



TRAVEL JOURNAL 2023 SEASON

LE GRAND TOUR
• FRANCE •

Program



DEAR TRAVELERS

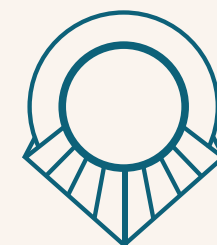
Welcome aboard Le Grand Tour!

We are pleased to provide you with this travel journal to allow you to take a closer look at the exceptional program that awaits you, (re)discovering France, its secrets, its splendors and its flavors. In this document, you will also get to explore the possibilities of personalizing your very own experience, so that you can make this journey a timeless escapade in your own image.

We invite you to browse through this travel journal ahead of your meeting with our ambassador in the next few weeks.

The Grand Tour team will be happy to answer the questions you may have.

Paul, your butler





CONTENTS

1 MONDAY	Epernay, Capital of Champagne Reims, City of Coronations	6 8
2 THUESDAY	Beaune, Gem of Gothic architecture Annecy, Pearl of the Alps	10 12
3 WEDNESDAY	Avignon, City of Popes Les Alpilles, Land of history and olive trees	14 16
4 THURSDAY	Arcachon, Mythical basin out of time Saint-Emilion, Heart of the Grands Crus	18 20
5 FRIDAY	Chenonceau, The Ladies' Château Puy du Fou, Emotions are eternal	22 24
6 SATURDAY	Brunch aboard the Train	

CATEGORIES

-  Architecture
-  Arts
-  Crafts
-  Wellness
-  Sport
-  Boating
-  Music
-  Food and Wine
-  Family-friendly

ACCESS

-  Accessibility
-  Travel time from the station

DAY ① – EPERNAY



MONDAY AFTERNOON

We roll out of Gare de l'Est and leave Paris behind. The first hillside vineyards shape the landscape until we reach Épernay, where we are expected for an exclusive tour of a historic Champagne House.

PERRIER-JOUËT CHAMPAGNE HOUSE

⌚ 4H40



We are in the middle of the *Belle Époque*: luxury, champagne and glitter, lightness, the French gentle way of life. Here we visit the *Perrier-Jouët* family home and taste a flute in the «*Belle Époque Cellar*». *Émile Gallé*, designer of the emblematic anemones on the *Perrier-Jouët* bottles, would symbolize France in his own right: a lover of nature, a tireless creator, a company director committed to the well-being of his workers, an ardent patriot, a poet, a symbol of French elegance for his time. He wanted to make beauty available to all, to create luxury but also high-end popular products thanks to the magic of modern technology.

PROGRAM

8.21 AM* or 7.51AM	Departure of the train from Gare de l'Est, Paris
9.51 AM* or 9.40 AM	Arrival at Epernay train station
10.00 AM	Walk through Epernay streets to Perrier-Jouët Champagne House
12.00 PM	Welcome in the Perrier-Jouët courtyard by an ambassador with the «Champagne ritual» and lunch
2.30 PM	Private tour of the cellars and of the Belle Époque family house
3.40 PM	Walk back to the Epernay train station
4.09 PM	Train departure



DAY ① – REIMS



MONDAY LATE AFTERNOON

After lunch, the journey continues to Reims, City of Coronations. An exclusive visit of the cathedral awaits us, with an access to little-known spots full of surprises. We then head back to the train for the dinner and to spend the night on board.

REIMS CATHEDRAL

⌚ 3H15



15 min



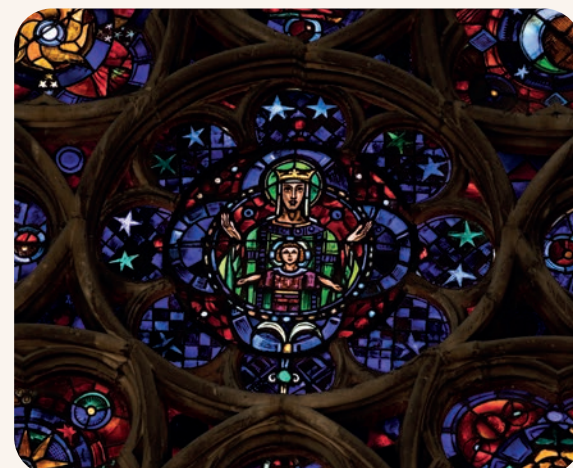
Travelers with reduced-mobility: limited access to some areas

We are in 1914, on September 5th. Péguy dies on WW1 front, **Reims** is bombed by the Germans. The **cathedral** burns, a scene of apocalypse, under the stunned eyes of Albert Londres. The stained glass windows burst into thousands of shards, the roof structure bursts into flames, the smiling angel falls, his head rolling to the ground, shattered and disfigured.

