

The Ashkenazi Quartet

WORLDS OF JEWISH FRANCE

Looking Back at Jewish Life in
Paris – Provence – The Riviera



Also Visiting Normandy D-Day and Monte Carlo

A Journey in Jewish History by Matterhorn Travel – 2012

Jews have been in France since Roman Times. In these early days Jewish settlers lived in France (Gaul) as Roman citizens.

From the Middle Ages until the 20th century, the Jews of France were not a homogenous population. In Alsace-Lorraine they were Ashkenazi. In the South of France they were Sephardic — refugees from the expulsions of Spain and Portugal. Paris was a melting pot of both traditions.

Today, with a population of some 500,000 Jews, France has the largest Jewish population in Europe, and the third largest Jewish Population in the World, after Israel and the United States.

During the 2,000 years between Roman times and today, the history of the Jews in France has been a roller coaster of — in the words of Charles Dickens — “The best of times, the worst of times.”

After centuries of tolerance during the rule of the Romans, and the Emperor Charlemagne, Jewish life turned bad during the crusades and the 14th century plague of the Black Death. Beginning in 1306, French kings expelled the Jews from France, off and on. To a degree the Jews were protected by the Popes. The 18th century Enlightenment and Revolution of 1789 greatly benefited the Jews of France. In 1791 France was the first country in Europe to emancipate its Jews and make them full citizens. But conditions worsened in the late 19th century with the arrival of racial anti-Semitism, supplementing the traditional anti-Semitism of church theology. The 20th century brought the destruction in 1914–1918 of the French and European civilization that had existed largely in peace for almost 100 years — followed by the Nazi and Fascist ascendancy, World War II, and the Holocaust catastrophe for French and European Jews.

The Fascist, anti-Semitic government at Vichy openly helped the Nazi war against the Jews. Vichy police rounded up about 75,000 Jews, including 11,000 children, for deportation from France to the Nazi extermination camps in Poland.

The Jews of France, therefore, had two enemies — the Nazis and the Fascist government at Vichy.

After decades of silence and denial following World War II, the French Republic in 1995 publicly acknowledged the role of the State in the persecution and murder of the Jews during the Nazi occupation. President Jacques Chirac declared

“These black hours will stain our history forever and are an injury to our past and traditions. Yes, the criminal madness of the occupant was assisted by the French, by the French State.”

Was French society anti-Semitic? Although anti-Semitism was widespread in pre-war and Vichy France, it was not all-pervasive. It would be unreasonable and unfair to condemn an entire people for the evil committed by a rogue, puppet regime.

Until World War II, French Jews were largely Ashkenazim. But many French Ashkenazim were murdered in the Holocaust, and, with the post war migration of Jews from North Africa to France, the Jewish population in France today is mostly Sephardic.

Our journey in 2012 will trace this long history of the Jews of France. Our main emphasis will be on the modern era, beginning with the Revolution of 1789.

Although our trip may not convey all the answers, it will bring to us a greater understanding of this saga, and provide an enjoyable, enriching experience.

OUR JOURNEY INCLUDES:

- Round trip transatlantic flights
 - USA to Paris
 - Nice to USA
- Eleven nights accommodations at four-star superior hotels (See list on page 10)
 - Four nights in Paris
 - Three nights in Aix-en-Provence
 - Four nights in Nice
- Buffet breakfast each day
- Dinner eight evenings

TOURS AND VISITS — PARIS

- Walking tour of Jewish Paris
- Jewish sites in Paris
 - Memorial to the Martyrs of the Deportation, Shoah Memorial Museum, Pletzl Neighborhood, Museum of Jewish Art and History, Synagogue rue des Tournelles, Drancy Internment Camp

TOURS AND VISITS — NORMANDY D-DAY

- Caen Museum, Ste. Mère Eglise, Utah Beach, Omaha Beach, American Cemetery and Memorial

TOURS AND VISITS — PROVENCE

- Non-stop train, first class seating, Paris to Aix-en-Provence
- Walking tour of Aix-en-Provence
- Carpentras Synagogue, Cavaillon Jewish Museum, Gordes, Pont Du Gard, Avignon, Chateauneuf-Du-Pape, Saint-Remy De Provence, Les Milles Internment Camp

TOURS AND VISITS — RIVIERA, MONTE CARLO

- Chagall Museum in Nice, Saint-Paul-De-Vence, Foundation Maeght Museum, Monte Carlo, Eze Village.

