

GIN DISTILLERY VISIT, TASTING AND PICNIC TUESDAY 22nd JULY 2025



DATE: Tuesday 22nd July 2025

PLACE: Citadelle Gin, Château de Bonbonnet, 1 Chemin de Bonbonnet, 16130 Ars.

TIME : 10.30am arrival for an 11am start.

PRICE: 50€/person all inclusive (<18y free of charge). Reduced tariff available if you do not want wine etc. Soft drinks are available to purchase separately.

Programme: Coffee/guided visit of the distillery/tasting of four gins/aperitif/picnic including wine/digestif.

The Citadelle Gin Distillery is the creation of **Alexandre Gabriel** who came from a Burgundy wine-producing family and who still owns and drives the business forward. Founded in 1996, it is the world's first ever craft gin distillery and also produces Cognac (Ferrand) and owns a rum plantation in the West Indies.

The founder and owner of this very unusual château/distillery has made history in the Cognac region and his story is remarkable in many respects. The visit itself is fascinating as related by our guide, Yohann (in English and in French) who is well-versed in the art of gin-making and the history of the distillery.

Citadelle Gin is situated in a beautifully renovated château set in the countryside about 20 minutes' drive from Cognac. There are a number of local chambres d'hôtes and hotels if you wish to book some accommodation.

A picnic lunch will be provided, including local produce, in the lovely garden within the château grounds. Should the weather be inclement (highly unlikely) then we can be accommodated in the tasting-room. Wines from the renowned

Domaine de Grancille are included, as is an aperitif before, and a digestif afterwards.

The day will unfold as follows....

Coffee is available upon arrival (included in the price) from about 10.30am with the guided visit of this storied distillery scheduled to start at 11am sharp. The visit and accompanying tasting of four craft gins takes about two hours, but could be a bit longer if there are questions. The time will fly by as you learn how the business was developed from nothing by one man driven by his passion. If you think you know how a distillery works, think again. This is nothing like a Cognac or Whisk(e)y distillery tour and the process is completely different. You will also learn the difference between a commercial factory-produced gin and a genuine craft gin.

Should you be tempted, tastings of rum and cognac are available – just ask Yohann.

Why not join us for a fabulous day out and a totally different distillery experience in the heart of the Cognac region?

To register, simply email me, Chris Park, at parkie007@hotmail.com

Please notify me of any food allergies or dietary requirements when replying.

I shall acknowledge your message to confirm registration. A further email providing details of where to park, meeting time and place etc will be sent to you at least two weeks before the visit.