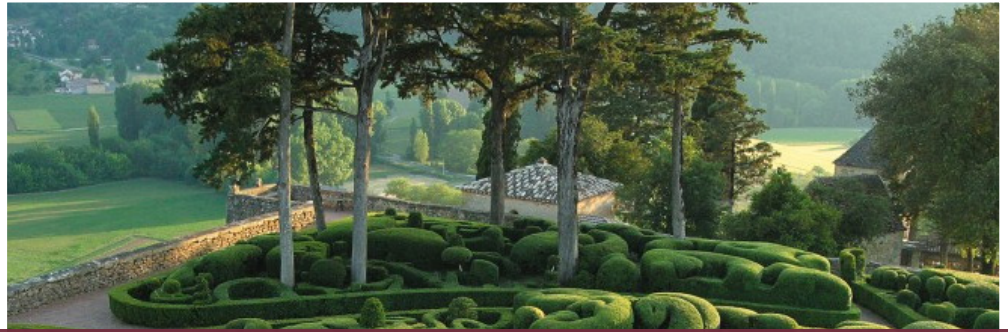




FALL 2016
VOLUME XV NUMBER III



INTO THE HEART OF EUROPE

THE NEWSLETTER OF DISCOVER EUROPE LTD.

Winter draws on. At least I'm considering putting my winter drawers on - it snowed here on Thursday. I took a short trip to France and England last week - when I left it was fall and when I got back it was winter.

The main purpose of my visit though was to see my mum on her 88th birthday. For those of you who have met Anne over the years, you will be pleased to know that she is still going strong! Yes, she has hip problems and they can't operate because of her heart issues, but she is as sharp as a tack and can still remember more history than I will ever know!

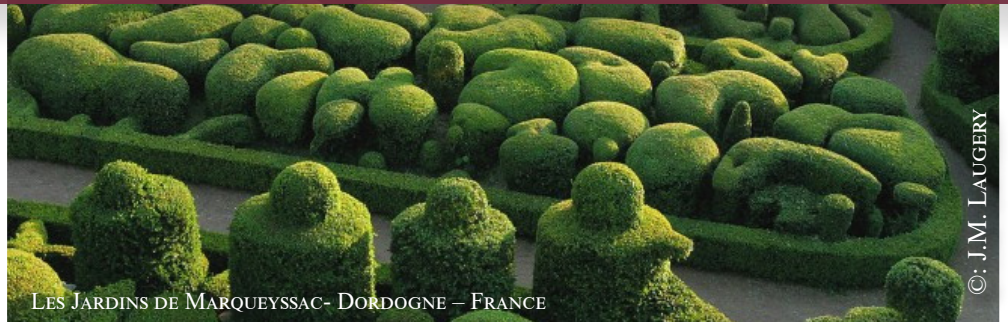
Over on this side of "the pond," we are breathing a huge sigh of relief as the last of our October tours returns home and we have a couple of relatively quiet months to regroup and prepare for 2017.

A new focus for next year is our series on "one stop" trips - the Let's Unpack series. We have listened to your comments and feedback and have added more tours where you just make a base in one lovely hotel for a week and take day trips to thoroughly explore the surrounding region. Look for details elsewhere in the newsletter.

So, until our paths cross again somewhere in Europe, happy travels!

Michael Induni, President

DISCOVER EUROPE LTD.
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Keene, NH 03431, USA
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EMAIL: info@discoveurope ltd.com



LES JARDINS DE MARQUEYSSAC - DORDOGNE - FRANCE

©: J.M. LAUGERY

DISCOVERING EUROPE, ONE GARDEN AT A TIME

BY MARIAN ST. CLAIR

Since my earliest days, I've known there's adventure in every trip. Back then, when my small family lived far from grandparents, aunts, and uncles, the reward was likely to be a prized opportunity to rub elbows with cousins at the kid's table or collect chicken eggs with Granddaddy. Now, even with those years long behind me, the joy of packing a suitcase and setting off is still inevitably about new tables, novel experiences, and most especially, fresh knowledge and understanding.

