



Did you know ?

→ CHAMPEIX, CITY OF GARDENS

Well-known for its riverside terraces and gardens, Champeix has developed from the Middle Ages on the right bank of the Couze Chambon. A first district stands out around the Church Sainte Croix. The Marchidial district is located on the western flank. of the castle of the Dauphins d'Auvergne of which remain, at the top of the rocky spur, the base of a dungeon and a Romanesque chapel. On the eastern slope, a maze of stairs and alleyways leads to the former district of the forts, delimited by the rue des Moulins.

→ LES CAVES DE SAINT-JULIEN

The villages of Montaigut and Saint-Julien still have large networks of old wine cellars on their outskirts. The best known is the site known as the 140 cellars of Saint-Julien, dug into the volcanic tuff of the Serre plateau. They date from the 18th and 19th centuries, the peak period of vine growing in the Allier valley. Some of them are today reconverted into maturing cellars, there was even a nightclub in the 1980s.

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Hiking guide

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Les caves de Saint-Julien

Starting point : Champeix

**Auvergne
Pays
d'Issoire**
Ressentez-Vibrez-Savourez



Distance : 9 km



Hiking Time : 2 h 45



Difficulty : Medium



Marking Out : Yellow



Height Difference : 286 m





- D** Starting point - Starting sign on the square, rue des Halles, near the town hall. Go past the town hall, towards the bridge without crossing it, turn right and go up the Petite Rue Beauregard until you reach the road on the plateau.
- 1** Turn left twice. Follow a wide path (view on the top of Champeix). We reach a sign (point of view on the Marchidial district). Continue, leaving two paths on the right (view of the castle of Montaigt-le-Blanc and the Sancy) and go down to a transverse path. Turn left and continue down to Saint-Julien by a hollow ochre path. Cross the stream and go up to the entrance of the village of Saint-Julien.
- 2** In front of the municipal school turn left. Cross the Place de la Chapelle. Continue along rue des Granges and chemin des Caves (the entrances to the Saint-Julien cellars). Turn right on the road until the crossing with the D631. Turn left for 30 m and go down a small road towards the Montaigt-le-Blanc cemetery. Cross the bridge and go up rue de l'Église then turn left before the monumental gate (panoramic view from the church square) to go down to the D996.
- 3** Cross the road and take the bridge over the Couze Chambon. Immediately turn left and walk along the right bank of the river for a long time. Then turn right until you reach the first houses. Turn left and go to the porch of the castle of Marchidial (gardens).
- 4** Go down to the center of Champeix. Turn left to cross the metal bridge that leads back to the car park.

