

*A Custom Designed Itinerary for
A Deluxe European Driving Tour*

By

IN QUEST OF THE CLASSICS

DAY 1: ZURICH / SCHAFFHAUSEN. Upon arrival at Zurich's Kloten Airport, pick up a full size automatic vehicle with a GPS system (Audi A4 or similar). Your rental includes tax CDW and unlimited mileage. Please be aware that road taxes and tolls will need to be paid locally. Note too that an International Driving License is required to drive in or through Austria. Once you've collected your car, drive north (about 25 miles) to medieval Schaffhausen, located on the Rhine River, for two nights at the **Rheinhotel Fischerzunft**, an enchanting 17th century estate set on the picturesque banks of the Rhine. Member Relais & Chateaux.



DAY 2: SCHAFFHAUSEN. Located on the pedestrian promenade running along the Rhine, the Fischerzunft is a wonderful place to recover from your long flight and begin your European adventure. The town of Schaffhausen is a charming, well preserved walled city with a number of painted houses with projecting 'oriel' windows. There are several delightful fountains, old towers and a castle on a knoll above the city. To the west of town is the Rheinfall, the largest waterfall in Europe. Where the water comes crashing down, there is a park and a concession, where you can take a boat ride out to the base of the falls.



DAY 3: HOHENSCHWANGAU. Travel into Germany and along the north shore of Lake Constance into Southern Bavaria (about 3 hours) where you'll spend two nights in a superior room at **Hotel Muller**, a charming, privately owned hotel located at the foot of two of "Mad Ludwig's" castles – Neuschwanstein & Hohenschwangau.



DAY 4: HOHENSCHWANGAU. From here you can visit the fairytale castle Neuschwanstein. Horse drawn carriage tours to the castle depart from the hotel daily. In addition to the royal castles, there is a lot to see and do in this area of alpine foothills in Southern Bavaria. If you have time, visit Oberammergau, site of the Passion Play every 10 years and a very charming woodcarving town with geranium-bedecked window boxes decorating colorful, mural painted houses. Slightly to the north is the world-famous pilgrimage church, the Wieskirche, built from 1746–1754. A UNESCO world monument and an outstanding example of rococo architecture, this little church sits proudly in a lovely field on its own. South of Oberammergau is Ettel Abbey, founded by Emperor Ludwig of Bavaria in 1330. The very impressive abbey is set in a beautiful location at the foot of a high hill. Linderhof Castle is set in one of the wildest valleys of the Ammergau Alps that the royal hunters of the House of Bavaria once reserved for their own use.



Designed in the style of the 18th century, it served as a background, along with its Moorish pavilion and its grotto, for the romantic fancies of the young King Ludwig who was obsessed by oriental fables and the heroic legends of Germany.

DAY 5: MISSIONO. It's about a 3-hour drive into northern Italy. Your destination today is Missiono, located amid vineyards above Bolzano. But, you may wish to visit Innsbruck before crossing the border into Italy. Spend two nights at the **Schloss Korb**, a castle hotel originally dating from the 12th century. From its location Schloss Korb features beautiful views of Bolzano and the craggy Dolomites to the east.



DAY 6: MISSIONO. This is a fabulous location for walking and there are two castle ruins within a moderate walking distance from your hotel. This area is the terminus of the Via del Vino extending to the east, and in nearby Magre you can view the oldest vine in the region – over 400 years! To the east are the beautiful Dolomite Mountains. From Bolzano, you can drive up the Valle de'Ega past Lake Carezza to Canazei for some incredible views.

DAY 7: VENICE. Travel south via Trento and Padova (about 3 hours) to Venice. Park your rental at Piazzale Roma (fee) and make your way into the floating city by vaporetto (water taxi) to spend three nights at **Hotel Metropole**. This ornate Venetian-style first class hotel offers contemporary comfort in an antique setting. Facing the lagoon, the hotel is only a few minutes walk from the Piazza San Marco. Characters from the Commedia dell'Arte may drop by to entertain, as the hotel's Buffet Trattoria is popular with the locals.



