



Autumn in Provence

A Culinary & Cultural Adventure in France
September 22—30, 2018
Hosted by Olive Oil Outpost + Onward Travel

ONWARD TRAVEL 

EST 2014

autumn in provence: september 22—30, 2018



We've partnered with Kelly Kary of the Olive Oil Outpost on Anna Maria Island, Florida to plan another European food enthusiast getaway. Join us in France in September for a perfect week in the heart of Provence! From the magic of hilltop villages, to Mediterranean views in Marseille, to chic Aix-in-Provence... we'll wine and dine, cook and create, and immerse ourselves in enchanting Provence.

Our home away from home will be a beautiful stone farmhouse in the picturesque hilltop village Gordes. From our base in the Luberon national park, we'll explore the famous and unforgettable countryside. Gordes was the base for the film *A Good Year* (starring Russell Crowe) based on Peter Mayle's novel of the same name.

During the week we'll experience the Provençal lifestyle and *joie de vivre* that characterizes the region. Highlights include fabulous dinners at the villa, wine tasting with a sommelier, a truffle hunt, strolling picture-perfect markets, inspiring art and culture, a hands-on cooking lesson, and a great group of travelers ready to experience it all together.

Imagine yourself...

Experiencing sensory overload at a beautiful Provençal market

Picnicking at an ancient abbey

Sipping Champagne and eating just-unearthed truffles

Welcome to France!

DAY 1: SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 22

- [Settle in at our lovely villa with stunning views](#)
- [Taste wine with a sommelier](#)

Arrive into Marseille by train, plane, or automobile and Onward Travel will collect you at your convenience. Sightseeing will be arranged depending on arrival times as all travelers arrive today.

Mid-afternoon we'll settle in at the villa. Enjoy some R&R and relax by the swimming pool or take a leisurely walk into the beautiful town of Gordes for an espresso. The 10-bedroom villa is ours for the week and you'll enjoy your en suite room with Provence-inspired decor.

Early evening we'll meet for a special aperitif. We'll be joined by Viktorija Todorovska, sommelier, author of *The Art of Living in Provence*, and current resident of Nice. Viktorija will lead us in a guided wine tasting to discover the excellent wines of this region. Learn how to taste wine like a pro, try some special vintages, and get to know your fellow travelers. A local chef will prepare a special seasonal welcome dinner for us tonight to start our vacation together on a delicious note!

Meals Dinner

Living the Good Life

DAY 2: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 23

- [Savor an olive-oil themed lunch](#)
- [Visit UNESCO-listed Roman town, Avignon](#)

Today we'll ease in the Provençal lifestyle. Enjoy a leisurely morning and a tasty breakfast spread of French cheeses, fresh fruit, croissants, cafe au lait... and more. We'll visit the village L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue today for an olive oil themed lunch at Les Callis, an olive oil boutique. Our host, Alexandra, is a gourmand committed to procuring and producing the *highest* quality of olive oil. She will prepare a special lunch for us and teach us about fine olive oil.

Then we're off to Avignon, a city on the Rhône River that was the seat of the Catholic popes from 1309 to 1377. Avignon remained under papal rule until becoming part of France in 1791. We will visit the Palais des Papes (Popes' Palace) for a guided tour to discover this important UNESCO-listed palace... the world's largest Gothic edifice.

We'll arrive back at the villa this evening to find Viktorija in the kitchen, preparing a special meal for us. Viktorija is going to "cook the book" and prepare a delicious dinner featuring recipes from her cookbook. In addition to her excellent cuisine, she'll share stories and information for each dish plus perfectly paired wines for our meal together.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Provençal Immersion

DAY 3: MONDAY SEPTEMBER 24

- [Experience village life and enhance your culinary repertoire](#)
- [Snap a photo of Roussillon's 40 tints of red](#)

Today we'll have a special experience: a cooking workshop at La Belugue, an 18th century village farmhouse... an immersion in the rural French lifestyle. La Belugue is a gorgeous home owned by a Franco/American couple (former execs who met in Singapore, now creating a simpler life in Provence) that lies at the entry of a picturesque, tiny village. Learn lovely recipes, visit an artisan in town, taste the excellent local wines, and observe village life. And of course feast on a fabulous lunch complete with the village's wonderful goat cheeses. As she hosts us with style and panache, proprietor Kelly will remind us that gastronomic French meals are recognized by UNESCO as intangible cultural heritage that must be preserved!

On our way back to the villa (rosé is waiting in the fridge) we will stop in the village of Roussillon, famous as being a visual striking destination. Roussillon is situated in one of the biggest ochre deposits in the world and is known for its magnificent red cliffs and ochre quarries. The houses are painted in beautiful shades of ochre, combined with the light and valley views... it's beautiful!

