

FRANCE

*with  
Friends*

A Celebratory Culinary Adventure  
in Provence

*June 2–9, 2026*

ONWARD TRAVEL ✈️

EST 2014

FRANCE, 1995



In the early 90's a group of ladies set off for France on a culinary adventure, suggested by Marion Bardman and spearheaded by Molly & Kat's grandmother, Winnie McClennen and mother, Peggi Clauhs. Many dozens of culinary adventures later, the rest is history!

This tour will revisit a few special places The Cooking Cottage visited in the early days and best of all, Marion, Winnie, Peggi, Kat, and Molly will all be along for the ride as we celebrate the past 3+ decades of culinary travel. We'll enjoy what it's all about: delicious leisurely meals, a smattering of history and art, lots of laughing and connecting, shopping in photogenic markets, cooking classes, good wine, and the enduring destination of Provence.

Provence is a region characterized by tradition and culture. The locals are a passionate people, well practiced in *l'art de vivre*, the art of living. Located in the Southeast of France, it stretches from the Mediterranean Sea to the hills of Haute Provence, from the Rhone River to the Italian Alps. It is the region home to well-known, healthful Mediterranean cuisine and wonderful wines, most notably, rosé. Our group of bon vivants will spend the first part of the week in chic St.-Rémy-de-Provence then travel east to a tranquil base in Gordes, in the heart of the picturesque Luberon region. Join us for this special, celebratory adventure!



## IMAGINE YOURSELF...

Experiencing sensory overload at a beautiful Provençal market

Preparing regional recipes with fresh and local ingredients

Sipping Champagne and eating just-unearthed truffles

## Bienvenue en Provence

DAY 1: TUESDAY JUNE 2

- Stroll university town Aix-en-Provence
- Settle in among the fig trees in St-Rémy

The tour will begin with a mid-morning transfer from the Marseille Provence Airport area to Aix-en-Provence. You may want to consider arriving the day before; we recommend Best Western Hotel Marseille Aeroport as a convenient crash pad. Another option is to take the high-speed TGV train from Paris to Aix-en-Provence (3 hours) and meet the group there.

Once the group has convened, we'll have lunch at a charming café in Aix-en-Provence and our friendly local guide will orient us to this lovely city. The Romans called Aix the City of Water because of its many beautiful fountains. It is also the birthplace of Paul Cézanne and the main street, Cours Mirabeau, is leafy and lovely.

Late afternoon, relax on the bus as we drive to our homebase: St Rémy-de-Provence. Our charming boutique hotel, Hôtel Sous les Figuiers, sits on the edge of town and features stylish apartments clustered under leafy fig trees. We'll kick off our time here with a group dinner at a terrific local spot, just a few minutes walk from the hotel.

Meals Lunch, Dinner

### The Cooking Cottage

In the early 90's, mother-daughter duo Winnie McClennen and Peggi Clauhs opened The Cooking Cottage, a charming little cooking school on their family farm in Bucks County, PA. It operated for 25 years, delighting and inspiring home chefs... and their (grand)daughters Kat & Molly. The Cooking Cottage hosted semi-annual culinary tours. Kat & Molly realized they loved planning and operating those tours, so in 2013, they created Onward Travel, a boutique tour company focused on small group culinary adventures.

The spirit of The Cooking Cottage lives on!



## St-Rémy & Surrounds

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY JUNE 3

- Lunch on "le menu" at a charming Bistrot
- Admire art projected onto quarry walls

Wake up this morning in St-Rémy, ready to immerse yourself in the Provençal way of life, strolling along the boulevards under the shade of century-old plane trees. It's market day in St-Rémy and the market will be large and hopping. Enjoy some time perusing the stalls. Explore the lively historic center that is lined with attractive boutiques and art galleries. In this magical setting, bathed in sunshine for more than 300 days a year, you'll realize why so many famous artists have loved this little 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. The menu and leisurely lunch experience is quintessentially French. This place has stood the test of time, being a memorable meal from those early days of Cooking Cottage travel.

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. It's a sensory experience. Tonight you are free to enjoy dinner in St-Rémy as you wish.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch

### PEGGI AT LE BISTRO DU PARADOU ON AN EARLY TRIP



## Provençal Culinary Paradise

DAY 3: THURSDAY JUNE 4

- Experience village life in Beaumont-de-Pertuis
- Enhance your culinary repertoire in La Belugue's stylish kitchens

Today we have a special experience in store: 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 entrance of a picturesque, tiny village Beaumont-de-Pertuis. Learn lovely recipes, taste 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!

