



Escorted vineyards tour de France. September – October 2010

Champagne, Burgundy, Loire Valley and Bordeaux.

Cabernet, Sauvignon, Chardonnay & Pinot Noir

Chenin, merlot and Carbernet Sauvignon Kingdoms



YOU WILL BE SEDUCED BY THE FINESSE OF CHAMPAGNE BUBBLES, THE MAJESTIC CHATEAUX OF THE LOIRE VALLEY, THE DELICACY OF THE BURGUNDIAN WINES AND BORDEAUX WORLD FAMOUS WINERIES.

A BLEND OF GOURMET AND HERITAGE TOUR. THE BEST VINEYARDS AND A PRIVATE GUIDE WINE EXPERT TOURING YOU IN EVERY MAJOR SITE AND VINEYARDS.



Escorted vineyards tour de France.

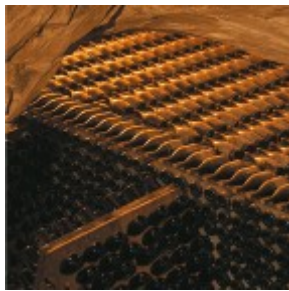
Monday, September 27th: Arrival in France, transfer to Champagne region.

Mid morning, our wine expert, welcomes you at Charles de Gaulle airport. Transportation in super luxury coach for the entire duration of the tour. DVD, mini bar; salon, kitchenette...

Transfer to Reims. On the way to Reims, presentation of the detailed itinerary of the week. Lunch in a traditional restaurant on the way.



Tour and tasting on **Grande Dame Veuve Clicquot** producer since 1772. Includes product descriptions, a company history, profile of the owner, and harvest information. Wine tasting of vintage Grande Dame.



Late afternoon, check in at your charming hotel in Reims city. Built in the 19th century, this **hotel***** is ideally located for an evening walk.



Dinner in town, “**Art Déco**” brasserie established since 1923. 3 courses dinner menu, drinks included.





Tuesday, September 28th: Kings Cathedral, Epernay “Champagne cradle”.

After breakfast, meet with our local guide for the tour of Reims and its unique cathedral.

Tour of the Reims Notre Dame Cathedral, whose the construction of today dates back to 1211, masterpiece of gothic architecture and famous for its sculpted doorway (the angel with the smile). The cathedral had been the theatre of the French Kings’ coronations since Clovis’ baptism in 500.



Transfer to Epernay region.

Tour and **champagne tasting lunch** in a family Domain.

Tour of the winery and champagne tasting before lunch.

Festive lunch with local specialties, drinks included (1/2 bottle of Champagne per person).



3.30 pm: Tour of the world famous **Moët and Chandon**, producer of the Dom Perignon. **Grand Vintage tour**: after a guided tour of the caves, you will taste a set of vintage champagnes in a private salon.

5.00 pm: Late afternoon, tour of the exquisite village of **Hautvillers**, overlooking Epernay and all the vineyards. You will see the **grave of the Monk Dom Perignon** in the village church. We’ll walk to the edge of the hill and enjoy the view on the whole Marne Valley and all the vineyards owned by the most famous Champagne producers around Epernay.



6.00 pm: We are back at the hotel.

Free time in Reims, dinner at leisure.



Wednesday, September 29th: Chablis, Beaune “Capital of Burgundy”.

8.30 am: Check out after breakfast.

Transfer to Chablis.

11.00 am: Tour and tasting of a beautiful **Chablis Domain**.

Discover one of the most beautiful historical sites of Chablis. This old monastery from the 9th Century was the home of the Monks of the Order of Saint Martin from Tours (Linked with Vouvray wines that we will tour in a few days).



Lunch in a traditional **restaurant of Chablis**, ownership of the Domain toured in the morning. 3 courses menu, drinks included (Chablis of course).

2.30 pm: Transfer to Beaune.

4.00 pm: hotel check-in in **Beaune**, charming **hotel*****.

Ideally located, the hotel is in the very heart of historic Burgundy, just a stone's throw from the center of Beaune. The Hotel is five minutes walking distance from the famous Hospice de Beaune and its magnificent cathedral Notre Dame.



Free time in Beaune to relax on the terrace of Café or shopping.

You will love walking in the old town center, with its 15C ramparts, its 13C Basilica Notre Dame and its world famous HOSPICES founded in 1443 as a charity hospital. An amazing building.

