



LOIRE VALLEY WINE ROUTE



LOIRE WINES AND CHATEAUX

CLASSIC TOUR

** Hotel Le Blason in Amboise

<http://www.leblason.fr>

In the centre of Amboise, 900 feet from The Royal Castle and of Leonardo Da Vinci's house, le Blason welcomes you in a fine 15th century and 17th Century house that was initially a young girl's boarding school. Charming and authentic hotel.

CLASSIC + TOUR

*** Hotel le Clos d'Amboise in Amboise

<http://www.leclosamboise.com>

A town house built initially in the 16th century for a clergyman of the Royal Court. The French-style landscaped park of 3,000 sq. meters includes many rare species, in particular two unique centennial magnolias, a huge sycamore and, sitting imposingly and overlooking the park, a Lebanon cedar that witnessed, without a doubt, the French Revolution of 1789.

DELUXE TOUR

**** Hotel le Choiseul in Amboise

<http://www.grandesetapes.fr/fr/Chateau-hotel-choiseul>

Located in the heart of Amboise, at the foot of the Royal castle of Amboise, your luxury hotel, part of the prestigious *Grandes Etapes* hotel chain, is a typical and beautifully appointed Touraine 18th century town house.

Day 1 : Arrival in Amboise

Upon your arrival in Amboise, you can check in to your hotel. Take the time to settle in and relax before some explorations by foot of the charming town of Amboise itself. After you have worked up your appetite, enjoy your gourmet dinner this evening, included.

Day 2 : Amboise castle and Vouvray wines

Your guide will meet you this morning after a delicious breakfast for your first day's explorations. You start with a visit of the Royal Castle of Amboise, a Renaissance Chateau built in the 15th and 16th centuries. Steeped in history, it was the residence of Charles VII and young Francois d'Angouleme, future King Francois I. During the visit, you'll also of course see the Saint Hubert Chapel, which shelters today the recently restored tomb of Leonardo Da Vinci.

From there, to continue the theme of Da Vinci, we take you to the Clos Luce, the Manor house where the genius spent the last three years of his life, in the service of the French king. As well as touring his living quarters, you will marvel at the displays in his inventions' room, displaying models of Leonardo's most spectacular machines.

After lunchtime, tasting at Caves Duhard established in 1874. Its actual owner and wine maker Daniel Gatay is specialized in mature Vouvray wines. You can discover a large range of vintages, from 1959 to our days.

Day 3 : Renaissance Chateaux and Kings' wine

Visit of the Chateau de Chenonceau. The unique architecture of the Chateau makes it one of the most exquisite Chateau of the Loire Valley. The chateau was offered by King Henry 2nd to his mistress Diane de Poitiers. You'll find a satisfying lunch in Chambord with our recommendations.

After refreshing yourself with lunch, we are off for a visit of the Chateau of Chambord. Built under François 1st, Chambord is the largest Chateau of the Loire Valley (which is saying something!) and was the first of all to be listed by UNESCO as a world heritage.

Visit and wine tasting in Cour Cheverny, Domain Desouchères owned by the Tessier family. Christian Tessier wins awards every year for the quality of his wines. The Cour Cheverny wines exist today because of King Francois 1st, who stopped in Burgundy en route back from Italy, to pick up 80 000 vines of Romorantin grapes, which he then planted at Cheverny. Nowadays the Cour Cheverny is the only appellation in the world using this grape variety.

Day 4 : The famous Crus of the Loire Valley

Transfer to Vouvray. Visit one of the best Vouvray makers, Domain Vigneau Chevreau. Created in 1875, this Domain has been expanding for the last five generations and now owns 26 hectares in different parts of the Vouvray region. The visit of the cave is followed by wine tasting of dry, medium dry, sweet and sparkling Vouvray. Lunch is at your leisure in Chinon.

After lunch, Chateau de Ligre welcomes us for a visit of its vineyard in Chinon. In their caves, we taste 5 red wines including matured wines. The family has been making wine in this Chateau for three generations.

To end the day, we go to Bourgueil at the Domain de la Chevalerie in Restigné, in the same family since its beginnings in 1640! Mr Caslot is the 14th generation of wine maker and makes fantastic red wines made of cabernet franc. His best vintage is made of 70 year-old vines. Return to your hotel in time for your final evening's dinner, included.

Day 5 : Departure after a final breakfast at the hotel

Exact hotels depend on availability at time of booking