We pilgrim in this stone vessel which had fascinated Rodin so deeply, taking at his word the sculptor who wrote, in a magnificent book on French cathedrals: «» Do not forget that my aim is to persuade you to take this glorious path yourself: Reims... «». Reims of the baptistery where the dove descended, Reims of Clovis and Clotilde, those visionaries three centuries ahead of their time who founded a new order in the midst of the chaos of time, Reims of Joan of Arc and Charles VII... Before resuming our journey, we have the opportunity to discover the unique know-how of the **Master Glassworkers of the Simon-Marq Stained Glass Workshop**, preserved like a jewel since 1640.

PROGRAM

- 4.56 PM Arrival at the Reims train station and walk through the city center
- 5.15 PM Private discovery of Reims Cathedral
- 7.35 PM Walk back to the Reims train station
- 8.09 PM Train departure and **dinner on board**



PERSONALIZATION

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO THE CATHEDRAL TOUR



30 min



PRESSORIA

Upon arrival at the train station, your private transfer will take you to **PRESSORIA**. You will discover there the wine of kings through your 5 senses. Built in a former pressing center of the Pommery house, the **immersive and interactive** course of PRESSORIA offers you a unique experience to discover the **mysteries of Champagne**. At the end of the visit, you have the pleasure of tasting some champagne before your driver takes you back to the station.



15 min



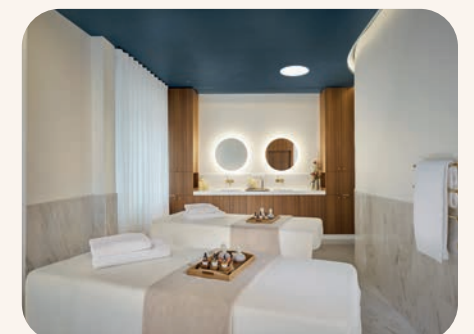
DEEP NATURE SPA

You are welcomed at the **Deep Nature Spa**, specializing in Vinocosmetics. Treat yourself and choose your favorite **45-minute treatment** from the list below, and then enjoy the facilities (relaxation, fitness, Jacuzzi and steam room).

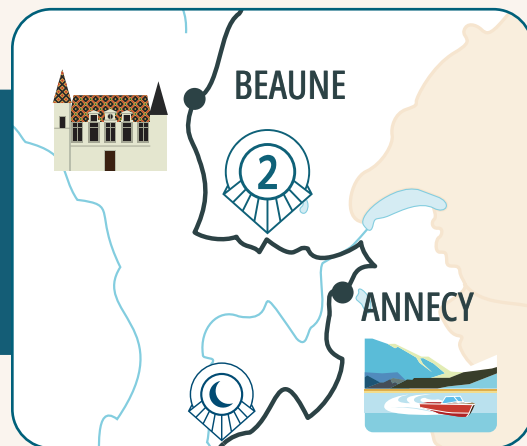
Facial treatments:
- Vin'hydra intense
- The ideal

Body care:
- Double scrub and moisturizing
- Massages».

Travelers with reduced-mobility: access to most common areas and to additional equipment upon request at the time of the booking (please specify)



DAY ② – BEAUNE



TUESDAY AFTERNOON

Burgundy reveals its most beautiful landscapes and Beaune, its polychrome roofs. A private tour awaits you to discover the unusual and secret places of the famous Hospices.

