



French Wine EXPLORERS



3-DAY *Private* LOIRE VALLEY SOJOURN

Known for its majestic royal chateaux and **great red and white wines**, the Loire Valley is a favorite destination for wine lovers visiting France. You'll visit the Loire's most beautiful **historic chateaux**, and tours and tastings will be at the best estates of **Vouvray, Chinon, or Bourgueil**. Accommodations fit for a king at a **luxury chateau-hotel** awaits you. This short tour is perfect for travelers wanting to add wine country touring to a visit to Paris or elsewhere in France.

DAY 1

AMBOISE *and* MATURED LOIRE VALLEY WINES

- **Your professional guide/driver** meets you at the Tours train station in the morning. Then it's off for a day of touring in the Loire Valley.
- You will be delighted by the beauty and dramatic scenery of **Chateau of Amboise**, on top of a cliff overlooking the Loire River. The Chateau of Amboise was built in the 15th and 16th centuries. This authentic royal castle introduces Italian style to the Loire Valley. Leonardo Da Vinci rests in the Chapel of the Chateau.
- Lunch is at your convenience in the medieval town of Amboise.
- **Visit the Clos Lucé.** In love with the Italian architecture, king Francois decides to build a new chateaux in the Loire Valley and invites Leonardo da Vinci to France in 1516. In the Manor and the gardens, you will discover the models of some Leonardo creations like the helicopter, the parachute, the mobile bridge, the tank...and you will walk through his private bedroom, kitchen, living room, study...
- Next, a stop at **Caves Duhard** established in 1874. Its actual owner and wine maker Daniel Gatay is specialized in mature Vouvray wines. This winery is facing the Loire River is located between Amboise central town and your hotel.
- Late afternoon, **check-in at your 4* luxury hotel**, in the heart of Tours, or chose a chateau hotel in the countryside
- Dinner at leisure in Tours or at your hotel, with our recommendations.

DAY 2

FANTASTIC GARDENS *and* GRANDS CRUS WINE TOUR

- Visit the **Gardens of the Chateau of Villandry**. Villandry was the last Chateau built during the Renaissance period. It is today famous around the world for its unique French terrace gardens.
- Lunch is at your convenience in Chinon. Walk in the steps of Joan of Arc and Richard the Lion Heart.
- Early afternoon, the **Chateau de Ligre** welcomes us for a visit of its vineyard in **Chinon**. Since 1971 this domain belongs to Pierre Ferrand – a keen wine maker, who will share with you his love to Chinon wines.
- To end the day, we go to **Bourgueil** at the **Domaine de la Chevalerie** in Restigné. Established in 1640, this estate is always in the possession of the same family. Mr Caslot is the 14th generation of wine maker. The 90 acres family property elaborates fantastic red wines made from the cabernet franc grape. His best vintage is made of 70 year old vines.
- Return to your hotel and enjoy an evening on own.

*(Monday through Friday tour dates are preferable,
as more wine estates are open. Saturday is also possible if necessary.)*

**DAY 3***GREAT CHATEAUX of the LOIRE VALLEY*

- Visit of the **Chateau of Chenonceau**. The unique architecture of the chateau/bridge makes it one of the most original Chateaux of the Loire Valley. Chenonceau is related to important French Renaissance women and was offered by King Henry 2nd to his mistress Diane de Poitiers.
- Lunch is at your convenience in Cheverny.
- Visit of the **Chateau of Cheverny**. In the XVIIth century, Cheverny was the first chateau to represent the classical style in the Loire Valley. This chateau is known by the richness of its interiors and has belonged to the same family for 8 centuries.
- Visit of the **Chateau of Chambord**, the largest French castle (446 rooms) with an extravagant roof nicknamed "the village". Chambord, built to be a hunting lodge, was ordered by the king Francois 1st to Leonardo de Vinci and his architects.
- Return to the Tours train station, direction Paris, with fond memories of the Loire and all its splendor.

YOUR 3 DAY, 2 NIGHT *private* LOIRE VALLEY SOJOURN TOUR includes:

- The services of an English-speaking wine expert guide/driver throughout
- 2 nights in a Deluxe room at a 4-star luxury hotel in the Loire Valley, double occupancy (subject to availability on your dates)
- Buffet breakfasts
- Tours and tastings at wineries, as described above
- Entrance fees to chateaux, as described above
- Reservations for lunches and dinners made for you in advance
- Information on the region and its wines sent to you in advance of your tour

Price based on 2 guests, double occupancy: US \$ 2300 per person

Subject to availability Single supplement: please inquire

*** For groups of 4 or more guests: please contact us for a price quote. ***

NOT INCLUDED: any personal expenses, or any service not specifically mentioned above as included in the price of your tour.

TO BOOK YOUR TOUR

Contact us at info@wine-tours-france.com or **1-877-261-1500**.

We accept VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover Card or checks or money orders in US Dollars.