

# France and Germany Spirituality of Wine Tour

June 3 – 14, 2022

## Tour Itinerary

**Pre-tour nights in Paris available on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 for \$200.00 per person sharing a double (including city tax and breakfast).**

### **Day 1 • Friday, June 3, 2022 - Depart**

We depart the U.S. on our transatlantic flight to France.

### **Day 2 • Saturday, June 4, 2022 - Reims**

On arrival in Paris, we are met by our driver and guide and transfer outside the city to Reims. We begin our stay with a guided tour of the city. Highlights include Reims Cathedral, as well as the Museum of Surrender (Closed Tuesdays). This is where on May 7th, 1945, three high officials of the German armed forces sat with American, British, French and Russian officers and signed a declaration of unconditional surrender, ending World War II in Europe. The site of the signature (and now museum) is a red brick school which served as the headquarters of General Dwight D. Eisenhower. This evening we enjoy a welcome dinner together at the hotel. **D**

### **Day 3 • Sunday, June 5, 2022 - Reims**

We enjoy a leisurely morning before setting off to the Champagne region for vineyard tours and tastings of this regional specialty (locations to be determined with the assistance of Josh Hammerling). We return to Reims for dinner on our own and overnight. **B**

### **Day 4 • Monday, June 6, 2022 - Strasbourg**

After breakfast we depart Reims and make our way to Strasbourg, stopping first in Domremy-la-Pucelle where we see the birthplace of Joan of Arc and stop to ponder her significance in history. We continue on our way to Strasbourg. Here again, we enjoy a brief guided tour of the city centre, also known as Petite France. We enjoy an inside visit of Strasbourg Cathedral as well as the rich history and culture of this city, which is now the formal seat of European Parliament. We dine on local specialties tonight at a restaurant near our hotel. **B, D**

#### **Day 4 • Tuesday, June 7, 2022 - Strasbourg**

Today we have a full-day wine tour in the Alsace region with a local expert guide. Tastings and a winery lunch are included (locations to be discussed with Josh Hammerling). We return to Strasbourg, where dinner and the balance of the evening are at our leisure. **B,L**

#### **Day 6 • Wednesday, June 8, 2022 - Strasbourg**

Today we have the day free to take in the sights in Strasbourg. There is an optional morning excursion to Struthof Concentration Camp (approximately 5-hour excursion with a guide). **B**

#### **Day 7 • Thursday, June 9, 2022 - Trier**

Departing Strasbourg and the Alsace region today, we head for the Mosel Valley. Before we cross the border into Germany we make two important stops, one at the Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial. This site contains the largest number of graves of our military dead; a total of 10,489. Our second stop is at Fort Hackenberg, one of the largest of the Maginot Line fortifications. As we sit aboard a historical electric train, our guide introduces us to several of the 19 infantry and artillery blocks of this underground 1930's fort. We continue to Trier for dinner and overnight. **B, D**

#### **Day 8 • Friday, June 10, 2022 - Trier**

We begin our day with a guided tour of Trier. In the heart of the most picturesque stretch of the Mosel Valley, Trier has numerous well-preserved Roman attractions, the most famous of which is the spectacular fortified gate of Porta Nigra, a UNESCO World Heritage site built in the 2nd century. We visit the Porta Nigra during our tour, as well as the Roman Imperial Baths, which are the largest in Europe. The rest of the day is free to explore individual interests. **B**

#### **Day 9 • Saturday, June 11, 2022 - Mosel Valley – Cochem – Koblenz**

Our first stop today is Cochem tucked between steep vineyards and the river. We stroll the medieval streets and take the Sesselbahn up to a hilltop restaurant with picturesque views. We hike down and have free time for lunch on our own before a wine-tasting at Weingut Rademacher. This afternoon we stop to see the Eltz Castle. Then we continue on to 2000 year old town of Koblenz on the banks of both the Rhine and the Mosel rivers, this charming town has an abundance of cultural monuments and historical buildings. Tonight we dine in a typical Weinstube, a Wine Tavern. **B, D**

#### **Day 10 • Sunday, June 12, 2022 - Mosel Valley - Koblenz**

This morning we enjoy a walking tour of this charming city seeing such sights as St. Floins Church (Note: entry to the church will not be possible on Sunday Morning), the German corner, Mint Square, and the Old Castle. Then we visit a winery or wine grower's cottage, where we can sample homemade wine. After lunch we take a short drive to Remagen and look back at a

little of World War II and the movie “A Bridge Too Far” as we explore the ‘The Bridge at Remagen’. We return to Koblenz where dinner is on our own tonight. **B**

**Day 11 • Monday, June 13, 2022 - Rudesheim**

Our final day in Europe features a cruise on the mighty Rhine River. We cruise from Koblenz to Rudesheim enjoying time on one of Europe’s most important waterways. Along the way, we hear about the history of the many castle ruins and vineyards that dot the hillside along the river. After our cruise, we transfer to our hotel for our final overnight and have some time for last minute shopping before dinner. We celebrate our last evening in Europe with a farewell dinner and a tasting of the region’s fine Rhine wines. **B, D**

**Day 12 • Tuesday, June 14, 2022 - Return**

We transfer to the Frankfurt airport this morning for our return flight home.