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5-Day Wine and Châteaux in the Loire Valley

The stunning Loire Valley doesn't disappoint. Visit the incomparable Château d'Amboise, Château de Chenonceau, and Château de Chambord. After touring the former homes of royalty, you'll feel like royalty yourself when settling in at night in a 4-star château-hôtel in charming Amboise. Sample the fine wines of the Loire, the largest and most diverse of France's wine-producing regions. You'll have the opportunity to visit a Vouvray A.O.C. vineyard and a 16th-century troglodyte wine cellar.



DAY 1 - 1st Class train from Paris to Tours

Your driver will meet you at your hotel for your transfer to the train station for your 1st class train to Tours. Upon arrival your chauffeur will meet you for a private transfer to your hotel.

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After checking in you will visit the Château d'Amboise.

Explore the royal residence, chapel, gardens, and Leonardo da Vinci's tomb at your own pace.

This Palace was a residence for French Kings from the 15th until the 19th century. As impressive as it is today, the château was once even bigger; many of its interior buildings were demolished in the 16th century. As you wander through its halls, you'll travel chronologically through rooms decorated in medieval, early-Renaissance through to 19th-century styles. The 130-foot (40-meter) Minimes Tower offers impressive panoramas.



DAY 2 Amboise

Enjoy a private tour of a Troglodyte Cellar with Wine and Cheese Tasting
With the diversity of climates and soils, the Loire Valley produces a wide variety of renowned wines.

Daniel, a local guide passionate about wine, offers you a tour of a 16th-century troglodyte cellar. Subterranean galleries like these are ideal places for storing

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and tasting wine. Formerly tufa stone quarries, they were dug to supply stone for the construction of the Loire châteaux.

Daniel introduces you to the philosophy of wine, shares the history of the Loire Valley grapes and soils, and shows you how the local wines are made and stored. The visit concludes with a tasting of three Loire wines, each paired with a different local cheese.



DAY 3 Chenonceau - Chancay - Amboise

Today you will visit Château de Chenonceau. Enjoy a self-guided tour of this magnificent castle spanning the Cher River. It earned its nickname, the Château des Dames, thanks to the numerous noblewomen who left their mark on its history. It was originally built by Kathrine Briçonnet in 1513. Later Catherine de' Medici and her rival Diane de Poitiers expanded it.

The visit gives an opportunity to experience the Renaissance through to the 17th Century on a walk. Tour the royal grounds, ancient keep, medieval fortified mill, and Diane de Poitiers' gardens.

Follow the steps of the great French philosophers and poets Voltaire, Marivaux, Montesquieu, Buffon, and Rousseau who were once esteemed guests at the castle.

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After the chateau visit you will take a guided walking tour of the Vouvray A.O.C. Vineyards. Myriam your guide will take you on this tour of the Loire Valley vineyards in the heart of Touraine. She's a local who is passionate about teaching oenology, and she's worked in a number of vineyards. Learn about Vouvray's unique "terroir" and the traditional winemaking process from start to finish. After a guided walk, you'll visit a wine cellar. The tour concludes with the tasting of six local wines matched with food.

Remember to bring a jacket or a sweater as the wine cellar can be chilly.



DAY 4 - Chambord - Amboise

Private Full-Day Guided Tour of the Château de Chambord, Château de Beauregard, and Château de Villesavin.

Visit the privately-owned Château de Beauregard and its 173-acre (70-hectare) estate. It is located between Blois and Chambord, and was built at the end of the 15th century. Today the Renaissance estate houses an exceptional portrait

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gallery depicting 327 European monarchs, ministers, clergymen, diplomats, and other notable people. Enjoy a traditional French breakfast at the Château, followed by a guided tour of this unique collection.

Your next stop is the Château de Chambord, a true Renaissance masterpiece. It is the biggest and most majestic of the Loire Palaces. Created as a hunting lodge for King François I, it is monumental work of 440 rooms. It sits on a 21-square mile property, equivalent in size to the entire city of Paris. The property features extensive royal gardens and unspoiled woods enclosed by a 19-mile (31-kilometer) wall. Elements seem to be inspired by Leonardo da Vinci's work. The view from the top offers a gorgeous panorama of the roofs, towers, chimneys, and the surrounding estate.

This extraordinary day ends with a visit to the nearby Château de Villesavin. It was built as a private residence for Jean Le Breton, the secretary of King François I who supervised the construction of the Château de Chambord. As he used the same architects and crew on both projects, this mansion is nicknamed “La Cabane de chantier de Chambord” (the Chambord construction hut).



DAY 5 Departure back to Paris

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