



# La Belle France

## Springtime in Paris and Provence!

March 15 – 25, 2012

Limited to 25 participants

An exclusive presentation by KUSC

**Join** Gail Eichenthal,

Classical KUSC Executive Producer for a deluxe cultural tour of Paris and sunny Provence filled with music, art and, of course, great food and wine.

We will spend five nights in the magical City of Lights and attend performances at outstanding music venues, including the grand Palais Garnier ---the grand Opéra of the the 19th century, for ballet; celebrate Verdi's 200th birthday with his final masterpiece "Falstaff" at the Opera Bastille; and a concert in that Gothic marvel of stained glass, Sainte Chapelle. Last but not least, we have premium seats for the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Maestro Dudamel in Paris on their European tour! From the Middle Ages to the modern age, we will explore different periods of French history and culture in private guided tours of The Louvre, Notre Dame, the Marais district, and other sites. Outside the city, we visit the beautiful gardens and Baroque architecture of the Chateau Vaux-le-Vicomte, the private home of Louis XIV's finance minister, and Fontainebleau, the grand Renaissance chateau that was former home of Francis I and Napoleon. Our home in Paris is the magnificent 5-star Hotel Scribe, built in 1861 and the site where the Lumière Brothers introduced the cinema!

All this is preceded by four days in the south of France. From Roman generals to painters, poets, and writers to gourmands of all stripes, Provence has long been an inspiration for good living. We will savor it all: Roman monuments, charming hill towns, picturesque landscapes, outstanding food and wine---and more music as well. Our base is the lovely 5-star Hotel d'Europe in the medieval town of Avignon, home of the Papacy during the 14th century and thus one of the most powerful cities of the time. We also visit the city of Arles with its splendid Roman remains and traces of Van Gogh. And we'll dine in some of the region's top restaurants and sample some of its fine wines.

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Prime tickets to four musical performances by the Los Angeles Philharmonic on its European tour, Paris Opera, Paris Opera Ballet, and at Sainte Chapelle, plus a private concert in Avignon
- Guided tours of historic sites in Paris and Provence with expert private guides
- Excursion to the Chateaus of Fontainebleau and Vaux-le-Vicomte
- Wine tasting near Chateaufort-du-Pape
- Olive oil tasting at one of the finest producers in Europe
- Deluxe accommodation at five-star hotels in Paris and Avignon
- Fine dining at some of the region's top restaurants
- First class travel on the TGV, France's high-speed train
- Travel by private air-conditioned motorcoach on all excursions
- Informal talks by KUSC's Gail Eichenthal
- Plenty of free time to relax, shop and sightsee!



**Gail Eichenthal** is Executive Producer of KUSC and our sister station in San Francisco, KDFC. For both stations, she oversees arts coverage, concert broadcasts, and live productions. She is also the Executive Producer of Arts Alive, LA Opera on Air, and the LA Philharmonic radio broadcasts.

Gail began her association with KUSC as Abram Chasins Intern in 1976, joining the staff the following year, as an editor, on-air host, and documentary producer. She began her association with the LA Philharmonic in 1978, becoming the first woman to host the radio broadcasts of a major American orchestra. From 1994-2005, Gail was a staff news reporter and news anchor at KNX-AM, the CBS News station in Los Angeles. At KNX, she picked up 13 Golden Mikes, the Bill Stout Enterprise Award, Associated Press awards, and other regional and national honors. Gail has also published articles for the LA Times Calendar, LA Times Sunday Magazine, and Symphony Magazine.

**TOUR COST: \$5,965 pp, ground only; Group limited to 25**  
The France tour is an exclusive presentation by KUSC and is organized by The Grand Tour Travel Company, Peterborough, New Hampshire, Calif. Lic.: 2088711-40.

# Daily Itinerary



Gordes

## FRIDAY, MARCH 15

Optional group flight departs from Los Angeles on Air France for non-stop arrival in Paris the following day.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 16

### Bienvenue!

On arrival in Paris, we board France's high-speed train, the TGV, for first-class passage to Avignon. Our home the next four nights is the Hotel L'Europe, the 16th century mansion of the Marquis de Graveson, where Napoleon, Charles Dickens, Victor Hugo and other luminaries have stayed. After a rest from your journey, we convene for a **welcome drink** at the hotel, then our **welcome dinner** at *La Moutardier du Pape*.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 17

### Luberon Countryside

After your daily **breakfast**, we set off to explore the charming Luberon region of picturesque villages, lavender fields, and rocky landscape. L'ISLE SUR LA SORGUE with its canal-lined streets is famous for its Sunday antique market, antique shops, and Provençal market. **Lunch** is near the perched village of Gordes, then we travel on to ROUSILLON, a pretty town named for its red clay cliffs upon which it lies. This evening back in Avignon, enjoy a private concert by one of the finest of young French ensembles, the Quatuor Girard, playing string quartets of Mozart and Debussy.