Back in St-Rémy this evening, we'll enjoy some wine and a light dinner of cheeses and nibbles al fresco paired with some crisp rosé.

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Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Light Dinner

## Culinary Exploration

DAY 4: FRIDAY JUNE 5

- Taste chocolates that are so beautiful, they're art
- Visit the gastronomic atelier of a creative and entertaining chef

Enjoy a lowkey morning and time on your own. We'll convene after lunch to commence a day of foodie experiences. St-Rémy is famous for its gourmet food stores. This morning we'll visit two local spots. Joël Durand is considered the best chocolate maker in Provence. His focus is on infusing chocolate with different flavors. We'll visit his shop and enjoy a tasting. The second visit is to be decided... perhaps a bakery, candied fruit factory, or olive oil mill!

This afternoon we'll find ourselves at the home of Yvan Cadiou. An energetic, charismatic, and popular local chef. He'll put on a cooking show, educating us and inviting participation. Our memorable dinner will feature local and seasonal products.

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Meals Breakfast, Dinner

## Ochre Hills & Gorgeous Gordes

DAY 5: SATURDAY JUNE 6

- Gain an appreciation for the history of artists' pigments
- Snap a pic of one of the most beautiful hilltop villages in Europe

After breakfast we say *adieu* to St-Rémy and head off to the beautiful Luberon region. The first part of our day will be spent in Roussillon, famous for its ochre-colored hills. We'll begin our day with a visit to a small museum dedicated to the history of ochre mining and the resulting pigments. Learn how to mix the raw pigments into your own paints. After a baguette sandwich lunch, enjoy some free time in the village of Roussillon, take a walk through the ochre quarries or admire the small town where the houses are painted in beautiful shades of ochre.

Next we'll visit Sénanque Abbey, a graceful Cistercian abbey with picture-perfect views, founded in 1148 yet still home to a small monastic community. We'll have an informative guided tour. The abbey is on the edge of Gordes, the hilltop village that will be our home base for the next couple days. Gazing at this village it's hard to believe it's real life!

Late afternoon we'll arrive at Hôtel Le Jas de Gordes, a charming boutique hotel in a private, wooded park full of Mediterranean plants and flowers. The heated swimming pool and setting make for a lovely place to relax. Take some time to do just that before we gather for dinner this evening.

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Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



## A Day of Staycation

DAY 6: SUNDAY JUNE 7

- Take in the scenery at the atmospheric Hôtel Le Jas de Gordes
- Explore the charming village, Gordes

We've been on the go, so today is a day to pause and enjoy your surroundings. Start the day with the hotel's excellent buffet breakfast. The light, the views, the (finger's crossed) sunshine...all make Provence special. Today has been reserved to simply enjoy the lovely setting of Hôtel Le Jas de Gordes. Take the footpath to Gordes to explore the village (15 minutes, mostly uphill, but views are great) and enjoy a swim in the pool. A glass of wine with nowhere to be sounds great, right?

After a rejuvenating day, we're heading to a nearby restaurant for a wonderful dinner tonight. Wow, life is good!

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Meals Breakfast, Dinner



HOTEL LE JAS DE GORDES

## The Grand Finalé!

DAY 7: MONDAY JUNE 8

- Hunt for truffles... one of the world's most prized delicacies!
- Share a toast with your fellow travelers, honoring the week we've shared together

After another nice brekkie it's 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. This experience will be followed by fabulous truffle-themed hors d'oeuvres, charcuterie, truffle ice cream with truffle honey, farm products, and...Champagne!

We're going to toast our special week together at a winery. Stroll the vineyard, savor the local aromas, and learn about boutique wine production. Santé!

Late afternoon we arrive at our final destination: Best Western Hotel Marseille Airport. Repack your luggage or take a swim in the hotel pool before we gather at the surprisingly good restaurant. Let's reminisce about the week we spent together, share our highlights, and savor one more evening good top notch food, wine, and company.

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Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## Bon Voyage

DAY 8: TUESDAY JUNE 9

You may choose to fly from Marseille or take the TGV train to another destination in France like Paris or Nice. The hotel offers a free shuttle to the adjacent MRS airport. Or perhaps you wish to linger in Marseille. Onward is happy to assist with your arrangements. Bon voyage!