Tonight you may like to wander into town for dinner or relax at the villa and have a casual light supper.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Local Magic: Market & Truffles

DAY 4: TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 25

- Snag some souvenirs at Gordes' weekly market
- Hunt for truffles... one of the world's most prized delicacies!

It is market day in Gordes and we've reserved the morning to stroll the market. Most Provençal villages have weekly markets and the market in Gordes is known for being an upscale, pretty, colorful market with stalls set around the foot of the castle at the village center. You may like to shop for soap, lavender, fabrics, honey, hats, pottery, or crafts. Enjoy lunch on your own in town.

Midday, we'll visit Sénanque Abbey, a graceful Cistercian abbey with picture-perfect views, founded in 1148 yet still home to small monastic community. Those who are up to it may like to take the scenic 1.5 hour walk from Gordes to the abbey. But conserve your energy as more fun awaits... We're off to hilltop Bonnieux, a medieval town chock-full of character. Enjoy an hour to stroll the town before we head further south in the Luberon.

This evening it is time for a memorable truffle hunt! We'll visit a small working farm complete with wild herbs, vineyards, olive groves and beehives. Learn all about truffles—tubers that grow near certain tree roots—including how they're grown, stored, and prepared. We'll be led by Johann and two dogs as we search for truffles. Then it's time to taste and we will enjoy truffle-themed hors d'oeuvres, truffle ice cream with truffle honey, farm products, and... Champagne!

Meals Breakfast, Dinner



A photo taken at our wonderful villa - you'll love relaxing here!

Art & Culture

DAY 5: WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 26

- Lunch on "le menu" at a charming Bistrot
- Admire Picasso's works projected on quarry walls

Mid-morning we're off to Saint-Rémy for another market morning. Saint-Rémy has a great selection of gourmet shops and the market is large and hopping. Or, perhaps you'd like to visit one of the town's museums or churches. There is also an excellent archaeological site just outside the town! We'll convene at noon to visit Monastere St-Paul de Mausole where Van Gogh spent the last year of his life; he admitted himself in 1889. St-Paul remains a psychiatric institution and has a walking trail with gardens and reproductions. Learn about Van Gogh's most productive artistic period as you enjoy a self guided visit.

Hungry yet? Lunch today is at Le Bistrot du Paradou. Each day, a different menu is featured and the menu and leisurely lunch experience is quintessentially French.

In the afternoon we will visit Carrieres de Lumieres, a sound-and-light show in a former limestone quarry. Gigantic projections of famous artworks illuminate the cave walls, complete with music. During our visit the theme will be Picasso. It's a sensory experience.

Tonight we'll relax at the villa and enjoy a casual dinner by a local cook. The vin will flow, of course!

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Boat to Bowl

DAY 6: THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 27

- View an interesting coastline dubbed France's newest national park
- Dine on Marseille's signature dish: bouillabaisse

Mid-morning we're off to Marseille, a vibrant, modern port city. Marseille is the second largest city in France and the Mediterranean views are enchanting. The coastline is marked by high, rocky promontories known locally as *calanques*... France's newest national park! Weather permitting, this morning we will take a relaxing 2-hour boat ride to view the calanques, inlets, and coves from the water.

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We'll return to the old port, home to the fish market. The cuisine in Marseille has many international influences due to the city's diverse population but the signature dish is bouillabaisse. Bouillabaisse was born out of poverty, when fishermen used the catch of the day they could not sell to make a flavorful soup. But it is now a high-end experience and we'll enjoy a swanky lunch at Miramar, one of the most praised restaurants for bouillabaisse.

This afternoon enjoy an excursion to the icon of Marseille: Notre-Dame de la Garde, an opulent basilica situated at Marseille's highest point to welcome the sailors home. Or you may elect to visit the MuCEM, a bold, new museum noted for its views and architecture.

After a full, stimulating day, spend this evening as you please. Onward Travel will assist with dinner reservations.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch

Drinking in the Landscape

DAY 7: FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 28

- Picnic at Pont du Gard: an amazing display of Roman engineering
- Taste wines in Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Enjoy a low-key morning before we're off to Pont du Gard for a picnic. Pont du Gard is a spectacular UNESCO-listed Roman site, a three-tiered aqueduct built around 19 BC. It is *huge* and each block was carved by hand and transported from nearby quarries. Enjoy a jaunt on the *Mémoires de Garrigue* walking trail to soak up this site.

It's harvest time so let's visit a winery! At her shop, Kelly carries excellent wines from Domaine de la Solitude and this afternoon we will visit their estate. The winery is owned by an important family and is located in the Châteauneuf-du-Pape AOC, a prestigious denomination located around the village of Châteauneuf-du-Pape in the Rhône wine region. After a lovely tasting, we'll return to the villa for a memorable dinner. It is our last night at the villa and a talented chef is coming to prepare a beautiful dinner of us. We'll toast the fabulous week we've had together!