As a garden writer, my travels are usually in search of unique and engaging landscapes, such as the higgledy-piggledy pathways and flower borders at Beatrix Potter's Hilltop Farm or, as a recent trip to the Dordogne revealed, the rippling topiary of Les Jardins de Marqueyssac mimicking its surrounding hills. I simply never tire of finding a new plant or exploring a garden for the first time. The unknown of what's around the corner or what's to be learned next, plus sharing these experiences with those who relish a garden's pleasures as much as I do, is exhilarating.

There are magic moments on every tour and in France one of those moments came at Les Jardins de Sardy, a romantic garden east of Bordeaux. With an invitation to admire its scented trees and shrubs, the garden's owner drew us into a gravel courtyard and then, with a spicy fragrance lingering on the air, led us to a shady overlook to tell the story of his Irish mother's 1950s restoration, including efforts to grow English flowers before capitulating to the drought-resistance and allure of Mediterranean plants.

Before us in blinding sunlight, the mirror-like surface of an Italian pool reflected the 18th century stone house with its pale shutters and upright cypress trees. Impatient to get closer, the group surged forward as our host guided us to the water's edge and noted its resemblance to the garden at Alhambra, minus one important detail. Suddenly, inexplicitly, the pool sprang to life with jets of water reaching for the sky and falling back in graceful arcs, breaking the reflections into thousands of brilliant diamonds. (continued . . .)



(continued . . .) Bill Bryson, the best-selling Anglo-American travel writer has said, “To my mind, the greatest reward and luxury of travel is to be able to experience everyday things as if for the first time, to be in a position in which almost nothing is so familiar it is taken for granted.” How true. With Discover Europe to plan the details and a wealth of gardens still to explore, I’m crossing my fingers for many such rewards — and countless more magical moments in the years yet to come.

Best Wishes, *Marian*

INTRODUCING KELSEY BARRY: IRELAND

right now, it would be to Ireland. From the rugged landscape to the lively pub scene, Ireland has landed on the top of Kelsey’s dream destination list.

When she makes her way to the Emerald Isle, she wants to explore the countryside, experience the culture, hike the coastal trails, listen to the bagpipes play, soak up the pub atmosphere and maybe even sneak back across the Irish Sea to London!

As the Communications Coordinator at Discover Europe, Kelsey spends her time in the office creating content for Facebook, writing and sending out email newsletters, processing registrations, and dreaming of all the places that she is helping other people travel to!



PUZZLER

Question: What castle is this and on what Discover Europe trip, listed in this newsletter, can you see it? Hint: it was the setting of a Shakespeare play.

To answer, go to Discover Europe’s Facebook page, like the page and leave an answer. The winner, drawn at random on December 1st, will receive a voucher for \$200 off any trip listed in this newsletter!

FOREIGN LANGUAGES WHILE TRAVELING

Some people are naturally reluctant to travel to places where they do not speak the language. At Discover Europe, we are sensitive to this and would like to offer some reassurances. Firstly, our tour guides speak fluently in the languages of the countries in which they are guiding. Secondly, many, many people in Europe speak English as a second language - although our tours do tend to go behind the scenes and off the beaten path to where that is less true. And finally, modern technology has really helped to ease these communication problems. There are apps to download for free onto your iPad or iPhone that let you pick your level, help you develop your vocabulary, and teach you the basic phrases that you will need to know. Many are very interactive and some can even help with your accent!

Even if you only learn one or two phrases, you will feel a sense of accomplishment and a little bit more connected to the locals that you will come into contact with. The first time trying to speak is the hardest, and your accent may not be perfect, but people are generally very appreciative of your efforts. People treat it as a mark of respect that you are at least trying to communicate with them in their own language, although they will probably immediately turn around and answer you in English!

So bon voyage, gute reise, buon viaggio, buen viaje and καλο ταξίδι! May your trip be amazing!

TRY THESE APPS!

mondly
duolingo
memrise

A SHORT WALK ALONG THE CAMINO *by Sarah Franklin*

Recently I had the privilege of going on Discover Europe's trip, **A PILGRIM'S WAY**, that follows the Camino de Santiago, the road to Santiago, or Way of St. James, along the north coast of Spain. During the middle ages, to guarantee remission of their sins, pilgrims walked from many points in Europe all the way to Santiago to throw their bodies down in front of the remains of Saint James the Apostle, for redemption. Gavin Miller, our tour guide, informed us from the start, that the path of the pilgrimage actually goes back to prehistoric times when man sought the edge of the world as North West Spain was thought to be the end of the earth, as its name, Finisterre, implies. This path, later used by the Romans, is also said to follow what are known as "Ley Lines", or electromagnetic energy pathways, said to have healing qualities. This trip not only provided insight into the experience of many pilgrims who have made this walking trip over the centuries, at one point 500,000 per year, but also gave me a taste of questing for spiritual connection and inner peace.



"Go see if you can feel it," Gavin beckoned as we set out on our first short walk along the Camino. The 5 kilometer stretch was a meandering stony path along sweeping landscapes of fields of wheat and wild flowers, marked by sign posts with scallop shells on them, the symbol of the Camino. It was said that when St. James, a disciple of Jesus, came to the north coast of Spain, his boat capsized and he washed up to shore covered in scallop shells. So when pilgrims start their journey they are given a scallop shell along with a booklet to be stamped by churches and

hostels along the way as proof of the journey. The shell could be used to drink water in the old days but it now hangs on the backpack as a symbol of a modern day pilgrimage.

As we followed the symbol of the shell, the glory of the view, accompanied by bird song, was enough to make anyone feel good but perhaps the energy coming from the ancient path underneath seeped in as well. We walked, as the pilgrims do, to the next village, where we stopped to have a cold beer. Asleep on a granite bench and on the ground nearby were three pilgrims using their backpacks as pillows, which reminded us that we did not just walk 200 miles, but a mere two.

It takes a pilgrim around 6 weeks to complete the trip although some do it in 4-5. We had a small taste of its glory. Someday I will return and do the whole thing, mark my words!



BELMOND REID'S PALACE
Photo courtesy of Belmond Management Ltd.



A WINTER GETAWAY: LET'S UNPACK IN MADEIRA!

FEBRUARY 24TH - MARCH 5TH 2017

How about a trip to the island of eternal spring to rid yourself of the winter blues? Unpack at the Belmond Reid's Palace, a five-star luxury hotel. This one-stop trip to this romantic island destination will lift your spirits and replenish your soul. Visit legendary garden estates and botanical gardens with exotic flowers in bloom; lunch in colorful fishing villages, visit the Museum of Sacred Art, and a bishop's palace, which houses masterpieces from the 15th and 16th centuries, see spectacular natural coastal landscapes with sea cliffs abutting farm land, and, of course, take a wine tour and taste the delicious Madeira wine.

Join us this winter and experience the full flavor of Portugal's very own floating paradise!

Interested? Contact Discover Europe by email at info@discovereuropeltd.com or call (866) 563-7077. You may also wish to visit our website for more detailed information including the full day-by-day itinerary.

CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TRIPS

In addition to those listed here, Discover Europe also runs tours that are custom-designed for a variety of not-for-profit organizations such as Harvard University, Bryn Mawr, Smith College, Tufts University, Vassar College and many others. Although these “sponsored” tours are not listed below, they are often available to non-members upon request. Full details can be found on our website.

Discover Europe can also organize private tours for groups of 2 to 20 participants. Please contact us for details.

