# Eau de Vie

a wine, spirits, and travel newsletter

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## Traveling to Europe? You'll need an ETIAS

If you are traveling to Europe you'll need an ETIAS. The European Travel Information and Authorization System is going to be a new requirement for anyone traveling to Europe.

This means that you will have to go to a website and fill out an application. You will be asked to provide the following information:

Personal information including your name, date, place of birth, sex, nationalities, home address, email address and phone number.

Your parents' first names.

Travel document details.

Your level of education and current occupation.

The country of your first intended stay and the address of your destination.

Details about any past criminal convictions, past travels to war or conflict zones, and whether you have recently been the subject of a return decision.

Along with your application you will be asked to pay a €7 fee if your age is between 18-70.

The application process should take about 10 minutes. You will get an email that states your approval. You do not need to carry a special card, are not issued a number, stamp or any other sort of official document. Your approval or denial is linked to your passport and the link / application approval is good for 3 years unless your passport expires beforehand.

The European Union approved this process in November of 2016 and slated the system to go live in November 2023. However, the system, which also implements biometric border guards and gates, is...technologically challenged. The start was pushed back six months to spring 2024.

But the Paris Olympics are happening in the summer of 2024 and...well...ummm...the new start date for the ETIAS system is now slated to begin around the middle of 2025.

If you are still wondering about the requirements for domestic travel - the Department of Homeland Security says the REAL ID system will be implemented on May 7th 2025 making it about 20 years behind schedule.

## 2023 Costco Box Wine Class

As many of you know, for the last two years, I've been tasting and reviewing the Costco Wine Advent box wines and posting short wine classes on YouTube. I will be doing this again and you can watch or follow along with me starting December 1st. Here is the intro video:

Along with this year's series, I've developed a new tasting card and I've produced a new travel sized wine tasting journal. You can watch a video about the new tasting card and journal here:

If you feel inclined to join me in this virtual pursuit, please do. While the wines in the box are, frankly average, I can guarantee my reviews are unbiased and Sara's reviews will make you smile.

# Review of Relax Companion's 2023 Summer

Recently Sara and I spent six weeks in France on our boat the Relax Companion. We plied up and down the *Canal de la Marne au Rhin* three times this summer. This is a route that we have now done six times. On each trip we learn something new *(there is a mobile bakery van in Legarde)*, try something new *(Alsatian Riesling with mushroom and ham pie)*, travel with someone new *(Corey, Leah, Amy and Dave)* and meet someone new *(Jean Cline the baker at Gondrexange)*. Each trip has been its own unique adventure. The travelers, the weather and the canal that all conspire to make these weeks wonderful.

Sara posted 112 photos and a few video clips from this summer over on our Savvy Nomad Facebook page - follow the link to view this album.

If you'd like to see the album for our Spring 2023 trips follow this link.

This summer I also made a bunch of YouTube shorts as we tootled up and down the canal. You can see those here.

If you'd like to travel with us on the Relax Companion in 2024 please check out our planning guide linked here.

Or if you know of someone who might be interested in joining us on the canal in France please forward this newsletter to them.

Here are the dates and current availability:

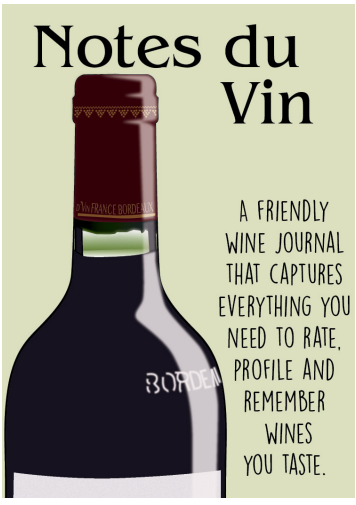
- ⏳ May 4 to 10, ~Full
- 👉 May 14 to 20, ~4 spots available
- ⏳ September 6 to 13 ~Full
- 👉 September 16 to 23 ~4 spots available

# Notes du Vin & publishing on Amazon

As I mentioned on the front page, I've written and produced a small travel sized (5x7) wine notebook/ journal. The production of this journal was only made possible because it is a *Print on Demand* product. This mean when someone orders one, Amazon prints one.

This is an interesting turn of events in publishing because usually publishers take a huge gamble by producing thousands of copies and then hoping that enough people will buy the book to make their money back. This print on demand technology turns that paradigm on its head. Now anyone can write a book, upload it to Amazon and hope to sell it. Of course, that's the tricky part. I've always said, "Writing a book is the easy part. Selling it is the hard part."

Here is the cover of my new journal and if you'd like your own copy please see the video linked on the front page or click the cover picture to go to the Amazon listing.




Cheers!