



Libation Vacations

Provence Dreams Tour
June 15 – June 24, 2024

Day 1- Saturday 15 June - Arrival at our Chateau in Provence **D**

- 14:45** We will meet as a group at the Avignon TGV train station and take our private coach to transfer us to our Château where we'll then check-in.
- 16:00** Meet on the verandah for happy hour toast
- 19:30** Group welcome Dinner in Chateau by our Chef



Arrival day at our Chateau. After settling into our home for the next week, we will gather on the verandah to meet your fellow Provence Dreamers. We'll have an opportunity to tour the wine cave at the chateau and enjoy a welcome drink.

Tonight, we'll relax and chill out in the chateau as our private chef prepares a gourmet Provençal welcome dinner for us. We will accompany the dinner with wines from our chateau.

Dinner

Day 2 - Sunday 16 June - Isle sur la Sorgues B, D

08:00 Breakfast at Château Gigognan

09:15 **Departs** Château Gigognan

EVENTS:

Market Day at Isle sur la Sorgue & Lunch on your own

Musee de Lavande

17:00 Arrive at Château Gigognan

Happy Hour and petanque lessons

19:15 Light picnic dinner with wine, beer, sausages, cheese, salad, etc at Château or dinner on own if you'll like



This morning after breakfast in the Château we will head off to one of the best markets in Provence and maybe even in France! **The Sunday market at L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, "The Venice of Provence"**, has it all – a food market, "brocante" (flea market) and antique market all in one so you can buy everything from artisanal cheese to an antique wardrobe! Stroll along the streets lined with vendors and flower-filled riverside cafés. Check out the waterwheels, do some

great people watching and take a peek into the local church. Taste your way along the vendors sampling tapanade, olive oil and cheese! When you have totally whet your appetite, find a waterside or garden café and relax with a cool glass of some local rose and a nice lunch. If you are looking for a reservation at somewhere a little out of the crowded market, then check out our app for suggestions. Some of the smaller restaurants fill up fast on market day, so make sure to reserve in advance.

Afterwards, since one cannot visit Provence without seeing some of the gorgeous lavender that paints the valleys in myriad shades of purple during mid-summer, we'll head to nearby Coustellet to visit the **Musée de Lavande** (Lavender Museum) where we will learn about the different types and uses of lavender and see how it is processed, from growing to distillation. (Yes, of course we had to include something with distillation!)

Then we head to our Chateau, and this evening, you are invited to join us for "**Ruth and Mike's Favorite Provence Vacation Dinner**": a casual picnic al fresco, weather permitting, of local meats and cheeses, fresh bread, fruit, wine and beer.

Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 - Monday 17 June - Roussillon and Gordes B, L, D

08:00 **Breakfast** at Château Gigognan

08:45 **Depart** Château Gigognan

EVENTS:

Roussillon and Hike ochre mines - after free time in town

Lunch with group in Roussillon

Vignoble Chasson - Château Blanc - winery visit and tasting

Gordes - free time

Abbaye Notre Dame de Senanque

18:30 **Arrive** at Château Gigognan

19:45 **Dinner** with wine at Château by private chef



After we fuel up at breakfast this morning we'll head to the stunning town of **Roussillon**, where the quarries which once supplied ochre for products such as dye and paints in fabulous hues from crimson to gold now stand like a mini Grand Canyon. We'll descend into **Les Sentiers des Ocres** for a magnificent but easy walk through the dazzling red and yellow sand cliffs. (The short version is only ½ hour or you can opt for a longer trail of about 45min to an hour.) Afterwards, you will have free time to stroll around the town, explore the shops and galleries and climb to the top of the viewing area beside the church for a superb panoramic view. We'll enjoy lunch here before heading on to visit a **local winery** that we discovered a few years back for a visit and tasting of their amazing rosés and other local styles.

Next, we will head to **Gordes**, stopping for photos of the breathtaking view of this popular village perched on the top of a steep hill. The narrow and sometimes arcaded medieval lanes invite you to explore and see what is around each corner of this charming village. Take some time to explore and then soak in the atmosphere over a cool drink on a shaded patio in one of the local restaurants.

We'll head back via the route that will pass by the famous Abbaye de Senanque. If you have a guidebook for Provence, chances are, there is a picture of this gorgeous setting with lavender fields and the ancient abbaye on the cover or inside the book. We'll make a quick stop to take our own photos before heading home.

This evening, dinner will be prepared by our private chef and paired with wines from the chateau.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4 - Tuesday 18 June - Châteauneuf-du-Pape

B, L

8:30 -9:30 Breakfast at Château Gigognan

10:00 **Departs** Château Gigognan

EVENTS:

Château La Nerthe for Wine tasting in Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Châteauneuf-du-Pape & **Lunch** at le Verger des Papes

Le Pavillon des Vins Bouachon for Chocolate and wine pairing

Visit to a local intermarché, for shopping (optional)

17:35 **Arrive** at Château Gigognan

TBD **Dinner** on your own. Taxi to a nearby restaurant or do your own picnic dinner at Chateau.



