



Chestnut Festival – 18th and 19th October 2014 Mourjou, Cantal (Lot Valley – France)

Every year in October, almost 25,000 visitors come to take a bite of rustic France at the annual Mourjou Chestnut Festival.

In the heart of the Lot Valley*, between the Lot and the Aveyron, come and discover Mourjou and the chestnut that nourished people of the area for ages.

Symbol of the Châtaigneraie cantalienne (chestnut trees protected area), the chestnut tree was suffering since the 1950s from modernisation. In 1990, a group of young inhabitants from Mourjou decided to create a “Chestnut festival” to revive traditions and promote the area. It was a success from start and now attract almost 25,000 visitors during one week-end.

Half of the 329 inhabitants of Mourjou are taking part in the organisation of this festival which welcome over 80 stallholders from all over the world for food testing, conferences, technical demonstrations, exhibitions, hiking, storytelling, music and dance.

2 tons of chestnuts grilled and 5.000 liters of cider drank over the week-end in a festive atmosphere.

Take the chestnut discovery trip with the visit of the chestnut museum and its traditional architecture like a "secadou" (a traditional farm in which chestnut was dried), a baker's oven or also a village shop from the 1950s.

Or enjoy a gastronomic experience with a 5-course meal all cooked with chestnut at the Auberge de Mourjou ; delicious, especially the chestnut ice-cream!

And while you there, why not visiting the rest of the Lot Valley and it's many activities and attractions : Conques and its impressive abbey nearby in Aveyron or follow one of the trails through the woods, walking or on the bike.

For more information about the activities, accommodations or visits, visit www.lotvalley.com or contact Stephanie Khaou at lotvalley1@gmail.com

* The Lot Valley is a group of 5 French *départements* along the river Lot (Lozere, Cantal, Aveyron, Lot and Lot-et-Garonne)