



2012

**Tour Information and
Sample Itineraries**

**Discover New Wine
History & Wine
Regional Cuisine & Wine
Walking & Wine**

Registration Form

Discover New Wine

Tour Overview — 2012

7 Days, 6 nights in Touraine, the heart of the Loire Valley

In all the world, there is only one Loire Valley

Imagine standing underground in a wine cellar almost 300 years old, sipping wine that has been sitting quietly for years under the most perfect conditions waiting to be savoured. This week is your chance to discover the kind of world-class wine experience that only historic rural France can deliver. On the *Discover New Wine in Old France* weeklong journey into the Loire Valley, we will visit daily with wine-makers and be welcomed heartily into their personal world of wine-making. There, we will be admitted into the places most dear to their hearts: their wine cellars. With a maximum tour size of eight people, *Discover New Wine in Old France* is an opportunity like none other for wine lovers to enjoy one of the most authentic wine experiences of a lifetime in Touraine, the heart of the Loire Valley.

Itinerary Overview:

Sunday — Arrive at Tours, France. Greeted at the train station by our bilingual tour host, followed by an evening group meal at our luxurious chateau.

Monday — Experience the world-famous appellation of Vouvray. Morning wine-maker visit...in the vines, in the cellar — nothing but chenin blanc at its best. Lunch in a superb local restaurant. Afternoon visit to another Vouvray wine-maker. Compare the different styles, tastes and wine-making philosophies. Evening meal at an exceptional local restaurant in the nearby village of Rochecorbon.

Tuesday — Off to Bourgueil and the amazing cabernet franc wines of the Loire. Gourmet picnic lunch with a local wine-maker among the vines or in his cellar. In the afternoon, we'll take a short drive to St. Nicolas de Bourgueil, where the cabernet franc produces wines that are lighter weight but equally delicious. Late garden meal at our accommodations.

Wednesday — Day off. Options: visit the historic royal chateaux of Amboise, Chambord, Langeais or Usse, or ask your tour guide for recommendations.

Thursday — Morning: market life and cabernet franc. Village markets are an integral part of daily life in the Loire. After breakfast, we visit the village of Vernou, where the group will shop the local market for a picnic lunch, followed by a drive to Chinon and a late-morning walk about in the old city. Lunch — paired with fabulous local wine — will be enjoyed overlooking the valley in Cravant les Coteaux. In the afternoon, we'll visit with a wine-maker whose family has been making wine on the same land for eleven generations. Evening: welcomed into the home of long-time Loire Valley residents for a home-cooked meal and lively conversation.

Friday — Late-morning departure to explore the vineyards and wine of Montlouis-sur-Loire. Hear from a wine-maker and his sommelier partner about their respect for the land and organic methods of growing grapes and making wine. Picnic lunch at the vineyard. Late afternoon: coffee and sweets in the charming city of Amboise. Evening: farewell meal at our accommodations.

Saturday — After breakfast, goodbyes and then departure to the train station in Tours.

Your weeklong *Discover New Wine in Old France* journey includes the following:

Luxury chateau/manoir accommodations

Full breakfast each day

Five gourmet evening meals featuring local specialties, with wine

Four delicious lunches with wine

All vineyard visits and tastings

Ground transportation in our nine-passenger van

Full-time bilingual guide (it is not necessary that our guests speak French)

Maximum of eight people in the group

First-aid equipment, water and snacks at-the-ready

Note: our ground travel is mostly local and close to our accommodations. Travel time spent in the van is kept to a minimum.

2012 available weeks:

April 15 - 21, 2012

Price: \$2995.00 (all taxes included)

History & Wine

Tour Overview — 2012

7 days, 6 nights in the Touraine region, France

Experience the royal and ancient history of the Loire Valley

Did you know that the beautiful city of Tours was the capital of France for more than a century? And that Leonardo Da Vinci lived his last few years in the royal city of Amboise? Through the centuries, many royals and the nobility have spent their summers in the exquisite palaces and stunning chateaux of this beautiful region. When you visit the Loire Valley wine country, you'll be immersed in the culture and traditions of this wine-making region so central to France's royal history. Each day will feature a village, town, castle or museum that will inform the curious and studious, and delight the intellect of every guest.

History and Wine in the Loire Valley is a fascinating week that takes place in what appears to be a fairy-tale setting but is wonderfully, sumptuously real. During your journey back into the history of France, you'll also spend afternoons visiting vineyards, and tasting the world-class wines of this historic region, from AOC wine-makers whose wines are rarely found outside of France and whose exceptional vineyards are rarely visited by large wine groups. This week is your opportunity to experience firsthand the central role of wine in French history and its significant place in the everyday life of Loire residents throughout the centuries.

