all-too-familiar objects we wear on our feet every day. The museum's immediate surroundings, the former Convent of the Visitation, give it a unique atmosphere. It is also flanked by formal French-style gardens that are a wonderful place to stroll and relax and are the venue for some of Romans' highest-profile events.

In 2020, following several months of building work, the Footwear Museum reopened with a revamped exhibition layout and new collections on show. The new exhibits – including some recent acquisitions – have never before been displayed, and the museum has been updated to include more contemporary and in some cases iconic shoes that everyone can identify with. These include the famous sneaker, notably a pair of legendary Stan Smiths, a global superstar! You will also find the highly prized and very chic court shoes so popular with not only Charles Jourdain clients in the 1960s but also Louboutin fans in the 1990s. Accompanying the exhibits are numerous illustrations, photographs and audio and video recordings that create a more fun atmosphere, backed up by a host of fascinating inside stories along the way. You will learn how Dr Martens came to be, what lies behind the design of the wedge espadrille, who the white Repetto dance shoes – so loved by Serge Gainsbourg – were originally created for, who had the idea of making a women's version of the derby, and why Louboutins have red soles.

Rue Bistour, 26100 Romans-sur-Isère

T. 04 75 05 51 81

www.museedelachaussure.fr

La Cité de la chaussure

ROMANS-SUR-ISÈRE

The Cité de la Chaussure in Romans tells the fascinating story of the shoemaking industry's revival.

Opened in May 2019, this tribute to the industry is right in the heart of Romans, next door to the Tourist Office.

The best way to experience the museum is on a guided tour. Inside, you will learn all about the history of the industry in Romans and see the manufacturing workshops, including the different stages involved in making shoes: cutting, stitching, lasting and finishing. To round off your time at the Cité de la Chaussure you can browse the vast 300m2 store selling a wide range of shoe brands made exclusively in Romans. Here, you will also find leather goods and footwear accessories including leatherwork, jewellery, leather care products, socks and more. Romans' shoemaking tradition still has a bright future!

36, Place Jean Jaurès
26100 Romans-sur-Isère

T. 04 75 48 41 58

www.citedelachaussure.fr

The giant shoes

— Romans —

Inspired by models on display in the shoe museum, these twelve 2m-high monumental shoes are presented along a trail in the heart of Romans town centre. These iconic and remarkable models were created by local manufacturers and famous bootmakers. This fun trail guides visitors to the Shoe Museum. Jean-Luc Tamisier and Sylvie Favel are behind this urban scenography and the design of the bases.



Derby tressé
Stephane Kélian • 1990

The specificity of the Stéphane KELIAN house resided in this unique and exclusive way of treating braided. This mastery of exceptional know-how has remained unmatched. Created in 1960, the company, based in Romans, grew thanks to the talents of the three Keloglanian brothers.

Chaussure pensée
Christian Louboutin • 1992

Christian Louboutin designed this shoe in 1992, drawing inspiration from the graphics and colours of Andy Warhol's pop art.

Fish shoet
André Pérugia • 1955

The shoe "Poisson" is inspired by the painting "Les poissons noirs" painted by Georges BRAQUE in 1942. Its creator, André Perugia, feeds on artists of his time as well as from the Orient or the decorative arts.

Shock-heel shoe
Bruno Frisoni • 2004

This court shoe is a tribute to the great Parisian bootmaker Roger VIVIER, inventor of the stiletto in the year 1952. A true artist imbued with avant-garde trends, he gives his shoes the volumes of a sculpture. He invents new forms of heel, like here the "shock" heel.

Court shoe with very high heels

Charles Jourdan • 1963

Symbolic court shoe of the Charles Jourdan company, its pointed toe and Louis XV stiletto heel testify to the elegance of the company installed at Romans until 2007. Its position as a leader has been confirmed by the collaboration with Christian Dior.

Shoe without heel
André Pérugia • 1937

The shoe without heel questions. This model defies the laws of gravity and balance. It is the work of André Perugia, recognized as one of the greatest bootmakers of the 20th century. The latter collaborates with the biggest fashion houses like Christian Dior or Balmain.

Chaussure masque
André Pérugia • 1949

A great Parisian bootmaker, André Perugia is an innovator. He also knows how to draw his ideas from bygone times or other places. Venice and its masks are a recurring theme. A nod to local history and the Carnival of Romans where the event has been celebrated for several decades

Escarpin étoilé
Andrea Pfister • 1994

This court shoe is a tribute to the great Parisian bootmaker Roger VIVIER, inventor of the stiletto in the year 1952. A true artist imbued with avant-garde trends, he gives his shoes the volumes of a sculpture. He invents new forms of heel, like here the "shock" heel.

