

Provence Itinerary 2017

October 2-8

Monday

You will be picked up at the train station in Aix-en-Provence at 3:30 p.m. Space is at a premium so please pack accordingly. The small village of **Cadenet** is approximately a 30 minute drive from the train station. Once we arrive at **La Tuiliere** you will be shown to your rooms. Each room has its own bathroom and is very charming. We will have a welcome reception and dinner in the courtyard. The dinner will of course include wine and olive oil from the estate. There will be a presentation on the region during dinner.

Tuesday

Each morning we have breakfast in the L'Orangerie. Today we depart at 8:30 en route to the village of **Les Baux** where we will visit **Carrières de Lumières** (quarries of light). This is an extraordinary multimedia show of light that is unique to the world. Spectators are totally immersed in the images projected onto all the surfaces of the rock. The ground is completely covered and becomes a vast carpet of images. The site has opened its doors with the show "Michael Angelo, Léonardo de Vinci, Raphaël, the Renaissance". Next we will walk up to the **Château Les Baux** which dates back to the tenth century. The castle is surrounded by forbidding cliffs which are said to have been the inspiration for some of the descriptions in **Dante's Inferno**. After lunch at **Restaurant Etienne** we will visit the **Papal Palace in Avignon** for a private guided tour. We should be back to our B&B in time to freshen up before dinner at **Les Sources** in Cadenet.

Wednesday

We will start our day with a tasting at **Domaine La Crau des Papes** in **Châteauneuf-du-Pape**. After lunch at **L'Oustalet in Gigondas** we will drive to **Orange** for a private tour of **Théâtre Antique d'Orange**, Europe's most well preserved Roman amphitheater. A UNESCO World Heritage site, notable for its intact stage and backstage, famous for its summer opera festival. We will also visit the **Triumphal Arch of Orange**, built during the reign of Augustus (27 BC - AD 14) to honor the veterans of the Gallic Wars. Dinner will be at **Auberge La Feniére** in Cadenet.

Thursday

Today will start with a visit to the small village of **Cucuron**, made famous by the movie "**A Good Year**" starring Russell Crowe and Marion Cotillard. The first stop will be a visit to the local olive oil producer, **Moulin Dauphin**, where we will learn about the regions famous olive oil. Lunch will be at **La Petite Maison de Cucuron** another one star Michelin restaurant. The afternoon itinerary will be a tour and tasting at **Château de Beauré**. We should be back to our hotel in time to get ready for dinner at **Le Fournil in Bonnieux**.

Friday

Today will be mostly a free day with a trip to the **farmer's market** in **Lourmarin** which is regarded by many as the finest Provençal market in the Luberon. Feel free to roam the walking streets or tour the town's château as you will be on your own until 4:00 p.m. when we rendezvous for our return to the hotel where you can relax by the pool, go for a hike or help prepare the evening meal with Chef Todd in the kitchen.

Saturday

Today we will leave by 8:45 a.m. en route to Marseilles where we will start with a walking tour of the old city. We will make our way up to **L'Epuisette** for a **Bouillabaisse** lunch, **voted by many as their favorite meal of the week**. The afternoon will consist of a scenic boat ride to tour **Château d'If**, the fortress and island prison described in **Dumas', *The Count of Monte Cristo***. We should be back to our B&B in time to freshen up before our farewell dinner prepared by our hosts.

Sunday

Guests will depart after breakfast. Guests should make arrangements for a train later than 11:00 a.m. to ensure we get everyone to the station in time.

\$3,500 per person based on double occupancy. Price includes accommodations, all your meals with wine, professionally guided tours, wine tastings, transfers and transportation for the week. Chef Todd will pick you up at the Aix-en-Provence train station. Price does not include airfare or train to Aix-en-Provence.

- The weather will be quite warm during our visit so please pack accordingly. I would say hi 70's and always a possibility of rain.
- I would encourage you to purchase wine & olive oil from our hosts. They also have CD's and cookbooks for sale.
- The village of Cadenet is within hiking distance to our B&B. The B&B also has a pool and plenty of space for lounging.
- You can visit the website at www.tuilier.free.fr.
- This is your vacation so you are free to take a day off and just relax. No one will be offended. The group dynamic is very interesting and is always better with more couples than singles in my experiences.
- This itinerary looks to be pretty solid as of right now. We will let you know of any changes as they occur.