



FOOD
& WINE
TRAILS

Davis Family Vineyards

Paris, France

Pre-Cruise Tour

December 8-10, 2026

THE MAGIC OF THE WINTER CHRISTMAS MARKETS IN PARIS

2 Night/3 Day Pre-Cruise



Let's face it—Paris is dreamy all year long. It charms in spring, dazzles in summer, and glows in fall. But during the holidays, the City of Lights becomes something truly magical, transforming into a radiant winter wonderland. With festive tastings, unique souvenirs, and a warm holiday spirit, Paris offers a winter experience that feels both enchanting and unforgettable. It's the perfect setting to slow down, embrace the season, and create memories that linger long after the holidays.

From late November through early January, Christmas markets fill the city with life and sparkle. Wooden stalls line parks and public squares, inviting visitors to browse handcrafted gifts, colorful decorations, and artisanal treasures. Sip hot chocolate or mulled wine, glide across ice rinks, or simply soak in the festive atmosphere, each market has its own charm. Larger markets, like those along the Champs-Élysées, impress with grand displays and lively crowds, while smaller markets tucked away on quiet streets offer a more intimate, relaxed experience. Many feature live music, family-friendly attractions, and seasonal entertainment that keeps the energy vibrant throughout the day.

Exploring these markets becomes part of the adventure. Wander the glittering streets or follow the Seine from one festive spot to another. For a quieter, more magical feel, visit in the early morning or later in the evening. And of course, don't miss the food. From buttery pastries to savory winter dishes, every bite adds to the experience. The holiday season in Paris brings sparkling moments at every turn, making it a delightful, must-see Parisian winter experience.

Meet Owner and Winemaker, Guy Davis



Guy Davis' wine roots run deep, reaching back to the age of nineteen when he worked in a French restaurant in Seattle while pursuing an economics degree at the University of Washington. In 1984, Davis graduated from college with a degree in Management and Finance.

In 1988, he created an opportunity to work on some winery finance projects and by 1989 had moved to Sonoma County and started working as the wine buyer for a small mail order wine company specializing in wine from small, boutique wineries. Along the way, Guy's work brought him in contact with creative, artisan wine makers, many of whom possessed the passion of great artists. These small-production, hands-on winemakers became a real inspiration. Davis, determined to learn and master the craft of making wine himself, signed on to work the 1989 harvest at Sky Vineyards, a little winery atop Mount Veeder in Napa Valley. On the weekends, Davis labored and learned his craft, whether it was bottling, labeling, pruning or harvesting. He took every Viticulture and Enology class offered at Santa Rosa Junior College and pursued night and weekend courses in the winemaking program at the University of California, Davis.

It was after a stint as director of marketing at Kendall-Jackson that in 1994 he started Passport Wine Club: a mail order company that connected tiny wineries from all over the United States to consumers seeking rare, small-production wines. In 1995, Davis produced his first commercial vintage: 250 cases of old vine Zinfandel from the Russian River Valley. In 1996, he bought his own vineyard in Russian River Valley comprised of 100-year-old Zinfandel vines, and in 1997, crushed his first vintage under the Davis Family Vineyards label.

Over his 30-year career at his own Vineyard and Winery in Sonoma County, CA, Guy has also made wine throughout France. He has compiled over 200 scores of 93-100 points and been named Winemaker of the year twice. Davis Family Vineyards was awarded Winery of the Year in 2015 for their Estate Pinot Noir. Guy has lots of stories to tell about his journey!

Paris Marchés de Noël

Top Paris Christmas Markets 2026

Jardin des Tuileries Market - The largest central market, located between the Louvre and Place de la Concorde, featuring over 80 chalets, rides, and food stalls.

La Défense Christmas Market - The biggest market overall, located in the business district, with over 300 stalls.

Eiffel Tower Christmas Village - Situated at Quai Branly, great for festive views of the tower.

Montmartre Christmas Market - Taste traditional French dishes like escargots, raclette, and sautéed mushrooms. Don't miss a festive drink at the champagne bar in the square.