Dinner at leisure with our list of recommended restaurants.



Thursday September 30th: Burgundy South, Cote de Beaune (whites).

10.00 am: Guided tour of the **Hospices de Beaune**.

Hospices Civils de Beaune which have, since their foundation in 1443 by the Chancellor Nicolas Rolin, kept their doors open to everyone without interruption. This institution, unique in its historical and wine-producing, is closely connected with the economic life of the region.



11.30: transfer to Puligny Montrachet.

Picturesque driver through the famous villages of Pommard, Volnay, Puligny Montrachet, Chassagne Montrachet and Meursault.

Tasting lunch in Puligny Montrachet, **14 wines**.

12.00: **tour of Olivier Leflaive's winery** in Puligny Montrachet.

In October 1984, Olivier Leflaive decided to create a new renown for the wines of Burgundy with the help of his brother Patrick and his Uncle Vincent. He had one ambitious objective in mind : to apply all the « savoir-faire » acquired from the Domaine Leflaive to the vinification of various different red and white Burgundy « appellations ».

It was a natural progression for the young company of Olivier Leflaive to set up a Domaine. The acquisitions have been in the following « appellations » and today total 12 hectares : Puligny Montrachet, Meursault 1^{er} cru Poruzot, Chassagne Montrachet 1^{er} cru les Chaumées, Chassagne Montrachet 1^{er} cru les Vergers et Clos Saint Marc, Chassagne Montrachet 1^{er} abbaye de Morgeot, Bourgogne Blanc les Setilles, Chassagne Montrachet blanc et rouge, Bourgogne rouge cuvée margot, Bourgogne Aligoté.





3.30 pm: **tour of Chateau de Pommard winery** in Pommard.

Here, the spirit of Château de Pommard has been breathing for three centuries. 400,000 bottles and hundreds of oak casks stand in a line at a constant temperature of 12°C. They improve as the years go by and keep watch over the place. There, at the heart of the captivating arched cellars, the treasure of the Château can be seen. Emotion and contemplation, the feeling of wonder is great. This is the holiest of the holies, the sacred place. Nobody can be indifferent.



Tour of the Chateau cellars, vine tasting.

Return to Beaune late afternoon for free time.
Dinner at leisure with our list of recommended restaurants.

Friday October 1st: Burgundy North, Cote de Nuits (reds).

Nice drive through the Cote de Nuits and its renowned villages as Gevrey Chambertin, Vougeot, Vosne Romanée, Nuits St Georges and Aloxe Corton.

Tour and wine tasting in *Nuits Saint Georges*.

This family domaine elaborates very elegant wines. The Nuits Saint Georges 1er Cru are incredibly rich with round tannins (masculine wines).

Private tour and tasting lunch at a famous Domain.

The family is established in **Gevrey Chambertin** since 1850. Since, they managed to increase the size of their vineyard always looking for the best “Terroir”. Nowadays the family produces wine in 7 Grands Crus appellation as prestigious as Clos Vougeot, Musigny, Latricière Chambertin... as well as 4 famous 1er Cru of Gevrey Chambertin.

You are welcomed like home in the private “caveau” of the family for an outstanding 1er and Grands Crus **tasting lunch**.



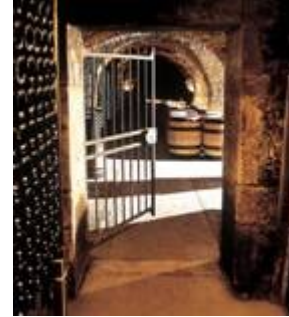


Transfer, tour of the **Chateau Clos Vougeot**.

Founded in 1098 by monks, the vineyard of Clos de Vougeot covers 50 hectares. Its wines are ones of the most famous in Burgundy.

Today the vineyard is divided between 80 owners.

Chateau Clos Vougeot is listed by UNESCO as a world heritage.



Return to Beaune late afternoon.

Dinner at leisure with our list of recommended restaurants.

Saturday October 2nd: Transfer to Sancerre, Sauvignon Kingdom.

8.30 am: Transfer to Sancerre after breakfast.

Established for 10 generations on the peak of **Sancerre**, this family is one of the oldest wine producing families of Sancerre.