THE HOSPICES DE BEAUNE

⌚ 2H35



15 min



Travelers with reduced-mobility: limited access to some areas

Here we are in **Beaune**, on the lands of Nicolas Rolin, chancellor of the Duke of Burgundy, Philippe le Bon (Philip the Good), the man who had captured and sold Joan of Arc to the English. Was it to make up for this misdeed that Rolin, perhaps the richest man of his time, decided to give everything for the most humble? His wife, Guigone de Salins, gave him the idea that would offer him his redemption: a palace to welcome the poor, the sick, the dying, to offer art and beauty, mercy and paradise to the most miserable. We meet The ambassadors of the famous **Hospices de Beaune** lead us through the corridors of the **Hôtel-Dieu** to the king's room for a tasting of Burgundy wine.

PROGRAM

- 8.40 AM** Arrival at the Beaune train station and walk through the picturesque streets to the Hospices (car ride available on request)
- 9.00 AM** Exclusive discovery of the Hospices de Beaune and private rooms followed by a tasting
- 10.35 AM** Walk back to the Beaune train station
- 11.15 AM** Train departure and **lunch on board**



PERSONALIZATION

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO THE HOSPICES



35 min



CLOS DE VOUGEOT

Upon your arrival at the Beaune train station, your driver will take you directly to the **Château du Clos de Vougeot**, a Grand Cru of the Côte de Nuits: this exceptional wine house and site open their doors to you for an extraordinary visit. Symbol of the millennium history of Burgundy and head of the **Confrérie des Chevaliers du Tastevin**, the Clos Vougeot prepares you a tasting in the heart of the **Grands Crus** road.



15 min



NUXE SPA

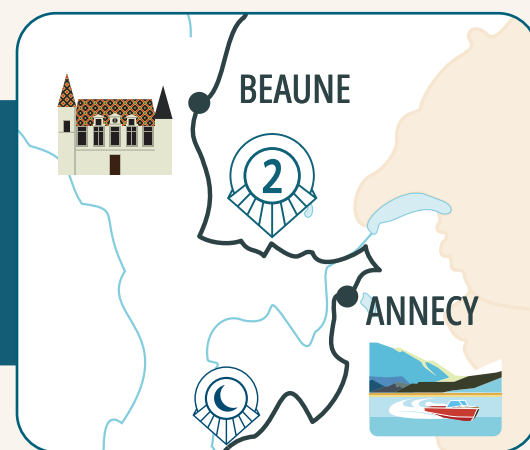
The **NUXE Spa** invites you for you a sensory journey. Choose a **30-minute treatment** and enjoy access to the facilities (relaxation, jacuzzi and hammam):

- Nuxe Prodigious Back Massage
- Nuxe Relaxing Foot Massage
- Nuxe Charismatic Head Massage
- Honey Dream Nourishing Body Scrub
- Immediate Radiance Facial Treatment

Travelers with reduced-mobility: access to most common areas and to additional equipment upon request at the time of the booking (please specify)



DAY ② - ANNECY



TUESDAY AFTERNOON

During your lunch on board, enjoy a unique view on the way to the Alps. The afternoon is spent visiting Annecy and enjoying a series of cultural or outdoor activities, with many personalization options available.

FROM THE CANALS TO THE BANKS DISCOVERING ANNECY

⌚ 4H40

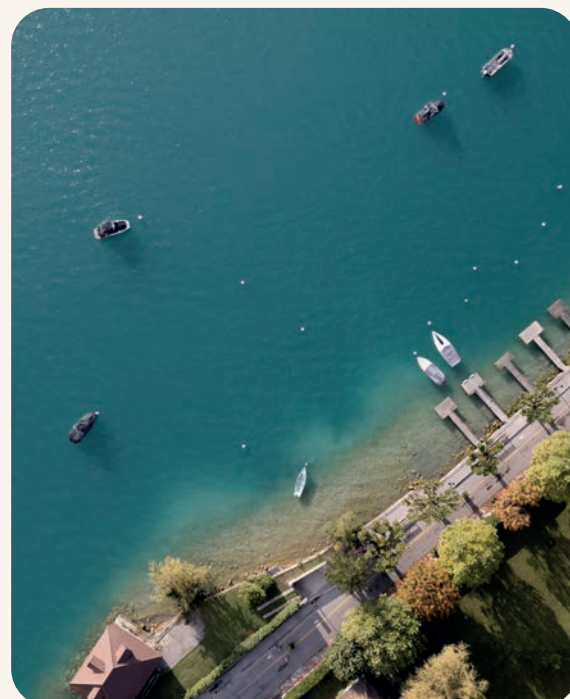


Travelers with reduced-mobility: the boats are accessible to mechanical wheelchairs, but not to electric ones; the tour of the old town is accessible to wheelchairs. Please note however that the streets are cobbled and may sometimes be challenging.

