

SAINTONGE CHURCHES	
<p>Agudelle</p> <p>St Eutrope</p> <p>Near Mirambeau</p>	<p>This church is very similar to the one at Allas-Bocage. It was a Fontevraud dependency, founded in 1115. It has been much restored, but retains some original windows and a cusped window above the remade West door.</p> <p>See 'Haute Saintonge – promenades romanes' and 'Saintonge Romane' page 26</p>
<p>Allas-Bocage</p> <p>St Martin</p> <p>Near Mirambeau</p>	<p>This church was a Fontevraud dependency, founded between 1110 and 1120. The exterior of the nave has two tall, slim windows with a stairway on the South wall. On the North wall is a low blind arch, perhaps a former doorway for the monks. The West door, which was rebuilt possibly in the XIIIc, retains some XIIc characteristics. Above it is a large cusped window. The apse is rounded and has restored/replacement modillions, including several depicting horses. There are also modillions on the West façade. There are huge XVc buttresses. Inside the choir has a cul-de-four vault that is frescoed. There are foliage capitals. At the crossing is a late XII/XIIIc arch.</p> <p>See 'Haute Saintonge – promenades romanes' and 'Saintonge Romane' page 26</p>
<p>Allas-Champagne</p> <p>South of Saintonge</p>	<p>This XIIc church has a single nave, a flat ended apse with a low, square tower over the crossing. On the South wall of the nave is a XIIc door that is now blocked.</p>
<p>Angley, St Fort sur Né</p> <p>West of St Fort sur Né and South of Cognac</p>	<p>This is a chapel that was founded by the Knights Templar. It is rectangular with bosses for timber porches on the West and South walls. The West door is plain. There are three slim windows in the East wall. There are graffiti crosses both each side of the door and on the interior North wall. There is a graffiti boat and shield on the interior South wall of the nave.</p>

<p>Annepont</p> <p>St André</p> <p>North of Saintes</p>	<p>The church was first built in the XIc. The apse and West façade date from this period; the nave was rebuilt in the XIIc. The exterior is rather austere and there are some Gothic additions. There are modillions that include a harp player, an acrobat, a priest and animals. The sculptors are related to those at St Eutrope and the bell tower at Abbaye aux Dames. In the nave are capitals depicting animals and foliage. The cupola below the tower is elongated.</p> <p>See ‘La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge’ page 62 and ‘Saintonge Romane’ page 26</p>
<p>Antézant</p> <p>St Maxime</p> <p>Aulnay area</p>	<p>Of XIc origin, only the lower part of the west facade is original. The remainder was burnt and rebuilt to provide a rounded apse and a bell wall. The West door is between blind arches which are decorated with birds, many of which have been defaced, and interlacings, all inspired by Aulnay.</p>
<p>Arces sur Gironde</p> <p>St Pierre</p> <p>West of Saintes</p>	<p>This was a dependency of Vaux Abbey from 1086. The present apse dates from 1120/1130. The West end was rebuilt in the XVIIc and the transept was restored in the XVIIIc. The apse is rounded with modillions with a vigorous, interesting and graceful quality. The modillions include an upside-down man, an image of lust and a pixie-like figure that is pointing up to Heaven; there is a very similar figure on the façade of Angoulême Cathedral.. The choir has, at the crossing, large capitals that resemble those in the upper church of St Eutrope, Saintes; these depict animals on top of each other with birds and interlaced foliage. There are in the choir two capitals of heads uttering foliage.</p> <p>See ‘La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge’ page 65</p>

<p>Archiac St Martin North of Barbezieux</p>	<p>This church was built in the XIIc with a single nave, a stepped door between two blind arches and a square tower over the South transept. The door has been recently been rebuilt. A flat ended apse and a short South aisle were added in the XIVc and a North aisle with a Renaissance West door in the XVIc.</p> <p>See 'Haute Saintonge – promenades romanes' page 6</p>
<p>Archingeay North of Charente-Maritime</p>	<p>The rounded apse and the tower over the crossing are XIIc. The apse has a line of fine modillions including a pig's head, a cow's head, a harp player and a woman with serpents. The tower has two stories with pairs of blind arches. The apse has scaffold holes. The nave has been rebuilt.</p>
<p>Aulnay St Pierre North of the Saintonge</p>	<p>The church was built in 1130. It has a nave with two side aisles and five bays. The apse has two rounded side chapels and a long main choir. The South door has characteristics in common with that at Abbaye aux Dames. The West façade has two levels; the upper, which has two small arches and a larger one, is XVc. There used to be a statue of a mounted horseman; a fragment remains on the North side. The door is stepped and between two large blind arches. This part is mid XIIc (1140/1150). It is of high quality suggesting a renewal of inspiration. The decoration is spiritual in concept. The first arch centres on the Lamb of God with a cross being adored by angels. The second depicts Vices and Virtues with, at the apex, the crown of the just. The third arch depicts the Wise and Foolish Virgins. At the top are the Signs of the Zodiac and the months. The left blind arch depicts St Peter crucified; the right one, Christ between two saints – probably St Peter and St Paul.</p>

<p>Aubeterre</p> <p>St Jacques</p> <p>South tip of Charente</p>	<p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 73 – 85, 'Sculpture romane du Poitou' pages 440-445, 'The Pilgrim's Guide' page 126 and 'Poitou Roman' pages 205 and 238</p> <p>The original Romanesque church was destroyed by the Protestants in 1562. Only the façade of the old church has survived. It has a polylobed door with six decorated arches. These have geometric patterns. There are sculptured capitals each side of the door. There is a large blind arch to the left with figures representing Signs of the Zodiac and domestic rural scenes. Above is a line of blind arches divided by small columns with capitals. Near the top on the left are vestiges of what was, in 1562, described as 'a king on horse back known as Constantine'.</p> <p>See notes under Angoumois Churches for Aubeterre</p>
<p>Aubeterre</p> <p>St Jean</p>	<p>This is the largest monolithic church in the region. There are huge octagonal pillars that divide the nave from the side aisles. The roof is some 17 metres above the floor. There is a large burial site on the South-west side and an almost solid altar area at the East end. Below the present entrance is a crypt that may have Gallo-roman origins.</p> <p>See notes under 'Angoumois Churches' for Aubeterre</p>
<p>Avy-en-Pons</p> <p>Notre Dame</p> <p>South of Pons</p>	<p>This XIIc church severely damaged during the Hundred Years War. The choir dates from the XIIIc. There is a fine West façade. The upper level has somberly decorated arches. At the lower level there is a large door with a XVc insert. To the sides are blind arches. The door is bordered by 'barley stick' columns and a plain column. The</p>

	<p>capitals to the left depict a pilgrim heading towards the Holy Sepulchre. There is also a bird. To the right are wreaths and, next to the door, lions. The first door arch depicts birds; the second, doves(?) which, at the top, are grabbed by the neck by a man; (why?); this scene is repeated on the arch above. This theme is to be seen at Corme Ecluse, except that the birds are offered a chalice. The top arch is a burlesque concert of the Wise Men of the Apocalypse; here there are 36 and not 24 men. Many are playing an instrument. There are faint tacherons (an X and part of a square. There is also a graffiti shoe, one of several in the area. Most of the sculptures date from 1130-40.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 87 and Saintonge Romane' pages 269 and 270</p>
<p>Bagnizeau St Vivien North-east of the Saintonge</p>	<p>This XIIc church has a single nave and a rounded apse. The square tower is XIVc The interest is in the West façade which has arches with cats' heads, birds, dragons and capitals with lions, dogs and mythical animals. These date from around 1150.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' page 27 and 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 89 to 91</p>
<p>Barret St Pardoux North of Barbezieux</p>	<p>This XIIc church has been extensively but well restored. The apse is rounded and plain apart from the windows that have decorated arches. The single nave has small XIIc style windows but these may be modern replacements. There are buttresses that are XIVc or later. The West façade is typically Saintonge with capitals by the stepped door depicting a centaur, a monster eating the damned, mythical birds and foliage. Above are some rather poor quality modillions. The nave has four bays and there is a cupola on pendatives at the crossing. The South transept is XIVc.</p>

<p>Bazac</p> <p>Extreme South of the Charente</p>	<p>This church was entirely rebuilt after the mid XIXc.</p>
<p>Beauvais sous Matha</p> <p>North east of the Saintonge</p>	<p>This is part of a former Knights Templar, later Knights Hospitalier commandery. Of the present church only the West façade and the South wall of the nave are XIIc. The West façade has a stepped door between eight capitals, six depicting foliage and two depicting angels. Above is a line of worn modillions and three tall arches, the centre one containing a window. In the nave is at least one tall engaged column topped by a capital of simple foliage.</p>
<p>Belluire</p> <p>St Jacques</p> <p>South of Pons</p>	<p>This XIIc church has a single nave with a plain stepped West door. The original rounded apse was rebuilt as a flat ended apse in the XIIIc. On the South wall of the nave are two modillions depicting grimacing heads.</p>
<p>Berneuil</p> <p>Notre Dame</p> <p>South of Saintes</p>	<p>This church has been much rebuilt. Only the South wall of the nave and parts of the bell wall are mid XIIc. The East and part of the South side of the tower is interesting with windows and blind arches with a line of interesting modillions between the two levels. The nave has four bays with fine columns and capitals depicting a man, birds and animals. The rest of the church is XVIc or later. There are tacherons on the South wall: 'B', arrow head and an 'X' with top and bottom closed.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 92 and 'Saintonge Romane' page 363</p>
<p>Beurlay</p>	<p>This XIIc church has a single nave and a rounded</p>

<p>Ste Madeleine</p> <p>South-east of Rochefort</p>	<p>apse. The apse and South transepts are the earlier parts of the church and date from the mid XIIc. The nave, which is a little later, has three bays with a square tower on the South side and XVc buttresses on the North side. Inside are fine capitals depicting foliage birds with lions and cat-like masks. These date from the first third of the XIIc. The church is built above the source of a large spring that might have had pre-Christian significance.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' and 'Saintonge Romane' page 27</p>
<p>Bernay</p> <p>South-east of La Rochelle, North-west of Aulnay</p>	<p>This church, which has a modern bell wall, dates from the XIIc. There is a late XIIc South door with a modern insert. The old doorway has worn columns and capitals. Two windows on the South wall have large masks and foliage on the capitals. The West bay of the nave was rebuilt in the XIVc(?) and a flat ended apse added. To the left of the door are two graffiti stars and there is another to the right.</p>
<p>Biron</p> <p>St Eutrope</p> <p>South of Pons</p>	<p>The West façade and nave are largely XIIc. The flat ended apse is late XIIIc or early XIVc. The church was built in two phases; phase 1 from 1130 and phase 2 around 1150; the façade was constructed between 1150 and 1160. The church was restored in the XIX and XXcs. The West façade is typically Saintonge and is well balanced. The West door is between blind arches. Above is a line of eleven smaller blind arches. Each side of the stepped West door there are capitals. They depict a man carrying a tool being chased by an angry woman, a centaur hunting, lions, birds and Daniel between lions, the only biblical touch. The sculptures date from the mid XIIc. There is a long inscription on the North wall of the nave and lots of graffiti on the East wall of the apse – Knights, a circle, heads and a cross with four arrow heads.</p>

<p>Blanzac lès Matha</p> <p>North of Cognac</p>	<p>There is a tacheron of an A that is also to be seen at the Hospital, Pons and at Marignac.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 97 and 'Saintonge Romane' pages 306 and 307</p> <p>This XIIc church has a remade stepped door with a single nave onto which was added a XVc south aisle. The crossing has fine capitals in groups of three depicting lions, cats, an eagle etc; these date from the mid XIIc. The apse is rounded. There is a tower over the crossing. There are modillions over the door.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' page 27</p>
<p>Bois</p> <p>St Pierre</p> <p>West of Pons</p>	<p>The nave and West facade are XIIc. The choir and transept are XVc. The square tower which has an octagonal crown was rebuilt in the XVc. The nave has three windows each side. The West façade has a door with five stepped arches that are between blind arches. Above is a central window that is probably XIXc and four XIIc blind arches. There is a little geometric decoration. There is a stairway to the tower on the North wall; this obscures most of one window and it has a very attractive, decorated arch. There are tacheron marks of an arrow head similar to those at nearby St Quantin de Rançanne.</p>
<p>Bords</p> <p>St Vivien</p> <p>North of the Saintonge</p>	<p>This church is from the XIIc and probably from 1150-1160. The apse which is rounded and the base of the tower over the crossing are original. The South tower is XIVc and the nave was rebuilt in the XVc. The apse has five windows with small column and capitals. Three are of goul-like masks; the remainder are of interlacings and foliage and one depicts a pair of birds. There are tall columns, one topped with a capital of foliage. Round the</p>

<p>Borresse</p> <p>North-west of Chalais</p>	<p>apse are modillions, mostly depicting heads. The North chapel was built in the XVc.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' pages 100 to 102</p> <p>This is a simple, but charming village church. It has a single nave with narrow windows on the South side; there is no transept; the apse is rounded and plain; there is a square tower. The West façade has a stepped door between two stepped blind arches. Above are three more blind arches.</p> <p>See 'Haute Saintonge' page 36</p>
<p>Bougneau</p> <p>St Pierre</p> <p>East of Pons</p>	<p>The nave is Gothic and has been repaired and restored several times. The nave vaults are late XIIIc, the capitals at the crossing date from the late XIIc. Some of the pairs of capitals are modern restorations. There is one column that retains a crudely sculptured figure; this capital, at the West end of the church is probably Romanesque. The transept and apse are XIc and resemble that of St Thomas de Conac. Each side of the choir is a group of three narrow but tall blind arches with, above them, two windows with small columns and capitals. Around the base of the choir are seven more arches separated by columns and splendid capitals. Above are three more similarly decorated windows. All the capitals are of a good quality and depict foliage and geometric patterns. Outside, the apse is flat ended and supported by huge buttresses that probably date from the XVc. There is a tower over the crossing with a cupola that appears to be XIIc. On the south side is a XIVc(?) stairway with defensive windows. There is a tacheron of two inward pointing short arrows; this is also to be seen at Montignac.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 103 and 'Saintonge Romane' pages 105 to 109</p>

<p>Bouhet St Laurent East of La Rochelle</p>	<p>This church was founded in 1077; the present foundations date from around 1130. It was severely damaged during the Wars of Religion; only the rounded apse, the South chapel and elements of the North chapel remain. The South chapel, which is now the vestry, has a rounded bay with sculptures above that depict a siren, a pair of lions, a musician a frieze of interlacings and a capital of a lion uttering foliage. On the apse are four decorated windows and three windows without any decoration. The capitals by the windows depict a person with snakes, birds, lions etc. On the side chapel is a dedication cross with an inscription. Inside are further sculptures.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 107 to 109</p>
<p>Bouthiers St Marcot South-east of Charente Maritime</p>	<p>This small, rectangular XIIc chapel is on the North side of the village. It is ruined. It has a plain stepped West door below a bell wall. The single nave has a plain vaulted roof. Each side of the flat ended apse is a deep window. There are flat buttresses.</p>
<p>Boscament The South of Charente-Maritime</p>	<p>This small XIIc church with a single nave and rounded apse has a small bell wall over the crossing. There are small windows high on the nave walls and another in the central buttress of the apse. There are the remains of modillions on the apse.</p>
<p>Bresdon St Alban North-east of Cognac</p>	<p>The nave of this church is XIIc; the apse was extended in the XIV/XVc. The South wall of the nave has fine but simple windows. The main interest is in the West façade which is mid XIIc. There is a stepped Saintonge-style door between two decorated blind arches. There are capitals each</p>