DAY 8 AND 9: VENICE. From your hotel you can walk to all the main sites of Venice: St. Mark's Square flanked by its Byzantine style basilica, the Doge's Palace and the Bridge of Sighs. Slightly farther away you'll find the Rialto Bridge made famous in Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice". The Rialto is lined with shops on both sides. It's easy to get to some of the outer islands of Venice as well. You can go by boat to nearby Burano, noted for its lace making and colorful houses and to Murano, where you'll see the glass blowers practicing their art.



DAY 10: PIEVESCOLA. Return to the parking structure at Piazzale Roma to pick up your rental and continue your journey into Tuscany. It's about 3-hours to Pievecola, located just outside Siena, where you will check into the **Relais La Suvera** for 3 nights. Formerly a papal villa, La Suvera today is a fascinating country hotel welcoming a refined clientele from all over the world. The Marquis Giuseppe Ricci Paracciani Bergamini and his wife, the Princess Eleonora Massimo, have jointly created a place that is definitely out of the ordinary. The grounds and settings of La Suvera are spectacular. As soon as you pass the gate here you find a large square with its aviary. In the middle of all the buildings is the church dedicated to San Carlo Borromeo. Further on, by the beautiful Italian gardens and the ancient fishing lake, which is now a swimming pool, you discover the soft landscape of the Sienese countryside.



DAY 11 AND 12: PIEVESCOLA. This is the perfect location from which to explore beautiful Tuscany! Some of the area highlights include. Siena - A show place of Italian Gothic palaces, aristocratic mansions, narrow streets and medieval gates.

San Gimignano - a wonderful 14th century medieval hill town with narrow, cobblestone streets, which seem to belong to another century. Chianti Route - Drive through the heart of Chianti country on the Via Chiantigiana, between Radda and Greve; one of the most scenic routes taking you past miles and miles of vineyards. Volterra – an ancient city originally founded by the Etruscans. There are interesting ruins and you can take a self-guided tour of the walled city now famous for the white marble found in the region. Montepulciano - One of Tuscany's highest hill towns, the long and narrow walled city is about 11 miles from beginning to end. Vino Nobile is produced in this area. Lucca - Preserved within its ramparts, there's a rich heritage of churches, palaces, squares and streets that give the town a charming air. Pisa - Renowned for its leaning tower, the single most recognizable building in the entire Western World. Montalcino – The finest wines in all of Tuscany are produced here, the famous Brunello reds. Pienza -a delightful little town redesigned by Pope Pius II in the 15th century. Monteriggioni - perhaps the smallest little walled city in the area. Castiglione dell'Orcia - the most photographed spot in all of Tuscany.

DAY 13: MONTEROSSO. Drive towards the Italian Riviera. Stopping for two nights in Monterosso, the only Cinque Terre town accessible by car. Spend two nights at **Hotel Porto Roca**. The hotel is located 200 meters from the historic center of Monterosso. Its extraordinary position between land and sky on the Mediterranean Sea offers a relaxing oasis far from the noise and stress of everyday modern life. Antique furnishings create the ambiance of staying in an old and elegant villa. At the panoramic restaurant, professional chefs prepare menus featuring traditional local dishes that include fish caught in the sea right under the hotel.



DAY 14: CINQUE TERRE. Spend the day exploring the charming area known as Cinque Terre. Five villages cling to the very edge of the steep cliffs and are protected by a stretch of rocky coast on the Riviera di Levante. Only Riomaggiore and Monterosso are accessible by car. Monterosso is a paradise of incomparable beauty with its crystal clear waters, steep cliffs that drop directly into the sea and luxurious uncontaminated Mediterranean vegetation. It is considered the pearl of the Cinque Terre. Footpaths, boat or train links the villages of Manarola, Corniglia and Vernazza. These fascinating towns are seemingly untouched by time. Magnificent sea views and lovely vineyards producing dry white Cinque Terre wine are everywhere. Local train tickets can be purchased at the Monterosso station.



