



Discover the delights of autumn breaks based on boats, trains and bikes (or just a sun lounger and a glass of wine) as we serve up... our dozen French fancies

- Restrictions have eased for vaccinated Britons holidaying in France, and September is an ideal time to travel
- There's plenty on offer for wine lovers, from Bordeaux's Cite du Vin museum to grape-picking in the Alps
- Walkers and cyclists will love the town of Evian-les-Bains or Languedoc's Massif de la Clape nature reserve

By JANE KNIGHT FOR THE MAIL ON SUNDAY

PUBLISHED: 08:50, 26 August 2021 | UPDATED: 08:50, 26 August 2021

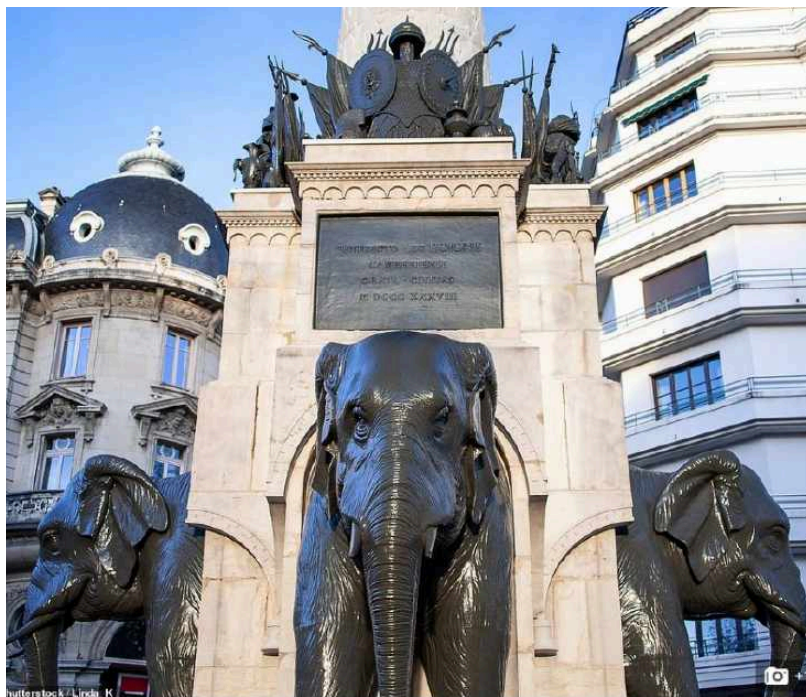
[f](#) Share
 [t](#)
[p](#)
[F](#)
[m](#)
[e](#)
[s](#)
352 shares

[View comments](#) **9**

For those not tied to school holidays, a September trip to **France** means far fewer tourists and still pleasantly warm weather.

So with Covid restrictions now eased for the fully vaccinated, you can head off for fun in the sun on the Riviera, or escape for a quick mini-break across the Channel.

PICK GRAPES... IN THE ALPS



Fontaine des Elephants in Chambéry town centre, pictured, features elephants carved in stone

It may be in the Alps, but the 14th Century Chateau de Candie near Chambéry grows its own grapes to make viognier white wine. At harvest time, towards the end of September, join hotel staff and locals who pick the grapes, or just sample the results of their efforts from previous harvests.

Check out the Fontaine des Elephants in the town centre, featuring elephants carved in stone, as well as the impressive Chateau des Ducs de Savoie, or venture further afield to Aix-les-Bains for hot springs, Roman remains and a lakeside esplanade lined with plane trees.

A week's B&B in a two-bedroom suite for four costs from £472pp (skifrance.co.uk). Flights extra.