Itinerary Overview:

Sunday – Arrival day: Greeted at the train station in Tours by our bilingual tour host, followed by an evening group dinner at our luxurious chateau in Vouvray.

Monday – In the morning after breakfast, our first stop will be the historic village of Amboise, where we will tour the nearby 16th century castle and visit the Clos Luce — Leonardo Da Vinci's home during the last three years of his life. In the afternoon, we'll enjoy a simple yet classic picnic lunch among the chenin blanc vines, and experience our first wine-tasting with the wine-makers of Montlouis-sur-Loire. Dinner will be in Vouvray.

Tuesday – In the morning, we'll visit the small village of Azay-le-Rideau to enjoy an historical walking tour, followed by a guided tour of the fortress in the nearby city of Chinon. Lunch will be enjoyed at a nearby restaurant featuring recommended local wines. In the afternoon, we'll experience the wonder of the cabernet franc vineyards of Cravant les Coteaux and, for dinner, be welcomed into the home of long-time Loire Valley residents for a great home-cooked meal and lively conversation.

Wednesday – An open day offering many options. Ask your tour guide for suggestions; history is everywhere you go!

Thursday – In the morning, we'll discover the villages of Bourgueil and Restigne, and visit the 1,000-year-old Abbey of Bourgueil and the ancient church in Restigne (dating back to before

1000 A.D.) as well as visit Restigne's wine museum. Our afternoon will begin with a gourmet picnic lunch in a cabernet franc vineyard, where we'll savour the wines of Bourgueil and St. Nicolas de Bourgueil as the host wine-maker shares his expertise, stories and local folklore. The rest of the late afternoon is free, followed by a light late-evening meal in the nearby village of Rochecorbon.

Friday – We'll start the day by visiting the historic city of Tours. One option is a walking tour through the "old city" and cathedral, followed by lunch in Place Plumereau, the old city square. After lunch, there will be free time to sightsee, shop or relax in one of France's great cities. Our last evening will be capped off with dinner in Vouvray, where we'll be joined by an innovative wine-maker and master wine-taster. A sunset dessert-and-wine event will take place in his vineyard overlooking the Loire River in the famous appellation of Vouvray.

Saturday – After breakfast and goodbyes, you'll depart to the train station in Tours and back to modern life. This unforgettable week of history and wine will be yours to savour forever.

Your week-long *History and Wine* Journey includes:

Luxury Château/Manoir accommodations

Full breakfast each day

Five gourmet evening meals featuring local specialties, with wine.

Four delicious lunches, with wine.

All vineyard visits and tastings

All museum/chateaux entrance fees

Ground transportation in our nine-passenger van

Full-time bilingual guide (it is not necessary that our guests speak French)

Maximum of eight people in the group.

First-aid equipment, water and snacks at-the-ready

Note: Our ground travel is mostly local and close to our accommodations. Travel time spent in the van is kept to a minimum. Walking components are not strenuous and always optional.

2012 available weeks:

April 22 – 28

May 20 – 26

October 14 – 20

October 21 – 27

Price: Cdn \$2895.00 (all taxes included)

Walking & Wine

Tour Overview — 2012

7 Days, 6 nights in the Touraine wine-making region, Loire Valley

A journey through rural French wine country

Experience the French countryside, the historical city of Tours and the villages of the Loire Valley while traveling on foot through the selection of beautiful walking paths France has to offer. The daily walks on the *Walking and Wine* tour will provide you with a new and unique perspective as your life slows to a pace the French have reveled in for centuries. Our scheduled daily walks range in distance from eight to 15 kilometres (five to ten miles), but we can always find a shorter walk for those who prefer a less vigorous approach. Of course, after all this exercise, you've earned the right to reward yourself at the restaurants and vineyards — and to indulge in tasting some of the best wines and finest food the Loire Valley has to offer. Walking through the rural French wine country in Touraine will be an experience you will treasure for a lifetime.

Itinerary overview:

Sunday — Arrival day: Greeted at the train station in Tours by our bilingual guide. Evening welcome meal with the group at our luxurious chateau.

Monday — Your week starts off with the Vouvray village-and-vines walk of eight kilometers in length. Lunch in the village at a popular local restaurant. In the afternoon, we'll visit one or more Vouvray wine-makers to sample their succulent Chenin Blanc wines. Free time will be available in the late afternoon for individual activities, followed by a sumptuous evening meal with dessert and wine under the stars.

Tuesday — Our day starts with a riverside walk of 15 kilometres along the Cher river from Chenonceau to Montrichard, featuring a beautiful view of the river, chateau and bridge and followed by a well-earned picnic lunch in Montrichard. In the afternoon, we'll taste the outstanding wines of Montlouis-sur-Loire; this is an excellent opportunity to compare and contrast this region's chenin blanc offerings to Vouvray's chenin blanc from the day before! In the late afternoon, you can lounge poolside or enjoy a luxurious nap before dining at another exquisite local restaurant in the neighboring village of Noizay.

