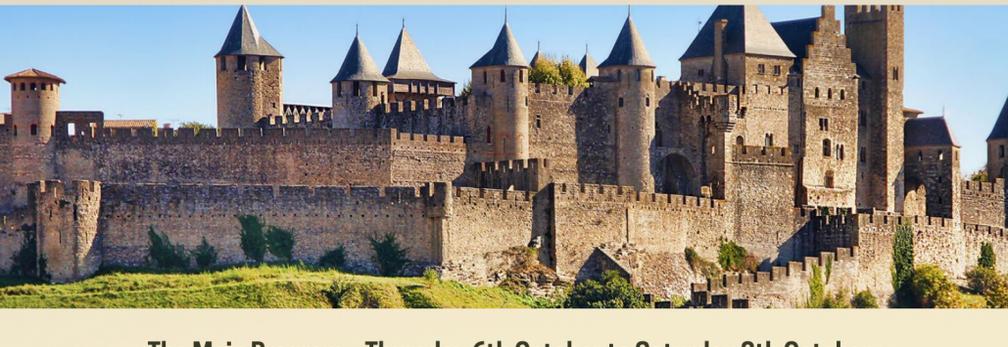




I am delighted that Steve & Carol of **Princess & Bear** have asked me to partner them again for their exciting event in the Languedoc this coming October. As the owner of the leading vineyard tour company in Languedoc, **Vin En Vacances**, I know how to look after people and arrange some of the best wine & food tours in Languedoc and other parts of France and Catalonia too.

Princess & Bear have a great program planned for you with a choice of either a 4 night or 7 night stay beginning on October 5. I propose you base yourselves in the beautiful city of Carcassonne where I have arranged quality B&B accommodation in the heart of the town where there are plenty of cafes and Restaurants to enjoy.



The Main Program – Thursday 6th October to Saturday 8th October

You should aim to arrive in Carcassonne by Wednesday 5th October so that you are ready to join us for 3 full days in the beautiful Languedoc. We will provide all the transport from Carcassonne to each daily event and below is what is included along with the price:

Day One - Thursday October 6th – Languedoc Wine Workshop

Learn about Languedoc wine with Kate, our wine teacher and enjoy a couple of hours tasting great wines from the Princess & Bear range. The workshop starts at 9:30 and during the course of the morning you will learn how to taste wine, the important grape varieties in this region plus the magic of 'Terroir' and how it effects the style of a wine. After lunch we return you to Carcassonne for a free afternoon to explore and we pick you again at 18:30 to drive you to dinner with Steve & Carol at the Atelier Restaurant in the medieval village of Caunes-Minervois 20 minutes from Carcassonne. Here you will enjoy a fascinating food & wine pairing dinner and have the chance to meet fellow wine lovers.

Day Two - Friday October 7th – The Limoux Wine Region

This morning we take you in the direction of the beautiful Pyrenees to taste sparkling and still wines at two of Princess & Bears favourite wine makers in this region. You will taste the delicious Crémant de Limoux as well as the Blanquette and the exceptional still white wines made from Chardonnay and the local grape Mauzac. After these very special visits we will drive through the beautiful Malepère landscape to Domaine La Louvière for a very special vineyard lunch and tasting of the red and white wines made in this little known region.

Day Three - Saturday October 8th – La Cité & The Princess & Bear Evening Event

Carcassonne has an excellent Saturday market, and we suggest you spend an hour strolling the stalls before meeting Carlos our history guide who will lead you around the Medieval fortress known as La Cité de Carcassonne where you will learn the interesting history which spans 2000 years. After a free afternoon we will collect you and take you to the village of Quarante where Carol and Steve live and where they have a fabulous evening of food & wine & music planned for you in their home. This annual special evening is joyfully offered to you complementary by Steve and Carol to thank you for being a Mediterranean wine club member and a special friend of Princess and Bear Wines. Transport back to Carcassonne after the event is included.

