

Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd.

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A WINE AND FOOD TOUR OF THE CÔTES DU RHÔNE

Join us on a gastronomic exploration of France's northern and southern Rhône Valley (with a dash of Beaujolais). These celebrated but very distinct wine regions are unified by the Rhône river that flows through them on its southerly course to the Mediterranean. While the southern Rhône dominates its northern neighbour in wine production by a factor of 10, it is the Syrah-based wines of the northern Rhône that typically steal the spotlight of the world's wine aficionados. We will sample the best that both worlds have to offer. The tour will feature luxury accommodations, Michelin-starred dining as well as family-owned bistros, and VIP tasting visits with leading wine producers along the way.

Hosted by Tony Aspler and Deborah Benoit, Stephen Pauwels and Cathy Martin-Pauwels

From Monday May 6 to Monday, May 13, 2024

PROPOSED ITINERARY:

Meals included (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)

Monday, May 6: (D)

Mid-morning rendezvous at Lyon Airport for those arriving this morning. Transfer to our hotel for the following three days, the 5-star [Intercontinental Lyon Hotel Dieu](#). This landmark property was a hospital for more than eight centuries before its unveiling in 2019 as Lyon's new premier luxury hotel. The hotel is ideally situated in Lyon's *Presqu'île*, or "Peninsula" neighbourhood - a narrow strip of land between the Rhône and Saône rivers. Time to settle in and relax before a late afternoon orientation walking tour of the city centre. Group dinner this evening at [Bulle Restaurant](#).

Tuesday, May 7: (B,D)

Lyon is France's third largest city and a multi-layered place rich in history. The city is revered throughout France (and hence the world) for its cuisine. Its situation at the crossroads of two major rivers makes it an ideal hub for the produce of the fertile valleys and alpine hills of France's southeast. Its cuisine combines ingredients from the north – such as Bresse chicken, Charolais beef, and ample cream and butter – with the fresh, seasonal vegetables and sensational olive oils produced in the valleys to the south (all deliciously complemented by the wines of nearby Burgundy, Beaujolais and the Rhône valley). These plentiful ingredients have inspired many young chefs from Lyon who have gone on to achieve global fame such as Paul Bocuse and

Daniel Boulud.

After breakfast in the hotel at your leisure, we will enjoy a guided tour of Lyon's *La Croix-Rousse* - the former silk-weaving district, which is hosting its weekly market this AM. From here we will enjoy panoramic views as we walk towards the city centre through the vibrant *Pentes de la Croix-Rousse* district known for its historic architecture, unique shops and impressive street art.

Free time for lunch before travelling (55 km) north of Lyon late this afternoon into the scenic Beaujolais wine district for a tasting visit at [Château des Jacques](#). Located in the pretty village of Romanèche-Thorins in the Moulin-à-Vent appellation, this historic property (owned by Burgundy's Maison Louis Jadot) is widely recognized as the most prestigious estate in Beaujolais. Group dinner to follow at the nearby, Michelin 1* and Relais & Château member [Château de Bagnols](#) restaurant before returning to Lyon.

Wednesday, May 8 (B,L):

Breakfast in the hotel at your leisure. At 11:00AM we will venture south of Lyon (105 km), following the Rhône river through the famous steep-terraced vineyards of the AOCs Côte Rôtie (literally translated as “roasted hillside” owing to its ample direct sun exposure), Hermitage and Cornas, source of some of the world's most powerful and elegant Syrah-based red wines as well as the Viognier-based whites of the AOC Condrieu. We will be enjoying various of these wines during our 7-course gastronomic odyssey of a lunch today at the legendary [Maison Pic](#) in the town of Valence.

Maison Pic was opened by the Pic family in 1889 and initially earned three stars in the Michelin guide in 1934, soon after its star system was introduced. Over the years and multiple generations of Pic's in the kitchen, the number of stars has fluctuated but never completely disappeared - the third star was lost in 1946, regained in 1973 and held for 22 years before it was lost in 1995. Current chef Anne-Sophie Pic took over the kitchen in 1998 and returned it to its three-star status in 2007, a position it has retained ever since. Determined—and with no formal training—Anne-Sophie is France's only 3 starred Michelin chef (and just the fourth woman ever to receive the honour). She was recognized by the “50 Best Restaurants in the World” listing as the world's best female chef. This will be an incredible experience by all accounts.

Late afternoon return to Lyon and free evening to relax and digest.

Thursday, May 9 (B,L):

Breakfast and AM check out of the hotel. Returning to the northern Rhône Valley, this morning we have a tasting visit at E. Guigal, one of the most notable wine producers in the Rhône Valley. Founded in 1946 by Etienne Guigal, the estate holds plots throughout the northern and southern Rhône, but their exceptional wines from the Cote Rotie AOC – La Landonne, La Turque and La Mouline are the most famous. The trio are known as the “La La La” wines by their global cult fan base, including Robert Parker who has bestowed each of them with perfect 100-point ratings across many vintages.

