

La dizycienne



The duration of the town walk is around one hour and a quarter, following the sign of the vine leaf, over a distance of about 5 kilometres



In 1842, Dizy had 378 inhabitants, 421 hectares of land of which 126 hectares were vineyards and 500 sheep!

Today, according to the census of January 2011, Dizy has 1748 inhabitants, 194 hectares of vineyards.... and one single sheep!, but... there are innumerable "bulles"(bubbles) of champagne in the cellars!

It is, without doubt, one of the youngest communes in France since Dizy and Magenta separated in 1965. Dizy is now a member of The Community of Communes of the Grand Valley of the Marne.

Dizy is also a gateway to the Regional Natural Park of the Mountain of Rheims.

1. The church of Dizy, surrounded on three sides by a cemetery, is dedicated to St. Timothy, who was martyred in 658. It would seem that a Roman temple existed here, before the building of the church which you can see today, and which has not been classified as it was a work of several epochs. The tower forms the façade of the church. A dangerous ruin, it was repaired in 1927, with the addition of a semi-circular staircase which permitted access to the two bells, Virginia (450 kg) and Marianne (350 kg) consecrated in 1820. They were electrified in 1969 and were rung again for the first time, on the 24th July 1969 at 17.41 hours, to celebrate the return to earth of the first American astronauts who had landed on the moon. At the foot of the tower is situated a sepulchre of a former curate, Nicolas Daniel Senechal, who was mayor of the community of Dizy in 1790. You are at the highest point in Dizy as the altitude plaque to the left of the gate shows 81.18 metres above sea level. On entering the little Square Letuvee, named in honour of the legacy of this couple to the municipality, you discover the village nestling in the middle of prestigious vineyards.



2. Go down as far as the crossroads, to get back to the square opposite the town hall, which bears the name of «Moque Bouteilles». Take the lane at the bottom left. Cross the street "Neuve" and continue straight ahead along a grassy foot-path which brings you to a vineyard containing 3 grape varieties – Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Chardonnay - which, since 1935, have been blended traditionally for the production of champagne.



3. At the end of the path, on the left, take the street Rue des Galipes (champagne vines and dialect) which opens on the street, Rue Dupont-Suaire, named as a well-deserved tribute to the principal of the Dizy kindergarten from 1902 to 1922.

4. At the stop sign, turn right and take the street, Rue de la Republique, and go along quite a small pedestrian footpath between two privet hedges. Cross the stream Champillon via the metal bridge and walk along the creek next to the bridge. Turn right towards the benches and take the small lane leading to the street, Rue de l'Egalite. This street provides access to the area of "la Poncelotte", constructed in 1989, and whose names (Rue de Liberte, de la Fraternite, de l'Egalite) evoke the bicentenary of the French Revolution.



5. In the Rue de l'Egalite, keep to the left and take the small pedestrianised lane to enter the Rue Daniele Casanova. Born in Ajaccio in 1909, Vincetella Perrini known as Leccia, married Laurent Casanova, Minister of Veterans and War Victims in 1946. After joining the Communist Party in 1928, she called herself Daniele. Great Resistance fighter she was deported by the Germans and died, alas, in a concentration camp.

Facing you now will be the reservoir for rainwater retention, civil works constructed to protect the village from run-off water from the slopes in the case of severe storms.

6. Keep right to approach the housing complex of la Terre au Crayon and go round by the Rue du Fosse Blanc. Leaving this area, take again the Rue Daniele Casanova which you climb again after passing la Rue des Auges on your right and the park Letuvee, donated by Mr and Mrs Letuvee to the community, which was motivated to undertake a building project of inter-generational housing, within a framework of sustainable development, destined at the time for larger families and senior residents. The original house is preserved as a meeting place and a multipurpose area. The tenants have laid out vegetable gardens here and it is also a privileged place of welcome for our friends the cats !



7. Continuing on your way, you will pass some enclosed vineyards and, with a little luck, you may see a harnessed, working horse instead of motorised vehicles. Soon, opposite another vineyard you come across the Rue du Vert Dore, which recalls the name of another champagne vine also called "Plant Vert" – a black pinot grape and white juice which produces champagne of the finest quality with a high alcohol content, which was widely adopted by a man named JEANSON.



