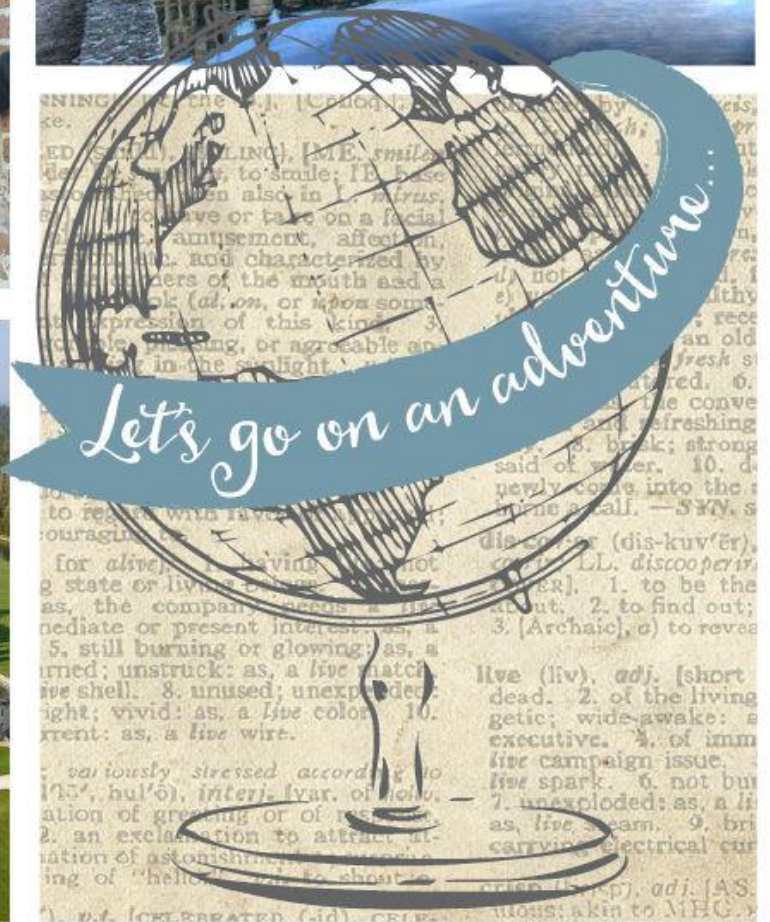
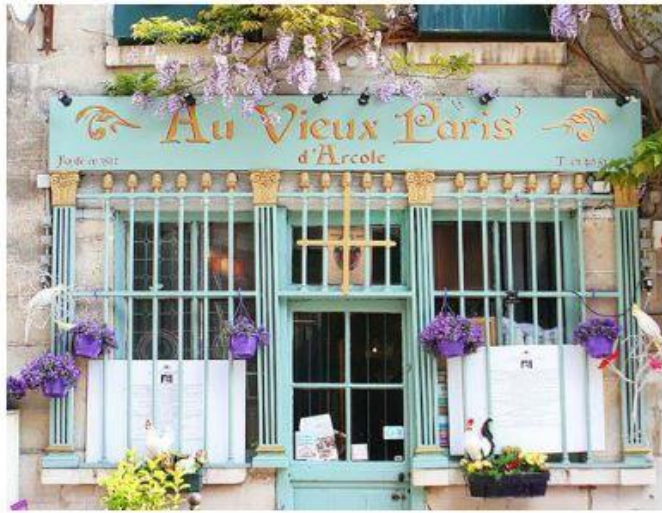