Extending our experience with legendary wine producers of the northern Rhône, our lunch today is at Vineum, the restaurant housed within the headquarters of Paul Jaboulet Aîné (www.jaboulet.com), situated in the town of Tain L'Hermitage just a stone's throw from the famous hillside vineyard of the Hermitage AOC.

Late afternoon arrival in the city of Avignon (130 km) and the centrally situated hotel for the final four days of the tour – the 5 star, [Hotel D'Europe](#), a 16th century former mansion of the nobility located a stone's throw from the town's many central attractions. Free evening.

Friday, May 10 (B,D):

Following an early breakfast we will enjoy a guided walking tour of the historic city centre of Avignon, including UNESCO world heritage sites such as the Popes' Palace and the Saint Bénézet Bridge ("Le Pont d'Avignon" of the famed French childrens' song).

Late AM tour and tasting visit at Chateau La Nerthe in Chateauneuf du Pape (15 km). Free time for lunch in village of Chateauneuf du Pape (or option to return to Avignon for lunch) and later this afternoon back in Avignon.

Early evening departure for our group dinner at [L'Oustalet Restaurant](#) in the charming town of Gigondas. This Michelin 1* star restaurant is owned by the Perrin Family, owners of Chateau Beaucastel (as well as Chateau Miraval with co-owner Brad Pitt and other leading estates throughout the southern Rhône). While Tony's friend Thomas Perrin sends his regrets due to a prior travel commitment (our 2012 tour participants will recall our lovely dinner with him in Avignon on that tour), he has kindly offered to send us some very notable wines from the family cellars to be paired with our dinner.

Saturday, May 11 (B,L):

After breakfast we will visit Les-Baux-de-Provence (25 km), one of the most beautiful villages of France. This small village and its ruined medieval castle are magnificently perched on a rocky peak of the Alpilles mountain range, with panoramic views over the Camargue plains and the city of Arles. It has a fascinating history dating back to 6000 BC.

Group lunch at nearby, tres chic [Chateau d'Estoublon](#) (jointly owned by the Prats family of Chateau Cos d'Estournel and singer Carla Bruni with her husband and former French President Nicolas Sarkozy), where we will enjoy a classic provencal meal complemented by the estates own wines and olive oils of global renown. After lunch we will drive through the spectacular Alpile countryside that inspired Van Gogh to paint 150 of his canvases. Free time to stroll and shop in exceptionally pretty Saint Rémy de Provence. Late afternoon/early evening return to Avignon and free evening.

Sunday, May 12 (B,D):

Breakfast at your leisure. This morning we will visit the town of L'Isle-Sur-La-Sorgue (30 km), to stroll around its famous Sunday antique market. Free time for lunch before continuing on to one of the prettiest regions of Provence (and all of France), the Luberon with its stunning hilltop villages (celebrated in Peter Mayle's classic *A Year in Provence*).

Late afternoon return to Avignon before our farewell dinner in our hotel's elegant restaurant which we have privatized for the occasion.

Monday, May 12 (B):

AM check out of the hotel and t

REGISTRATION FORM

Please book _____ seat(s) on the “Aspler Wine Tour 2024” tour on May 6th – May 13th, 2024.

I wish to book on group flights _____ OR land only _____.

(If booking land only please send the office a copy of your flight details).

Please be prepared to pay a deposit of **\$1000 per person and any applicable insurance premium** at time of registration. Balance is invoiced no later than 60 days prior to departure.

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) VALID 6 MONTHS AFTER TOUR TO BE SENT IN WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM.

PASSPORT NAME(S):

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

Date of Birth (ddmmmyyyy): _____

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

Date of Birth (ddmmmyyyy): _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

If traveling alone, is a **single room** required? Yes _____ No _____

If sharing, what is your bed preference: twin (2 beds) _____ double (1 bed) _____?

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Please list any dietary requests, allergies, special physical needs, or frequent flyer numbers etc., below. We cannot ensure requests made 30 days or less prior to departure will be possible.

INSURANCE: Review plans and rates by clicking [here](#) or calling the office. Record your quoted premium below:

All-Inclusive: _____ Emergency Medical: _____ Non-Medical/Trip Cancellation: _____

Decline Insurance: _____

PAYMENT: Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel Bureau LTD, e-transfer to tours@pauwelstravel.com or call the office to provide credit card (Visa, Mastercard, American Express) to Sandra or Jessica.

Amount To Pay: _____

CONSENT: “I/we have read and agree to the terms and conditions attached to the tour program, have selected or declined insurance, indicated any special requests, and authorize payment of the above amount.”

Date _____ Signature _____

Date _____ Signature _____

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TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. No reservations will be accepted without a deposit and signed registration form. Deposit amounts vary by tour and are listed in the registration form.

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service, or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. at least 91 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$250.00 non-refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation penalties apply for tour costs:

- 90 days to 61 days before departure: 35% of tour cost
- 60 to 31 days before departure: 65% of tour cost
- 30 – 0 days prior to departure: 100% of tour cost

Penalties for cancelling insurance or individual airfare may differ than the policy above. Clients are advised to review the cancellation terms for any additional services they may have purchased for the tour.

