

Cognac, Charente, France

The town that gave the world's finest brandy its name. Amber cellars, medieval streets, and the gentle Charente await — best explored on foot or by gabare.

🚢 River port — quay docking ⌚ Typical call: 6–8 hrs 💶 Currency: Euro (€) 🗣️ Language: French

👉 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: River cruise ships tie up at the Charente quays, steps from the old town. Larger ocean-ship passengers arrive by coach from La Rochelle or Bordeaux.

Best For: Cognac house tours and tastings, medieval architecture, slow river life.

Walk to Centre: The quays are the centre — Vieux Cognac and the distilleries are within 5–10 minutes on foot.

Don't Miss: A cellar tour at Hennessy or Martell, and a stroll through the cobblestones of Vieux Cognac.

🚗 Getting around: 🚖 Taxi ✓ €8–€15 · 🚲 Rideshare ✓ Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Hennessy Cellar Tour & Tasting** — Founded in 1765, Hennessy is the world's largest cognac producer.
- **Château de Cognac & Baron Otard** — The birthplace of Renaissance King François I (1494) now houses Baron Otard cognac.
- **Martell Estate Tour** — Martell, founded in 1715 and the oldest of the Grande Marques, offers guided tours of its historic estate, aging warehouses, and bottling facilities...
- **Gabare River Cruise on the Charente** — Board a traditional flat-bottomed gabare — a replica of the historical cargo boats that once shipped cognac barrels to the coast — for a leisurely...
- **Rémy Martin Production Estate at Merpins** — A short drive from town, Rémy Martin's Merpins estate offers tours by electric train through the cognac-making process, from vineyard to chai, with...

BEST WALKS

- **Vieux Cognac & the Grande Maisons** 2–3 km · 45–60 min · Easy — From the quay, cross into the old town to the Château de Cognac, then wind through medieval lanes to Église Saint-Léger before arriving at the Hennessy visitor centre on...
- **Charente Quay Stroll to Martell** 1.5 km · 20 min · Easy — Follow the riverside path west along the Charente from the town centre to the Martell estate on Place Edouard Martell — a pleasant flat walk with river views the whole...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

🌤️ CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				🌅 DAYLIGHT & 💶 MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 7:15AM–8:47PM · Jun 6:11AM–9:52PM · Aug 7:01AM–9:08PM · Sep 7:40AM–8:12PM · Oct 8:18AM–7:15PM	
Apr	63°	46°	10d	Currency: Euro (€)	
Jun	76°	59°	10d		
Aug	80°	61°	8d		
Sep	75°	57°	9d		
Oct	67°	52°	11d		