TOUR de NANOU

PARIS and the LOIRE VALLEY
JULY 16 - 24, 2016



Tour de Nanou: France off the Beaten Path

A Special Journey to Paris and the Loire Valley

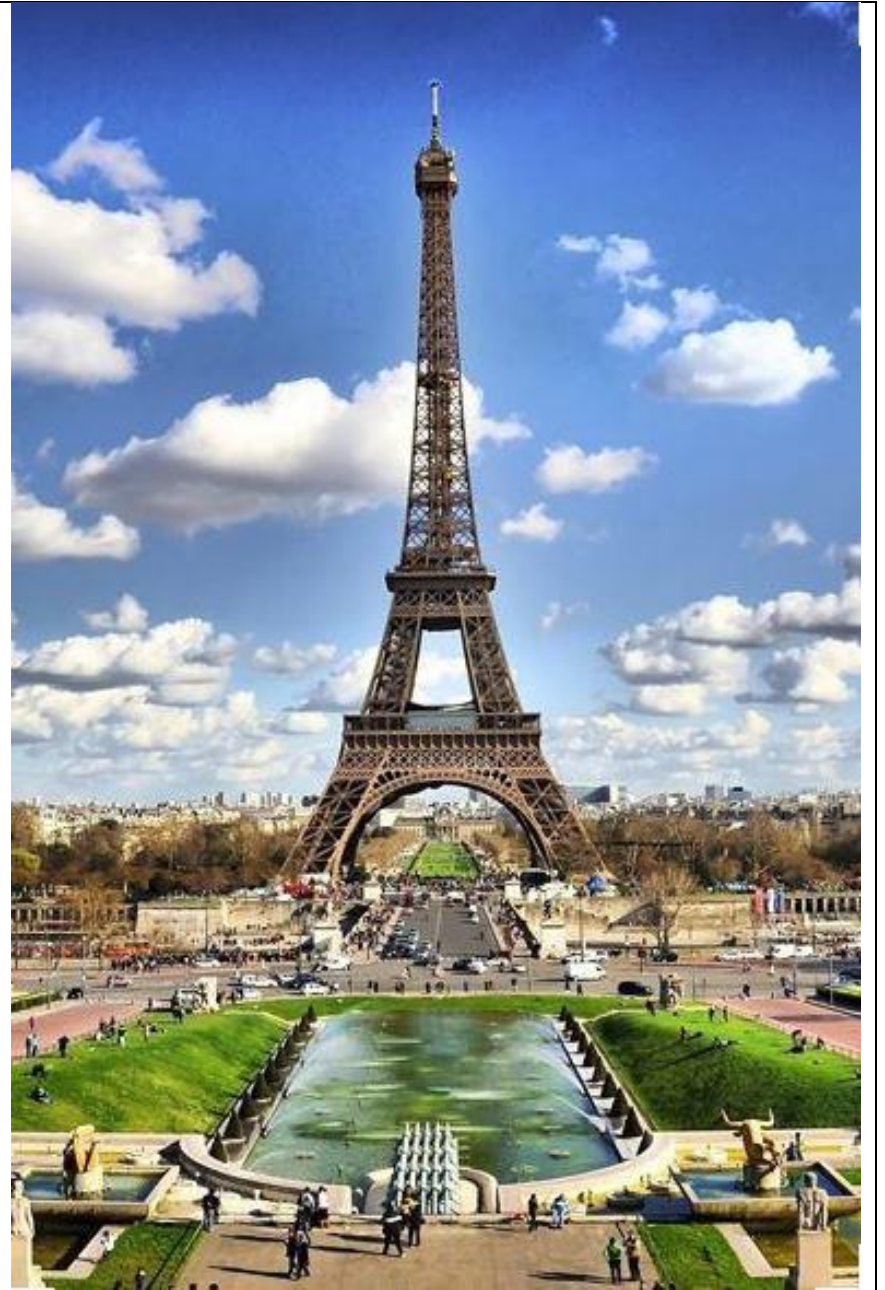
July 16 - 23, 2016

“The authentic France.” Isn’t that what we hope to find when we go to this alluring, beautiful, delicious country? Don’t we want to feel for a moment in time that we too can capture that amazing sense of “joie de vivre” - a sense of joy in just being?

Isn’t that the ultimate vacation experience?

