

RELAXATION ON THE NIVERNAIS
CANAL ...

CHÂTEL-CENSOIR

DESTINATION GRAND VÉZELAY

THE ORIGIN OF ITS NAME

Around 500 AD (under the rule of King Clovis) the 9th bishop of Auxerre, Saint Censure, owned land in the village, giving it its name Castrum-Censurim.

The first written indication doesn't appear until the 7th century in the bishop of Auxerre's archives. The inhabitants of Châtel-Censoir are called Castelcensorians.

LOCATION

The rural village counts approx 650 inhabitants and is situated near the edge of the Parc Naturel Régional du Morvan.

The village is located on the Yonne river in the middle of a clearing surrounded by forests in the shape of an amphitheatre. The forest, water and stone readily available played an essential role in the local economy.

The headland, which ends at the Montorés plateau in between the two valleys of l'Yonne and the Ausson, dominate the convergence of the rivers. This particularity creates a high town and a low town.

THE HIGH TOWN

The high town was the centre of political and military power, the "governor and the castle" stronghold. It was also the centre of "spiritual power" and "Canons chapter" with the Saint-Potentien collegiate church, but also the centre for "knowledge" with a college in the 17th century (1618). Solidly anchored in the Burgundy soil, the town faces north towards Paris. The attraction to Paris strongly influenced the population.

It remains an aristocratic town with a number of attractive dwellings dating back to the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, now mostly redesigned. Its elegant and noble port is overlooked by the collegiate church Saint-Potentien.

THE LOW TOWN

Initially it was the town of the commoners and parishioners, but also active with craftsmen, commerce, rural life (although only six women lived inside the walls) and importantly the log driving people. From the 18th century things began to change with the new merchant aristocracy focused on wood trade settling in the lower town.

In the 19th century political power also establishes itself here. From being concentrated around the waterways, the lower town starts spreading into the nearby valleys and slowly expands up the hillsides and through the valley, right up to the railway station in 1886.

TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

- Camping du Petit Port entre Yonne et Canal du Nivernais
- VF Village Vacances Familles

FAMOUS PEOPLE

- Edme Champion, aka le Petit Manteau Bleu (1764-1852) first person to organise soup kitchens in Paris. His birthplace is 18 rue Champion. His grave is at Père Lachaise cemetery
- Achille Tenaille de Vaulabelle (1799-1879) author of "Histoire



- 5 Saint-Fiacre wash house, the oldest one of the village (1764). In a recess a statue of St.Fiacre
- 6 Rue de Magny. Before the railroad crossing of Jardin du Pâtis : an information board tells the brief story of log driving with a replica on display
- 7 Nautical stopover and information board about the Canal du Nivernais. The towpath is now a cycle path
- 8 Petit Port campsite
- 9 1742 : Vaulabelle house (# 10)
- 10 1750-1800 : Maison Monjoie (rue du Moulin)
- 11 1790-1810 : De Vaux family chateau (4 rue Cotteau) next to the Ausson, backing on the Rue des Bordes (descendants of the Cotteaux)
- 12 Previously Saint François home, now Gîte de France (place Aristide Briand)
- 13 Berthier home (31 rue Cotteau)
- 14 Log drivers quarters (Impasse Villiers), 2 well preserved wells
- 15 Mairie (town hall) 1842 - (Place Aristide Briand)
- 16 Communal school (36 rue Cotteau) - now a medical centre
- 17 Monument (rue Colonel Rozanoff) dedicated to the locally born test pilot who died in 1954 during a demonstration flight
- 18-19 Several mills, including the Vannoise mill (rue du Moulin)
- 20-21 Wash-houses on the Ausson (rue de la Fontaine)

GRAND VÉZELAY TOURIST OFFICE

CHÂTEL-CENSOIR'S TOURIST OFFICE
PLACE ARISTIDE BRIAND - 89660

+331013 86 81 02 79

CHATELCENSOIR@DESTINATIONGRANDVEZELAY.COM

VÉZELAY'S TOURIST OFFICE

+331013 86 33 23 69

AVALLON'S TOURIST OFFICE

+331013 86 34 14 19

WWW.DESTINATIONGRANDVEZELAY.COM