

Discover The Loire

April 2008

Sunday 13th – Thursday 17th

Experience ultimate wine tasting
and visits to historic chateaux

Your trip will include the following:

- Return Newhaven to Dieppe ferry crossings
- A private luxury coach to transport you from Brighton for the 5 days.
- 4 nights bed and breakfast accommodation in the hotel Anne D'Anjou in Classic rooms
- Admission to Château Villandry, Château Azay le Rideau, Abbaye de Fontveraud & Château de Saumur
 - A guide for the tour at Abbaye de Fontveraud
 - Dinner on days 1 and 2
 - The chateau visit, cheese tasting and picnic on day 2
 - Visits and tastings at 4 vineyards.
 - A 3 course lunch including wines on day 3.
 - The services of a Grape Escapes Tour director.

£590 per person (sharing twin / double room)

Single Supplement - £88 per person (Classic rooms only)

Upgrade to Superior room - £68 per person (only 8 twin / double rooms available)

Black Tie Gala Dinner - £95 per person

To book, please complete and return the enclosed form together with a £75 deposit by 31st December, or contact Martin Foster on 01273 729998

This exclusive trip is limited to a strict maximum of 36 people.

Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis therefore early booking is recommended.

The full balance is payable 60 days prior to travel (by 13th February 2008).

If less than 25 people travel, the price will be increased accordingly.

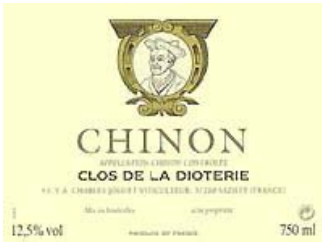


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MONTPELIER
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The
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CONSERVATION TRUST



The Region

Lush green land, gently undulating countryside, rich vineyards and charming towns. Some of the most famous French Chateaux are here, including Amboise, Saumur, Azay-le-Rideau, Villandry and Chenonceau. The rivers Loire, Cher, Indre and Vienne meander gracefully through the region.

The Wines

White, rosé and red, still and sparkling, dry and sweet. The Loire is home to Chenin Blanc, the only region in the world to specialise in cabernet franc.

Accommodation

Your accommodation will be at the 18th Century Anne d'Anjou hotel, restored with many of its traditional features. The historic façade leads into the reception area with magnificent staircase crowned by a trompe-l'oeil ceiling. The guest rooms are luxuriously decorated some with views of the Loire, others facing the hotel's charming interior courtyard.

Optional Black Tie Gala Banquet

The ultimate conclusion to the week is an optional black tie gala banquet, including aperitifs and selected wines in a grand dining room at Chateau Montsoreau overlooking The Loire, with a tour. This will cost £95 per person.

Day 1

- o 07:00 Leave Brighton on luxury coach for Newhaven Dieppe ferry, arriving in Dieppe at 12:00, and on to Saumur, stopping for an hour in Lisieux, home of Basilique de Ste Thérèse
- o Arrive at hotel around 18:45, where you will enjoy a relaxed 3 course dinner.

Day 2

- o Morning: Enjoy a tour Fontveraud Abbey where Richard the First is buried.
- o Lunch: Continue east past the medieval town of Chinon to a small chateau with a highly regarded reputation for their various styles of garden. The visit will include a gourmet picnic + a tasting of St Maure cheeses with the local confrerie de St Maure
- o Afternoon: Visit the producer of the finest red wines in the Loire Valley, including a tour of the domain, winery and famous Clos de la Dioterie vineyard, and tastings of all of their wines



- o Your evening meal will be set in a unique restaurant set in a troglodyte cave carved into the tufa stone banks of the Loire. The 4 course meal will include the regional speciality, fouée which is a hot bread baked over the open fire in the cave.

Day 3

- o Morning: Visit Chateau Villandry on the bank of the Loire outside Tours, particularly famed for its fabulous renaissance style gardens
- o Travel a few miles down river to a small producer in the Azay le Rideau appellation for a tour of special cellars, carved to provide material for the Tours cathedral, with their own underground spring
- o The tour will finish with a buffet lunch in the cellars, prepared by the owner's wife, typically including several pork dishes made from their own animals, St Maure goats cheese produced by the owner's aunt, a variety of salads and several desserts, along with tasting of the full range of their wines and their spirits
- o Afternoon: Visit one of Vouvray's top producers for a tasting of all expressions of Chenin Blanc
- o A short visit to the chateau at Azay Le Rideau
- o Free time to chose a restaurant for dinner
- o Optional reservations can be made at the gastronomic restaurant Chateau Prieuré overlooking The Loire (meal and transport to the chateau not included). The restaurant is in the hands of one of the Master Chefs of France

Day 4

- o After breakfast, you will have time to explore the pretty riverside town of Saumur and the market located in 'les hauts quartiers' with an optional visit to Saumur's chateau in the late morning, then free time for lunch. You could visit the Maison du Vin de Saumur, less than a five minute walk from the hotel. The coach can collect any purchases at the end of the afternoon
- o Visit one of the most famous sparkling wine producers for an introduction to Loire wines, with a 'classroom session' about the region's geology and the resulting broad styles of wines, then a tour of their cellars where their sparkling Saumur wines are produced, followed by tastings of 8 - 10 of their wines from the length of the Loire
- o In Saumur, there will be time to freshen up before the optional gala banquet

Day 5

- o Leave Saumur at 9:00. Free time (up to 1.5 hrs) in Chartres for lunch.
- o Return to Dieppe for 18:00 crossing, arriving in Newhaven by 21:00.