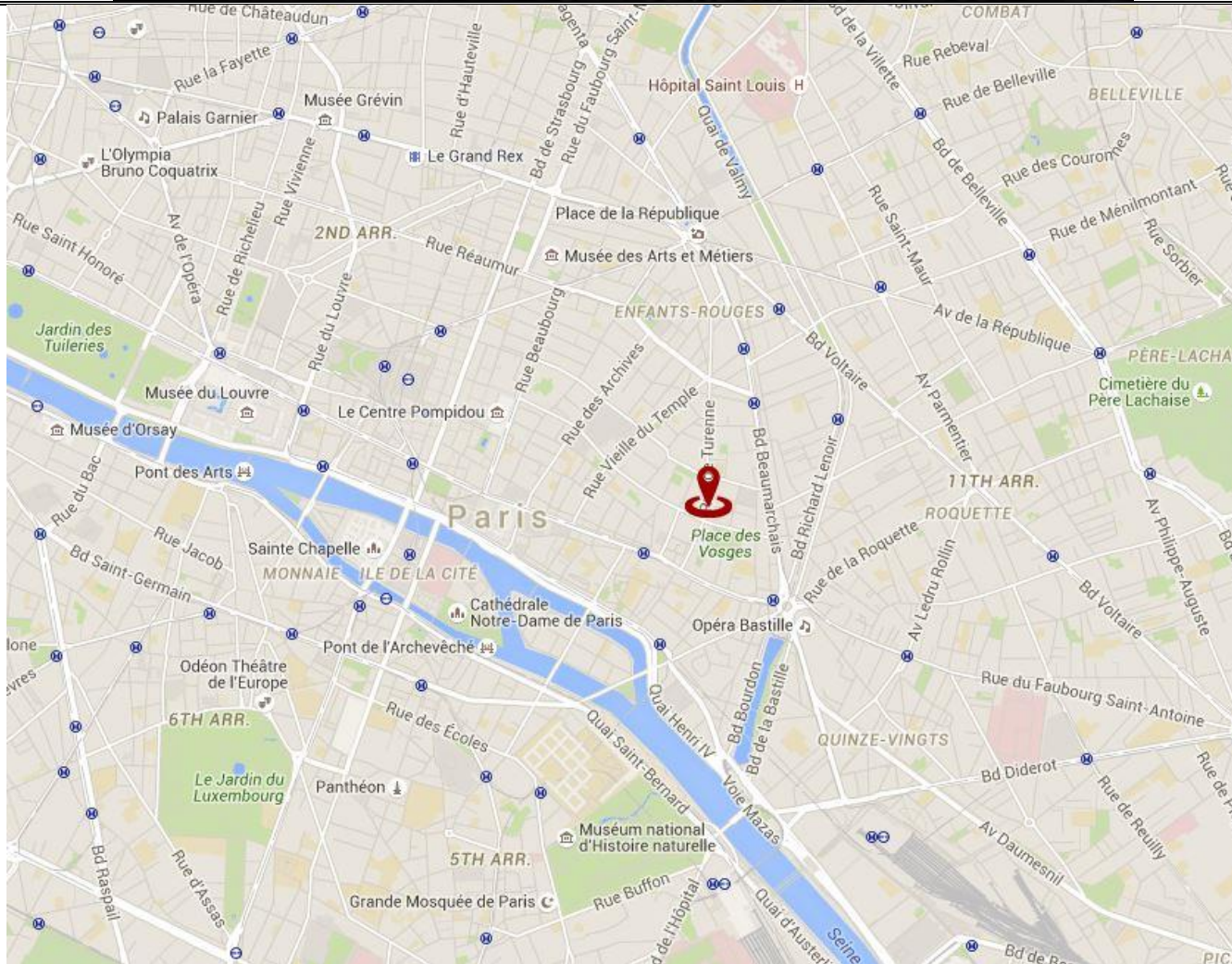
PARIS:

Upon arrival at Charles de Gaulle airport on the morning of Saturday, July 16th you are greeted and enjoy a leisurely transfer to the Hostellerie du Marais in the historic and charming Marais neighborhood of Paris, in the 3^d arrondissement.





Hostellerie du Marais





Hostellerie du Marais



30, rue de
Turenne,
Paris

Saturday: the day is yours! Explore Paris, wander through the Marais, a wonderful walking neighborhood of genteel blocks lined with art galleries, chic shops, small museums in lovely old mansions. Stroll to the Tuileries (Jardin des Tuileries), the lovely garden located between the Louvre Museum and the Place de la Concorde.



Saturday evening Nanou will guide us first to a Parisian wine bar to kick off our first evening then to a wonderful brasserie where we shall toast our good fortune and enjoy a delicious dinner.

Sunday: We awaken to a delicious breakfast in the arches of the Hostellerie's 17th century cellar. Holly will arrange for guided tours (optional) allowing our group to choose the sights they most wish to see. Some of the sights of Paris:

~ ~ Musée du Louvre, former medieval fortress and palace of Kings bears witness to more than 800 years of history. Browse the magnificent collections and then admire I.M. Pei's glass pyramid.

~ ~ Sainte-Chapelle, the sublime Gothic chapel built in 1242 is renowned for its breathtaking stained-glass windows.

~~ Musée d'Orsay. A former railway station, the Musée d'Orsay houses an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century art, including key works by the masters of French Impressionism.

