

# A Vintage Experience of Provence

A fantastic week of vintage, charm & the gorgeous sites of Provence!

May 31 – June 6, 2017

Day 1

Wednesday, May 31



## Arrival

Pick up at Aix en Provence TGV train station or Marseille airport between 12 noon and 4 pm.

Check into lodging, get settled, casual orientation of Aix en Provence.

Light dinner in the old city of Aix (included in tour).

Day 2

Thursday, June 1

## Jill's Secret Addresses

Breakfast and welcome “chez Colette,” home of a sparkling local antique/vintage dealer. Opportunity to purchase exceptional items directly from her home – great prices.

A stop at Jill's favorite store in Aix (consignment!).

Break for charming French lunch, included in tour.

The two extremes: “une belle boutique” in the country ...



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& and a “roll-up your sleeves dig” at an old WW2 Army barracks.

Open evening in Aix.

Day 3

Friday, June 2

## Enchanting Villages & A Secret Garden

We'll head for the over-the-top beautiful hills of the Luberon this morning. First stop the wonderful outdoor market of Lourmarin, officially one of France's most beautiful villages.



We'll spend the morning surrounded by the absolute charm of the village market sellers and enticed by all the lovely wares and seasonal products. This is a place that past tour participants never wanted to leave, so we'll have extra time in this extraordinary market.

Enjoy a typical Provençal lunch in one of Lourmarin's lovely restaurants & cafés. Jill will point out her favorites that you can choose from.

After lunch stroll the village and its boutiques at your leisure.

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We then hit the road to visit the gorgeous village of Cucuron, location for several key scenes in the film *A Good Year*. We will be received at a magnificent garden – recognized as one of the most beautiful in the region. Followed by a glass of local sparkling wine with the owners on their Provencal terrace.

Open evening in Aix. Enjoy one of the great restaurants you can walk to from the hotel. You will be happy tomorrow at the peak of the day if you make this evening a quiet and short one!

Big day tomorrow.

Day 4

Saturday, June 3

## A Day in Aix



Take in the largest market of the week this morning. Shop the fascinating boutiques, enjoy an outdoor lunch in one of Aix's finest restaurants – be it casual or de luxe. Jill will give you a list of her recommendations or scout out your own find.

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This afternoon your option of joining the group on an excursion out to the village pop up markets (vintage family treasures abound) or enjoy yourself at your own rhythm in Aix en Provence. Use your free time to rest and restore for a big day out tomorrow, or explore your beautiful home city through its cathedrals, museums or outdoor cafes.

We meet up at the end of the afternoon for a toast and to swap travel stories from our day.



Day 5

Sunday, June 4

## A World-Famous Antique Market

This will be a big long day of taking in all types of markets – from more quaint village markets to the famous frenetic and abundant market of Isle sur la Sorgue.



Jill Mitchell's Le Trip

[www.leTrip.org](http://www.leTrip.org)

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Once back home, it's a good idea to take some time to organize the packing of your new purchases . Show-and-tell party at the hotel.

Group dinner in the city for an evening of discovering Provencal fare.

Day 6

Monday, June 5

## The Mediterranean!

This morning we are off to a très picturesque fishing (cum chic) village on the Mediterranean. The day includes perusing the chic boutiques, a 45 minute boat ride in astoundingly beautiful waters. First-time visitors to the Mediterranean are cordially invited to a “toe dip” on the beach.

Casual lunch in the port (included in the tour) with lots of people watching.



We visit a *parfumerie* and learn about artisanally made local perfumes. Isabelle, the elder daughter will show us the proper way to perfume oneself, and give great tips about aromas.

In the afternoon we visit an extraordinary vineyard, one of the most beautiful throughout Europe. Following the vineyard visit, enjoy a wine tasting.



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*An aerial view of the our winery destination.*

Open evening – time to get ready for tomorrow’s departure.

If we have any takers, an impromptu get together for drinks or dinner.

Day 7

Tuesday, June 6

## Departure day

Shuttle to Aix en Provence train station or Marseille airport in the morning.

\$2420/double occupancy

Tour includes:

- 7 days’/6 nights’ accommodation
- All ground transportation
- 5 meals
- Vineyard visit and winetasting
- Private Garden visit
- Two special toasts
- All excursions & entry fees
- Guide & interpreter services
- Pick up & drop off at Marseille airport or Aix en Provence TGV train station on start and end days

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## **See you over there!**

If you are traveling solo, and would like a roommate we will be happy to pair you up with others looking for the same.

Appointments and activities subject to availability of our hosts. We will substitute activities of equal caliber in case of change.

## **Is this tour right for you?**

This is a tour for folks looking to see authentic Provence, rather than a tourist experience. The tone is down-to-earth (yes, the Provençals are down to earth!), warm and friendly, rather than fancy. We will be invited into people's homes, we'll go off the beaten path (to take lovelier ones), and as much as possible, experience France the way French people do.

Be ready for an adventure. There will be plenty of walking. On days that we have planned activities we'll be on the go. (This is definitely not a lounging by the pool kind of holiday.)

So if you're up for a fun & moderately active vacation, and curious about how the friendly people of the south of France really live life, you're at the right place! If you're interested in joining us call Jill at (510)206-3284 or email [Jill@leTrip.org](mailto:Jill@leTrip.org) for all the info.

