

A Custom Designed Itinerary to

France

by

IN QUEST OF THE CLASSICS

IQOTC REF: F709184

DAY 1: PARIS/ST. SYMPHORIEN. Upon arrival at Charles de Gaulle airport you are met by an English-speaking driver and full size car and transferred to St. Symphorien (near Chartres), where 1 night is reserved in a deluxe king bedded room at Chateau d'Esclimont – www.grandes-etapes-francaises.com.

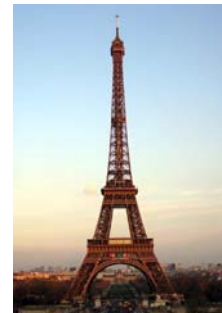
DAY 2: ST SYMPHORIEN/VERSAILLES/PARIS. This morning you are met at your hotel by an English-speaking driver and driven to Versailles, for a visit of the palace on your own. We include a 2-day museum pass that will allow you to avoid the lines. You can use it again tomorrow to visit a museum or one of the monuments it covers in Paris. Visit the Grand Apartments (the center of the King's and courtier's official life), the Hall of Mirrors, where the treaty ending World War I was signed, and the Queen's apartment. You will have an opportunity to stroll through the beautiful grounds designed by Le Notre with their many sculptures and fountains. There is a little train that takes you from the Palace to the Trianons and the Queen's Hamlet, with Marie Antoinette's farm. After your visit, your driver will transfer you to Paris and the **Hotel Regina** – www.regina-hotel.com. We have reserved a superior king bedded room for 4 nights.



DAY 3: PARIS. A full day free to enjoy Paris and its many sights, shops, museums.

DAY 4: GIVERNY. Morning at leisure. This afternoon you will be met at your hotel and travel to Giverny by private car for a visit of Monet's home and his gardens, famous for their water lilies. You will see his workshop, the pond with the famous Japanese bridge and the picturesque world of this Impressionist painter. Visit the American Art Museum before you return to Paris.

DAY 5: PARIS. A final day at leisure in Paris. You may want to make a reservation at the Altitude 95 restaurant on the Eiffel Tower for lunch, which is a good way to go up the Tower and avoid the long lines.



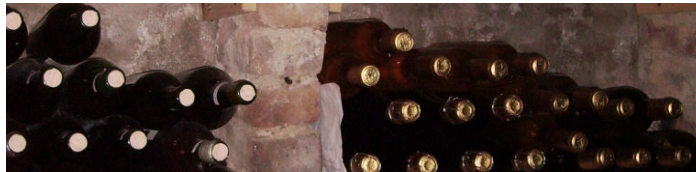
DAY 6: PARIS/REIMS. Take a cab to Charles de Gaulle airport to pick up your rental car and travel east into Champagne (an easy drive from Charles de Gaulle airport) and check into **Chateau Boyer les Crayeres** – www.gerardboyer.com. Check in for 3 nights into a king bedded room.

DAYS 7 & 8: LOCAL TOURING.

- On Day 7 we have arranged a morning visit of the Veuve Cliquot Cellars and an afternoon visit to Mumm. Entrance fees included for both.



- On Day 8 we have arranged a morning visit of the Dom Perignon Cellars. You may also want to visit the Moet & Chandon Cellars. The Mercier cellars are also fun to visit as they take you into the chalk cellars by electric train.



DAY 9: REIMS/AVALLON. Travel from Champagne into Burgundy. We suggest a stop in the beautiful medieval town of Troyes en-route. Upon arrival in Avallon, check into **Chateau de Vault de Lugny** (www.lugny.fr) in a deluxe king bedded room for 2 nights.

DAY 10: LOCAL TOURING. A day at leisure. You may want to take a walk along the fortified walls of Avallon, and enjoy the lovely terraced gardens. There are also many pleasant walks along the nearby Burgundy Canal. You may also want to go and visit the nearby medieval castle of Bazoches, which once belonged to Vauban, a brilliant engineer of the 17th century.



DAY 11: AVALLON/AMBOISE: Travel into the Loire Valley. We suggest stopping in Bourges on the way for a visit of the beautiful cathedral. Or, if you are fond of Sancerre wine, you may want to stop in the pretty hilltop village of the same name. Upon arrival in Amboise, check into **Hotel Le Choiseul** (www.grandes-etapes-francaises.com) in a deluxe king bedded room for 3 nights.

DAYS 12 & 13: LOCAL TOURING. The Loire Valley is famous for its beautiful chateaux. You'll want to visit Chambord, a former royal residence, which is the largest chateau in the valley. It is noted for its dual spiral staircase, supposed to have been constructed so that the mistress of Francis I and his wife would not meet! Chenonceau, built over the Cher River, is one of the most beautiful chateaux. It is known as the Chateau of Six Women and was occupied by Diane de Poitiers, the mistress of Henri II until his death when his wife, Catherine de Medici, took



possession In Amboise you may visit Clos-Lucé, the home where Leonardo da Vinci died. Cheverny is the only castle in the Loire Valley still lived in. Visit it to see fine furniture, sculptures, painted paneling, marble and gilt. This is not a Renaissance Castle, but a typical Louis XIII era construction. Cheverny is the castle that inspired Marlinspike Hall in the famous comic book "Tintin". There is a great shop with all sorts of Tintin memorabilia. You may also take a guided tour of the grounds and canal by electric car and boat. During the spring and summer, you may visit the stables and the kennels, which are spectacular. If you're fortunate enough to be there at the right time, you can watch the feeding of the dogs, which is fairly entertaining.

DAY 14: AMBOISE/CHANTILLY: Drive back towards Charles de Gaulle airport to nearby Chantilly and **Hotel Chateau Mont Royal**, where we include 1 night in a king bedded room – www.chateau-mont-royal.com. Chateau Mont Royal is an 18th century chateau in the heart of the Chantilly forest. Rooms are decorated with period furniture, and the hotel features an indoor swimming pool, a sauna, jacuzzi, squash court, billiard room, tennis court and a gym.

DAY 15: DEPART. It is a 15-minute drive to Charles de Gaulle airport, where you'll drop off your car in time for your flight back to the USA.

Exclusive property of In Quest of the Classics www.iqotc.com