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Six lectures by an experienced historian (See page 10 for brief information on historians.)
- Travel in France via deluxe, air-conditioned motorcoach with English-speaking tour manager
- Round-trip airport transfers
- Hotel portage

1st Day, Wednesday

USA – PARIS

Fly this afternoon from your departure city to Paris. Cocktails, dinner and continental breakfast will be served in flight. There is also a movie for your in-flight enjoyment.

2nd Day, Thursday

PARIS

Arrive Paris in the morning, local time. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Our hotel, The Regina, is centrally located at the Place des Pyramides and just a few minutes walk to the Louvre, the Tuileries, Place de la Concorde, and Place Vendome.

The balance of the morning is at leisure.

As an introduction and overview of our journey of Jewish learning, we will visit this afternoon the Museum of Jewish Art and History, opened in 1998. Located in a 17th century mansion, the Museum traces Jewish history, art, culture and religion in France and Europe. Exhibits of French history reflect both the Ashkenazi and Sephardic traditions. Also on display are documents relating to the Dreyfus Affair, which tore apart French Society between 1894 and 1906, and which contributed to the anti-Semitism of the Fascist Vichy regime during the Nazi occupation.

Dinner this evening is at a popular Paris restaurant.

3rd Day, Friday

PARIS

This morning we will have a walking tour of Jewish Paris – pre-war and post-war.

Our first visit will be to the Memorial to the Martyrs of the Deportation – a memorial to the 200,000 persons deported from Vichy France to the Nazi concentration camps. About 75,000 of the deportees were Jews. Dedicated in 1962 by President De Gaulle, the memorial instructs the visitor to “Forgive but do not forget.”

Next, we will walk across the bridge to the Right Bank and visit the Shoah Memorial Museum and Documentation Center, opened in 2005.

The permanent exhibition offers a chronological and thematic visit depicting the history of Jews in France during the Shoah. The Wall of Names lists the names of the 75,000 Jews, including 11,000 children, deported from France by the Vichy Government. The Wall of the

Lectures

Friday	The Jews of France The Early Years to the Revolution
Saturday	Ashkenazi Jewry Alsace-Lorraine and Paris
Sunday	World War II D-Day and the Battle of Normandy
Monday	Sephardic Jewry The South of France
Thursday	World War II France Under Nazi Occupation American Guardian Angels to Jews in France Varian Fry – American Schindler Harry Bingham – American Wallenbourg
Friday	Ashkenazim and Sephardim Bridging the Traditions Marc Chagall: His Life, His Times, His Art

Righteous is engraved with the names of persons who rescued Jews in France during World War II. Since 1963, Yad Vashem has awarded these persons with the title Righteous Among the Nations.

Departing the Museum, we are now in the Jewish Quarter of Paris, known as Le Marais, or the Pletzl – Yiddish for little place. This neighborhood has been home to Jews since the 13th century.

We will walk on the Rue des Rosiers, a narrow, ancient street lined with kosher and Jewish-style restaurants, Jewish bookshops, small synagogues, prayer rooms and kosher bakeries and butcher shops. Continue on the Rue Ferdinand Duval, called the Street of Jews until 1900.

Sabbath dinner this evening will be at our hotel.



Le Marais in 1942. Note the Star of David on the man's jacket. We will walk in the Marais neighborhood.

4th Day, Saturday **PARIS**

This morning is at leisure to attend Sabbath services, to sightsee, or to visit a museum.

