

## Armagnac trail, Gers



▲ Photograph: Georges Gobet/AFP/Getty Images

Autumn sees the start of the distillation process for the Armagnac distilleries across the Gascony region, with the Flamme d'Armagnac celebrations to mark the lighting of the stills. Many of the distilleries have been run by the same family for generations, and they welcome visitors for tastings, tours and candlelit dinners around the stills. There are festivals too; in Éauze, the capital of Armagnac country, where the three-month Flamme d'Armagnac celebrations kick off with firework displays and street theatre. The village of Labastide will celebrate Armagnac en Fête (29-31 October). Armagnac expert Amanda Garnham runs tours through her company *Glamour and Gumboots* (£400 a day for up to four people, food and accommodation extra). Visitors take in many of the best distilleries without having to drive.

**Stay** Les Bruhasses is a welcoming guesthouse in an elegant chateau with doubles from €94 B&B.