



PROVENCE 2019

OCTOBER 24 - 30

Expanding on our love of food and table, A'Tavola is offering two culinary trips this year. We will experience first-hand that which inspires us: culture, food, and fostering relationships. Together, we will explore the Provence region in southern France.

Food is one of the best and most enjoyable ways to understand and appreciate other cultures.

Join us & our small group for an intimate & memorable experience of the French countryside. We will spend a week exploring the culture through food, unforgettable landscapes, cooking classes, vineyards, olive groves and private tours of some of Provence's most charming villages.

DAY 1 | AVIGNON*

Our group will gather this afternoon and meet the driver at the Avignon TGV Train Station at 2:00pm (please meet in front of the only book shop in the station next to the coffee shop). The group will depart Avignon and head to our Provencal farmhouse villa built in local stone and located at the foot of Mont Luberon, just outside Bonnieux. Upon arrival at the villa, guests will have time to settle into their rooms and take a tour of the villa and the beautiful grounds. A local chef will be preparing a delicious Provencal welcome dinner, paired with wines from the Luberon Valley.

Dinner

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DAY 2 | ST REMY DE PROVENCE & MOULIN DU CALANQUET

Today we drive West in order to explore the countryside surrounding Saint Remy de Provence, backdrops made famous by Vincent Van Gogh. Here Van Gogh committed himself from 1889 to 1890 in the Maison de Saint Paul de Mausole, which was the catalyst for some of his most iconic works. We will have a tour of this former mental hospital and see where he sat as he painted works like *Starry Night*. After our tour, guests will have time before our lunch in town to explore and shop this charming town of St Remy de Provence. After lunch, we will head to one of this region's most famous olive mills, Moulin du Calanquet for a tour of the production facility and a tasting of their award winning olive oil. Returning to the villa, we will have some time to relax before our superb dinner out in the nearby town of Bonnieux.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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*We recommend guests fly into Paris a day or two in advance in order to recover from jet-lag and to take advantage of the City of Light. Avignon is a quick train ride from Paris, departing frequently each day and is worthy of spending a night and day as well!

DAY 3 | APT SATURDAY MARKET & ROUSSILLON

Saturday is a special day in the Luberon Valley, as many local markets take place. Luckily for us, the Apt market is close in proximity to the villa and is the biggest of the Luberon weekly markets. This extensive market has been going for some 900 years. The Apt market is a place for food lovers, allowing us plenty of time to enjoy the liveliness and culinary delights. After exploring Apt and its market, we will explore more of the Luberon Valley, including Roussillon with its red cliffs and orange soil, standing out from the rest of the nearby villages. The town sits atop ochre deposits, which were mined for their pigments until 1930. We will explore the town, where shops, galleries, and cafes line the cobblestoned streets. We will also visit a lavender distillery and lunch at a wonderful French restaurant. This evening at the villa we will indulge in the Provencal lifestyle....food, wine & scenery al fresco style (weather permitting).

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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DAY 4 | L'ISLE SUR LA SORGUE & GORDES

We will enjoy an early breakfast at the villa, as we will be departing for L'Isle sur la Sorgue around 8:30am for a tour with our local guide. Canals encircle the old town, making this town one of the prettiest in Provence. On Sundays, the town boasts the best-known antique & flea market in Provence, the second largest in France behind Paris. Clients will have time to search for treasures and admire the beauty of this "island city" before we head to a local restaurant for a very memorable and relaxing meal. We will continue to Gordes, one of the most picturesque villages in Provence. This town perched atop a rocky cliff, is a popular location for film crews, including the film *A Good Year*. We will also make a stop at the famous Abbaye de Senanque, a 12-century monastery that is still active with Cistercian monk. Located not far from the villa, we will enjoy another fantastic meal at one of our host's favorite restaurants in the region.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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DAY 5 | MAUBEC AND PROVENCAL COOKING CLASS

Today is exciting, as guests will have the opportunity to participate in the hands-on cooking class with a well-known Provencal chef Jean-Marc and his wife Alice. The two of them will welcome us into their home, where we will spend the day cooking some Provencal classics. Before the fun and cooking begins, we will visit the local market with Jean Marc to select the seasonal and local produce that will make up our lunch menu. We will enjoy our hard work as a group with wine, dessert, and great conversation. Leaving this memorable experience, we will drive back towards our villa, taking the back roads, with an additional stop if time permits. Guests will have the opportunity to relax and enjoy the indoor and outdoor comforts as we dine as a group tonight at the villa.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6 | ORANGE AND CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE

Today's adventure takes us to Orange, a splendid city of art and history. As soon as you come inside the gates you will find yourself in the midst of Roman civilization with the Arch of Triumph (three arches) standing majestically over the city. We will have an in-depth tour of this city, including the old town and the famous Antique Theater, built in the early days of Christianity. Heading north along the Rhone River, we reach our lunch destination set amongst the vineyards of the famous Chateauneuf du Pape wine region. We will indulge in some of the region's best wine and food, while taking in the views. After lunch, we will stop at one of our guide's favorite wineries for an authentic tasting of some amazing wines.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7 | AVIGNON

We will say Au Revoir today & our driver will take guests to the Avignon Train Station leaving around 9:30am. Today guests will be able to catch a TGV train to Paris or continue exploring France from our departure point. Please feel free to ask us any questions if you plan to extend your stay in Europe after the trip ends.

Breakfast

TOUR PRICE:

\$4,895.00 per person / Double Occupancy

Single Supplement \$ 750.00

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

At time of reservation: 50% (\$500 is non-refundable)

90 days prior to departure: 50%

CANCELLATION SCHEDULE:

More than 120 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

120-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

60 days or less: 100% of trip cost

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- * 6 nights double occupancy lodging in a private Provencal villa
- * All breakfasts / all dinners with local wine / all lunches with local wine
- * Small group travel / maximum of only 16 guests
- * Snacks and Beverages available at the villa
- * Private transportation / Car & Driver for all excursions
- * Local Guides / Private Tours
- * Entrance Tickets
- * Cooking Class
- * Wine Tastings
- * Olive Oil Tasting
- * Wi-Fi at the villa (be aware that Wi-Fi connections are not as fast or as reliable as in the United States)

*****NOTE-***

This promises to be a wonderful trip for all; however, flexibility and a spirit of adventure are always appreciated! We will do our very best to stick to the itinerary but we may have to change it due to weather or any unexpected situations.

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TOUR DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- * Air Transportation.
- * *Travel insurance for your trip.*
- * Anything that is not specified to be included
- * Any personal related expenses or travel related expenses outside of the scheduled itineraries.
- * Any wine or other alcoholic beverages or meals that are not presented during scheduled meals.
- * Optional tips to restaurants, tour guides or drivers. These gratuities are given at the sole discretion of each individual traveler.