



THE FOOD & WINE OF THE LANGUEDOC

CULINARY ADVENTURES WITH CHEF VICTOR BEGUIN

SEPTEMBER 23RD - OCTOBER 1ST 2020

The village of Camon is set in the foothills of the Pyrenees, on a bend of the river Hers, in the Ariège region of southern France. Together with the neighboring departments of Aude and Pyrenees-Orientales, it forms an area commonly known as Cathar Country.

It is a region with a fierce sense of independence and a long memory. It has been 800 years since the Albigensian Crusade was launched against the heretic Cathars, but it has never been forgotten. In the 12th century, this area of France was not really under the control of the King in Paris at all and the people spoke a different language. At that time the word for “yes” in northern France was “oil.” Down here in the south, it was “oc” – hence this area is also known as the Languedoc (le langue d’oc means, literally, the language of yes). Just recently, in 2016, the French government reorganized the official regions of France and, in a tip of the hat to its historic past, renamed the combined regions of Languedoc-Rousillon and Midi-Pyrenees, as Occitanie – the place where they speak Occitan.

It is a region of incredible natural beauty. The majestic Pyrenees march down to the fertile valley of the Canal du Midi and the high mountain pastures, with their unbelievable variety of dairy products, give way to endless vineyards, producing such wonderful wines as Corbières and Minervois. This tour has been designed to explore, not only the history of the area, but also to immerse you in the wonderful food and wine of the region - an amazing variety of locally-produced artisanal cheeses, organic wines, fresh breads and pastries, and locally-sourced meats and vegetables. Market day is truly a feast for the senses!

With the Château de Camon as our base for a week, we will explore the gastronomy of the region under the expert tutelage of Chef Victor Beguin and be immersed in its history, from the ruins of Cathar castles to the medieval grandeur of Carcassonne, in the company of Discover Europe’s president, Michael Induni.



CHÂTEAU DE CAMON



CARCASSONNE

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED):	\$4950
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 880

Airfares are available from most U.S. departure cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

HOTELS:	7 nights’ accommodation in a French Château
COACHING:	All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
MEALS:	Breakfast daily, 3 lunches, 7 dinners
GUIDES:	Chef Victor Beguin as culinary guide and Discover Europe president, Michael Induni as tour guide throughout
BAGGAGE:	Porterage of one large suitcase per person
ENTRANCES:	Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.
Insurance information will be mailed on receipt of deposit.*





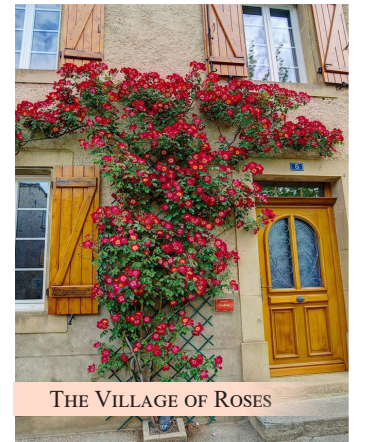
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD - Departure from your US gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH - Your arrival in Toulouse will be met by Discover Europe's representative for the short (one and a half hour) drive to the Château. The rest of the day is free to unpack, relax and begin exploring the neighborhood. This evening the group will gather on the terrace for drinks before a welcome dinner party. **(D) OVERNIGHT: CAMON**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH - A leisurely start this morning, to shake off the effects of the long flights. We'll take a stroll around the village, known as the Village of Roses, and visit the abbey church, before we set off on our excursion. Our first stop will be to the Domaine Gayda, a local vineyard owned and operated by the head vintner, Tim Ford. We'll have lunch in the restaurant here, with fabulous views out over the Pyrenees, and then Tim will give us a tour of the facility and end with a tasting of his delicious creations. Next, a short drive through the heavenly Ariège countryside brings us to the magical Romanesque Abbey of St. Hilaire - the birthplace of sparkling wine! We return to Camon to dine at the Château again this evening. **(B, L, D) OVERNIGHT: CAMON**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH - Today we head up into the Pyrenees. Our first stop will be the forest of Belesta, where a local expert will introduce us to the joys of mushrooming. Next, we'll visit the village of Montailou, famous as the last enclave of the persecuted Cathars. Here we'll take an easy hike around the ruins of the Chateau and then stop for lunch at the Col de Chioula, with some of the most magnificent views that a restaurant could wish for! We then descend to visit the spa town of Ax-les-Thermes, before returning to the hotel. This evening chef Victor will give a demonstration of various things we can do with fresh mushrooms! The results will be delicious and form the basis of our dinner this evening. **(B, L, D) OVERNIGHT: CAMON**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH - This morning, we visit the nearby archaeological site of Teilhet to see the Merovingian Necropolis of Tabariane, discovered in 1870 and excavated in 1998. Leaving this site, we go to the neighboring village of Vals to visit the fascinating Eglise Rupestre (Trogladyte Church) and have lunch in Café Vals. This afternoon we will pay a visit to a local sheep farm to see the production of the Brebis (hard sheep cheeses) for which the region is famous. On our return to Camon, there will be time to relax by the pool or enjoy a cocktail on the terrace before dinner at the Chateau. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: CAMON**