As soon as we arrive, **Annecy** appears before our eyes. The little Venice invites us to let ourselves be carried along by the water, to discover its **mythical lake**, full of legends... We sail on this vast mirror, tens of meters above the wreck of the France paddle steamer. Later, we walk through the streets of the old town, one of the oldest cities in France.

PROGRAM

- 3.29 PM Arrival at the Annecy train station
- 3.35 PM Guided tour of the old town of Annecy
- 4.05 PM Boarding in the boats for a discovery of the lake and the lake city
- 5.35 PM Landing and further discovery of Annecy
- 7.35 PM Walk back to the Annecy train station
- 8.01 PM Train departure, dinner and evening on board



PERSONALIZATION

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO THE TOUR OF ANNECY AND THE LAKE



PRIVATE BOAT RIDE
WITH PILOT

When you get off the train, you will enjoy the streets of the old Annecy before going to the Aravis pontoon at 4:00 pm. You embark on your **private boat** and let yourself glide along the water to enjoy the lake and its panorama. The pilot, at your disposal, offers you to practice wakeboarding or paddleboarding as you wish. Following the **two-hour boat ride**, you will return to the same pontoon, which leaves you a little more time to stroll through the streets of Annecy before the departure of the train.

Access to boats only with mechanical and not electric wheelchairs



PACCARD FOUNDRY

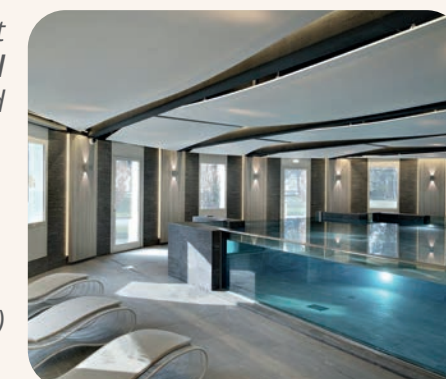
Upon arrival at the station, your driver will take you to the **PACCARD foundry**, which is today the world's reference for church bells and carillons. Since 1796, 7 generations of founders have succeeded one another at the head of the company, founding more than 120,000 bells that give rhythm to the daily life of cities and villages throughout the world. A private visit of the foundry punctuated by privileged encounters as well as a moment of relaxation in the tea room will be on the agenda.



IMPERIAL PALACE SPA

Upon arrival at the train station, your driver will take you to the heart of the **Impérial Palace**, a historic hotel on the shores of the lake. **Cristal Spa Annecy** offers a choice of treatments and beauty rituals designed by Cinq Mondes and Alpeor:

- Cinq Mondes Traditional Oriental Massage
- Cinq Mondes Sublime Polynesian Massage
- Cinq Mondes Indian Ayurvedic Massage
- Cinq Mondes Royal Balinese Massage
- Cinq Mondes Face Massage with the 5 flowers of Bali (Possible in duo)
- Alpeor Alpine Prelude Facial (Possible in duo)



DAY ③ - AVIGNON



WEDNESDAY MORNING

We arrive in Avignon after one night heading towards Provence. The Palais des Papes unveils its best-kept mysteries, up to its rooftops, where an original tasting of the best wines and products of the region awaits us.