Escarpin girafe
Stéphane Couvé-Bonnaire • 1995

This amazing court shoe is intriguing. Its creator, then a young student, participated in the competition "Exercise of style" organized by the French Shoe Federation. He imagines and creates this heel that evokes the hind legs of a giraffe. He makes a sensation and wins first prize.

Derby Roel
Robert Clergerie • 2016

This derby is a flagship model of the brand. In 1981, Clergerie put at women's feet a model so far resolutely masculine, the derby. Published every season since its creation, it has largely contributed to the reputation of the Maison Clergerie, a lack of prestige in the world.

Gentleman's boot
Joseph Fenestrier • 1923

This 1920s gentleman's boot, made in Romans, was designed to go with an everyday suit. It was designed by J. Fenestrier, a footwear industry pioneer.

Mule pince
Robert Clergerie • 1998

This graphic and elegant mule marks a unique style in the image of its creator. His search for sobriety, simplicity characterizes his creations. In a relentless search for creativity and innovation, he has imagined a metal heel that gives the model a rough and airy look.

Shops & crafts

— Romans —



Outlet village - Marques Avenue

ROMANS-SUR-ISÈRE

This discount shopping centre opened in 1999 and features more than 80 stores, shopping outlets selling off old stock at discounts of at least 30% all year round. During sale periods, the reductions can reach to up to 70%! You'll find all sorts of goodies and something to suit every taste at this open-air shopping centre with a very pleasant feel.

Once a military barracks, it still has a historical feel, even though it has been extensively enlarged and modernised and is now dedicated to shopping. A personal shopper is available to help you decide on your purchases and seek out those little gems that will make a fabulous addition to your wardrobe. And when you're feeling peckish, you'll find five eateries here.

60 avenue Gambetta, 26100 Romans-sur-Isère

T. 04 75 05 85 29

www.marquesavenue.com



Trade and Crafts Trail

ROMANS-SUR-ISÈRE

This walk explores Romans-sur-Isère and the surrounding countryside, starting with the town's historical back streets on a discovery tour of the local heritage through the traditional crafts that are still practised here.

In all, around 20 artisans have opened up their workshops to the public to showcase their passion and expertise in painting, leatherwork, shoemaking, ceramics, fanmaking, bookbinding, plastic arts, musical instrument making and more...

The trail then ends with a gentle stroll along the Isère riverside.

Exploring our villages



Chabeuil, Medieval village

Chabeuil is one of the numerous villages of Valence surroundings which is built around a molasse hill : the Gontarde hill. It seems that the city was founded at the top and around this same hill in the middle of the Middle Ages. This is directly related to an ever older favorable location of the site as a major axis of communication in the region.

This privileged location will make Chabeuil a prosperous city thanks to the trade of cloth and paper until the 19th century. Today's city has preserved important monuments in connection with this property.

The monumental gate was saved thanks to a citizens' petition. Built in molasse, its hardware and grooves under the vault prove the existence of a harrow (reconstruction visible today) and a wooden door. A crest with the arms of the Princes of Monaco is hammered on the tympanum of the vault. The centrepiece of an ensemble of which only the porch remains, it is built on a Gallo Roman seat. The overhang of the top is more recent. This door was provided externally with a four-sided roof. A guard room is on the first floor.

The town hall, in neo-Gothic style, was built in 1877 in tuff stone (extracted in Peyrus, a nearby village). Its campanile is inspired by the Palazzo Vecchio of Florence and was built in 1903. On the left, a round tower adjoining the hotel, remnant of the medieval enclosure, is one of the few remaining elements of the old ramparts.

The church of Saint John the Baptist, built in stones of the Saône in place of the church of Saint Andéol demolished by the wars of religion. In the shape of a Greek cross, its 4 branches are of flat length and the altar is in the center. Inside, a painting offered by Napoleon III depicts the Virgin. Her face is that of the Empress Eugenie (his wife).

Étoile-sur-Rhône, Medieval village

Spread over alluvial terraces, the village of Etoile sur Rhône, from the Latin "stella" meaning star but here has the derived meaning of "crossroads". Indeed, the place is a natural crossroads to the north, south and east. It is also an ideal monitoring post for the Rhone Valley, and has always been. The ancient history of Etoile is rich and the town has preserved the testimonies of the Roman era, the Middle Ages and the Renaissance but also of the Revolution.