8. At the end of this street, you come upon the Avenue du General Leclerc, the largest and most beautiful thoroughfare in the village, completely straight for more than one kilometre and lined by the facades of the Maisons de Champagne of DIZY. This street has seen its name evolve over the course of history. Forming part of the "Way of the Gauls", connecting Sezanne to Reims, it was called successively " Street of Commerce" then, at the end of 1919, "Avenue Jean Jaures", before being re- christened on the 21 March 1949 "Avenue du Genral Leclerc" in memory of this hero of WW2. Turn right to go back up the avenue after having crossed the pavement in front of you, on your left, L'Impasse des Vignes which, as its name suggests, takes you, inevitably, through the vineyards. Turn left to pass between the two vineyards and you enter the housing estate of " Les Terres Rouges" before joining " la Place de la Liberation" with its children's playground.



9. Find the Avenue du General Leclerc and head right to the crossroads. Cross over at the traffic lights opposite the hairdressing salon, one of the oldest houses in Dizy.

10. Take la rue du Colonel Fabien, formerly called la rue d' Ay, and after a few metres, on you right, take la rue Daniele Casanova. Turn into the first street on your right, la rue Neuve (the new street), so called because before the WW2 it was the most recent street in Dizy.



11. After about a hundred metres, keep to the right and enter la rue St Michel which takes you back to la rue du Colonel Fabien. Cross and take the foot-path in front of the “Vieux Chateau” (Old Castle).

Go alongside the Maison des Associations, formed in 2001, a communal vineyard ,the kindergarten. At the end of the Vieux Chateau, take the foot-path on your right to meet L’Avenue du General Leclerc.



12. At the traffic lights, cross to the opposite pavement and go down the Avenue, keeping to the right. At number 221, take the small foot-path, with the stairs, to meet la rue de la Briqueterie (brickyard street) and turn left. This street is named after the brickyard which was situated on the present site of the football fields. It was built at the end of the 19th Century by the Lombard family from Belgium.



Strategically placed below the Mountain of Reims, whose forest provided the necessary timber fuel for the drying and firing of the bricks, near to a source of clay bordering

the Marne canal which allowed transport of the finished bricks, stamped DZ, by canal barges as far as Paris. Still bearing witness to these bricks are the hospital Beaujon, and, quite close to Epernay, on the prestigious Avenue de Champagne, the champagne “house” of the famous Moet et Chandon marque and , yet again, the high school Leon Bourgeois.

At the height of its production the brickworks supported 200 employees. The factory closed at the beginning of the 1950’s. Strolling around Dizy you will come across, here and there, some of those bricks stamped DZ.



13. You return to the Avenue du General Leclerc after passing by the police station.

In front of you will be the bridge spanning the lateral canal of the Marne which leads to Magenta and Epernay, the capital of the Champagne region. The bridge, formed of 7 arches, was begun in 1765 and completed in 1777. Engineer Peyronnet added the pavements to the bridge in 1929. The bridge was destroyed twice: in June 1940 following the retreat of the French armies, in an attempt to halt the advance of the German armies, and then again in 1944 following the retreat of the German armies who hoped, thereby, to halt the advance of the American forces. It was rebuilt in 1949 as a cantilever bridge made of reinforced concrete.



Turn right and reach the café on the corner of the street and take the Rue de Reims on your left. Midway between the church and the canal, you will pass a crucifix, erected by the initiative of the parishioners of Dizy, and particularly Madame Lombard who, standing in 1944 a few months before the Allied landings in Normandie, promised to erect a crucifix if the lives and property of the inhabitants of Dizy were spared. These plans were completed, free of charge, by the architect Pierre Hennequin. The cross, made

from wrought iron with arms of an openwork design decorated with flames, stands on a 2 metre base of stone retrieved from the bridge of the canal destroyed in an attempt to stop the advancing German army.

On the front face, are the words "Peace be with you" and on the rear face of the monument "Dizy-for her liberation 28 August 1944". It was blessed by Bishop Marmottin, Archbishop of Reims, on 17 April 1947 in the presence of the abbot Lucien Lavoine and the parishioners of Dizy

14. Just after the crucifix, leave la rue de Reims, take the road on the right to enter the district of Leon, so called after the visit of Pope Leo IX to Ay. On your right, take the rue Jules Verne. Go to the end and take left into la rue Alphonse Daudet and the George Sand and Emil Zola squares. Follow l'Allee des Cardamines into the Marcel Pagnol square. Take la rue Jacques Prevert to return once more to l'Avenue du Leon.

15. At the end of the l'Avenue du Leon, shaped like a horse-shoe, you meet again la rue de Reims.

Turn right and at the traffic lights you have returned to the base of the church. Your "grand tour" of Dizy ends here!! You have discovered some treasures of our heritage – of times past and present – which, thanks to the people of Dizy, will be preserved for the future!!!



