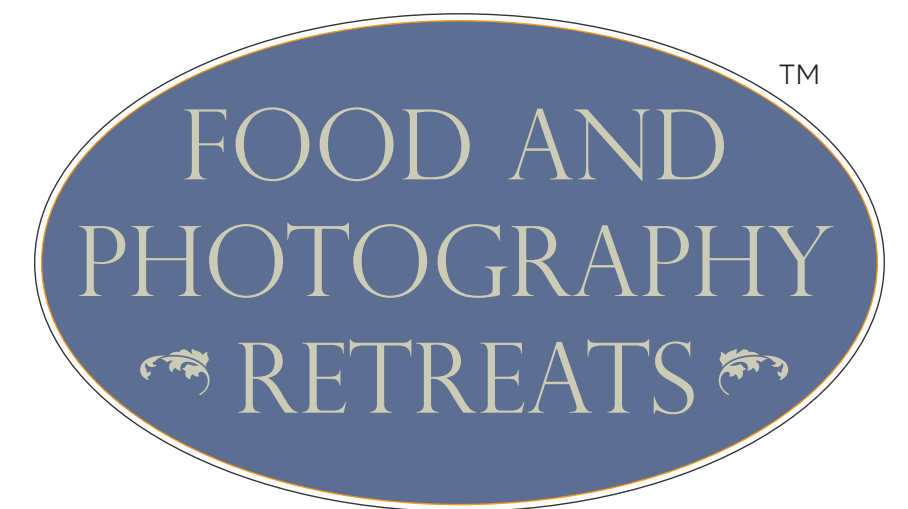


# AUTUMN

*Chez-nous*



2025



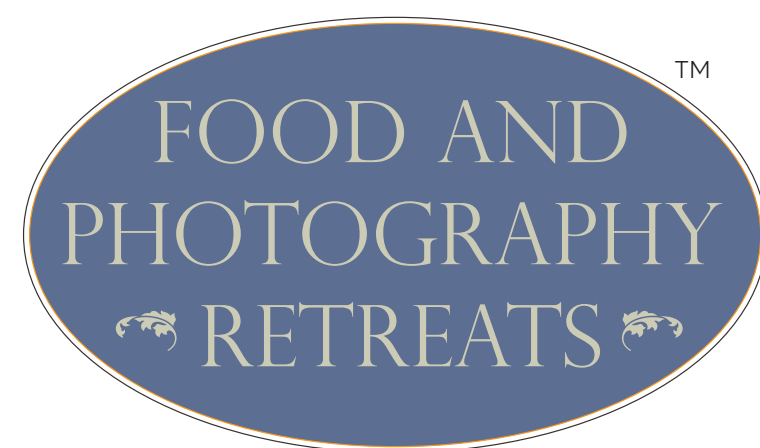
*with the Benvies*

# *Chez-nous*

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PHOTOGRAPHY RETREATS FOR  
TWO FRIENDS OR COUPLES.

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*with the Bennies*

# *Chez-nous*

## A NEW SORT OF RETREAT WITH THE BENVIES

The full Retreat experience, but with just two of you,  
at our place in rural France.

Spring, summer, autumn and winter.

*The same care.*

*The same great food.*

*The same helpful tuition.*

*Your own space.*

*Your own schedule.*

*Your own photographic focus.*

[www.foodandphotographyretreats.com](http://www.foodandphotographyretreats.com) | [info@niallbenvie.eu](mailto:info@niallbenvie.eu)

## Once you're here...

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**W**HEN IT COMES TO THE PHOTOGRAPHY part of your holiday, it's an *à la carte* menu. If you want to shoot from dawn to dusk, we'll do that. Or just **at** dawn and dusk, if you prefer. We can fill all day, every day for you but maybe you'd prefer to spend some time exploring our library of photography (and cookery) books. Or getting some lessons from Niall. Or just walking the quiet lanes through the traditional *bocage* landscape that surrounds our house and meadow. If you or your travelling companion are more interested in food than photography, Charlotte will spend time sharing her award-winning chocolate-making skills, as well as her patisserie secrets, and visit markets and local producers with you.

The two hides (blinds) overlooking a bird feeding station and a drinking pool are beginning to get busy again and in late November cranes start to arrive to winter along the River Loire, just 20 minutes from us. Autumn is a much more protracted season than in the past with colours persisting into December. In early October the broad-leaved forests around us host many species of fungi and the vineyards to the west, in the direction of Beaune, are turning red. At the heart of one of France's most celebrated wine regions, Beaune is also home to a UNESCO World Heritage Site - the 15<sup>th</sup> century *Hospice*, just one on many beguiling locations we can photograph in and around the town.

