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Cotes de Nuits - Burgundy

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Grand Tour of France ~ Wine, Art and Heritage

Normandy - Loire Valley - Dordogne - Languedoc - Provence - French Riviera
Rhône Valley - Burgundy - Alsace - Champagne
(19 days - 17 nights)

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SAMPLE ITINERARY

This is an example of a possible itinerary. It can be resized, reorganized and customized to fit your interests, budget and schedule. It can also be combined with other tours.

HIGHLIGHTS (19 days - 17 nights)

DAY	ACTIVITIES (this is a self-drive program combined with a few escorted tours)	MILES	NIGHT
1	Leave U.S.		
2	Arrive in Paris. Drive to Normandy . Visit Giverny	125	Honfleur
3	Drive to Mt St Michel: Visit Bayeux or D-Day beaches and Mt St Michel	175	Mt St Michel
4	Drive to Loire Valley . Visit Cointreau in Angers	250	Tours
5	Full-day guided tour of chateaus and wineries*		Tours
6	Drive to Dordogne . Visit Bernardaud porcelain factory in Limoges	250	Sarlat
7	Full-day guided tour of Dordogne or wine tour to Bordeaux*		Sarlat
8	Drive to Carcassonne . Visit Toulouse Lautrec Museum in Albi	200	Carcassonne
9	Drive to Provence . Visit Roman Nimes and Pont du Gard	175	Avignon
10	Full-day guided tour of Provence*		Avignon
11	Drive to the French Riviera . Visit St Tropez or Abbey of Thoronet	175	Nice
12	Full-day guided tour of the French Riviera*		Nice
13	Drive to Rhone Valley . Visit Aix en Provence or Orange	250	Tournon
14	Drive to Burgundy . Visit Lyon and Abbey of Cluny	200	Beaune
15	Full-day guided wine tour of Burgundy*		Beaune
16	Drive to Alsace . Visit Colmar and Route du Vin*	250	Strasbourg
17	Drive to Champagne . Visit Baccarat or Pompidou Art Center in Metz	250	Reims
18	Full-day guided wine tour of Champagne*. Drive to Roissy - CDG airport	100	Paris Airport
19	Return to U.S.		

* Private guided tours. More tours are available in these regions, and days of guided sightseeing can be added.

ITINERARY (for more options, see our “France Highlights”)

Day 1: Leave U.S.

Day 2: Arrive in Roissy - Charles de Gaulle airport. Pick up your rental car and head out to Normandy. On the way to **Honfleur**, stop in **Giverny** for a visit to the famous Impressionist painter Claude Monet’s house and his garden and lily pond. Spend the evening and night in picturesque Honfleur, the “cradle of Impressionism”. Located on the estuary of the Seine, this place has fascinated many artists over the years: Turner, Jongkind, Courbet, Monet, Baudelaire and Satie among others. It is the birthplace of painter Eugène Boudin, a pioneer in plein-air (outdoor) painting and Impressionist techniques. Tonight, stroll around the historic center and the charming, picture-postcard port and marina.

Day 3: After a restful night in pretty Honfleur, drive across lower Normandy with a “must-see” stop in Bayeux and/or the D-Day beaches while keeping your eyes on today’s prize - the Mont St Michel.

Bayeux boasts a world-famous tapestry (technically an embroidery 1 1/2” x 230” long) that recounts the 1066 battle of Hastings and the conquest of England by the Normans. It is an amazing display both as a one-of-a-kind piece of craftsmanship and as a tool to tell a fascinating story (in a way, the precursor of animated films). Bayeux also has a beautiful Gothic cathedral.





The **D-Day landing beaches** are only a few miles away. The sandy beaches glow in the sun and the horizon is calm now, but one can imagine the tragedy that took place there just over half a century ago.

The end of World War II started when Allied forces (some 175,000 troops in an armada of over 5,000 boats) landed on the beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944. The Battle of Normandy resulted in over 400,000 casualties on both sides during two and a half months of bloody fighting.

The 75-mile stretch of coastline just north of Caen and Bayeux is dotted with many memorials, reminding us of the events that changed the course of history. **Arromanches** is the start of this pilgrimage tracing the horrific events of D-Day. The deadliest fighting took place at Omaha Beach. It is commemorated by the American Cemetery near **Colleville-sur-Mer**, with 9,387 graves marked by white crosses and Stars of David. Another reminder is the Musee Omaha, where weapons and vehicles left on the beach are on display.

