



LOIRE VALLEY, FRANCE

June 15 - June 20, 2023

Join The Ireland Funds WineGeese Society as we explore the Loire Valley. Just a short trip from Paris, the Loire Valley is known as the Garden of France. The area is France's most diverse wine region, producing exemplary wines in every style. Our itinerary will highlight magnificent chateaux, rich history, and some of France's most exquisite wines.

ARRIVE JUNE 15 - PARIS

We will start and end our trip in Paris.
Information on a preferred hotel for June 15 and June 20 is forthcoming.
You may also book directly with a hotel of your choosing.

DAY ONE - JUNE 16 - TRAVEL TO THE LOIRE VALLEY / VILLANDRY / WINE TASTING IN BOURGUEIL

8:30 a.m. A private coach will depart from a Paris hotel (TBD) and take us to The Loire Valley. We will go directly to [Château of Villandry](#) with its gorgeous gardens, for a private tour. This renaissance castle, with its great view on the Loire River, owes its reputation to superb, terraced gardens 'a la francaise'.

A traditional French 4-course lunch will be served followed by a wine tasting in an amazing private estate in the Bourgueil appellation. After the tasting, we will be driven by private coach to the luxurious Manoir des Minimes 5* Manor Hotel, located on the Loire River, for check-in.

Evening: Dinner will be served in Les Arpents in the town of Amboise. The restaurant serves refined regional foods from Touraine, wines from the Loire, with a modern edge in a warm atmosphere.

DAY TWO - JUNE 17 - CASTLE OF CHAMBORD / PRIVATE WINE ESTATE AT CHEVERNY

Morning option: After breakfast: a hot air balloon ride over the Loire Valley. Participate in the "unpacking" of the balloon and the ride preparation. Then enjoy a beautiful ride over some of the finest castles. Balloon rides are subject to the weather conditions and can be cancelled at any time (in which case it will be rescheduled).



DAY TWO - JUNE 17 - CASTLE OF CHAMBORD / PRIVATE WINE ESTATE AT CHERVENY - continued

We depart the hotel by private coach and go to Chambord for a private guided visit of the most impressive Loire Valley Chateaux: **The Château of Chambord**. You will go through the park and enjoy the setting of this masterpiece. With its 128 meters of façade, 440 rooms and 365 fireplaces, Chambord is the largest of the Loire Valley castles, and was used by the gentry of the period for hunting.

Lunch: Lunch will be served in the beautiful Relais d'Artémis, Bracieux restaurant near Chambord. Then, a very short drive will lead us to a private estate part of the Cheverny wine appellation. To finish on a high note, we enjoy a wine tasting.

Evening: Dinner at L'Ecluse, Amboise, a typical French restaurant of the city center.

DAY THREE - JUNE 18 - LOIRE VALLEY RIVER CRUISE / CHENONCEAU CASTLE

Morning: After breakfast, we start our day with a beautiful experience: a private river cruise on the Cher River aboard a traditional boat. You will admire typical houses, mills, manor houses and castles nested on the shores. We will have the opportunity to pass under the arcs of the superb **Castle of Chenonceau**. On board, we will organize a wine tasting of exquisite wines of the **Touraine Chenonceaux appellation**.

Lunch: Lunch will be served at Le Bon Laboureur, which held a Michelin Star for 20 years, located in the village of Chenonceaux, with drinks included.

Afternoon: After lunch, we will go to the Castle of Chenonceau nearby for the privately guided visit of the Castle of Chenonceau. Considered the icon of the Loire Valley, the Chateau de Chenonceau is a supreme example of Renaissance architecture.

Evening: Dinner will be at Le 36, Manor Le Choiseul, a highly regarded gastronomic restaurant, located on the banks of the Loire River.

DAY FOUR - JUNE 19 - LEONARDO DA VINCI / LOCAL WINE EXPERIENCE / CULINARY EXPERIENCE

Morning: After breakfast, a private guide will walk with us through the city of **Amboise**. We will visit of the famous **Clos Lucé**, the last residence of **Leonardo da Vinci**.

Lunch: Lunch will be of your choosing in the charming little town of Amboise. Our guide will recommend some great addresses.

Afternoon: The group will then visit the troglodyte winery and **Vouvray wine appellation**, the most famous appellation in the region where we will enjoy a private tasting. We will then go the town of Saint-Martin-le-Beau, in an elegant private property where a Michelin Chef will offer a participative cooking demonstration around the highly French tradition of the aperitif. We will visit the owner's private cellar and learn of the "troglodyte" concept of the region.

DAY FIVE - JUNE 20 - RETURN TO PARIS / AMBASSADOR'S DINNER

Morning: After breakfast at the Manoir des Minimes Hotel, the group will return to Paris by private coach, dropping off at a 5-star hotel (TBD)

Evening: (Black tie optional) You are cordially invited to a private dinner at the Embassy of Ireland hosted by Ireland's Ambassador to France, Niall Burgess. This final evening will be an elegant dinner marking the conclusion of our very special trip through the Loire Valley.

\$4,275 per person



Price includes:

- Transport to/from/within the Loire Valley
- 4 nights at a Loire Valley 5* Château Hotel
- All meals in the Loire Valley with drinks (excluding one lunch)
- Tickets for the visits of Villandry, Chambord, Chenonceau, and Clos Lucé castles
- Private English-speaking guide
- Private cooking demonstration
- Visits and wine tastings in a troglodyte wine cellar and private wine estates
- Private boat cruise on the Cher River with wine tasting
- Ambassador's Dinner in Paris
- Fees and taxes

Price excludes:

- Personal expenses
- Two nights in Paris (June 15 and June 20)
- One lunch on day 4
- Hot air balloon ride (optional)

+ Please note that restaurants and itinerary are subject to change. If necessary, comparative options will be offered.

For more information, contact
Judy Curtis at 214.505.8613 or
jcurtis@irelandfunds.org



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PARIS HOTEL INFORMATION

There will be two nights, June 15 and June 20, for which you will need to arrange hotel accommodation in Paris.

JUNE 15

The Ireland Funds WineGeese Society has arranged a block of rooms at the Hotel Napoleon located at 40 Avenue de Friedland 75008 Paris for Thursday, June 15, 2023.

We recommend that you stay at this preferred hotel as our group will depart Hotel Napoleon on a private bus to the Loire Valley on Friday, June 16, at 8:30 a.m.

Should you wish to stay at the Hotel Napoleon the night of June 15, please contact Judy Curtis at jcurtis@irelandfunds.org or 214-505-8613 for a preauthorization link which will be sent to you directly from the hotel for payment.

JUNE 20

On Tuesday, June 20, 2023, we will enjoy an elegant dinner at the Embassy of Ireland hosted by Ireland's Ambassador to France, Niall Burgess.

Below is a list of hotels in the area that you may book directly for June 20. Most are located near the Embassy of Ireland at 12 Foch Avenue, 75116 Paris.

Le Meridien Etoile (Marriott) ****

Hotel Montfleuri Paris ****

Plaza Tour Eiffel ****

Four Seasons George V *****

