



*Château de La Caillotièrre
presents
Oenotourism
in the Loire Valley
with
Diane Denham
CSW, WSET Advanced*



*Tailor made tour
available on request
for groups of 8 people*

www.chateaudelacaillotiere.com

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Diane Denham



Diane Denham is a Certified Specialist of Wine and holds the Advanced level degree from the Wine and Spirits Education Trust. She's a 30 year veteran of the wine industry. Her love of wine was incited during the four years she lived in France and her career has taken her to many parts of the globe while working for some of the most prestigious US and international wineries. As a Napa Valley vineyard owner, she learned the viticultural side of wine, and honed her business skills as the proprietor of an import wine company. She's also a wine journalist. Most importantly, as a native Texan, Diane knows about hospitality and is a fun and informative hostess



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Discover the Wines of the Loire Valley

Not to disparage any of France's household name wine regions, but none of them offer the diversity you'll find in the wines of the Loire Valley. The French aristocracy was onto something when they built their impressive chateaux in this region that's often called "the garden of France." It's a sweet spot for viticulture too, so the wonder is that the wine jewels are not better known to consumers outside of France. After your week of enotourism at the Chateau de la Caillotièrre, you'll have an insiders' knowledge and understand the acclaim these wines have received from celebrated international wine critics and connoisseurs. You'll also appreciate them for the value they represent. Here's a preview of a few of the treasures within easy reach of Chateau de la Caillotièrre:

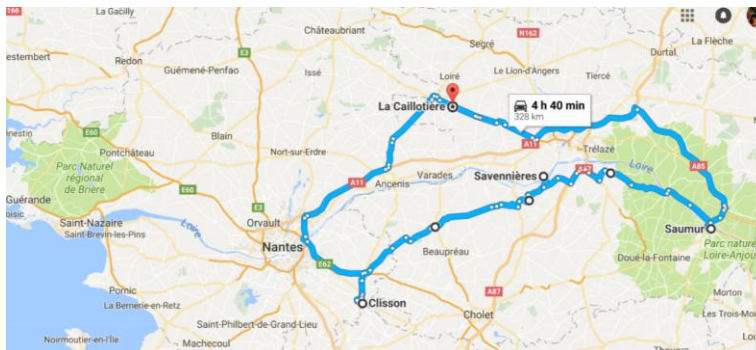
Savennières: Think white wines don't age as well as reds? They can if they're from this little area just 30 minutes from Chateau de la Caillotièrre. Here's what Karen MacNeil says about these wines in The Wine Bible: "The middle Loire's most extraordinary dry white wine, Savennières, is possibly the greatest dry Chenin Blanc in the world...densely flavored wines, with such intensity, grip, minerality, and taut acidity that they can be aged for decades...But sheer hedonistic flavors are operating here, too...a whirlwind of quince, chamomile, honey and cream, all pierced by a lightning bolt of citrus." We'll be tasting these wines at Chateau de Vaults with our hostess, the Vicomtesse Evelyne de Pontbriand.

Coteaux du Layon: Of course you've heard of Chateau d'Yquem, the Bordeaux sweet wine that is one of the most expensive wines in the world. Well, the wines of Coteaux du Layon, can give Yquem some stiff competition in every way except price. These are wines that require a very special combination of conditions – misty morning fogs followed by afternoon sun – to encourage the formation of botrytis cinerea, known as "noble rot". Noble rot concentrates the sugars and flavors in the grapes, resulting in wines (to quote Karen MacNeil again) "of soaring elegance, lightness, sheerness, and purity of fruit." Either Chateau du Breuil or Domaine de Juchepie will be our destination for tasting the wines from this region, only 45 minutes from Chateau de la Caillotièrre. Both of these estates are recommended by Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate.

Saumur: This fascinating place has so much to offer, it's a pity that there are so few hours in a day. It's famous for the caves carved out of the limestone hills to provide the stone for the Loire Valley chateaux. Known as troglodyte caves because many of these caves are actually inhabited to this day, they also provide the perfect environment for ageing sparkling wines. Bubbles here are called Crémant de Loire, or Crémant de Saumur, but only because the vineyards are not within the Champagne appellation.

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These wines have the tiny, elegant bubbles that result from “methode champagnoise” fermentation and the complexity that comes from extended ageing on the yeast lees. The only thing they don’t have is the Champagne price tag.

Saumur is also known for its red wines, particularly Saumur Champigny. These wines are made from Cabernet Franc, the grape variety that made Bordeaux’ Chateau Ausone and Cheval Blanc famous. We’ll visit the Langlois Chateau, with its spectacular chais, and the beautiful Domaine de Nerleux.

Pays Nantais and Muscadet wines: It isn’t a grape. It isn’t a place. Muscadet is the name of a white wine made in the western most region of the Loire Valley, the Pays Nantais. Pays Nantais takes its name from the city of Nantes. Muscadet is made from the grape, Melon de Bourgogne, which hints at the variety’s interesting journey from its origins in Burgundy to the Lower Loire. After a devastating frost in 1709 destroyed the vineyards of the western Loire, Burgundian monks brought this hardy, frost-resistant variety to the region. In so doing, they saved both the viticulture of the Lower Loire and the variety itself from disappearing entirely – a fortunate outcome for food and wine lovers. Muscadet is almost universally considered one of the best wine pairings for seafood....and with the Atlantic Ocean only a stone’s throw away, the delectable seafood of the “Pays Nantais” is renown for its freshness and variety. Foodies, this one’s for you!

Our destination, an hour from Chateau de la Caillotièrre, will be Chateau de Cassemichere and Chateau de l’Oiselinière, with a visit to the historic village of Clisson.

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Price per person 3,700 dollars

Your Loire Valley wine tour package includes:

- Exclusive Rental of the Chateau for 7 nights accommodation (double occupancy)*
- Daily Continental breakfast*
- 6 dinners specifically prepared by the chef of the château to complement the wine of the day*
- 1 gourmet dinner at La Diligence, a 1 Michelin star*
- Van transportation for day trips*
- Admission and wine tasting fees*
- Guided tour by wine specialist Diane Denham, CSW, WSET Advanced*
- Wi-Fi access*
- Tennis court and outdoor heated pool*
- Maid service*

Not included

- Pick-up and drop-off from Nantes International airport or Angers train station can be arranged. Alternatively guests may want to rent a car to have full flexibility.*
- You will have your choice of local places for lunch near our daily sites.*



Grand Salon

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Oenotourism in the Loire Valley Sample itinerary

*Day 1- South of Nantes to discover the **Muscadet** and the historic village of Clisson*

*Day 2- Taste the **Savennières** wines and meet with Vicomtesse de Pontbriand at the Château de Vaults*

*Day 3- Mid-week break to explore our estate or visit the nearby castle of **Plessis-Bourré***

*Day 4- Sample the sweet wines of the **Coteaux du Layon***

*Day 5- Visit the **Saumur** area and its troglodyte cellars*

*Day 6- In Angers to enjoy a guided tour of the **Cointreau distillery***

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