



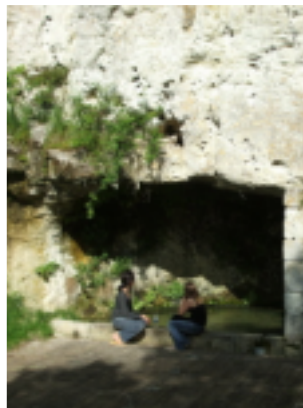
## Puymirol, « New Town » of the 13<sup>th</sup> century

Located in between Bordeaux and Toulouse (20 km from Agen), in a country where the sun shines and the gastronomy is rich, Puymirol is a fortified village built in 1246 by order of Raymond 7<sup>th</sup>, Count of Toulouse, Puymirol is the oldest walled town in Region Aquitaine where medieval walled towns are called “new towns” or Bastides. The village has been built on a rocky spur, hence has been able to resist all invasions and wars. Puymirol is very proud of a 10-century history which has forged its architecture and its rural landscape.



### The Bastide and its battlements

The layout of the Bastide has been adapted to the long shape of the rocky spur it has been built on. The “Carreyras” (lengthwise streets wider than the side streets, allowing carts to pass each other) run from east to west. The main street runs through the “Carra” (large square) which is surrounded by “Cornières” (covered streets). The battlements have been built right on the edge of the lime cliffs surrounding the village. From the path round the battlements, which was dug around 1789 to ease the access to the village, the views over Valley Séoune are exceptional. Battlements, former washtubs and fountains have been and are still being restored.





## Haven of peace... and entertainment

Less than 500 people live in the village of Puymirol, hence a perfect place where to enjoy tranquillity, but the village has not forgotten that it used to be one of the most important towns in the area. Michel Trama, a re-known French chef opened a \*\*\*\* hotel and gastronomy restaurant in 1978. The village is also very proud of its public equipments:

- Three tennis courts
- A swimming pool
- A museum of crystalline stones and ancient tools of the wine maker and copper.



Also a fishing lake (no permit required) where to walk and picnic, many hiking paths...

All year long, locals and visitors take advantage of many events:

- Theatre, concerts of rock (Jessie Evans & Toby Dammit, C.W. Stoneking,...) and classical music (Lianna Haroutounian,...) as well as art shows are held in the large and beautiful former covered market.
- Every summer since 2003, Jazz has been a guest star in Puymirol. Puym'Jazz is a 3-day jazz outdoors festival
- Every Saturday evening in July and August, there is a farmers' market where to dine and dance.
- An auction of sport and collection cars is held every year since 2006.
- A truffle market is held on the last Sunday of the year. The village hall becomes then and once again the covered market it used to be.

And also, a flower market, car-boot sales, an agricultural fair,....



*Concert given by Lianna Haroutounian, international soprano singer.*



*Auction of sport and collection cars.*



*Agricultural Fair*

*Flower Market*

*Truffle Market*

*Concert by Ryan Burrage, New-Orleans jazz clarinestist.*



## This summer 2011

Some dates are not to be missed among the many events already planned this summer:

### Every Saturday evening from 2<sup>nd</sup> July to 20<sup>th</sup> August:

**Farmers' Market.** Only farmers can come and sell their products at Marché des Producteurs de Pays (label of Chamber of Agriculture). Over 500 people attend every Saturday evening this outdoors dinner and dance (live music) which is held on the former Citadel Place overlooking valley Séoune.



### From Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July:

**9<sup>th</sup> Puym'Jazz.** Many re-known jazz musicians have already played in Puymirol (Marc Laferrière, Ryan Burrage,...). The 9<sup>th</sup> Puym'Jazz will celebrate traditional Swing Blues. Swing wrapped in velvet with Jean-François Bonnel Quintet and Cécile McLorin-Salvan (awarded at the 2010 Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition in Washington), rhythm and blues with Julien Brunetaud Trio (who has been performing in France and abroad with some of the biggest artists of Jazz -Evan Christopher, Leroy Jones- and boogie -Chuck Berry-), '20s with Jazz à Bichon. Three evenings, three bands, and a 2011 vintage that should be quite exceptional ([www.puymjazz.com](http://www.puymjazz.com)).

### Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August:

**6<sup>th</sup> Médiévales du Grand Castel.** Two full days of shows and activities: fire shows, equestrian jousting, medieval camp, games,...) Two to three thousand people come and visit the bastide during this week-end.



## And around the village

Puymirol is at 20 km from Agen and 35 km from Villeneuve-sur-Lot, two medium-size towns offering many activities. Moreover, there is an important historical heritage to discover right around the village:

- The Museum of the Abbey of Saint-Maurin. Puymirol is located on the "3 M variation", a path running between Moirax, Saint-Maurin and Moissac, three clunisien sites on the Way of Saint-James. The abbey of Saint-Maurin is a listed monument.
- Museum of ancient trades
- Museum of Foie Gras

Not to forget the Museum of prune, many bastides and medieval villages,...

Sport and big thrills also for all:

- Amusement park Walibi
- Tree climbing park with an animal farm
- Go-karting
- Waterpark
- Green hiking and bicycle path (the longest in France, it runs from Bordeaux to Toulouse) along the lateral canal of river Garonne.



## Lodging and eating

Village-owned gites and campsite, \*\*\*\* hotel “Les Loges de l’Aubergade”, privately-owned gite, B&B, there are many different types of accommodation in and around the Bastide. The same is true as far as restaurants are concerned, South-West France is well known for its gastronomy to be enjoyed either in gourmet establishments or in small village restaurants.



## For further information

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### Tourist Office

Open in July and August

Tel: 05-53-95-95-19



Documentation, information and guided tour of the village