

A Custom Designed Itinerary to

France & Italy

By

IN QUEST OF THE CLASSICS

Prepared for MJ Interiors

October 4 Friday: PARIS / VERSAILLES. Upon arrival in the Charles de Gaulle airport you will be greeted by an English speaking driver (please look for someone holding an “In Quest of the Classics” sign) and privately transferred, by deluxe vehicle depending on final number of guests, to the **Westin Astoria Trianon Palace Hotel Versailles** for a three night stay in classic rooms overlooking the gardens. The Trianon Palace is an exceptional woodland retreat nestled less than a mile from the world famous Palace of Versailles, and only 20km from Paris. The fashionable hotel has recently been refurbished and offers modern elegance. The hotel lies in a tranquil 3 acres of wooded park featuring centuries-old trees, lush gardens and a fabulous 200m indoor heated pool modeled on a Grecian bathhouse. After some time to freshen up, enjoy a delicious welcome lunch at the hotel’s Verandah Restaurant.



www.trianonpalace.com/index.html

The following Virtuoso amenities have been included:

- ❖ A €25.00 food and beverage credit per room to be used at the hotel
- ❖ Room upgrade subject to availability

After lunch make your own way to the nearby Palace of Versailles for a half day guided tour with a private English speaking guide. The Palace of Versailles is one of the most beautiful masterpieces in the world. This vast palace was built for King Louis XIV and gradually extended by successive monarchs until 1789 when the French Revolution forced the Royal family and court to leave. Our tour includes a guided visit of the Royal Apartments, home of Louis XIV, the “Sun King”, the Hall of Mirrors, where the treaty ending World War I was signed, as well as the Queen’s apartment. The palace could accommodate up to 6,000 courtiers! Walk through the magnificent Gardens of Versailles, which contain about 210,000 flowers that are planted annually within the gardens’ 1,980 acres (800 hectares). While here you can see the famous fountain show, accompanied by music composed at the time of Louis XIV’s court. Entrances have been included. Return to the hotel later this afternoon Evening at leisure.



October 5, Saturday: PARIS. This morning at 10:00AM meet with your English speaking driver and privately transfer in to the city in time to meet with your expert English speaking guide, Richard Nahem, for a private full day tour of the city. Richard Nahem is a native New Yorker who has lived in Paris since 2005, and is a successful event planner and producer of cultural events. He has worked with such celebrities as Whitney Houston, Sarah Jessica Parker and Joan Rivers. He also worked for some time alongside his brother, Joseph Nahem, of Fox Nahem Design in New York, one of the top interior design firms in the U.S. Richard will be especially qualified to guide you through Paris' design and cultural world. Paris is synonymous with all that is French. Known throughout the world as the "City of Light," Paris is celebrated for its beautiful city plan, its architecture, museums, bridges, cathedrals, parks, shopping, flea markets, sidewalk cafés, wide and luxurious boulevards, elegant cuisine, and numerous monuments. Start your day with visits to the Palais Royale and the Galerie Vivienne. The Palais Royale was once



the esteemed palace of Cardinal Richelieu, built in 1629, and is now one the most stunning structures in Paris. Today the Palais is the headquarters of the State Council, the Constitutional Council and the Ministry of Culture. Alongside the Palais Royale's beautiful formal gardens, is the Galerie Vivienne a wonderful 19th century covered arcade complete with glass roof, mosaic tile floors and hard carved wood. The Galerie is a showcase for some of the world's top designer shops, home shops, and galleries, such as Rick Owens, Pierre Hardy, Marc Jacobs, Ibu Gallery, Joyce Gallery and the most exclusive vintage couture shop in Paris, Didier Ludow. At the Galerie you will be able to meet with the owners of one of the galleries, as well as one of the exclusive fashion stores. Gallery and store to be advised... Enjoy some free time for a light lunch at a local French bistro before continuing in the St. Germain area, known for its top antique, design, and home accessory shops. Here you will explore the charming side streets and discover some of the well known and off the path shops and galleries – perfect for finding those unique and unusual items! Return to the hotel later this afternoon and enjoy some free time to freshen up.

This evening meet with your English speaking driver and transfer back to the city in time for your delicious 3-course dinner in the Cristal Room at the Baccarat Museum. Wine during dinner, and a glass of champagne, will be included. The Baccarat Museum is housed in a legendary mansion, formerly owned by Marie-Laure de Noailles (1902-1971), who gave magical parties here and transformed this magnificent place of pomp and tradition into a home dedicated to painters, writers and musicians. Time and again Marie would reorganize the layout and design of the mansion to suit her mood. The task of converting the mansion into the new home of Baccarat was given to Phillipe Starck, who created



a wonderful scheme perfect for showcasing this luxurious brand. The 3,000sqft mansion houses the Baccarat headquarters, boutique, the gallery-museum, and the restaurant. The Cristal Room is located on the first floor of the mansion amongst the sumptuous lounges. The Cristal Room offers an inventive cuisine orchestrated by Michelin starred chef, Guy Martin. After dinner, at 10:00PM, enjoy special access to the Baccarat Floor to explore at your own pace. Return to your hotel at approximately 10:45PM.

October 6, Sunday: PARIS. Today at 10:00AM meet with your English speaking driver, in the hotel lobby, for your transfer to Paris in time to meet with Richard for another full day of sightseeing. Visit the St. Oeun Flea Market, one of the world's largest flea and antique markets with over 17 acres of treasures.

Your visit will focus on the Vernaïso and Paul Bert sections which specialize in furniture, home accessories, and vintage clothing. Alternatively if you prefer, you can enjoy an optional visit to the warehouse of one of the finest French Art Deco and Art Nouveau Galleries at the market. After your visit enjoy lunch at Ma Cocotte, designed by Phillipe Starck, or in a typical French bistro – your choice.



After lunch we have arranged a special exclusive private visit to American artist, Susan Shup's studio. Paris-based, Susan Shup is an artist who paints and also works in media and design. The studio reflects the many aspects of Susan's interests in mixing personal and historical elements, with those of pop culture. Susan's art has been featured in numerous international publications and is included in many prestigious private and corporate collections. Following your visit enjoy a stroll through the wonderful Marais district, one of the most exciting and oldest areas in Paris. The district is filled with 16th century palaces as well as cutting edge designer clothing and home stores. Return to the hotel later this evening.



October 7, Monday: VERSAILLES / NICE / MOUGINS. Today leave the charm of Paris behind as you meet with your English speaking driver, in the hotel lobby, and privately transfer to Orly airport in time to board your departing flight to Nice. Flight arranged privately. Upon arrival in Nice you will be met by a top IQOTC English speaking driver/guide and privately transferred, by deluxe vehicle, to Mougins with sightseeing stops en route in St-Paul-de-Vence and Grasse. One of the most famous villages of the Nice hinterland, St-Paul-de-Vence was once a French frontier post facing Savoy. Its 16th century ramparts offer views over a landscape of cypress trees and red-roofed villas with palm trees and swimming pools. The village has been heavily restored but its winding streets and medieval buildings are authentic. It has proved a magnet for artists, both established and aspiring, throughout the 20th century, and today galleries and studios dominate the village. You may like to visit the Colombe d'Or (Golden Dove) auberge, which was popular with many of the artists and writers who flocked to the Riviera in the 1920s. Early patrons included Picasso, Soutine, Modigliani, Signac, Colette and Cocteau. They often paid for their rooms and meals with paintings, resulting in the priceless collection that can be seen by diners. The Foundation Maeght was built in 1964 by Paris art dealers and is one of Europe's finest museums of modern art. The striking pink and white building, set just outside St-Paul, was designed by Catalan architect Jose-Luis Sert, who worked on it directly with artists such as Miro and Chagall. Inside are paintings by Bonnard, Braque, Kandinsky, Chagall, and others. There will be time for an optional lunch as well as to wander the streets on your own. The beautiful town of Grasse is cradled by hills with views out to sea and surrounded by fields of lavender, jasmine and roses. Grasse has been the center of the world's perfume industry since the 16th century, when Catherine de Medici set the fashion for scented gloves. At that time Grasse was also known as the center for leather tanning. The tanneries have gone but the perfume houses founded in the 18th and 19th centuries are still in business. Enjoy a wonderful 1 hour perfume making class at the Molinard Perfume Factory. The Maison Molinard was founded in 1849 and remains as an entirely family business to this day. The Molinard House is the oldest still in operation in Grasse and has worked with both Baccarat (since 1860) and Rene Lalique to create the wonderful and elegant bottles. In 1891 Queen Victoria stayed in Grasse and purchased Molinard Eau de Cologne.