<p>AUSTRIA</p> <p>VIENNA - MIT SCHLAG? AUG 25TH - SEPT 2ND 2017</p>	<p>THE PEAK DISTRICT AUGUST 18TH - 26TH 2017</p> <p>THE PASSIONATE GARDENER SEPTEMBER 7TH - 16TH 2017</p>	<p>ANCIENT ISLANDS: CRETE OCTOBER 20TH - 28TH 2017</p>	<p>PORTUGAL</p> <p>THE MAGIC OF MADEIRA FEB 24TH - MAR 5TH 2017</p> <p>LANDSCAPES OF PORTUGAL APRIL 27TH - MAY 6TH 2017</p>
<p>CROATIA</p> <p>THE DALMATIAN COAST APRIL 20TH - 29TH 2017</p>	<p>UNITARIAN ENGLAND SEPT 21ST - OCT 1ST 2017</p> <p>POLDARK'S CORNWALL SEPT 25TH - OCT 4TH 2017</p>	<p>HOLLAND</p> <p>FLORAL FLANDERS APRIL 17TH - 25TH 2017</p>	<p>LUXURIOUS LISBON OCTOBER 26TH - 31ST 2017</p>
<p>DENMARK</p> <p>WONDERFUL COPENHAGEN SEPTEMBER 21ST - 26TH 2017</p>	<p>KENT: GARDEN OF ENGLAND OCTOBER 5TH - 14TH 2017</p>	<p>ICELAND</p> <p>A WEEKEND GETAWAY APRIL 6TH - 10TH 2017</p> <p>G. o. T. ICELAND APRIL 20TH - 25TH 2017</p>	<p>SCOTLAND</p> <p>THE GARDENS OF SCOTLAND JUNE 1ST - 10TH 2017</p> <p>WILD ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND JUNE 24TH - JULY 3RD 2017</p> <p>SKYE & THE HIGHLANDS JULY 13TH - 23RD 2017</p>
<p>ENGLAND</p> <p>THE BEST OF ENGLISH GARDENS MAY 16TH - 25TH 2017</p> <p>THE WEST COUNTRY JUNE 8TH - 17TH 2017</p> <p>WEST COUNTRY GARDENS JUNE 13TH - 23RD 2017</p> <p>THE FIRST LADIES OF GARDENING JUNE 14TH - 23RD 2017</p> <p>THE CAPTIVATING COTSWOLDS JUNE 30TH - JULY 9TH 2017</p> <p>STATELY HOMES OF ENGLAND JULY 2ND - 11TH 2017</p> <p>DISCOVERING EAST ANGLIA JULY 21ST - 29TH 2017</p> <p>THE MAGIC OF MEDIEVAL ENGLAND JULY 28TH - AUG 5TH 2017</p>	<p>FRANCE</p> <p>THE GARDENS OF WINE COUNTRY MAY 4TH - 13TH 2017</p> <p>NORMANDY, BRITTANY & THE LOIRE MAY 25TH - JUNE 3RD 2017</p> <p>THE WINES OF BORDEAUX SEPT 29TH - OCT 7TH 2017</p> <p>THE CHÂTEAU DE CAMON OCTOBER 6TH - 14TH 2017</p>	<p>IRELAND</p> <p>ISLAND OF SAINTS & SCHOLARS JUNE 15TH - 24TH 2017</p>	<p>SPAIN</p> <p>THE PILGRIM'S WAY APRIL 6TH - 15TH 2017</p> <p>ALLURING ANDALUSIA APRIL 17TH - 25TH 2017</p> <p>THANKSGIVING IN MALLORCA NOVEMBER 18TH - 26TH 2017</p>
	<p>GERMANY</p> <p>THE ROMANTIC ROAD JUNE 8TH - 17TH 2017</p> <p>THE NEW BERLIN SEPTEMBER 22ND - 30TH 2017</p>	<p>ITALY</p> <p>UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN MAY 5TH - 12TH 2017</p> <p>ITALIAN LAKES & GARDENS JUNE 1ST - 10TH 2017</p> <p>MILAN & THE ITALIAN LAKES SEPTEMBER 6TH - 15TH 2017</p> <p>CORSICA & SARDINIA SEPTEMBER 14TH - 23RD 2017</p> <p>THE ITALIAN KITCHEN OCTOBER 5TH - 14TH 2017</p> <p>ANCIENT ISLANDS: SICILY NOVEMBER 3RD - 11TH 2017</p> <p>CHRISTMAS MARKETS OF ITALY DECEMBER 1ST - 9TH 2017</p>	<p>WALES</p> <p>WALES & THE WELSH BORDERS MAY 9TH - 18TH 2017</p>
	<p>GREECE</p> <p>A GREEK EASTER APRIL 14TH - 23RD 2017</p>		<p>NOTE: These are all small-group tours with a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 15 participants.</p>