	<p>side of the door that depict griffins, birds, men and beard-pullers. The arches have foliage and dragons. Above is a line of modillions that depict birds, men, a goat, an acrobat and images of lust. Above, on the bell wall are four more re-used sculptures of the Lamb of God, a man between two animals (Daniel?) that are whispering in his ears and a monster. There is a Green Man at the keystone on the door arch. The corbels on the apse date from the late XIIc. There are several small crosses and a circle with a small hole in the centre and at each cardinal point and a star within a circle. There are scaffold holes on the North wall of the nave.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' page 27 and 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 113 and 114</p>
<p>Breuillet St Vivien North of Royan</p>	<p>There is a very wide stepped West door. It has been restored in many places. It is between two very small blind arches the North one being almost entirely obscured by a huge XVc buttress. Above the door is a line of eight (with two more obscured) small blind arches. Above these are three more bays. There are two lines of modillions on the façade. There is a single nave that has been heavily restored and the apse has been destroyed.</p>
<p>Brie sous Archiac North of Barbezieux</p>	<p>Of this XIIc church, little is original. The One Hundred Years War resulted in extensive damage. The flat ended apse and most of the nave have been rebuilt in the XIVc. The West façade is late XIIc with a stepped door with small, worn capitals and with a blind arch each side of the door.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' pages 115 and 116</p>
<p>Burie St Léger</p>	<p>This was formerly a XIIc priory church. It has a stepped West door with very worn capitals. There is a single nave, the South wall of which has been rebuilt. Over the crossing is a rebuilt cupola on</p>

Cognac area	pendatives. The choir is short and rounded. The nave was originally groin vaulted, but now it is timbered. There is one original window inside the West door on the left.
Bussac Forêt South of the Charente Maritime	This is an attractive church that was built in the XIIc. It has a fine façade that is almost Angoumois in style. There is a single nave and a rounded apse. The central window of the nave is probably original but most of the walls have been rebuilt. The West façade lacks decoration and has a stepped door between two blind arches below a line of fine blind arches all with small columns and plain capitals.
Cabariot St Clement North of the Saintonge, East of Rochefort	This small church was XIc in origin but nothing remains of that church. The nave is from the mid XIIc. It has a polylobed west door between two blind arches. The right arch has a small tympanum of a boat with three men (The calling of St Peter, James and John?). There are two small 'x's on the pillar to the left of the door. Above the door is a small bell wall. The apse and choir are Gothic.  See 'Saintonge Romane' page 121
Chadenac St Martin South-east of Pons	This was formerly a dependency of Charroux (85). Nothing remains of the XIc church. On the South wall is an inscription: WILLEM(VS). PICTVS HI I GVILLM. CLICVS STRUCTOR - NON - FIC Which should read: WILLELMUS PICTAVUS HIC IACET - GUILLELMI CLERICUS STRUCTOR NON FECIT (William the Poitevin, Cleric of William was architect but not the sculptor) The West door way was damaged and very weathered but the iconography is still recognizable. Over the door there is Christ within a mandorla. On the first arch are angels; on the

<p>Chalais</p> <p>St Martial</p> <p>South of the Charente</p>	<p>second arch is St Paul with a sword and other unidentified figures; on the third and fourth are Vices and Virtues. At the top, between the Wise and Foolish Virgins is 'The Mystic Bridegroom opening the Gates of Heaven to the Wise Virgins'. The figures to the right and left may be a repeat of the scene of St Michael and the daughter of King Seline that is at Pont L'Abbé. Inside, the nave has very tall columns with decorated bases. By the crossing are large decorated capitals depicting foliage and figures. The sculptures date from the mid XIIc.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 123 to 125 and 'Saintonge Romane' pages 179 to 181</p> <p>Although not far South of Angoulême this church was formerly in the diocese of Saintes and it was the seat of an arch deaconry and a dependency of St Martial de Limoges. Most of the church was destroyed in 1569 during the Wars of Religion and was rebuilt in 1629. Only the West façade remains from the XIIc church. The façade is wider than is usual, which suggests that the original church had side aisles (like nearby St Privat des Prés in the Périgord). On the upper level is a faint trace of an arch. The door has five arches and there is a blind arch each side. The West door is polylobed as are several others that are nearby – Montmoreau, Condéon and Aubeterre (St Jacques). There are capitals of harpies and birds that are in the Aulnay style (1150). The arches are decorated with animals. There are two small tympanums that depict, on the left, Christ seated with two people (Sts Peter and Paul as at Aulnay?) and, to the right, the Women at Christ's tomb. In the upper corner there are Vices and Virtues. There are suggestions that the team that worked here also worked at Montmoreau and at Aubeterre (St Jacques).</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 126</p>
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<p>Champagnac</p> <p>St Pierre ès Liens</p> <p>Jonzac area</p>	<p>This is a XIIc church that has undergone much rebuilding subsequently. The nave was rebuilt in the XVIc and the West façade was rebuilt in Saintonge style in the XIXc. The apse is flat ended and the choir has a number of unusual capitals depicting foliage-like patterns with the leaves ending in a small head. These date from the late XIIc</p> <p>See ‘La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge’ pages 129 and 130</p>
<p>Champagnolles</p> <p>St Pierre</p> <p>South-west of Pons</p>	<p>This church has a XVc West door. There is a single nave and a two storey square tower over the crossing. There are sculptures in the corner of the transept and modillions round the apse including images of lust. The apse has a line of blind arches with pilasters and plain capitals. The North chapel is rounded and the South chapel polygonal. The west door is Renaissance but it is set below a line of XIIc small blind arches. Inside there are a number of sculptured capitals; those in the nave depict foliage; those at the crossing depict figures and foliage and there is one in the choir with birds.</p> <p>See ‘Saintonge Romane’ page 27</p>
<p>Champagnoux</p> <p>Near Ségonzac, in the Cognac area</p>	<p>This is a small, rural chapel of XIIc origin. There is a simple West door between two plain arches. All the arches have traces of painting. The central arch has an arc of small arrows all attached to each other and flowing from right to left. There is a graffiti inscription to the left of the door and a cross with a small hole at the end of each tip. There is a tall, slim window over the door and a bell wall above it. The apse has been destroyed.</p>
<p>Champdolent</p>	<p>There is a single nave, rebuilt in the XIVc, and a fine rounded apse from the XIIc. It has a number</p>

<p>St Pierre</p> <p>North of Saintonge, East of Rochefort</p>	<p>of tall columns topped by capitals with foliage. The main interest is in the apse. The top has a line of small, decorated arches; at the base of each are excellent modillions; they include a man playing a viola and blowing a horn and two images of lust. There are also three stars in circles. These sculptures date from the mid XIIc.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' page 133</p>
<p>Chaniers</p> <p>St Pierre</p> <p>South-east of Saintes</p>	<p>This church has a single nave, a rounded apse and two side chapels that radiate, trefoil style off the choir. The nave has a XVIc(?) door with a rounded arched window above and plain 'bosses' to support a timber porch. The nave has two bays divided by large arches and columns topped to the North by fine capitals, one with small heads in foliage and one with interlacings (similar to one in the crypt of St Eutrope, Saintes). These date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the XIIc. The timber vaulted roof is supported on lines of 'bosses'. At the crossing is a small triumphal arch with a larger, distorted arch above it. This has a line of three small blind arches. Over the crossing is a cupola on trompes. The side chapels have XIVc frescos. On the South side of the nave is a XVIc side chapel. There is a large XIVc fortified space over the nave and choir and a remade (XIXc) square tower over the crossing.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' page 27 and 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 356</p>
<p>La Chapelle Bâton</p> <p>St Clement</p> <p>West of Aulnay</p>	<p>This is a small, rectangular church with a side aisle. It appears to have been mostly rebuilt after the One Hundred Years War. The West door is finely decorated with diamond patterns that are modelled on motifs at Salles lès Aulnay whilst inside the sculptures are modelled on those at Aulnay and date from around 1150. There is a small bell wall and a font made from a Gallo-roman tombstone.</p>

<p>Chassor</p> <p>St Romain</p> <p>South-east Charente</p>	<p>Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 201 and 202</p> <p>This XIIc church has been extensively rebuilt. It has a flat ended apse. The door is XIXc(?). The single nave has XIIc windows in the South wall and their outlines in the north wall. There is a rebuilt cupola on pendentives and a plain XIIc font. The roof vaults are of timber.</p>
<p>Châtres</p> <p>St Brice, later ND de l'Assumption</p> <p>East of Cognac</p>	<p>This is a former Augustine abbey founded in the XIc. It was severely damaged in both the One Hundred Years War and the Wars of Religion. After the Revolution it was used as a porcelain factory. It has a single nave with three cupolas on pendentives (similar to those at Trois Palis and Bourg Charente).The nave has narrow windows and flat buttresses. The apse was rebuilt in the XIVc. The West façade has a cusped arch over the door and there are blind arches on three levels. The arches are decorated in the style that dates from 1160-1170 (similar to those at Bourg Charente in the Angoumois).</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 277 to 279, 'Les Eglises Romanes en Poitou-Charente', 'Saintonge Romane' pages 143 to 148 and 'Congrès Archéologique de France – Charente' pages 345-</p>
<p>Chepniers</p> <p>Jonzac area</p>	<p>This is a former Knights of Malta commandery. Most of the church is Gothic with XIXc frescos. The lower two stories of the tower are XIIc with fine trios of blind arches above narrow windows.</p> <p>See 'Haute Saintonge' page 35</p>

<p>Chérac Cognac area</p>	<p>This church has a single nave, transept arms and a long rounded apse. Each transept arm had a rounded chapel; the South one has been destroyed. Over each transept is a small cupola on pendentives. Over the South one is a tall XIII/XIVc square tower. The West door is under a modern porch. It is stepped and has foliage capitals. The external stonework is poor – the result of attempts in the XVIc to burn the church down. There are the remains of modillions over the West door. There is a fortified space over the apse.</p>
<p>Chèvres de Cognac St Vivien Cognac area</p>	<p>This is a very plain church with an interior that is similar to that at Bourg Charente. The nave has two cupolas and the transept has a similar one. There are plain columns and capitals that date from the early XIIc. The apse is plain but authentic, with small columns by each window and a little light decoration. The nave walls were raised in the XIVc to create a fortified area. The tower is the earliest part of the church, dating from the second half of the XIc. Recently a stone with builders' marks was put on the tower for safety: 'IAQUE MARTNEAU IEHN AVGIER FABRIQVEVRS'.</p> <p>See leaflet</p>
<p>Cierzac Notre Dame East of Pons</p>	<p>This XIIc church has a flat apse and a single nave with a stepped West door below blind arches; the West façade has been much restored. The nave has one XIIc capital and there are four in the choir. These depict foliage.</p>
<p>Clam St Martin South-east of Pons</p>	<p>This is a small church that is without decoration. The apse is rounded and without any features. The nave has probably been rebuilt.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' page 27</p>

<p>Clérac</p> <p>St Vivien</p> <p>Jonzac area</p>	<p>Little remains from the original XIIc church except the base of the bell tower; the lower two stories are XIIc.</p>
<p>Clion</p> <p>St André</p> <p>West of Pons</p>	<p>The church has a XIIc nave with a Gothic side aisle on the North side. The XIIc apse is rounded with three windows and small blind arches. The West façade is XVc; this has fragments of the XIIc tympanum on the upper parts of the wall. There is a square squat tower with attractive open arches. Inside there are foliage capitals in the choir and small blind arches.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' page 27</p>
<p>Clisse</p> <p>Ste Madeleine</p> <p>West of Saintes</p>	<p>This church was originally built in the XIc with, in a second phase, the construction of a single XIIc nave; the apse was rebuilt in the XVc. The nave was once stone vaulted; now it is timber. The West door has geometric patterns. Above are modillions. The capital to the right of the door shows a man with lions; it is very similar to one at Nieul lès Saintes. There are others depicting birds and snakes fighting with a man. The nave has four good capitals that appear to be modelled on ones at St Eutrope, Saintes and which are dated to soon after 1130.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' pages 27 and 28 and 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 203 and 204</p>
<p>Cognac</p> <p>St Léger</p>	<p>This church was founded in 1016, but was ruined in 1562. The church was originally domed but it was entirely rebuilt in Gothic style except the West façade in XIVc and the rose window which is</p>

<p>East of Saintes</p>	<p>XVc. It was further 'restored' by Abadie in 1860, but much of the original character remains. The West façade is contemporaneous with Aulnay church. There is a stepped door with arches decorated with Signs of the Zodiac and floral decoration similar to that at Aulnay and Ste Gemme. There are two bays separated by a Gothic period rose window. There are lots of good capitals including the Weighing of Souls that is similar to one at Abbaye aux Dames, Saintes in the bell tower, the Sacrifice of Isaac and Christ in a mandorla. There are tympanums that may represent the Magi and The Women at the Tomb. These are similar to those at Chalais (16). Abadie added two rows of XIXc corbels. The base of the bell tower dates from the second half of the XIIc.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' page 28 and 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 138 to 140</p>
<p>Coirvert Aulnay area</p>	<p>This church has a single nave and a rounded apse that are of XIIc origin, though only parts of the North wall are original. There is a little decoration. There is a small bell wall.</p>
<p>Colombiers St Maclou North of Pons</p>	<p>This was a priory church of Charroux. The apse and chancel are early XIIc; the nave is late XIIc and the West façade is XVc. The spire was built in 1860. There eight excellent capitals in pairs by the transept and below a cupola on trompes. The capitals depict monsters, demons, a man with a wooden leg axing another man who is sexually abusing him. The sculptures appear to be the works of two hands and they show influences from both St Eutrope and Abbaye aux Dames. They date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the XIIc. The apse capitals are from the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the XIIc.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 141 and 'Saintonge Romane' page 241</p>

<p>Consac</p> <p>St Pierre</p> <p>South of Pons, West of Jonzac</p>	<p>The oldest part of this church is the transept which dates from the IX or Xc which was remodelled in the early XIIc. The church originally had a single nave onto which a Gothic North one was added. The South wall has small XIIc windows. At the crossing is a cupola and splendidly carved capitals on tall columns. They show geometric patterns and interlacings. There are dated as early XIIc. The roof vaults are also early XIIc. The XIIIc tower has two distinct levels. The lower level has squat Romanesque arches; the upper level is Gothic. The flat ended apse is Gothic and has modillions that may have been re-employed. There is a XVIc chapel that extends the nave.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 143 and 'Saintonge Romane' pages 111 to 112</p>
<p>Contré</p> <p>St Bernard</p> <p>East of Aulnay</p>	<p>This church has a single nave and a rounded apse, both built around the same time, but after the porch. Both were fortified in the XIVc. The sculptures were modeled on those at Aulnay. The South door has decorated arches depicting flowers, a lion clawing at a man's head and a ghou. The rim of the arch has dogs and monsters hunting. Inside, the vaults have collapsed but there are tall columns with their capitals of birds, dragons and cockle-shells. These show influences from Aulnay and date from 1150-1160. There is a small bell wall over the West end where there was once a tower over a cupola on trompes (also collapsed). The three windows of the apse are decorated with sculptures and those that are each side of the crossing have a ghou.</p> <p>See leaflet, 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 145 to 147 and 'Haut Poitou Roman' page 340</p>
<p>Conzac</p>	<p>See under 'Angoumois churches'.</p>