THE PALAIS DES PAPES (POPES' PALACE)

⌚ 2H40



15 min



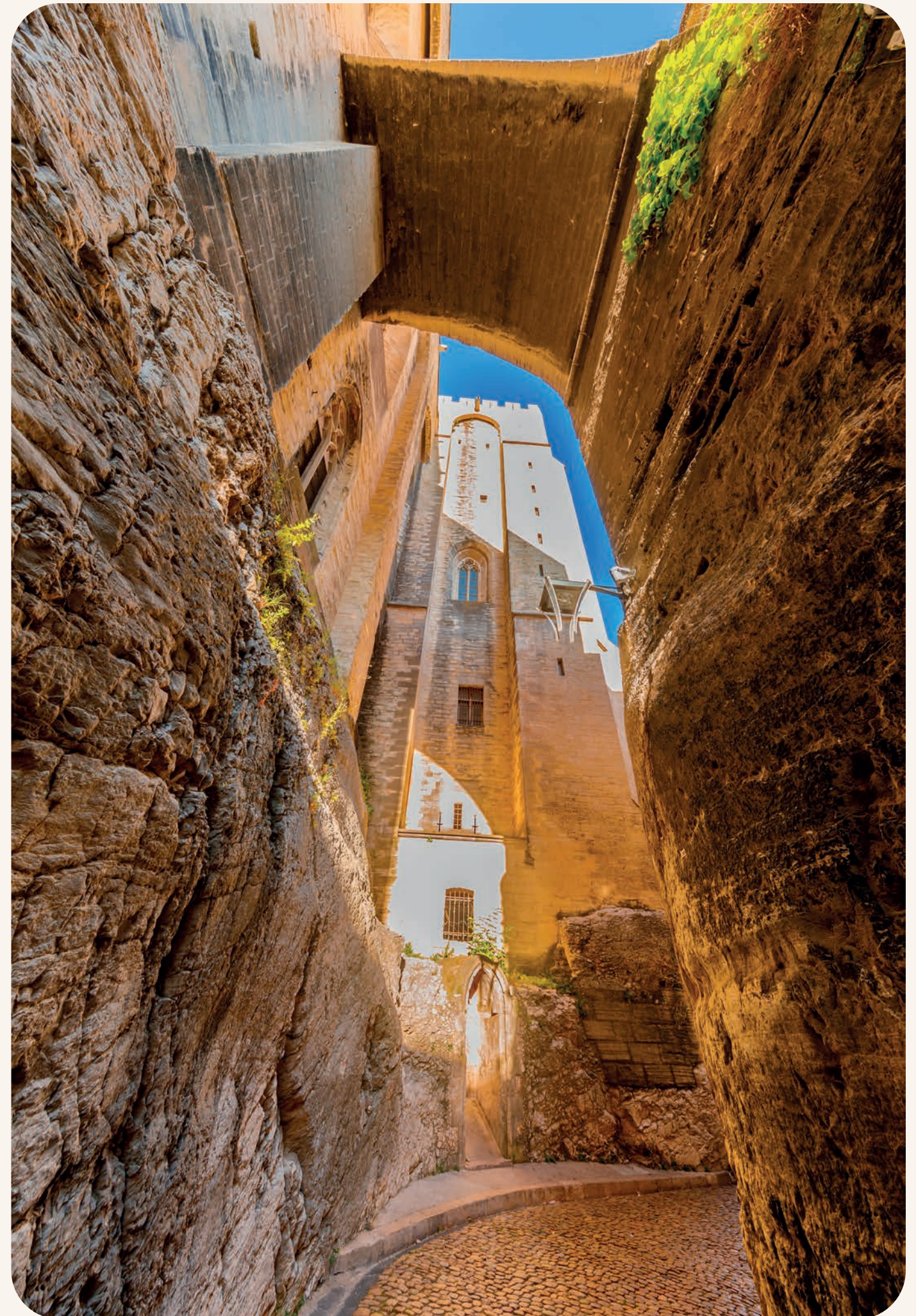
Travelers with reduced mobility: Limited access in some areas

The city of the popes is a magnificent collection of French history. All eras are represented: Clovis besieging Gondebaud (the murderer of Clotilde's parents) entrenched behind the walls of Avignon, Charles Martel who came to punish the treason of Mauronte who had opened the doors of the city to the Saracens, Charlemagne founder of the sanctuary of Rochefort du Gard, the shepherd Saint Bénézet, mythical builder of the Bridge of Avignon, and then the papacy era.

