



As far as you eyes can see the Gartempe valley

The viewpoint offers a large panorama over the valley and the meandering course of the Gartempe river. The river flows through countryside that is dominated by trees and hedges and land favourable to the rearing of sheep and cattle. The river runs through the valley bordered by dense vegetation. Its river banks are lined with trees that like being near water - willows, alders and ash amongst which poplars can also be seen.



On the horizon, the Lenest's castle

The Gartempe, a river that was once known for its salmon, has its source in the department of the Creuse and after a journey of 204 km flows into the river of the same name. Along its course are a succession of mills, bridges and castles, including Lenest, the turrets of which can be seen on the horizon.



The Font aux Moines,



View over the Gartempe and the centre of Saulgé from the viewpoint.

The viewpoint is on the top of a limestone cliff. Water trickles through the limestone causing it to crumble, hence the formation of fissures, caves and the Grotte de l'Ermitage.

This erosion is still occurring so care must be taken here.



« La Font aux Moines » or the Monks Spring, is a spring that rises at the foot of « Les Roches », it never freezes and it is said that the village women used to come and do their washing when the river froze over.



Broom

Above the cliff, the soil is a mixture of sand and clay. This siliceous soil encourage the growth of broom, gorse and large heather plants.



Heather



Gorse

How La Brande got its name...

Heatland as we would call it, is known as La Brande in French and it gets its name from a word local to the Poitou and Limousin for the vegetation used to make a broom. It also burns very easily and « brander » means to flame or burn in old French.