We think these Retreats are a good time for you to step back from your daily routine - you have the advantages of being at home without the responsibilities. That puts you in a good place to think creatively and tap into Niall's 30 years of living by writing and photography, as well as enjoying Charlotte's art of hospitality. Select your books, pull up a chair beside the wood burner and loose yourself for a while.

So, the choices are yours. We will have a chat on Zoom before your visit so that we can create a programme and discuss menus, just as you want them- to make a Retreat to remember.

## *You take the pictures, we take care of the rest*

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**W**ith many years of hosting experience behind us, we've become pretty adept at ensuring everyone is happy and has what they need. But for us, there is no better venue to extend our particular brand of hospitality than in our charming wee home and secluded meadow here in rural Nièvre.

When you stay with us, you have the use of the top floor of our house - about 50 sq. m- which comprises a bedroom with two single beds that can be fixed together or kept separate, each with a double duvet and electric blanket, a lounge and a shower room with toilet. A wall and curtains separate the bedroom from the lounge. There is a 55" Sony OLED screen to which you can connect your laptop to view your photos. Of course, you're welcome to come downstairs and be with us while we get things ready for dinner, even if it's just to relax in front of our wood burner. This is where we eat together, often joined by French or Dutch friends, some down from Paris, others who live in Saint-Seine year-round. We think it makes conversation more interesting and wide-ranging.

You are also welcome to use our Scandinavian-themed 15 sq. m log cabin in garden as a place to study, relax or process, out of the house. Les Saumais is your home-from-home- except that we take care of things for you so you can concentrate on the important business of relaxing and creating. It's hard to do one without the other.

You needn't worry about driving either; Niall will take you to all the locations you want to visit as well picking you up from Le Creusot TGV and returning you there at the end of your Retreat.

HOSPITALITY

*We're surprisingly easy to reach*

## BY TRAIN

London St Pancras Eurostar to Paris: **2 hours 15 minutes.**

Bruxelles-Midi to Paris: **1 hour 30 minutes.**

Amsterdam Central to Paris: **3 hours 10 minutes.**

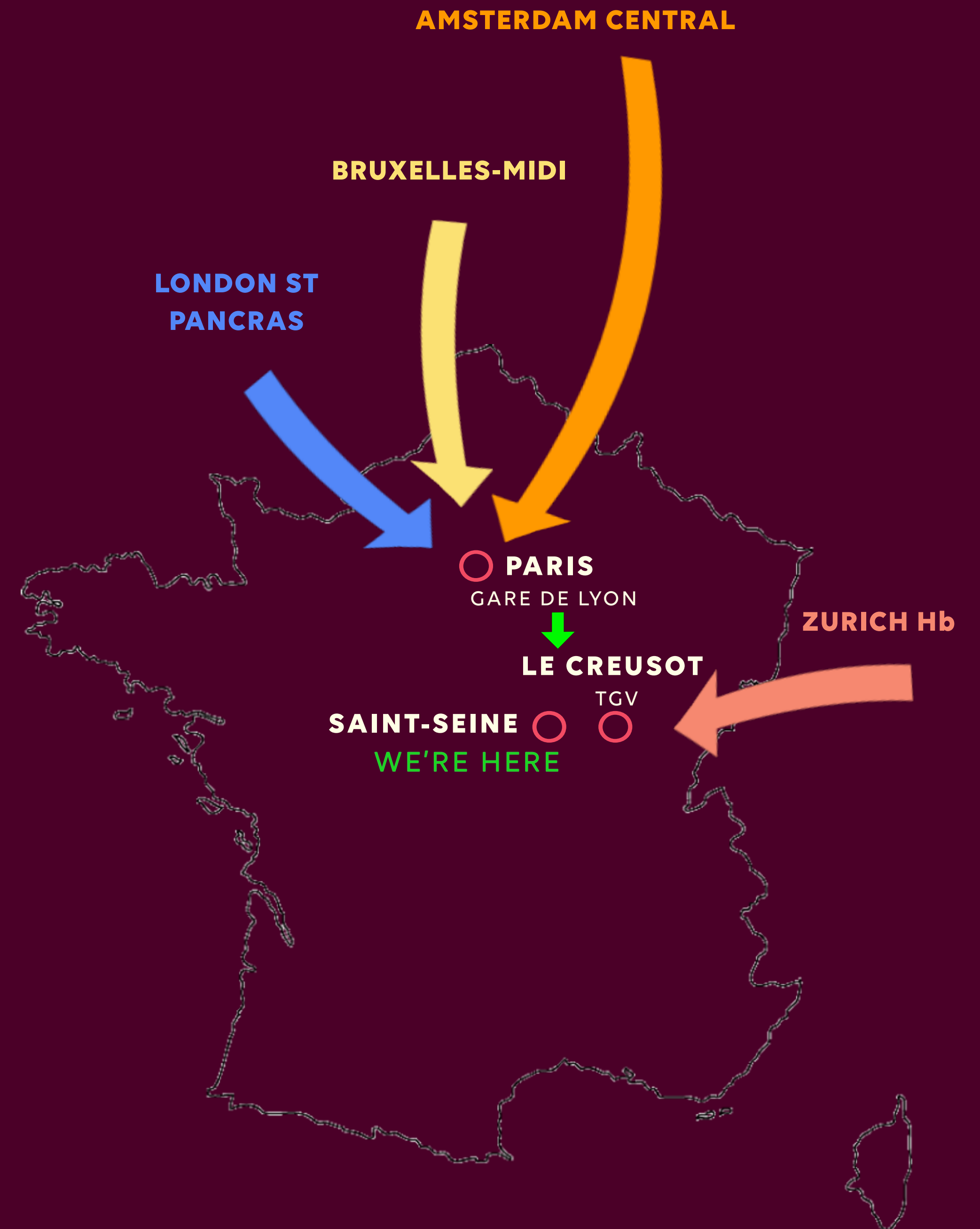
Zurich Hb to Le Creusot: 5 hours 39 minutes

Paris Gare de Lyon - Le Creusot TGV: **1 hour 20 minutes**

Le Creusot TGV (where we collect you) to Saint-Seine (home), **1 hour 10 minutes drive.**

## BY PLANE

Come from most countries of the world to Paris Charles de Galle. Take a *Vers Paris*, *RER B Paris* train from Terminal 2 to Gard du Nord, a taxi rank taxi across Paris to Gare de Lyon, then join your TGV service to Le Creusot TGV.





## Questions, answered

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This all sounds great but one-to-one service like this never comes cheap. So, how much for a week, "Chez-vous"?

Per person, GBP 2300, regardless of the season.

And that includes everything you mention here?

Yes, except your travel from home to Le Creusot and back, and alcohol.

I like the sound of these holidays, but to be honest, I'm not much of a photographer. I'd like to learn though, but is this ok for beginners?

Yes. We have the time to figure out what you want to learn and which teaching method suits you best. During a 30 year career, Niall has had lots of practice at teaching to all skill levels and is famously open about how he creates his own work.

Where can I learn about availability?

From our website, mail shots and here. Or just call us.

Is there wifi?

Yes, we have super-fast fibre optic broadband

I don't have much faith in our rail services these days. Can I just drive to you instead?

Yes, of course. The journey from Calais (avoiding Paris) takes about 9 hours. From Cambrai, about 6.

Can you take more than two guests at a time?

For Chez-nous Retreats, we take only two guests. But for our others, we can take up to 10.

I have quite specific dietary needs. Is that going to be a problem?

Charlotte has wide experience of producing delicious food for those with allergies and intolerances. Just tell us beforehand





# AUTUMN

*Chez-nous*



## AVAILABILITY

*(See calendar, next page)*

Price: **GBP 2300 per person all-inclusive** (but excluding travel between Le Creusot TGV and your home and alcoholic drinks).

## AVAILABILITY

Chez-nous Retreats start 17:00 hrs on the first day and end at 09:00 hrs on the last.

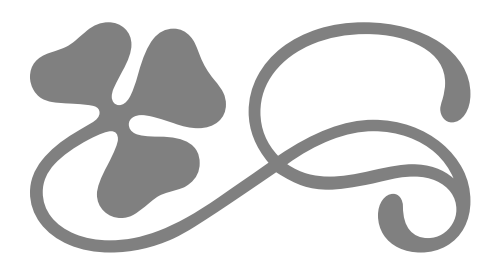
### *OCTOBER 2025*

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

### *NOVEMBER 2025*

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

GALLERY



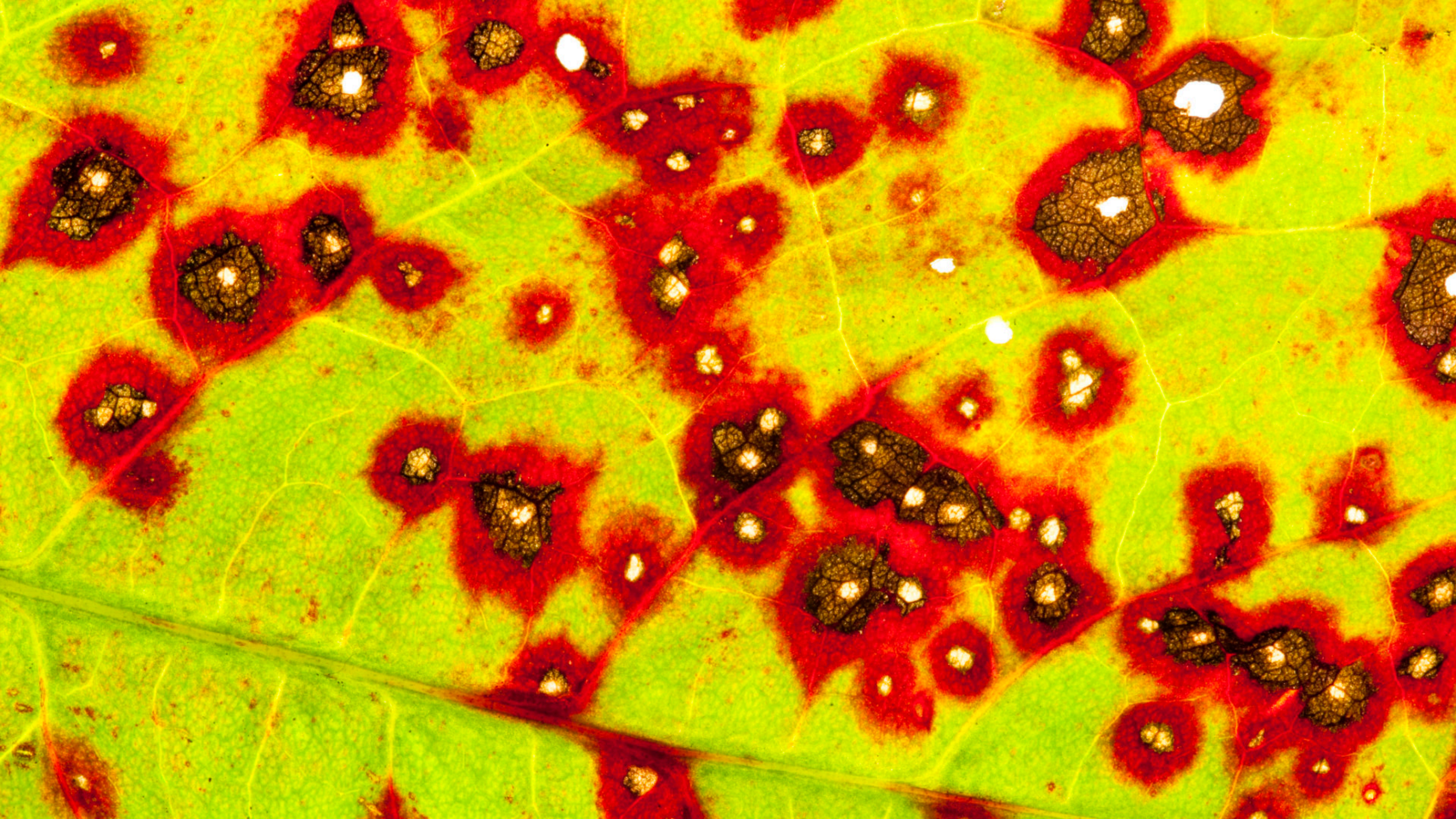
AUTUMN

*Around Les Saumais*























Antiquités  
J. Cimetière

Antiquités  
MEUBLES REGIONAUX  
Gabriel Cimetière







*E-mail us at [info@niallbenvie.eu](mailto:info@niallbenvie.eu) to arrange a Zoom meeting so we can discuss what we can do for you.*

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Charlotte and Niall Benvie  
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193 Chemin de Sensué  
58250 SAINT-SEINE  
France.

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