



"Chardonnay" © I&A

CIRCUIT 15

The Meursault-Blagny Trail

Departing from the site of St Christophe, after passing through the lightly woody stubble fields, the walker then comes out into the vineyards, in particular those of Meursault and Puligny-Montrachet's Premiers Crus, not forgetting the historic sites of Blagny and the camp of Mont Milan.

- Start: 3 km west of Meursault: site of Saint Christophe
- Parking: at the end of the tarmac road at the top of the hill
- Distance: about 7 km
- Duration: about 2 hours 30
- Height gained: 150 m
- Level: family
- 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.

From the car park, head for the Oratory of Saint Christophe **1**. From here, there are two options:

- Either from the statue, take the botanical introductory trail **2** (arrow) on the right looking towards Meursault and the plain, then in 600 m join the normal circuit at **A**.

- Or, returning to the car park, turn left on the wide path (red and white markings of the GR®). On either side of the road are a few signs for the botanical introductory trail **2**.

- Ignore a vineyard road on the right and continue to climb slightly on the metalled road.

- On the left at A we're joined by the botanical path. Continue on the wide road.

- At the entrance to the pine wood **3**, ignore the path on the right and continue straight ahead, climbing slightly.

- On the flat, turn left following the orange markers of the bridle way (post P22) (the GR® continues straight ahead). The path descends among the boxwood and pine trees with an opportunity to discover the plain of the Saône.

- Entering the vineyards, keep going straight down past a small house (with security measures!).

- Arriving at the junction, turn right on a stone-flanked path through the vineyards **4** and **5** (the bridle way continues straight ahead). Go past a small house near a conifer tree.



The hamlet of Blagny © AM

- At the fork, take the path rising to the right.
- Arriving at the new communal vineyard estate **6**, turn left and head downwards.
- At the fork, go straight ahead and then enter the vineyards of Meursault-Blagny. Turn left onto a wide straight path surrounded by vineyards **7** heading towards the hamlet.

In the background, on the left, Chagny, and on the crest is the Bouzeron transmitter. The path is then tarred.

- Arriving at the hamlet of Blagny **8** (post P36), turn right (the oncoming circuit no 23 continues left).

- At the bend, the chapel is visible on the left. Continue along the small tarmac road which then turns left among the vines **9**. Pass near the Oratory of St Charles (1740).

- On top of the hill, leave the tarmac road (post P23) (view of the quarries of Chassagne-Montrachet), turn right then, in 10 m, turn left on a little trail which is rather steep at first and slippery in wet weather.

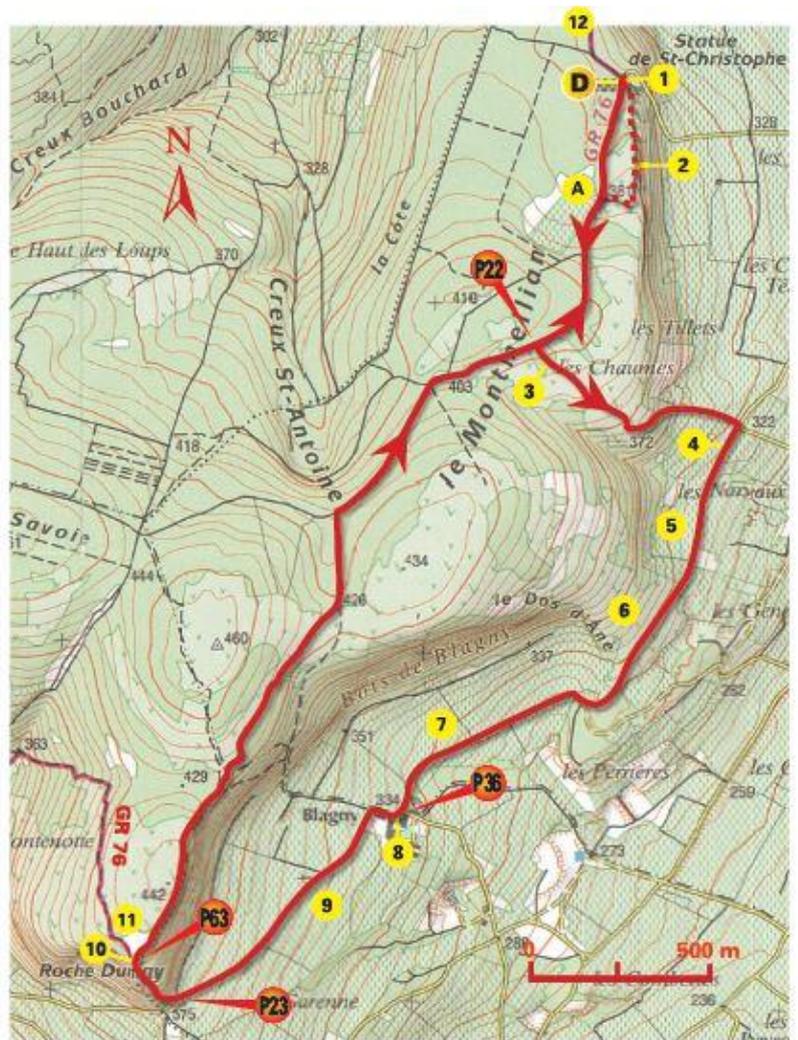
- Climb quickly to the ridge, discovering in succession Saint-Aubin bypassed by the N 6, Gamay at the foot of the hill, and Roche Dumay **10**.