This afternoon we will visit the site of the former Drancy Internment Camp. The camp was used to hold Jews who were later deported to the Nazi extermination camps in Poland. Drancy was under the control of the French police until July 1943 when management was taken over by the SS. About 65,000 Jews were deported from Drancy.

In 2001 the French Government declared the site a National Monument.

This evening is at leisure to sample a Paris restaurant on your own.

5th Day, Sunday **NORMANDY – Beaches and Battles**

We have thus far looked largely at the dark, evil years of French and European history. But there was push back in Western Europe against Nazism and Fascism — led by the United States, assisted by Great Britain, and helped by the Resistance of patriots in France.

Today we travel via motorcoach to Normandy and trace the largest event of the push back in the West — the D-Day landings on the beaches at Normandy. We will visit the American sites.

World War II was the largest event in human history. The victory of the Allies against Nazi Germany saved the Jews of Europe from complete annihilation. The allied landings at Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944 — the largest invasion from the sea in world history — were a major turning point in the war.



The Shoah Memorial at Drancy by Shlomo Selinger.

“In this column I want to tell you what the opening of the second front entailed, so that you can know and appreciate and forever be humbly grateful to those both dead and alive who did it for you.”

—Ernie Pyle, June 12, 1944

We will walk on Omaha Beach and visit the cemetery overlooking the beach, where more than 9,000 Americans are buried. The many gravestones showing the Stars of David amidst the crosses attest to the Jewish presence among our soldiers of the Greatest Generation.

We will also visit Pointe Du Hoc, Ste. Mère Eglise, and Utah Beach, as well as the Memorial Museum at Caen.

We will stop for dinner in Rouen and return to our hotel in Paris this evening.



American troops landing at Omaha Beach, June 6, 1944.



Normandy American Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach.

6th Day, Monday

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Today we will take a late morning high speed train, first class, to Aix-en-Provence, arriving in the mid afternoon.

Founded by the Romans in 123 B.C., Aix even today is considered the most Italian of French towns.

Leaving the high speed train, we say *au revoir* to speed and enter in Aix a world of easy-going, laid back leisure, with numerous fountains casting their lazy spray. Many streets are pedestrian zones of mansions, gardens, and

small peaceful squares. Emile Zola immortalized the town in his novels. Paul Cezanne featured the region of Aix in many of his paintings.

In 1341, the census tells us that 1205 Jews lived in the Jewish quarter of Aix. In the rue Vivaut, a whole Jewish community was grouped together, including synagogue, butchershop, hospital, and alms house.

We will have a walking tour of Aix this afternoon, accompanied by a local guide.

Our hotel, the Grand Hotel Roi René, is just a few minutes walk to the Old Town of Aix.

Dinner this evening is at our hotel.

7th Day, Tuesday

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

CARPENTRAS – PONT DU GARD

AVIGNON – CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE

Jews came to Provence as early as the 1st century. For the Jews of France the Middle Ages lasted until the French Revolution. They were expelled, off and on, by French kings in 1306, 1394, and 1501, as well as from England in 1294, from Spain in 1492, and from Portugal in 1506. Jews were prohibited from living in Paris during much of the 15th and 16th centuries.

But there was a safety net, a place of refuge — the Popes' enclave in and near Avignon. The Popes welcomed and protected the Jews to a degree, and the Jews became known as "the Pope's Jews." The Jews included their papal benefactor in their prayers, asking God to

"Exalt our sovereign and Holy Father, the Pope."



*Vincent Van Gogh,
The Harvest, 1888.*

We will drive in the Provence countryside immortalized by Van Gogh.

Enhancing this unusual medieval relationship was the schism within the Church. The papacy was headquartered for nearly a century in Avignon, rather than Rome.

Papal control in parts of Provence lasted until 1791, but by then the Jews of France were emancipated by the National Assembly in Paris. France was the first country in Europe to emancipate its Jews.