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE TRIPS:

CALL: (866) 563-7077 ▪ E-MAIL: INFO@DISCOVEREUROPELTD.COM ▪ VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.DISCOVEREUROPELTD.COM

COURIER'S CORNER. . .

Gavin Miller

Q: WHY ARE YOU A TOUR GUIDE?

A: *Theatre often doesn't pay too well! To travel in small groups through my favorite regions of Europe is always a privilege. Travel keeps my mind open and I never stop learning; what could be better?!*

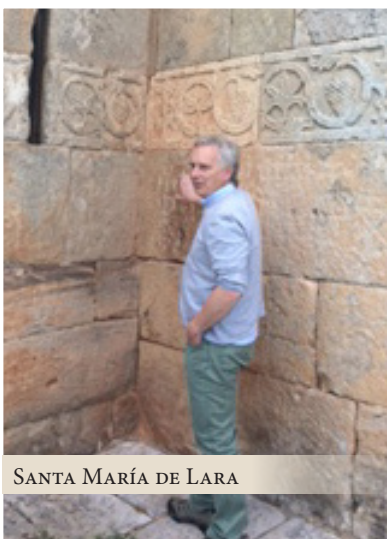
Q: WHERE IS YOUR FAVORITE TOUR DESTINATION?

A: *Difficult, impossible to say just one. Not being a fan of mainstream tourism, I tend, if possible, to avoid any place where there are lines of tour buses and veer towards the quieter, off the beaten track and often more interesting places. Much of inland Spain is still blissfully free of the tourist hordes, the northwest in particular. Mallorca also, in the spring and autumn, can be heavenly. So, my top three would be....*

1. The Camino Francés. From the French Pyrenees to Santiago de Compostela, passing through towns such as Guernica, Covarrubias and Fromista.
2. The Camino de la Plata. From Seville to Santiago de Compostela via Zafra, Zamora and Pinhão (Portugal).
3. Mallorca. In general though, anywhere where I don't feel part of the tourist 'industry' and where a genuine essence of the past still lingers - this could be a simple side street with nothing much going on in the Marais, Paris, a crumbling gothic church along the North Norfolk coast (England) or a windswept shoreline in the Hebrides (Scotland).

Q: DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE PLACE TO STAY?

A: *Without doubt, L'Abbaye-Château de Camon in the Ariège, Southwest France. Followed by the romantically dilapidated Hotel d'Arlatan in Arles, Provence, France.*



SANTA MARÍA DE LARA

Both places have more soul than all the world's five star hotels put together.

Q: DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE CITY?

A: *Any city where it's possible to see the best Flamenco in an intimate setting after midnight.....Seville, Madrid, Granada.*

Q: IS THERE A SPECIAL MOMENT THAT STICKS OUT ON A DISCOVER EUROPE TRIP?

A: *Feeling the bonhomie of the group at the end of any trip is always rewarding.*

Q: WHAT DO YOU ALWAYS PACK.

A: *My own bed (two pieces of foam) and a feather pillow. (lingering back problems from an old accident!).*

Q: CAN YOU SHARE YOUR MOST MEMORABLE DINING EXPERIENCE ON A TRIP?