Farther west, **Pointe du Hoc** is the site where U.S. Army Rangers scaled the cliffs under devastating enemy fire to capture a German stronghold. Continuing west is **Utah Beach** with the Landing Museum. And inland, a 30-minute drive from the beaches, is **Ste. Mere l'Eglise** (made famous in the movie "The Longest Day"), where paratroopers landed off target (two of them getting caught on the church steeple). Ste. Mere was the first village to be liberated by the Allies.

The **Mont Saint Michel**, located where Normandy meets Brittany on the English Channel, is an ancient Gothic abbey uniquely perched on a high rock formation. It is surrounded by water at high tide and a large mudflat at low tide. Today, a causeway connects it to the continent so visitors have easy access to it at all times. It is classified as a World Heritage site. Legend has it that in 708 A.D. the bishop of Avranches had a vision of the Archangel Michael, who ordered that a place of worship be built on this site. The abbey includes a 13th-century dining hall, a church and a cloister. With some 3 million+ visitors a year, it is a very popular tourist destination.



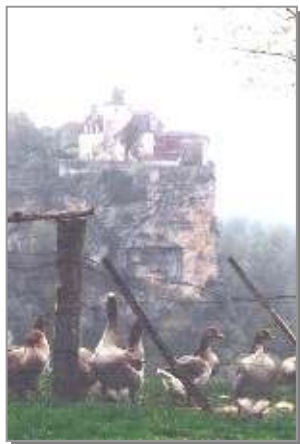
Day 4: With the Mt St Michel a small dot in your rear view mirror, get a whiff of **Brittany** as you pass the city of **Rennes**, its capital. Enter the province of **Anjou** and stop in **Angers** for a panoramic view of its imposing medieval castle. While there, entertain your nostrils and taste buds with a visit to the **Cointreau** distillery, the famous orange liqueur manufacturer located in nearby St Bathelemy d'Anjou nearby. On to your next destination: the Loire Valley.

Day 5: Be ready to be "wowed" today on a private guided chateau and/or wine tour. Renaissance chateaus abound in the **Loire Valley**. Of the dozen or so most popular ones (Blois, Chenonceau, Cheverny, Chambord, Chaumont, Amboise, Clos Luce, Azay le Rideau, Chinon, Langeais, Usse and Villandry) we recommend you choose two or perhaps three. With your English-speaking, licensed driver/guide you will get in the chateaus quicker and he/she will make you better appreciate the history and architecture of these magnificent monuments. As you move around, blend in a tour of the best wine appellations (Vouvray, Chinon, Montlouis and Bourgueil) for special visits of cellars and tastings.

Day 6: From **Tours**, enter the rustic **Limousin** region today. The Bernardaud porcelain factory in **Limoges** has a delightful display of their best pieces - well worth the visit.



Day 7: Today's "all-Dordogne-in-one-day" tour will allow you to discover the best the region has to offer. It starts with a guided visit of the medieval city of **Sarlat**, followed by a walking tour of two quaint, ancient villages: Beynac and La Roque Gageac. Next is a boat ride along the picturesque Dordogne River and a stop in prehistoric Les Eyzies de Tayac where Cro-Magnon man was discovered. There, visit the National Prehistory Museum. End the day on a high note, with a visit of the Lascaux II cave, a perfect replica of the original cave with the famous prehistoric paintings.



Dordogne is arguably the world capital of “foie gras”, but beautifully restored Sarlat is a time capsule. Tucked among hills adorned with corn and wheat, Sarlat is a quintessential medieval town (many “period movies” have been shot on location there).

Lascaux is the setting of a complex of caves famous for its prehistoric cave paintings. They contain some of the best-known Upper Paleolithic art, estimated to be 16,000 years old and consisting primarily of realistic images of large animals. The complex was opened to the public in 1948. By 1955, the carbon dioxide produced by 1,200 visitors per day had visibly damaged the paintings, so the cave was closed to the public in 1963. Detailed reproductions of original cave artworks are now open to the public in Lascaux II, a replica of two of the cave halls, a few hundred feet from the original.

Les Eyzies. South of Lascaux, a large number of caves and rock shelters can be explored around Les Eyzies. Among the Stone Age shelters are the Abri du Poisson, showing one of the oldest fish images, and the Abri du Cap Blanc, small but praised for its magnificent three dimensional frieze representing horses.

La **Roque-Gageac** is a magnificent “picture postcard” village, hanging from a cliff and looking down on the picturesque Dordogne River.

If you prefer wine to caves, **Bordeaux** is only 125 miles from Sarlat., so a full-day wine tour to St Emilion can be arranged with a stop to taste the sweet wines of Montbazillac on the way back.

