

FRENCH EXPERIENCES

Paris & Provence

Day 1

Upon arrival at Paris CDG airport, you will be met by your personal driver for a private transfer to your residence in the heart of Paris. The rest of the morning is at leisure to relax and refresh.

This afternoon you will enjoy a wonderful afternoon with a panoramic tour of Paris. From the Eiffel Tower, the Arrondissements (districts) of Paris radiate before you like spokes on a wheel. Notre Dame's delicate buttresses almost take flight beside the River Seine. Continue to the charming Montmartre hill in the north of Paris, primarily known for the white-domed Basilica of the Sacré Coeur on its summit. Finish the afternoon at Notre Dame de Paris, a Gothic cathedral on the eastern half of the Île de la Cité in Paris. Notre Dame is widely considered one of the finest examples of French Gothic architecture. Evening at leisure to enjoy dinner at one of the City of Light's many fine dining establishments.



Day 2

After a delicious breakfast, you will enjoy a delightful morning with a gourmet food journalist who came to France to write and began working with food guru *Robert Noah*, who ran "Paris en Cuisine", a travel service for people passionate about French food. Start the morning by a visit to the famous Poilâne Bakery. Learn all the secrets of the French bread and finish your visit by a tasting!

Continue to the "Grande Epicerie" du Bon Marché. It is one of the most interesting food shops of Paris where caviar, cheese and other delicatessen are set as jewels. Next is a visit to another special place where food is considered as precious as jewels too: The Hermé deluxe pastry shop. Treat yourself at the end of the visit by a taste of some of their famous chocolate sweets! If you want to feel the Parisian food ambiance, you cannot miss the Famous Rue de Buci's Street Market for the pleasure of all of your senses. It is one the best open air markets of Paris! To end your culinary tour, you will reach the Da Rosa Street to enjoy a wine, ham and tapenade tasting in one of its best gourmet shops!

The rest of the day is at leisure to explore the other fine shops, cafes, or bistros of this wonderful city.



Day 3

After a delicious breakfast, you will be collected from your hotel for a private transfer to Gare de Lyon train station. Prepare to board the TGV bullet train to Avignon. This scenic ride is filled with vistas of the French countryside.

Upon arrival at Avignon, you will make your way to your charming Provencal hotel. In the afternoon, you will enjoy an informative visit to an olive oil mill near the Baux de Provence. The family owns 25ha of olive trees that produce one of the best olive oils in France. After a visit and an explanation of the olive oil making process you will have the opportunity to taste the oil of high quality and classified as "Extra Virgin". Depending on the time of the year you taste it, the taste can be extraordinary fresh in Winter, then more fruity in the Spring. Return to your delightful hotel to enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.



Day 4

After a Provencal breakfast, your professional guide will escort you on a memorable private wine tasting and village tour to include Chateauneuf du Pape and Rasteau. You will visit the magnificent Chateau La Nerthe, the most elegant wine estate in the appellation. As early as the 18th Century, la Nerthe was considered as one of the best Chateauneuf "crus". During and after WWII the chateau fell on hard times, but its current director, has restored it and its wines to their full prestige. Visit a 1240 ha of Rasteau vineyard in a beautiful setting with a view over Gigondas hills. She will also guide you through the wine cellar which was built into the hillside which enables a gravitational vinification and saves excessive pumping. Harvesting is completely manual and the position of the plots around the cellar enables the assembly of the varieties in the tank on the day of harvest. Return to your hotel for a relaxing evening.



Day 5

You begin the day for a walking tour of Aix market with a local chef where you will purchase produces for the hands-on cooking class that will take place in a countryside bastide located at the outskirts of Aix-en-Provence (15 minutes drive). You will prepare a three course Provencal meal that will be followed by lunch. You will also enjoy a



guided visit of the beautiful gardens of the estate. Lunch at the bastide with the chef. Continue to a private vineyard. The château is situated in the Luberon, east of Avignon and north of Aix-en-Provence, in the southern part of the Rhone Valley. On this estate of 400 unbroken hectares, the vineyard occupies 186 hectares. In 1978, with the expert help of landscape designer Tobbie Loup de Viane, Mrs Cécile Chancel sets out to create a 19th Century garden which integrates both the ornamental and the practical, providing self-sufficiency in fruit and vegetables in an attractive setting. You will be greeted by the owners who have organized for you a visit of the cellars and of the beautiful gardens. Return to the hotel at the end of the afternoon for dinner at leisure.



Day 6

A day of pampering. After a leisurely breakfast, enjoy a luxurious half-day at the deluxe spa in the Alpilles. On the program: face care, body care, beauty treatments, massage, and sensoral steam bath. You will be enchanted by the pure simplicity and the ambience of total relaxation. The spa is set amidst luxuriant foliage overlooking a landscape of olive trees.



Day 7

Private transfer to Marseille Airport. Bon Voyage!

INCLUSIONS:

- 6 nights deluxe accommodations (2 nights in Paris; 4 nights in Avignon)
- all transfers in luxury vehicle with English speaking driver
- ticket for TGV (Paris-Avignon)
- private airport transfers (Paris & Marseilles)
- private panoramic half day tour of Paris with professional English speaking guide
- private hands-on cooking class with gourmet lunch
- private cellar visit with premium wine tasting
- olive oil class with tasting
- half day luxury spa treatments
- daily breakfasts
- all applicable taxes

PRICE PER PERSON: based on double occupancy
\$8675 Cdn.