CIRCUIT 26
The Ridge Circuit

A tour to discover Santenay through the remnants of its past.

Mountain of the Three Crosses-OTI©J.Piffaut

- **Start**: Santenay: 18 km south-west of Beaune via the N74 and the D974.
- **Parking**: between the entrance to the Avenue des Sources camping ground in Santenay and the Casino (the Casino and camping ground are signed from the centre of the town).
- **Distance**: about 11 km; can be shortened by going down by GR® 7: length reduced to about 7 km in this case.
- **Duration**: 3 hours 30
- **Height gained**: about 400 m
- **Level**: average
- **Markers**: directional posts and paint marks on various objects (walls, trees, ground etc).
- **Restrictions**: TAKE CARE during the hunting season (September till end-February) and official culls. In such cases, ideally take the shortcut.

- Looking at the panel of footpaths in Pays Beaunois 1 2, turn right on the road up to Santenay-le-Haut.
- In 100 m, pass in front of the Casino 3.
- At the junction, take the crossing left to cross the D113 and go up Rue de Narosse.
- At the junction, in front of a house with a "Burgundy" roof with glazed tiles and along a wall mural, turn left into Rue de la Charière.
- In about 50 m 4, turn right into Rue de Foulot. Continue up the road, now metalled, along the stream (Terron Reu) 5. On the left, above the cliffs, the Three Crosses are visible.
- At the junction (drinking water tap a few metres before on the right):

Off the circuit (not marked): take the 2nd road on the left: round-trip of 150 m to see the Church of St Jean de Narosse 6.

- Take the 1st road on the left, which then turns left (at the bend, nice view of the Church) and overlooks the vineyards 7. The slope becomes more sustained.
- At the first vineyard on the right, at the crossroads (post P68), leave circuit 27 as it descends to the left and continue straight up ahead.
- Ignoring a path coming in from the left, continue up between the fences. When Nolay is visible 8, take a right on a rising path (red and yellow markings). At the corner of the pine wood, turn right on a track up to 9 the Three Crosses (521 m) or Mont de Sène by steps to the top. Check out the 2 orientation

tables to scan around the horizon. At post P83, go down among the boxwood on the GRP marked in red and yellow, then turn left on the tarmac road.

- After the car park post P133, continue along the small road 10. At post P82, turn right on the GR7 marked in red and white. (Continuing down the road, in 200 m along the line of the fork, is a white-bottomed dolmen.)
- At post P58, turn right. Continue for 100 m and turn right again (post P102) to reach the small pass (post P59). Continue straight on down a small path on the hillside, overlooking the Church of Saint Jean de Narosse.

The path then becomes more steep-sided, carved into the rock (slippery when wet).

- At the fork (sign P31), leave the GR® as it descends to the right.

Off the circuit: you can take a shortcut to return to Santenay le Haut and the end of the circuit by the GR7®.

Head up left on a narrow path, which is fairly steep.
- Arriving at the plateau, turn right and walk along an old dolomite quarry 11.
- The path then turns slightly to the right to exit the quarry, then left and rises slightly.
- On reaching a wider path, turn right.
- In approximately 300 m on the left are the remains of a building for loading dolomite.
- The path then goes on across large limestone slabs (slippery when wet), slightly downhill.
Ignore all paths and cuttings on both sides.
- At the fork, turn right. Ignore a path on the left.
- Pass once again over limestone slabs.
- At the fork, go straight on.
- At the next crossroads, turn right and then, in about 100 m, right again.
At post P32 12, ignore the tarmac road to the right and take, in front, past a rock, the grassy path descending through the boxwood.
- Reach a wider metalled road and continue downhill.
- Ignore two paths on the left and then one on the right. Continue to descend.
- In about 100 m from the last junction, when Santenay becomes visible, leave the main road and take a little path to the right in the middle of boxwood. In about 5 m, cross a large road and then continue on the grassy path overlooking a vineyard. The path becomes wider, still grassy 13.
Continue to descend. The path comes out on a small tarmac road which you follow straight on.
- At the crossroads, turn right on Rue du Château.
Pass the château. 14