RESPONSIBILITY:

The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. We also reserve the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. We reserve the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, travel warnings by the Canadian Government etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable. By commencing the tour, I agree to the release and agreement as included below.

RELEASE & AGREEMENT:

By placing my deposit, submitting my registration, and commencing the tour I understand and agree to the following:

1. That all tours are delivered in conjunction with other service providers, including but not limited to travel agent and booking services, airlines, hotel and accommodation providers, transportation providers including but not limited to coach, train and ferry services, restaurant providers, and local guides. We shall not be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotels, transportation and other travel services are provided subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally.
2. I know that tour programs include walking and may including hiking and fitness programs that have potentially hazardous activities associated with them. I should not participate prior to approval by my physician. I assume any and all other risks associated with these events included but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather including high heat and/or humidity.
3. To release, indemnify and hold harmless Pauwels Travel Bureau and their affiliates (which term shall include parents, subsidiaries, officers, directors, shareholders, agents and employees of Pauwels Travel Bureau as well as Pauwels Travel themselves) (the "Released Parties") from, and agree not to sue the Released Parties for, any claims that I may have arising from, or in connection with, any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from any cause whatsoever related in any way to my participation in this tour. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I release, indemnify, and hold harmless the Released Parties from, and agree not to sue them for any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from the Released Parties' negligence other than from intentional or reckless acts by such parties. I further agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all acts of God, war (whether declared or undeclared), terrorist activities, incidents of politically motivated violence, illness or quarantine, strikes or

government restrictions or the acts or omissions of any other agents over which the Released Parties have no direct or indirect control, including, without limitation, airlines, railways, bus companies, hotels, shipping companies, guides and sub-contracted agents or tour operators. This release also includes activities not offered that may be considered risky. I further release any Tour Directors, bus drivers or other individuals involved in my tour.

4. That the air carrier's liability for loss of or damage to baggage or property, or for death or injury to person, is limited by their tariffs, or the Warsaw Convention, or both.

5. That Pauwels Travel Bureau shall have no liability or responsibility for me when I am absent from activities, such as visits to friends or relatives or during pre-tour/post-tour option periods if the pre-tour/post-tour period does not include the services of a Tour Director.

6. To abide by directions of my Tour Director or other leadership personnel during my tour. Failure to do so may result in my termination from tour immediately. I understand that to disobey such rules or directions are to waive the right to any refund, and that I may be sent home at my own expense. The participant and family undertake full financial responsibility for any damage caused by the participant and agree to pay his/her return home on the first available flight, should his/her behavior be deemed detrimental to the welfare of the group.

7. To abide by all local laws when in Canada and abroad, including those concerning drugs and alcohol. (Minors must have parents' permission to use alcohol even if the local law would otherwise permit them to). I understand that if I abuse or disobey such laws, even unintentionally, I waive my right to a refund, and Pauwels Travel may send me home at my own expense. I also understand that should local authorities be involved; I will be subject to the laws of the country I am visiting.

8. That if I become ill or incapacitated, Pauwels Travel and its employees, or a designated chaperone may take any action they deem necessary for my safety and well-being, including securing medical treatment (at my own expense) and transporting me home. In the event of a medical emergency, Pauwels Travel will attempt to cause appropriate treatment to be administered, and the traveller authorizes Pauwels Travel to do so. Pauwels Travel, however, makes no warranty that it will be able to cause effective (or any) emergency treatment to be administered.

9. That Pauwels Travel may use any film likenesses taken of me and any of my comments while on a tour for future publication and use my contact information for future Pauwels Travel communications.

A WORD ABOUT GROUP AIRFARES:

Please note that when booking one of our air inclusive tours, Pauwels Travel has negotiated reduced rates with the airline that we are able to confirm and lock in up to 359 days before travel. While it is wonderful to share the savings and flexibility this provides with you, our valued guests, the privilege does come with some restrictions. In some cases, it may not be possible to collect frequent flyer miles, you may not be able to check in online 24 hours before travel, or you may need to try checking in with your ticket number rather than your booking reference. Additionally, most airlines do not allow advanced seat-selection on group airfares. It is the airline's policy, not ours, that prevents us from assigning specific seats. If a request is made, it is passed on to the airline by our staff when they submit the names to the airline 60 days prior to departure but no requests are guaranteed. Our staff will not be able to aid in advanced seat selection if the airline does not allow it on the group airfare. If a certain type of seat is indispensable to you, we suggest that you book our tour on a "land only" basis and make individual flight arrangements, in which case you may be able to get the seat of your choice; Pauwels Travel would be happy to assist you with that reservation. We will offer you the best fare available, but please note that this can only be done once a tour is a guaranteed departure because individual airfare conditions are stricter than the conditions of the group airfare rate. We thank you in advance for your kind understanding of the above!

ransfer to Marseille airport for those departing today.