Faith, History & Wine in SW France
September 26th - October 5th 2018

Dear Duquesne Alumni and Friends,

Exploring the area of Southwest France, stretching from Toulouse to Bordeaux, and south to the Pyrenees Mountains, is like stepping back in time. Far removed from the hustle and bustle of modern industrial life, this region is like a tonic for the soul – from the natural beauty of the wooded river valleys, to the magnificent vineyards of Bordeaux, and the breathtaking majesty of the Pyrenees, here is a place where you can truly relax.

And history abounds. The pilgrimage roads to Compostela—said to be earthbound reflections of the Milky Way—once drew pilgrims from all over Europe. The ancient routes, together constituting a UNESCO World Heritage site, still converge today in Southern France, leading through picturesque, unspoiled countryside. On this trip, you’ll tour magnificent Romanesque abbeys, explore prehistoric cave art, near Les Eyzies, and make your own pilgrimage to the Marian shrine of Lourdes.

The city of Bordeaux, once nicknamed La Belle Endormie, or the Sleeping Beauty, used to be plagued with industrial soot and despair, leaving wine lovers wanting to sample the famous local produce from far away! But like the grapes in the bottles, age has worked in her favor. Over the past decades, the city of Bordeaux has reinvented herself, now mirroring the beauty of the sprawling vineyards that surround her.

But perhaps the highlight of the tour will be our 3-night stay in the delightful Chateau de Monrecour. This neo-renaissance castle, nestled in the heart of the Black Perigord region (familiar to lovers of the Inspector Bruno novels) also has a fabulous restaurant. You can take a virtual tour of the chateau at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nmj59wjDofQ

So we have beautiful scenery, off the usual tourist track, thousands of years of history, and magnificent food and wine. Sounds like an unbeatable combination. Please do join us on this wonderful adventure. It will be more fun if you do!

Jean Anne Hartley

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Land Package (per person, double occupancy): $3650
Single supplement: $ 790
Optional Group Airfare from Pittsburgh: $1215

Airfares are available from many U.S. departure cities. Please call for details.

The following services are included:

Hotels: 8 nights’ accommodation in first-class hotels, including hotel taxes and service charges
Coaching: All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
Meals: Breakfast daily, 3 lunches, 6 dinners
Guides: DISCOVER EUROPE tour director throughout, local guides in Bordeaux and St. Emilion
Expenses: Porterage of one large suitcase per person
Entrances: Entrance fees to all sites featured in the itinerary

Please Note: Travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed to reach registrant.

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**Wednesday, September 26th** - Departure from Pittsburgh aboard American Airlines/via Philadelphia to Paris. *(Please contact Discover Europe for available routings from alternative departure cities.)* **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

**Thursday, September 27th** - On arrival in Paris, you will connect with Air France’s onward service to Pau, where you will be met for the transfer to our hotel in Lourdes. After checking-in, there will be time to unpack, relax after the overnight flight, and begin exploring the neighborhood. Later this afternoon we will gather for an orientation briefing and a welcome dinner at the hotel, followed by participation in the evening torchlight Marian procession. **(D) OVERNIGHT: LOURDES**

**Friday, September 28th** - We will have time to explore Lourdes this morning, before heading north to the city Pau. You can visit the Sanctuaires Notre-Dame de Lourdes, or the Domain, the major Catholic pilgrimage site. Each year, millions visit the Grotto of Massabielle (Grotto of the Apparitions) where, in 1858, the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared to a local woman. In the grotto, pilgrims can drink or bathe in water flowing from a spring. Pau was the birthplace of Henri of Navarre, later to become Henri IV of France. It was a center for the Protestants during the French wars of religion, until Henri IV decided that “Paris is worth a mass” and converted to Catholicism! We’ll have time here for lunch and to explore the city center before we continue north to Bordeaux. After checking into our hotel, we head out to a local restaurant for dinner. **(B, D)** **OVERNIGHT: BORDEAUX**

**Saturday, September 29th** - Morning sightseeing of the city with a local guide introduces us to La Belle Endormie - the Sleeping Beauty, as Bordeaux is known. The afternoon and evening are free for individual exploration. **(B) OVERNIGHT: BORDEAUX**