Today we will visit Carpentras where, by 1358, one-fifth of the town population were Jews. Until the French Revolution, Carpentras had the largest community of Jews living openly in France. We will visit the Carpentras Synagogue, which, dating from 1357, is the oldest synagogue in France that is still in use.



Alfred Dreyfus at Carpentras around 1900. We will visit Carpentras and its synagogue.

This afternoon we will see the Roman aqueduct Pont Du Gard, built more than 2,000 years ago around 19 B.C. Pont Du Gard is the highest aqueduct built by the Romans. Today it is inscribed on the UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites.

Next, we will stop briefly in Avignon, along the Rhone River, and see the huge Palace of the Popes, who gave refuge to the Jews during the Middle Ages.



The Synagogue at Carpentras, the oldest in France. The Synagogue was built in the 14th century, reconstructed in the 17th century, and restored in 1929.



Pont Du Gard, built more than 2,000 years ago, the highest aqueduct built by the Romans. We will see this extraordinary feat of engineering from around the year 19 B.C.



Gordes, called by Peter Mayle "the most spectacularly beautiful village of all." Marc Chagall lived here before being persuaded by Varian Fry to leave France and go to the United States. We will visit this extraordinary village.



Cellar at Chateauneuf-Du-Pape. We will visit a wine cellar and enjoy a tour and tasting.

Provence is home to world class wines. Among the best known is Chateauneuf-Du-Pape. We will visit a wine cellar nestled in a garden of olive trees, lavender, and spices of rosemary and thyme. We will have a guided tour and be treated to a tasting of this world famous wine.

Return to Aix in the late afternoon.

Dinner this evening is at a popular restaurant in Aix.

8th Day, Wednesday **AIX-EN-PROVENCE ST-REMY, GORDES, CAVAILLON**

This morning, we will visit St-Remy, where on Wednesday mornings the town hosts one of the most popular and picturesque markets in Provence. St-Remy is built on one of the oldest archeological sights in Europe. We'll visit the remains of Glanum, dating from around 300 B.C. Remnants of the wall surrounding the town date from the 14th century.

St-Remy is identified with Vincent Van Gogh, who admitted himself into a psychiatric hospital on the outskirts of town. Van Gogh produced about 150 paintings during his stay.

Van Gogh, Chagall, Matisse, Gauguin, and other great artists were attracted to the clear sky, pure light, and clean, bright colors of Provence.

Next, we will visit Gordes. The English author and resident of Provence, Peter Mayle, has written about Gordes

In a region of beautiful villages the most spectacularly beautiful of all. Honey-colored and perched on the top of a hill, with long views across the plain . . . a Renaissance chateau, narrow streets cobbled in rectangular stone.

Marc Chagall lived and worked in this lovely setting before being persuaded by Varian Fry in 1941 to leave France and emigrate to the United States. (See 9th Day, Thursday.)

Next, we will visit the former Synagogue at Cavaillon. Located in the rue Hebraique, the Synagogue was built from 1772 to 1774 on the same spot in the carrière (ghetto) as the building of 1453. Today the Synagogue is a regional Jewish museum.

Return to Aix in the mid-afternoon. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure to stroll in this lovely town.

This evening is at leisure to sample a restaurant in Aix on your own.

9th Day, Thursday **LES MILLES – NICE**

Last week we visited the former internment camp at Drancy — last stop before Auschwitz. This morning we will visit the former internment camp at Les Milles, where Jews were assembled for transport to Drancy. Many of these Jews were refugees from Germany and Austria, fleeing from Nazi rule to the South of France. But the Vichy government interned thousands at Les Milles for transport to Drancy and then the Nazi extermination camps in Poland.

RIGHTEOUS AMONG NATIONS VARIAN FRY AND HARRY BINGHAM

Whoever saves a single life is as if he had saved the entire world.

Mishnah, Sanhedrin 4:5

There was some push back to help these Jews.

