

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France, seen from a distance and slightly out of focus. In the foreground, there are two wine glasses filled with white wine, and a basket of croissants. The image is overlaid with a large, dark red diagonal shape on the right side and a smaller orange diagonal shape on the bottom left. The text 'FOOD & WINE TRAILS' is written in a serif font, with 'EPICUREAN TOURS' in a smaller sans-serif font below it.

FOOD  
& WINE  
TRAILS  
EPICUREAN TOURS

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# ZAP Paris, and the Loire Valley

Land Only or Pre-Cruise Tour

October 15 – October 20, 2024

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# Paris & the Romantic Loire Valley

5-Night/6-Day

October 15 – 20, 2024



Fill your days with French cuisine and culture on this expedition highlighting two renowned regions: Paris and the Loire Valley (famously known as the garden of France). Enjoy traveling to each section of the country noting the changes in the terrain as you move from city to countryside and deep into the heart of wine country. Additionally, a mixture of small group and private touring add an element of luxury to this memorable journey.

In Paris, taste your way through a culinary epicenter on guided wine and food tours. The journey continues to Tours in the Loire Valley, home to numerous wineries and sprawling chateaux - both of which you are invited to explore on this driving tour through the valley.

Whether it is wine or medieval history you seek, you are invited to partake in a 6-day immersive experience of this land, discovering the incredible variety of castles, storybook villages and the amazing diversity of its wines. There is nowhere that captures your heart quite like France.

# Day 01

Welcome to Paris!

Start your French exploration in the country's capital, Paris, home to haute couture, masterpieces of art & architecture, temples of fine wine, dining, and bohemian cafés. It's also called 'The City of Light' because it was one of the first major European cities to use gas street lighting in 1820.

Located just off the Boulevard Saint-Germain-des-Prés is the five-star boutique **Hôtel Bel-Ami**, your home for the night. Check into the hotel and spend the afternoon exploring or just relaxing in your room. As evening approaches, meet your winery host, Karen Francis DeGolia, who will be with you for this 6-day tour. She will lead you on an informative walk from the hotel to the restaurant explaining some of the rich history of this neighborhood.

Make a stop for dinner at **Allard Restaurant**, one of the most sought-after gourmet addresses in Paris. Located in the heart of Saint-Germain-des-Prés, it remains one of the last authentic French gourmet bistros. Today still, the establishment is filled with the spirit of Marthe Allard, (Mother cook) who founded the restaurant in 1932. Allard is above all the story of a peasant from the Burgundy region who traveled up to Paris carrying her authentic and generous family recipes.

After a full day, settle in for the evening at your hotel for a restful overnight.



**Allard**



# Day 02



*Le Berlot*



*Chenonceau Castle*

This morning after breakfast you will leave your hotel with your tour guide and sommelier, Kelly McAuliffe. You will be transferred to the Paris train station for a scenic train ride to the enchanting area of Tours in the Loire Valley. From here the Loire Valley fairytale begins...

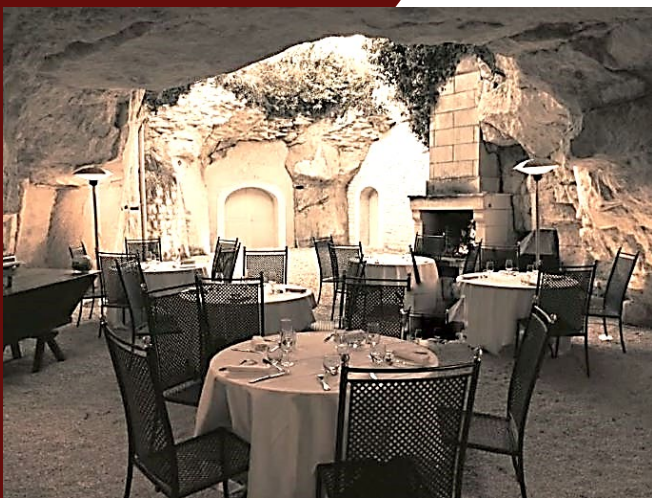
At the train station in Tours, a coach will be waiting to take you to lunch at a fabulous local restaurant, **Le Berlot** located in the wine producing village of Montlouis sur Loire.

