

# THE LITTLE STREAMS AND GREAT VINES ROUND WALK

→ SITUATION : Saint-Matré, 12 kms north of Montcuq via the D4

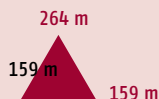
→ START POINT : Square at the junction of the D4 and D656 in St. Matré.

GPS Coordinates : Coordonnées GPS : N 44.400013° E 1.121619°

DURATION : 3 hrs. 30 mins.

LENGTH : 11 kms

WAYMARKING : Yellow



“ This walk provides a varied landscape, typical of the Quercy Blanc and the Cahors Vineyards.

You'll go across limestone heathlands, through oak woodlands, a valley and its streams, a plateau dotted with vines and past fine wine-producers' houses and a Romanesque chapel. ”

## TO SEE IN THE AREA...

- Le Boulvé : hamlet of Ségos
- Saux : church of Saint André

→ FOOD SHOPS/  
RESTAURANTS ETC :  
Montcuq and Saint Matré

→ INFORMATION :  
Cahors - Lot Valley  
Tourist Office  
Montcuq Office  
05 65 21 84 39

**1** From the square, head towards Sauzet. Cross the D656. Continue opposite towards «La Rode» on the tarmac road which further on turns into a track with alternately a stony or tarmac surface.

**1** Take the S bend going downhill and before going back up, turn left. Go down the track beneath the trees. Come to a little tarmac road, and on a hairpin bend, go to the left, and keep on as far as the hamlet of «Serres».

**2** Turn right towards the houses and walk around the grassy plot with a little stone building. Continue up to the next house. Go around it and take a grassy track which goes off at an angle to the left and down to the valley. Halfway down the slope, turn right and take the track which will bring you to the Roussel mill. Cross several little streams and continue straight on up to a tarmac road.

**3** Turn left and walk along by the road and the box hedge for a few metres. After the house, turn right and go back uphill via the little track towards the farm. At the top of the track, turn right and go down towards the little lake. Facing the lake, turn left on to the uphill track lined with tall trees to get up to the plateau.

**4** Go between the barn and the house, continue on the tarmac track then go straight on along the white track. Turn right at the big open barns and continue

up to the D4 and the St. Matré sign (you can return to the village now if you wish to stop walking).

**5** At the crossroads, turn right then immediately take the dirt track to the left. Continue for about 2 kms on the track which runs alongside fields and woods up to a fork.

**6** Turn left and continue along the white track. Walk along beside the AOC Cahors vineyard and continue straight on to the D656.

**7** Cross the main road and continue towards the hamlet of «Coulourgues». Go as far as the chapel. Turn right and leave the hamlet. At the junction, go straight on. Surrounded by vineyards, continue up to the D656. Walk alongside this for 20m before crossing it - with care - to the stony surfaced track opposite. Go through the woods beside the stadium then follow the track beside the D656. Take the tunnel to the right going under the road (beware: can be dangerous in times of heavy rain.) Take the little road to the right towards the hamlet of «Lacombe», and follow it back to the centre of St. Matré.

## AN EARLY AND MASSIVE CAMPAIGN OF CONVERSION

Perched on a hill-crest or isolated deep in a valley, there are numerous churches and chapels in the Quercy Blanc. For the most part, their origins go back a very long way. During the period of intense evangelisation of the rural population, the Church frequently took over former pagan sacred sites, many of which were located close to water.

The first rural churches looked rather like rectangular barns. Gradually, they acquired their definitive form, which remained simple : a single nave prolonged by a narrower choir with a straight end wall or a semi-circular apse. There was no stone vaulting, just timber-framed roofs. The church of Saint Benoît de Coulourgues, built in the 12th C., is a fine example of this. The most beautiful of these buildings are identified in the «Sentiers Romains en Quercy Blanc» guide available from the Quercy Blanc Tourist Office. dans le guide « Sentiers Romains en Quercy Blanc » disponible à l'Office de Tourisme en Quercy Blanc.