Today, the estate extends nearly 53 hectares (132.5 acres) from which 80% is of the noble and very old grape variety, called **Sauvignon**, and as for the rest, from the most delicate and elegant of red grape varieties, called **Pinot Noir**.

They carry out a traditional cultivation, which combines the most ancestral methods passing by others from the **biological or biodynamical** culture and the most modern in terms of equipment. The key word of the property being the respect for the **terroir**, they do their best to respect the environment and to propose the heritage that we will pass on to the next generations.



Lunch at the winery with the owners. Tasting of a large range of Sancerre wines with local specialties.



Transfer to the heart of the Loire Valley mid afternoon.
Arrival in Amboise early evening for check-in.

Accommodation in a Superior double occupation room, the hotel is located near by Amboise. This **Château hotel****** is today a charming Renaissance castle transformed from a fortress in the XIIIth century.



Gourmet dinner at the hotel, aperitif and drinks included (private salon).

Sunday, October 3rd: Chateau and Wines around Chenonceau and Amboise.

09.30 AM: After your breakfast, your private chauffeur guide drives you to Chenonceau.

10.30 AM: Visit of the **Chateau of Chenonceau**.

The unique architecture of the Chateau makes it one of the most exquisite Chateau of the Loire Valley. Chenonceau is related to important French Renaissance women and was offered by King Henry 2nd to his mistress Diane de Poitiers.



12.30 PM: **Lunch at a wine specialist's** in matured Loire Valley vintages. Daniel, oenologist, welcomes you in his caves, former tuff stone quarries, for a tour followed by a tasting of Vouvray, Montlouis, Chinon, Bourgueil and Saint Nicolas de Bourgueil wines. In order to transcend your meal, you will pair your wines with a selection of delicatessen and cheeses (cheeses selected by Rodolphe le Meunier, 2007 cheese refiners' world champion).



03.00 PM: Free time to visit the **Middle Ages town of Amboise**.

You will be delighted with the splendid beauty of the **Chateau of Amboise**. The Chateau of Amboise was built in the 15th and 16th centuries.

This authentic royal castle, introduces Italian style to the Loire Valley. Leonardo Da Vinci rests in the Chapel the Chateau.





04.00 PM: Your chauffeur guide drives you to Vigneau Chevreau.

You tour one of the **best Vouvray wine makers**.

Created in 1875, this Domain has been expanding for the last five generation and now owns 26 hectares in different parts of the Vouvray appellation region.

The visit of the cave is followed by wine tasting of dry, medium dry, sweet and sparkling Vouvray.



Later afternoon, return to Amboise, dinner at leisure.

Over night in your Chateau hotel.

Option 1: Hot air balloon flight.

Have you ever dreamed of Jules Vern's adventures?

We propose you an unforgettable experiment to discover the Loire Valley and its Chateaux getting a bird's eye view on board of Montgolfier brothers' invention. Let yourself be plunged in flight fascination.

Very special moment guaranteed!



The takeoff point is chosen by pilots according the wind direction, it can be Chateau de Chenonceau, Chaumont Sur Loire or Amboise.

You are welcomed to participate in the hot air balloon assembling.

Safety briefing with the pilots.

Take off for about 1h15 to 1h30 flight.

On arrival, we offer champagne to celebrate the flight!

Every participant gets its flight diploma as a souvenir!

In case of bad weather conditions, we refund the total amount of the flight.





Monday October 4th: Blois, the castle of Power, and Chambord, a dream come true.

9.30 am: transfer to Blois.

Today our tour begins with the guided tour of **Royal Castle of Blois**. The four wings of the castle courtyard (Medieval, Flamboyant Gothic, Renaissance, and Classical) offer a great survey of the architecture in the Loire Valley. Through the XIX century restorations, you will be amazed by the surprising colours of a chateau during the French Renaissance as well as by King Henry III's bedroom, theatre of one of the most tragic events of the wars of religion, the murder of the Duke de Guise.



Lunch at leisure in Blois.

This ancient city with a rich historical part merits to be toured. In the XVIth century Blois was the capital of France, under the king Louis XII. You can stroll through the old town, along its paved side-streets.

3.00 pm: Mid afternoon: transfer to **Chambord**.

Drive to the **Estate of Chambord**, a national game reserve as large as the city of Paris. You will be welcomed to the Chateau of Chambord as a privileged visitor with access to parts of the Chateau not open to the general public. The Chateau de Chambord is a unique monument due its architecture and proportions. Leonardo da Vinci probably took part in the conception of the project. With more than 400 rooms and its double spiral staircase, Chambord is a highlight of the Loire Valley.



