

# Eau de Vie

a wine, spirits, and travel newsletter

Vol.41 May 2022

## DÎNER EN BLANC 2.0 IN 2022

I feel like last summer was the Broadway equivalent of a soft opening. Everyone wanted to have a summer full of summertime events but... well...people were trying out summer...you know, to see if it worked but it wasn't really... "normal."

The summer of 2021 was simply odd. Sara and I and fifteen other intrepid travelers did go to France and we had a fantastic time and no one got sick. Likewise, we did host *Dîner en Blanc* last August but our attendance was subdued by fog, rain and the virus.

Last year's *Dîner en Blanc Duluth* was fun. But the rain, the 50 degree weather and poor Emily and Lora sitting outside, by themselves in the damp, made for a memorable evening but let's try this again.

Let's reboot. We are going to host this again, in August, and if you are reading, this consider yourself officially invited!

If you don't know what I'm talking about, let me explain.

Over thirty years ago in Paris, some friends decided to meet for a picnic in Paris's *Bois de Boulogne* park. To find each other it was agreed they'd wear white. Fast



forward to the time before the pandemic and *Dîner en Blanc* has become something of a commercial enterprise, with tickets and venues and thousands of people.

Here is a link to a short video about one of those events from 2009. [Click here.](#)

When I originally saw this trailer, with people dressed in white and carrying tables, chairs and picnic supplies into a park in Paris I was hooked. This is exactly the sort of Epicureanism that I want to foster in the world.

This is a picnic for friends new and old and we will use the original concept as our guide. Dress in your fanciest all white, (I'm wearing my white tux again! I love that thing!) and bring your own everything. Literally everything. Food, chairs, drink. You can make this as fancy or as simple as you like ~ table and chairs or a blanket.

This is essentially just a picnic at our house, out in the garden, in the house and in the driveway if needed. An evening of socializing, eating and enjoying each others company with grace, elegance, food, wine and companionship at the core of our common purpose.

*Save the date for  
Dîner en Blanc,  
August 13, 2022.*

This quirky French picnic. *Dîner en Blanc ~ Duluth* will be at our house, 2620 E. Superior Street, in the yard.

Here's what you need to know:

👉 It is BYOE. (*Bring Your Own Everything.*) Literally everything. Food, chairs, drink. You can make this as fancy or as simple as you like ~ table and chairs or a blanket.

👑 **Dress code:** all white. Really. This is a fancy, all white dress up picnic. Although my tux has some black on it. I did say it's quirky.

📧 **RSVP:** (*respondez s'il vous plait*) to [david@savvynomad.com](mailto:david@savvynomad.com).

🕒 **August 13th, 2022.** Come set up between 6-7pm, share in the *Votre Sante, (to your health)* toast at 7pm. Eat and drink at your leisure.

Will you join us for *Dîner en Blanc*?

# STARTING IN STRASBOURG

Last week we wired the money to France. The boat is ours! The only thing left to do is... sign for it, register it with the prefecture, refinish the exterior wood, paint the cabin tops with new anti-skid, buy pillows, sheets, duvets and towels, for all three cabins, buy household supplies such as toilet brushes, trash cans, soap, a broom, a mop, service the engine, clean the bilge, polish the exterior handrail, check the operation of the windlass and anchor, measure the anchor chain, test the batteries, measure for a bimini top and order one....and the list goes on and on.



I couldn't be more excited to get to work because to me a boat is a space ship. Literally - it takes you into new spaces. The home of our space ship, at least initially, will be Strasbourg. *\*Pictured above.*

If you don't know what I'm talking about please [click this link](#) to read the second page of the March Edition of the Eau de Vie.

Next week Sara and I are flying to France to get cracking on the to do list. Plus, we are going to a wedding in Burgundy, taking

a boating certification test in London, spending a week on the river Charente in Cognac, spending a few days at Monet's garden in Giverny, a couple days in Paris and then back to Strasbourg for more boat projects. While this might seem like a lot of zinging around, and believe me it is, about half of our time we will be working on the boat.

All of this in preparation for next year. Because next year, we want to take you with us! Our plan for 2023 is to offer two trips in the Spring (because April is nothing special in Minnesota) and two trips in late summer (September).

While we are still working out the details, Strasbourg sits at a crucial cross roads in France. The routes open to us literally in every direction and because we will be the Captains of our own vessel,

masters of our own destiny, we can choose where to go and for how long.

Strasbourg is also at the top of a route in Alsace called the [Route du Vin](#). Sara, Tony and I traveled this route briefly in 2016 and I am eager to explore it again. So we are also considering adding a driving tour of the [Route du Vin](#). From Strasbourg to Colmar, three or four days in the fall during the grape harvest, visiting these iconic Alsatian villages.

Each week we will only take four travelers with us. Six people total on the boat. We will have spots for 8 travelers (2 weeks @ 4 people a week) in the Spring and 8 travelers in late Summer.

Readers of this newsletter are getting advance, advance notice for these trips next year. If you are interested in learning more send an email to [david@savvynomad.com](mailto:david@savvynomad.com) and I'll add you to our notification list. Once we return from France in July Sara and I will hammer out the details and let those interested know first.

## LET'S HOOK UP! SOCIALLY

Last year I ran a little experiment. I made daily vlogs of our trips in France and posted them to our Savvy Nomad Facebook feed. This proved a bit problematic because Facebook wanted us to pay in order to forward these to people that liked and followed our Savvy Nomad page. So...to get around this I posted the videos to my personal page.

Now I'm not guaranteeing that I'm going to make a daily vlog but...I might post a bit of this and that and I'll do this to my personal page so if you want to see what we are doing I have some suggestions for you:



[Friend me](#) on and Like [Savvy Nomad](#) on Facebook.



[Follow me](#) on Instagram.



[Subscribe to](#) SavvyNomadTV on YouTube.