During the in-depth class you will be able to choose from 90 ingredients to create your own unique perfume! You can take your extraordinary creation (and its receipt) as well as a certificate of completion home with you – a perfect souvenir! After your class enjoy a 30 minute guided tour of the factory as well as time in the store to buy extra souvenirs or gifts.



Upon arrival in Mougins check in to the **Le Mas Candille Hotel** for an overnight stay. Nestled on the hillside above Cannes with spectacular views of the foothills of the Alps, the luxurious five star Le Mas Candille Hotel is a rare jewel housed in a restored 18th century farm house. Its private, shady four hectare grounds are the ideal place to stroll, meditate and unwind. At the hotel you can relax in the Shiseido Spa, take a plunge in one of three swimming pools and two Jacuzzis. Enjoy some free time before dinner and perhaps visit the medieval village of Mougins, where Pablo Picasso spent the last fifteen years of his life. Dinner at the hotel's Le Candille from the "Menu Decouverte" will be included. www.lemascandille.com/uk/index.php



Appetizer

Amandine potato chantilly with sparkle of wild mushrooms

Sea bream steak « a la plancha », lettuce and mussel cream

Saddle of rabbit with mozzarella and olives, artichoke stew and pesto gnocchi

Selection of cheeses from cheesemaker Maitre Ceneri

Gourmandise Candille

October 8, Tuesday: MOUGINS / MILAN. Today leave the charm of France behind as you meet with your English speaking driver/guide and make your way to Milan with a sightseeing stop en route in Albisola, Italy. Albisola is a charming town known as the "home of ceramics" and is famous for its lovely characteristic white and blue pottery known as "Antico Savona". There are walls of ceramics that even line the roads! Enjoy a walk along the "Artists' Sea Promenade" and visit a ceramics craft shop where you can see how the traditional forms and decorations are created. Enjoy free time for lunch here before continuing on to Milan and checking in to the **Principe di Savoia Hotel** for a four night stay in deluxe rooms. The Hotel Principe Di Savoia is one of Europe's most highly regarded hotels. The 301



guestrooms reflect the warm and elegant atmosphere of 19th century Lombard design, exemplified by the stylish bar and lobby. The hotel overlooks the Piazza della Repubblica, this glamorous and historically styled hotel offers access to some of Milan's finest shopping, dining and sightseeing. The hotel's Acanto Restaurant features the finest Italian cuisine. www.hotelpripincedisavoia.com

The following Virtuoso amenities have been included:

- ❖ A €85.00 credit per room to be used at the Acanto Restaurant.
- ❖ Late check out until 4:00PM subject to availability
- ❖ Room upgrade subject to availability

October 9, Wednesday: MILAN. This morning meet with your local top IQOTC English speaking guide for a full day sightseeing. Your English speaking guide will be a luxury home shopper who has been working in the field of interior design for over 20 years and knows everything there is to know in this field in Milan and its surroundings.