After enjoying this amazing Bistronomic cuisine, you will go to **Château de Chenonceau Castle**, by far the most popular château in all of Loire Valley and a must see while in the region. The main château was built between 1515-1521 by Thomas Bohier, Chamberlain to King Charles VIII of France, with the construction overseen by his wife, Katherine Briçonnet. After the château was seized in 1535 by King Francis I, the estate was given to his successor, Henry II's mistress Diane de Poitiers, who commissioned the arched bridge that spans the Cher River.

At the end of the day, you will be dropped off at the **Les Trésorières Hotel** in the charming town of Blois for an evening on your own and overnight.

[B, L]

# Day 03



*Domaine Charles Joguet Cave de Tuffeau*

Start today with breakfast at your hotel. After boarding the motorcoach with your guide, we will drive to **Domaine Charles Joguet**. Here, the current owners Anne-Charlotte Genet and winemaker Kevin Fontaine oversee the vineyards and the cellars. Focusing on Cabernet Franc and Chenin Blanc from the Touraine appellation, the winery currently produces cuvées as well as single vineyard designate wines designed for aging. Following a visit and tasting, you will enjoy lunch in the 15th century **Cave de Tuffeau**.

Next on the event list is a tour of the **Royal Abbey of Fontevraud**. From an Abbey cherished by kings to one of the most feared prisons, situated where the three regions of Poitou, Anjou and Touraine meet, this is one of the largest surviving monastic cities from the Middle Ages. The Abbey was listed as an Historic Monument in 1840, and, as part of the Loire Valley, as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000.

From here, we take a short drive to our next tasting in the heart of the Bourgeuil terroir, **Château de Minière**. The origins of the Château de Minière date back to the 15th century when it began as a fortified farm. Later, it became a manor house before becoming a Château in the 16th century. The French writer Charles Perrault was inspired by the Château and had it in mind when writing “Sleeping Beauty.”

Once the tour and tasting are complete, you will be taken back to your hotel in Blois to enjoy an evening at your leisure. A selection of excellent restaurants is available in the old town, just walking distance from the hotel. [B, L]



*Royal Abbey Fontevrad*



*Chateau Miniere*



# Day 04



*Domaine Huet*



*Caves Ambacia*

After breakfast at the hotel, you will start today's tour with a tasting at **Domaine Huet**, undoubtedly the leading estate in Vouvray.

Founded in 1928, **Domaine Huet** is the most well-known producer in the Vouvray region as well as the entire Loire Valley. The vineyard is cultivated biodynamically, an approach that takes organic farming a step further. He uses plant-based preparations to help the vines grow stronger, along with limited addition of sulfur and with respect for the lunar calendar.

After your visit, the next stop will take place at an emblematic Loire Valley cellar dating from the 15th century. Located on the banks of the Loire, the **Caves Ambacia** invites you to explore the cellar before a tasting of wines and partaking in lunch overlooking the Loire River. Indulge in a selection of local specialties including cheeses matured in these cellars, fine charcuterie, Loire fish, Sologne caviar, foie gras and Touraine truffles.

After lunch, explore the town of **Amboise** with your guide - a charming town with an Italian flair. It's known for the Château d'Amboise, the grand 15th-century residence of King Charles VIII featuring Leonardo da Vinci's tomb, as well as royal chambers, gardens, and underground passageways. With its serene & easy-going feel, you will explore the streets lined with small boutiques as well as the esplanades along the Loire River banks.

Your guide will drop you off at the Hotel Fleur De Loire after the city tour. The rest of the afternoon and evening is yours to relax and enjoy at your leisure.

[B, L]

# Day 05

After breakfast this morning, depart for a day exploring the region of **Sancerre** located at the very far east of the Loire Valley wine region. Sancerre is dominated by plantings of the Sauvignon Blanc grape which have been appreciated since Roman times when King Philip Augustus had them included in the famous wine tasting of 1224, the Battle of the Wines.

First on the itinerary is a stop at the **Château de Sancerre** for a tour and tasting. This estate is one of the rare French châteaux to bear the name of an appellation dominating a unique terroir of 4 different soils. The wines of Château de Sancerre are vinified and aged until they are bottled, directly at the Château.