Notre Dame Christmas Market - Located at Square René Viviani, known for high-quality arts and crafts.

Hôtel de Ville Christmas Market - Featuring cozy wooden chalets, artisanal gifts and an ice rink, located near the historic City Hall of the 4th arrondissement.

Abbesses Market (Montmartre) - A cozy, village-style market near the Metro station.

Alsatian Market (Gare de l'Est) - A specialized market for authentic food from the Alsace region.

Saint-Germain-des-Prés Market - A small, elegant market in the heart of the Left Bank.

Gare de l'Est Christmas Market - The square in front of Gare de l'Est transforms into the oldest market outside the Alsace region. Enjoy culinary specialties such as pretzels, gingerbread, cakes, chocolates, pasta, foie gras, wines, cognac, and charcuterie.

Place Saint-Michel Christmas Market - Offers a cozy stop in the heart of the Latin Quarter featuring handcrafted products, Christmas gifts, and winter treats.



Day 1

Ooh là là! Welcome to Paris!

Upon arrival, make your own way from the airport to **Hôtel & Spa Royal Madeleine**. Since check-in is not until later in the afternoon, you can store your bags with the concierge and then meet your host Guy Davis and your local guide in the lobby of the hotel at 1:00pm.

Prepare for an afternoon of **discovering Paris** in its festive winter glow on a half-day guided sightseeing tour combining the city's iconic highlights with brief stops near its Christmas markets. Explore historic landmarks, elegant neighborhoods, and the banks of the Seine as your guide shares insights into Paris's history and culture. Along the way, pause at key locations such as Hôtel de Ville, Saint-Germain-des-Prés, and the Tuileries Gardens to catch a glimpse of their seasonal Christmas markets from the outside, offering a taste of the holiday atmosphere. This tour focuses on showcasing Paris as a whole while giving you the opportunity to spot festive markets and return later to explore them at your own pace. A perfect introduction to Paris in winter, blending classic sightseeing with a touch of holiday spirit. Your guide will highlight local specialties, and lead you to the best spots for shopping, tasting, and soaking up the Christmas spirit.

After the tour, head back to the hotel, check in and take some time to refresh before meeting up with the group again this evening.

Dinner awaits you at **Macéo Restaurant**, a rakish mix of modern furnishings and historic stones. It sets a hybrid tone not unlike the funk music of the restaurant's namesake, saxophonist Maceo Parker. The message here is simple: 'People are making wonderful wine everywhere, never to ostracize even quirky wines from less prestigious French wine regions.' This superb establishment is also owned by Mark Williamson and is now headed by Williamson's son Adrian. Chef Nathan Pascual brings his own touch to the fusion-style seasonal menu that is fresh and inventive, balancing beautiful presentation with a creative use of flavors. In symbiosis with that of neighbor and big brother **Willi's Wine Bar** (the first contemporary wine bar in Paris that changed the wine bar culture in France forever), Macéo's substantial cave (cellar) holds an impressive 10,000 bottles of wine, including varieties from Williamson's own collection.

Having sipped and savored, conclude this perfect day with a shuttle back to the hotel for a restful evening.

