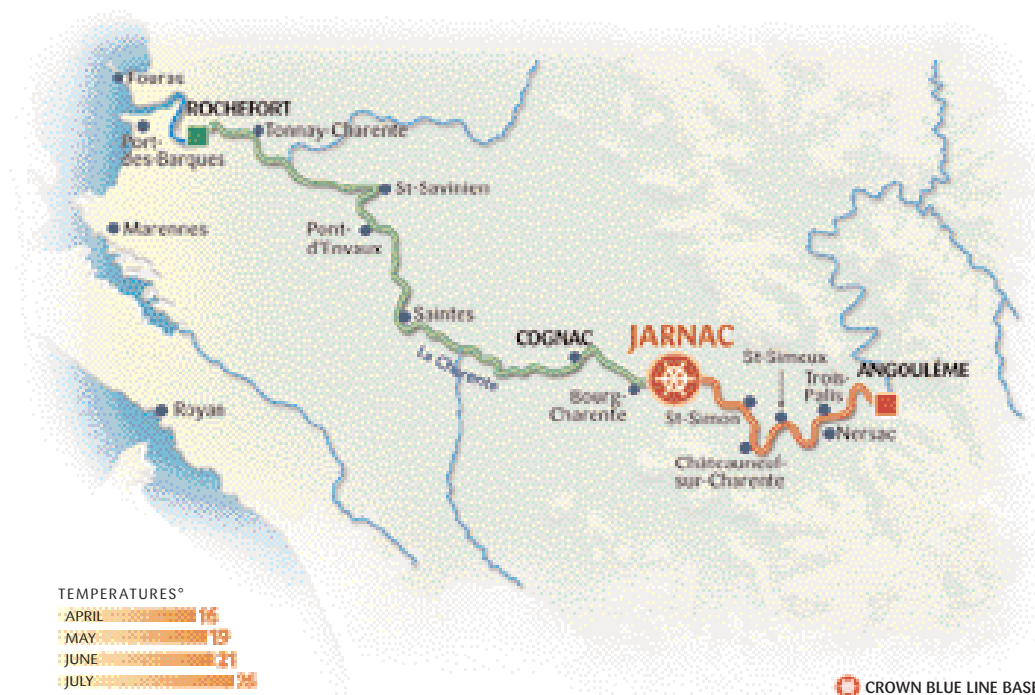




Charente

The true spirit of France

Described by King Francois I as the loveliest river in his kingdom, the Charente snakes through a region famed for its fine brandy. The golden circle of cognac production encompasses the towns of Cognac and Jarnac, where our base is situated. View the stunning valley from the old city of Angoulême or cruise to the opposite end of the river and enjoy the refreshing sea air at Rochefort. Enjoy cycle rides through the peaceful wooded countryside or stroll beside sunflower filled fields. Many types of birds can be spotted along the river including swans, ducks and kingfishers. Make sure you don't forget your binoculars!



1 St-Simeux 2 On the Charente 3 St-Brice Castle 4 Wine storehouses in Cognac

Cruising suggestions

Cruising hints

The Charente river runs a regular course and is easy to navigate. There are no lock keepers, so you will have to operate the locks yourself. From St. Savinien to Rochefort, the river becomes tidal. This part of your cruise requires extra attention to navigation.

1 WEEK - RETURN TRIP

Jarnac/Angoulême

Charente fluviale

Explore the village of **Bassac** and its remarkable 1,000 year old abbey. Discover some of the finest Romanesque art in the region at the church of Saint-Pierre in **Chateaufort-sur-Charente**. Cruise on to **Mosnac** and admire a gleaming collection of vintage cars. Indulge in **Trois Palis** - a chocoholics heaven - with a tasting at the town's chocolate factory. Hike up the slope to **Angoulême** and enjoy a magnificent view.

▶ 88 km • 30 locks
▶ 22 hr round trip cruising time

Jarnac/Rochefort

Charente maritime

Cruise to **Saint Brice** and discover the castle, which has a unique Renaissance façade. Relax with a picnic in the pretty park or tee off at the town's golf course on the banks of the river. Sample authentic brandy in **Cognac**. Continue to **Saintes** and discover amazing archaeological finds including Roman columns, frescoes and statues. Visit the excellent maritime museum at **Rochefort**.

▶ 186 km • 12 locks
▶ 33 hr round trip cruising time

