

“Private Chateaux of the Loire Valley with *Le Prince Jardinier*, Louis Albert de Broglie, and other distinguished owners”

Sponsored by the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art
Organized by Pamela Huntington Darling, Exclusive Cultural Travel Programs

Friday, October 14th to Saturday, October 22nd, 2016: 8 days/8 nights



We are pleased to present our exclusive discovery of the **treasures of the Loire Valley**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, during which we will be received by distinguished owners and members of the cultural elite for exclusive visits of historic estates, offering a rare opportunity to savor unique architecture, art collections and gardens.

Itinerary

Day 1: Friday, October 14th

Participants will arrive separately at the Château de la Bourdaisière, Montlouis sur Loire, built between the 14th and 16th centuries, labeled a **French Historic Monument**, and will be welcomed by **Prince Louis Albert de Broglie**, also known as **Le Prince Jardinier**, and Pamela Huntington Darling.

Cooking course with the chef at Château de la Bourdaisière

Festive candlelight Welcome dinner in the troglodyte cellar of Château de la Bourdaisière, with the Prince Louis Albert and the Princess Françoise de Broglie.

Day 2: Saturday, October 15th

Private visit & Lunch at the marvelous Château du Fresne, with the owners, the Marquis Amaury and the Marquise Flore de Brantes (tbc). The symmetrical and orderly character of the French garden responds to the architecture of the late eighteenth century castle.

Free time to enjoy Château de la Bourdaisière

Early Evening: Private visit & Cocktail Dinner at the 15th century Château du Clos Lucé, former summer residence of the Kings of France and the final dwelling of Leonardo de Vinci, labeled a French Historic Monument, with the owners, François and Gonzague Saint Bris, historian and philosopher.



Day 3: Sunday, October 16th

Private visit to the Château de Montpoupon, dating from Charlemagne, labeled a French Historic Monument, nestled in a unique setting, with Count and Countess Amaury de Louvencourt, descendant of the Motte Saint Pierre family, owners the Château since 1857. We will discover the riches of Montpoupon; including the private, recently restored family apartments, the King's quarters, the old kitchens, the Hermès Room dedicated to equestrian art, the stables, the hunting museum--one of three in France--and the glorious park!

Lunch with our hosts Count and Countess Amaury de Louvencourt in the Château de Montpoupon's private dining room.



Private Visit & Cocktail Dinner at the 17th century Château de Cheverny, labeled a *French Historic Monument*, with the owner the Marquis Charles-Antoine de Vibraye. The Château de Cheverny is a grand estate, in the same family for over six centuries. The owners will invite us to discover its splendor and vivid heritage: from the botanical park to the magnificent interior of the Château and the hunting dog kennels.

Day 4: Monday, October 17th

Private visit & Lunch at the Château de Chaumont-sur-Loire, once the home of Catherine de Medici and Diane de Poitiers, and the “fantasy” residence of the Princess de Broglie, Louis Albert's great-aunt. We will visit the collections **with the curator Chantal Colleu-Dumond and, with Gérard Dosba, head gardener of the Domaine,** admire the magnificent sculpture park, hosting installations by renowned artists such as **Giuseppe Penone, Tadashi Kawamata and Patrick Dougherty.**



Private “Visite insolite” at the Château Royal de Blois, with Elisabeth Latremolière, Chief Curator, to discover areas of the château closed to the public: *apartments, towers, fortifications, attics and unique rooms.*

Afternoon private visit – closed to the public – to the Château Royal de Chambord with the president, Jean d’Haussonville, or the Chief Curator, Luc Forlivesi.

Dinner (tbc)

Day 5: Tuesday, October 18th

Private visit & Lunch with the owner, also the chief gardener, Patricia Laigneau, at the Château du Rivau, a unique blend of *medieval* and *Renaissance* architecture, and its superb park, with 14 gardens displaying themes from fairytales. Elves, ogres, giants, good fairies and fantastic topiary animals accompany the visitors' promenade.

Private visit to the 16th century Château de l’Islette, labeled a *Remarkable French Garden*, secret meeting place of Auguste Rodin and Camille Claudel, where we will be received by the owners Pierre-André et Bénédicte Michaud.