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Meals Breakfast

## Trip Essentials

BEGINS	<p>Marseille/Aix-en-Provence on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 10am transfer from MRS Airport and Best Western Hotel Marseille Aeroport. 11am arrival to Aix-en-Provence - pick ups anytime at Aix's TGV Train Station on 6/2.</p>
ENDS	<p>Marseille Airport on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 No activities are scheduled on 6/9. Hotel offers a free shuttle to MRS airport. Onward Travel can assist with other arrangements.</p>
SUITABILITY & MOBILITY	<p>This tour does include walking as a means of transport and several walking tours. It has also been designed to accommodate travelers with limited mobility, though those folks may miss a few activities. As long as you're flexible to opt out when needed, all travelers can be accommodated. Travelers may always opt out of activities they deem too physically challenging but refunds will not be provided.</p>
TOUR DATES & PRICE	<p>June 2–9, 2026 Double Occupancy \$4,950 per traveler Single Supplement \$750 additional</p> <p><i>Note that air travel is not included and a current passport is required for travel to Europe. You are welcome to pay by credit card, please add a 3% surcharge.</i></p>
LODGING	<p><b>Hotel Sous Les Figuiers   4 Nights</b>   A 13-room oasis on the edge of St. Remy. Locally sourced breakfast, pool, and fun decor and gardens throughout.</p> <p><b>Hotel Le Jas de Gordes   2 Nights</b>   This small 4-star hotel is a tranquil retreat just 1 km from Gordes. Lush gardens, heated pool, gourmet buffet breakfast, terraces...</p> <p><b>Best Western Hotel Marseille Aeroport   1 Night</b>   A great airport hotel with a gourmet restaurant, a bar and a pool.</p>

Please confirm this tour is a “go” before booking nonrefundable airfare.

**Early Arrival in Marseille** We always recommend arriving a day early when possible! If looking to stay somewhere convenient, Onward Travel can book you a room at the Best Western Marseille Airport hotel. [Inquire for room rate.](#)

Alternatively, you may wish to arrive a day or two earlier and visit the city of Marseille. Top recommendations: bouillabaisse, “Mucem” museum, and a boat tour of the calanques.

## Trip price includes the following:

- Ground transportation to/from all scheduled activities
- Seven nights ensuite accommodation at comfortable, well-appointed hotels.
- Most meals: daily breakfasts, four lunches, and six dinners. We have fantastic gourmet experiences, wine included, of course!
- Local guide services as indicated throughout the tour and a knowledgeable Onward Travel host at your service.
- Activities, tastings, cooking classes and tours as detailed in the itinerary.

## Register Now!

Visit [onwardtravel.co](https://onwardtravel.co) to complete the registration form.

\$1,500 deposit due upon booking, balance due by February 1, 2026.



**The Onward Travel Tour Directors for this trip are Kat & Molly**

Molly Crist and Katerina Clauhs Dhand founded Onward Travel more than a decade ago. They are inspired by their mother and grandmother, Peggi and Winnie, who instilled in them a love of thoughtful travel and delicious food made by real people.

Molly & Kat rarely get the chance to host Onward Tours together and are especially excited to be together hosting *France With Friends* because Peggi and Winnie will be coming along, too!

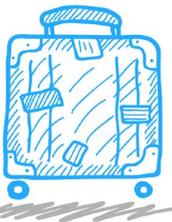
**Please take note of the following useful information, and view more at [www.onwardtravel.co/letsgo](http://www.onwardtravel.co/letsgo)**



Once Onward Travel receives your registration form, we will send you an **invoice** with instructions to pay the **deposit**.



If you'd like to purchase **trip insurance**, we suggest Travelex. For more info, call them at 800-228-9792 or visit [www.travelexinsurance.com](http://www.travelexinsurance.com) and refer to location number 32-0704.



Four to six weeks before the tour **we will mail you a packet** with a packing list, traveler directory and other useful info.



Make sure you know where your **passport** is now! For travel to Europe it should be valid for six months beyond your return date.



**Onward Travel's cancellation policy in a nutshell:**

- \$250 of your initial deposit is nonrefundable
- Cancel within 90 days and the full deposit is nonrefundable
- Cancel within 60 days and 50% of total trip fee is nonrefundable
- Cancel within 30 days and the full trip fee is nonrefundable

See the full *Terms & Conditions* at [www.onwardtravel.co/terms](http://www.onwardtravel.co/terms)

## Get in Touch!

Contact Onward Travel with questions or special requests:  
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AT THE OCHRE FACTORY IN ROUSSILLON