THE VILLAGE OF ROSES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH - After a leisurely breakfast on the terrace, overlooking the lovely gardens set against the distant Pyrenean peaks, a three mile journey will bring us to Mirepoix on market day. There will be time to explore one of France's most exquisite medieval squares, and enjoy a coffee at one of the many cafes. After lunch, we will head for Montsegur. The ruined castle, set high on a rocky crag, was the final refuge of the persecuted Cathars. In 1244 the Catholic Church carried out one of its worst ever atrocities; 225 Cathars, who refused to recant, were burnt on a communal pyre. There will be time to make the ascent to the castle (30 minutes), for those who enjoy a hike, and for those with nothing to prove, a wonderful respite to take in the views and reflect on the horrors of the past! On returning to the hotel there will be time to relax and enjoy a cocktail on the terrace, before Chef Victor gives us another demonstration of his skills - no doubt based upon what looked enticing at the market this morning! **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: CAMON**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH - Our first stop this morning will be the bio-dynamic vineyard of Chateau Maris. We have a tour of the cellars and taste the delightful product before we have lunch (included). This afternoon we visit Carcassonne. If you had to choose one medieval fortress town to visit, Carcassonne would be it. Restored to perfection, you only need imagine fellow travelers dressed in sackcloth, doublet and hose, and you're back in the medieval world! We will visit the beautiful St. Nazaire church with some of the loveliest stained glass in France. There will be time to tour the inner fortress, Château Comtal, and wander the narrow alleyways, before we return to Camon for dinner. **(B, L, D) OVERNIGHT: CAMON**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH - This morning we'll head to the mountain-top village of Rennes-le-Château. A visit to the parish church will either spark or rejuvenate your interest in Dan Brown's mysteries. The church is full of symbols and secret codes which may indicate that Abbé Saunière, the priest from 1885 to 1910, had discovered the lost treasure of Solomon, brought to the region by the Visigoths in



RENNES-LE-CHATEAU

the 5th century. We'll have time here for lunch before a beautiful drive takes us back home, stopping in Puivert on the way. Relatively intact for a Cathar castle, Puivert is in a wonderful position overlooking the surrounding countryside. Time permitting, we'll also visit the Museum of Quercorb (the local name for the surrounding area) in the village. This evening we get to watch as Chef Victor prepares our farewell feast. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: CAMON**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1ST - Reluctantly we will bid farewell to the abbey this morning and head back to Toulouse Airport for flights back to the US. **(B)**

Key to included meals: **B** - breakfast, **L** - lunch, **D** - dinner



YOUR HOST: VICTOR BEGUIN

Born in Paris and raised in South Africa, with dual Swiss/American nationality, Victor has spent the last forty years in Hancock, NH.

"The richness of cultural diversity and world cuisine lead me to a career as a chef and organic food marketer. Surrounded by orchards, farms, gardens and the savannah, local and organic were simply the choices available. I love cooking in "my" village; it is a great place to be, to shop and a harmonious place to work, with the best food you can find in any village."

Among his thirty-five years of experience in food service, Victor has been an Executive Chef, Culinary Arts Instructor, and Caterer, featuring World cuisine. He is experienced in organic farm to table sourcing, and nutrition.

Favorite food quote: "The discovery of a new dish confers more happiness on humanity, than the discovery of a new star." - *Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin*

REGISTRATION FORM

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please type or print.
- 2) Make checks payable to Discover Europe, Ltd.
- 3) Be sure to read the Terms & Conditions and the Refund Policy contained on the reverse before signing.
- 4) Complete both sides of this form.
- 5) Detach the bottom section and mail it to Discover Europe with your deposit of \$500 per person. Keep the top section for your records.

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS:

Name(s). Please make sure that your name appears on this form exactly as it does on your passport. Include your "Known As" or preferred name, if applicable.

Passport Details. Having your passport details ahead of time enables Discover Europe to speed up the check-in process at hotels and helps in the event of lost or stolen documents.

Address. If you have a different address, please provide us with the details, including dates that you are there, on a separate sheet.

Special Dietary Requirements. Please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements.

Health Information. A certain amount of walking is involved in this trip. Check the itinerary with your physician to ensure a safe and comfortable journey. Travelers requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

This information is essential.

INDEPENDENT FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

If you are arranging your own flights, please provide your complete flight information, giving the following: dates of travel, airline(s), flight numbers, departure and arrival airports and departure and arrival times for all flight segments that you have booked. (Please note that extra charges for transportation to and from the destination airport may be incurred). If you need help arranging connecting flights from your local airport to an international departure city, we will be happy to arrange those for you. There is a nominal charge of \$40 per ticket for this service.

ROOMING REQUIREMENTS

Please tick the appropriate boxes. We will book non-smoking rooms (where available) unless otherwise requested.

- i). If you are sharing a room, please let us know with whom. If you would like to share a room but do not have a roommate, we will be happy to try and match you up but unfortunately cannot guarantee that this will be possible. If no match is available, the single supplement will apply.
- ii). A twin room has two separate single beds in it. A double room has one large bed. Please let us know your preference.



PASSENGER DETAILS FOR FOOD & WINE OF THE LANGUEDOC (0923/OFc)

PASSPORT NAME:

1. _____
TITLE FIRST MIDDLE LAST

2. _____
TITLE FIRST MIDDLE LAST

KNOWN AS: 1. _____ 2. _____

PASSPORT 1#: _____ EXP.DATE: _____ DOB: _____

PASSPORT 2#: _____ EXP.DATE: _____ DOB: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PREFERRED TELEPHONE: (____) _____ work/cell/home
circle one

SECONDARY TELEPHONE: (____) _____ work/cell/home
circle one

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS: _____

HEALTH INFORMATION: _____

OTHER COMMENTS OR NOTES: _____

TRIP DETAILS

DEPARTURE DATE: _____ RETURN DATE: _____

DEPARTURE AIRPORT OR CITY: _____

I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY TRIP TO: _____



PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:
 DISCOVER EUROPE, LTD.
 95 Adams Street, Keene, NH 03431