At the top, there's a view of the southern part of the Côte de Beaune **11** (post P63).

- Turn right, following the red and white markers of the GR76® to the car park.
- The trail runs along the cliff edge.

Looking at the plain, there's a view of Chagny on the right then, moving left, Puligny Montrachet, the hamlet of Blagny and, in the distance, Meursault and then Beaune.

- The path continues through the boxwood.
- Go through a small pine wood. On exiting, turn right (GR® and bridle track markers). Through the pines and larches, you can see on the left the hamlet of Orches at the foot of the cliffs.
- Continue north along the broad path.
- Go straight ahead when the bridle path (orange markers) turns right and enter the car park **12**.



Place de l'Hotel de Ville © JP

- Ignore the first path coming in from the right and then, at the next junction, turn right towards Auxey-Duresses.
- Ignore a tarmac road on the right, take the bridge on the left, then turn left again and, in 50 metres, right to enter an alley between two walls coming out behind the church.
- To start from Saint-Romain-le-Haut, pick up the description from the letter **A**.

Don't miss

1 - Saint Christophe: the original statue was wooden, and was burned down by a simple-minded individual. Its replacement, installed after the war of 1914-18, was recently stolen. The current statue dates from 2000. Beautiful view of Meursault and its surroundings.

2 - Botanical introductory trail: 700 m loop where you can discover twenty or so common species of trees and shrubs from the region.

3 - Austrian black pines: the first were planted on lands abandoned by the vine after the phylloxera (wine blight) crisis in the late 19th century. This hardy tree can easily endure the harsh climatic conditions and the dry, filtering land.

4 - Notice the roses at the end of the vineyards, as in days gone by, to alert the grower to the first attacks of certain diseases of the vine.

5 - Appellation communale vineyards: Meursault (white). The Premiers Crus are lower down.

6 - Communal wine estate: Meursault appellation communale vineyards (white).

7 - On either side of the road: Meursault Premier Cru appellation vineyards. Mainly white towards the forest and some red wines to the left of the road (also called Blagny).

8 - Blagny: originally a Gallo-Roman villa, razed around 730 by the Saracens, then a Cistercian "barn" owned by Maizières Abbey (located 9 km to the south-east), which has now disappeared. The monks and lay-brothers would come from the Abbey along the route which is still called the Monks' Route (see circuit no 23). The chapel is from the 15th century.

9 - On both sides of the road, Puligny-Montrachet Premier Cru appellation vineyards (white) or Blagny Premier Cru (red).

10 - Roche Dumay: the cave has never been inhabited but has always aroused the curiosity and imagination of villagers and hikers, giving rise to numerous legends.

11 - Varied panorama: from left to right, transmitter above Saint-Aubin, the village of St-Aubin, Mont de Sène (the Three Crosses), Chassagne-Montrachet quarry overlooking the village, Chagny, Chalon-sur-Saône in the distance and, in line with Chagny, Montrachet covered with boxwood and shrubs (the famous white grands crus are at the foot of the scree).



View from the Roche Dumay © PG

12 - About 300 m from the car park, the former so-called "Roman" camp of Mont Milan: first take the GR®, leave it in 50 metres and go straight ahead when the GR® enters the forest on the right. Continue for 20 m on the wide path then take a right on a grassy track. In 150 m, there are the vestiges of a ditch and rampart. The site was occupied from the Neolithic period (circa 3000 years BC).

The camp appears to date from the second Iron Age (around 300 years BC). Its purpose was to monitor the Gallic tin and salt routes. On three sides, the camp was surrounded by a rampart stretching more than 400 m, the wall nearly 4 metres high and 2-3 metres wide. The rampart was fronted by a ditch seen in places dug out during excavations.

The site was then occupied in the Gallo-Roman era, and served as a refuge during the barbarian incursions.

RESPECT THE HARVEST AND PLANTING.
DO NOT LEAVE LITTER.

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