



## Charente MG Owners Club

www.charentemgowners.com

**RUN, LUNCH AND VISIT TO LA BRASSERIE ARTISNALE DE SAINT SAUD – 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2018**

### ROUTE AND INFORMATION

**Route:** Our route today starts from Massignac (16310) at 10h45. We will leave from the car park next to the church, behind the Mairie. Public toilets (très propre) available. The route, as shown on the attached map, takes in Videix (near), Chéronnac, Neuville, La Forge, Cussac, Château de Brie, Château De Montbrun (where we will make a stop) and then on to our restaurant “**La Pailotte Du Grand Etang**” near St. Saud. After lunch we will proceed to the brewery. The co-ordinates of the restaurant are N45.558692 E00.824458 and the co-ordinates of the brewery are N45.547067 E00.807077 (the brewery is in an old mill down a track..)

The route takes in three Départements: Charente, Haute Vienne and then Dordogne and much of it will be in the *Parc Naturel Regional Périgord Limousin* no less

**Château De Brie** “Les Brie” a military group, arrived here from Dordogne (it says here) in about 1250. The current château was constructed in 1484 after the local “big cheese” (pun intended) Jean De Rochechouart had given the Bries the nod. It was abandoned during the revolution and then restored in 1845 by a M. Bouland – it is still in the hands of the Bouland family. Today it operates as a Chambre D’Hôtes/Maison De Vacances business and as a marriage venue.

**Richard Cœur De Lion** We follow quite a bit of “*Route de Richard Cœur De Lion*”. Richard was of course the third son of Henry II of England and Eleanor of Aquitaine. He was born near Woodstock in 1157 and became king in 1189 after death of his two younger brothers. During his ten year reign he spent very little time in England – he spoke Occitan and French, but not English. He married Berengaria of Navarre in Cyprus (which he had just captured) in 1191 whilst on the way to the Third Crusade. He was of course killed at Châlus in 1199 at the age of 41, whilst suppressing a revolt by Viscount Aimar V of Limoges. He had no legitimate heir but his illegitimate son, Philip of Cognac, made a name for himself by murdering (it is said) Viscount Aimar V in revenge for his father’s death.

At various points in his life, besides being King of England, he ruled as Duke of Normandy, Aquitaine and Gascony, Lord of Cyprus, Count of Poitiers, Anjou, Maine (France) and Nantes as well as being overlord of Brittany. In crusading terms he was pretty successful, capturing Cyprus, Acre and Jaffa, but Jerusalem eluded him. He did however do a deal with Saladin that allowed Christians access to Jerusalem. The journey home from the crusade was not great for Richard, he was shipwrecked in Italy and had to continue overland. He was captured in December 1192 by Leopold V of Austria, with whom he had “issues,” and was ransomed for 100,000 pounds of silver (a huge sum, 2 or 3 times the annual income of the crown). In Richard’s territories both clergy and laymen were taxed to a quarter of the value of their property and gold and silver treasures of the church were confiscated. He was released in 1194 after his Mum managed to get all the cash together.

Richard is buried in three places, Châlus (entrails) Rouen (heart) and Fontevraud, Anjou (the rest)

**Château De Montbrun** Built in 1179 by Aymeric Bruni (ancestor of Carla??) to defend the borders of the Duchy of Aquitaine, it remained in the hands of the Bruni (Brun) family until 1516. During the 100 years war it was captured twice by the English. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century it was rebuilt and the original square towers replaced by round ones, but the moat and the square keep remain. It is (it says here) “a fine example of a 15<sup>th</sup> century castle.” During the Wars of Religion in 1562 it was attacked and set on fire by the Protestants. During the French Revolution it was pillaged and destroyed its archives burnt, and the property was divided up and sold in lots. The castle was restored in 1871 and again in 1964 – 1967. It is said the Richard the Lionheart stayed at the castle on his way to Châlus to repress Aymar V’s rebellion.

There are conflicting stories as to the current owner, one Maarten Lamers, a Dutch “businessman” is listed as the owner currently trying to sell the château, yet Wikipedia claims it belongs to the Thom family of Melbourne, the only known descendants of Aymeric Bruni. Since 1946 the property has been listed by the Ministry of Culture as a *monument historique*.