5.00 pm: return to your chateau hotel for a relaxing moment.

Gourmet dinner at the hotel, aperitif and drinks included (private salon).

Tuesday October 5th: When gardening is an art & Grands Crus reds of the Loire Valley.

9.30 AM: After breakfast, transfer to Villandry.

Guided tour of one of the most spectacular gardens of Touraine, **Villandry**. By its diversity and originality (Love Garden, Kitchen Garden, Aromatic and Medicine Plant Garden, Water Garden and the brand new Sun Garden) and by its size (15 acres, 1150 linden trees), Villandry is the Loire Valley garden not to be missed. With your guide, learn to speak the language of a medieval and Renaissance garden, discover the power of thyme and basil on your health. The gardens of Villandry are now maintained without using any pesticides.





Lunch at leisure in Chinon.

2.00 pm: **Guided tour of Chinon**, one of the most picturesque towns of the Loire Valley.

With its medieval streets, Chinon has remained an outdoor museum of architecture and history. Your guide will take you to the most typical quarters of the town from which you will get the best views on the Castle. He will help you identify the styles of the very rich town houses built by the King's financiers or ministers. Let us meet the three most famous actors of Chinon: **Joan of Arc** (you will step where she stepped when she got off her horse in 1429 to meet King Charles VII) and **François Rabelais** (the greatest ambassador of Chinon wines and joie de vivre) and **Richard the Lion's heart**.



3.00 pm: Transfer to Cravant les Côteaux, one of the very best villages for **Chinon wines**. With gentle southern facing slopes on lime stone subsoil. This excellent wine grower possesses 25 ha of vineyards of multiple ages and some of which exceed 50 years. You will sample a selection of Chinon wines from 1980 to the present in the cellar that he dug for 25 years. You will surely appreciate this winery - a blend of high-technology, traditions, knowledge and authenticity.



4.30 pm: Transfer to Tours; Loire Valley Capital.

Tours is a fascinating city. We still can see today traces of the Roman Empire, Middle ages fortifications, Renaissance architecture, Napoleonic buildings...

Tours is the largest city in the Loire Valley and is considered its capital city. Located in the heart of the region, it is the best base for sightseeing. Historically and architecturally speaking, it is one of the cradles of the French Renaissance.

Discover the area known as "Old Tours", pedestrian streets and numerous XVth and XVIth c. timber-framed houses, the famous place Plumereau, *Charlemagne Tower*, Saint-Martin collegiate church, and the new Saint-Martin Basilica.



Free time in Tours for shopping, dinner at leisure.

10.00 pm: return to your Chateau hotel.



Wednesday October 6th: Transfer to Bordeaux region, stop in Cognac.

9.00 am: check-out, we take the direction of Bordeaux.

Lunch is at your leisure in Cognac.

2.00 pm: Privately guided tour of **Hennessy**, maturation caves, museum and Cognac tasting. After crossing the Charente River on one of the Hennessy boats, you are introduced to some sophisticated techniques and a range of contemporary settings revealing the characteristics of cognac.



Returning to the left bank of the Charente River, discovery of the History of the house. Documents, films and old objects which are part of the company's heritage tell the story of the Founder, Richard Hennessy, an Irishman who came to France during the reign of Louis XV.

After the tour, tastings of VS, VSOP and XO **Hennessy** cognacs.

Transfer to Bordeaux, Graves region the late afternoon for check-in, **hotel****L**
Accommodation in Prestige rooms.

Les Sources de Caudalie is located in the Graves appellation area. The hotel is situated in the heart of the great Domaine of Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte Grand Cru.



Before dinner you are welcome to take advantage of the Hammam, heated swimming pool and other facilities of the Spa. Access to the SPA with supplement.

Aperitif and dinner at Caudalie in the hotel restaurant.

Dinner 3 courses, drinks included. Wine selection proposed by the sommelier.



Thursday October 7th: World famous Chateaux of Margaux & Pauillac.

9.00 am: Transfer to **Médoc region**.