DAY 15: LA TURBIE. Drive along the Italian Riviera into France, perhaps taking time to visit Portofino, a picture-perfect little harbor where the rich and famous anchor their yachts, before continuing via Genoa to La Turbie (about 3 hours). Located on the Grand Corniche Road just outside Monaco, La Turbie is a rustic Romanesque village boasting beautiful panoramas of the coast and Monaco. The huge Trophee des Alpes, for which La Turbie is famous, was built by Augustus Caesar and is one of only two remaining in the world. The other is in Adam-Klissi (Romania). Spend two nights at **Hostellerie Jerome**, a Provençal stone house with frescoes and furnishings dating back to the 18th century. The hotel is known for its restaurant featuring superb cuisine by chef Bruno Cirino.



DAY 16: COTE D'AZUR SIGHTSEEING. Visit some of the other ancient villages lining the Grand Corniche, or venture into Monaco or Nice. Eze is a little village, precariously perched on a hilltop, with great views of the Riviera and Monaco. An excellent place to stop for lunch or dinner.

The fortified hill town of St. Paul de Vence is lovely - if crowded in the summer. Wear flat shoes to walk the narrow cobbled streets. Just outside of town is the Maeght Foundation, one of greatest modern art museums, emphasizing sculpture. Grasse, birthplace of 18th century painter Fragonard, is worth a stop for its perfume industry. Most of its perfume factories can be visited free of charge, with a chance to sample fragrances, and purchase your own. You will not find actual brands here, but the essences from which they are derived. In spring and summer, you will get to see the fields around the city, where the flowers needed to produce some of them are grown. It is a lovely sight.

DAY 17: LA PONTET. Continue into Provence to Avignon (2 ½ - 3 hours) for two nights at **Auberge de Cassagne**, a first class hotel set in an old Provencal residence with a beautiful park, where guests can play tennis and enjoy the swimming pool. Compulsory dinner included here



both nights. En route to Avignon, you may wish to visit Aix-en-Provence. Once a Roman spa, it is better known today as the most sophisticated town around. Its elegant architecture, many fountains and romantic streets make it another delightful walking town. Walk along the lovely tree-lined Cours Mirabeau, a famous boulevard with many cafes, amongst them "Les Deux Garçons", a local institution. Here you may visit the studio of native son Paul Cezanne, which still looks the way it did when he was alive.

DAY 18: PROVENCE. There is a lot to see and do in this lovely region. Please plan your day carefully. - Avignon is mostly known for the Palace of the Popes, which should be visited, but it's also a town full of cafes, restaurants, shops, boutique and entertainers, which make it a strolling pleasure. A definite gem is Musée Angladon, which hosts an exceptional 19th and 20th century art collection (Van Gogh, Modigliani, Cezanne, etc...). It is set in the former home of artists Jean & Paulette Angladon-Dubrujeaud, and one can also visit the 18th century salons featuring precious furniture and art. Open Wednesday through Sunday, afternoons only. And of course, the famous St. Benezet Bridge made famous by the children's song. Near Avignon is Pont du Gard, a Roman aqueduct perfectly preserved and a marvel of architecture. Arles was one of Julius Caesar's favorite towns and is still today a very lively authentic meridional town. Here you'll want to see the Arenas (still in use 20 centuries later!) and the Roman Theatre as well as the St Trophime Church, a great example of Provencal Roman architecture. A special ticket can be purchased to visit all museums and sites, at great savings. During the summer, bullfights are held at the Arenas with bulls raised in nearby Camargue, a land of natural beauty. In late June and early July, the Arles Festival features traditional parades and folklore. Fontaine de Vaucluse, home of the Italian poet Petrarch, is a charming village. Its main attractions are ancient working water wheels, and the mysterious underground source of the River Sorgue. Visit the Paper Mill, where hand-made paper, done the 15th century way, can be found (and purchased). You will also find here a Resistance Museum, a tribute to this town during WWII, and the Petrarch Museum. For the bravest, two hiking trails start here, leading up to scenic parts of the Plateau de Vaucluse. Les Baux de Provence, a breathtaking site with a ruined castle on top of a hill, overlooking olive groves and the Alpilles Mountains. The medieval village is still very alive with many shops and restaurants. Make sure to wear comfortable shoes. However during the height of the summer and during any holiday season it is extremely crowded. L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, a Provencal Venice on the Sorgue River, known as the antique center of Provence. A large antique market is held on Sunday, but there are also a number of permanent shops in town. Chateauneuf-du-Pape, a very attractive village that gave the famous wine its name. Here guests could enjoy a wine tasting in one of the ancient cellars.