Day 8: Drive on south to monumental Carcassonne today. If you decide to go through **Albi**, consider seeing the **Toulouse Lautrec Museum**, dedicated solely to the famous artist and showing a large collection of his works. Enjoy the medieval city tonight after all the day visitors are gone.

Carcassonne, the largest medieval fortified city in Europe, is an impressive sight with its 53 towers and its enormous ramparts defending the entire city. It completely dominates the horizon as you approach, and its massiveness does not disappoint when you enter the draw-bridge gate. It is huge, it is medieval and it also attracts lots of tourists. As a World Heritage Site, however, it is a “must-see” and well worth the effort. Dating from the time of Charlemagne, it has been extensively restored and looks magnificent. You can walk along the ramparts, visit the Chateau Comtal, shop in the boutiques lining the cobbled streets, visit galleries and museums and get a feel for everyday life in the Middle Ages.



Day 9: Today is “antiquities” day, on your way to sunny Provence. Enjoy the scenic drive through the rugged, dry landscape of **Languedoc** to reach the bustling city of **Nîmes**, with its well-preserved “Maison Carre” Roman temple and a Roman amphitheater still used for local “corridas” (the French version of Pamplona’s “running of the bulls,” but inside an enclosed arena). Then stop at the **Pont du Gard**, a Roman aqueduct (and a World Heritage monument) which has been standing for more than 2,000 years and is an absolute wonder.



Day 10: Open your senses to **Provence** today and, if in season, smell the air thick with lavender, thyme and rosemary fragrances. Discover this wonderful corner of France on a private guided tour. Among the possibilities are:

Roman Provence and Wine. Start the day by exploring the famed wine region of **Chateaufort du Pape**. For wine connoisseurs, the region offers many more lesser-known appellations: Seguret, Gigondas, etc. Then head out to **Orange** with its Roman Theater, still in use for shows and performances today, and its imposing Arc de Triomphe. In the afternoon, wander around the Roman ruins of **Vaison la Romaine**, a sizeable Roman city in its time. On the way back, enjoy a scenic drive through the spectacular rock formations of Dentelles de Montmirail’s and stop for a tasting of the famous Beaufort de Venise liqueur.



Les Alpilles. Drive out to **St Remy** de Provence, where Van Gogh painted for a short time while staying at the local asylum. Then up the road to the medieval hilltop citadel of **Les Baux de Provence**. Next is a stroll around the Roman city of **Arles**, where Van Gogh lived and produced so many works of art, or a drive to the Natural Park of **Camargue** for bird watching and a taste of wilderness in the swampy Rhone River delta. Drive back through the cities of Tarascon and Beaucaire to watch a falconry demonstration at the chateau (not available in winter).

Northern Luberon. If you like nature and quaint villages, northern Luberon is the place for you: Hilltop villages like **Gordes** and its well-preserved "Bories" settlements; the ochre limestone quarries of **Roussillon**; the Romanesque **Abbey of Senanque**; the

Fontaine de Vaucluse and its natural spring gushing out of the ground to form a river; **Isle sur la Sorgue**, famous for its antiques shops, and more (Ménéribes, Lacoste...) A scenic, leisurely sightseeing day!

Aix en Provence and the Luberon. This morning, Aix en Provence, the home of famous Impressionist painter Paul Cezanne, invites you for a stroll along its fashionable tree-lined Cours Mirabeau. Then up into the hills to the South Luberon to reach the quaint village of Lourmarin dominated by an elegant Renaissance castle. In the afternoon, on to the discovery of other quiet villages as Cadenet, Vauvine, Cucuron, etc.

Day 11: No grand tour of France would be complete without a hop into the **French Riviera**. On the way to **Nice**, you may want to take a short detour to the fashionable seaside resort of **St Tropez** or, for a more subdued atmosphere, the Cistercian **Abbey of Thoronet**.

St Tropez is a charming port town with elegant shops, fine dining and luxury boats. Visit the Annonciade Museum with a long list of post-Impressionist and Fauvist names: Bonnard, Braque, Derain, Dufy, Maillol, Marquet, Matisse, Rouault, Seurat, Signac, Utrillo, Von Dongen, Vlaminck, Vuillard... Some of them are lesser-known but they're all good! Art lovers should also visit the 10th century Chateau Suffren, one of the town's oldest buildings (a museum in its own right) and host to various temporary international art exhibits year-round.