To discover: the parish church Notre Dame d'Etoile, typical building of late Romanesque art. In the heart of the village, the church underwent two phases of construction: in the 12th century for the nave, then at the end of the 12th/ beginning of the 13th century for the choir and certainly for the many marquee decorations.

The monumental gate of the Château des Poitiers, also known as the Porte de Diane de Poitiers, served as the entrance to the castle. It dates from the thirteenth century with remodeling (at the level of the openings) during the fifteenth-sixteenth century, with a typical defensive work, on a square plan, pierced by a semicircular passage.

On the garden side, it remains the large barrel-vaulted staircase of the entrance door of the former dwelling that connected the upper and lower part (Diane's door)



Alixan, Circular village

Alixan is a circular medieval village with some remains of the old ramparts. Around a central molasse piton is a village with a triple ring.

In the middle of the top of the mound is a tower, the only remains of the old castle, which today adjoins the Mairie. A flight of monumental steps leads down to the grand esplanade below. In the middle of the village, the Saint Didier church (Xth – XIIIth century) was built on different construction periods and the oldest, the Virgin Chapel was extended by an additional span. it houses an altar, paintings, and a statue of Ste Marthe defeating the Tarasque. (1829) stained glass windows date from the second half of the 19th century. The current belfry was rebuilt in 1776.

Eymeux Chapelle Sainte-Béatrix

Possibly erected on the site of a former priory founded by Blessed Beatrix of Ornacieux in the 14th century, the chapel Sainte Béatrix is of Romanesque Revival style and was completed in 1897.

It occupies a viewpoint overlooking the Isère and the former Port of Ouve, on the side of the Ecancière (hamlet of Eymeux). Located in the Bessieux district, it hides in the trees at Mont Saint Martin. From the promontory overlooking the Isère, the panorama unfolds until novels. Its history and construction are closely linked to the cult of Saint Béatrix D'Ornacieux, a young Chartreuse from the Parmenian monastery who came to Eymeux in 1300 to found a new monastery with two friends.

In 1303, the nuns died and the locals began to worship in Beatrix. She was beatified in 1869. In 1897, the construction of the chapel is completed, it is in Neo-Romanesque style. It is celebrated every 1st Sunday of September on the occasion of a pilgrimage. Internal access is reserved for worship.



Châteauneuf-sur-Isère Troglodyte village

A dozen troglodyte houses remain in the state, this hamlet is the flagship. in the past, they were more numerous, which could explain the small old town and the name "Châteauneuf the village with 100 troglodytes". Châteauneuf is a stoned land whose name is "the molasse", tender stone present in all the low Dauphiné, where it is often used as a construction stone. If other molasse quarries exist in the surroundings, only a new castle site allowed its exploitation on a large scale.

Since antiquity, these carrieres have supplied the materials to major medieval sites such as the Cathedral of Valencia, the collegiate church of Saint Barnard de Romans. Still used for the construction of the Bourne Canal in 1877, the molasse experienced an irreversible decline from that time on, notably due to the competition of cement.



ENJOY THE NIGHT AWAY

*All year round, Valence Romans is alive with cultural and festive events.
With the family, on your own or with someone special,
whether you're an ardent fan, vaguely curious or just out for a good
time, a host of new experiences await you...*



Foodies events



— VALENCE —

Valence en Gastronomie Festival

Valence Romans is known for its gastronomy and delicious local produce, and this event gives you a great taste of what the region has to offer! Taking place over five days in September, this culinary festival consists of some 20 events featuring local chefs, producers, food companies and 53,000 foodies!

Each year, the Gastronomic Rally kicks off proceedings. This is a fun car rally on the roads of Drôme and Ardèche in which participants have to solve the clues to complete five mystery stages, visiting producers, winegrowers, farmers and restaurateurs along the way, with lots of opportunities for tasting the local produce. Who knows? Maybe you'll be the winner! This is followed two weeks later by four days of discoveries, encounters and tasty treats in the centre of Valence. The highlights include:

- Speed Tasting, an evening event where you learn how to pair dishes with wines with the help of sommeliers training at some of France's top gastronomic restaurants.
- The Festival Pagodas and 'Goûtatou' Tasting Stalls – come along and taste, taste, taste! Chefs, pastry chefs, wine producers, ice cream makers and more, encouraging you to taste their delicious treats made with local produce. Quality food for a great price – that's what the Goûtatous offer!