This morning we're heading out a bit later than usual so you can indulge in a second croissant or maybe even sleep in a bit, why not? You are on vacation, after all!

Our plan today is to head into nearby **Châteauneuf-du-Pape** for a tasting of some of the best from this famous region.

Our first stop of the day is to **Chateau la Nerthe** for a visit of the cellars where wine lockers store wines for some of the most famous restaurants in the world! And of course, we will do a tasting of these wonderful wines!

Then we go to Châteauneuf-du-Pape, upon arrival, you'll have some free time to wander around the town and see the ruins of the chateau before we enjoy a delicious lunch at a lovely, local restaurant.

Next, we head to another local winery, where we will have a workshop on wine and chocolate pairing!

Then it's back to our Chateau, located just outside of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, where you can relax by the pool or play Pétanque; you may have seen groups of French residents enjoying this relaxed game of *boules* in some of the village squares or park "boulodromes"; It is an institution in the South of France and is quite fun, especially while enjoying an aperitif or digestif! Tonight you'll be having dinner on your own at the chateau. Taxi and local restaurant info can be found in your BBV app.

Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5 - Wednesday 19 June -

Truffle Hunting & Michelin Starred Wine vs Beer Paired Dinner B, L, D

08:00 Breakfast at Château Gigognan

08:45 Depart Château Gigognan

EVENTS:

Truffle Hunting w/ casual Lunch

15:30 Arrive at Château Gigognan

19:00 Depart Château Gigognan

19:30 Dinner at la Mère Germaine for a multi-course wine vs beer paired Michelin Dinner

23:00/23:30 Arrive at Château Gigognan



Put on your hunting togs today! After breakfast, we are off to do some **truffle hunting!** On our truffle hunting excursion, we will go behind the scenes of Provence's most secretive business to learn how truffles are cultivated and truffle dogs are trained. We'll go on a hunt for France's elusive "black gold" with professional truffle hunters who will share the tricks of the trade with us. Finally, we'll finish up with a sampling of fresh truffle hors d'oeuvres and Champagne, followed by a casual post-truffle lunch spread of cheese, paté, charcuterie, fruit, nuts, veggies, quiche, etc. After our casual post-truffle lunch we will head back to the Château.

Once we return to our Château, you'll have some free time to relax. Then it will be time for us to clean up and get dressed for what is going to be a **one-of-a-kind dining experience, created specifically for Bon Beer Voyage**, thanks to our Belgian connection! Now it is time for us to make the transition from wine makers/tourists to epicurean experts as we head to the **Michelin-starred restaurant: La Mère Germaine**, where we will be treated to a **Multi-Course Wine vs Beer Paired Michelin Dinner!** This is a concept that we came up with Ruth met the chef, Christophe Hardiquet, during a visit with the local tourism board and learned that before he had the Michelin star in Provence, he had a 2 star Michelin restaurant in Brussels! Of course we immediately made the beer connection and knew that this was fate and happily, the chef agreed.



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 - Thursday 20 June - Les Baux and Paradou B, L

08:30 Breakfast at Château Gigognan

09:30 Depart Château Gigognan

EVENTS:

Château des Baux for tour of Château at your own pace & free time in town

Le Bistro du Paradou for Lunch

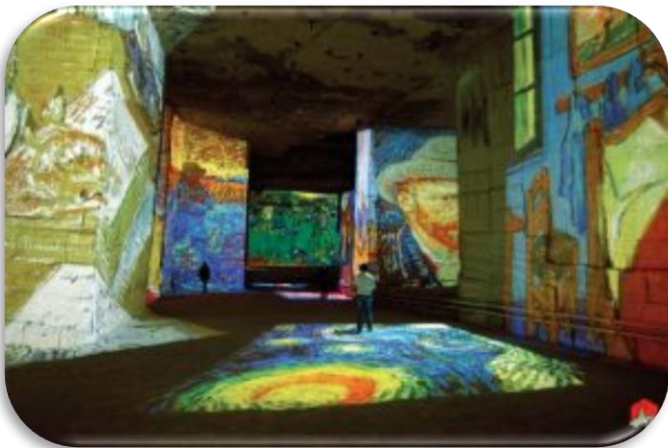
Carrieres de Lumiere

17:30 Arrive at Château Gigognan

TBD Dinner on your own. Taxi to a nearby restaurant or do your own picnic dinner at Chateau.

Today we will spoil your senses with amazing sights, tastes and experiences. We'll start by touring the vestiges of **Château des Baux**, an 11th century fortress, perched high on a rocky outcropping. The views from up here seem endless, as if you are at the top of the world. If we are lucky, we may even be there during a demonstration of the giant catapult! Afterwards we'll have some free time to explore the town which dates back to the 10th century.