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Christmas Markets



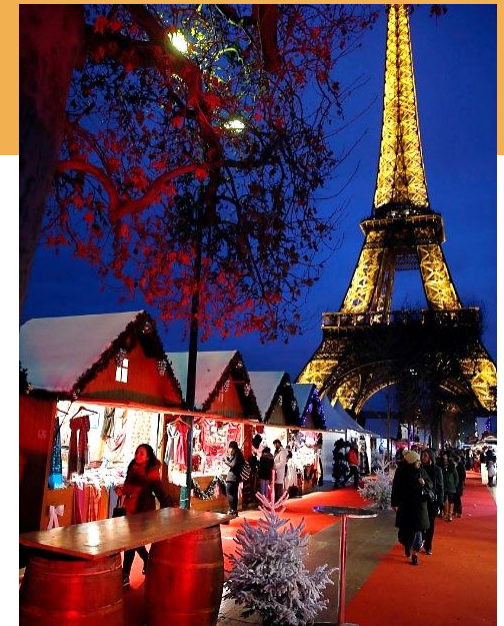
Macéo Restaurant

Day 2

After breakfast, the tour guide has set you **free for a full day** to experience the magic of Paris on your own, inviting you to explore whichever Christmas markets capture your interest most. Wander through twinkling stalls filled with festive treats, sip on warm mulled wine, and sample seasonal favorites as you go. Along the way, take time to admire beautifully decorated streets, charming neighborhoods, and iconic landmarks that feel even more special during the holidays. It's your chance to savor the sights, flavors, and spirit of Paris in a way that feels entirely your own along with recommendations for dinner from your guide.

After a day at Paris's Christmas markets, the evening is perfect for slowing down and enjoying the city's festive glow. A gentle walk along the Seine or through a historic neighborhood reveals illuminated landmarks and lively cafés. For dinner, perhaps choose a cozy, welcoming spot such as a traditional bistro, where you can relax over comforting dishes like onion soup, duck, or steak with a glass of wine. For something more festive, you may opt for a setting with holiday ambiance or views of the city or keep it casual with a café or wine bar for a simple meal. Embrace some seasonal flavors with something warm to drink, then finish with a peaceful stroll through the softly lit streets—an ideal end to a magical Paris evening.

[B]



Day 3

After a sumptuous breakfast at your hotel, check out and meet your group transfer driver in the lobby, who will be ready to escort you as your journey continues. Earlier this morning, a dedicated luggage service will have already collected your bags and arranged for their direct transfer to your river cruise ship in Bordeaux, allowing you to travel light and with ease.

You will then be transferred to the Paris train station, where you'll take your first-class seats aboard the **train to Bordeaux**. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the passing scenery of the French countryside along the way.

Upon arrival in Bordeaux, a transfer will be waiting to escort you to your river cruise ship. There, you will board and begin the next chapter of your onward adventure.

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Hôtel & Spa Royal Madeleine

2 Nights / December 8-10, 2026

Hotel Royal Madeleine is a refined 4-star boutique hotel in Paris's upscale 8th arrondissement, just steps from the Opéra Garnier, Madeleine Church, and major shopping boulevards. Blending the feel of a stylish Parisian home with modern luxury, it offers elegant, comfortable rooms along with standout amenities like an indoor pool, spa, sauna, fitness center, and a chic restaurant and cocktail bar.

Standard Queen Room amenities include:

Air conditioning, Smart TV, tea/coffee kettle, writing desk, in-room safe, minibar and free highspeed WiFi.



FOOD & WINE TRAILS

EPICUREAN TOURS

PER PERSON PRICE: \$2289.00

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$312.00

TOUR INCLUDES: Two (2) hotel nights in Standard Room Category, hotel portage, two (2) breakfasts, one wine-paired welcome dinner, local expert guide, a guided overview tour of the Christmas Markets, one First Class train ticket, departure transfer from hotel to cruise ship.

ARRIVAL TIME: Once you arrive in Paris, transfer on your own to the Hotel Royal Madeleine. Please plan your travel arrangements to accommodate a guided city tour at 1:00 PM.

ARRIVAL AIRPORT: Paris Charles de Gaulle International Airport

NOT INCLUDED: Arrival transfer to the hotel, gratuities for the drivers or guide, hotel upgrades, additional hotel nights, all items of a personal nature.

ACTIVITY LEVEL:  * See rating key below.

NOTE: Times and providers are subject to change. Price is subject to change based on availability at the time of booking. 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.

TERRAIN DIFFICULTY



EASY SIP

Flat, smooth, and leisurely



STEADY POUR

Slight inclines, uneven surfaces, gravel paths



FULL-BODIED TREK

Hilly, rocky, possibly unpaved



VINTAGE CLIMB

Steep, rugged, or unmaintained trails