VARIAN FRY was the American Schindler. A yankee blue blood from Connecticut, Fry was a Harvard graduate who was sent to Marseille by the Emergency Rescue Committee (later the International Rescue Committee) to help Jewish artists and writers to leave Vichy France and come to the United States. His planned one month stay lengthened to thirteen months, August 1940 to September 1941. He is credited with saving the lives of some 2,000 Jews, including Marc Chagall, Hannah Arendt, and Jacques Lipschitz.

Fry is the only American enshrined as Righteous Among Nations at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. Today there is a Varian Fry Place honoring him in Marseille, and a Varian Fry Street honoring him at Potsdamer Platz in Berlin.

HARRY BINGHAM was the American Wallenbourg. Also a yankee blue blood from Connecticut, Bingham graduated from Yale. His father was a United States Senator; his mother was a Tiffany heiress. As a Foreign Service Officer at the American Consulate in Marseille, Bingham was the only American diplomat to help Varian Fry. Against the policy of the isolationist, anti-Semitic State Department in Washington, Bingham gave hundreds of U.S. visas to Jews seeking to escape from Vichy France. For his anti-bureaucratic, humanitarian achievement, Fry was relieved of his post in Marseille, transferred to South America, and denied promotion. He resigned from the Foreign Service in 1945.

But today, Bingham is an American hero. A U.S. postage Stamp appeared with his name and photograph, and



U.S. Postal Service stamp honoring Harry Bingham, 2005.

Secretary of State Colin Powell honored him at the State Department for his “courageous dissent.”

After the D-Day landings at Normandy, in June, 1944, the military push back against the Nazis continued with the allied landing in August on the Mediterranean coast. Although the Normandy landings have by far eclipsed in historical memory the South of France landings and subsequent campaign up the Rhone Valley, the latter were crucial in opening the Port of Marseille and forcing the Germans to dilute their resources by fighting on another front.

Enroute to Nice, we will visit the Rhone American Cemetery and Memorial above the Mediterranean at St. Raphael.

We will arrive at Nice in the late afternoon.

We will stay four nights at the Hotel Westminster. Each of us will have front rooms overlooking the Promenade des Anglais and the Mediterranean.

Dinner this evening is at our hotel.