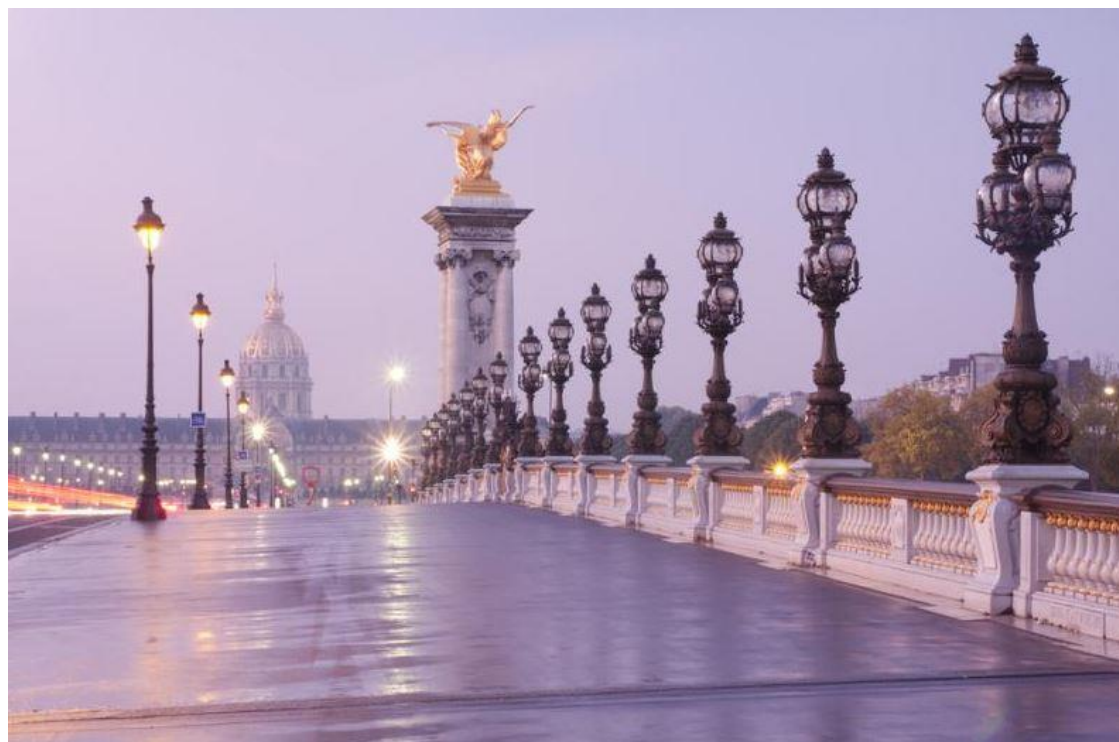
~~ Place Vendôme. Home of the Ritz hotel (just reopened after a 4 year renovation) and top-of-the-range jewelers, including Cartier and Bvlgari, this square is the embodiment of Parisian luxury. At the center is a column celebrating Napoleon's Battle of Austerlitz in 1806.

~~ The Golden Triangle...stop for an aperitif or a bite to eat at one of three elegant cafes known as The Golden Triangle: Brasserie Lipp, Les Deux Magots, and Café de la Flore (all of which are located on the Boulevard St-Germain in the 6th arr.) Admire the beautiful Art Deco interiors and if you're lucky enough to get a table on the terrace, indulge in a bit of people-watching.

~~ Sacré-Coeur. Standing in front of this kitsch 19th-century basilica gives you a magnificent view over Paris, day or night. After visiting Sacré-Coeur, explore the

winding, narrow streets of Montmartre. As you head back down the hill, finish your tour with a drink in one of the bars along Rue des Abbesses.

~ ~ The Quays of the Seine. Walking along the quays, you'll encounter the most splendid panoramic views that Paris has to offer. The city has 37 bridges, many of them landmarks in their own right. Admire the Pont Neuf, the oldest and most evocative of Paris's fourteen bridges.



Sunday evening you are free to dine where you please. Nanou and Holly are happy to make suggestions!

In the later evening we will board a Bateaux-Mouche for a tour on the Seine featuring some of the city's oldest and most majestic historic monuments, around Île de la Cité and Île Saint-Louis. We will cruise by the Eiffel Tower for the spectacular light show in which the Tower appears to sparkle every hour on the hour.