*We walk through the unknown corners of the **Palace of the Popes**, discovering the history of the city and the people who lived there. It was in Avignon that Petrarch met Laure, the mythical Frenchwoman who became the archetype of eternal femininity through the magic of the Florentine poet's verses. It is said that Francis I himself came to gather at her tomb, where he shed noble tears. Avignon is also Louis XIV and his arm wrestling with the papacy, the Revolution and the Terror, the Napoleonic gesture, Alexandre Dumas, Mistral and the Félibrige, the Festival with René Char and Christian Zervos... This city reveals itself through art, beauty and culture.*

PROGRAM

- 8.51 AM** Arrival at the Avignon train station and walk up the main street towards the Palais des Papes
- 9.15 AM** Private tour of the Popes' palace and its rooms usually closed to the public which ends with a local tasting
- 11.20 AM** Departure towards the Alpilles



DAY ③ – LES ALPILLES



WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Provence is gradually taking shape to the song of the cicadas, along the lavender fields. Here is the time to stroll among the olive trees, to enjoy a sunny terrace, and to discover the sweetness of life in Provence.

LUNCH AT MOULIN CASTELAS
AND VISIT OF THE CLOISTER OF SAINT PAUL OF MAUSOLE

⌚ 4H20



Travelers with reduced mobility: Limited access in some areas

*In the **Alpilles**, we meet the olive growers of the **Moulin de Castelas** with whom we exchange on their activities and know-how during a Provençal lunch in the heart of the olive grove, facing the panorama of Baux-de-Provence.*

*Under the Provençal sun, we go to meet **Vincent Van Gogh** at the **Saint-Paul de Mausole** monastery in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, where he stayed before his death...*

PROGRAMME

- 12.00 PM Arrival at Moulin de Castelas
- 12.10 PM Welcome and meeting with the owners of the place. **Provençal lunch** in the heart of the olive grove
- 2.10 PM Transfer to the cloister Saint-Paul
- 2.25 PM Tour of the cloister and discovery of Vincent Van Gogh's life
- 3.25 PM Transfer to the Tarascon train station
- 4.20 PM Departure of the train, **dinner and Grande Soirée on board**



DAY 4 - ARCACHON



THURSDAY MORNING

The ocean air wakes us up and the Arcachon basin reveals its splendors. Our pinasse boat crosses the basin, straight out of the Dubourdieu shipyards after our visit. A seafood tasting accompanies this timeless moment.

THE PINNACES OF THE DUBOURDIEU SHIPYARD AND THE ARCACHON BASIN

5H25



5 min



Travelers with reduced mobility have only access to boats with mechanical and not electric wheelchairs.

Back to the Belle Époque, when the Parisian elite used to flock to **Arcachon** to enjoy, as we do, its iodized delicacies. We visit the **Dubourdieu shipyard**, named after Louis Dubourdieu who built «titolles», rowing fishing boats, in 1800. More than two centuries later, this shipyard is considered a «Living Heritage Company», symbol of French excellence and age-old know-how. We cross the **Arcachon basin** on board one of their pinnaces and imagine Duguesclin and the Black Prince riding at full gallop on the beach... before docking at the village of Le Canon where we savor the famous oysters of this tidal lagoon.

PROGRAM

- 9.16 AM** Arrival at Gujan station and walk to the Dubourdieu shipyard located in front
- 9.30 AM** Welcome by the director then discovery and exchange with the craftsmen of the site
- 10.40 AM** Boarding on Dubourdieu pinnaces. Beginning of the trip on the Arcachon basin, followed by oyster tasting in the small village of Canon before **lunch on board the boats**.
- 2.10 PM** Transfer to the Arcachon train station
- 2.42 PM** Departure of the train



PERSONALIZATION

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO THE SHIPYARD VISIT



15 min



DISCOVERY OF ARCACHON WINTER TOWN AND SUMMER TOWN

A guide will be waiting for you upon your arrival at the Arcachon train station. You will discover the two iconic districts of the city of **Arcachon**: the **Summer City** with its covered market where you can taste oysters and shrimps from the Basin, and the **Winter City**, an astonishing posh district known for its extravagant villas. You will dive into the history of the creation of this seaside resort and its unique architectural heritage. The guide will then accompany you to the **restaurant of La Ville D'Hiver** where you will have **lunch** before your return to the station.

Complicated access on some sloping streets in Winter City for travelers with reduced mobility.