**Sunday, September 30th** - After breakfast today we will drive the short distance to explore the wine center of Saint-Émilion with a local guide. We will visit the Maison du Vin and the iconic tower of the Château du Roy before we head underground to explore the galleries, church, catacombs and other mysteries beneath the city streets. This medieval village offers more than just spectacular bottles of wine, beautifully narrow side streets to explore, and ancient churches hewn into the rocks; there is much to explore beneath the surface as well. After we enjoy a wine-tasting and lunch, there will be some free time before we drive to Sarlat-la-Canéda. Heading east, we follow the course of the Dordogne River, through the Perigueux region, past beautiful towns and villages, and vineyards tumbling down the river banks. After checking into our chateau hotel, there will be time to freshen up before dinner. **(B, L, D) OVERNIGHT: SARLAT AREA**

**Monday, October 1st** - An excursion today takes us south to Rocamadour. Set in the valley of the river Alzou, the town is nestled at the foot of the cliffs and has been a place of pilgrimage since the middle ages. We’ll take a walking tour of the town and then have free time before we head back to Sarlat. Dinner is included at a local restaurant along the way back to the chateau. **(B, D)** **OVERNIGHT: SARLAT AREA**

**Tuesday, October 2nd** - This morning a short drive, through the beautiful Dordogne countryside, brings us to the nearby Lascaux Caves. While we can only visit a replica of the original caves, the prehistoric cave paintings are still spectacular. We’ll stop for lunch in the village of Montignac and then visit the National Museum of Prehistory in the nearby town of Les Eyzies before we return to the chateau for dinner. **(B, L, D) OVERNIGHT: SARLAT AREA**

**Wednesday, October 3rd** - Leaving Sarlat, our first stop today will be the lovely medieval town of Cahors. We’ll tour the old town and visit the magnificent cathedral founded in 1119 CE before we have lunch. This afternoon we stop at the Abbey of St Pierre de Moissac en route to Toulouse. The foundation of Moissac is a matter of some debate, but it definitely existed as early as the middle of the 7th Century CE. A number of the medieval buildings remain and it is justly famous for the incredible Romanesque sculptures around the entrance portal. A short drive from here brings us to our hotel in the center of Toulouse. The evening is free. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: TOULOUSE**

**Thursday, October 4th** - This morning, we’ll have a walking tour of Toulouse center, including visits to the Basilica of St. Sernin, the largest Romanesque building in France, and the Musee des Augustins, with its wonderful collection of medieval sculpture. The afternoon is free and this evening we’ll have a farewell dinner at a local restaurant close to our hotel. **(B, D)** **OVERNIGHT: TOULOUSE**

**Friday, October 5th** - Morning transfers to Toulouse Airport for return flights to the USA. **(B)**
**Tour Hotels:**

- **Lourdes:** Grand Hotel Gallia & Londres (www.hotelsvinuales.com)
- **Bordeaux:** Hotel de Seze (www.hotel-de-seze.com)
- **Sarlat Area:** Chateau de Monrecour (www.monrecour.com)
- **Toulouse:** The Crowne Plaza (www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels)

Please note that all hotel bookings are subject to final confirmation.

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**Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner**

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**General Instructions:**

1. Please type or print.
2. Be sure to read the Terms & Conditions and the Refund Policy contained on the reverse before signing.
3. Complete both sides of this form.
4. Detach the bottom section and mail it to Discover Europe with your deposit of $500 per person. Keep the top section.

**Detailed Instructions**

1. Name(s). Please make sure that your name appears on this form exactly as it does on your passport. Include your “Known As” or preferred name.
2. Passport Details. Having your passport details ahead of time enables Discover Europe to speed the check-in process at hotels and helps in the event of lost or stolen documents.
3. Address. If you have a different address, please let us have the details, including dates that you are there, on a separate sheet.
4. Dietary Requirements. Please let us know if you require any special meals both for the hotels and the airlines.
5. Health Information. It is very valuable for us to know ahead of time if you require any special assistance. Discover Europe tours are always paced for comfort, but inevitably there is also a certain amount of walking involved. Participants should have sufficient stamina to keep pace with the tour group and not cause delays. Please consult with your physician if you have any questions regarding your ability to participate fully.

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**Emergency Contact**

This information is essential.

**Flight Information**

1. Group flights are available as part of your tour package. If you would like to fly on different dates, Discover Europe will be happy to book your tickets for you. You would then pay the land only trip cost plus the cost of your airline ticket plus a service fee of $40 per ticket.
2. If you are arranging your own flights to join the tour, it is essential that Discover Europe has your complete flight information. Please make sure you give us the following: dates of travel, airline(s), flight numbers, departure and arrival airports and departure and arrival times for all flight segments that you have booked.