A: *Setting: There are two.....*

a) *The fish shack, Ca's Patro March, perched on the rocks above the tiny cove below the village of Deiá and the Tramuntana mountains, Mallorca. Eating here is always surreal - like a halfway house while in free fall from 5000ft above to 5000ft below sea level.*

b) *The shepherds' stable, Es Verger - isolated and high in the mountains overlooking the bay of Palma, Mallorca. On a moonless night, stepping out from the humble stable and hearing only the tinkling of sheep bells under a pitch black sky, fizzy with stars, is always a perfect moment.*

Q: DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE FOOD EXPERIENCE?

A: *Anything that the master chef, Tom Sleight, at the Château de Camon cares to conjure and abracadabra onto a plate - pure joy.*

FAVORITE HOTELS - GRAND HOTEL DES ILES BORROMEES

A hundred years ago, this beautiful hotel provided respite to a young Ernest Hemingway, wounded and recovering from an injury received during World War I. Today, it is a hallmark of class, style, sophistication and luxury. A place where the warm waters of the lake lap against the land, reflecting the millions of nighttime lights, and where hours melt away over a bottle of wine overlooking enchanted islands.

On the shores of Lake Maggiore in the lively lakeside town of Stresa, the Grand Hotel Des Iles Borromees serves as a standard of excellence and fairytale opulence in the heart of the Italian Lakes. It is a wonder of history and comfort, style and tranquility - and we'll be staying here on our Italian Lakes and Gardens tour in June!





DISCOVER EUROPE LTD.
95 Adams St.
Keene, NH 03431

I just returned from Italy. It was just fabulous. The guide Sara Kort was amazing. I felt as if I've made a new friend. She was so well informed on the places we visited, was helpful and so much fun to be with. She went out of her way to make the trip memorable!
- Lane G., *UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN*



LET'S UNPACK: ONE-STOP TRIPS IN 2017

Picking up and moving to new destinations and hotels can be exciting while on tour. It is also thrilling to be able to settle into one hotel and enjoy a deeper exploration of the local culture. For 2017, we have crafted some new trips that allow for this deeper immersion into a region. Staying at one carefully-selected, central hotel, the itineraries are designed with exciting excursions into the surrounding countryside. We are calling them "Let's Unpack" trips, and some of them are a full week and some are just a long weekend getaway! One of the great features of these trips are the hotels we use. We choose them specifically for their character, location, amenities and beauty. Here are a few of the hotels we use with their web address.

- **THE MAGIC OF MADEIRA** ▪ February 24th - March 5th
[Unpack at The Belmond Reid's Palace](#)
- **UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN** ▪ May 5th - 12th
[Unpack at the Grand Hotel Francia & Quirinale](#)
- **THE WINES OF BORDEAUX** ▪ September 29th - October 7th
[Unpack at the Château Grand Barrail](#)
- **THE CHÂTEAU DE CAMON** ▪ October 6th - 14th
[Unpack at L'Abbaye-Château de Camon](#)

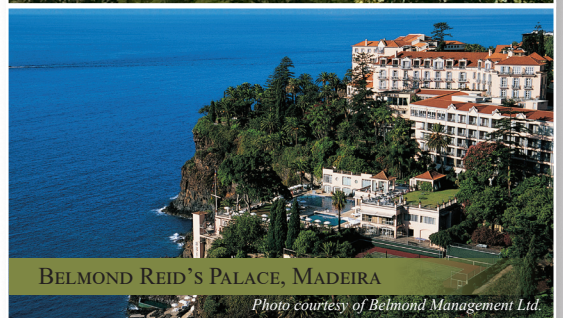
Check them out for yourselves. They are fantastic destinations on their own. Contact us to find out more about our other one-stop hotels to see what may be the right fit for you. For more information and the full itineraries call, email or check our website. *Bon voyage!*



UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN



L'ABBAYE-CHÂTEAU DE CAMON



BELMOND REID'S PALACE, MADEIRA