30 min



HELICOPTER RIDE

Upon your arrival at the Gujan train station, a transfer is organized to take you directly to the pick-up location. Your pilot will welcome you and take you aboard the **helicopter**. Admire the exceptional setting of the **Arcachon Basin** from the sky and discover the region from a new angle. At lunch time, you will be taken to the **restaurant**. At the end of your meal, your driver will drive you to the station.



DAY 4 - SAINT-ÉMILION



THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Leaving Arcachon Bay, our train soon makes its way through the heart of the Bordeaux vineyards to Saint-Émilion, where several of the most prestigious Grands Crus châteaux open their doors to welcome us.

SAINT-ÉMILION AND ITS CASTLES

5H15



Travelers with reduced mobility: Limited access in some areas

The legend of *Saint-Émilion* goes back to the Carolingian time, with the hermit Saint Emilion. He would have made spring from the rock a miraculous source thanks to which he accomplished miracles. Under the modest church that he had founded, his disciples dug a cave where he was buried. Enlarged little by little, it became the gigantic monolithic church that we visit, before losing ourselves in its underground passages in the footsteps of the hermit. Does it really have anything to do with the culture of wine? The whole history of the city of Saint-Émilion can be read from the point of view of wine. Presumably, in the Middle Ages, a white wine was produced for the Eucharist, which became very famous at the beginning of the 13th century, as shown by the famous *Bataille des Vins* (Wines battle), a poem written at the time of Philippe Auguste, where all the great wines of the time were put in competition to select the best one.

Over the centuries, Saint-Émilion has thus become a symbol of Christian traditions and French culture.

PROGRAM

- 3.59 PM Arrival at the Libourne train station
- 4.30 PM Welcome and private tour of the domain ending with a tasting
- 5.30 PM Transfer to the centertown of Saint-Émilion for a private tour of the undergrounds and a musical cocktail at a cloister (the cloître des cordeliers)
- 8.45 PM Transfer back to the Libourne train station
- 9.15 PM Departure of the train and **dinner onboard**



PERSONALIZATION

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO THE VISIT OF THE CASTLES
YOU JOIN THE GROUP FOR THE UNDERGROUND TOUR



Travelers with reduced mobility: Limited access in some areas

Upon arrival at the Libourne train station, a driver will take you to **Château Angélu**, a **Premier Grand Cru classé A**, the work of a passion written for eight generations by the de Boüard de Laforest family. Located in the heart of a natural amphitheater dominated by three churches, you could hear the bells ringing the Angelus in the morning, at noon and in the evening, giving rhythm to the day's work in the vineyards. The Angelus style is the marriage of a bold grape variety with an exceptional terroir. You will find on the estate the Paccard carillon, designed and cast in the Annecy workshop. After the private discovery of the domain, you will taste the wines of the Château. (Visit only available in French)



CHÂTEAU ANGELUS



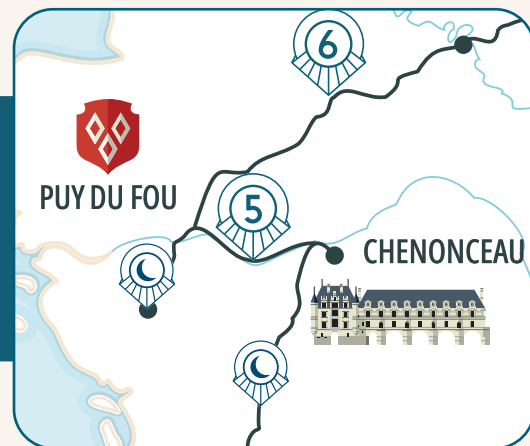
Upon your arrival at the Libourne train station, a driver will take you to the heart of a historic estate, a **Premier Grand Cru Classé**. Protected by a hundred-year-old hedge of small oak and hawthorn trees, the vineyard of **Château Figeac** breaks through the armor of time. The genius of the place and the Manoncourt family are part of a unique ecosystem. In this gentle tranquility, the new winery and the historic château together exude great serenity. At the end of the visit, you will taste **Château Figeac** wines.