Wednesday — A day off, with many options. (Some suggestions: read up on the history of the Loire Valley or visit the royal castles of Amboise, Azay-le-Rideau, Cheverny or Chambord.)

Thursday — Today, we're back on the walking trail with a 15-kilometre vineyard walk through Bourgueil and St. Nicolas-de-Bourgueil, where cabernet franc grapes prevail. This will be followed by a gourmet picnic lunch at which we'll enjoy local gastronomic delights as Hubert Audebert, our guest wine-maker, talks about his passion for wine and winemaking. In the afternoon, we'll take a 30-minute drive to Chinon across the Loire to sample more cabernet franc

in the spectacular Cravant les Coteaux area. In the evening, we'll be welcomed into the home of long-time Loire Valley residents to experience a special home-cooked meal and lively conversation.

Friday — Today we'll walk the streets of the historical city of Tours, the very heart of the Loire Valley. This 10-kilometre walk through Tours will showcase the city's history, architecture, art, shopping, cafes, bistros and more; that's before we settle into a hearty lunch in the old city's Plumereau Square. The afternoon will be open for free activities...perhaps a swim in the chateau pool? The evening will feature a delightful farewell meal at our chateau.

Saturday — After breakfast and goodbyes, we depart to the train station in Tours and back to city life. Our walking journey through France's Loire Valley wine country may be at an end, but the memories will last a lifetime.

Your weeklong *Walking and Wine* journey includes:

Luxury Chateau/manoir accommodations

Full breakfast each day

Five gourmet evening meals featuring local specialties, with wine

Four delicious lunches with wine

All vineyard visits and tastings

Ground transportation in our nine-passenger van

Full-time bilingual guide (it is not necessary that guests speak French)

Maximum of eight people in the group.

First aid equipment, water and snacks at-the-ready

Notes:

The walking routes and distances can be adjusted to suit individual preferences (please inquire in advance).

A second guide (knowledgeable local walking enthusiast) is available to join the walk and intensify your daily exercise (please inquire in advance).

2012 available weeks:

May 13 – 19

September 9 – 15

Price: Cdn \$2795.00 (all taxes included)

Regional Cuisine & Wine

Tour Overview – 2012

7 Days, 6 nights in Touraine, the heart of the Loire Valley

Savour the region's finest flavours

This fertile land, known as the garden of France, was once the playground of kings and their courts. Their royal presence left behind not only beautiful chateaux, but also a rich history, incredible wine, and an exceptional cuisine unique to the Loire. During the Regional Cuisine & Wine week-long journey we will experience local history, world-class chenin blanc, cabernet franc, and sauvignon blanc wine, and the hidden culinary treasures of the Loire Valley. Dishes featuring the goats' cheeses of St. Maure-de-Touraine, the Sandre au beurre blanc fish, or the Tarte Tatin have become classics across France, while other dishes need to be sought out and experienced, whether as a home-cooked meal with local residents or in a fine-dining establishment. Come along with Select Wine Journeys and savour the experience!

Itinerary Overview:

Sunday – Arrival day: Greeted at the train station in Tours by your bilingual host, followed by an evening group dinner at a charming local restaurant on the banks of the Loire River. Start your week-long culinary adventure by trying the andouillettes, rillons, or perhaps the fabulous rillettes...local flavours adored by all! .

Monday – After breakfast, we head to the Royal City of Amboise, where we will find the 15th century castle and visit the Clos Luce – Leonardo Da Vinci's home during the last three years of his life. Enjoy a traditional crepe lunch, with a sampling of cheese, and seasonal fruit in the village square. In the afternoon, it's off to Domaine Le Capitaine in Vouvray, where we will be greeted by wine-maker Alain Le Capitaine, and taste some of his lovely chenin blanc wines in his 1000-year-old cellar. This evening, we dine with local residents, who enjoy meeting new people from around the world, and introducing them to a few of their favourite dishes.

Tuesday – After breakfast, sit back and enjoy the scenic one hour drive along the Loire River on our way to the Chateau Cheverny, considered the most classic example of Chateaux in the Loire Valley. Early afternoon departure to the village of Selles-sur-Cher and home to its famous goats' cheeses. Visit with a local cheese-maker and sample more delights of the region while enjoying a Sancerre Sauvignon Blanc...nothing goes better! Late afternoon visit with Lise Girard and Bertrand Jousset, wine-makers in Montlouis-sur-Loire. Lise, a certified Sommelier, and Bertrand, an innovative wine-maker, are an exciting young couple, recently chosen as one of the three best young wine-makers in the Loire! Lise and Bertrand will join us for dinner. It is a rare treat to have world-class wine-makers at the table with us. Perhaps this evening we will enjoy tiny radishes dipped in lightly salted butter, asparagus soup, stewed rabbit with tomatoes

and mushrooms...all enjoyed with baguettes, a variety of wine, followed by cheese and something sweet of course! The menu varies depending on the season and the chef's desire of the day.