The Médoc, one of the world's most famous vineyard regions, invites you to follow the Route des Grands Crus. You will go past many prestigious châteaux, reflecting the prosperity and prestige of Bordeaux winegrowers -great names such as Margaux, Latour, Mouton-Rothschild, Lafite-Rothschild. Visiting the estates, you will taste wines of infinite nuances in luxurious cellars. Fine Médoc is full of vigour, with an unforgettable bouquet and inimitable finesse.



10.30 am : Tour of **Chateau Palmer 2nd Cru de Margaux**.

Château Palmer's vines are planted on gravelly rises several metres thick in the communes of Margaux and Cantenac. This outstanding terroir, ideal for producing great wine, overlooks the Gironde.



Chateau Palmer



Châteaux Cos D'Estournel

12.30: Lunch in Pauillac, traditional restaurant facing the port of Pauillac.

2.30 PM: tour and wine tasting at **Châteaux Cos D'Estournel**

Château Cos d'Estournel is located in the in the Saint-Estèphe appellation .

The wine produced here was classified as one of fifteen *Deuxièmes Crus* (Second Growths) in the original Bordeaux Wine Official Classification of 1855.

The vineyard of Cos spreads around 90 hectares. The principal grape variety is Cabernet sauvignon with 60% and 40% of Merlo.



5.30 PM: **Guided tour of Bordeaux**, stroll along the quays, city's architectural and cultural highlights. This guided tour last about 1h30.

Afternoon at leisure, free time in Bordeaux for shopping or cultural visits. Enjoy Bordeaux, stroll along the quays, do some shopping....

Evening and dinner at leisure in Bordeaux.

10.00 pm: return to your hotel for the night.

Friday October 8th: Saint Emilion, Merlo cradle.

9.00 pm: Breakfast at the hotel end transfer to Saint Emilion.

Saint-Emilion was founded in the 8th century by a monk who gave it its name. It is still unique worldwide for its troglodyte structures (the monolithic Cathedral and hermitage founded by the saint in particular) and its town walls and Romanesque buildings that form a gripping harmonious setting. The town also has some of the most prestigious *appellation contrôlée* vineyards in the Bordeaux region.



Saint-Emilion is set out like an amphitheatre in a splendid natural location. It is a vast indentation on top of limestone hill, exposed to the rising sun and covered with vineyards.

*The town has conserved its old walls and gateways as well as a series of prestigious archaeological sites. Saint Emilion and its surrounding vineyards were the first wine landscape to be listed as a **World Heritage Site by UNESCO.***

10.30 am: Guided tour of Saint-Emilion's subterranean monuments and monolithic church. The tour will include:

The Hermitage (Saint-Émilion's oldest monument), the Ossuary, the Catacombs, and the Monolithic Church, which were all carved out of solid limestone rock, as were dozens of kilometres of underground galleries. Some of these galleries have been turned into cellars or museums, which you will visit.

Please be sure to wear comfortable shoes. The walking part of the tour is not very long (less than a kilometre) but Saint Emilion is situated on a hill.





Lunch at leisure in Saint Emilion.

2.30 AM: Tour and tasting at **Chateau La Clotte**, 1st Cru Classé.

Chateau La Clotte has been classified as 1st Cru Classé since the beginning of Saint Emilion wine classification in 1954. This vineyard was founded in the XVIth century and is part of the oldest properties of Saint Emilion wineries.

Among the World famous Chateaux of Saint Emilion Chateau La Clotte is one of the very few family owned winery(3 ladies). The Domain is only 4 hectares large. A great specialist of Merlot grape.



4.00 pm: return to your hotel.

Relaxing afternoon at the hotel.

Aperitif and dinner at Caudalie in the **Gourmet restaurant**.

Dinner 4 courses, drinks included. Wine selection proposed by the sommelier.

Saturday October 9th: End of the tour

Check out after breakfast.

Transfer to Bordeaux airport.

End of the tour.





This tour includes:

Option 1: Hot air balloon flight, \$335.00 per person, 100% refundable in case of bad weather conditions.
(Please book in advance)

Payment terms and conditions:

30% of the total amount is requested to confirm the booking:

The balance of your tour is due 30 days before departure (August 27th)

The payment is possible by company cheque, bank transfer. There is a 4.5% fee for credit card payment.

This tour does not include: Drinks, extra, gratuities, lunches, personal expenses.

Price per person:

Based on double room for	12 - 16 PEOPLE
Price per person	\$6230.00 cad
Total	