

Tour de France! 2015

*Music, Culture, and Cuisine in France
exploring the regions of
Burgundy, Rhône Valley, Ardèche, and Provence*

July 12-27

Highlights include:

Concert at the **Noyers music festival- wine tasting** in the beautiful region of **Burgundy**

The charming medieval towns of **Avallon, Vézelay, and Beaune**

A cruise on the scenic **Rhône river**- the historic towns of **Avignon** and **Arles**

Berlioz museum and birthplace in **La Côte Saint-André**

The **Ardèche** region- private concert and stay at the d'Indy family estate, **Château des Faugs**

Lyon- Silk Museum; Fouvière Hill and Old Town; dining at the legendary restaurant **Paul Bocuse**

The striking vistas of **Provence**- **opera** at the **music festival of Aix-en-Provence**

Concerts by international artists at the **La Rôque d'Anthéron piano festival**

Private concerts, lectures, and fine dining

BURGUNDY- Concerts, Cuisine, and Wine-tasting *July 12-16*

July 12 (Paris Charles de Gaulle airport-Avallon)

Departure by bus from Charles de Gaulle airport by 14:00 for the 2 ½ hour drive to the beautiful town of Avallon. In addition to the 12th century Romanesque *Eglise St. Lazare*, the town is known for fine cuisine and will serve as a base for our stay in the region. Dinner at our hotel, *Hostellerie de la poste*, which has housed such famous guests as the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Josephine Baker, and Napoleon!

July 13 (Chablis, Avallon)

After breakfast, short lecture in preparation for the concert and then free morning in Avallon for sight-seeing. Lunch on your own, and late afternoon excursion to the nearby town of Chablis, home of the famous Chablis wine. William Wellborn and Adam Wibrowski will present the final concert at the *Festival de Chablisien* (concert at 18:00). After the concert we will have dinner and enjoy wine-tasting with the local townspeople.

July 14 (Vézelay, Avallon)

After breakfast, short lecture on history of the Burgundian region. Excursion to the nearby medieval town of Vézelay. Here we visit the 12th century Basilica Ste. Madeleine and enjoy the wonders of the charming town. Lunch at restaurant *La*

Bougainville; afternoon return and free evening in Avallon. Evening fireworks for *Bastille Day*!

July 15 (Noyers, Avallon)

After breakfast, short lecture in preparation for the evening concert. Free morning in Avallon; departure at 14:00 for the nearby medieval village (yes, another one!) of Noyers. Free time for strolling, sight-seeing, shopping in Noyers with early dinner at *Le Millesime*. Concert at the Noyers Music Festival (20:30) by cellist Gary Hoffman and pianist Nelson Goerner. Return to Avallon.

LYON- July 16-17

July 16 (Beaune-Lyon)

Departure by 10:00 for Beaune, the heart of the Burgundian region. Highlights in this historic town include the striking *Musée de l'Hôtel-Dieu* and the Museum of Burgundian Wine, and just seeing the beauty of the town itself. Free time for sight-seeing, lunch (not a day to skip lunch in this fantastic region!), wine tasting (we have one arranged for those who are interested), and shopping. Departure by 16:30 for Lyon. After check-in at our hotel, the *Boscolo*, dinner at the *Café des Négociants*.

July 17 (Lyon)

Free day in Lyon. A few of the many highlights in this beautiful city include the Museum of Fine Arts, the fascinating Silk Museum (silk being a primary source of Lyon's wealth and fame), Fourvière Hill and the Old Town, the Roman Theater, and a museum devoted to the Lumière brothers- pioneers in the film industry. For those wanting to splurge, dinner at the legendary restaurant *Paul Bocuse*, a three-star Michelin restaurant since 1965! (additional charge for this event)

ARDÈCHE- A visit to the birthplace of Berlioz and a stay at the Vincent d'Indy château- July 18-19

July 18 (La Côte Saint-André, Château des Faugs- the D'Indy estate)

After breakfast, we drive to the lovely town of La Côte Saint-André to see the museum and birthplace of Hector Berlioz. Lunch here at the restaurant *Hotel de France* and drive to the rural region of Ardèche. Our host is Christophe, the great grandson of the composer. Here we stay in the private ancestral château of the important composer Vincent d'Indy. Our host is Christophe, the great grandson of the composer! Dinner at *Château des Faugs*.

July 19- Château des Faugs

After breakfast, lecture about Vincert d'Indy and his influence on French music of his era. In the afternoon, we drive through the neighboring countryside and then dinner and short private concert at the château.

RHÔNE RIVER CRUISE- from Lyon to Provence- July 20-21

July 20

After a leisurely late morning departure from the d'Indy estate, we drive to Lyon to board our cruise ship, the *Van Gogh* (6:00PM departure) for an exciting journey down the Rhône river valley. The cruise includes dining (meals and wine are included!) and entertainment onboard, as well as day excursions to the historic towns of Avignon and Arles.

July 21- excursion to Avignon. Once the Papal center, the imposing Palais des Papes in Avignon is a truly noteworthy destination. The cruise itself features several optional excursions for this day trip; we return for a gala dinner on the ship.

July 22- excursion to Arles, Aix-en Provence

Morning visit of the sights of Arles and its famous Roman amphitheater. Return to boat and cruise to our final destination of Martigues on the Mediterranean. Short drive to Aix-en-Provence. Dinner at the *Brasserie Léopold* in Aix at our hotel- *Hôtel Saint-Christophe*.

PROVENCE- Music Festivals and More- July 22-26

Aix-en-Provence and La Roque d'Anthéron festivals

July 23 (Aix)

After breakfast, lecture about Mozart's opera *The Abduction from the Seraglio*. Optional visit to the *Musée Granet*. Free time for sight-seeing, shopping, rest, etc. Evening performance of Mozart's *Abduction from the Seraglio* at the *Théâtre de l'Archevêché*.

July 24 (Aix, La Roque d'Anthéron)

After breakfast free morning in Aix. Short lecture on the evening's program, and departure by bus at 14:30. Wine tasting at the Beaulieu vineyards and early dinner at the *Piano Gourmand* in Rognes. Opening concert at the La Roque d'Anthéron piano festival. Late evening return to Aix.

July 25 (Aix, La Roque d'Anthéron)

Free morning in Aix. Afternoon lecture about the evening's program and departure for La Roque. Two concerts at the festival (18:30 and 21:30), with dinner in between at *L'Auberge du Castellas*. Late evening return to Aix.

July 26 (Aix)

After a lazy morning (probably needed at this point!), we visit the studio of artist Paul Cézanne. For those who are interested, optional champagne tasting *Le Champs* champagne bar. Otherwise, free afternoon in Aix. Gala dinner at the hotel.

Departure- July 27 from Marseilles