DAY 19: TALLOIRES. It's about a 3-hour drive north to the lovely old town of Annecy, set on a beautiful clear lake. With its canal and flower-bedecked houses, Annecy is a wonderful place to stop for lunch before heading around the lake to Talloires. Set on the lake's edge, in the shadow of the majestic Alps, you'll spend the night at **L'Auberge du Pere Bise**, one of the highest rated inns and restaurants in France. Set in an enchanting location on the lake, this charming hotel evokes a wonderful relaxing feeling. Many activities are centered on the lake, where one can rent sailboats, rowboats and pedal boats. A mother/daughter team runs the hotel and restaurant, and the food and hospitality are superb. Member Relais & Chateaux.



DAY 20: SPIEZ. Continue into Switzerland today. Travel via Geneva and Montreux, through pretty little Gstaad to Lake Thun, where you'll spend two nights in Spiez at the **Strand Hotel Belvedere**, a lovely small hotel set in a garden overlooking Lake Thun and about 15-minutes from Interlaken.



DAY 21: SPIEZ. Via Interlaken, gateway to the Jungfrau region, you can visit the spectacular Lauterbrunnen Valley and connect with cog railway and cable car trips up to the alpine villages of Grindelwald, Murren and Wengen. From Wengen, the cog railway winds its way up inside the glacier to the top of the Jungfrauoch, where you can walk on the glacier. Also from Interlaken, there are boat rides on both Lake Thun and Lake Brienz.

DAY 22: KUSNACHT. It's about ½ hour to Berne, the delightful capital of Switzerland and in summer one of Europe's most beautiful flowered cities. You'll find over three miles of covered shopping promenades here and the city's medieval center is a designated UNESCO World Heritage site. The old part of town is a pedestrian zone brimming with picturesque fountains and still wonderfully evocative of the Middle Ages. Be sure to visit the city's most famous symbol, the bear pits, where bears have been on display for nearly 500 years. From Berne it's about an hour to Kusnacht located on the banks of Lake Zurich in the heart of a picturesque landscape of lakes and forests. Here you'll spend a final two nights at the **Ermitage Am See**, an elegant and peaceful end to a wonderful European journey. Member Relais & Chateaux.



DAY 23: KUSNACHT. You might want to visit Lucerne, famous for the Kapellbrücke, the covered bridge that dates from the 14th century. Inside there are paintings depicting the history of the city on each of the roof beams. In the old town are attractive old houses with painted facades adorned with wrought iron signs. The Weinmarkt (Wine Market) is a pretty square with a Gothic fountain in the center surrounded by old houses, which were the seats of the various guilds. Or, take an excursion to Mt. Pilatus. With its sharply defined ridges, the mountain has long been dreaded by the superstitious as the haunting place of the spirit of Pontius Pilate. The legend declared that his spirit haunted a small lake near the summit. The view from this spectacular location spans the Alps from end to end. The Titlis Rotair, a revolving cable car, will take you from a green valley floor to the high alpine glacier world of the highest viewpoint in central Switzerland, the Titlis.



DAY 24: DEPART. It's just a short drive (about 10 miles) to Zurich airport, where you will drop off your rental car and board your return flight. Our services end at this time.

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