Day 12: Today, you are in for a treat: an a-la-carte private tour of the Riviera. The combinations are limitless. Read on:

With its glitzy film festivals, luxury yachts and beach lifestyle, **the French Riviera** (known to the locals as "la Cote d'Azur" - named after the striking deep blue color of the Mediterranean) is one of the poshest seaside playgrounds in Europe - a favorite place for queens, czars, princes and the rich and famous. But common folks go there, too. The region's mild weather makes it a favorite spot for vacationers from colder climes to the north. And, for decades, the sunshine and unique ambient luminosity has also motivated hordes of artists to move there (Picasso being the most notorious example). With all the region has to offer, it should come as no surprise that this is a very busy place. Nice, at the epicenter of it all, is an ideal base of operations for fun and exciting discoveries.

One of the biggest reasons for visiting the French Riviera is modern art, and there is lots of it everywhere: museums, galleries, outdoor sculptures, you name it... Another reason is the Mediterranean ambiance and "joie de vivre" - a mixture of scenery, architecture, ancient villages, food, beach life, music, etc. Here's a list of things to see when you get there:



- **Nice - Musée des Beaux Arts.** Art from the 17th to 20th century with works by Jules Cheret, Raoul Dufy, Kees van Dongen, Eugene Boudin, Auguste Rodin among others plus ceramics by Picasso, displayed in a sumptuous neo-classical villa.
- **Nice - Musée d'Art Moderne.** Avant-garde works by Andy Warhol, Nikki de Saint Phalle, Jean Tinguely, Yves Klein, Christo and other modern artists in an ultra-modern setting.



- **Nice - Matisse Museum.** The world's largest collection of the master's works housed in a beautiful 17th-century Mediterranean villa.
- **Nice - Chagall's Biblical Museum.** The museum was built specifically for this copious collection of Chagall's brightly colored paintings inspired by scenes from the Old Testament.
- **Nice - The tramway stations,** a dozen or so of them decorated with whimsical modern murals and sculptures from living artists (some of these works are best seen at night).
- **St Paul-de-Vence - Maeght Foundation** (Jose Luis Sert, architect). Modern art by nearly every major artist of the 20th century: Sculptures by Miro, Giacometti, Calder and others are scattered all around the shaded lawns and gardens. Equally impressive collection on the inside: Chagall, Braque, Fernand Leger, etc.
- **Antibes - Picasso Museum,** located in the Chateau Grimaldi where the artist worked in 1946. Over 200 of his works are shown there: paintings, ceramics, tiles, vases, plates, etc.
- **Biot - Fernand Leger Museum** featuring a works by the early 20th-century artist, including a sizeable collection of paintings, mosaics, stained-glass windows and more.
- **Menton - Jean Cocteau Museum,** just before the Italian border. This seaside museum located in a 17th-century fortress highlights Cocteau's many talents: artist, dramatist, poet, and filmmaker.
- **La Napoule/Cannes - Henry Clews Museum.** Unusual art by a lesser-known turn-of-the-century American artist (Rodin was an acquaintance of his). Beautiful gardens with fountains and topiary surrounding an austere seaside fortress.
- **Cagnes-sur-Mer - Renoir's House/Museum.** The artist lived there from 1907 to 1919. The villa displays a handful of his works and his studio can be visited (no abstract art here but well worth the visit)

Chapels decorated by famous artists:

- **Vence - Matisse's Chapel of the Rosary** (Le Corbusier, architect). Quintessential late Matisse. A modest chapel with some of his most simplified designs.
- **Vallauris - Picasso's War and Peace Chapel and Museum.** Murals depicting war on one side and peace on the other. The subject and style are reminiscent of his famous Guernica painting.
- **Villefranche - Jean Cocteau's Chapelle St Pierre.** A 17th-century chapel decorated with elegant frescoes.
- **Le Cannet/Cannes - Tobiassse's Chapelle St Sauveur.** Brightly colorful murals using a different kind of modern-day bas-reliefs painted with absolutely stunning results.
- **Menton - Jean Cocteau's Wedding Room.** More elegant frescoes by the French artist.



Other places of interest not related to art:

- **Nice - Russian Orthodox Cathedral.** Built in early 20th century by Czar Nicholas II, complete with onion domes, gilded icons and colorful frescoes. Unusual for the area but an amazing building.
- **Nice - Promenade des Anglais.** A four-mile beach-side boulevard lined with grand hotels and other fine buildings.



