

I spent 6 weeks in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence in 2022 and loved the town and recommend it for a base trip to the Rhone/Provence wine region because of the central location to great restaurants and villages with markets and authentic French communities. Take the fast and comfortable [SNCF Train](#) from Paris to Avignon and rent a car at the Avignon train station and explore Provence, Rhone and Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Note: I am not paid nor benefit from any of the recommendations below.

Transportation A 3 hour train from Paris to Avignon runs \$35-\$100 depending on season and time of day. Recommend 1st class as the price is usually just \$20 more.

Wine: Recommended wineries near Saint-Rémy-de-Provence (and driving distance from the city center):

- [Château Romanin](#) (15 minutes: Route de Cavaillon, 13210 Saint-Rémy-de-Provence):



Château Romanin is a winery nestled amidst the picturesque landscape of Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, France. It boasts a rich history, dating back to the 13th century when the ruins of a Templar castle stood on the property. Today, the estate spans 250 hectares, encompassing 58 hectares of vineyards, olive groves, and almond trees meticulously cared for following organic practices.

- [Domaine Mas de Gourgonnier](#) (20 minutes: Le destet, D78, 13890 Mouriès):



Domaine Mas de Gourgonnier is a family-owned winery located in Provence, France, nestled amidst the rolling hills and picturesque landscapes of the Alpilles mountain range. Established in the 18th century, the estate has been cultivating vines for generations, with the Cartier family taking the reins over half a century ago. Today, the winery is run by siblings Luc and Frédéri Cartier, along with Luc's daughter, Eve, ensuring the continuation of the family's legacy.

- [Domaine De Métifiot](#) (20 minutes: Le destet, D78, 13890 Mouriès):



Domaine de Métifiot is a family-owned and operated winery located in the Alpilles region of Provence, France. The estate was founded in 1998 by Laurence and Benoît Bateman, who have since cultivated a reputation for producing exceptional wines that showcase the unique terroir of the region. The vineyards of Domaine de Métifiot are situated on the slopes of the Alpilles mountains, which provide a perfect balance of sunshine, rainfall, and drainage for growing grapes. The estate's 25 hectares of vines are planted with a variety of grape

varieties, including Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre, Cinsault, and Viognier.

Food: Recommended restaurants in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence:

- [Bistrot des Alpilles](#) (15 Boulevard Mirabeau 13210 Saint-Rémy de Provence): Outdoor terrace
- [Mistral House](#) (22 boulevard Victor Hugo, 13210 Saint-Rémy-de-Provence): Outdoor terrace
- [Le Saint-Remy](#) (16 Boulevard Victor Hugo, 13210 Saint-Rémy-de-Provence): Located in the St. Remy hotel in the heart of Saint Rémy de Provence the restaurant features a daily arrival of fresh fish as well as meats of local and international origin. Note the restaurant is open Thursday through Sunday in April through November.

Places: Recommended places to visit (and drive time from Saint-Rémy-de-Provence):

- L'Isle sur la Sorgue (36 minutes). L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue is a charming town known for its picturesque canals, antique shops/markets, and vibrant markets on Thursday and Sunday. The town is traversed by the clear waters of the Sorgue River, creating a serene and scenic atmosphere. The town's waterside cafes, historic architecture, and the lively ambiance make it a delightful destination for visitors seeking a blend of culture, history, and natural beauty. Locate the Olive et Raisin coffee shop at 20 Allée du 18 Juin, L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue. Once there, sit outside along the water and enjoy your drink and pastry while people watching the tourists stroll across the bridge.
- Saignon (1 hour) is perched on a hilltop, it offers stunning panoramic views of the surrounding landscapes. Characterized by narrow cobblestone streets and charming medieval architecture, Saignon exudes a timeless and tranquil ambiance. The village is known for its historical sites, including the ancient church of Saint Mary and the ruins of a medieval castle. Surrounded by the lush landscapes of the Luberon Regional Natural Park, Saignon provides opportunities for outdoor activities and hiking.
- Cassis (1 hour 23 minutes) is situated by the sea, and this village boasts a picturesque harbor. Embark on a boat journey to the Calanques and opt for a tour with the maximum number of stops. You're sure to be captivated by these stunning rocky inlets.
- Avignon (30 minutes) is situated on the Rhône River and is a historic city renowned for its rich cultural heritage and well-preserved medieval architecture. Serving as the seat of the Catholic popes in the 14th century, the Palais des Papes stands as a testament to this period. Avignon hosts the celebrated Festival d'Avignon, drawing global artists and spectators. Its UNESCO World Heritage site historic center invites exploration of charming squares, narrow cobblestone streets, and vibrant markets, making Avignon a destination seamlessly blending past allure with present energy.
- Gordes (45 minutes) is perched atop a hill in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region, Gordes is a captivating village in southeastern France renowned for its breathtaking panoramic views and charming medieval ambiance. Surrounded by the natural beauty of the Luberon Regional Natural Park, Gordes features stone houses, narrow cobblestone streets, and a Renaissance castle that dominates the skyline. The village square, adorned with cafes and shops, creates a delightful atmosphere for both locals and visitors alike. Its Provencal charm and scenic allure make Gordes a must-visit destination for those seeking an authentic and picturesque French experience.
- Châteauneuf-du-Pape (45 minutes) is a prestigious wine-producing village in the Rhône Valley of southeastern France. Renowned for its high-quality red wines, often dominated by Grenache grapes, the region has a long winemaking history dating back centuries. The village is distinguished by the historic Château des Papes, a medieval castle that served as a summer residence for the popes during the Avignon Papacy. The vineyards in Châteauneuf-du-Pape benefit from a diverse terroir, contributing to the complexity and richness of the wines. Wine enthusiasts visit the area for vineyard tours and tastings, immersing themselves in the beauty of Provencal landscapes and the exceptional flavors of Châteauneuf-du-Pape wines. Recommend parking near the center of town and walking the streets to find many unknown small wineries as well as the familiar wineries listed below:

Wineries: Recommended Châteauneuf-du-Pape wineries (walking time from Boutique Famille Perrin):

- [Boutique Famille Perrin Châteauneuf-du-Pape](#) (0 minutes: 2, Place du Portail, 84230 Châteauneuf-du-Pape):



Château de Beaucastel is a historic winery with a legacy dating back to the 16th century, celebrated for its commitment to traditional winemaking methods and producing exceptional red blends showcasing the diverse grape varieties of the region. Recommend it for its wide range of white and red regional wines including white and red Vacqueras and CDP grape varietal wines and diverse price points.

- [Clos de l'Oratoire des Papes](#) (6 minutes: 10 Av. Louis Pasteur, 84230 Châteauneuf-du-Pape):



The estate has been in the ownership of the same family since 1880, and is currently run by Jean-Pierre and François-Xavier Avril. The vineyards are located on the slopes of the Rhône River, and are planted with a variety of grapes, including Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre, and Cinsault. The wines of Clos de l'Oratoire des Papes are known for their power and complexity, and are often aged in oak barrels for several years.

- [Clos du Mont-Olivet](#) (3 minutes: 3 Chem. du Bois de la ville, 84230 Châteauneuf-du-Pape):



CLOS DU MONT-OLIVET

A family-run winery in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, France, known for its diverse, high-quality wines. Established in 1932, it boasts 21 hectares of vineyards with varied soils, crafting elegant and nuanced reds, refreshing whites, and even a light red named "Le petit Mont." The current generation, led by siblings Céline, David, and Thierry Sabon, upholds their ancestors' legacy while embracing modern techniques, making Clos du Mont-Olivet a name to remember in the region.

- [Domaine Durier](#) (2 minutes: 10 Av. Baron le Roy, 84230 Châteauneuf-du-Pape):



Domaine Durieu, like many Châteauneuf wineries, is a family affair. Founded several decades ago by the husband-and-wife team of Henri Durieu and Lucile Avril, the estate has grown to encompass 40 hectares within the coveted Châteauneuf-du-Pape appellation and an additional 9 hectares in the broader Côtes du Rhône region. While their wines were traditionally focused on strict AOC blends, the arrival of the brothers in 2004 ushered in a new era of accessibility. Their approach emphasizes user-friendliness, crafting wines that are approachable and enjoyable earlier in their development, thanks to a focus on smoother tannins. Their entry level CDP at € 21 and they have a great line up of Rhone and CDP white and reds. Their Grenache dominant Lucile Avril is their reserve Châteauneuf and at € 28 is a bargain.

- [Domaine Juliette Avril](#) (8 minutes: 8 Av. Louis Pasteur, 84232 Châteauneuf-du-Pape):



A family-run winery in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, France, with a long history dating back generations. They use modern techniques alongside traditional methods to produce award-winning wines, including their flagship Châteauneuf-du-Pape and other appellations like Cairanne and Côtes du Rhône.

- [Domaine Chante Cigale](#) (8 minutes: 7 Av. Louis Pasteur, 84232 Châteauneuf-du-Pape):



A prominent family-owned winery in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, renowned for its diverse range of wines. Founded in 1874, the estate boasts extensive vineyards and prioritizes traditional methods while embracing modern advancements to craft expressive wines showcasing the region's unique terroir.

- [Chateau La Nerthe](#) (4 minutes **by car**: 4213 Rte de Sorgues, 84230 Châteauneuf-du-Pape):



Boasting the title of the oldest and largest estate in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, boasts a rich history dating back to 1590. Its 90 hectares of vineyards produce acclaimed red and white wines under the prestigious Châteauneuf-du-Pape appellation, while the 18th-century chateau itself offers stunning views and even hosts tours and tastings for interested visitors.

- [Château de la Gardine](#) (4 minutes **by car**: Route de Roquemaure, 84230 Châteauneuf-du-Pape):



Nestled in the sun-drenched Rhône Valley, Château de la Gardine, a family-run winery since 1945, boasts a rich history and stunning vineyards. Surrounded by olive groves and the iconic 18th-century chateau, their acclaimed wines, like the flagship Châteauneuf-du-Pape, reflect the unique terroir and Brunel family passion.

Lunch: Recommended places to eat in Châteauneuf-du-Pape and walking time from Boutique Famille Perrin:

- [Le Verger des Papes](#) (12 minutes: Château des Papes, Rue du Château) is atop the Château des Papes castle and features excellent roasted lamb and excellent views of the valley.
- [La Maisouneta](#) (2 minutes: B02 place Jean Moulin 84230, 84230 Châteauneuf-du-Pape) is a contemporary restaurant featuring a seasonal menu showcasing fresh market produce, emphasizing local and regional ingredients. Reserve a table on the terrace and enjoy their curated wine list.