

# Eau de Vie

a wine, spirits, and travel newsletter

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## DO YOU PREFER FRANCE IN THE SPRING OR THE FALL?

Sara and I have put together our 2023 tour schedule and I invite you to visit our web page and take a look at the [12 page planner here](#).

Here's what we've planned. We will be doing four weeks of canal boating on the *Canal de la Marne au Rhin*. Two weeks each in spring and fall. Along with the fall trips we will be offering two driving trips on Alsace's famous *Route des Vins*.

The voyage on the canal will be bookended by the cities of Strasbourg and Nancy. Traveling from Strasbourg we will lift up out of the province of Alsace, over the top of the Vosages mountains, into province of Lorraine (yes, the very same place with the famous quiche).

The canal we will be traveling was completed in 1855 and we will be taking in 154km of its length, working 55 locks, 2 tunnels and 1 boat lift! (The Arzviller boat lift is a marvel of engineering, sliding boats 128 meters up and down the hillside. Built in 1968, it bypasses 17 old staircase locks.)

The provincial capital cities of Strasbourg and Nancy are destinations worthy of any trip to France. Strasbourg oozes charm with its pedestrian centric inner

city and its 1000 year old sandstone cathedral. Nancy is home to the impressive 18th century Place Stanislas and the cultural home of the Art Nouveau movement.

These two cities anchor our week while the canal will bring into focus the pastoral charms of the French countryside. We will visit places and villages that are often overlooked by those who travel at a more hectic pace.

Our 2023 Canal boating offers are:  
**April 13-20: Full**  
**April 22-29: 4 spots available**  
**September 6-13: 2 spots available**  
**September 15-21: 2 spots available**

The price for a week of cruising with us is \$4200 which includes round trip airfare and is all inclusive (all meals on board & in restaurants plus all beverages). If you want to arrange your own airfare the price drops to \$2900.

Last year we did a driving tour of the upper Loire river valley and it was great fun. Regardless of our love of canal boat cruising it was fun to zing along at highway speeds and visit tourist centric destinations. In Alsace they have a road called the Route des Vins. (How can I resist?)

For 2023 we have concocted another driving tour. This time we will be visiting the countryside and villages along the Route des Vins. 4 days, 3 nights, all inclusive. Traveling via an 8 passenger minibus (there will only be 6 of us) we'll explore the countryside and villages of the Alsatian wine growing region. These places are magical. It is hard to believe people live in these fairy tale villages that surely inspired many a Disney illustration. We will start in Colmar in an area called Petite Venise (little Venice) for its many charming canals. Then we will travel along the route visiting Haut Koenigsberg Castle before stopping for the night in a village. On the final day on the route we will return to Strasbourg but not to the city, to the park like rural setting at Chateau de L'ile & Spa for a relaxing end to our trip with one more gastronomic adventure at their restaurant.

The driving tour dates are only in September (harvest time) from the 3-6 or 22-25. The cost is \$1700 and is also all inclusive.

So which do you prefer? Spring or fall in France next year? [Download the planner here](#) and if you have any questions please ask:

[david@savvynomad.com](mailto:david@savvynomad.com)

# OFFICE DE TOURISME

France is the number one tourist destination in the world, hosting almost 90 million visitors in 2018.

Through out the country there are a countless number of *Office de Tourisme* and they are invaluable to the traveler. Some are for a specific city, others for a region or province, some are for roads, or parks, or natural areas. They often have physical offices you can visit and sometimes, most crucially, these offices will have, or be close to, a public restroom!

These offices produce maps, guides, brochures and magazines of their regions and I like to read and even download these before traveling.

Here are some links to *Office de Tourisme* in France:

[Paris](#) / [Strasbourg](#) / [Nancy](#) / [Colmar](#)



## FRANCE Q&A HAPPY HOUR

Stop by between 5pm-7pm on  
Wednesday August 17th  
for a glass of wine!

Does any of this travel to France confuse you? Are you confounded by this whole canal thing? Do you have burning questions about France that are not yet answered? Are you curious about our new boat? Are you just thirsty and in need of some companionship?

If you said yes to any of these questions then you should stop by our house between 5pm-7pm for a glass of wine, some happy hour snacks and conversation.

Please let me know if we will be seeing you!

## DÎNER EN BLANC REMINDER

On August 13th, rain or shine or fog, we will host *Dîner en Blanc*. **RSVP required!**

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.

p.s. We have some spare tables and chairs. Text Sara at 218-409-2541 if you need this option.

👑 **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:** (*répondez 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*?



\*The photo above is of the stunning Place Stanislas in Nancy.