

# Eau de Vie

a wine, spirits, and travel newsletter

Vol. 29 May 2021

## DÉCONFINEMENT: FRANCE PREPARES TO OPEN

Physics describes deconfinement as a “phase of matter in which certain particles are allowed to exist as free excitations, rather than only within bound states”. Ummm yeah. Here I am! Mr. Free Excitation - ready to live within the laws of physics, or I mean the laws of national borders.

Starting June 9th France will allow vaccinated tourists to enter and move freely in their country. \*If pandemic conditions continue to improve.

The French government has a very serious article on their official website outlining [Les quatre étapes du déconfinement](#). This translates in English as “the four stages of deconfinement.”

The stages are:

1. **May 3rd** (as in Monday) ~ end of the restriction of movement. Previously, people were prevented from traveling more than 10km from their homes.
2. **May 19th** ~ curfew is enforced at 9pm (currently 7pm) and all businesses, outside cafes, museums and theaters can open.
3. **June 9th** ~ curfew is enforced at 11pm, cafes and restaurants can serve patrons inside, sporting events and sport venues can open,

office workers can return to work and vaccinated foreign tourists may visit France with a *pass sanitaire*.

4. **June 30th** ~ the end of curfew and end of restrictions except for events with more than 1000 people, in which case participants will need to present a *pass sanitaire*.

The *pass sanitaire* is the French government’s digital health certificate for vaccinated citizens. They will soon outline a process for tourists. Both the President of France, Emmanuel Macron, and the President of the EU, Ursula von de Leyen, said they expect to welcome vaccinated Americans this summer.

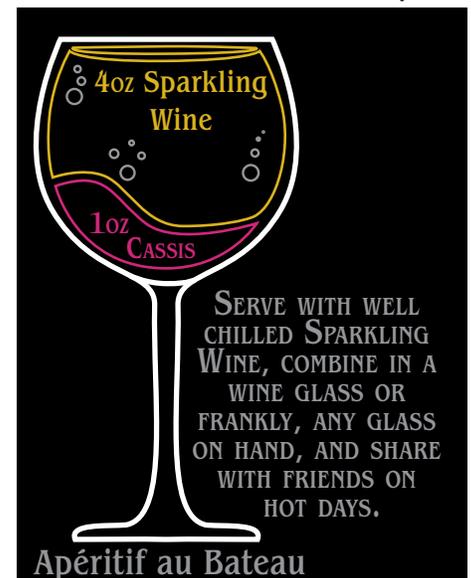
As you might know, Sara and I have four weeks of canal boating this summer hinging on being allowed to travel. I’m very hopeful we will be allowed to travel. This also offers us and our travelers an unprecedented opportunity to visit France during a period of extremely low tourism. Pressed to guess, I imagine the number of tourists visiting France this year will be the lowest in possibly 50 years maybe even a century. Truly an historic opportunity.

Deconfinement indeed!

## KIR ROYALE

In the summer of 2016 we were leading canal boat cruises on the very lovely Canal du Nivernais. This river canal combo courses through French farmland and reaches up into the ancient Moravian oak forest. Hidden in a cave in the limestone bluff, almost at the top of the hillside cliff, is the [Bailly Lapierre](#) winery. The winery occupies an old Roman quarry. Stones from here were used to build Notre Dame de Paris but now the space is used to make *Crémant de Bourgogne* (Burgundian sparkling wine). We’d dutifully park the boat at the base of the hill and trudge up to buy a case of wine and a bottle or two of the locally produced Cassis.

Cassis is black currant liqueur and very, very sweet but when mixed with a dry sparkling wine it makes for a very nice cocktail. Every afternoon when the day was hottest and the crew was tired, Sara and I would prepare for everyone an *Apéritif au Bateau*, our version of a Kir Royale.



# RESERVATIONS REQUIRED



The National Park Service has introduced a ticketed entry system for some of America's most iconic landscapes.

This system has two priorities: to keep crowds at manageable levels during the continued pandemic and also as an experiment to see if limiting visitors helps preserve park infrastructure and wild space.

The parks participating in the 2021 ticketed entry system are Acadia in Maine, Glacier in Montana, Rocky Mountain in Colorado, and Yosemite in California. If this seems surprising to you, it shouldn't. The NPS has been issuing lotteries and tickets for certain activities in particular parks for many years.

America's National Parks are world renown. They are popular here and abroad. Many Europeans travel to the US to exclusively visit our park system. The parks should be protected from over use and I welcome the opportunity to plan a trip where the crush of visitors doesn't impede on the sense of serenity I hope to experience in these wild places.

The reservation system is being implemented differently in each park and the reduction in capacity is being held to 75-85 percent of 2019 levels. A reservation costs \$2 in addition to the park entry fee. [More information can be found here.](#)

# REAL ID EXTENDED

Back in February 2019, in the second edition of this newsletter, [I wrote about the requirements for getting a Real ID](#). At that time, the Department of Homeland Security said that by 9.30.2020 everyone had to have a Real ID or a passport to verify identity when clearing security at an airport.

Due to the pandemic the requirement was relaxed until October 2021. Now the Department of Homeland Security moved the date back to May 2023.

The pace of implementation of the Real ID has been glacial. The law authorizing it was passed in 2005, and signed by then President George Bush Jr. It was part of a whole host of measures started to help make America safer. Never the less, unless delayed again, when traveling after May 3rd 2023, you'll need a Real ID or a passport to travel domestically in the USA.

# *French Lessons Restart*

After pausing our meetings in November our tiny French club is meeting again in person for weekly brain exercises. If you are interested in learning or improving your French and you've been vaccinated please consider joining us. Sara, Doris, Lynnea and I gather to study French in an informal way each week on Thursdays at 3pm. After mental exhaustion sets in we relax with tea, snacks and/or an afternoon tippie. Email me for details: [david@savvynomad.com](mailto:david@savvynomad.com).

# *Le Javoir Bassin Public*

Scattered throughout rural France are old public laundries. These simple structures provided clean running washing water. In the picture below our crew: Malcolm, Cindy, Theresa, Lynnea, Janine and Sara cool their feet, and refresh their spirits with an *Apéritif au Bateau*.