**Rooming Requirements**

Please check the appropriate boxes.

1. If you are sharing a room, please let us know with whom. If you would like to share a room but do not have a roommate, we will be happy to try and match you up but unfortunately cannot guarantee that this will be possible. If no match is available, the single supplement will apply.
2. A twin room has two separate single beds in it. A double room has one large bed. A triple room may have either 3 single beds or 1 double and 1 single. Please let us know your preference.

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**Passenger Detail: Treasures of SW France (0926/DQA)**

**Passport Name:**

1. **Title First Middle Last**

2. **Title First Middle Last**

**Known As:** 1. __________________________ 2. __________________________

**Passport 1#:** __________________________  **Exp.Date:** __________  **DOB:** __________

**Passport 2#:** __________________________  **Exp.Date:** __________  **DOB:** __________

**Address:**

**City:** __________________________  **State:** ______  **Zip:** __________________________

**E-mail:** __________________________

**Preferred Telephone:** (____) ____________________  circle one

- work/cell/home

**Secondary Telephone:** (____) ____________________  circle one

- work/cell/home

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Special Dietary Requirements: ____________________________________________

**Health Information:** ____________________________________________

**Other Comments or Notes:** ____________________________________________

**Trip Details**

**Itinerary Name:** ____________________________________________

**Departure Date:** __________  **Return Date:** __________

**Please return this form to:**

Discover Europe
95 Adams Street, Keene, NH 03431
1. Exchange rates. Should the value of the dollar fall against the currency right to make adjustments in the following circumstances:
   - The cost of your chosen tour will not change. However, we do reserve the right to pass along increases in costs (taxes, airport fees, fuel surcharges, etc.) that are charged by the airline involved.

2. Group size. Your tour has been based on a minimum group size of 20 participants. Should we end up with fewer than this, Discover Europe will work with Duquesne University to determine a course of action which may involve either paying a surcharge to keep the tour with all the inclusions listed, or making adjustments in order to keep the cost the same.

3. Airfares. If your tour includes airfare, Discover Europe reserves the right to pass along increases in costs (taxes, airport fees, fuel surcharges, etc.) that are charged by the airline involved.

**REFUND POLICY**

1. Participants who withdraw more than 90 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received less a $200 cancellation penalty.
2. Participants who withdraw fewer than 90 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less the following cancellation penalties:
   - 90-61 days prior to departure: $1000 per person
   - 60-31 days prior to departure: $2000 per person
   - Fewer than 30 days prior to departure: no refund
3. Please note that the final payment becomes due upon receipt of the final invoice and will remain payable, as per the above schedule, if your cancellation is received after this.
4. These cancellation penalty amounts do not include any airfares purchased on your behalf by Discover Europe Ltd. Note that the least expensive airfares are usually non-refundable. Refunds for airline tickets purchased on your behalf by Discover Europe Ltd. will be handled separately from the refund of the land tour package.
5. Travel insurance is not included in your tour package. Discover Europe Ltd. strongly advises that you purchase coverage for your upcoming trip. Information describing the services of a recommended travel insurance company will be mailed to you upon receipt of your Registration Form.
6. All cancellation requests must be received in writing.
7. There is no provision for refund for any activities missed due to the participant’s absence once the tour has started.
8. Your place on this tour is not transferable.

**INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS**

1. All inclusions are listed on the day-by-day itinerary and registration form.
2. The following are not included (unless specifically mentioned in the itinerary): travel insurance, transportation to and from the participant’s home to their chosen departure airport, passport fees, excess baggage charges, tips to tour guides and tour bus drivers, items of a personal nature.

**ROOMING REQUIREMENTS**

(Choose one)

- Yes
- No

**SIGNATURES**

I have read and agree to the attached Terms & Conditions and understand that travel insurance is not included in the trip.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: __________________

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**EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________

City: __________________ State: ______ Zip: _______
Home Telephone: (______) __________________________

**FLIGHT INFORMATION**

(Choose one)

- I would like group air from Pittsburgh at $1215? Yes No
- If no, would you like Discover Europe to book your flights? Yes No

From what city? ____________________________

Flight details (if self-arranged): ____________________________________________

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**PERMISSIONS**

Discover Europe may include my e-mail address on the tour passenger list.

- Yes
- No

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**SIGNATURES**

Signature: ___________________________ Date: __________________