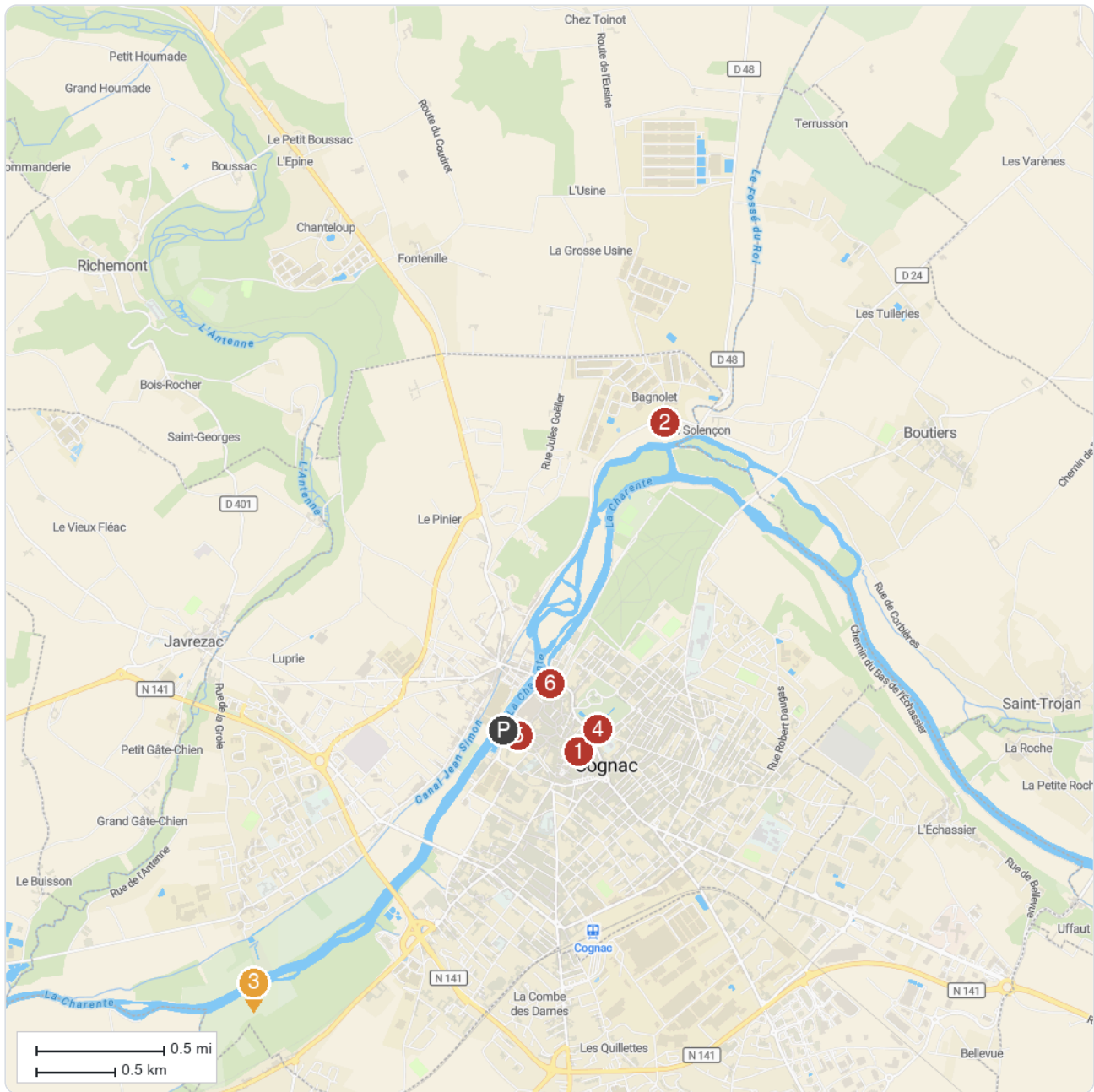
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Book distillery tours before you sail. Hennessy and Rémy Martin fill up fast in summer. Many houses require advance reservations; drop-ins are often not accepted.
- Coming from La Rochelle or Bordeaux? Coach transfers take 1.5–2 hrs each way — factor that into your port-day timing and leave the town by 4 PM.
- Everything closes at lunch. Most shops shut 12:30–2:00 PM. Plan distillery tours for morning or mid-afternoon; the old town is best before noon.
- Hennessy is east of centre; Martell is west. Pick one as your anchor — trying to walk both plus Otard in a single call is tight. River cruise passengers with a full day can manage all three.
- Cash is welcome but cards accepted everywhere. Most distillery shops, cafés, and restaurants take Visa/Mastercard. ATMs available near Place François I.
- Summer weather is warm and sunny (avg. 25°C in July), with occasional afternoon thunderstorms. The Cognac Public Garden is a lovely cool retreat between tours.

Cognac, Charente, France — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| 1 Couvent des Récollets de Cognac | Historic former convent, now a cultural and exhibition space. | 2 Château de Bagnolet | Elegant château, private residence of the Hennessy family. |
| 3 Rémy Martin Estate | Visit the historic estate of Rémy Martin Cognac. | 4 Maison du négociant - Musée d'Art et d'Histoire | Historic merchant's house, now an art and history museum. |
| 5 Musée des savoir-faire du cognac | Explore the traditional skills and crafts of Cognac making. | 6 Royal Castle of Cognac | Historic royal castle, birthplace of Francis I, now Otard Cognac. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |