



Decouvertes

Exclusive cultural tours
Luxury independent Travel



History & Wines in Vaucluse

Full day excursion Avignon, Chateauneuf du Pape & Rasteau

Discover Avignon in the morning and explore the vineyards in Chateauneuf-du-Pape and Rasteau in the afternoon.

Make it Cistercian!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue: Visit to Sénanque Abbey
Please see the last page for more information

Make it Medieval!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue: Visit to Vaison la Romaine
Please see the last page for more information



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Avignon, Chateauneuf du Pape & Rasteau

9.00 am: Meet your guide in the lobby of your hotel in Avignon.

Morning walking tour of Avignon, also called the City of the Popes or Altera Roma. **The city retains the indelible mark of the Popes' stay in the city, which was, for a time, the capital of the western Medieval world.** Today, it is a prestigious cultural capital with its world-renowned Theatre Festival.

During your walk, you will discover the city's main landmarks. One of France's chief architects for "Monuments Historiques" likened the historic center of Avignon, which was placed on **UNESCO's World Heritage list in 1995**, to the Acropolis.

Avignon's architecture is marked by papal history. Home to the Sovereign Pontiffs in the 14th century, **the Palace of the Popes** is the **largest Gothic palace in the world**. You can visit 25 of the Palace's rooms, including the ceremonial rooms, chapels, cloister and the private papal apartments with priceless frescoes.

What about lunch at **la Fourchette**, a pretty bistro appreciated by Avignon residents which serves traditional menus with a "South-of-France" flavor.

In the afternoon, you will visit **two different wine areas**.

First **Chateauneuf du Pape**, the most renowned appellation of the southern Rhône Valley. Vineyards are located in and around the town of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. One of the most recognizable features of Châteauneuf vineyards are the large "galets" (stones).

Visit and wine-tasting at one of the most beautiful and famous Châteauneuf-du-Pape estates. The soil here is typical of the region. The vineyard runs along a slope, and the vines dig their roots into the sandy, red-clay soil. On the surface there is a layer of the famous "galets". These large, round, well-worn stones were carried from the Alps' ice-age glaciers down the Rhône River.

The second area that you will explore is Rasteau boasting both a sweet wine and a "Côtes du Rhône Village."

Visit a private wine-estate while admiring the view of Mount Ventoux, the "Dentelles de Montmirail" and the village of Rasteau.





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Paul and Mary-Elisabeth established this wonderful domain that is now run by their daughter, Françoise, and her husband, Jon. While visiting the cellar and tasting their wines, **they will share with you their love of “Provence”** as well as that of their wines. Mary-Elisabeth has a passion for both creative and classical quilting. Some original works from her collection are on display in the tasting room.



5.00 pm Back in Avignon at the end of the afternoon



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NB: Please note that some sites mentioned in the itinerary might not be available every day or at certain times of the year. We suggest that you to check with our Production Managers

This package includes

- Deluxe minivan carrying up to 6 passengers
- Professional English speaking guide-driver who will chauffeur you on your sightseeing tour and who is also licensed to guide and accompany you on walking tours, as well as in museums and monuments
- Découvertes' fees
- 24-hour assistance available during your stay
- All taxes

This package does not include

- Entrance fees
- Wine tasting
- Tips
- Lunch or dinner

Découvertes can also provide:

- Pre-payment of all entrance fees to museums and other sites
- Lunch reservations



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Make it Optional

Make it Cistercian!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue

In the morning, drive north to the fabulous stone village of Gordes, and admire the many bories on the way to the Sénanque Abbey. Sitting in a deep valley, Notre Dame de Sénanque remains one of the purest examples of primitive Cistercian architecture. A community of Cistercian monks still lives there. The entire 12th century structure is open for visit (church, cloister, dormitory, chapterhouse and calefactory).



Please contact us for more information as to availability and prices.

Make it Historic!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue

Take an afternoon to visit Vaison-la-Romaine, a town rich in art and in cultural heritage. The town flourished in the middle ages and in a more recent past. However, Vaison-la-Romaine owes its modern-day fame to its ancient Roman history.



Gallo-Roman vestiges are spread over two different sites (La Villasse and Puymin), making Vaison-la-Romaine one of the largest archeological sites in France. Beginning in 1907, the Abbey Sautel spent 48 years discovering the gallo-roman treasures buried under the houses and gardens of the lower town. The medieval portion of the town, perched on a hill, overlooks the main town with its impressive castle of the Counts of Toulouse.

Please contact us for more information as to availability and prices.