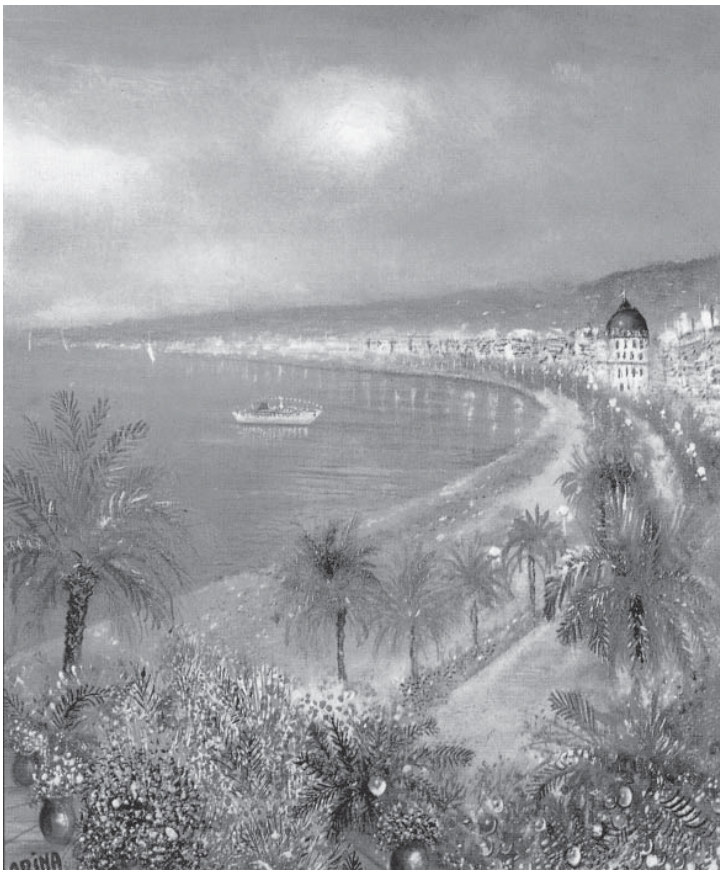
10th Day, Friday

NICE **CHAGALL MUSEUM – ST. PAUL DE VENCE**

The Riviera does not have the many centuries of Jewish history to be found in Paris or Provence. But it does hold a unique, everlasting treasure of the 20th century – Marc Chagall, the greatest Jewish artist of the 20th century, lived in St. Paul De Vence from 1950 until his death in 1985.

“If a painter is Jewish and paints life, how can he help having Jewish elements in his work! But if he is a good painter, there will be more than that. The Jewish element will be there, but his art will tend to approach the universal.”

Marc Chagall



Nice and its Promenade Des Anglais, overlooking the Bay of Angels and the Mediterranean. Painting by Carina.

Chagall was quintessentially Jewish. He was born Moishe Zakharovich Shagal in Vitebsk, Russia (Belarus today), a town of 65,000 of whom 48,000 were Jews. His family were Hasidic Jews. Much of his art was inspired by the Ashkenazi heritage of Eastern European Judaism.

But Chagall's art achieved the universal. He painted more than 100 scenes of Jews and the crucifixion — an attempt to assert the Jewishness of Christ and to reconcile Jews and Christians.

Chagall first visited the Land of Israel in 1931. His twelve stained glass windows at Hadassah Hospital and wall decorations at the Knesset attest to the State of Israel's embrace of Chagall as an artist and a Jew.

Chagall was perhaps the best known Jew to be rescued by Varian Fry and Harry Bingham, (See 9th Day, Thursday.)

After the Nazi conquest of France, Chagall moved to Gordes in Provence. (See 7th Day, Tuesday.) Chagall initially planned to stay in France, but was persuaded by Varian Fry that his life depended on leaving. He went to Marseille, where he was arrested. He was released due to the efforts of Fry. Chagall received a U.S. visa from Harry Bingham (See 9th Day, Thursday) and left France. He arrived in New York City in May, 1941.



Marc Chagall, Moses Receiving the Ten Commandments from God. We will see this painting at the Chagall Museum.

After the war, Chagall became the first living artist in France to have a museum designed and built to house his work. We will visit the Chagall Museum in Nice and have a guided tour of the works of this Great Master.

This afternoon we will ascend into the hills overlooking the Sea and visit St. Paul De Vence. We will walk along the narrow streets of this fascinating village and visit the Museum of the Maeght Foundation. The Maeght Gallery houses two of Chagall's works, along with works of other world famous 20th century artists. We will also visit Chagall's grave site.

We'll return to Nice in the late afternoon.

Sabbath dinner is included this evening.

11th Day, Saturday NICE

Today is at leisure for sightseeing and shopping.

There will be an opportunity this morning to attend Sabbath services at a synagogue in Nice.

This evening is at leisure to sample a restaurant in Nice on your own.



Monte Carlo. We will spend the afternoon in this elegant setting.



Eze Village, overlooking the Mediterranean. We will visit Eze.

12th Day, Sunday

NICE

MONTE CARLO – EZE VILLAGE

Today we will drive along the high corniche, above the Mediterranean, and arrive at Monte Carlo.

A tiny, tiny country with a proper prince and princess, no income tax, fabulous yachts in the harbor, multi-millionaires in the cafes, and everyone fantasizing about breaking the bank at the Casino – Monte Carlo seems almost unreal! High on a giant rock jutting into the sea, its outer walls seeming to rise directly from the Mediterranean, stands a 13th century fairytale castle, the Royal Palace.

