

AN 8-DAY WINE TOUR IN PROVENCE

Wine with Everything: June 23-30, 2018

Day 1, Saturday

Arrival day: The French Traveler welcomes you to Aix en Provence.

Take a few moments to catch your breath in this quintessential Provençal town. Afternoon at leisure before sharing cocktails and introductions this evening, followed by dinner near our hotel.

DINNER

Day 2, Sunday. Wine and the city.

During our morning ramble around the city, we'll get to know our surroundings. We'll admire the architecture, stroll through various sections of town, and revise our French history, as this city was the home of nobility and seat of power opposing the king of France for several centuries. Lunch together on a shaded terrace, and some afternoon free time before a visit to a local vineyard with a professional sommelier who will give us our first lessons on the beauty of Provençal wine.

LUNCH

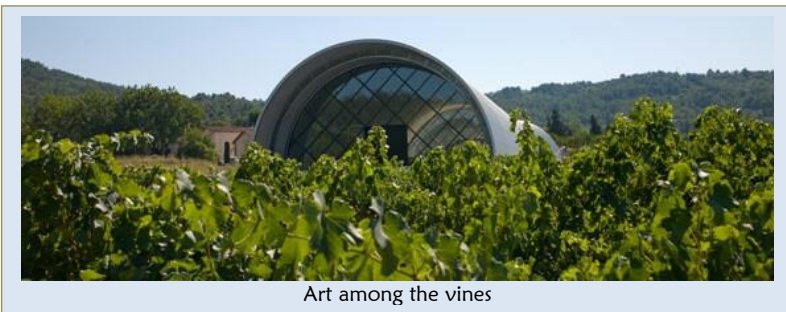
Day 3, Monday. Wine with perched villages.

Châteaux, vines, fields of lavender and rolling hills: a day in Lubéron with hillside villages and lush vineyards to taste. Watch the 2006 film "A Good Year" with Russell and Marion Cotillard to prepare. We make a stop in the village featured so prominently in the film and end our afternoon tasting wine in a picturesque Provençal vineyard.

LUNCH



Day 4, Tuesday. Wine with art.



Cézanne was born in Aix and painted the Sainte-Victoire mountain over and over again. We'll visit his outdoor quarry this morning so you can see for yourself why he was so obsessed.

After lunch on your own, a visit to a state-of-the-art vineyard outside of Aix that has incorporated its own outdoor museum amongst the vines.

The wine storage itself ("le chai") was designed by world-famous French architect Jean Nouvel. Evening visit with a private American artist who has made her home here in Aix.

MEALS AT LEISURE

Day 5, Wednesday. Wine with cuisine.

Learn the secrets of Provençal cuisine with an engaging chef whose delightfully accented English will add to the savor of his recipes. First, he'll introduce you to his favorite vendors at the local marché to shop for the freshest ingredients for your meal. Then he'll whisk you to a wine chateau on the way to his home to pick out the perfect bottle to accompany your lunch. You'll participate in a group cooking lesson and finally, dine on his shaded patio. A leisurely ride back to town, with--*of course!*--a stop at a local vineyard, will have you dreaming of your next dinner party to show off your new French cooking skills. Rest of the afternoon and evening at leisure, but you might need a nap first!

LUNCH

Day 6, Thursday. Wine with the sea.

Enjoy the morning at the vibrant market in Aix, one of the best in the region. Late morning we'll leave for Cassis to enjoy a wine tasting at a private vineyard of select white Cassis wines in a drop-dead gorgeous location on the Mediterranean Sea. Lunch at a superb restaurant with a dazzling view. Take a boat ride to the breathtaking "Calanques" this afternoon or spend leisure time strolling the port before returning to Aix late afternoon.



Private vineyard in Cassis

LUNCH



Dining under the plane trees: Aix-quisite!

Day 7, Friday. Wine with everything!

Spend a leisurely day doing what you like: pamper yourself at the local spa; play a round of golf in the shadow of the Saint Victoire mountain; visit a hair & make up stylist; take a painting class, revisit some of those places we saw along the way. Final dinner in an "Aix-quisite" restaurant.

DINNER

Day 8, Saturday

Departure today after breakfast if you absolutely must, or stay another day to prolong the enjoyment and visit the renowned Côte du Rhône region with us.

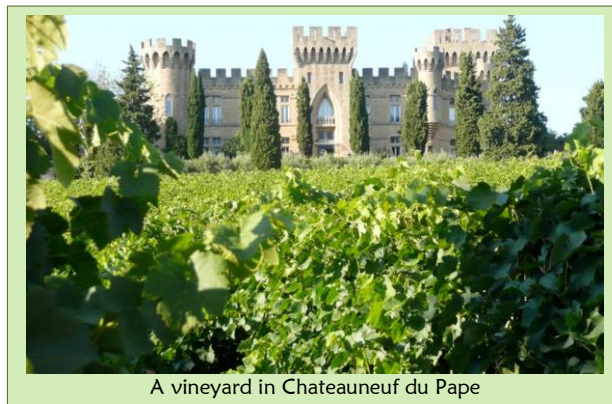
1-DAY EXTENSION : CHATEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

MINIMUM 4 PARTICIPANTS

Day 8, Saturday

Chateauneuf du Pape! Is your heart beating faster already? It should. This tiny wine region an hour's drive from Aix in the Rhône Valley produces magnificent red wines noted for their intense color and long lasting qualities. Expansive, well structured, and blessed with a favorable *terroir*, these full-bodied reds are known all over the world as excellent companions to red meat, game, and cheese. Gourmet lunch in the town and visit to a select vineyard here today. Return to Aix early evening; possibility of staying on your own in Avignon if desired.

LUNCH



A vineyard in Chateauneuf du Pape

Day 9, Sunday

And now it's really au-revoir!

*The French Traveler reserves the right to make changes to this itinerary as necessary.
Final itinerary will be mailed to participant before trip.*