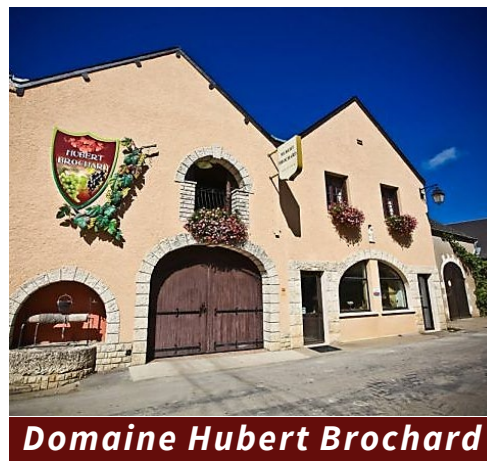
After the tour, take some time on your own for lunch and leisure in the medieval town of **Sancerre**, the archetypal, bucolic French hilltop village.

Later, reconvene with the group for a tasting at **Domaine Hubert Brochard**. This vineyard produces classically styled Sancerre blanc, rosé, and rouge from their family-owned winery in Chavignol. Aimée Brochard inherited her father's vines in the early 1900s, growing grapes and raising goats to produce cheese with the help of her husband Hubert. The domaine is now run by the fifth and sixth generation of Brochards with 152 acres under vine in Sancerre, Pouilly-Fumé, and Vin de Pays du Val de Loire.

When you are done absorbing all that Sancerre has to offer, you will be taken back to your hotel to freshen up for dinner. Meet your guide and fellow travelers in the lobby for a drink then proceed to **Amour Blanc Gourmet Restaurant** where Chef Christophe Hay will amaze you with his French classics and seasonal creations. [B,D]



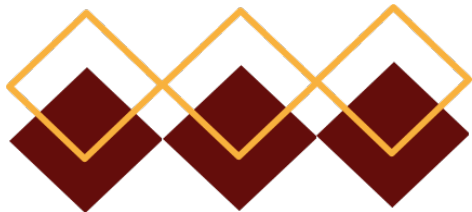
*Château de Sancerre*



*Domaine Hubert Brochard*



*Sancerre*





# Day 06

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After a buffet breakfast at the hotel, bid farewell to your fellow travelers. For those of you continuing with the cruise portion of this trip, you will have a group transfer motorcoach to the ship in Paris.

For those of you who this ends your time with us, please coordinate your travel arrangements from this point forward with your travel advisor.

Bon voyage!!

[B]







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## Meet Your Winery Host – Karen Francis DeGolia

Karen Francis DeGolia was a part of Limerick Lane in the early 90s when the vineyards were brought back to life and first harvested for the newly created Limerick Lane Cellars. Engaged to the founder, farmer, and winemaker Tom Collins, Karen spent many hours on the ranch and was a partner to him at the winery until Tom, the heartbeat of Limerick Lane, passed away unexpectedly, and Karen moved away and pursued her business career. With an economics degree from Dartmouth, a Harvard MBA, and a sense of adventure, she moved to Detroit, where she made a name for herself as one of the youngest female leaders in the automotive industry.

Karen came back to Limerick Lane in 2002 and lived at the winery, worked harvest, poured in the tasting room, and worked markets with distributors thinking that the time might be right to return to the magical place that held so many memories. But in 2004, another great career opportunity jumped up and pulled her to San Francisco. This time though, she held on to the captivating old vines on the Lane by buying the famed Ricci vineyard just next door to the original Limerick Lane property.

Fast forward a year later, Limerick Lane would soon change several paths and Karen was back as the owner of Limerick Lane Cellars. With the addition of her vineyard properties, Limerick Lane is now a 53-acre estate solidifying its position as one of the most iconic vineyard locations in the Russian River Valley. Karen is thrilled to help grow the business and share the elegant Limerick Lane wines uniquely crafted here on the Lane.



## Meet Your Guide - Kelly McAuliffe

Kelly McAuliffe has been the only American sommelier working in France for the past 26 years. Before he became a sommelier, he had spent 10 years living and working around the world in fashion, where he developed his love for wine and food. He began studying wine through the University of Berkeley and then moved to Avignon to continue studying wine at the Université du Vin. After doing an internship in Alain Ducasse's 3-star Michelin restaurant in Paris, Kelly was asked to run his new chic restaurant in Monaco which was filled with international celebrities.