- The Twin Towns Gastronomic Market, taking you on a delicious journey around the world.
- Le Cocktail des Chefs Étoilés: a gourmet battle between three Michelin-starred chefs, tasked with selecting the right ingredients to create the winning dish, awarded by the judges.
- The Children's Food Market – what a great idea! The children select the fruit and vegetables they want from the stalls, pay with the money they've been given and take away their own basket of market goodies.
- The Chefs' Lab, a real challenge! A line-up of chefs and pastry chefs have just 30 minutes to prepare their signature dishes! Followed by a tasting of the results.
- Every year, the Valence en Gastronomie Festival ends on a high with a concert or show featuring a French celebrity

Join us from september 2026 for an indulgent celebration of all things gastro

www.valenceengastronomiefestival.fr



Fête de la pogne et de la raviole ROMANS-SUR-ISÈRE

The pogne and raviole are Romans' two best-known and best-loved foods, and that's why every year the town holds a festival in their honour. The line-up includes culinary shows with top chefs, cookery demonstrations (including the traditional method of making ravioles), a ten-handed kneading of a giant pogne, a banquet, a food market, and of course tastings galore, and not forgetting celebrity guests every year! This gourmet event takes place annually in June.

www.ville-romans.fr



Salon Truffe, Vin et Chocolat VALENCE

A revamp of the former Fête de la Truffe, for the third year in a row this food fair will bring together the three gastronomic delights that best sum up the Valence region: truffles, wine and chocolate. It will take place at the Convention & Exhibition Centre on 24 and 25 January 2026, featuring around 100 exhibitors. The event will include produce tasting, demonstrations by top chefs and more, for a weekend of foodie discoveries to die for!

www.valence.fr

Musical events



— VALENCE —

Festival sur le champ

The Festival sur le Champ, which takes place on the Champ de Mars in July, is one of Valence's biggest summer attractions. It's open to everyone, and what's more it's FREE!

A vast stage is erected right in front of the Kiosque Peynet, one of city's best-loved attractions, and the entire city centre buzzes over 4 or 5 nights of concerts featuring an eclectic mix of different musical styles.

Each night features a different kind of music: French pop, urban music, world music, and more... There's something for every taste and every age!

Kicking off the bill, the festival showcases local talent such as Vianney, Rover, Orelsan and Faudel. Other big-name artists to have played the Festival sur le Champ include Julien Doré, Grand Corps Malade, Juliette Armanet, Emilie Loiseau and Olivia Ruiz.

It's a great opportunity to join the throng to celebrate live music, eat and drink and take in the amazing views of the Château de Crussol and the Kiosque Peynet, right in the heart of Valence. And it's a fantastic place from which to admire the sunset.

A recent addition is the fringe festival, which lasts for the whole of July and features little-known local groups and singers performing in different places around the city, in the street, in front of bars and in public places. It's a great place to hang out, listen to some new sounds and discover new bands.

The festival is accessible to wheelchair users and there are plenty of food outlets around, too. No advance booking available.

www.festival-surlechamp.fr



Ō Lac festival CHÂTEAUNEUF-SUR-ISÈRE

Located in the heart of a large wooded park, Lac d'Aiguille hosted the first edition of O lac festival in July 2022 and welcomed 8,000 people.

Family and warm, the festival offers a rich and varied program! Festival-goers have discovered their favorite artists facing the lake and the setting sun, which, when summer comes, is simply sublime! See you this summer at Châteauneuf sur Isère for the second edition!

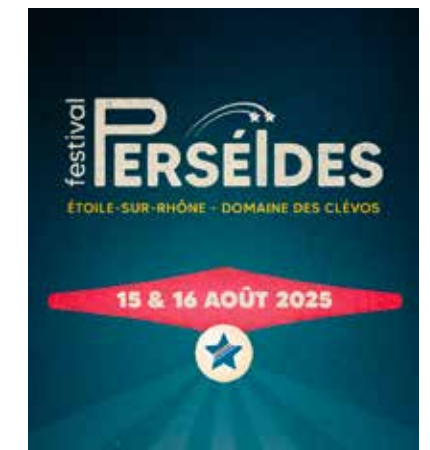
www.o-lac.com



International Festival of Cultures and Traditions of the World ROMANS-SUR-ISÈRE

Since 1977, central Romans has danced and swayed to the rhythm of the cultures and traditions of the world at this festival, which has gradually grown to include music and dance from Europe and beyond. In 1989, the Festival became an eagerly anticipated international summer event. It takes place over five days, featuring groups from the five continents. A fascinating and unmissable cultural mix.

