Eau de Vie

a wine, spirits, and travel newsletter

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Hand carried Burgundy Cru

As she snapped the bright yellow tag to my luggage I noticed it had the word HEAVY printed on it. The French ticket agent said to me, *"I see blind. But you change planes in Cic-a-go. You may....uh...have some issues...but I...I see nothing."* She pushed the button on the conveyor and my overweight bag lurched toward its destination.

My bag was in excess of 50 lbs. The scale at the airport said it was 28 kilos which is almost 62 pounds. It was that heavy because I had four bottles of wine inside. I had had five bottles but at the airport hotel the night before I gave one to Sara to carry.

The French ticket agent with her blind spot for overweight luggage wasn't my only concern - I knew I needed to declare the excess wine when I cleared customs in the US. For as long as I can remember the rule is 1 bottle of wine or hard liquor duty free, no declaration required. I was prepared to declare the 3 excess bottles and have my luggage inspected and pay the extra tax, known as duty.

When my heavy bag arrived at the carousel in Chicago I was relieved to see it was not leaking and as I approached the customs agent I said to him, "I have three extra bottles of wine in my bag." He looked at me and said, *"Yeah ok, you're good."* That was it. I took my heavy bag to the transit desk, they scanned it and it arrived in Duluth without anything broken; no issues, and no extra fees.

If you are wondering why I'm writing this story it's because these wines form the core of two upcoming wine classes. If you'd like to taste these wines please consider joining us.

Hand carried from France:
Burgundian wines.
Class starts at 6:30pm

Class #1: October 26, 2024
Limit 16 (3 spots available)

Class #2: November 16, 2024
Limit 16 (6 spots available)

Cost: $20 per person.

Light palate cleanser snacks provided. If you want to attend: R.S.V.P
respondez-si-vous-plait to david@savvynomad.com.

À Votre Santé!

Community Education classes

Sara and I are teaching two classes with Duluth Community Ed. Both classes are about traveling to and planning trips in France.

Class #1 ***Planning a Trip to France***
Learn the tips & tricks of successful travel to France: how to plan, when to go, where to go, what to expect, what to pack, where to stay, how to get around, what to eat, what to see, how much it will cost, etiquette and expectations, and most of all, how to enjoy your trip to the fullest.

October 24th, 6-8pm at Lincoln Park Middle School.

Class #2 ***Planning a Barging Trip to France***
Learn the tips & tricks of successful boat travel in France: how to plan, choosing self-drive or guided barging, when to go, where to go, what to expect, what to pack, how much will it cost, etiquette and expectations, and most of all, how to enjoy your trip to the fullest.

November 14th, 6-8pm at Lincoln Park Middle School.

Click the links above to register for these classes. See you at school.

A Brief Photo Tour of our trips in 2024

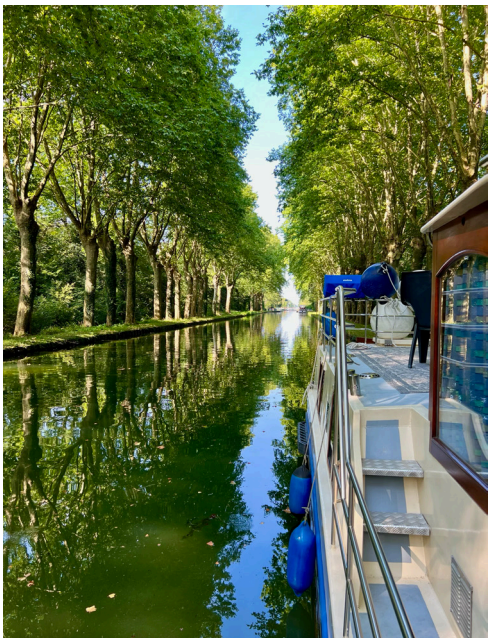
As you read this, Rick and Carla are navigating the Relax Companion from the German border to our home berth in Strasbourg. Here is a collection of photos from our adventures in Alsace this year.

Next year we will be moving the boat from Alsace to Burgundy and taking trips on the *Canal du Rhone au Rhin* and the *Canal Bourgogne*, traveling from Dijon to Besançon or vice versa.

We are now taking reservations for the following 4 weeks in 2025:

With David and Sara,
September 3-10 (4 spots available)
September 13-20 (2 spots available)

With Rick and Carla,
September 24-October 1 (Full)
October 4-11 (4 spots available)

We are only taking 16 people with us next year and have only 10 spots left. If you want to go boating in rural France with us contact us now. We are excited to share this new region of France with you and hope you decide to join us.

[Click here to download the 2025 Burgundy travel packet.]