- At the crossroads, continue straight ahead on Chemin des Grands Murs.
- Ignore a metalled road on the left and continue up the small tarmac route.
- At the crossroads, go straight on. Continue along the tarmac road between two walls.
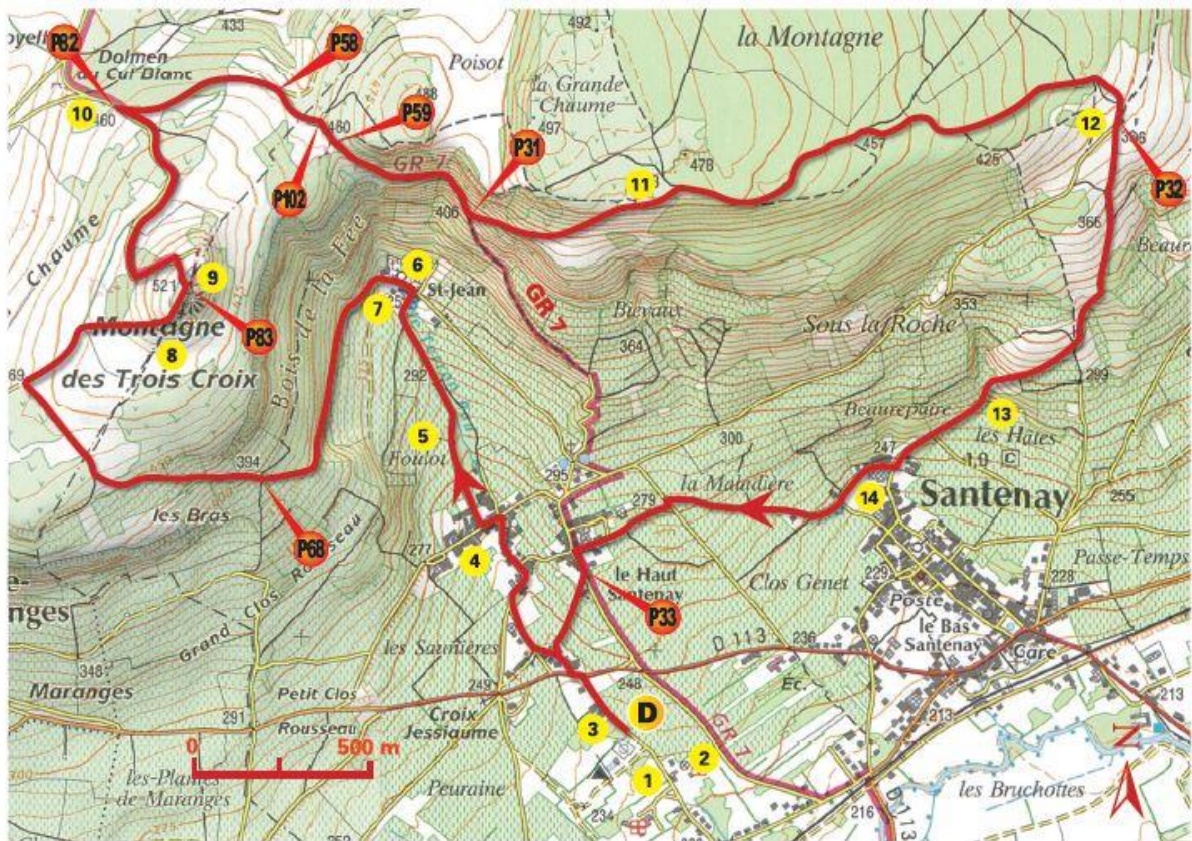- Then take a left on Rue de la Crée.
- In 100 m, post 33, by an old wine press, turn right, past a building, on a gravel path which becomes grassy.

Château Philippe le Hardi- OTI©I&A

Reaching the road, turn left, cross the road (D113) and take Avenue des Sources back to the car park.

Map :

Don't miss :

1 - In about 100 m, on the left, old basin of the Lithium spring: the richest source of lithium in Europe. Santenay has been famous since Roman antiquity for its springs, but it was President of the Republic Sadi Carnot, grand-son of the "Great Carnot" (see circuit no 21), who gave it its title of spa town in the late 19th century.

2 - Behind you is the old Hôtel des Bains, which is now a retirement home.

3 - The Casino: at the end of the 19th century, three casinos and a large Hôtel des Bains brought life to the spa town. The assassination of President Carnot (1894) and the First World War put a brake on its development.

4 - On the right, continuing along Rue de la Charière in about 50 m, old well embedded in a dwelling. In approximately 100 m, the Chapel of St François dating from 1703 with a lava roof.

5 - To the left, Santenay appellation communale vineyards.

6 - Church of Saint Jean de Narosse: a complex building, the nave is from the 13th century, the transition period between Romanesque and Gothic. The chancel was rebuilt in the 16th. The central tower is topped with a gable roof. Part of the roof was recently redone in lava.

St Jean de Narosse-OTI©I&A

7 - Santenay appellation communale vineyards.

8 - Very rich flora of southern character on dry meadow.

9 - Mont de Sène or Mountain of the Three Crosses. This place has been used for worship for millennia: first a cemetery with hundreds of Neolithic tombs (-2000 BC), then a place of worship for the Celts from the 6th century BC. In Roman times, a large temple dedicated to Mercury, god of trade and travellers, was built at the top. Then, after the 5th century, the place was Christianised by a Calvary, rebuilt many times, the last dating from the middle of the 20th century. Beautiful view of the vineyard, the Saône Valley and, on clear days, the Jura and Mont Blanc.

Flora of southern-OTI©I&A

10 - Continuing down the road in 200 m in the middle of the fork: Dolmen du Cul Blanc (white-bottomed dolmen).

11 - Old dolomite quarries: it is a double carbonate of calcium and magnesium (see sheet for circuit no 16). These quarries were worked in the 19th century, especially to supply the glass factories and bottle manufacture. An old millstone, used to crush the dolomite, was taken to the school in Santenay.

12 - Clay pigeon shooting installation.

13 - Appellation communale vineyards, on the right Santenay Premier Cru, with Santenay on the left.

14 - Château: built on the site of an ancient Gallo-Roman villa. The oldest element is the keep, in part from the 9th century. The moat protecting the château was dug in the 14th century, when Philippe le Hardi, first Duke of Burgundy and son of the King of France Jean le Bon, was the owner. The main building was rebuilt in the 17th century. At the entrance are two plane trees from the late 16th century.

Beautiful view from the Mountain of the Three Crosses ©P. Gateau

RESPECT THE HARVEST AND PLANTING.
DO NOT LEAVE LITTER.