

A Taste of Europe

Food, Wine, Art and History

The world is abound with natural and cultural treasures just waiting to be shared. People who love food, wine, and art appreciate the personalities, stories, and events that form the backdrop of regional appellations, producers, communities, merchants, and artisans that support them. As we visit new destinations and engage through local food, wine, and art, bonds with friends are strengthened over shared interests, and we discover new commonalities and make new friends. We discover the similarities that connect us with other cultures and people. We return home *inspired* to celebrate and foster the heritage of the places we visit and to *share* our own stories with others.

Italy. Italy is blessed with some of the most evocative landscapes in the world and has witnessed some of the most creative artistic epochs over the centuries. The combination of history, art and food/wine make it one of the most appealing and satisfying destinations. Begin the morning visiting world-class art in Florence, Siena, Lucca, Venice, Modena, Genoa and Assisi – and then travel to the countryside to explore both well-known and smaller boutique vineyards while enjoying local cuisine. It's the perfect recipe for friends, family, or other groups.

France. France is a pioneer of cuisine, wine, and art. Visit iconic wine-producing regions serving up tantalizing "zero kilometer" foods – where fresh local ingredients explode with flavor. Visit artists' ateliers in Paris, world-renowned chateaux in Bordeaux, perfume makers in Provence, or spend leisure time on the picturesque Atlantic coast. Learn about new techniques in organic wine production in world-renowned regions such as the Rhone Valley, Bordeaux, Burgundy, Languedoc-Roussillon, and Alsace.

Spain. Spain's wine and olive oil production goes back to Roman times. The ebb and flow of great civilizations in the Iberian peninsula make it a particularly rich destination for programs that combine historical visits with opportunities to sample local olive oil, wine, and local cuisine. Visit Moorish monuments in Granada, Cordoba and Seville with excursions to the sherry producing region of Jerez. Visit medieval villages in the Rioja region of north central Spain and enjoy a gala dinner at the Gehry designed pavilion of Marques de Riscal. Explore Roman monuments in Tarragona (near Barcelona) with excursions to boutique vineyards in the surrounding hillsides and mountains.

Other venues: Experience **Portuguese** culture through its tasty and varied cuisine. Indulge in custard pastries in Lisbon on a city-side patio or cruise the Douro River to one of Porto's famous wine cellars with spectacular views of the architectural forms along the

way. Explore the beauty of **Bavarian** castles and museums while sampling beer made in both large/famous and micro/just-discovered breweries. Sail up the **Rhine River** to sample white wine grown on the sloping hillsides.

Organize a winter holiday in **Switzerland** – sampling unique Swiss cuisine and wine in sunny terraces overlooking iconic peaks such as the Jungfrau, Matterhorn, or the Titlis. Travel to the **United Kingdom** and/or **Ireland** to experience the local music scene in historic pubs while sampling local beers, aged whiskeys, and even locally produced wine. The UK and Ireland offer great opportunities to combine historic visits with cultural activities.



Illume delights in the idea that the best journeys begin with your imagination. Call us so we can start transforming your dream into a reality for you and your fellow travelers!

The way we travel the world is always changing but the reasons remain constant - to become citizens of the world, leading and inspiring respectful and compassionate ways of life. People who travel the globe begin a lifelong journey of worldly citizenship to gain valuable insight about themselves and the world around them through the discovery & exploration of cultures outside their own.