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Last Hurrah in Aix

DAY 8: SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 29

- Tour Aix-en-Provence, a classy college town
- Shop and sightsee as you please in Aix

This morning we say *au revoir* to Gordes and head south because it is market day in Aix-en-Provence! In addition to perusing the market, we'll take a walking tour with a local guide to learn about Aix's history and famous fountains. The Romans called Aix the City of Water because of its many beautiful fountains. Aix is the birthplace of Paul Cézanne and the main street *Cours Mirabeau* is leafy and lovely. Calissons cookies are a specialty of Aix. We'll visit a shop together to taste this confection (Molly's favorite).

Enjoy time on your own for lunch, shopping, and sightseeing in Aix. Your luggage will be transferred to Hotel Cézanne, a boutique hotel close to the city center, so head back to the hotel at your leisure. Tonight we will visit a charming restaurant to share one last delicious meal together.

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Bon Voyage

DAY 9: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 30

You may choose to fly from Marseille or Nice, or take the TGV train to another destination in France. Or, perhaps you wish to linger in Aix-en-Provence. Onward is happy to assist with your arrangements. Bon voyage!

Meals Breakfast



Callisons cookies - a specialty of Aix, and Molly's favorite!

TRIP INFORMATION

autumn in provence

BEGINS	Marseille, France Midday on September 22 Transfer provided from TGV Train Station or MRS Airport
ENDS	Aix-en-Provence, France on September 30 No activities are scheduled on 9/30 Transfer provided to TGV Train Station or MRS Airport
MOBILITY	This tour includes walking for 15-30 minutes at a time, plus stairs and cobblestones. If you have limited mobility, we can accommodate you, but it is essential to let us know at the time of registration. Travelers may always opt out of activities they deem too physically challenging but refunds will not be provided.
LODGING	A unique, well-located stone farmhouse has been selected for Autumn in Provence. The 10-bedroom villa features private en suite accommodations, a swimming pool and panoramic views. The property is a 15-minute walk to Gordes.
TOUR DATES & PRICE	September 22–30, 2018 9 days, 8 nights Double Occupancy \$3,850 per traveler Single Supplement \$675 additional <i>limited availability, please inquire</i> Please note that air travel is not included and a current passport is required for travel to France. Please ensure that your passport is valid at least three months past the dates of travel.

AIR TRAVEL:

Please confirm with Onward Travel that the tour is a "go" before booking non-refundable airfare. Contact Onward Travel for assistance.

Trip price includes the following:

- Arrival airport transfer and ground transportation to/from all scheduled activities.
- Seven nights accommodations at private villa in Gordes and one night at Hotel Cézanne in Aix-en-Provence.
- Most meals: daily breakfasts, six lunches, and seven dinners. We have fantastic gourmet experiences, wine included, of course!
- Local guide services throughout the tour to truly understand Provence.
- Activities, tastings, cooking class, and tours as detailed in the itinerary.

Visit onwardtravel.co to complete the registration form and submit payment. \$1250 deposit due upon booking, balance due by July 15, 2018.

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About Onward Travel

Onward Travel is a group tour operator owned and operated by sisters Molly Crist and Katerina Dhand. Onward Travel is focused on handcrafted, thoughtful small group tours with itineraries that are researched and pieced together carefully to ensure authentic, engaging trips that foster genuine connection to places and people. A deep love of hospitality and adventure has been in Molly and Kat's blood for generations as Onward Travel is inspired by their family's cooking school on a farm in Bucks County, PA that offered culinary-focused travel to customers for over two decades.

Provence in September

Late September in Provence brings crisp weather and grape harvest. Expect sunny days. The summer crowds will have abated and weather is nice and moderate. The grapes are hanging heavy on the vines and the markets are bountiful this time of year. The temperature ranges in September from 60-75 degrees. Plan to bring layers and prepare for possible rain and wind. Onward Travel will provide packing notes in advance of the trip.

Miscellaneous Travel Information

- Passports are required for American citizens travelling to France. Visas are not required. Note your passport should be valid for at least three months beyond the date of travel.
- To determine the current exchange rate, Google "USD to EUR."
- Travel Protection: Onward Travel recommends that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. Travel protection plans include coverage for Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, Emergency Medical and Emergency Evacuation/Repatriation, Trip Delay, Baggage Delay and more. For more information on the recommended plans or to enroll, contact Travelex Insurance Services at 800-228-9792 and reference location number 32-0704.
- *For a summary of plan details on benefits, coverages, limitations and exclusions, please refer to the applicable Description of Coverage. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Transamerica Casualty Insurance Company, Columbus, Ohio; NAIC #10952. 1308294*

Get in Touch!

Contact Molly with questions or special requests.

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