There will be time for sightseeing and strolling in this fantasy land which, for a privileged few, is real, wealthy, and elegant.

Next we will visit Eze Village, an eagle’s nest village perched 1,500 feet above the Mediteranean with spectacular views. After strolling in this unique setting, we will return to Nice and our hotel for our farewell dinner.

13th Day, Monday

NICE – USA

This morning we will be transferred to Nice Airport to board our return flight to the U.S.

Arrive back in the U.S. in the afternoon.

Hotels	
1. Paris	Regina
2. Aix-en-Provence	Grand Hotel Roi René
3. Nice	Westminster (Sea Front Room)

Historians’ Brief Biographical Sketches

Joelle Valente Ph.D. — Joelle has a PH.D. in history from the University of Montpellier, as well as a degree in Hebraic language and Civilization from the University of Nice. She has taught Jewish History and Civilization at the University of Paris and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She lived in Israel for three years.

She received a fellowship from the Foundation for Jewish Culture in New York during 2001–02.

Joelle has been an official guide in France for more than twenty years, specializing in topics of Jewish history.

Kenneth E. Block, M.A. — A graduate of Princeton, Ken Block studied at the University of Berlin and holds a Masters degree from Columbia University in New York. He has served as a naval officer and as a Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State in Europe and Asia.

Ken founded Matterhorn Travel and has 45 years experience designing and operating history travel programs. In addition to Europe, Ken has put together history programs covering Colonial America and the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the Western Expansion, and World War II in the Pacific.

Ken serves as a historian on Matterhorn’s *World War II in Europe*, as well as the Ashkenazi Quartet program in Germany, *Worlds of Our Fathers*.

Other historians may also participate.

Organizations are welcome to bring their own historian.

Prices Per Person, Double Occupancy

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Land Only Price: \$6095 per person, double occupancy.

Two Departures 2012	
Depart USA	Return
April 25	May 7
October 17	October 29



Left to right: Vonnie Block, Kathy McCary, Ken Block, JoAnn West

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FRANCE

Transatlantic Flights Via



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

DEPOSITS AND FINAL PAYMENTS — An initial deposit of \$400 per person must be sent with the reservation(s).
 Final payment is due two months before departure.

RESPONSIBILITY — These tours are under the operation and management of Matterhorn Travel Service, Inc., 3419 Hidden River View, Annapolis, Maryland 21403. The Tour Operator shall be responsible for supplying the services and accommodations as outlined in this brochure, except to the extent that such services and accommodations cannot be supplied due to delays or other causes beyond its control, in which case the operator will use its best efforts to supply comparable services and accommodations. The Tour Operator reserves the right at its discretion to change the sequence or alter any part of the itinerary or hotel accommodations, without prior notice for any reason; but in the event of substantial reduction in the services rendered, a proportionate refund will be made to tour participants upon written request to the Tour Operator. If there is a major change in the itinerary, participants will be notified before departure and offered an opportunity to cancel with full refund.

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Two months to one month before departure:	30% of the tour price.
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INSURANCE— Trip accident, health and baggage insurance is recommended.
Cancellation insurance is also available and is particularly recommended.
 Details will be furnished upon request.

BAGGAGE— One suitcase per person (50 pounds) may be taken on the trip. The liability of the carrier for loss or damage to personal baggage shall be limited to the actual value of such baggage but not more than approximately \$9.07 per pound in the case of checked baggage and approximately \$400 per person in the case of unchecked baggage or other property. (Domestic-actual value not to exceed \$500.)

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SPECIAL NOTE— Prices quoted are based on air fares, taxes, European supplier costs, and rates of foreign currency as of September 15, 2011. Prices are subject to change prior to departure. Participants will be notified in writing at least two months before departure if there is any increase in tour price required by such cost increases. There is no credit for unused services. Forwarding of participants' deposit(s) indicates acceptance of these terms and conditions.

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This program is valid from April 1 to October 31, 2012.