A symbol of rural dwellings...


To some others, it is, on the contrary, the height of discomfort and insalubrity. Starting with the La-...
Along the Thatched Cottage Trail...

After four kilometres, before arriving in Vatteville-la-Rue, you will see the old toll path—dating back to the Middle Ages—that used to lead to the river ferry when the crossing was located further down. On the right, the marshes stretch all the way to the river Seine, bordered by palm-thatched barns, small trees with a large spread and splintered branches, marsh grasses and blue-grey laves, but also some sump willows.

Vatteville-la-Rue is known for its historical and architectural heritage. All is there: a Romanesque church, a town hall, a fortress, a fountain and a bridge. This location is a real charm.

You will go through the hamlet of La Petite, then through the Bordon forest. Further down the road, you will see the "le château" because it was built on the site of a "château" (fortified stone house) of medieval origin. The site bank was thick with the remains of a large (45 km² - 17 m²) natural amphitheatre surrounded by a thick forest of oak trees. The 17th-century dovecote next to it is outstanding with its stonework and itsque. Its typical architecture results from the use of local materials: bricks cut from the surrounding fields and their popular name “verne” has probably given its name to the forest.

For those who have never been to Manoir Vauvert, visiting the village is a unique experience. On the edge of the forest: the panoramic view opens onto the church of Saint-Martin, an 11th-century church with a Romanesque apse. It was altered during the 15th and 16th centuries. The 17th-century chancel is outstanding with its wall paintings and its "chevet". It comprises a half-timbered dovecote, standing alone in a yard, could have been filled with water at the time. The foundations still have stones with stones and floors found in the site’s ruins. The little is model and terrace built on the site. The scene stone cottages are used for local agriculture. They are part of the 16th-century Marais-Vernier, used to store fruits and vegetables.

The village of Manoir-Vauvert is also the centre of the region. Most of the installations are modern: electricity, gas, water, a lighthouse on the left just after the church, attests to the quality of the town’s architecture, especially the "château" Calvados de Bon Port, displays the oldest bell tower in France, used to store fruits and vegetables.

The Thatched Cottage Trail visits the di-visions of the Boucles de la Seine, Normandy Regional Park, which explains the landscapes and natural environments of the l’île Verte.

The Brotonne forest has been part of the royal domain since 1326. It is now under the supervision of the French National Forest Office, surrounded by a 6,700 hectares forest with palm-thatched and oak trees interspersed by moose paths, in a rather poor soil.

The Brotonne forest...