	<p>upper arches of the door depict Vices and Virtues. The central upper arch depicts the Virgins with their lamps. There are fine modillions above. Top left is a carving of two warriors with a sword over two women; this represent Ste Catherine with her wheel and an abbess holding a cross standing on a 'toothed' mandorla; it is thought that the man and lady to the left are the founders, Geoffery Martel and his wife, Agnes de Bourgogne (who founded Abbaye aux Dames). Here are friezes of birds and dogs and foliage. Inside, only the narthex and part of the South wall of the nave are Romanesque. The narthex has a window with two small capitals in the North wall. In addition, there is a large capital depicting winged monsters. There are several short lines of frieze including one of interlacings. The nave has two similar windows. The nave vaults were rebuilt in the XVIIc. The narthex, tower and apse with a North chapel date from the XIIIc; the North chapel was extended in the XVc.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 157 and 'Saintonge Romane' pages 143 and 144</p>
Courpignac	This small church was founded in the XIIc, but little of that remains beyond the basic floor plan.
St Pierre	
West of Pons	
Cressac	
Notre Dame	
South-west of Angoulême	<p>This former Knights Templar chapel used to be in the diocese of Saintes. It is of XIIc origin and was severely damaged after the Revolution, when the South wall was removed to inhibit worship; it was used as stables. It is a fairly plain rectangular building outside. The interior is finely frescoed. The roof frescos and those on the South wall are lost. On the North wall two bands depict the crusaders in the Holy Land and the victory on the Plain of Bosquais in 1163 over Now el din, satrap of Alleppo, as he was preparing to attack Krak des Chevaliers. It records the presence of the Lords of</p>

	<p>Angoulême on the Crusade, especially William IV, Geoffroy Martel, Hugues VII of Lusignan and Templars Gilbert and Larcy. On the lower level, in ochre, are a crusader camp and an exchange of prisoners for ransom. On the other wall are the Weighing of Souls, the Last Judgment, a bishop blessing St George and a dragon (the figure of Constantine is to be found at St Pierre, Angoulême). On the West bay is a scene of a boat crossing the Mediterranean. The frescos were probably executed between 1170 and 1180.</p> <p>See 'Les Eglises Romanes de Poitou-Charente', 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 159, 'Angoumois Roman' page 22 and 'Congrès Archéologique de France – Charente' pages 171 to 178</p>
<p>Cressé</p> <p>The Transfiguration, Notre Dame and St Sauveur</p> <p>North-east of Saintonge</p>	<p>This is a former XIc priory church that was recorded before 1050 but which is now much altered. It has a nave with narrow side aisles divided by huge worn pillars that have worn capitals depicting interlacings and birds. The nave vaults have collapsed. There are other taller columns topped by more capitals that date from the mid XIIc. At the crossing is a cupola on trompes and there are transepts. Off the South transept is a small chapel. The choir is rounded. On the North side of the nave are buttresses that become large arches; they have modillions and obscure the XIc stonework. The West façade is modern. The tower dates from the early XIIc.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' page 28 and 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 161 and 162</p>
<p>Dompierre sur Boutonne</p> <p>Aulnay area</p>	<p>Only fragments remain of this XIIc. The façade and South chapel are XVc. But the apse, especially the North-east side, is finely decorated with</p>

<p>Le Douhet St Martial North of Cognac</p>	<p>interesting patterns around the windows and tall engaged columns.</p> <p>This small church is next to the former palace of the Bishop of Saintes. It has a single nave with four bays, a shallow apse with a few capitals depicting animals. The bell tower was rebuilt in the XVc; the base is Romanesque. The façade is of special interest. The door has large arches and a blind arch each side. The capitals of the door are decorated with foliage and heads of monsters. The main arch of the door has a Pascal lamb with four supporting angels and Christ in Majesty with twelve apostles. The side arches decorated; one with diamond points; the other with acanthus leaves. The frieze running from the capitals has foliated laced patterns. On the left is a bearded man with a snake in his hand and with the other hand he holds a man who, in turn is gripping a lion by its jaw. On the right is Christ in a nimbus addressing an angel in front of which is a snake. And there is a man defending a kneeling woman. This decoration dates from around 1160.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture en Saintonge' pages 210 to 212 and 'Saintonge Romane' pages 240 to 241</p>
<p>Echebrune St Pierre South-east of Pons</p>	<p>The church was founded in 1002 but nothing remains of that church. The present church has a fine West façade that dates from the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the XIIc. The door is stepped and is between two blind arches. Above them is a line of seven blind arches, the central one of which is polylobed. There are columns each side of the door some of which are spiraled. There is a frieze running away from the door capitals. One of the capitals, to the left, depicts a ghou. Above are fine modillions. Amongst the sculptures on the façade is the head of a devil, an owl, harpies and birds. The church has a lot of graffiti: to the left of the door are four</p>

	<p>pilgrims and a king; on the South buttress are six 'balls of wool' – King Solomon's Knot; on the South wall of the nave three shoes and a bird and, on pillars by the door, many small crosses. The interior is heavily restored and of little interest. The octagonal tower is Gothic.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' 163 and 'Saintonge Romane' page 307</p>
<p>Echelais Notre Dame North-west of the Saintonge, South of Rochefort</p>	<p>This XIIc church has a single nave and rounded apse that were built in one campaign. The vaults date from 1696. There are two chapels on the South side that are XIIIc and XVc respectively. The main interest is in the West façade. The West door is stepped below worn arches and is below a line of nine more arches; this lay-out is similar to that at St Hippolyte. The decoration is better. The lower capitals are of foliage and a huge ghoulish mask. Within the lower blind arches the stones are in the diagonal. The upper arches are finely decorated with foliage and interlacings. Above are fine modillions that depict a man playing a harp, another has a viola and a third a horn. In the choir are further fine capitals depicting fighting animals and a bishop. These sculptures show influences from Aulnay and are from around 1150. The apse also has good modillions.</p> <p>See leaflet, 'Saintonge Romane' pages 235 to 237 and 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 165 to 168</p>
<p>Ecurat St Pierre North of Saintes</p>	<p>This XIIc church has a narrow, rounded apse and a single nave that is entered by a West door that is a metre and a half above the interior floor level. The West door is stepped and between five pilasters and capitals each side. These depict animals, monsters and heads; the heads have all been defaced. There were blind arches each side of the door, but the right one has been obscured by a XVc buttress. The other has a foliage capital. Over the door are arches decorated with flowers and</p>

	<p>foliage. Above the doorway is a line of modillions; in the centre is a sun with a face. Inside, at the crossing there is a small, narrow vault with two pairs of flat capitals that depict foliage. Around the choir are more foliage capitals. The windows have small capitals with beasts and foliage. The sculptures show influences from Aulnay and date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the XIIc. On the South wall of the nave are 8 circles/clocks and a graffiti 'BEA'.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 169 and 170</p>
<p>Les Eduts Aulnay area</p>	<p>This is a small XIIc chapel with a modern bell wall over the West door; the door has two capitals carved with foliage. The single nave is Romanesque, but the choir, which has traces of frescoing, is Gothic. Over the West door are modillions that depict a snake, a dragon, a head, a barrel and three depicting flowers. The chapel is similar to the one at Romazières.</p>
<p>Les Eglises d'Argenteuil Aulnay area</p>	<p>This XIIc church has a small, single nave and a narrower flat ended apse. At the crossing are some simple, original capitals and a hideous modern one. The door is stepped and has a floral decoration. The capitals have monsters. There is a square tower on the North side of the apse.</p>
<p>Esnandes St Martin Aunis</p>	<p>Most of this huge, fortified church dates from the XVc. The West façade up to and including the line of modillions is XIIc; but it has a number of XIXc embellishments that were added during restoration, at which time sculptures were repositioned haphazardly. It has a huge stepped and polylobed West door; this last feature is a XIXc addition. The capitals each side of the door have leaf patterns. Each side of the door is a blind arch that once contained a statue. They, too, have foliage capitals. The right arch also has a dimpled or 'petalled'</p>

<p>Fénioux</p> <p>St Esprit</p> <p>North of Saintes and South of Niort</p>	<p>pattern to the stone-work. Above is a line of modillions with intervening plaques or friezes: they include a harp player, a water jug, a centaur, Sampson on a lion, a ram, an acrobat, lions, interlacing, and a heron. Two of the upper capitals are damaged; the third depicts a man between a group of birds. These sculptures date from the late XIIc. There are XV/XVIc graffiti on the South wall depicting boats.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' pages 350 and 351 and 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 171 and 172</p> <p>This church was built on Carolingian or early XIc foundations that are to be seen on the exterior of the nave except the West bay. The church was one of those restored by Abadie but he did less mischief than usual. The nave was extended West in the XIIc; it has small windows; the choir was also rebuilt in the XIIc but was rebuilt again in the XVc with a rectangular choir; both the apse and nave have buttresses that are late Gothic. The nave vaults and part of the tribune fell down in 1835. The main interest is in the West façade which was inspired by Aulnay and was built between 1150 and 1160. The door is stepped with five arches. There are four columns beside the door; two are large and two are thin. On the arches with Vices and Virtues – the vices are illustrated by elegant female warriors protected by tall shields as they stab vices writhing at their feet. This is one of the most complete examples. Another arch shows the Labours of the Month and Signs of the Zodiac. These are also to be seen at Corne Royale, Pont L'Abbé D'Arnoult, Chadenac, Fontaine D'Ozillac, Varaize, St Symphorien de Broué – possibly using some of the same workers, though St Symphorien has a less delicate style. There is a fine North door decorated with foliage, flowers and geometric patterns. There are windows on the South wall with a floral border. There are also modillions depicting grimacing faces. Inside there are capitals</p>
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	<p>in the nave with foliage patterns. The tower, which was from the XIIc, was rebuilt in 1891 to an Abadie plan. Nearby is a XIIc Lanterne des Morts, the replica of which is near Verdun.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 173 and 'Saintonge Romane' pages 135 to 141</p>
<p>Fontaine Chalendory</p> <p>Notre Dame de l'Assomption</p> <p>South-east of Aulnay</p>	<p>This was once the chapel of the château (which has been destroyed). It has a single nave and a flat ended apse with three windows. Over the West door are arches decorated with geometric patterns. Above are a number of re-used sculptures that may have come from nearby St Maixent. They include the Last Supper, Christ in a mandorla and a group of four people that includes Mary and Joseph. There is also a damaged horse. By the door, to the right, is a capital with interlacings. There are short, raised columns each side of the nave; these have rather crude sculptures showing foliage, Daniel and lions and two tritons holding a fish. The bases of the columns are carved with foliage and animal heads. At the crossing are Corinthian-style capitals. Each side of the East bay of the nave is a low arched doorway.</p> <p>See leaflet and 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 356</p>
<p>Fontaine D'Ozillac</p> <p>St Martin</p> <p>Near Mirambeau</p>	<p>This church was built with a single nave, but a South one was added in the XVIc. It was a dependency of Abbaye de Baignes. The West façade reflects characteristics seen at Corme Ecluse and Colombiers. The West façade, which is partly XIIc, comprises a central door between two decorated blind arches; there are five more small arches above. All the arches are highly decorated. The door is stepped with fine capitals and with</p>

	<p>three arches over the door; the outer shows soldiers, representing Virtues, killing Vices. At the apex are two Virtues with the Crown of the Just. The middle arch has beasts, birds and foliage; these represent warnings of evil. The inner arch has the Lamb of God above figures – probably Christ, St Peter and St Paul. The façade dates from 1150 with the capitals dating from the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the XIIc. On the North wall of the apse there are the remains of two Romanesque windows. At the East end are two slim windows. Inside there is a free-standing capital of interlaced foliage and at the crossing there are more capitals. The second door in the façade dates from 1543. The base of the tower is Romanesque but the upper parts are XIXc.</p> <p>See ‘La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge’ pages 178 and 179, ‘Haute Saintonge – promenades romanes’ and ‘Saintonge Romane’ page 181</p>
<p>Fontdouce (St Bris des Bois) North-west of Cognac</p>	<p>This is a former Benedictine abbey, built in the XIIc and ruined in the Wars of religion. There are two chapels, one above the other, with rounded apses; there is a fine XIIc Chapter House with some interesting vegetative capitals that date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the XIIc. The ruins of the main church are on the North side of the site.</p> <p>See leaflet</p>
<p>Forges St Laurent North of the Saintonge</p>	<p>This church has a single nave with a stepped West door that is below some modillions that include an acrobat and an image of lust. Two side aisles have been added and a huge Gothic window inserted into the flat ended apse. There is a small bell wall.</p>
<p>Fouras</p>	<p>On the shore is a XVIIc (Vauban) fortress castle. It</p>

Near Rochefort	was built on the site of an earlier XIc castle that contained a chapel. The crypt of that chapel remains and is now a small museum.
Géay Notre Dame de l'Assomption North-west of Saintes	<p>This church was a dependency of the Abbey of Chaise Dieu, in the Auvergne. It has a plan similar to that of nearby Beurlay, Rioux and Rétaud, but the decoration is rather more subdued. The fine rounded apse has arches on three levels. On the lowest level there nine blind arches; on the middle level are seven windows and on the top level there are trios of smaller arches. There is a single nave and a cupola at the crossing with pairs of blind arches. The choir has thin, delicately carved columns. There are fine windows and two side chapels. There is a small South door and a West door that has subdued decoration. The sculptures date from the mid XIIc. There is a low octagonal tower set on a square base.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' pages 308 to 310</p>
Gémonzac West of Pons	Though originally a XIIc church, little remains. The apse is Gothic from the XIIIc; the nave has been rebuilt. The South door and the side chapels are probably XIIc as are elements of the tower on the North transept. The capitals are early XIIc.
La Genetouse South of the Saintonge	This church has a single nave and a rounded apse with attractive windows. There is a squat square tower over the crossing. It is built of a mixture of limestone and a grit-stone.
Genouillé	The West façade has three bays on two levels. The door is cusped and the lower side arches have

<p>Notre Dame</p> <p>North-east of Rochefort</p>	<p>diagonal stone-work like that at Vandré, nearby. This may symbolize water and, thus, the ups and downs of life. The main arch over the doorway has geometric patters. There is a line of modillions over the door. The nave walls have flat buttresses and there are huge (XVc?) buttresses by the transept to support the bell tower that no longer exists; it was replaced by a bell wall. There is a decorated door on the South side of the nave; this is now sealed. The church seems to have been built around the same period as that at Vandré, in the late XIIc.</p>
<p>Gensac le Pallue</p> <p>St Martin</p> <p>South-east of Cognac</p>	<p>This church has a single nave that is vaulted by cupolas on pendatives; these date from the XIIIc but were restored in the XVIIc. The base of the bell tower is also Romanesque; after a lightening strike the upper parts were restored by Abadie. The interior decoration was lost when the church was restored between 1850 and 1854. The West façade is divided into three levels. There are two levels of arches. Below the upper level of arches are two statues in mandorlas each supported by angels. To the left, the Virgin wearing a crown and a veil in the Syrian tradition; to the right, St Martin, Bishop of Tours. Below are more arches; these are decorated with diamond points and with capitals depicting fabulous beasts, and a cockerel, a symbol of violence and anger. These sculptures date from around 1150.</p> <p>See 'Itinaires Romanes en Saintonge', 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 183 to 185 and 'Saintonge Romane' pages 344 and 345</p>
<p>Germignac</p> <p>St Pierre</p> <p>East of Pons</p>	<p>This church is largely XIIIc or later. The West door is stepped with sculptured figures round the arch, including St Jacques. Each side of the door is a sculptured head that is set in foliage. There is a flat apse and transepts. On the South transept there are modillions of heads on the East wall and, at the South-west corner, a sculpture of a figure on an</p>

<p>Givrézac St Blaise South-west of Pons</p>	<p>animal (lion?).</p> <p>This church has a single nave and a narrow rounded apse. The apse has superb modillions including a bottom-shower, a penis-shower, a horse head, two fish, a man with a book, an owl, a man with a wafer. There are three windows with decorated arches. The West door is between two old worn columns and capitals; it dates from the XIc but was rebuilt along with the West façade in the XIIc. Above is a cross on an otherwise blank tympanum. Inside there is one large capital of stylized foliage similar to one on the apse. The vaulting is timber. The modillions resemble the style of those at Champagnolles. There are three ‘clocks’ on the South wall.</p> <p>See ‘La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge’ page 188</p>
<p>Gourvillette St Martial North-east of Cognac</p>	<p>The church was recorded in 900; the present church is XIIc and has a single nave. The tower and apse were added in the XVc, the original choir having been destroyed. The South wall of the nave was rebuilt at the same time. The West door is stepped and between capitals with lions, dragons and a female being eaten by demons. The arches are decorated with foliage, a diamond pattern and an angel. Above the door are modillions depicting heads. This decoration dates from the mid XIIc. There are at least 26 small graffiti crosses by the door. The North wall of the nave has three good, simply decorated windows.</p> <p>See ‘La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge’ pages 189 to 190 and ‘Saintonge Romane’ page 28</p>
<p>Grandjean East of Rochefort</p>	<p>This small church is of XIc origin. The two East bays of the North wall are from the mid XIIc; the third bay is late XIIc. The West door is stepped</p>

	<p>with simple foliage capitals. The apse is late XIIc. There are floral patterns on the arches over the windows. There is a squat square bell tower to the South of the crossing. In the choir, on the South wall are XVc frescos depicting a line of monks.</p>
<p>Grézac St Symphorien West of Pons</p>	<p>Only the apse/choir remains from the XIIc church. Today there are two parallel aisles and choirs. The South one is XIVc. That choir is over a square crypt. The XIIc apse is rounded. Only part of the South window remains; it has a decorated arch and pilasters. Inside, in the XIIc choir are two large XIIc capitals which date from a little after the mid XIIc; a third one has been reused on the South side of the XIVc choir. All depict foliage. The South wall of the XIIc choir has a XIIc window that now opens into the XIVc choir. On the 'outside' there is a pair of blind arches in addition to that window. Below the East bay is a small crypt with good capitals. It dates from the late XIIc/early XIIIc.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 191</p>
<p>Guitinières St Romain Jonzac area</p>	<p>This church has a fine decorated West façade; there are many geometric patterns. The apse was damaged but its South wall retains fine blind arches on two levels below a line that has decoration and good modillions. The base of the tower is XIIc and it retains some original decoration. The transept was rebuilt in the XV/XVIcs. There are fine sculptured capitals in the choir and at the crossing; one is almost identical to one at Salignac de Mirambeau. The sculptures are from the early XIIc with the reliefs being dated to 1120-1130. There is a cupola on trompes at the crossing; the cupola is rather square in shape. The North chapel is Gothic. The South chapel was added in the XVc, replacing the Romanesque one. There is a large fortified roof area over the nave from the XVIc.</p>

<p>Haimps</p> <p>St Symphoriam</p> <p>North of Cognac</p>	<p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 194 and 195, 'Haute Saintonge' page 21 and 'Saintonge Romane' page 28</p> <p>The original church was built in the XIc. The present church dates from the XIIc. It has a single nave where the original vaults have been replaced by a timber roof. The West façade comprises a plain door with a diamond pattern round the arch. Above are three blind arches. The North wall of the nave shows signs of attempts to burn it down. The windows of the nave and transept have decorated arches and small pillars with damaged capitals that depict lions. The apse is XVc. The square tower over the crossing has been rebuilt. There are many scaffold holes. Inside, there are large capitals each side of the nave and, at the crossing, are groups of large columns topped by large capitals that show foliage, beasts, palms, birds, an acrobat, an angel, a snake, lions, a mask, two men wrestling and St Michael and a dragon. The transepts have a rounded side chapel. The decoration shows influences from Aulnay and Salles lès Aulnay and it dates from around 1150. The North one has two capitals with foliage. There is a cupola on trompes.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 196 and 197 and 'Saintonge Romane' page 28</p>
<p>Houlette</p> <p>North-east of Cognac</p>	<p>This is a small, rectangular church from the late XIIc. It has a flat apse with three tall, slim windows. At the top of the wall are modillions including a siren, a musician and heads. The interior is plain apart from two short columns towards the West end; these have plain capitals. There is a free-standing foliage capital. The West façade has been rebuilt. There is a small bell wall.</p>

<p>La Jarde</p> <p>St Jacques</p> <p>South of Saintes</p>	<p>This XIIc church was built beside the original pilgrim route from Saintes to Pons, but it is now 150 metres to the East. The apse is XIIc and the West façade is modern; the nave is early XIIIc. The rounded apse has three largish windows; on the South side, above the window, is a small half-moon window similar to one at Tesson. There are two XIIc sculptures by the crossing; one of an acrobat is on the North side.</p>
<p>Jarnac-Champagne</p> <p>The Transfiguration</p> <p>South of Pons</p>	<p>Only the apse of this church is Romanesque. It was built as a dependency of Charroux (86). It is described as one of the 'Barroque' churches, along with Rioux and Rétaud. The apse is rounded with tall windows set in tall arches; these are between columns with fine capitals that are similar to those at Marignac; they depict animals and hunters. Inside, the choir has a cul-de-four vault. The stone work is elaborate along the lower two metres. There are strange intertwined columns. The capitals are finely carved; one is of two soldiers with shields and spears; another shows two men forcing open the jaws of lions. These date from 1146. The North transept has modillions of grotesque heads and, on the North wall, diagonal stones in a style to be seen at Rioux and Rétaud. The porch and tower were built in 1857.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 198 and 'Saintonge Romane' pages 314 to 337</p>
<p>La Jarrie-Audouin</p> <p>St Madeleine</p> <p>Aulnay area</p>	<p>Only the apse is Romanesque along with one window on the North wall of the nave. The apse is rounded and the apse has columns and decorated windows; the choir has two capitals with foliage and birds.</p>

<p>Jazennes</p>	<p>This church has a stepped door between two large blind arches. Above is a line of five more blind arches; the central one has been converted to a window. The arches around the top of the door have been remade and have a number of simple patterns. The columns to the sides are modern replacements; the original capitals have also gone. To the sides of the façade are groups of large incorporated columns. These have foliage capitals part of the way up. The nave has been heavily restored as has the square, three storey tower over the crossing. The apse is short and rounded. The modillions have all been damaged. On the South wall, below the tower, is a three line inscription spanning two large stones. There are two more stones on the South wall of the nave with a one line inscription. There are tacherons (a large arrow head) on a number of stones on the South side of the end wall of the façade to the nave and more graffiti both there and in the North blind arch of the façade. There is a stone on the South-west corner of an adjacent house with an inscribed floral cross in a circle.</p>
<p>Jussas South of the Charente-Maritime</p>	<p>This church has been rebuilt It has a low nave with narrow windows. The West façade is new. The apse which has large buttresses appears to be XVc.</p>
<p>Landes North of the Saintonge</p>	<p>This is a rectangular church. The West façade is XIIc, but the stepped door is recent. The North wall of the nave is largely XIIc, but most of the South wall has been rebuilt in the XV/XVIc. The apse is XIII/XIVc. Inside, on the North wall are XIIIc frescos of the Annunciation and the Burial of Christ.</p>
<p>Léoville St Christophe</p>	<p>This is a church from the late XIIc. It has a flat apse with slim windows. There are the remains of some capitals that depict small heads. On the</p>

<p>South-east of Jonzac</p>	<p>South side of the apse are three decorated windows; one is obscured in part. There is a single XIIIc nave with XVc windows. At the West end there is a a XVc porch below which there is a XIIIc door between two Romanesque blind arches. By the left arch there is a XIIc capital depicting a cross-legged figure. On the South wall of the nave are six 'clocks' and some graffiti.</p>
<p>Loire sur Nie Aulnay area</p>	<p>Of XIIc origin, this church retains the basic plan but has been almost entirely rebuilt. It is of little interest.</p>
<p>Lorignac St Pierre South-west of Pons</p>	<p>This was a XIIc church; it has had many subsequent alterations; these include the construction of two XVc Gothic side chapels and the rebuilding of the apse in the mid XIXc. The West façade has a stepped door and seven arches above it. There is a thin frieze of interlacings and the capitals draw their inspiration from St Eutrope, Saintes (crypt).</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 217 and 'Saintonge Romane' page 28</p>
<p>Lonchat Near Clisse, West of Saintes</p>	<p>This is a very small church with no exterior decoration. There is a single XIIc nave with narrow windows: the apse is XVc. The West door is stepped but plain.</p>
<p>Lonzay St Pierre Aulnay area</p>	<p>This fortified church has a three bay nave, a rounded apse, a cupola on trompes and a square tower above it. At the crossing are several good capitals that depict a man with an eagle and a man reading a book. The door is stepped, with a sculpture of a wolf's head on the left side and flowers similar to those at Aulnay.</p>

<p>Lussant North of the Saintonge</p>	<p>This church is of XIIc origin with a single nave and a rounded apse. But it has been over restored and lacks any character of interest.</p>
<p>Machennes South-west of Pons</p>	<p>This church has a single nave with a stepped West door. The capitals to the left depict foliage and appear to be replacements; those to the right depict two angels, birds and monsters. The arches have foliage decoration. The apse is flat ended with three slim windows.</p>
<p>Macqueville St Etienne North-east of Cognac</p>	<p>This church dates from the late XIc. It was badly damaged during the Wars of Religion and was restored in the XVIIc with further restoration between 1964 and 1972. It has a flat apse with a XIVc raised roof space. There are corbels on both sides and decorated windows; one on the North is largely obscured by the tower which is over the North transept. It is unfinished, but has two levels of openings with small foliage capitals. The North wall has a fine stepped door with arches decorated with foliage, men, beasts (including a camel) and monsters. At the apex is the Lamb of God. Over the door is a line of modillions with a further line at the top of the nave wall. These include images of animals, a musician, a woman carrying an animal etc. The South transept has more modillions with sculptured plaques in between. The West door is plain. Inside the nave has engaged columns with very fine capitals depicting foliage, Daniel and a Greenman. The North transept has a high cupola and a small plain side chapel. The South transept is plain. Around the choir are simple capitals. The sculptures in the nave and at the doorway date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the XIIc.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 219 to 221</p>
<p>Marignac</p>	<p>This was a dependency of Charroux (86). It has a</p>

<p>St Sulpice</p> <p>South-west of Pons</p>	<p>single nave that has been restored several times. The original vaults have been replaced by a timber roof. The apse crossing and transepts are late XIIIc. The nave was first restored in the XIVc. There is an octagonal cupola at the crossing. The choir has a broad band of sculptures depicting men in vines and a jungle of ringlets and hunting scenes with dogs. There are interesting capitals that depict the Unfaithful Lover, Combatants, Drunks, birds pecking at a head, archers, an owl that is disturbed.....It is both elegant and joyous, but without piety; there are some similarities with Corme Ecluse and the capitals draw inspiration from those in the upper church of St Eutrope, Saintes. The sculptor of the frieze was probably responsible for the door at Marcillac, in the North of the Gironde. On the apse are fine windows and modillions with images of Samson fighting the lion, images of lust and a barrel. There is a square tower with pairs of arches, each with two windows. There are tacherons on the apse and on the inside North wall of the nave: R, X, master builders A, a reversed P, a rounded M, an arc and a X with the top and bottom closed (this is to be seen at the Hospital, Pons and at Montignon). There are also graffiti: a boat in the last bay on the left of the nave, a boat on the South-west buttress, a bird on the North-west buttress, a pilgrim on the North exterior of the nave and a horse at the rear of the nave on the left side of the door.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 223 and 224 and 'Saintonge Romane' pages 266 to 269</p>
<p>Massac</p> <p>Notre Dame</p> <p>North-east of the Saintonge</p>	<p>This church has a stepped door with six capitals of foliage and an angel very similar to the one at Beauvais sous Matha. Above the door is a line of large modillions; these are of heads including one of a pig; there are ten more on the South wall of the nave. The nave has small windows. The interior of the nave has engaged columns topped by simple capitals; at the crossing are fine,</p>

	<p>sophisticated capitals that show demons eating a man, Angels leading the Just to their creator etc. In the choir there is an upside-down man and a complicated scene of snakes and a bird. The sculptures date from around 1150. There is a bell wall.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' page 29</p>
<p>Matha St Herie North of Cognac</p>	<p>This was a dependency of St Jean d'Angley. The apse is Gothic (mid XIIIc). Originally the nave was vaulted; the present pillars are recent. The West façade was partly destroyed at the upper part of the North side. The remainder has arches in threes on two levels; these are similar to those at Abbaye aux Dames. The arches are unusually wide. The top left arch used to have a rider (Emp. Constantine(?)). There is a well carved lady at the top right, though the head is a replacement. The remaining decoration resembles that at Aulnay and dates from the mid XIIc.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 225 to 227 and 'Les Eglises Romanes en Poitou-Charente' page 42</p>
<p>Matha-Marestay St Pierre North of Cognac</p>	<p>The original church was built before 1098. Only the apse and transept of this large XIIc church remain. The transepts and two side chapels are undecorated, but the apse has splendidly decorated windows, each with different patterns and each with fine capitals that are very similar to those at Aulnay. At the present façade of what was the crossing there are some splendid capitals depicting St Michael and the dragon, Daniel in the lions' den and monsters. All these sculptures date from 1150-1160.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 229 and 230 and 'Saintonge Romane' pages 189 to 192</p>

<p>Mazerolles South-west of Pons</p>	<p>This is a small rectangular chapel with a West door below a XVIIc porch and a small bell wall. The door is stepped but without decoration. The apse is narrower and flat ended. There is a graffiti boat on the South wall of the apse and some modillions above; one of these depicts a siren.</p>
<p>Meux East of Jonzac</p>	<p>This church has a single nave and a flat ended apse. The apse has three slim windows at the East end and decorated windows on the sides. The Western bays appear to have been rebuilt. Inside there are groups of columns topped by capitals at the crossing. These have simple foliage designs.</p>
<p>Médillac St Laurent Extreme south of the Charente near Chalais</p>	<p>This XIc village church has a single nave with a cupola on pendentives that fall onto plain capitals and columns at the crossing. There are two very narrow windows in the North wall and three in the south. There is simple diamond decoration on the exterior of the windows. The apse has three windows and two blind arches, also with a diamond decoration. The West façade is plain with small columns at the door with capitals that have a foliage pattern; the same pattern is over the doorway. The low tower has probably been rebuilt. There are large buttresses on the nave walls built of large stones and tiles. These are probably XIIIc or XIVc. All-in-all, a delightful church.</p>
<p>Medis East of Royan</p>	<p>This church has been rebuilt. It is large and has a Saintonge style façade. The apse is Gothic and is over a crypt. The North door is XIIc and has a re-used fragment of sculpture over it; it is of the Magi (2 of them).</p>

<p>Migron</p> <p>St Nazaire</p> <p>South-east of the Saintonge</p>	<p>This XIIc church has a single nave with stepped West and South doors and a rounded apse. The South door is very elaborately decorated with foliage patterns that are similar to that at Matha-Marestay. The West door is more restrained, with geometric patterns. There are good modillions over both doors and over the apse; these depict Ste Catherine's wheel, griffins, a gagged woman, a copulating couple....One window on the south side has a pattern of marguerites over it (see Thors). The nave vaults have been replaced by a timber roof. There are large capitals depicting avarice, a centaur and lions.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' page 29</p>
<p>Moings</p> <p>St Martin</p> <p>South of Pons</p>	<p>This is a small church with a single nave and a large, distinctive square tower over the crossing. This tower has rather heavy proportions but it has graceful arches and slim windows. Inside there are in the choir a lot of remarkable graffiti. On the North side are 'trials' of men soldiers and all manner of details. On the South side they are put together to create a single scene of the crusades.</p> <p>See leaflet and 'Saintonge Romane' page 362</p>
<p>Monguyon</p> <p>West of Chalais</p>	<p>This church dates from the late XI/early XIIc. It has a single nave, transepts and a long apse that is narrower than the nave. There is a tower over the crossing. The nave has been rebuilt. The interior lacks character following restoration. But the stepped West door is excellent; it has fine capitals, though some have been restored; they are of animals and geometric patterns. Above the door is a line of very weathered modillions.</p>
<p>Monterault</p>	<p>The small XIIc church is now a ruin and is privately owned. The outer walls to the West and</p>

North of the Saintonge	North have typically XIIc windows.
Montils	<p>This church has a single XIIc nave and a flat XIIIc apse. The West façade has a central door that was remade in the XVc; it is between two blind arches. The right arch has a damaged capital of a large bird whispering in the ear of a man. Above the door is a line of blind arches with remade capitals and a line of modillions that include images of a Catherine Wheel, a bottom-shower, a pig, etc. The nave has Gothic vaults and simple or plain capitals. Below the North side of the crossing is a crypt entrance that is now sealed and by the South wall of the nave a ‘cluseau’.</p>
St Sulpice	
Cognac area	
Montmoreau	<p>This is a former Benedictine monastic church that was a dependency of Abbaye de Nanteuil en Vallée (16). It was built in the second half of the XIIc but was later badly damaged during the Wars of Religion. It was restored in the late XIXc. The West door is cusped and has five arches with geometric designs that are similar to those at St Amand de Boixe (16). The tips of the cusps have sculptured heads, small animals and birds. There are two blind arches with small tympanums depicting lions. Above are five blind arches. The tower was rebuilt by Abadie. The extended transept has a cupola at the crossing. The choir is modeled on that of St Pierre, Angoulême, and has seven deep windows. There are capitals of birds, foliage and of people; the clothes of the people have unusual horizontal folds.</p>
St Denis	
South of Angoulême and North of Chalais	
Montpellier de Médillan	<p>This church has a single nave, a flat apse and a square tower over the crossing. The stepped West door is between blind arches with a line of arches</p>
South-west of Saintes and North-west of	

Pons	above them. But it all appears to have been rebuilt or over restored in the XIX/XXcs. There are fragments of XIIc sculptures depicting figures in the Nativity/ Epiphany in the right hand bay.
Mornac sur Seudre St Pierre North of Royan	<p>This XIIc church was built on the site of a Merovingian chapel; it has a long apse and transepts each with a rounded side chapel. The single nave retains part of the XIc walls but was rebuilt in the XIVc; the vaults of this collapsed. The choir has 13 arches, five with windows. The capitals are of foliage, one with interlacings and one of the Temple of Jerusalem (?). There is a frieze that includes interlacings. At the crossing is a cupola on trompes, above which is a very ugly fortified, square tower. The cupola was remade after a fire in 1943. The apse has three windows that are decorated with interlacings and foliage. Above the windows are groups of small bays; the group on the North have small columns and capitals of lions, an animal uttering foliage, a head in foliage and interlacings. There are engaged columns with capitals of birds and interlacings and friezes with a snake and more interlacings. There are modillions depicting a barrel, a boar's head, 'femme aux serpentes', a man with a wafer, a siren and interlacings. There is a small North door with a decorated arch. The decoration of the apse resembles that at Vaux sur Mer. The sculptures, which remarkably, show some Languedocian influences, date from the early XIIc (1120-1130).</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 233 and 234</p>
Mosnac-sur-Seugne St Saturnin West of Pons	This church has a late XIIc nave with a XVc Gothic side aisle. The West façade has a large stepped door between two blind arches and below four blind arches. There is a central window and a line of modillions that includes one of twins (modern?) The apse is rounded with blind arches and three windows and good modillions and a frieze. The modillions depict a ram, a centaur, an

	<p>image of lust, eagles etc. Over the apse is a squat tower. On the South wall of the nave are tacheron marks: A x 6, B x 10, E x 10, X with closed top and bottom x 3, N, a pole with two hooked arms and a star. Inside there are fine columns and capitals along the South wall of the nave. There is a graffiti crucifixion cross on the apse and a boat on the South wall of the nave.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 236</p>
<p>Nercillac South-east of the Saintonge</p>	<p>This church has little character having been extensively rebuilt. It has a single nave with a West end that was rebuilt in 1770. There is a square tower over the crossing and a flat ended apse.</p>
<p>Nère St Pierre ès Liens South-east of Aulnay</p>	<p>This church was a dependency of St Jean d'Angely. The church has a single nave. The West façade was rebuilt in the XIVc after damage in the One hundred Years War. On the North wall are the remains of a fine decorated door. Inside the nave the vaults were destroyed but the columns and capitals remain; the column on the North wall leans outwards significantly. The only original window is blocked. Over the crossing is a large cupola on pendatives falling onto almost plain capitals. Off each transept arm is a rounded side chapel with columns and simple foliage capitals. The apse is XIVc.</p>
<p>Neuillac St Pierre Near Jonzac</p>	<p>This church has a cusped door that was rebuilt in 1612. There are capitals each side that are from the mid XIIc. There is a blind arch each side; these have capitals with animals and foliage. There are modillions with animal and human heads above the door. The apse is rounded and there is a North transept. Inside there is some graffiti but there are no sculptures. On the South exterior there are four</p>

	<p>'clocks' and there are many scaffold holes on all sides except the West.</p>
<p>Neulles South-west of Archiac and South-east of Pons</p>	<p>This XIIc church has a long single nave and a flat ended XIIIc apse; this has three slim windows. A North aisle was added later. The West door is stepped but there are no sculptures remaining. Inside there are capitals in the choir; on the South side there is a very fine Greenman.</p>
<p>Neuvicq St Laurent North-east of the Saintonge</p>	<p>This church has a stepped West door between two blind arches. On the South wall are some Merovingian inscriptions.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' page 29</p>
<p>Nieul lès Saintes St Martin West of Saintes</p>	<p>This is a rural church. There is an interesting West façade. The central element and the tower are XVc Gothic. The choir and West façade date from 1130. The outer arch over the door has small dancing figures; it appears to be a take-off of the Wise Men of the Apocalypse; the men have harps, cymbals, wind instruments, flutes, violas and castanets. Above the door are two lions. The apse is plain but with geometric patterns over the windows. Inside, there is a cupola with fine groin vaults and capitals. These depict lions, foliage and interlacings. They are similar in character to the capitals at St Georges des Côteaux. The choir has small capitals by the windows and blind arches.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 238 and 'Saintonge Romane' pages 301 and 302</p>

<p>Nieuil le Viroul St Séverin North-east of Mirambeau</p>	<p>The tower of this church is of particular interest. It is squat, broad and square with arches on three levels. The arches are divided by plain columns with capitals and a line of Lombard bands. The tower is surmounted by a large 'pine-cone' cap. The West façade has a door between blind arches with a further line of XIIc blind arches above. There are modillions above them. There are more modillions on the West wall of the North transept, including one of a copulating couple.</p> <p>See 'Haute Saintonge' page 21</p>
<p>Nieuil sur Mer St Philbert Aunis</p>	<p>Of this XIIc church only the tower and façade remain. The remainder of the church was destroyed during the Wars of Religion and was subsequently rebuilt. The West door is plain and of late XIIc style. The tower is square and behind, and to the left of the door. On the East face is the outline of the arch leading to the old nave, with part of another to the North (suggesting it had at least two aisles); there is a third arch higher up the wall.</p>
<p>Nuaillé sur Boutonne Aulnay area</p>	<p>This XIIc church has a single nave and a rounded apse. The XIIc tower on the North wall by the crossing was destroyed during the Wars of Religion. The stepped West door shows strong influences from Aulnay. At the top is the Annunciation, Joseph foretelling the plagues, the Magi with Herod and with the baby Jesus, the Presentation at the Temple, the Massacre of the Innocents, the Wise and Foolish Virgins. The columns on each side of the door are twisted. The capitals at the side include Sampson and the lion and St George or St Michael and the Dragon. The nave wall inside is buttressed by large columns topped by simply carved capitals including a Greenman. There are narrow windows with broad</p>

<p>Orignolles</p> <p>South of the Charente-Maritime</p>	<p>decorated arches. The sculptures date from 1130-1140 There is a small bell wall.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 241 and 'Saintonge Romane' pages 354 to 356</p> <p>This former dependency of St Europe, Saintes, has a single nave that has been largely rebuilt. The apse is Gothic.</p>
<p>Ozillac</p> <p>St Michel</p> <p>South of the Charente-Maritime</p>	<p>This was single naved church dates from the XIIc. A North aisle was added in the XIIIc and a crypt was built. A South aisle was added in the XVc at which time much of the XIIc nave was rebuilt with a XVc façade. The XIIc apse is rounded. There are some large Romanesque style modillions on the North side. The church was fortified in the XVIc.</p> <p>See 'Haute Saintonge – Promenades Romanes' page 29</p>
<p>Pérignac</p> <p>St Pierre ès Liens</p> <p>North-east of Pons</p>	<p>This church dates from the XIc but it has been much restored. The main interest is in the West façade which dates from the XIIc, except the lower level which was rebuilt in the XVc. There is a stepped door with two capitals, one of foliage modeled on one at St Eutrope, Saintes; the other avarice, with an 'avere', a female and a demon. The arch of the door has horse 'bits'; this is also found at St Fort sur Gironde. Above is a line of seven blind arches with fine capitals and then a line of weathered modillions. These sculptures date from around 1150. There is a blocked Renaissance door and a defensive stairway to the tower on the South wall of the nave. Inside there is a single nave which was built in the late XIIc with finely sculptured capitals at the chancel. The choir was rebuilt in the XIII or XIVc. The vaults were destroyed in the Wars of Religion There is a</p>

	<p>cupola on trompes at the crossing. There is a tacheron of a bow or arc.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 217, 'Saintonge Romane' pages 255 to 259 and 'Haute Saintonge – Promenades Romanes.</p>
<p>Petit Niort</p> <p>St Martin</p> <p>South of Mirambeau</p>	<p>This rectangular church is in poor repair and appears to have been rebuilt in the past. The only external feature of interest is a window or 'claustra' on the North wall. The patterns are to be seen at Consac. The West door is stepped but plain but above is a line of blind arches. The façade is XIIc but the North wall of the nave is XIc; the remainder of the church is Gothic or later.</p>
<p>Plassac</p> <p>St Laurent</p> <p>South of the Saintonge</p>	<p>This church is of XI/XIIc origin, but it has been subsequently heavily restored. It has a single nave, a cupola on pendatives and a rounded apse. The West façade retains the original form but restoration has destroyed most of the character. It has a stepped door between blind arches. Above are five blind arches; each is polylobed.</p> <p>See 'Haute Saintonge' page 22</p>
<p>Plassay</p> <p>St Blaise and, later, Notre Dame</p> <p>North of Saintes</p>	<p>Only the apse remains from the XIIc church. It has been badly damaged. It is long, like those at Géay and Beurley. The windows have decorated arches. There are engaged columns with groups of foliage capitals about half way up their height. The columns form large blind arches. Most of the modillions are blank modern replacements. The remainder of the church is XVc (the tower) or XIXc (the West façade).</p>
<p>Pleine Selve</p>	<p>This former XIIc church has been severely</p>

<p>South of Mirambeau</p>	<p>damaged. Originally it probably had a nave with side aisles. The main part of the West end has been destroyed and a small bell wall has been added to the remains of the nave. The remaining building is rectangular. The East wall has three small windows that have been remade. There are some modillions each side of the apse.</p>
<p>Pons St Gilles</p>	<p>This small chapel is near the donjon, on the town walls. It appears to have a crypt above which is the chapel; this appears to have been rebuilt but retaining the XIIc door which has fine capitals which date from around 1130. The chapel was restored in 1904.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 254 and 255</p>
<p>Pons St Vivien</p>	<p>The main part of the church has been rebuilt and is of little interest. But the West façade has a Saintonge style stepped door. It is between two blind arches. The capitals are very worn but they depict foliage. The blind arches originally had a small statue.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' pages 360 and 361</p>
<p>Pons Pilgrim Hostel</p>	<p>The hostel, built for pilgrims was fully restored in 2004. The main building lies to the east of the road that goes below a wide arch that was attached to other structures that no longer exist. The entrance to the hostel is from the road side. There is a stepped door that has good capitals including a column-swallowing mask. There is a lot of graffiti on both sides – horse-shoes, pilgrims, crosses. There are also tacherons.</p> <p>See leaflet and 'The Pilgrims Guide' pages 284 and 285</p>
<p>Le Pont</p>	<p>This church has a single nave with a stepped West</p>

Commune of Mosnac South of Pons	<p>door. The capitals to the sides of the door are very weathered. Above the doorway is a line of modillions which have very simple patterns on them. There is a square tower over the South transept. The apse is Gothic.</p>
<p>Pont L'Abbé d'Arnoult</p> <p>St Pierre</p> <p>North-west of Saintes</p>	<p>Founded as a dependency of Abbaye aux Dames, Saintes in 1067, not much of that early church remains; it was replaced by a XIIc church. There are three bays of the North side of the nave and the lower part of the West façade. The façade has three bays separated by fine columns. The bays have diagonal stone-work; this may symbolize water and, thus, the ups and downs of life. The right bay depicts the crucifixion of St Peter with a line of griffons with men mounted on their backs below the sculpture and an arc of dancing figures above it. The columns are similar to those at St Denis d'Oléron. One of the Virtues carries a wheel (symbol of St Catherine) as at Corme Royale but this one has a pointed beard. The robe of one is attached at the shoulder by a buckle or clasp, which is a mark of high standing; this could be St George, who saved King Sileine from a monster. There are inscriptions around the sculptures. By the columns of the façade are friezes of foliage, interlaces and florets; many are modeled on those of antiquity. The overall quality is much more vibrant than at Aulnay. Inside, there are fine capitals in the nave at the top of engaged columns. These depict lions, griffins and foliage. All these sculptures date from around 1150. The tower and chapels off the transepts are Gothic.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 257 and 'Saintonge Romane' pages 144 to 179</p>
Préguillac	<p>This church dates from the late XIIc. It has a single nave. The West facade was rebuilt in the XVIc but</p>