Monday morning:

We will check out of our hotel and be on our way to the city of **Chartres**, to visit the Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Chartres, which is considered one of the finest and best preserved Gothic cathedrals in France and in Europe. Its historical and cultural importance has been recognized by its inclusion on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.

In World War II, the city suffered heavy damage by bombing and during the battle of Chartres in August 1944, but its cathedral was spared by an American Army officer who challenged the order to destroy it. On 16 August 1944, Colonel Welborn Griffith, Jr. questioned the necessity of destroying the cathedral and volunteered to go behind enemy lines to find out whether the Germans were using it as an observation post. Griffith proceeded to the cathedral and, after searching it all the way up its bell tower, confirmed to Headquarters that it was empty of Germans. The order to destroy the cathedral was withdrawn. Colonel Griffith was killed in action later on that day. For his heroic action Colonel Griffith received, posthumously, several decorations awarded by the President of the United States and also from the French government.



After touring the Cathedral we will enjoy walking the centre of Chartres and having lunch. Restaurant choices include La Cour du Monarque, Creperie La Picoterie, Le Saint-Hilaire and O Tire Bouchon. Early in the afternoon we will drive to Blois, a hillside city on the Loire River.

The Château de Blois, a Renaissance château once occupied by King Louis XII, is located in the centre of the city, and an 18th-century stone bridge spans the Loire.



Blois is also known for chocolate! Chocolate maker Auguste Poulain opened his shop in 1847 and his firm is still a preeminent chocolate maker in France.

Monday afternoon we will drive the short distance to **Châteaux Choiseul** and check in to our rooms...and perhaps take a dip in le piscine (the swimming pool)!





We will enjoy Château Choiseul for four nights...





*Some of the sights we will visit in the Loire Valley:
The magnificent Châteaux*

Loire Valley Chateau Map

Use  to navigate.



Château Chenonceau









Château Chambord





Château d'Amboise





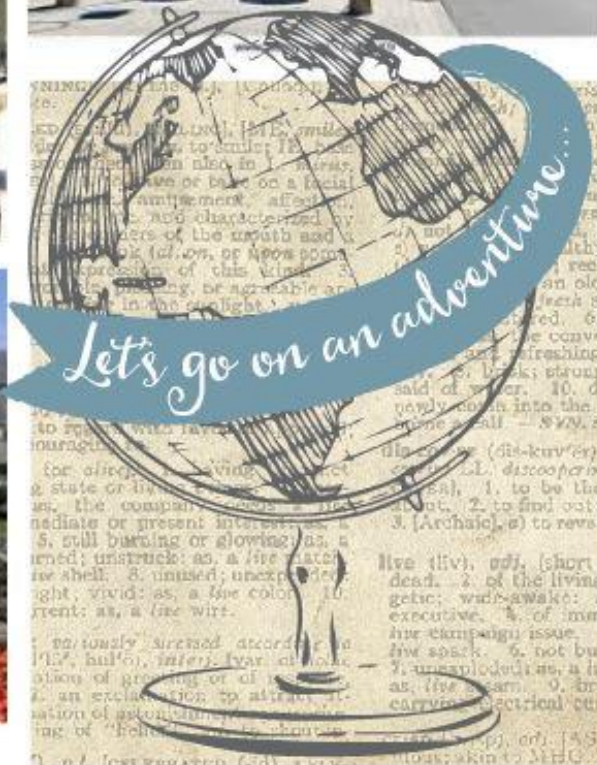


The Villages of the Loire: a cultural landscape of great beauty

Loire Valley Villages



www.alamy.com - ADESCO









PAYS NANTAIS

ANJOU

SAUMUR

TOURAINE

CENTRE-LOIRE



Mention obligatoire : "Photo Marc Jauneaud"

Unique features in the Loire of the Tour de Nanou:

Les Champignons

Cave des Roches le Champignon, a subterranean villa of the finest mushrooms in the world



And we shall visit Rodolphe Le Meunier, who since 2007 can adorn his jacket with the red white blue collar, reserved only for the title of Best Cheesemonger of France.





The Perfect Afternoon Break!

*On Friday morning, we depart the Loire Valley for the **Palace of Versailles**. The original château had been built in 1623 by Louis XIII to serve largely as a hunting lodge. This small family château about 20 kilometers from Paris was enlarged in the early 1660s when the young Louis XIV, known as the **Sun King**, decided to make this his main residence.*

By 1682, Versailles became the official residence of the Court of France and the new seat of government. It was enlarged yet again to accommodate a court of 20,000--servants in the palace and military staff.