## MONDAY, MARCH 18

### The City of Popes

Today we explore the main sights of AVIGNON. From 1309 to 1403, seven French Popes and three anti-Popes based the Papacy here during the Great Schism in the Catholic Church. We will tour the Palace of the Popes and walk some of the picturesque streets of the old town. Then we'll make a foray into the countryside for a delectable **lunch** and wine tasting at *La Bastide des Princes*, presided over by Annie and Pierre Paumel. Prior to lunch, an expert sommelier will pour some of the fine Chateauneuf-des-Papes and Cote de Rhône wines of the region for you to taste. Evening free.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 19

### Roman Arles

This morning we head down the Rhone to the ancient city of Arles. On the way, we pass St. Paul de Mausole, and the sanitorium little changed from when Vincent Van Gogh was its patient in 1889 - 90. Then it's on to sample products of an award-winning producer of olive oil. **Lunch** is nearby at the superb *La Cabro d'Or*, a Michelin-starred restaurant. After lunch, we continue to **ARLES** and visit its huge Roman amphitheatre, the Romanesque church of St. Trophime with its elaborate

carved façade, and trace the steps of Van Gogh. We return to our hotel in late afternoon, and your evening is free. You might take in Janecek's great opera, *Jenufa*, at the Opera-Theatre de Avignon.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

### The City of Lights

Bidding *adieu* to Provence, we board the TGV again for a trip back to **PARIS**. On arrival we will make a short tour around the city, taking in many of its famous sites. Then we transfer to the Hotel Scribe, a luxury 5-star hotel located in the heart of the city near the Opéra, with a historic past. A short block away at the Palais Garnier, Paris's grand opera house, we enjoy an evening of dance, works based around the theme of tragic love, by Roland Petit, one of the most renowned choreographers of the 20th century.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 21

### Medieval Paris

This morning we explore the narrow winding streets of the old Latin Quarter, winding down ancient roads, past markets, medieval churches and Gallo-Roman remains. The walking tour begins at the great 12th century cathedral of Paris, Notre Dame, for a detailed visit. After **lunch** art lovers rejoice as we take a private guided tour of the Louvre, one of the greatest museums in the world. Its collections are stellar: Leonardo's *Mona Lisa*, the Venus de Milo, Delacroix's *Liberty*, Gericault's *Raft of the Medusa*, and many other masterworks grace its halls. In the evening, we attend in a chamber music performance in the lovely 13th century Sainte Chapelle, with its stunning backdrop of stained glass.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 22

### The Marais

The Marais is one of the most beautiful and characteristic quarters in all Paris. Our walking tour takes in the fascinating Musée Carnavalet devoted to the history of Paris and the Place des Vosges, a beautiful 17th century square. Lunch is on your own and your afternoon is free. Tonight we **dine** in the elegant brasserie *Bofinger*, before attending a performance at the sleek Opera Bastille of Giuseppe Verdi's great and last opera, *Falstaff*, with Ambrogio Maestri in the title role.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 23

### Fontainebleau & Vaux-le-Vicomte

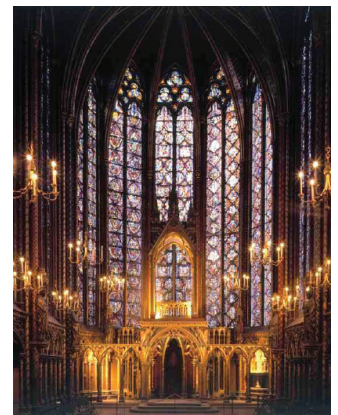
Today we travel into the French countryside. The magnificent Chateau de Fontainebleau came into its own under Francis I (1494-1547) who hired principally

Italian artists to redesign it thereby introducing the Italian Renaissance into France. Built in 1656 by Louis XIV's finance minister Nicolas Fouquet, the Chateau Vaux-le-Vicomte provides a unique window into aristocratic society of the 17th century. Its trio of France's most creative geniuses of the time went on to design Versailles. **Lunch** is served in L'Ecureuil, the chateau's charming restaurant. The evening is free, but you have the option of seeing your own Los Angeles Philharmonic under Gustavo Dudamel with *The Gospel According to the Other Mary*, the compelling opera-oratorio by John Adams, libretto by Peter Sellars, its premiere in France.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 24

### City of Art

Today is a free day to complete your shopping, stroll another *quartier*, or relax. We convene for our musical climax in the afternoon with a performance by the LA Phil and Maestro Dudamel at the Salle Pleyel. Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite* and Debussy's *La Mer* is on the program. Our **gala farewell dinner** is at the splendid Café de la Paix, the famous brasserie designed by Charles Garnier, the architect of the Opéra across the street.



Sainte Chapelle

## MONDAY, MARCH 25

The group flight returns non-stop to LA. *Itinerary subject to change. Meals in bold included in the price of the tour.*

### TOUR COST

**\$5,965 per person, ground only, double occupancy**  
**Single supplement: \$1245**  
**Optional group flight: \$1048, on Air France**

**DEPOSIT: \$1100 per person, first come, first served**  
Tax-deductible contribution: \$600  
**Balance deadline: January 14, 2013**  
After that date, call for availability.

Call Minnie Prince of KUSC at 213-225-7534 or [mprince@kusc.org](mailto:mprince@kusc.org) to reserve your place on the tour with a credit card deposit, or send a check for the deposit amount to: KUSC France Tour, KUSC, PO Box 77913, Los Angeles, CA 90007. Registration materials can be downloaded from [www.kusc.org](http://www.kusc.org)

### QUESTIONS?

Contact Minnie Prince at 213-225-7534 or [mprince@kusc.org](mailto:mprince@kusc.org) or The Grand Tour at 800-727-2995 or [info@thegrandtour.com](mailto:info@thegrandtour.com)