Wednesday – Today is your day off. You may want to spend the day sightseeing in the city of Tours, (only 15 minutes away) once the home to the Royal Court of France. Or, you might prefer a stroll among the many vineyards close by, or spend an afternoon relaxing by the pool. The possibilities are endless. Transportation can be arranged.

Thursday – After breakfast we leave for the picturesque village of Langeais. The Chateau of Langeais which towers over the old city, was built in 1465 by King Louis XI, and is a perfect example of a late medieval castle. Walk about the grounds and explore the castle before enjoying a mid-day meal in a popular local restaurant at the foot of the chateau.

After lunch we are off to Bourgueil for a visit with one of the appellations best wine-makers...Hubert Audebert. Hubert's wine, made from 100% cabernet franc grapes, are considered some of the finest red wine the Loire has to offer. Enjoy a walk among the 100 year-old vines and taste his "Vielles Vignes" deep underground in his cellar...Amazing!

Dinner will be at La Rose de Pindare in the village square of Bourgueil. The home-made foie gras and roasted goats cheese salad are outstanding. Excellent wine, excellent food, in home-cooked style!

Friday – Early morning departure to the cheese making appellation of Sainte Maure-de-Touraine. Spend time exploring the local market which has been in existence for over 100 years. We will find some of the best local producers of the famous "chevre" cheese. Shop, taste, savour...awesome. Along the way, we will find a quiet spot to enjoy a Chinon cabernet franc or Vouvray sec chenin blanc to enjoy with our cheese and baguette!

After our picnic lunch, we visit the historical city of Chinon. Enjoy a walk through the old city (one of my favourites), or visit the fortress overlooking the city which was once home to Joan of Arc.

Many experts agree that the Chinon region consistently produces the best red wine in the Loire Valley...therefore, a visit to the vineyard of the Grosbois family is a must. Nicolas Grosbois, the 11th generation of the Grosbois family making wine on the same land, is a treat to visit with as he loves to share his wine, and speak of his family's history in the area.

Our farewell dinner will take place at a quaint restaurant in Candes St. Martin, at the foot of the 12th century church towering over the square. This is a beautiful setting and final opportunity to taste the mouth-watering delicacies of the Loire Valley.

Saturday – After breakfast, transportation is provided to the train station in St. Pierre des Corps, Tours.

Your week-long Regional Cuisine & Wine of the Loire Valley journey includes:

Luxury chateau/manoir accommodations

Full breakfast each day

Five gourmet evening meals featuring local specialties, with wine

Four delicious lunches with wine

All vineyard visits and tastings

Ground transportation in our nine-passenger van

Full-time bilingual guide (it is not necessary that our guests speak French)

Maximum of eight people in the group

First-aid equipment, water and snacks at-the-ready

Note: our ground travel is mostly local and close to our accommodations. Travel time spent in the van is kept to a minimum.

2012 available weeks:

June 10 – 16

July 8 – 14

September 16 – 22

Price: \$2995.00 Can. (all taxes included)



2012 JOURNEYS REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Province/State:** _____

Postal Code: _____ **Email:** _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Medical Conditions: _____

Please select which Journey you will be going on and circle the date of travel.

- Discover New Wine** — 7 days/6 nights \$2995.00 Cdn/Per Person
Dates: April 15-21
- History & Wine** — 7 days/6 nights \$2895.00 Cdn/Per Person
Dates: April 22-28, May 20-26, Oct. 14-20 and Oct. 21-27
- Walking & Wine** — 7 days/6 nights \$2795.00 Cdn/Per Person
Dates: May 13-19, Sept. 9-15
- Regional Cuisine & Wine** — 7 days/6 nights \$2995.00 Cdn/Per Person
Dates: June 10-16, July 8-14, Sept. 16-22

All prices are "land only" per person based on double occupancy. Please add \$450.00Cdn for single occupancy. To confirm your space, a deposit of \$500.00 Cdn per person is due at time of booking. Balance is payable 60 days before departure. All payments are non-refundable. Full payment is due at time of booking. Cheques should be made payable to **D. Kasper Agencies Inc.**

Please return completed registration form and payment to:

Select Wine Journeys
8847 214B Street • Langley, BC • V1M 2H9 • Canada