CHÂTEAU FIGEAC



DAY ⑤ – CHENONCEAU



FRIDAY MORNING

The sun rises over the Cher. The fog melts away to reveal a limestone miracle, a Renaissance masterpiece whose architecture is unique in the world: Chenonceau, the «Ladies' Château».

THE CHÂTEAU DE CHENONCEAU



5 min



Some rooms are inaccessible by wheelchair.

⌚ 3H10

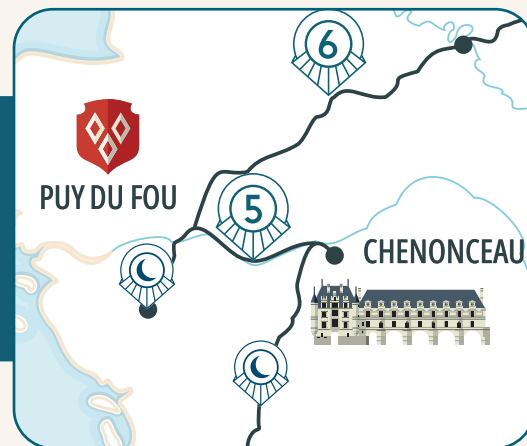
*The **Ladies' Castle**... That of the architect Catherine Briçonnet to begin with, who had the monument built in 1531, on the site of an old medieval fortress. It became the property of the Crown under Francis I, and was subsequently protected and embellished by Diane de Poitiers, Gabrielle d'Estrées, Catherine de Médicis, Louis de Lorraine and Louise Dupin. The latter, great-grandmother of George Sand, who had Rousseau as her personal secretary, saved the Château de Chenonceau from destruction during the Revolution. A haven of peace and femininity during the Wars of Religion, **Chenonceau** is perhaps the only castle without blood on its stones. We get lost in the gardens, the fruit of a passion for flowers and botany shared by gardeners from the Renaissance up to today - Nicholas Tomlan, inspired **botanist**, officiates today at Chenonceau.*

PROGRAM

- 8.00 AM Arrival at the Chenonceau train station
- 8.05 AM Welcome and exclusive access to the castle before the opening to the public. Beginning of the private tour and refreshments at the Orangerie
- 10.10 AM Beginning of the visit of the gardens
- 11.10 AM Walk back to the Chenonceau train station
- 11.56 AM Departure of the train and **lunch on board**



DAY ⑤ – PUY DU FOU



FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Le Grand Tour ends with a spectacular journey through time at Puy du Fou. History meets legend and comes back to life. When night falls, the grand night-time show offers a final and stunning bouquet beneath the stars.

LE PUY DU FOU

⌚ 11H30



Le Grand Tour is a poetic escape into the French legend: it thus had to stop at Le Puy du Fou.

The Vendée identity is based on a wound, which is a source of creativity. In the Vendée, there is a bruised greatness, a mystery of unspeakable suffering, which is sublimated in and through creation. From the trauma of the Vendée War sprang a poetic word that generated the Puy du Fou, one evening in June 1978. Like Épernay, the city that created Champagne, the Vendée, a land sacrificed during the Revolution, has become a land of creators and artists. The Bouquet of Wine and the bouquet of emotions of our shows.

Le Grand Tour completes its journey in this magical place where all eras unfold, this place of re-enchantment where our heroes, our greatness and our pride live. This high place of the living memory of France takes us to meet the most beautiful stories of the great History which shaped France and continue to amaze the visitors Le Puy du Fou welcomes every year.

PROGRAM

- 1.30 PM Arrival at the Cholet train station
- 1.40 PM Transfer to Puy du Fou
- 3.00 PM Welcome and beginning of the VIP tour of Le Puy du Fou
- 8.00 PM **Dinner in a private place**
- 10.00 PM Night-time show
- 1.00 PM Transfer to the Cholet train station

* Cinescenie or Noces de Feux depending on the date of the trip





www.legrandtour.com

LE GRAND TOUR - PUY DU FOU - CS70025 - 85590 LES ÉPESSES - FRANCE
LEGRANDTOUR@PUYDUFOU.COM

RCS La Roche-sur-Yon B 853 069 888

Crédit photos : Éric Mercier - Stéphane Audran - Puy du Fou®