The center of business and fashion, Milan is the heartland of the Italian economy. To the Goths, who took over the city after the Romans, it was “Mailand” (the Land of May), a place of warmth and inspiration. Milan is always one step ahead and is a laboratory of artistic experiments that are constantly changing. Milan is also a city of contradictions, where ancient and modern, fashion and underground, middle class and working class, mix together to create a cool and modern city. During your tour you will visit the Versace Home Boutique to see the new collection, as well as other prestigious showrooms, and have the unique opportunity to meet with one of Italy’s most famous architects (subject to availability). Next visit the flagship Giorgio Armani superstore for a guided tour followed by lunch at the fabulous Armani Café. To celebrate 25 years in business, in the summer of 2000 Giorgio Armani opened this flagship store, which covers over 8,000 sq ft,



and showcases the various outlets of Armani designs including high fashion creations, Emporio Armani, Armani jeans, and beyond. The Armani Casa is another section offering home furnishings as well as flower, book, and art shops. The Armani Café is located on the first floor and offer innovative and flavorful cuisine. Return to the hotel later this afternoon.

October 10, Thursday: MILAN. Enjoy another full day of sightseeing with your English speaking guide focusing on design in the area of Brianza including a visit to the Trussardi 1911 Concept Store. Managed by designer Milan Vukmirovic, the Trussardi 1911 line evolved from a collection into a brand characterized by its expertly designed leather goods and accessories. The Trussardi 1911 Concept store is based on a new concept of luxury. Attractive yet casual, the store is an open space that features 7 shop windows overlooking Via Santa Margherita and Via dei Filodrammatici. More than 1,000 hand-stained antique wood planks were used for the flooring and 9 different types of marble were used on one wall including 7 varieties of rare green marble, to create this amazing luminous space. The Trussardi 1911 Concept store is the fashion house’s first boutique entirely devoted to its lifestyle with a sophisticated assortment of accessories from the men’s and women’s collections. There are objects such as candles and home accessories that enrich daily life, and also magazines, newspapers, and art journals set out on a large table for leisurely browsing. We suggest enjoying lunch at the store’s Trussardi Alla Scalla Restaurant located on the first floor. Six months of study, renovation and furniture restoration went into the restaurant which opened to great acclaim in 2006. Everything, from the materials used to the products on display has been carefully studied to create a world of quality based on simplicity and research and full of imagination and wonder. All the materials used in the concept store (marble, wood, paint) are recyclable and eco-friendly.



October 11, Friday: MILAN. Today meet with your English speaking guide for a final day of sightseeing in the famous “Quadrilatero d’Oro”, with its well known boutiques and stores, as well as a visit to the Pinacoteca di Breara, Milan’s finest art collection. The four adjoining streets north of the Duomo are known collectively as the Quadrilatero d’Oro (Golden Quadrilateral): Via Montenapoleone, Della Spiga, Via Borgospesso, and Via Sant’Andrea. The Quadrilatero is lined with Milan’s most expensive high-fashion emporia. The main artery of this shopping heartland is Via Montenapoleone, lined with the most chichi boutiques and most elegant fashion outlets, with parallel Via della Spiga running a close second. The Pinacoteca di Brea is held in an imposing 17th century building, the Palazzo di Brea.



This is where, in the 18th century, the Accademia di Belle Arti was founded; the picture collection developed alongside the academy. Inside the Brea hang some of the finest examples of Italian Renaissance and Baroque painting, including works by Piero della Francesca, Mantegna, Canaletto, Bellini, Tintoretto, Veronese, and Caravaggio. The collection also includes 20th century works by some of Italy's most famous modern artists. We have also arranged for a delicious wine tasting of 4 wines with a top Italian Sommelier. Snacks also included. You may also like to visit the Design Supermarket La Rinascente and have dinner at "Maio" which offers fantastic views of the Duomo. The Design Supermarket has an international flair and is continuously evolving: it is home to the new trends and the best of creativity and innovation. It is a space to be explored, where you can have the opportunity to look for the perfect object, or to multiply your ideas about living and life style. Buying design objects here is as natural as going to the supermarket and shopping is an ever-changing, amazing experience.



October 12, Saturday: DEPART. This morning say farewell to Italy as you meet with your English speaking driver, in the hotel lobby, for a private transfer to the airport in time to board your departing flight to the USA. At this time IQOTC services will end.