<p>St Eulalie</p> <p>South-west of Saintes</p>	<p>has at the top left side three modillions; two depict heads; the other is of a small figure. There is a low squat tower over the crossing and a short flat ended apse that has a single window.</p>
<p>Puyravault</p> <p>Holy Trinity</p> <p>North of the Saintonge, East of La Rochelle</p>	<p>Little remains from the old church. It was probably pre-Romanesque but only the rounded apse, which has a Gothic window and a large pillar on the South side of the nave remain. The West façade of the fore-shortened nave is later. There is a XVIc South aisle which has some re-used modillions and two frieze stones in an external buttress.</p> <p>See leaflet</p>
<p>Réaux</p> <p>East of Jonzac</p>	<p>This church has a single nave with a West door set between two plain blind arches. The door has worn sculptures each side. Those to the left depict two men. Above the door is a window with a fine decorated arch. Each side are small blind arches and above is a line of modillions depicting animal heads. There is a square tower over the crossing; it has pairs of openings each of which is further subdivided. The apse is Gothic.</p>
<p>Reignac</p> <p>St Pierre</p> <p>Near Barbezieux</p>	<p>This was a dependency of Lesterps (16). The plan is in the form of a Latin cross. The cupola was rebuilt in the XVc. The South side was obscured in the XVIIIc by new constructions at which time a North side chapel was added. On the West side the Romanesque element is set between a Gothic extension and a large XVc buttress. The door is between two plain arcs. The mutilated capitals derive their inspiration from Abbaye aux Dames, Saintes. On the North transept the Romanesque door is blocked. There are sculptures on the wall. One shows two pairs of figures; the left pair appear to be waving their arms whilst talking; the left of</p>

	<p>these is a woman; the other, a man, is walking towards her. The right pair is possibly two seated bishops. There are two lions facing them. The tower was rebuilt in the XVIIc</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 260</p>
<p>Réparsac</p> <p>South-east of the Saintonge</p>	<p>This former XIIc church has been extensively rebuilt. The apse is flat ended. There is a modern, rectangular tower over the crossing. The West door is recent.</p>
<p>Rétaud</p> <p>St Trojan</p> <p>South-west of Saintes and North-west of Pons</p>	<p>This is a XIIc church that, along with Rioux and Jarnac-Champagne, is sometimes described as 'Baroque Romanesque'. There is a single nave and no transept. The tower and chancel are XVc. There was a major restoration around 1760 with further restoration in the XXc. These restorations did not change the overall plan. The church was built in two phases from the east with the break between the second and third bays of the nave. The façade is plain with a rebuilt stepped West door with two arches that are decorated with patterns and each side is a blind arch; the South one has decorated capitals and arch. Above is a frieze and there are modillions. These may have been remodeled. Only the lower level of the façade is original. The apse has seven bays with decoration that is similar to that at Rioux. There is diagonal stone-work that may symbolize water and, thus, the ups and downs of life. Around the windows and below them is a frieze. There are groups of three blind arches above the windows; these are finely decorated with crossed 'batons'; there are modillions above. The choir has decorated windows and plain columns with capitals. The sculptures date from the mid XIIc; the second building phase dates from about 1170.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 263 and 'Saintonge romane' pages 314 to 337</p>

<p>Richemont St Georges North of Cognac</p>	<p>The crypt was entirely rebuilt between 1856 and 1857 after the old one collapsed in 1848. The XIc crypt below it remains. It has fine capitals similar to those at St Eutrope, Saintes (crypt); these were carved from the same blocks as their supporting columns.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 266 to 267</p>
<p>Rioux Notre Dame West of Pons</p>	<p>This is a XIIc church that is sometimes described as being 'Baroque Romanesque', along with Rétaud and Talmont. The South transept was added in the late XIIc/early XIIIc and the North transept in the XVc. The single nave has three bays with large buttresses and an interior stairway added to the West bay in the XVc. The bell tower is also XVc. The XIX and XXc restorations recreated much of the original feel of the church. The West door has four arches that are decorated with geometric patterns. Above the door is a line of narrow arches; there are seven plus two tall, narrow outer ones, each having an arc of attractive leaf patterns. The central one has the Virgin and Child in a mandorla, with the remains of hands and feet on the edge of the mandorla. Above is a line of interesting modillions and a round window. The apse is a mass of detail. There are five windows and bays with patterned stone-work below; this comprises scallops and diagonal stones – see remarks for Rétaud – and crossed batons (to be seen also at Rétaud). These are between tall columns. Around the windows are intricate patterns. Above them is a line of blind arches, four to each bay with more fine decoration that is similar to that on the West façade. Above these bays are more patterns of crossed batons and there are modillions depicting a cockle-shell, heads, a drunk. An archer etc. Inside, the choir has zig-zag columns similar to those at Jarnac-Champagne. The sculptures date from around the mid XIIc.</p>

<p>Rioux-Martin West of Chalais</p>	<p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 269 to 271 and 'Itinaires Romanes en Saintonge' and 'Saintonge Romane' pages 314 to 337</p> <p>This church has undergone extensive restoration. There is a single nave with one large and one small bay. There is an elliptical cupola at the crossing. The apse, tower the West smaller bay of the nave and the façade have probably all been rebuilt.</p>
<p>Rochefort Notre Dame</p>	<p>This church was severely damaged and now is the property of a small museum. Inside are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Elements of a door arch, including sculptures of foliage, birds and part of a centaur.</li> <li>2. A sculpture of an Old Man of the Apocalypse.</li> <li>3. A capital depicting the Adoration (damaged).</li> <li>4. A capital from Ballon of a bird pecking a lion with a man to the side.</li> </ol> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 272 to 274</p>
<p>Romazières Aulnay area</p>	<p>This chapel is similar to the one at Les Eduts. It has a stepped West door with three of the four capitals remaining; two depict a 'Y' with a scroll on each of the upper arms and a head. The apse is rounded. Over the West door is a line of flat modillions. There are some simply carved capitals at the crossing. The choir is narrower than the nave.</p>
<p>Rouffignac St Christophe</p>	<p>This church dates from the early XIIc but has been greatly altered. There is a single nave with a long flat ended apse. The apse, which dates from the early XIIIc, has three blind arches each side which</p>

Near Mirambeau	<p>are finely decorated. The transepts are from the XIIc. The North transept has modillions that may be modern replacements. The octagonal tower over the crossing has a Romanesque base and a second storey that is in Gothic style. The West façade was rebuilt in the XIXc. Inside, the choir has a ribbed vaulted roof and six good capitals that include depictions of David, Adam and Eve, a reliquary on an altar guarded by figures; these are inspired by St Eutrope, Saintes and are of 1120-30 origin.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 275 and 276, 'Haute Saintonge – Promenades Romanes' and 'Saintonge Romane' page 30</p>
St André de Lidon West of Pons	<p>This former XIIc church appears to have been entirely rebuilt. The West door is XVIIIc; there is a single nave and a rounded apse. To the South is a shorter, flat ended aisle that has a XIIIc style stepped West door with simple foliage capitals. The North part of the church has many reused columns in the stonework. There is a squat square tower over the crossing of the North aisle.</p>
St Avit West of Chalais	<p>This is a XIc church though only the structure below 5 metres is original. It has a single nave with columns and plain capitals. The nave has a single bay. There was a cupola on pendentives at the crossing; it has since collapsed. There are three very narrow windows in the apse. The fortified tower has been extensively restored. The West façade has been rebuilt.</p>
St Bonnet sur Gironde Gironde Estuary	<p>There are only fragments remaining of the XIIc church. The original rounded apse is now flat ended. The original single nave with North transept is now enclosed with a North side aisle and a North chapel next to the former choir. There is a cupola on pendentives at the crossing and an original capital depicting a man supporting the</p>



<p>St Ciers du Taillon</p> <p>St Cierque</p> <p>South-west of Pons</p>	<p>Though of XIIc origin only a few vestiges remain; these are in the nave. The tower and West door are XIIIc and in Gothic style.</p>
<p>St Colombe</p> <p>Extreme South of the Saintonge</p>	<p>This is a small church with a XIIc nave and a Gothic apse. The West façade is in Saintonge style with a door set between columns that are topped by unusual turned capitals. The stone is ashlar. Above is a line of five blind arches between small columns. The nave is built from small stones set in neat rows with small windows on the North wall. The South wall has a line of farm buildings along the full length. Over the crossing is a squat square tower.</p> <p>See 'Haute Saintonge – Promenades Romanes' page 32</p>
<p>St Coutant Le Grand</p> <p>North of the Saintonge</p>	<p>This is a XIc church with a single nave. There is a bell wall over the West door, which is stepped. To the right is a capital with an upside-down man holding two stone-axes and a pair of birds. To the left is a fish (?). The West bays of the nave are XIc. The flat ended apse is XIIc with modillions including a bottom-shower.</p>
<p>La Croix Contesse</p> <p>South of Niort</p>	<p>This church is called 'Eglise roti' because of the extensively scorched exterior, the results of the Wars of Religion. The apse is flat ended with a tall, slim window in the East wall and two larger ones on the sides; these last have fire-damaged capitals. The nave is modern. Inside the choir are six simple capitals. The church was restored between 1987 and 1994.</p>

<p>St Denis d'Oléron Ile d'Oléron</p>	<p>The façade was built in the mid XIIc but was rebuilt in the XVIc with some Renaissance decoration added. The 'Priory Church of Charrison' was given by the Count of Anjou to Saintes in 1047. It was sacked in 1584 when the tower was destroyed and again in 1598.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' page 30</p>
<p>St Denis du Pin Aulnay area</p>	<p>The main interest of this XIIc church is in the tower. It is tall and is on the South wall. There are three stories and it is square; it has a number of arches, some of which are now closed.</p>
<p>St Dizant de Bois South of the Charente</p>	<p>This church is from the XIIc. It has a simple door below a lightly decorated arch. Each side are two blind arches that rise the full height of the façade. Over the door are two small blind arches between solid pillars. A small graffiti by the door (left side) is made from small holes in a triangle. The nave appears to have been rebuilt. The tower on the North side is XVIc. The choir is late XIIc and is flat ended with three tall slim windows. On the North buttress are two geometric circles. On the main end wall and the South-east buttress is a fleur-de-lys. On the South wall are two axe heads and an archer</p>
<p>St Eugene Near Archiac</p>	<p>Only one bay of the nave is Romanesque. The apse, which is long and flat ended, is early XIIIc and so is the West façade. There is a squat, octagonal tower over a cupola that is on pendatives. The tower has short, wide central windows with a central pillar. On the South of the nave are two Romanesque windows.</p> <p>See 'Haute Saintonge – Promenades Romanes'</p>

<p>St Fort sur Gironde Gironde Estuary</p>	<p>page 6</p> <p>Little remains of the XIIc church except the West facade. The choir and nave are Gothic, although the nave retains early XIIIc walls. The bell tower is Renaissance. The West façade dates from the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the XIIc; it has a Saintonge style door with an arch of horse's heads. The door is between two blind arches. Above is a line of seven blind arches above which is a line of modillions. The arches are bordered by columns with carved capitals.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 281 and 282 and 'Saintonge Romane' pages 255 to 259</p>
<p>St Gemme North-west of Saintes</p>	<p>The date of foundation is 1074. In 1079 Chaise Dieu sent three Benedictine monks called Artaud, Théodard and Robert to build and organize the priory; (L'Art Roman – R. Crozet). Only the West wall of the transept remains from the first church; this is now part of the apse of the present church. The remainder of the apse and the transept, which were the parts of the church built in the first phase, were destroyed. The nave and porch are XIIc, but most of the West façade, which is in Saintonge style, is the result of XIX/XXc restoration. The vaults of the nave are XIXc The decoration of the porch/narthex is inspired by that of Aulnay and depicts flowers, foliage and, each side of the door, interlacings. In the nave are capitals of foliage and on the South-east corner of the apse is a capital from the first church depicting interlacings; this capital was from the transept of the first church. Both lots of capitals date from 1140-1150. On the South-east side are the remains of the Chapter House and on the South side the former monastic buildings are dwellings. There is one XIIc capital low on the South wall of the nave of dragons.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' page 30 and 'La</p>

<p>St Georges des Agouts Near Mirambeau</p>	<p>Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 311 to 313</p> <p>Only the door of the West façade is of any real interest. It is early XIIc and has three arches with fine geometric patterns and a decorated capital each side; the one on the left has a siren and a fish similar to one at St Fort sur Gironde. Inside there are simple foliage capitals. All these sculptures date from the first half of the XIIc. The crossing is built over a very small crypt entered by a small trap-door. The South aisle is XVc and the flat ended apse has been rebuilt.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 357 and 'Haute Saintonges – Promenades Romanes' page 25</p>
<p>St Georges des Côteaux West of Saintes</p>	<p>Only the area of the crossing remains from the original XIIc church and its vaults are from the XIVc. The choir is XIIIc. There is nothing of interest on the exterior but inside are very fine capitals that are similar in character to those at Nieul lès Saintes, but these are finer. They depict winged monsters, lions, snakes and a particularly fine group with interlacings. These sculptures date from 1120.</p>
<p>St Georges D'Oléron Ile d'Oléron</p>	<p>Most of the nave is XIIc. The West façade was built in the late XIIc but the lower level was restored in the XVc; it has four decorated arches and is below a line of modillions that, in turn, have a line of four low arches above them. The walls of the nave have been raised, probably during the XIVc.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' page 30</p>

<p>St Germain de Vibrac</p> <p>East of Jonzac</p>	<p>The XIIc church was severely damaged during the Hundred Years War and was rebuilt subsequently. Of the original church only some modillions remain. They have been re-used on the South side of the apse. In the main they depict heads, several with unusual hats.</p>
<p>St Germain sur Seudre</p> <p>South-west of Pons</p>	<p>The west end of the nave and the apse of this XIIc church were destroyed. The West door has been rebuilt in neo-Romanesque style below a modern spire. The doorway has copies of the original sculptures which include an arc of horse heads and a capital (right of the door) depicting a bottom-shower with an additional head under the arms. The nave walls retain the outlines of the XIIc windows with a simply decorated arch.</p>
<p>St Gregoire D'Ardennes</p> <p>South of Pons</p>	<p>This is a small, rectangular chapel from the XIIc. It has a stepped West door and has small buttresses.</p>
<p>St Hilaire du Bois</p> <p>South-west of Jonzac</p>	<p>This XIIc church has a flat ended apse and a single nave. The West façade has a plain door between two plain blind arches. There are five further blind arches above them. Over the crossing is a tower that has been rebuilt; it has some modillions depicting heads and one with twins. There is a graffiti shield and two crosses near the door. On a North buttress is a large stone with herring bone patterning. On the nave walls are the outlines of XIIc windows.</p>
<p>St Hippolyte</p> <p>Near La Rochelle</p>	<p>This church is of XIIc origin. On the West façade is a polylobed door which has a Renaissance insert. It is between two blind arches and below a line of nine arches. There are large columns that</p>

<p>St Léger</p> <p>North of Pons and South of Saintes</p>	<p>are topped by capitals with cockle-shells at the corners. Round the blind arches is a daisy pattern. The nave has four bays, the East one was later rebuilt but it contains, on the North side, the outline of the doorway to the crypt; this has been filled in, but it used to contain the relics of St Hippolyte. There is a fortified area over the nave and a small tower on a XIIc base on the South side of the crossing. The apse is Gothic.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' page 30</p> <p>This church has a long, single nave that dates from the XIIc and a short, flat ended Gothic choir. The West façade has a stepped door that is between two plain blind arches; the door is not decorated. Above the door there is a line of modillions that depict heads and a line of five arches between small columns that have decorated capitals. These and the modillions date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the XIIc. On the door arch is a Latin inscription of welcome and blessing. The South wall of the nave has been rebuilt but has many tacherons and a stone with lots of marks, including the pie-sign twice, an E, a V and a triangle; the tacherons include 3 x reversed B, 2 x R, an A and four others signs. There are also three circle marks; there is another at the North-west corner. The nave has six bays with on the North side small windows with a thin line of decoration over each. There are seven rosettes (3 pairs and a single) below two windows and on two buttresses. Very similar rosettes are to be found along the top of the West façade at St Fort sur Gironde. At the top of the wall are modillions depicting heads of men, monsters, a stone-mason, a bishop and a phallic man. There is a rebuilt tower over the crossing. On the nave walls are several scaffold holes.</p> <p>See 'Haute Saintonge – Promenades Romanes' page 19</p>
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<p>St Lheurine North of Pons</p>	<p>Three bays of the nave are XIIc. The choir and West façade are Gothic, as is the North side aisle. Over the West door there are large Romanesque-style modillions depicting heads. The square tower at the East end of the transept is later still. The South wall of the nave has simply decorated windows.</p> <p>See 'Haute Saintonge – Promenades romanes' page 9</p>
<p>St Mandé sur Brédoire St Brice Aulnay area</p>	<p>The decoration of this church has many characteristics that come from the Aulnay sculptures; but here they are less refined. The church has a rounded apse and a single nave with a stepped South door. The apse has what appear to be modern modillions and capitals on engaged columns. The door is stepped with arches that are decorated with flowers, Signs of the Zodiac and monsters. There is a group of seven bishops, a soldier, Adam and Eve, a musician, snakes, lovers, dragons and birds. This decoration dates from around 1150. There are lots of tacherons; 15 x W, P, R and R reversed and +.</p> <p>See leaflet and 'Haute Poitou Roman' page 340</p>
<p>St Mand St Médard North near Sugères</p>	<p>The facade is XIIc; it has an undecorated West door that is stepped. The single nave has largely been rebuilt. The flat ended apse is Gothic and there is a small bell wall over the crossing.</p>
<p>St Martial de Loulay Aulnay area</p>	<p>This fortified church has a three bayed nave, a rounded apse, a cupola on trompes and a square tower above it. At the crossing are several good capitals including a man reading a book and a man with a bird of prey (eagle). The door is stepped with a sculpture of a wolf's head on the left side and flowers similar to those at Aulnay.</p>

<p>St Martial de Vitaterne North edge of Jonzac</p>	<p>This church has a single nave, the west end of which has been destroyed. The original apse, South transept and South chapel have also been destroyed. The North chapel is rounded. On the North wall of the nave the outlines of the XIIc windows may be seen. Against the North wall are two Merovingian tombs that were found near by.</p>
<p>St Martial sur Né East of Pons</p>	<p>Little of this church is Romanesque. The square tower over the crossing is XIIc. The choir is XVIc. The nave has mostly been rebuilt, including the West door. There is graffiti each side of the door. Inside there are no significant Romanesque features left.</p>
<p>St Martin de Mirambeau Near Mirambeau</p>	<p>Most of this church has been rebuilt; but elements of the tower with two levels of short, plain arches look XIIc. The tower is over an exposed arch to the transept.</p> <p>See 'Haute Saintonge – Promenades Romanes' page 24</p>
<p>St Martin d'Avy The South of Charente-Maritime North-west of La Roche Chalais</p>	<p>This is a very attractive little church. It has a single nave and a rounded apse. The apse has fine, large arches between tall columns that are topped by fine capitals. There are three small windows. The West façade is in Angoumois style, with a door between two blind arches with a line of seven blind arches above. There are modillions on the apse and West wall. They include depictions of a deer's head and two copulating couples.</p> <p>See 'Saintonge Romane' page 30</p>
<p>St Martin de Coux</p>	<p>This church has a rounded apse and the choir has</p>

<p>Near Jonzac</p>	<p>blind arches divided by columns with simply carved capitals The base of the square tower is XIIc; the remainder of the tower was rebuilt in the XIXc, as was the nave.</p> <p>See 'Haute Saintonge – Promenades Romanes' page 36</p>
<p>St Martin de Jouillers Aulnay area</p>	<p>This little church is of XIc origin. It has a single nave and a rounded apse. The West door has been rebuilt. The remains of a fine decorated door are on the North wall. The apse windows are decorated and there is a line of modillions. The square tower has decorated windows and is over a cupola.</p> <p>See leaflet</p>
<p>St Maurice de Laurençanne The South of Saintonge</p>	<p>This is a small chapel of XIIc origin that has since been mostly rebuilt. It has a plain stepped West door with blind arches each side. There is no external decoration but there is a graffiti boat to the right of the door.</p>
<p>St Ouren la Thène North-east of the Saintonge</p>	<p>This XIIc church has recently (2003) been well restored. The West façade below a small bell wall has a stepped door with simple foliage capitals. Each side is a blind arch. Above is a line of modillions, including a male and female image of lust, a child. There seven graffiti marks on the South-west corner (the bottom half of a star). The apse is smaller than the nave and has small windows and both original and restored modillions that include a penis-sucker, birds, a cat giving birth to a baby monster, etc. There is a square tower over the crossing. Inside the nave are engaged columns with simple capitals and there are more columns and capitals at the crossing.</p>

<p>St Palais de Phiolin</p> <p>West of Pons</p>	<p>This church has a rounded apse with a decorated window and a few modillions. The walls were raised, probably in the XIVc. The nave is XIIc but was restored in the XIVc in the centre part. There is a fine West façade with a large stepped door that is below four small blind arches and, at the apex, a decorated window. The decoration is good and comprises geometric patterns. There is a XIVc fortified space over the nave. There is a graffiti peacock on the North wall.</p>
<p>St Pardoult</p> <p>Aulnay area</p>	<p>This is a very small chapel with a rectangular nave and a small, flat ended apse that has been almost entirely rebuilt. There is a small bell wall. It is of little interest.</p>
<p>St Pierre de l'Isle</p> <p>Aulnay area</p>	<p>This is a very interesting church that was first recorded in 1104. It has a single nave, the vaults of which have gone and which were replaced in the XXc; the apse is rounded and the tower and side chapel date from the XVc. The West façade has a stepped door with Aulnay-influenced decoration of diamond patterns. There are mutilated capitals that depict the Nativity, Christ with Sts Peter and Paul and a frieze of cats' heads. Each side of the door is an inscription: 'Haec est dominus dei et porta coeli'. Inside the nave there are short columns with sculptures at their base including soldiers fighting a winged dragon and two soldiers. The rounded apse has engaged pillars and well decorated windows. The choir has capitals that show influences from Aulnay. The sculptures in the choir and on the West façade date from the mid XIIc. The walls were raised to create a roof space.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 285</p>
<p>St Pierre de Palais</p>	<p>This is a single naved church with a small rounded</p>

Jonzac area	apse. Both appear to have been rebuilt. The bell tower is Gothic. There are poor quality, but XIIc, columns and capitals.
St Quantin de Rançanne South-west of Pons	<p>This is a former convent church. It has been much altered since it was built between 1160 and 1170. the bell tower was destroyed in the XVc and was replaced by a bell wall The Romanesque element is the West façade. The door was rebuilt in the XV or XVIc retaining the original arch decorated with flowers and foliage. Above it are blind arches, topped by a line of modillions. Below the arches is a line of horse heads similar to but cruder than those at nearby St Fort sur Gironde and to those at Pérignac which was built 20 years later. Each horse has a bit in its mouth. These sculptures date from the 1<sup>st</sup> third of the XIIc.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 291 and 'Saintonge Romane' pages 255 to 259</p>
St Quentin de Chalais South of Chalais	<p>Now in the Charente, this church was once in the Périgord. It was a XIIc church but has been altered since. The apse is rounded with minimal decoration on the windows. The transept is late XIIc with high windows each side. The West façade is in Saintonge style with stepped arches. There is no decoration today but probably was in earlier times. There are plain columns and capitals. Round the apse are modillions of heads. Inside, There is a fine, but simple choir with a cul-de-four vault. There is a cupola over the crossing and excellent capitals depicting foliage, animals, birds drinking from a chalice and one large column of the Flight into Egypt (?). Originally there was single nave, but side aisles were added in the XIVc. The walls were raised to create a defensive area that has lots of window slits.</p>
Ste Radagonde	This is a XIc church. It has a single nave with flat

<p>North of the Saintonge</p>	<p>buttresses and with several small windows high up on the wall. The West door is stepped, probably XIIIc. The apse is XIV/XVc. Over the West door is an arch with a diamond pattern similar to that at Annepont and Géay. The North door has been blocked. The nave is timber vaulted. Above the West door are two rows of modillions depicting heads of animals. There is a small bell wall over the West end.</p>
<p>St Ramée South of Mirambeau</p>	<p>This church is very similar to that at St Sorlin de Conac. It has a polygonal apse with engaged columns. The apse has been repaired. There is a single nave of which the South and West walls have been rebuilt. At the crossing are two large capitals depicting a griffin with a serpent's tail and the Devil between two people.</p>
<p>St Romain de Benet East of Royan and West of Saintes</p>	<p>The church dates from the XIIc but the apse was rebuilt in the XIXc. The nave was severely damaged in the XVIc. The West façade was rebuilt in the XIXc. The nave has two large cupolas but they are XIXc; the nature of the original vaults is not known. Each side of the nave is a group of columns with capitals with figures, horsemen and foliage. The paintwork on them is XIXc. They are from the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the XIIc.</p>
<p>St Romain sur Gironde Gironde estuary</p>	<p>This small rectangular church is a sad relic of the church that dates from the XIIc. It was badly damaged in the One Hundred Years War. The church was built on the site of an early (VIIc) graveyard from which some stones were re-used in the small tower on the South of the crossing. In the church there are traces of Gothic arches.</p>
<p>St Saturnin de Saintes North of Saintes</p>	<p>This Romanesque church has the apse at the West. At the East end there is a XVIc porch and door. There are short transepts. The North one has a neo-</p>

	<p>Romanesque door. The apse is rounded with an ugly modern structure on the South and South-east. There is a line of large modillions of heads. The North wall of the nave has a line of large modillions depicting heads. Inside, there are groups of capitals at the small crossing where there is a cupola on trompes. The capitals are of foliage; one has a bird with the wings held open. By the entrance to the North transept is a capital with heads.</p>
<p>St Sauvant St Sylvain Cognac area</p>	<p>This very solid looking church is set on a ridge above the village. It has a single nave, a rounded apse and a square tower over the crossing which has a cupola on pendatives. It has huge XVc buttresses on the West and South sides. The West door is stepped with three arches that appear to have been restored. It is between two large capitals with sculptured foliage. Above and on the transepts are modillions that include a horse head with a circular disc (wafer?)(see also St Trojan), a man with a huge barrel (2), heads etc. On the apse are Lombard bands that end in small heads. Around the church are XIIc undecorated tomb stones.</p>
<p>St Savien North of the Saintonge</p>	<p>This church is mainly XIIIc and has little in the Romanesque style. The façade has a stepped door with large modillions depicting heads above it. The capitals are sculptured with ‘tear-drop’ patterns.</p>
<p>St Seurin de Uzès Gironde Estuary</p>	<p>This is a small church of XIIc origin. It has a single nave and a rounded apse. There is no external decoration apart from a small bell wall.</p>

<p>St Sigismund de Clermont North of Mirambeau</p>	<p>This is a small church with a single nave. It dates from the XIIc but little remain from that period. The apse is later, possibly XVIIc and the nave was rebuilt in the XVIc with a small bell wall at the East end. The West façade was rebuilt in the XIXc.</p> <p>See 'Haute Saintonge – Promenades Romanes' page 21</p>
<p>St Simeon de Pelbuaillé St Laurent</p>	<p>This is a typical XIIc Saintonge style church. It has a single nave with a stepped West door. The arches are decorated with patterns and flowers. The capitals to the left are similar to those in the crypt of St Eutrope, Saintes; those to the right depict lions. Above is a line of seven blind arches. The apse is flat ended and has been rebuilt. There is a tower off the North transept; it has a huge square base with triple blind arches. The top is octagonal but is post XIVc.</p>
<p>St Simon de Bordes Near Jonzac</p>	<p>This XIIc church has a single nave with a stepped West door below a line of arches. The nave has three large bays with several very tall, slim windows. There are a couple of modillions. The apse was destroyed and has been replaced.</p>
<p>St Sorlin de Conac Near Mirambeau</p>	<p>Only the polygonal apse is Romanesque. It has engaged columns, but is otherwise plain.</p>
<p>St Sornin St Saturnin West of Saintes</p>	<p>Time has been harsh to this church. It was founded in 1047 and the present church was built in the XIIc. The two West bays have been destroyed and the original rounded apse has been replaced by one from the XVc; it is flat ended and has XVIIc frescos. The bell tower was reconstructed in the XVc. The nave has narrow side aisles that lead to</p>

	<p>the arms of the transept. The chapels off these are XVc. The main interest lies in the very fine capitals of the nave plus one free standing one. Two at the West end depicting lions and foliage are damaged. The others include Daniel between two lions, foliage similar to that in the crypt at St Eutrope, Saintes and other foliage patterns and interlacings (at the crossing). These are from the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the XIIc.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture en Saintonge' pages 295 to 297</p>
<p>St Sulpice d'Arnoult North-west of Saintes</p>	<p>Of this church, the nave and transepts are XIIc. The tower over the cupola at the crossing has a XIIc base and an octagonal upper level from the XIIIc; the apse and North chapel are probably XVc; the South transept, which is over a partially buried crypt, dates from the XIVc. The nave has a stepped West door with capitals depicting interlaces, birds, lions and foliage. There is a frieze of interlace to the right. The arches over the door are finely decorated with foliage, birds and cones. Inside there are carved capitals. Most depict foliage but one is of figures with animal feet. There is a small head on the South wall. At the West end of the choir there are two bays formed by blind arches. The sculptures, which have similarities with those at Nieul lès Saintes, date from the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the XIIc. On the exterior South wall is a group of three clock/circles. The tower has openings on the North and East faces only. There are faint decorative patterns on the capitals in the arches.</p>
<p>St Sulpice de Cognac South-east of the Saintonge</p>	<p>Though from the XIIc it has been extensively rebuilt. It has a stepped West door between worn capitals below a line of blind arches. There is a single nave with transepts each with a rounded side chapel. The apse has been destroyed. The square tower over the crossing has been rebuilt.</p>

<p>St Sulpice de Royan North of Royan</p>	<p>This church has a single nave that has been rebuilt. The transepts and choir were destroyed but the choir was rebuilt. The West façade has a stepped door between two very small arches like the arrangement at Breuillet, but here there is only one level and it has been heavily restored. Inside, at the crossing are groups of six columns; these are topped by capitals with a scallop design. Outside on the edges of where the transept was are damaged capitals of foliage. There is some frescoing at the crossing (XVIIIc?). There is a square tower over the crossing that is in Romanesque style with groups of slim bays.</p>
<p>St Thomas de Conac Gironde Estuary</p>	<p>Originally a priory church, in 1070 it was a dependency of Abbaye de Savigny (Diocese of Lyon). The nave and West façade were rebuilt after 1859 when the nave vaults collapsed. The choir is of exceptional interest. It dates from the XIc; it has arches on two levels. The lower level has a group of four blind arches each side with flat columns between each. Behind the altar are five more blind arches, separated by short columns topped by large capitals decorated with foliage that is similar to that at Bougneau). Only two are original and are dated '24 September....' (no year).The upper level has blind arches and windows separated by columns with carved capitals of foliage and birds. The exterior windows of the apse have decorated arches; these are geometric patterns. This church has similarities with that at Sémillac. The sculptures date from the late XIc.</p> <p>See' La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 304, 'Saintonge Romane' pages 109 to 111 and 'Haute Saintonge – Promenades Romanes' page 25</p>

<p>St Trojan Cognac area</p>	<p>Parts of this church date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the XIc. Both the first bay of the apse and nave have traces of ‘opus spicatum’ stonework. On the interior North wall is a line of late XIc modillions. The West door is set in a triangular frame with cylinders on a saw-tooth pattern. There, is one old capital of interlaced foliage to the right; the remaining ones are blank. Each side of the door is a XIIc tomb top with triple arched decoration. There are graffiti crosses and three sundials to the right of the door. There is a small, square XIIc tower to the South of the crossing. It has arches with a pair of windows. There is a capital with a head. Round the apse are modillions depicting a horse head with a round billet or wafer (see St Sauvant), twins, a soldier, interlacing and two images of lust. In the choir are two capitals with bas-relief sculptures of patterns, a man beside a palm and two birds at a chalice. The sculptures on that façade date from the late XIc; the modillions on the apse show influences from Aulnay and date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the XIIc.</p> <p>See ‘La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge’ pages 307 to 309</p>
<p>Saigne Notre Dame Aulnay area</p>	<p>This is a simple chapel with a bell wall over the West door. There is a single nave and a rounded apse. In the nave are engaged columns with almost plain capitals.</p>
<p>Saintes Abbaye aux Dames</p>	<p>The abbey was founded in 1047 by Geoffroi Martel and his wife, Agnès, as a Benedictine convent. In 1117 the abbey was refashioned with cupolas that rested on pillars that were independent of the walls. The nave walls were raised and the nave was extended West to accommodate a second dome. The present façade was reconstructed in</p>

<p>Saintes</p> <p>St Eutrope</p>	<p>1648 though further changes were made to return the side bays to their former state. The cupolas were destroyed as the result of fire. Following the Revolution the abbey was used as a prison; the insertion of an additional level did considerable damage. In addition to the sculptured façade, the tower has a wealth of fine capitals. Note also the inscription on the West end of the North wall. The tower which is accessible has a range of interesting capitals.</p> <p>See leaflet. 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge', 'The Pilgrims guide' page 324 and 'Saintonge Romane' pages 87 to 95</p> <p>Dedicated to St Eutrope, a VIc bishop of Saintes who was martyred, the present church was built from the XIc. The upper church was dedicated on 20 April 1096 by Pope Urbain II and the lower church (crypt) was dedicated later, by the bishop of Saintes, Ramnulphe. It was a Benedictine priory until the Revolution. The original upper church extended West over the car park; elements of the South wall remain. There was direct access from the nave to the lower church and up into the chancel and choir which are all that remain of the upper church. This is all Romanesque with superb groups of capitals at the 'crossing' that served as models for sculptors working across the Saintonge and beyond. They include depictions of the Weighing of Souls, Daniel in the Lions' Den, Christ appearing to St Thomas. There are other good capitals down the length of the choir. The crypt once held the remains of St Eutrope. Here the capitals, which also served as models for craftsmen of the region, are XIc and are of stylized foliage. The two pillars at the East end were encased in the XVc in huge octagonal pillars with an inscription. On the rounded exterior are arches and decorated windows.</p> <p>See leaflet – 'Guide des Eglises de Saintes',</p>
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<p>Salignac de Mirambeau</p> <p>St Pierre</p> <p>East of Mirambeau</p>	<p>special leaflets, 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 33to 57, 'The Pilgrims' Guide' pages 322 to 325 and 'Saintonge Romane' pages 37 to 86</p> <p>This church has a single XIc nave, a long rounded XIIc apse and a pair of side chapels at the crossing. The West façade has a late XIIc door and damaged Renaissance bays each side. The apse has fine modillions depicting an image of lust, a copulating couple, an acrobat, twins, a musician etc. On the apse and the exterior of the nave are the outlines of XIIc windows. At the crossing are groups of capitals that depict lions and people; they were repaired in the XXc. On the apse are lots of post-XVIIc graffiti.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 358</p>
<p>Salles lès Aulnay</p> <p>Notre Dame de la Nativité</p> <p>East of Aulnay</p>	<p>This church has a rectangular nave with a XVc South chapel. The roof was probably never vaulted. The choir has ten carved capitals depicting evil in the form of monsters; these show influences from Aulnay and date from 1140 or a little after. The façade is simple, with a door that has decorated arches; these are of geometric patterns. On the top lip is a line of small animals and people with tails! The works are contemporary with those at Aulnay.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 325</p>
<p>Saujon</p> <p>St Martin</p> <p>West of Saintes</p>	<p>The original church was a dependency of St Martial, Limoges; nothing remains of that building except four capitals. These are set on the North wall of the interior of the nave. They date from the mid XIIc. The Eastern one, which draws inspiration from St Porchaire, Poitiers (86) depicts Daniel with a book blessing four lions; he is in a horse-shoe shaped mandorla. The next depicts the</p>



	<p>See 'Haute Saintonge – Promenades Romanes' page 24</p>
<p>Siecq South-east Saintonge</p>	<p>This church is in Romanesque style but dates from the early XIIIc. The West door is stepped and is between blind arches. The capitals depict foliage and interlacings. Over the door are modillions of heads and beasts. The upper part of the West façade has been rebuilt. There is a single nave and, on the South side a large capital of a woman with snakes. The tower and flat ended apse are later; the apse is Gothic and the tower is modern.</p>
<p>Sugères Notre Dame East of La Rochelle</p>	<p>This large church was badly damaged in the One Hundred Years War and the Wars of Religion. The church was built in two phases with the choir and transepts in the first phase and the nave and façade in the second. The transepts were damaged in the One Hundred Years War and were rebuilt in the XVc. The Romanesque side chapels were replaced at the same period. As were the pillars of the nave. The West façade provides the main interest with a stepped door which has three arches each side and a line of modillions above, Above these are four more large bays and two smaller ones; each has a mounted figure. The whole has sculptures as well as a narrow frieze of men in vines. The modillions include Signs of the Zodiac: a crab, a camel, a beetle similar to the one at Cognac, a woman with two snakes, a siren a centaur, a bottom shower, two musicians and a man harvesting. Most of these capitals are good copies of the originals and they were inserted during the XIXc restoration of 1880. The originals date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the XIIc. There are many capitals including some on the South of the nave, where there is an interlacing. The apse has more modillions. Over the crossing is a tower with tall, very slim windows. The nave has side aisles and timber vaults. The choir is over a small crypt with XVIc frescos of angels; it was inserted after the completion of the choir. In the</p>

	<p>choir are more capitals depicting interlacings and foliage. These date from the late XIc.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 330 to 333 and leaflets</p>
<p>Taille (Domaine de) North of Mirambeau</p>	<p>This XIIc chapel is part of a large farm complex today; it was an abbey. The chapel is rectangular. The West door is between blind arches with more blind arches on two levels above. Over the West end is a small wall and a strange conical tower. The flat ended apse has two small slim windows. There are two small windows on the North wall of the two bayed nave.</p>
<p>Talmont Ste Radagonde South of Royan</p>	<p>The church was recorded in 1097. The choir and chancel date from the early XIIc. The nave, but not the West façade or the buttresses, is late XIIc. The West façade is XVc, built after the West end fell into the sea. The church was on the pilgrimage route to Compostella. The choir has a fine high vaulted roof with somber arcades. The crossing has a cupola that has been restored; it is on pendentives. There are superb capitals at the crossing; they are of animals including lions, birds as well as of men some of whom are fighting. On the North-east pillar is St George saving the daughter of King Silene; behind is a huge monster. Outside, the apse decoration is on two levels with six incorporated columns. The windows and arches are decorated with geometric patterns. Above the decorated area is a line of stonework for the fortifications of the church. These are XIVc. Of the tower, only the base is XIIc. The North door is richly decorated. There are three low arches with seven more above. The lower arches are decorated with monsters and foliage and an arc of angels censuring the Lamb of God and an arc of acrobats. On the top arc is a line of people leading a lion. On the blind arch to the left is a crocodile. The left capital runs into a frieze of a lion eating a prone woman. The left</p>

	<p>tympanum depicts Christ blessing. The sculptures date from around 1150. This church reflects its position on the river separating the styles of the Médoc and the Bordelais and the Saintonge.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 334 and 'Saintonge Romane' pages 231 to 235</p>
<p>Tanzac</p> <p>St Saturnin</p> <p>West of Pons</p>	<p>Built on a Merovingian crypt in the XIIc, the church has an apse crossing and west façade that are of that period; the chapels off the transept are XIIIc. The crossing has a very fine cupola on trompes that drop onto good foliage capitals. The South chapel has a fine fresco of Christ in Glory with the symbols of the Evangelists that is XIIIc. The tower has tall slim windows. The nave has been rebuilt. The West door is stepped with ten plain arches.</p> <p>See leaflets</p>
<p>Tesson</p> <p>West of Pons</p>	<p>This church was XIIc but it was badly damaged in the One Hundred Years War and was rebuilt in the XIVc. The West façade has Romanesque traces with the door between two blind arches with a row of columned spaces above. Inside there are some late XIIc capitals.</p>
<p>Thaims</p> <p>St Pierre ès Liens</p> <p>West of Pons</p>	<p>Turpin records a visit by Charlemagne. It was a dependency of Vaux Abbey and was recorded in 1096. There is a Gallo-roman base at the South-west corner of the church. There are some idols that have been re-used in the masonry – Bachus, Epona (a rural goddess), Archedes, which is incorporated into a wall and merged into the choir. The choir vaults collapsed in 1914; the choir/apse were heavily restored after that incident. There is a</p>

	<p>capital in the choir of the Women at Christ's tomb, lions eating foliage and a man being attacked by a dragon. The two capitals in the East bay and the West imposts are late XIc/early XIIc. At the entrance to the choir are friezes with interlacings. The church has a single nave, long choir that rises in two large steps, transepts that have lost their chapels. The West door is plain; the South door, between two slim bays, has been much restored. There is an octagonal tower on a square base over the crossing.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 337 and 'Saintonge Romane' pages 101 to 104</p>
<p>Thors South-east of the Saintonge</p>	<p>This church has a single nave and a rounded apse, which has been rebuilt. The former tower over the crossing has gone and the walls at the base have been rebuilt. The West façade has a bell wall over a stepped door, which has an arch of marguerites. To the sides of the door are worn capitals that depict birds whispering to a small head...At the North side of the crossing are large, rather indistinct capitals that are similar to those at Haimps.</p>
<p>Tonnay-Charente East of Rochefort</p>	<p>Of XIIc origin, only the tower over the crossing is XIIc. The choir and nave were rebuilt in the Gothic style. The tower is square, with two stories that have blind arches in pairs and there is a door on the North side.</p>
<p>Les Touches de Périgny North-east of the Saintonge</p>	<p>Only the apse of this church is XIIc. A new door was inserted in the old one in 1759. There are a number of small crosses and four half stars.</p>
<p>Trizay</p>	<p>This church was founded at the end of the XIc as a</p>

<p>St Jean Baptiste</p> <p>South-east of Rochefort</p>	<p>dependency of Chaise Dieu. Only the apse and side chapels remain from that XIc church; the rest of the church was destroyed, but the monastic buildings remain. The apse and chapels are rounded and there are very fine capitals from two periods. These include lions and an interlacing. The earlier ones of animals by the side chapels are late XIc and they show similarities with capitals of the period in Poitou. The second series of capitals show influences from Aulnay and date from around 1130. The building to the South has some fine Romanesque cusped arches.</p> <p>See booklet, 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 342 to 345</p>
<p>Tugéras</p> <p>South of the Saintonge</p>	<p>Originally a XIIc church, it has been almost entirely rebuilt in the XIII and XVcs and again later, possibly in the XIXc. In the nave there are XIIc capitals.</p> <p>See 'Haute Saintonge – Promenades Romanes' page 29</p>
<p>Usseau</p> <p>The South of the Saintonge</p>	<p>This is a poor little church of XIIc origin. It has a rounded apse and an undecorated stepped West door in an otherwise plain West façade.</p>
<p>La Vallée</p> <p>North of the Saintonge</p>	<p>This church, from the XIIc has a single nave. The vaults date from the late XIIIc or XIVc. The apse has been destroyed. The façade, which dates from the mid XIIc, has a stepped door between blind arches. The arches are very worn but include depictions of birds in pairs and a floral pattern that is similar to that found at Aulnay. The side arches have diagonal patterned stones with similar patterns on the sides above (see Rioux and Rétaud). Over the door is a central window with small columns and capitals. On a large column to</p>

	<p>the right of the door are tacherons: a group of three small vertical bars x 3 and a V. Above are modillions. In the nave are two capitals; one of a woman with snakes, the other of an acrobat with a horse. The tower to the South of the crossing has two stories and pairs of blind arches.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 207 and 208</p>
<p>Vandré St Vivien East of Rochefort</p>	<p>This is a late XIIc church or even early XIIIc, but it is Romanesque. The West façade has three late XIIc style arches. The two outside ones have diagonal brick work (see Rioux and Rétaud). The door is cusped. There is a line of modillions above it. The tower has tall slim windows that were perhaps modeled on those at Sugères.</p>
<p>Varaize St Germain Aulnay area</p>	<p>The church is first recorded in 974. This former priory church is from the late XIIc. It has a nave and side aisles, a rounded apse and two side chapels. At the crossing is a cupola on pendentives. The apse was rebuilt in the first or second decade of the XIIc. Above the cupola is a fine, square tower with decorated windows. The West façade was rebuilt in the XIXc when several sculptures were incorrectly replaced in the façade. The West door is stepped but the arches are not decorated. To the sides are capitals, some of which are modern replacements. They depict foliage. The South door is stepped and highly decorated Aulnay-style. Some of it has been restored recently; other parts are mutilated. The images include Vices and Virtues, six angels worshipping the Lamb of God, Christ in Majesty with twelve apostles, 24 Wise Men and seven more angels. The decoration dates from around 1130. The nave windows have simple decoration; those on the apse are more elaborately decorated.</p>

<p>Vaux sur Mer</p> <p>St Etienne</p> <p>North-east of Royan</p>	<p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 346 and 'Saintonge Romane' pages 181 and 182</p> <p>The church was founded in 1075 by monks from Abbaye de Maillezais. It was seriously damaged by the One Hundred Years War and the Wars of Religion, so only the apse survived. This resembles that at Mornac sur Seudre. There are groups of small bays above the windows with capitals on engaged columns; these are of foliage and Adam and Eve (?). There are modillions depicting heads of men and animals, twins and a male exposer and interlacings. Inside at the entrance to the choir are two pairs of capitals depicting, to the South, the Death of St Etienne and David and the bear and, to the North, foliage and the 'Communion'. The windows have foliage capitals. On the North wall is an inscription in Latin recording the donation by Gombaude de Laillon.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' pages 349 to 351</p>
<p>Villars en Pons</p> <p>St Pallais, who was a Vic bishop of Saintes</p> <p>West of Pons</p>	<p>Much of this church is XV, XVII and XXcs ; but the nave is mid XIIc as is the external stairway in the North transept and the base of the XVIIc South transept. The tower was rebuilt in 1993 to a XIIc style. Inside the nave the roof has a barrel vault and narrow windows. The crossing is below a cross-ribbed cupola that was probably intended to be on trompes. The ribs of the cupola fall onto sculptured animals. There are fine capitals: two vegetable motifs similar to those in the crypt at St Eutrope, Saintes, a Bishop or Abbot (St Pallais?) in a mandorla supported by angels. These are from between 1100 and 1130.</p> <p>See 'La Sculpture Romane en Saintonge' page 352</p>

<p>Vouhé</p> <p>East of La Rochelle</p>	<p>This church has a rounded apse and a single nave with XIXc windows. The West façade below the bell wall has been rebuilt but it retains the XIIIc door. On the South side a large side chapel has been added. There are some re-employed modillions in a buttress of this chapel.</p>
<p>22.11.2014</p>	