TERMS & CONDITIONS

GENERAL

1. Please be sure to complete both sides of this form.
2. Instructions to aid you can be found on overleaf.
3. Space on this journey is limited and registrations are accepted strictly on a first come, first served basis.
4. Registration and payment imply acceptance of the terms and conditions described herein. This information, as well as your itinerary description regarding dates, inclusions and prices, form the basis of your individual contract with Discover Europe, Ltd.
5. Registration and payment waive and release Discover Europe, Ltd. their affiliates, directors, officers, employees, including any person or entity employed or utilized by them, from all claims arising from any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay or expense resulting from events beyond their control, including, without limitation: natural disasters, war, strikes, incidents of politically-motivated violence, sickness or quarantine, government restrictions or regulations, and in the absence of its own gross negligence, arising from the use of any vehicle or from any act of omission by any bus or car rental agency, airline, taxi or tour service, hotel, restaurant, or other firm, agency, company or individual.
6. Discover Europe, Ltd. reserves the right to substitute hotels, airlines, activities or excursions in response to changes in availability, local events or weather conditions, provided such substitutions do not adversely affect the overall quality of the tour. Such substitutions do not constitute grounds for withdrawal with full refund.
7. Conduct During the Tour: You are responsible for respecting the authority and following the directions of the tour guide and the laws of the countries in your itinerary. We may exclude you from participating in all or any part of the tour if, at our sole discretion, your condition or behavior renders you unfit for the tour or unfit for continuation once the tour has begun. Unfitness may include, without limitation, any behavior that, regardless of its cause, is inappropriate or offensive or interferes with the delivery of tour services, or may constitute a hazard or embarrassment. In such case, our liability shall be strictly limited to refund of the recoverable cost of any unused portion of the tour. Should you decide not to participate in certain parts of the tour or use certain goods included in the tour, no refunds will be made for those unused parts of the tour or goods.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

1. A deposit of \$500 must accompany this completed form.
2. The remaining balance will be billed and payable 90 days prior to departure.

TOUR COST ADJUSTMENTS

Discover Europe makes every effort to guarantee that the published cost of your chosen tour will not change. However we do reserve the right to

make adjustments in the following circumstances:

1. Exchange rates. Should the value of the dollar fall against the Euro by more than 10% in the 6 months prior to trip departure.
2. Group size. This tour has been based on a group size of 8-10 participants. Should we end up with fewer than this number, Discover Europe will determine a course of action which will involve either paying a surcharge to keep the tour as is, or making adjustments to the tour in order to keep the cost the same.
3. Airfares. If your tour includes airfare, Discover Europe reserves the right to pass along increases in costs (taxes, airport fees, fuel surcharges, etc.) that are charged by the airline involved.

REFUND POLICY

1. Participants who withdraw more than 90 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less a \$200 cancellation penalty.
2. Participants who withdraw fewer than 90 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less the following cancellation penalties:
90-61 days prior to departure: \$1000 per person
60 days - trip departure: no refund (unless traveler has insurance)
3. Please note that the final payment becomes due upon receipt of the final invoice and will remain payable, as per the above schedule, if your cancellation is received after this.
4. These cancellation penalty amounts do not include any airfares purchased on your behalf by Discover Europe Ltd. Note that the least expensive airfares are usually non-refundable. Refunds for airline tickets will be handled separately from the refund of the land tour package.
5. Comprehensive travel insurance is not included in your tour package. Discover Europe, Ltd., strongly advises that you purchase travel insurance for your upcoming trip. Discover Europe, Ltd., strongly advises that you purchase travel insurance for your upcoming trip and will be providing you with details of a recommended insurance company.
6. All cancellation requests must be received in writing.
7. There is no provision for refund for any activities missed due to the participant's absence once the tour has started.
8. Your place on this tour is not transferrable.

INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

1. All inclusions on *Food & Wine of the Languedoc* are listed on the day-by-day itinerary and registration form.
2. The following are not included (unless specifically mentioned in the itinerary): travel insurance, transportation to and from the participant's chosen departure airport, passport fees, excess baggage charges, tips to couriers and tour bus drivers and items of a personal nature.



EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Email: _____

Primary Telephone: (____) _____

FLIGHT INFORMATION

(Please check one)

Do you want Discover Europe to book your flights: Yes No

Flight details (if self-arranged) to be provided **at least 90 days** prior to departure: _____

ROOMING REQUIREMENTS

(Please check one)

I would like a single room (see itinerary for supplement)

I will be sharing with: _____

We would like a double twin-bedded room

PERMISSIONS

Discover Europe may include my e-mail address on the tour passenger list. Yes No

SIGNATURES

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____