Price of the Main Event

These 3 fabulous days are a wonderful immersion into Languedoc life, the culture, the history and the food & wine. The price per person including quality B&B accommodation ranges between €855 and €965 per person depending which B&B and room standard you choose. The price for a single traveller including accommodation is €1075. The price includes:

- B&B accommodation for 4 nights commencing 5th October
- Transport throughout the 3 event days
- Lunch on day 1 and 2 and dinner on day 1
- One of the Vin en Vacances guides to drive and guide you each day
- The guided tour of La Cité du Carcassonne



Extending your Stay

The Languedoc-Roussillon is an almost undiscovered part of southern France. Tourism has not taken over here and in fact I like to call it 'The Real South of France'. It's much less populated than Provence, its neighbour to the east but just as beautiful. There are hundreds of ancient villages, castles and abbeys waiting to be explored plus a rich history including the Cathar Crusade. So, if you have time and would like to linger longer, we welcome the chance to show you around with this extended tour:

Day four - Sunday October 9th – Day Coastal Tour & Seafood Lunch

The day begins mid-morning when we collect you and take you on an hours drive to the coast close to Narbonne. We will take you onto the Massive de la Clape which was once an island but is now joined to the mainland and where wonderful wines are produced. After a tasting of red and white wines we will take a drive to our favourite seafood shack for a gourmet seafood feast. We will spend a relaxed afternoon eating oysters and fish in sight of the salt pans with the Mediterranean Sea just beyond. There will be chance to visit the salt museum where you can buy little packets of salt which make great souvenirs and presents to take home.

Day five - Monday October 10th – The Corbières & Lagrasse

This wine tour to the Corbières & Lagrasse will take you to a magical place of contrasts where cicadas sing, and buzzards circle lazily against a blue sky above the wild and windswept Corbières hills. The vineyards are perched on rocky hillsides and the roads wind round and round as we make our way towards our first vineyard visit, a family owned domaine not far from Carcassonne. After meeting the owners and enjoying a fun tasting of top-class wines we will make our way to the ancient village of Lagrasse to enjoy a tasty lunch. In the afternoon you will take a fascinating stroll around the village with Carlos who lives there and will regale you with the history and anecdotes of the past. You will have a chance to visit some of the small boutiques including the vinegar maker to taste his wares. The drive back to Carcassonne includes a visit and tasting at one of the tiniest domains we have come across and one that makes truly delicious wines.

Price per person €145 based on 6 people joining the tour or if you prefer a private tour the price starts from €550 for 2 people.

Day six - Tuesday October 11 – French Market, Olive Oil Tasting and Canal du Midi

Today's tour takes you to a wonderful French market where you will have plenty of time to wander the stall and drink in the atmosphere and perhaps enjoy a coffee at one of the cafes. The market is held in a small town in the Minervois and afterwards we will enjoy lunch at one of our favourite restaurants in that area. In the afternoon we head to the local olive cooperative to learn all about how olives are grown, harvested and made into delicious olive oils. There will be a chance to taste the oils and olives and the browse the shop that sells them plus other local produce. Now it's time to head to the Canal du Midi for a leisurely cruise and an on-board wine tasting.

Price per person €165 based on 6 people joining the tour or if you prefer a private tour the price starts from €650 for 2 people.

Included in your tour

- The prices of the optional tours include:
- Pick up and transport
- Lunch each day
- A Vin en Vacances guide to drive and guide you
- The cost of the visits and tastings

We can also arrange to extend your stay in the B&B and prices range between €120 and €170 per night for single or double occupation.



How to Book

I hope you will want to join us on this exciting trip and if so, please register your interest and tell me if you wish to join the Three-Day main program only or if you would like to extend your stay and join some of the additional tours.

In order to book some of our favourite accommodations please email wendy@vinenvacances.com

by May 30 as it appears already that the season will be quite busy.

Concierge Service

Is there anything else you would like me to arrange for you? Almost anything is possible from a day exploring antique shops and flea markets to a private cruise along the Canal du Midi. So if there is something you dream of doing in Languedoc or further afield in France or Catalonia in Northern Spain please let me know.

The Independent Traveller

For those of you who would prefer to self-drive and take care of your own accommodation you can of course still join all the fabulous tours we have planned. If that is the case, please let me know which tours or sessions you would like to join, and I will provide you with separate pricing.

I look forward to hearing from you - Wendy Gedney, MD Vin en Vacances