- **Old Nice** with colorful Belle Epoque buildings, ornate baroque churches, narrow streets, a flower market and alluring shops.
- **Cap Ferrat - The villa of Baroness Ephrussi de Rothschild.** An extravagant pastel-pink palazzo with opulent interiors and nine gorgeous gardens (French, Spanish, Florentine, roses, rare trees, exotic...) all decorated with fountains (some musical), ponds, statuary and shaded paths.
- **Cap Ferrat - Villa Kerilos.** A perfect replica of an ancient Greek villa from the island of Delos.
- **Grasse - "Perfumeries"** (Fragonard, Gallimard and Molinard). These



Tranquil and luscious gardens with views of the Mediterranean and over 5,800 species of ornamental plants.

- functioning production facilities are open for visits (and smell tests), as is the nearby International Perfume Museum owned by the city of Grasse.
- **Monaco - The Exotic Gardens** with thousands of cacti and succulents growing on a steep cliff-side garden with magnificent views of the Mediterranean. Watch the changing of the guard at the Prince's Palace (every day at 11:55 am). Other visits in Monaco: the Monte-Carlo Casino designed by Charles Garnier, the architect of the Neo-Baroque Opera Garnier in Paris; and the Musee Oceanographique et Aquarium.
- **La Turbie**, high above Monaco. Ancient village and monument to Augustus Caesar with views of the Mediterranean.
- **Eze**. A touristy but very pretty village with exotic gardens and a castle on top of a promontory overlooking the Mediterranean (on a clear day you can see Corsica).
- **Vallauris**. Pottery shops and artists at work.
- **Biot**. Glass works and glass blowers at work.
- **Cannes**. The old town.
- **La Mortola, Italy - The Hanbury Gardens** (only a few miles over the border).

Day 13: Back to Provence and up the valley of the mighty **Rhone River** today. **Aix en Provence**, the home town of famous Impressionist painter, Paul Cezanne is on the way. And just north of Avignon you can stop and admire more Roman architecture in **Orange** and **Vaison la Romaine**. Spend the night in Tournon or the wine country of **Tain l'Hermitage** just north of **Valence**.

Day 14: On to rustic **Burgundy** and its famous wines. Lunch in **Lyon**, the culinary capital of France, is a possibility or, perhaps, you would prefer eating at one of legendary chef Paul Baucuse's restaurants. Before reaching Beaune, the classic **Benedictine monastery of Cluny** is but a short detour off the tollway.

Day 15: Whether you are a connoisseur, a wine enthusiast or just enjoy drinking good wine, it's always an exciting experience to drive through the vineyards with an expert guide and learn about the different "terroirs". With so many vintners keen on showing their wines, there are many possibilities for touring Burgundy. But just one day is not a lot of time. So focusing on a particular area is the best approach.

One possible scenario is this: Tour the vineyards of **Côtes de Nuits**. See the villages of Gevrey-Chambertin, Morey Saint Denis, Chambolle-Musigny, Vougeot, Vosne-Romanée and Nuits **St Georges**. Visit the **Clos de Vougeot** castle. Then, stop at two wineries for wine tastings. End the day with a tour of the Hospices de Beaune, the beautifully preserved 15th-century hospital (now a museum).



Or here's another alternative: Tour three family-owned "domaines" and taste a dozen or so Pinot Noirs, Chardonnays and Aligotés from the bottle or from barrels. For lunch, enjoy a three-course gourmet meal, with wine, in a local restaurant. A **Côte de Beaune** itinerary typically goes to the following villages: Santenay, Puligny-Montrachet, Chassagne-Montrachet, Meursault, Monthélie, Savigny-Les-Beaune and the Hautes-Côtes de Beaune. And the **Côte Chalonnaise** tour typically goes to Montagny, Givry, Mercurey and Rully.



Day 16: Alsace, your next destination, is a world of its own. The cuisine is solidly tasty, the wines are closer to German wines and the flower-bedecked homes have a charm not found anywhere else in France. So, on to **Colmar**. Make sure you include the Unterlinden Museum if you stop there. The highlight of this museum is Grunewald's 16th-century gripping *Isenheim Altarpiece*. Then on to the primary reason for coming to this region in the first place - the "route des vins". This evening, explore **Strasbourg**, the home of the European Parliament. See the beautiful "pink" cathedral and, perhaps, take a boat ride around picture-perfect "La Petite France".

Day 17: Do you see bubbles in your future today? Well, you should, because you're headed for **Champagne** this morning. Two very interesting possibilities beckon you as



you make your way there. If you go by **Nancy**, visit the famous **Baccarat** crystal glassworks and their small but delightful Musee du Cristal. On the **Metz** route, stop by the stunning **Pompidou Center** for contemporary art (an extension of its namesake in Paris).