www.empi-et-riaume.com



Perséides Festival ÉTOILE-SUR-RHÔNE

The first edition of the Perséides Festival will take place on 15 and 16 August 2025 at the Domaine des Clévos venue in Etoile-sur-Rhône. This new festival featuring pop, rock, indie and electro music sets out to be a bold, adventurous and pioneering event that brings together emerging and established artists on the indie scene, including acts such as La Femme and Friedberg.

www.perseides-festival.fr

Cultural events



— VALENCE —

Festival d'un jour

Buoyed by the buzzing creative tradition that has grown up here, the animated film industry is one of the region's most vibrant areas of artistic endeavour. This led in 1994 to the founding of the Festival d'Un Jour, which actually lasts for six days! The brains behind the festival, the association Equipée, was keen to showcase the talents of the creative minds

and artists who work every day to ensure the animated image industry here goes from strength to strength. Every year the events, competitions and other fun gatherings making up the festival provide a forum for the industry to open up to a public of animated film fans. The festival takes place every March.

www.lequipee.com/festival



Festival deux nuits

BOURG-LÈS-VALENCE

Outdoor animation in a wooded park. This is what the "Two Nights Festival" offers in July. For the first edition in 2022, "Ernest et Célestine" by B. RENNERE, V. PATAR and S. AUBIER and "top of the world" by R. CHAYE were projected.

Dozens of short films made by students are broadcast following the feature film. Food trucks are present in the park to enjoy the park before the broadcast.

www.lequipee.com/festival



Les Rencontres de la photo

CHABEUIL

Since it began in 2001, the annual Rencontres de la Photo photography showcase in Chabeuil has gone from strength to strength. It features well-known and lesser-known photographers from various backgrounds, each with their own style. There is no set theme, and the different exhibition venues show off Chabeuil's fine architecture both inside and outside the town walls.

And the exhibitions and evening talks have one thing in common: they are all free!

www.les-rencontres-de-la-photo-chabeuil.fr



Vice et Versa

BOURG-LÈS-VALENCE

Since 2013, the Vice & Versa festival – featuring a host of shows and events – has taken place over three days of the Easter holidays. Vice & Versa is a fun, relaxed and friendly festival for all the family. The types of events taking place include children's face painting, storytelling, poetry readings, puppet shows, world music, clowning, street art, circus arts and more...

The kids can even make their own windmill, kite or hot air balloon. There's something here for everyone, every age and every budget.

www.festival-vice-versa.com

International Screenwriters Festival

VALENCE

Held every spring, the week-long Valence international scriptwriters' festival is all about the craft of the scriptwriter and revealing new talent in the business. In addition to its competitive element, the festival aims to help budding scriptwriters in the hope of encouraging the emergence of new practitioners. With film showings and events open to the general public, the festival is also there to raise awareness of this little-known part of the film industry. This event happens in April.

www.scenarioaulongcourt.com

Events

— In and around Valence —



— VALENCE —

Winter magic & the Christmas village

Valence's Christmas Village is the biggest Christmas market in the Drôme département! Every year, Valence starts gearing up for Christmas at the start of December. That's when the magic begins, with Christmas lights and decorations in the old town, the shops adorned with Christmas trees and garlands, special events in town and the vast Christmas market, full of the enticing smells of mulled wine and crêpes... Since 2015, Valence Christmas Market and Big Wheel have brought the Christmas spirit to the city, attracting thousands of visitors over the Christmas period. Come along to join the fun among the dozens of brightly illuminated wooden chalets selling hand-made goods and produce such as preserves, cheese, beers and foie gras. You can also enjoy a hot crêpe filled with chocolate or caramel, or perhaps a delicious waffle or churros. Or simply follow your nose around the chalets, full of great ideas for Christmas presents: hand-made jewellery, scarves, hats, natural and organic cosmetics, toys, and more... Throughout December, there are lots of events on at the Christmas Village, starting with the Christmas Magic event on the opening day.

This is a grand parade of 400 local adults and children in costume through streets of the city centre, followed by a fabulous firework display on the city's vast Champ de Mars square. It's a stunning spectacle! You can then take the time to browse the Christmas Market and explore the streets of the old centre, lit up by magical Christmas lights right through to the end of December.

