

# Le Pays de Champagne



## à vélo



Vélofiche n°3  
Bicycle ride n°3

Price : 0,50 €

## Avize, between hills and plains



*Located on the prestigious « Côte des Blancs », Avize, a small village nestled between sunny hills and the plain of Champagne, possesses a very famous wine growing area covering some 270 ha. Almost exclusively planted in Chardonnay grapes, it is worked by about one hundred wine growers.*

*Occupied since Prehistory, Avize village was fortified during the Middle Ages. Its ramparts were destroyed later by the « Seigneur d'Avize », to punish the occupants for refusing to pay feudal taxes.*


*Then Avize was transformed with the discovery of how to make Champagne and the refinement of the precious wine. Wine growers' houses from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and frescoes depicting the work in vineyards and in wine-making are witness to that.*

*At the limit of the forest covering the « Montagne d'Avize », the « Parc Vix » provides an ideal space for a break or a picnic as well as offering a splendid panoramic view over the village, the vines and the plain.*

### Recommendations from the French Cyclists' Federation

« Don't forget your helmet. Always follow the highway code and ride two abreast only under appropriate circumstances.

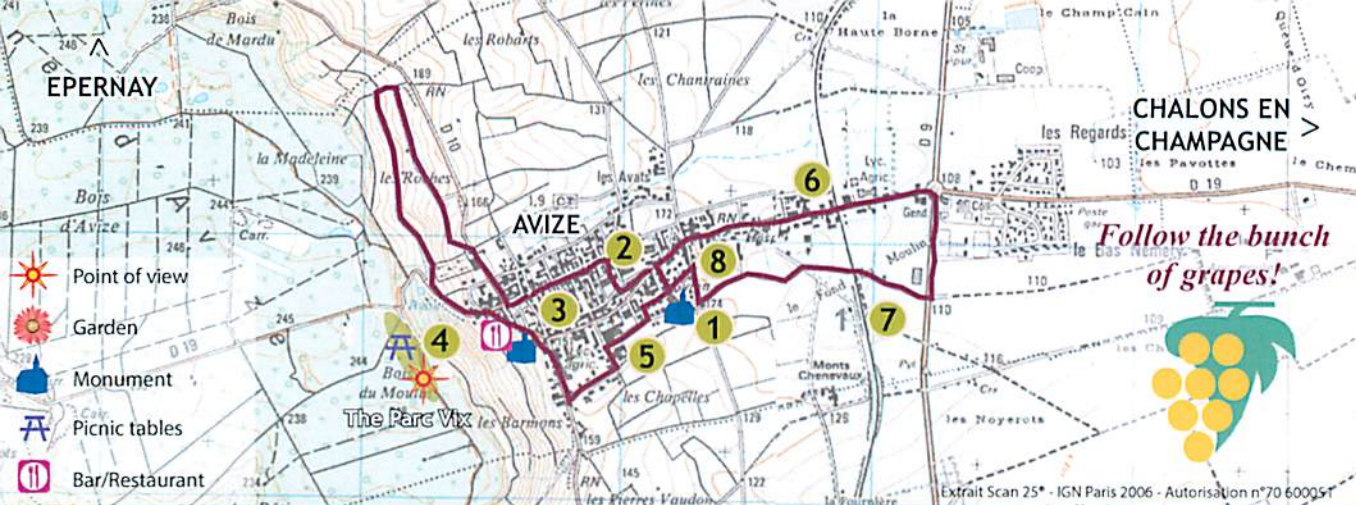
Mountain bikers: please wear your body protection.»



Distance : 7,5 Km  
Length : 40 mn  
Level  
of difficulty : easy  
(with a difficult part)

▼





CHALONS EN  
CHAMPAGNE

*Follow the bunch  
of grapes!*



- 1** Departure: At the Desbordes castle, built in the 19th century by the family of the same name. Follow rue Ernest Vallé which will bring you to the centre of the village.
- 2** Go along town hall park (Parc de la Mairie) following rue Sainte Dorothée, then cross Charles De Gaulle square and take rue Pasteur.
- 3** At the top of rue Pasteur, ride alongside Saint Nicolas church. This church has a 12th century Roman nave and features “Le Denier de César”, a listed work of art by Orazio Borgiani dating from the 17th century. Continue along Cramant road until you leave the village, then climb the hill, crossing between the vines, and enjoy the view of this vineyard along the hillside of the villages of Cramant and Chouilly.
- 4** At the highest point, when you see a giant bottle pouring the famous local beverage into a glass, enjoy the one-of-a-kind view over the village and plain. Then go down Rempart du Midi before getting back on Oger road. Go down rue des Gris. Admire two centuries-old sequoias as you pass on rue des Chapelles.
- 5** Come back to the Desbordes castle along rue des Acacias and rue de Champagne.
- 6** Continue your circuit on the avenues Jean Jaurès and Mazagran, dotted with Champagne manufacturers’ premises and luxurious winegrowers’ estates.
- 7** After a brief detour on RD9, ride along the vineyards of Avize once more, and enjoy a different view of this wine-producing village so full of character.
- 8** Come back to the Desbordes castle and get your taste buds ready! The winegrowers of Avize invite you to taste their Champagne “Blanc de Blancs”, combining finesse and elegance. Drink with moderation, of course.