Day 18: Sparkling wine will be poured today on a private guided tour of Champagne. First, enjoy a morning visit of a major champagne house and cellars, plus a guided tour of **Reims'** beautiful Gothic cathedral where many French kings were crowned. In the afternoon, drive out to the surrounding vineyards of "la Montagne de Reims" or the Marne River valley for a visit to a smaller champagne producer and visit other champagne houses in **Epernay**, the epicenter of champagne production.

Reims - Notre Dame Cathedral. Along with Paris and Chartres, this is one of the most famous cathedrals in France. Started in 1211, it is the personification of Gothic architecture in all its glory. Many kings of France were crowned there, as tradition required. In addition to its resplendent and elegant Gothic style it also boasts an unusual, small touch of the modern: a luminous set of three stained-glass windows by Marc Chagall, harmoniously blending delightful tones of blue, green and red. A 15th-century astrological clock with moving figures depicting the Adoration of the Magi is another one of its many marvels.

Epernay is located 16 miles south of Reims in the rolling hills of the Champagne wine region. Some 250 miles of cellars and tunnels, where millions of bottles of sparkling wine are kept, lie within its chalky foundations. Among the major champagne companies to be found in Epernay are Moët & Chandon, Mercier, Pol Roger, and Castellane (a dozen or so line a one-mile stretch of road fittingly named "Avenue de Champagne"). The major champagne houses offer wine tastings and tours which take visitors on joy rides in little trains zipping around the cellars, past dusty racks and great wooden barrels.

This tantalizing "Grand Tour of France" ends with a short drive back to the Roissy - Charles de Gaulle airport this evening, for a restful night before your departure tomorrow.

Day 19: Return to the U.S.

Hello, my name is **Pierre Mainguéné**. I personally handcrafted this itinerary.



I am the co-founder and president of Circa Tours. I was born and raised in Brittany, France so, as a native European, I love everything about the "old country" especially France, Spain and Portugal, the three countries we specialize in. I love their history (and there is lots of it), their art (same thing), their cuisine (especially in France, Catalonia and the Basque Country), their wine (everywhere), their lifestyle and the endless diversity of the local cultures.

In dozens of trips I have taken to Europe, I have traveled to nearly every corner of those countries, and I continue my journey of discovery every year. I am a Travel-Institute certified France and Spain Specialist, and I am also recognized by the Tourist Office of Portugal as a certified Portugal Specialist.

My goal is to create the best possible trip for you. I am always ready to listen to your wishes (however creative) and feedback, and I will always enjoy sharing my experiences with you.

That's me, by the way, in front of a Joaquin Sorolla painting in Madrid. And, the following are some comments made by a few of our clients:

- “Our trip was fantastic! We had such a wonderful time! All went well including getting our train tickets to Seville changed the day of the strike. Our guides were nothing less than phenomenal! We can't thank you and your staff enough for putting together a trip that was worthy of our 30th anniversary celebration!” M.B., Massachusetts
- “Pierre. Thank you for your services. I really enjoyed dealing with you. You are so knowledgeable, pleasant and professional. I certainly will recommend you to friends.” J.L., Colorado
- “It was not a good trip - it was a GREAT trip! Truly everything was fabulous, ran smoothly, and worked well. The guides were excellent, the itinerary perfect. We enjoyed Spain very much and will ask you for assistance on our next journey to southern Europe!” J.K., California
- “Circa Tours did a good job. They worked very closely with us in putting the program together. We were very pleased with how efficient everything ran. The information we received from Circa Tours was done up very well, which allowed us to just pull the appropriate paperwork and be on our way. The tours were very well done. The guides we had with the local travel providers did a very good job of explaining the areas we toured. Pierre at Circa Tours made sure we saw a bit of everything.” D.T., Florida
- “We are all home, safe and sound - very tired, but in a hazy daze of love for France. Thank you and Carolyn SO much for arranging such an amazing trip for all of us. Throughout the trip, my sisters, mom and myself could be heard saying such things as, “THANK YOU, PIERRE”...or, “thank goodness for Pierre!!!” Martine was an excellent guide, by the way...very good, nice, thorough and professional. We wouldn't have been able to do HALF of what we did (and certainly not with nearly as much carefree enjoyment) with out her. Thank you and Carolyn for all of you expertise and care in helping us and doing all of the hard work for us! Thank you! Thank you!!!” K.B., Iowa