Throughout the Christmas Village period there is a programme of free events on offer for all the family, including an 8km night-time Christmas trail run around Valence city centre that attracts nearly 1,000 runners every year. Santa will be there too, waiting in his grotto for the little ones to visit him for a photo. There are also free children's face-painting workshops, wooden toys and art and craft workshops. And that's not all – see the city on a horse-drawn ride or from 30 metres up by taking a spin on the Big Wheel. Tickets are available from the Tourist Office. Valence Christmas Market is a highlight of the winter here, a wonderful moment to enjoy with all the family.

This year, you can visit Valence's Christmas Village from 28 November to 28 December.
www.village-noel-valence.com



Monte-Carlo Vintage Rally VALENCE

From 3 to 6 February 2026, classic car enthusiasts and curious onlookers will thrill to the parade of racing cars taking part in the Monte Carlo Vintage Rally. A cross between an WRC rally and an amateur race, the Monte Carlo Vintage Rally features only cars that have previously taken part in the World Rally Championship. Since 2006, Valence has hosted this event, which is a real hit with the locals!

www.valence.fr



Salon L'Étoile du bien-être ÉTOILE-SUR-RHÔNE

The Etoile du Bien-Être is without doubt the best of the region's low-key events. Bien-être is French for well-being, which is what this event is all about: a mix of talks, workshops and stands over two days celebrating well-being in all its forms. Alternative medicines, healthy foods, beauty products and even therapeutic arts are all here. The show features a host of exhibitors, who take an active part by offering a variety of workshops presenting the products and services they offer.

www.letoiledubienetre.fr



Mangalaxy VALENCE

The 8th Mangalaxy Festival, taking place on 13 and 14 September, is pitched at anyone who's into manga, animated cartoons, Japanese culture, retro gaming, comics and science fiction. The event will include entertainment, talks, workshops, concerts and surprise special guests. Aimed at both enthusiasts and novices, this festival is about bringing the culture of the Land of the Rising Sun to the general public.

www.festivalmangalaxy.fr

Leisure and Tourism Fair VALENCE

Valence will host the second edition of the Leisure and Tourism Fair, an event dedicated to showcasing the region's tourist attractions. It offers residents the chance to discover a wide range of local leisure activities and tourist experiences. Accommodation, outdoor activities, cultural heritage, wellness, tourist facilities and local produce will all be brought together in one place.

www.toutunevenement.com

Events

— In and around Romans —



— VALENCE —

Romans Carnival

The region's most successful mass-appeal event, Romans Carnival is above all about creating a sense of community that everyone can share. It really sums up what Romans is all about, a rite of passage for everyone who grows up in the town.

Every year the people and associations of Romans come together to bring to life the costumes, parades and characters that mark the arrival of spring. The Carnival includes floral floats with children throwing confetti into the crowd, others throwing streamers, and performers on stilts who tend to either fascinate or frighten the children! Everywhere, there are people thronging in Carnival costumes, face paint, headdresses and more. It's such a fantastic experience to see all the children open-mouthed with wonder at the incredible costumes, and some even in tears when it all becomes too much! The crowd divides into two: those who stay in one place to watch the whole Carnival parade pass by, and those who follow the paraders, dancing and clapping their hands. Anyone can buy streamer bombs and confetti from wandering sellers

and join in the fun. There is also a food stall area selling crêpes, churros, candyfloss and other tasty treats.

At the end of the afternoon, the Carmentran Carnival figure is put on trial, found guilty and set alight, usually on Place Jean Jaurès. Tradition has it that this punishment destroys all the ills that have beset the town's population.

The Bloody Carnival

But back in Romans' history, in 1580, the event turned into a blood bath. During the Carnival that year, the townspeople's anger resulted in extensive rioting, and several people were killed. As a result of that episode so long ago, believe it or not, the Carnival was banned until 1970!

www.ville-romans.fr/agenda/carnaval



Pétanque Masters

ROMANS-SUR-ISÈRE

On 25, 26 and 27 August, for the tenth year running, Romans will host a leg of the Pétanque Masters competition. This very French sporting occasion will include entertainment and events celebrating the sport of pétanque (also known as boules) and featuring top international players. The competition will feature not only pétanque champions but also a Youth Masters, gentleman tournaments, a Business Masters and post-competition celebrations.

www.mastersdepétanque.fr



Tennis Open

BOURG-DE-PÉAGE

Every year national and international tennis pros come to Bourg-de-Péage to compete in this open tennis competition. The event features big names in French tennis such as Alex De Minaur, Lucas Pouille, Adrien Mannarino and Holger Rune.

www.opendebourgdepeage.com

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