Private visit, with the owner, Henri Carvallo, to the Château de Villandry, built between the 16th and 18th centuries, labeled a *French Historic Monument* and a *Remarkable French Garden*, beyond exquisite. Henri Carvallo’s great-grandmother, Ann Caroline Coleman, American, contributed immensely to the restoration of the château.

Dinner free

Day 6: Wednesday, October 19th

Private visit & Lunch, with the owners Alix and Aymar de Saint-Venant, at their 17th century Château de Valmer, labeled a *French Historic Monument* and a *French Remarkable Garden*, where we will discover the gardens and the vineyards, followed by a wine tasting and lunch in the Château with our hosts. The family winemaking tradition of the Château de Valmer dates back to the end of the 19th century. The vineyard of 28 hectares, with the label of Vouvray and Touraine appellation, benefits from its proximity with the Loire.



Private visit to the Château de Chenonceau with the Curator, one of France’s jewels, famous for the exceptional quality of its art collection of renowned artists, including Murillo, Rubens, Van Loo, and many more.

Dinner at Château de la Bourdaisière, in the elegant dining room.

Day 7: Thursday, October 20th



Private visit to the Château d’Ussé, built between the 15th and 17th centuries, labeled a *French Historic Monument*, where we will be welcomed by the Duke of Blacas & Visit to its *Remarkable French Garden* designed by Le Nôtre, considered one of the most beautiful gardens in the Loire Valley. Château d’Ussé is a fairy tale castle, which inspired Charles Perrault to write "*Sleeping Beauty*".

Cruise on the Loire River & Lunch on board of the Amarante, a traditional Loire Valley boat

Private visit with Count Louis-Jean and Countess Barbara de Nicolaÿ to the Château du Lude, one of the last important historical castles in France, labeled a *French Historic Monument* and still owned by the same family for the past 260 years. We will enjoy a “*pause gourmande*” in the old kitchen, followed by a visit to the Domaine’s *Remarkable French garden* with the head gardener.



Private Visit to the Château de Gizeux built between the 12th and 18th centuries, labeled a *French Historic Monument* and a *Remarkable French Garden* & Diner with the charming owners, Géraud et Stéphanie de Laffon.



Day 8: Friday, October 21st

Private visit with the owners, Count Guy and Countess Nathalie du Pavillon, of the marvelous Château de Beauregard, originally a hunting lodge of François 1er, a *Renaissance* castle with an admirable collection of art and splendid park, labeled a *French Remarkable Garden*, designed by Gilles Clement, followed by a private, convivial Lunch with our hosts.

Private visit, with the Curator, to the just-opened Centre de Création Contemporaine Olivier Debré in Tours, with Alain Julien-Laferrrière, Director, where we will discover the international architecture.



Free time at the Château de la Bourdaisière



Farewell dinner at the 15th-century Château Royal d'Amboise, labeled a *French Historic Monument*, with the curator Jean Louis Sureau

Day 9: Saturday, October 22nd

After breakfast we bid our guests "*Au revoir*" in the hope that you will join us for another unique discovery in Europe and beyond!

Accommodation:

Guests will stay at the **Château de la Bourdaisière**, built between the 14th and 16th centuries, labelled a *French Historic Monument*.

All the rooms have been recently refurbished in exquisite taste, with stunning views of the chateau's park, and gracious service. The Château de la Bourdaisière enjoys a fabulous location for the visiting admirable chateaux of its neighbors!

Nearest train stations: Gare TGV Tours (10 km) or St Pierre des Corps (7 km)

<http://www.labourdaisiere.com/>

Tour Price:

\$8,500 per person double occupancy;

\$9,000 single occupancy;

+ a fully tax-deductible \$500 contribution to the Institute's Annual Fund

Tour Price Includes:

8 days of private visits and receptions;

8 nights accommodation in 5-star luxury hotels;

8 breakfasts;

7 lunches;

7 dinners;

transportation to and from all events in a private coach;

all private visits and expert lecturers.

Registration requested by: June 15th

In view of the exceptional, privileged nature of our program and the private chateaux where the distinguished owners will welcome us, space is limited.

For more information and to reserve

Please email: pdarling@exclusiveculturaltours.com or call Paris, France, Tel. +33 1 45 67 62 81

We look forward to your joining us!