Then we head to one of our favorite restaurants in Provence, **Le Bistro du Paradou**, which we "discovered" years ago, thanks to cookbook author and James Beard award recipient, Patricia Wells. Their plate du jour and amazing cheese selection will likely put you into a food coma, but if you can't indulge while you are on vacation, then what's the point?



are walking into the paintings!

Once we have finished our dessert, wine and cafes at Paradou, we will head back to Le Baux for the **Carrieres de Lumières**. This extraordinary multimedia experience is held in the chalk quarries. Upon entering the cool caverns, we become surrounded by music accompanying images from the works of famous artists, which are projected larger than life onto all the surfaces of the rock, from ceiling to floor. It is a total immersion, as if you

This evening, we will return to the Château where you might have some time to take a quick dip in the pool until it's time for you to have dinner on your own. Taxi and local restaurant info can be found in your BBV app.

Breakfast, Lunch

Day 7 - Friday 21 June - Day to Relax at the Château

B, L, D

08:30 - 10:30 Breakfast at Château Gigognan

EVENTS:

Free Time & Lunch on own at the Château

Optional Bike Rentals

17:30 Cooking Class, optional, followed by Dinner at Château Gigognan



Today is yours to spend as you please. Relax poolside with a good book and a glass of wine, join in on a pétanque match or perhaps a run through the vineyards to work off some of last night's dinner? **E-bikes may be reserved in advance** by those who want to explore the local surroundings. A short bike ride away (or a little bit longer by foot), the local sunflower fields are worth a visit.

Picnic makings and quiche are available in the chateau kitchen for a light lunch at your leisure. Today is informal and relaxed. It is your vacation do as little or as much as you choose!

This evening, those who are feeling inspired will join in on a cooking class and help prepare tonight's fabulous dinner, the rest of the group is free to relax until dinner is served!

Breakfast, Dinner

Day 8 - Saturday 22 June - Vaison la Romaine & Avignon **B**

08:00 **Breakfast** at Château Gigognan

09:15 **Check out & Depart** Château Gigognan

EVENTS:

Vaison La Romaine for tour of ruins

Free time for hiking to castle or roam ancient city & **Lunch** on your own

15:50 Meet at meeting location in parking lot in new city area

17:00 **Arrive & Check into** Hôtel de l'Horloge

TBD **Dinner** on your own in Avignon



We will spend today in one of Provence's most magical cities. **Vaison la Romaine**. Vaison la Romaine is a unique and interesting town in that it is divided into 3 areas, each representing different time periods. The Roman ruins and the modern town are down in the valley; then, as you cross over a bridge from the 1st century AD, you will be led into the medieval town which winds its way up a rocky cliff.

We will start our visit today with a guided tour of the ruins and some time to explore the museum housed there. Then you are free to find a shady terrace in the lower area or head up to the medieval part of town for a casual lunch at a local café. As with many towns that are so picturesque and historic, there are a number of talented artists living here. We are happy to point you in the direction of some of their galleries before you head off to explore a bit on your

own. The upper town is a wonderful place to wander, with cobblestone pathways and staircases that lead towards the ruins of a castle at the top of the hill. If you are feeling ambitious enough, you might decide to climb all the way to the top. But don't worry if this is not your thing; wandering leisurely through the ancient town is magical in itself and will provide for some great photo ops.

We'll head to Avignon late this afternoon to check into our 4 star hotel. The rest of the evening is yours to enjoy exploring the papal city. In the app, you will find a list of some of the locally recommended delicious restaurants for dinner on your own this evening – bon appetite!

Breakfast

Day 9 - Sunday 23 June Avignon B, D
Breakfast in Hotel de l'Horloge

09:30 Walking Tour of Avignon

11:30 Free Time on your own to explore

Lunch on your own

19:30 Group Farewell Dinner at Le Carré du Palais



Today we will have breakfast at the hotel and then we are off to explore **Avignon** on a private walking tour with our local guide. As we wander through town we will see the Pope's Palace- a UNESCO world heritage site, **Saint Benezet bridge** (the legendary *Pont d'Avignon*), **The Jardin des Doms** and more until we end up in **Les Halles**, the fabulous food market.

After the tour, this is a great place to hang out, sniff and taste your way around, grab a few things and sit down for lunch. You are free the rest of the day to explore, grab some last minute souvenirs or relax as you please until dinner. We'll meet up at the hotel this evening and take a short stroll to one of Avignon's gastronomic restaurants where we will enjoy a leisurely and delicious farewell dinner, in true Provençal style. After dinner, you're free to meander around town and walk off dinner or check out the magnificent view of the Pope's Palace lit up at night.

Breakfast, Dinner

Day 10 - Saturday 24 June - Departure Day B

08:00 Breakfast at Hôtel de l'Horloge

11:00 Check out and Depart Hôtel de l'Horloge



Time for a final breakfast at the hotel and you can check out of the hotel at your leisure anytime this prior to check out time. Depending on where you are going, take a taxi to your proper train station then on to wherever your travels will bring you.

Au revoir until next time!

Breakfast