



Local markets, shopping & wine

Market days

Regular outdoor markets selling variety of local fresh produce -

- [Parthenay](#) - Wednesday & Saturday mornings.
- [Thouars](#) - Tuesday & Friday mornings.
- [Airvault](#) - Saturday mornings.
- [Saint Loup](#) - Sunday mornings (during summer)
- [Thénezay](#) - Sunday mornings
- [Niort](#) - daily market, regularly listed as one of the best in France.

Full list in Deux-Sèvres available here - <https://www.marketsinfrance.com/french-market-day/79-market-day-deux-sevres.php>

Brocantes, antiques & furniture

PARTHENAY

Several recommended local small shops selling furniture, artworks and other antiques -

- [Cyril Obach Brocante](#) A personal favourite for the odd bit of furniture (Kitchen prep table and pink bedroom desk both from there) or decorative ware. It's not large, so less about large furniture, more curated curios, art, lamps, chairs etc. Hrs: 2:00 -6:00 Weds to Sat
- [Brocante - formerly Aut Fouee](#) The owners of this small restaurant changed it into a brocante a few years ago. Similar to Cyril's, not as crammed but worth a look in Parthenay. A short stroll down the road from Cyril's in the old town with a nice bar/snack stop called La Gargante between the two. I cannot find a link or hrs but the location link is still valid. I'd just wander down after a stop at Cyril's between Weds-Sat.
- [Jour des Fetes](#) - Similar to Cyril's, but not as well curated. Smaller decorative items. Worth looking at when doing the Parthenay rounds. Hrs: 10:00 -7:00 Weds to Sat
- [Brocante Jean Michel](#) - Unsignposted but next to Emmaus Parthenay Definitely worth going to. He's a bit of a strange but happy character and his warehouse is full of old furniture, bric a brac - everything. He has no signage or website but he's located beside Emmaus Parthenay. The windows are painted out but if you spy in you'll see the products. When he's open there's a door left noticeably ajar - usually he's standing in it looking for customers. Hrs - not sure but safely I'd guess Weds - Sat 10: 12:30 / 2:00 - 5:30 or somewhere thereabouts.

EMMAÜS

Check for Emmaus charity stores if you're out and about. They are usually large and deal with house clearance, estate sales etc and are usually very reasonably priced. The Parthenay store is small, but regular visits turn up gems. The bigger better ones are definitely worth a trip - 50 mins to an hr drive from Le Parc -

- [Emmaus Parthenay](#) - 1:30 - 5:30 Tues/Weds/Fri/Sat •
- [Emmaus Thouars](#) - 2pm-6pm Tues, Fri & Sat
- [Emmaus Cholet](#) - 2:00-5:30 Weds to Sat •
- [Emmaus Mauleon](#) - 2:30 - 6:00 - Mon to Sat / Also mornings 10:00 - 12:30 Weds - Sat

FLEA-MARKETS & VIDE-GRENIERS

There are regular outdoor markets, normally on Sundays and especially during the summer months. Larger ones are spread across the whole town and will often have food trucks and bars.

<https://brocabrac.fr/79/> - has a comprehensive list of upcoming events, also including house clearances and specialist markets.

Local wine producers

Around Thouars

Thouarsais wines, particularly those labelled with the Vin Délimité de Qualité Supérieure (VDQS) [1], are known for their excellent quality, especially the Chenin Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Gamay varieties.

The Thouarsais region is located around the lovely town of Thouars (40 mins drive north from Le Parc) and produces a range of wines including dry and medium-dry whites, reds, and rosés.

[Les Terres Blanches](#) - Oiron-based wine producers, produces wines with Gamay de Bouze and Cabernet Franc grapes, as well as sparkling wines using Chenin, Chardonnay, and Cabernet Franc grapes. Regularly featured at local wine shows and guides. Excellent shop in Oiron which is worth a visit!

[Domaine de L'enchantoir](#) - located between Thouars and Saumur, this organic domaine is run by Jean-Michel, a Parisian ex-banker and his family. They have daily tours and tastings at the vineyard which you can book via their website. Excellent range of traditional reds and whites, Pet Nat (naturally sparkling) and more modern experiments such as their Orange wine and alcohol-free variety.

[Domaine du Moulin de Montfort](#) - in the same region as the above, we discovered them at some markets and fairs locally.

[Le Clos Des Treilles](#) - another recommended local producer, its possible to visit and arrange tastings.

Saumur wines

Saumur is known for its diverse range of wines, including white, red, and sparkling, with Chenin Blanc and Cabernet Franc as the most prominent grapes. Saumur-Champigny, a specific appellation within the Saumur area, is particularly famous for its red wines made from Cabernet Franc. Additionally, Saumur is renowned for its sparkling wines, often produced using the méthode traditionnelle and aged in the region's famous underground tunnels.

Almost all domaines welcome visitors for tastings and/or to view their caves. Saumur is a beautiful city on the banks of the Loire and is approx 1.5 hours drive from Le Parc. Most are also widely available in local supermarkets and shops.

Some of the best known are listed below -

- [Bouvet Ladubay](#) - located just outside Saumur, known for their range of sparkling varieties.
- [Maison Ackerman](#) - produces a range of Saumur-Champigny wines.
- [Château de Parnay](#) - Located in the heart of Saumur-Champigny, known for its organic and biodynamic wines.
- [Domaine de Rocheville](#) - Produces a range of Saumur-Champigny wines, including red, white, and rosé.
- [Domaine Filliatreau - La Grande Vignolle](#) - Known for its biodynamic approach to winemaking in Saumur-Champigny.
- [Château de Chaintres](#) - A historical estate producing organic Saumur-Champigny wine
- [Domaine des Bénédictins](#) - Produces various Saumur wines, including white, red, and sparkling.
- [Domaine des Roches Neuves Thierry Germain](#) - Known for its Saumur Blanc wines, including sparkling varieties