Since then, Kelly has run various restaurants including *Spoon* in Paris, *Mix* in Las Vegas and he became the French Wine Specialist at Southern Wine and Spirits in Las Vegas. For the past several years, he has led private wine and food tours for professionals and tourists throughout France. Kelly is beloved by everyone who meets him and is sure to enrich your adventure with his wine and regional knowledge.

# ACCOMMODATIONS



## Hotel Bel Ami

1 Night –October 15 - 16, 2024

The Hôtel Bel Ami is a 5- star boutique hotel tucked away on a tiny side street in the bookish Saint-Germain-des-Prés neighborhood and sits on the lower-key Left Bank—the Rive Gauche, as they say. This building was formerly a 19th-century printing press where the first copy of Guy de Maupassant's novel, Bel Ami was printed (hence the name).



## Les Trésorières Hotel

2 Nights –October 16 - 18, 2024

An intimate but spacious hotel, right next to Tours market, the gastronomical heart of the city where modernity, traditions, and history, are combined. Rooms located alongside the Loire, the royal river leading to the most beautiful castles.



## Fleur De Loire

2 Nights – October 18 – 20, 2024

Housed in a remarkable 17th century Chateau, Fleur de Loire houses a hotel, two restaurants, a pastry kiosk and a spa. In a building designed by Gaston d'Orléans, the son of Henri IV and Marie de Médicis, Fleur de Loire overlooks the city of Blois and its impressive riverbanks.

\*Additional room nights are subject to pricing and availability



# ACCOMMODATIONS



*Executive Room*

## *Hotel Bel Ami*

Hotel Bel Ami offers a selection of Executive rooms, each with its own individual Parisian décor and atmosphere overlooking Place Saint-Germain-des-Prés, offering a vista over its famous church.

- Coffee machine
- Air conditioning
- Free Wi-Fi
- Thick mattress topper
- Writing desk



# ACCOMMODATIONS



***Deluxe Room***

## ***Les Trésorières Hotel***

This hotel will provide guests with a flat-screen TV, fitness room, free Wi-Fi and a private bathroom with a shower. All guest rooms offer a wardrobe and a kettle.

- Coffee machine
- Air conditioning
- Luxury bedding
- Minibar
- Writing desk





# ACCOMMODATIONS



## ***Fleur de Loire***

The Deluxe Loire View Rooms have 322 square feet. These rooms are located on the 2nd and top floors with all overlooking the Loire. Most of them have sloping ceilings with tons of charm.

- View of the Loire and Blois
- King Size bed or twin beds on request
- Wardrobe
- Bathroom with walk-in shower or bathtub



## ***Deluxe Room***



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**PER PERSON PRICE:** \$8,725.00  
**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:** \$1,580.00

**PACKAGE INCLUDES:** One (1) night hotel accommodation at the Hotel Bel Ami in Paris in an Executive room category; two (2) nights at the Les Trésorières Hotel in Tours in a Deluxe room category, two (2) nights hotel accommodation at Fleur de Loire in Blois in a Deluxe room category, five (5) breakfasts, three (3) lunches, two (2) dinners – 1 wine paired, English speaking guide, hotel portage, winery tours and tastings, luggage truck from Paris to Tours, one train ticket from Paris to Tours, all entrance and tour fees, transportation on deluxe A/C motorcoach, bottled water on the motorcoach and all local taxes.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Arrival transportation to Hotel Bel Ami, gratuities for the drivers, hotel upgrades, additional hotel nights, all items of a personal nature and expense of any kind relating to or required for PCR or Antigen tests (or covid related expenses).

**ACTIVITY LEVEL:** There will a great deal of walking on uneven surfaces to negotiate throughout the tour.

**NOTE:** Times and providers are subject to change. Please indicate on the registration form if you are travelling with friends.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** F&WT highly encourages protecting your travel investment in case of an emergency requiring you to cancel your trip. Your F&WT's Travel Advisor can assist you with procuring the appropriate coverage. Please make sure to read the cancellation policy on the registration form outlining our cancellation policy.