



*Majestic*

## LOIRE VALLEY TOUR PACKAGE

### DAY 1

#### *Arrive at CDG Airport in Paris*

A bus will pick you up and bring you to the beautiful Loire Valley

#### *Lunch is at your convenience*

#### *A champagne and hors d'oeuvre reception welcomes you at La Cure Chambres d'Hôtes.*

La Cure offers luxurious bedroom suites, all decorated by a world-famous interior designer and superbly furnished in grand historic décor with deluxe washrooms, private vanities, and secret door-walls. Our gracious staff provides personal and professional service with every attention to detail. A complimentary breakfast each morning is included with your stay and additional services such as access to high-speed internet, a private enclosed garage, bike rentals, concierge service, and more are also available. Enjoy the stunning 17<sup>th</sup> century terrace, fanciful garden, and wine tasting in our private cellar.

#### *Relax and get ready for a delightful French dinner prepared just for you at La Cure.*

### DAY 2

#### *Enjoy a guided tour of the Abbey of Pontlevoy, just steps away from La Cure*

The Abbey was founded in 1034 by Gueldin de Chaumont, a French knight, and subsequently housed Benedictine Monks and a royal military academy. At the beginning of the 21st Century, the Abbey was acquired by private investors for the purpose of establishing an international 'school of thought' and linking cultures from around the globe. Today, The European American Center for International Education hosts numerous music academies, festivals, theater performances, university study abroad programs, conferences, and social gatherings at the Abbey. These events function to restore the foundations of productivity and success, long associated with this grand historical monument.

#### *Luncheon in Blois*

#### *Experience the royal city of Blois*

Follow in the footsteps of countless French royals as you wander cobblestone streets past restored white houses with slate roofs and red brick chimneys. Situated on a hilltop overlooking the Loire River, Blois was the favorite residence of French kings from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Especially inviting are the quaint medieval streets too narrow to accommodate cars, which wind up the hillside to Château Royal de Blois and Cathédrale St-Louis. Blois is also home to numerous unique boutique shops and four weekly markets offering a wide variety of goods. Your tour guide will be available should you have any questions or need any guidance on what to do or see.

#### *Enjoy dinner at La Tosca on Foulerie street that satisfies all tastes.*

The specialties of the restaurant La Tosca are fondue and "Savoyard raclette" (melted cheese served atop potatoes or your choice of meats). The restaurant's two dining rooms offer a rustic, warm atmosphere, and when weather permits, the outdoor terrace provides the perfect backdrop for a leisurely dinner. Make sure to save room for La Tosca's exceptional dessert of your choice of fruits dipped in a chocolate fondue.

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### DAY 3

*Breakfast served at La Cure*

#### *Take bus to the Château de Chenonceau*

Arching gracefully over the Cher River, Chenonceau is often referred to as “Château des Dames” due to the significant role women played in its construction and expansion. Built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the château features gardens designed by the wife and mistress of King Henry II, a charming café, a historical wax museum, and a wine cellar. Chenonceau is not only remarkable for its fine architecture and sordid history, but also for the quality of its art collection. Housing vast displays of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century tapestries and paintings, the château contains works by Primaticcio, Rubens, Tintoret, Stone, Nattier, and Van Loo. Make sure to keep an eye out for the famous black swans, which inhabit Chenonceau’s waterways.

#### *Have lunch in Amboise at your choice of brasseries or cafés*

Set on the banks of the Loire in the center of the Touraine wine region, the Renaissance town of Amboise was once occupied by the Romans. Throughout the ages, individuals have flocked to Amboise including Mick Jagger, who recently purchased a nearby chateau, and Leonardo da Vinci, who spent his last years here.

#### *Explore Amboise at your own pace*

Relax over a glass of wine from the charming wine bar Almost Plou on place Michel Debré or explore the myriad of shops and art galleries that line Amboise’s streets. Your tour guide will be available should you have any questions or need any guidance on what to do or see.

#### *Tour of Château d’Amboise and Clos-Lucé*

The Gothic Château d’Amboise offers beautiful panoramic views of the Loire River and Amboise. From there, you will set out on a brief walk to the 15<sup>th</sup> century brick-and-stone manor house known as Clos-Lucé. King François I offered the house and grounds as a gift to “the great master in all forms of art and science,” Leonardo Da Vinci. Da Vinci lived and worked at Clos-Lucé for 3 years, until his death in 1519. Today, the site serves as a museum, offering insights into the life and mind of Da Vinci, as well as the decorative arts of the era. The manor’s interior contains furniture, sketches and designs, miniature models of his flying machines, bridges, and weaponry, and even a primitive example of a machine gun, while the grounds contain life-sized models of many of Da Vinci’s inventions. The beauty and tranquility of this Renaissance home illustrate why Leonardo took such pleasure in painting and working within these magnificent confines.

#### *After a fun-filled day of viewing some of the Loire Valley’s most notable attractions, visit L’Écu, a traditional French Crêperie.*

Luigi, Crêpier of L’Écu, takes you behind the scenes and into the kitchen to learn how to make traditional French “galettes” or waffles and crêpes. Following your lesson, you will choose from a wide variety of ingredients and try your hand at creating these French delicacies.

#### *Dinner in Montrichard*

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**LOIRE VALLEY TOUR PACKAGE**

**DAY 4** *Open morning to choose from the following activities*

**1. Golf du Château**

(Description)

**2. Château de Chambord.**

Chambord is an architectural masterpiece started by François I in 1519 and completed by Louis XIV in 1686. With a breathtaking exterior, double-helix staircase, and over 400 rooms, Chambord is the largest chateau in the Loire Valley. Once you've completed your tour of the interior, enjoy an equestrian demonstration or explore the grounds by foot, by boat, or from the comfort of a horse-drawn carriage.

*Lunch together at the Chateau de Cheverny Country Club*

*Return to La Cure for aperitifs and cocktails before departing for dinner*

**Dinner at Le Bousquet Grill**

In December 1969, two young students made a bet centered on serving grilled meat in an abandoned wine cellar. The entrance was blocked by a "bousquet" or grove of trees, but after a bit of digging, the door was cleared and the restaurant Le Bousquet was born. *Bon appetit!*

**DAY 5** *Depart for Paris from La Cure Chambres d'Hôtes after breakfast by bus*

*Bon Voyage!*

A region steeped in history, the Loire Valley, wild and picturesque, boasts some of the most breathtaking landscape in all of France. It's rolling countryside and mighty rivers are dotted with châteaux, testaments to its royal past. Pontlevoy places visitors on the doorsteps of the world-renowned Châteaux of Chambord, Chenonceau and Cheverny. Their manicured gardens, superb architecture and rich history make for a remarkable trip. The Majestic Loire Valley package tour will provide an intimate experience sure to surpass all your expectations.

Customize your package with any of the following activities and excursions:

- Hot Air Balloon Rides
- Tour of the Mushroom Caves in Bourré
- Tour of the *Fromagerie* (cheese factory) in Pontlevoy
- Bike Excursions
- Boat Ride on the Loire or Cher River
- Visits to Various Museums
- Horseback Riding

*Contact us for further information:*

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