*After a lovely lunch in Versailles, we will return to **Paris!** Friday evening is free; Nanou and Holly will provide restaurant recommendations.*

Saturday is a day for embracing this magnificent city. We will have suggestions for sites you may not yet know, such as:

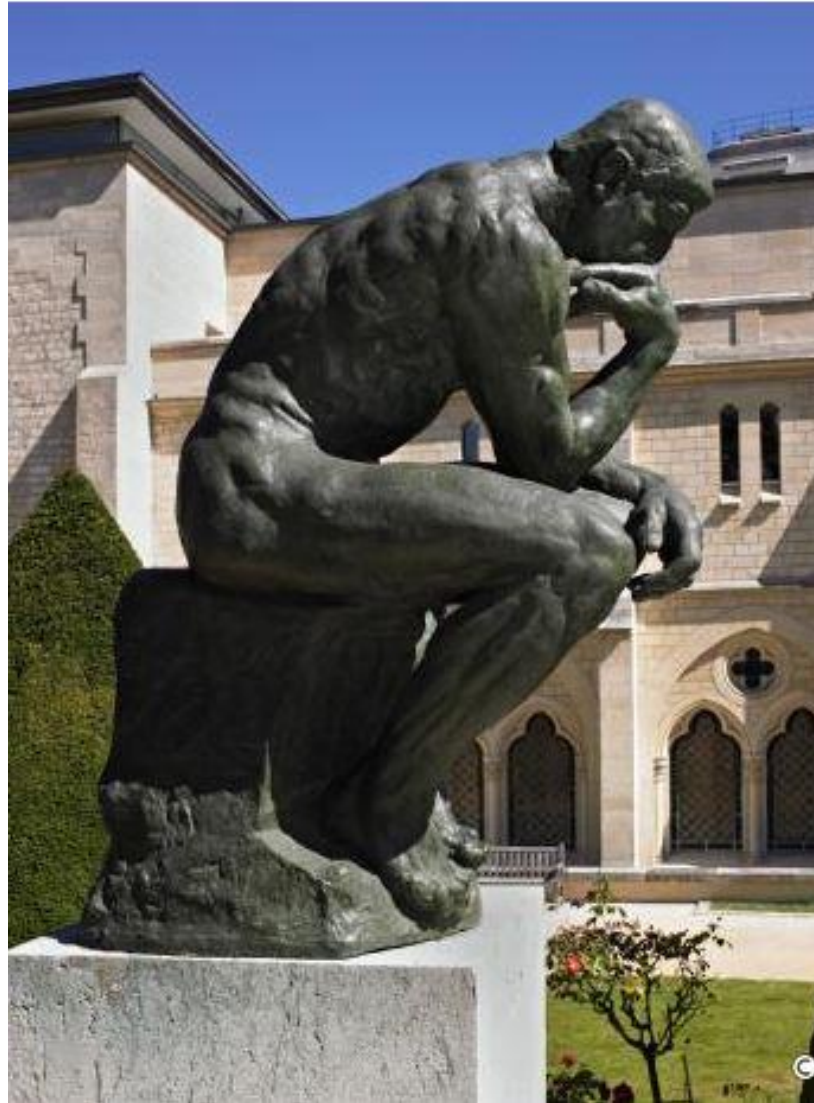
Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine Musee



The museum is unique in having life-size specimens of architecture in the form of casts made during restoration campaigns, primarily of France's Gothic and Romanesque heritage.

Departing from the museum, you step out onto the terrace of the Trocadéro, with a fantastic view of the Eiffel Tower across the Seine.

Musée Rodin, in the 7th, is a jewel. A mansion built in 1919, it houses the greatest of Rodin's works both in the mansion and in the extensive gardens.



Sunday Evening: A Celebratory Dinner!



*We will gather to toast a memorable and most wonderful trip and
plan for the next journey!!*

Bon Voyage, Mes Amis!

The cost of the 10 day Paris & Loire Valley trip is \$3,939 per person, inclusive of hotels, daily breakfast, transportation (including airport transfers), most meals (paired with regional wines), wine tastings and site visits, admission to three Châteaux, taxes, fees, and several charming surprises!

For information please contact Holly Barrett at holly@starmandstravel.com