



ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION of SMITH COLLEGE

Flavors of France: A Culinary Journey from Paris to Provence

September 8-16, 2008

Detailed Itinerary (Subject to change)

Day 1 – Sunday, September 7, 2008

(Meals aloft)

- Depart Boston on flights to Paris.

Day 2 – Monday, September 8, 2008

Overnight in Paris (D)

- Arrive in Paris' Charles De Gaulle in the mid-morning.
- Meet your local, expert guide and transfer to a 4 star hotel in downtown Paris.
- Check-in to the hotel.
- Enjoy free time to relax.
- Gather for a lovely Welcome Dinner at Le Grand Vefour, one of Julia Child's favorite restaurants in Paris.

Day 3 – Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Overnight in Paris (B, L)

- Your program begins with a visit to honor Julia McWilliams Child '34, alumna of Smith College: a morning private tour of Cordon Bleu School, followed by a hands-on cooking class with a Chef of the Cordon Bleu (in the recently named "salle Julia Child"). You will be received by one of the directors who will make a brief presentation of Julia Child's story at Cordon Bleu, including a viewing of archives.
- Enjoy a lunch together with a tasting of the dishes prepared by your group at the Cordon Bleu.
- During the afternoon, you will enjoy a 'Julia Child' walking tour of Paris including the best caterers, a visit to a pastry chef, a few excellent delicatessen shops, a wine-tasting in a wine cellar.
- Independent Dinner in Paris.

Day 4 – Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Overnight in Paris (B, L)

- Enjoy a whole day excursion to Rouen, Normandy.
- Depart early this morning, and begin with a visit to the famous cathedral Notre Dame immortalized by Monet, one of the most beautiful examples of French Gothic architecture still standing today.
- Explore the streets of Rouen and enjoy the open air food market at the Vieux Marché (the old market place where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake here in 1431). Learn about local products with local producers.
- Enjoy a special luncheon at La Couronne, where Julia Child's first meal in France will be recreated for our group.
- Continue to the St. Maclou district, full of half-timbered houses, spires, and bell towers.



Monet's impressionist paintings of Rouen Cathedral hang in the Fine Arts Museum.

- If you prefer antiques hunting or window-shopping for the local faience (the glazed pottery famous in the region since the 14th century), Rouen is your paradise.
- Return to Paris in the late afternoon.
- Independent Dinner and evening at leisure.

Day 5 – Thursday, September 11, 2008

Overnight in Paris (B, D)

- This morning your guide will lead you on a special visit of the Louvre collections focused on the history of eating habits and culinary arts from the Middle Age to our days.
- Free time in the Louvre and independent lunch.
- In the afternoon, visit the Palais Baccarat, located Place des Etats-Unis in front of the statue of Washington and Lafayette. The former mansion owned by Marie-Laure de Noailles has been turned into a magnificent museum designed by contemporary designer Philippe Stark and known for the visual effects of crystal space and lights.
- The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to enjoy the vast collection of the Louvre.
- Enjoy a gourmet dinner in one of the top restaurants of Paris.

Day 6 – Friday, September 12, 2008

Overnight in Paris (B, L)

- Enjoy a full day excursion to Versailles.
- Enjoy a behind-the-scene visit of the private apartments of the Queen, not normally opened to the public (her billiard room, her boudoir and several lounges behind her main bedroom). Take a tour of the gardens of the Domaine de Marie-Antoinette, recently restored and opened in July 2006).
- Lunch together at a lovely restaurant in Versailles.
- Afternoon visit to Potager du Roi in Versailles where you are received by the chief curator (specialist in gardens and gastronomy) who will guide you through the King's Kitchen garden, entirely renovated according to Louis 14th's original plans.
- Return to Paris in the late afternoon.
- Independent Dinner and evening at leisure.



Day 7 – Saturday, September 13, 2008

Overnight in Arles (B, WT)

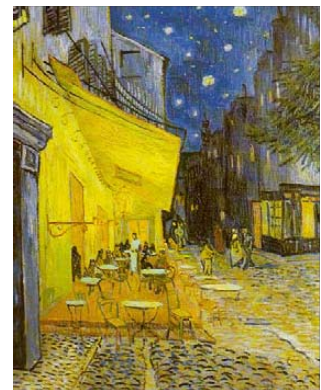
- Check out of the hotel after breakfast.
- Transfer to the Gare de Lyon railway station.
- Take a morning TGV first class train from Paris to Avignon (approximately a 2½ hour ride).
- Arrive in Avignon in the early afternoon.
- Follow your guide on a tour of the Palais des Papes and enjoy a walking tour of this beautiful city surrounded with well preserved and restored 14th century ramparts.
- Continue to Arles.
- Private wine and cheese tasting in a winery between Avignon and Arles, at the Valley of Les Baux.
- Check-in to your four-star hotel in the late afternoon.
- Dinner at leisure in Arles.



Day 8 – Sunday, September 14, 2008

Overnight in Arles (B, D)

- This morning, take a walking tour of Arles with your local expert guide. No other city in the region offers a more colorful atmosphere and possesses a greater awareness of its Provençal heritage. Your visit will include the Roman amphitheater that is both larger and older than its cousin in Nîmes, having been built in the 1st century AD. Bullfights of various types are still held here. We will continue our visit with the beautiful St-Trophime Church dedicated to the saint who is credited with having brought Christianity to France. Its doorway is itself a glorious example of Provençal Romanesque style. Our walking tour leads us to many sites made famous by Van Gogh who lived in this city for a year and discovered the brightness of the Mediterranean skies.
- Stop at the Place du Forum where you can sit at a café table and refresh yourselves with a drink!
- Lunch at leisure in Arles.
- In the afternoon, drive to the nearby town of Salon-de-Provence, where you are invited to a great culinary experience at the elegant private home of a charming French lady who is an excellent chef. She and her friendly husband will receive you in their large and well equipped kitchen where you will prepare a festive dinner under the guidance of your host. She will provide you with her favorite recipes made of fresh products currently used in Provence. This exceptional opportunity to share a day with a knowledgeable and lovely French family will be a memorable experience, similar to Julia Child's experiences when she lived in Provence.
- Return to Arles after dinner.



Day 9 – Monday, September 15, 2008

Overnight at the Hotel Jules César in Arles (B, L, D)

- Full day excursion to Marseille, a city that Julia and Paul Child liked very much.
- Enjoy a panoramic tour of this amazing city built by the Greeks 2600 years ago. The tour will include the famous basilica Notre Dame de la Garde overlooking the city, views over the corniche along the Mediterranean, the port of Marseille and some of the quaint streets of the old district.
- Stroll along the picturesque Old Port of Marseille to look at the famous fish market.
- Meet with one of the top chefs in Marseille who owns a high-end restaurant by the seashore. After a private wine-tasting in his reception lounge, the chef will invite you to watch him prepare a bouillabaisse in his kitchen.
- A wonderful bouillabaisse will be served for lunch in his restaurant!
- In the afternoon, you will enjoy a visit of Aix-en-Provence. Your walking tour will include the Cathedral Saint-Sauveur, the elegant 17th and 18th century mansions along picturesque cobblestoned streets, some of the sites associated with the life of Paul Cezanne, the Cours Mirabeau.
- You will be able to stop at a “Calissons” factory to taste this local goodie made of almonds, melon and marzipan.
- A special farewell dinner will take place at one of the best gourmet restaurants in Arles.



Day 10 – Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Arles

- Check out of the hotel after breakfast.
- Morning flights from Marseille en route back to the US.



(B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)