



**Decouvertes**

Exclusive cultural tours  
Luxury independent Travel



## Amazing gardens & wines of Chinon and Bourgueil

*Full day in the Loire Valley with a visit to one chateau and wine-tasting*

Meet with your driver-guide in the lobby of your hotel located in the Loire valley region and enjoy a day-trip discovering one garden of a private château and tasting wines of two different vineyards

### Make it by Balloon!

**DECOUVERTES ADVICE for a special optional venue:** you will fly over the Loire valley landscapes and chateaux aboard a hot air balloon

*Please see the last page for more information*

### Make it Cultural!

**DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue:** Guided visit one of the largest abbey in Europe: Fontevraud Abbey

*Please see the last page for more information*



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## *The Loire Valley*

9.00 am: Meet your **English speaking guide-driver** at the lobby of your hotel located in the Loire valley.

You may wish to visit the Gardens of **the Chateau of Villandry**. Villandry was the last Chateau built during the Renaissance period. It is today famous around the world for its unique French terrace gardens.

**Villandry** undoubtedly owes its fame to the **splendid terraces of gardens** which encase it like a jewel box. The water garden, on the upper level, within a huge cloister of lime trees, a mirror-like lake collects the water required to irrigate the gardens and feed the fountains.

**Villandry** is also known for its **ornamental kitchen garden** divided into decorative squares, completely replanted twice a year.

Continue to a private estate located near Chinon and enjoy a **visit and wine-tasting**. The domaine has 18 hectares within the environs of Chinon. It is located in the Vau Breton; this means, in its old french, '**Breton Valley**', which, in turn, gives its name to the locally grown **Cabernet Franc grape**. Historically, the domain is one of the oldest winery in Chinon.

The oldest public record, discovered so far, of the serving of wine from the estate, is that it was served in 1912, at the reception for **Military Delegations from twenty-two nations**; these included delegations from Great Britain, Russia, Japan, Spain and Norway - it was a red vintage of 1893; it was a wine aged over a period of nineteen years...

Lunch is at leisure in Chinon. We suggest **Le Chapeau Rouge**: in a shaded square, **Le Chapeau Rouge** boasts a tasteful décor. Its chef offers an interesting up-to-date menu that varies with the seasons.

Follow your guide-driver on a walking tour of the town that will take you through the oldest parts of the town. **You may wish to visit the chateau**, one of Count of Anjou's (crowned King of England in 1154) favorite residences.

Transfer to Bourgueil at a **private vineyard** that belongs to the same family for 7 generations. You **will visit the cellar and taste the Cabernet Franc or cabernet Sauvignon of the vineyard**.

Transfer to your hotel 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 all year long.  
We suggest you to check with our Production Managers*

### *This package includes*

- Deluxe Sedan or Minivan which can carry up to 6 passengers
- Professional English speaking guide-driver who will chauffeur you on your sightseeing tour and is licensed to guide and accompany you on walking tours, as well as into museums and monuments
- 2 wine-tasting
- Découvertes fees
- Emergency 24 hour assistance available during your stay
- All taxes

### *This package does not include*

- Entrance fees
- Tips
- Lunch or dinner

### **Découvertes can also suggest:**

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



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## *Make it Optional*

### **Make it by Balloon!**

#### ***DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an exclusive optional venue***

Can you imagine drifting slowly over these architectural masterpieces in a hot air balloon guided by the winds? The Loire Valley has become our most popular ballooning base, where we take off from the Chateaux of Chenonceau, Blois or Chaumont to name but a few. You will have the unique opportunity to fly over the Loire Valley for one hour and weather permitting, see the most famous chateaux of the Loire Valley.

*Please contact us for more information and price. Upon request and availability.*



### **Make it Cultural!**

#### ***DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue***

Visit Fontevraud Abbey: the abbey from 1101 until 1792, state prison from 1804 until 1963, nowadays Fontevraud is a cultural meeting Centre. It is today one of the biggest restoration sites in France. The highlight of the complex is the abbey church, a great space with plenty of characters and interest despite its size (although a little over-restored) which contains also the tombstone effigies of Henry II, Eleanor of Aquitaine and Richard the Lionheart.

Don't miss also the carved doorway that passes through to the chapterhouse and, moving on a little, the octagonal kitchen with its incredibly turreted roof, and the central interior courtyard.

*Please contact us for more information and price. Visit available everyday. Upon request and availability.*

