



## FROM MICHAEL'S DESK

There should be a name for the period between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Perhaps the holiday doldrums - the holdrums? It's a bit like sitting waiting for the other shoe to drop.

It is a time of deceptive quiet here in the office. While we have no trips operating between now and January, this is our time to get a jump on preparing for the approaching year. New software to install (and learn how to use!), new computers to set up, and many hotel contracts to sign.

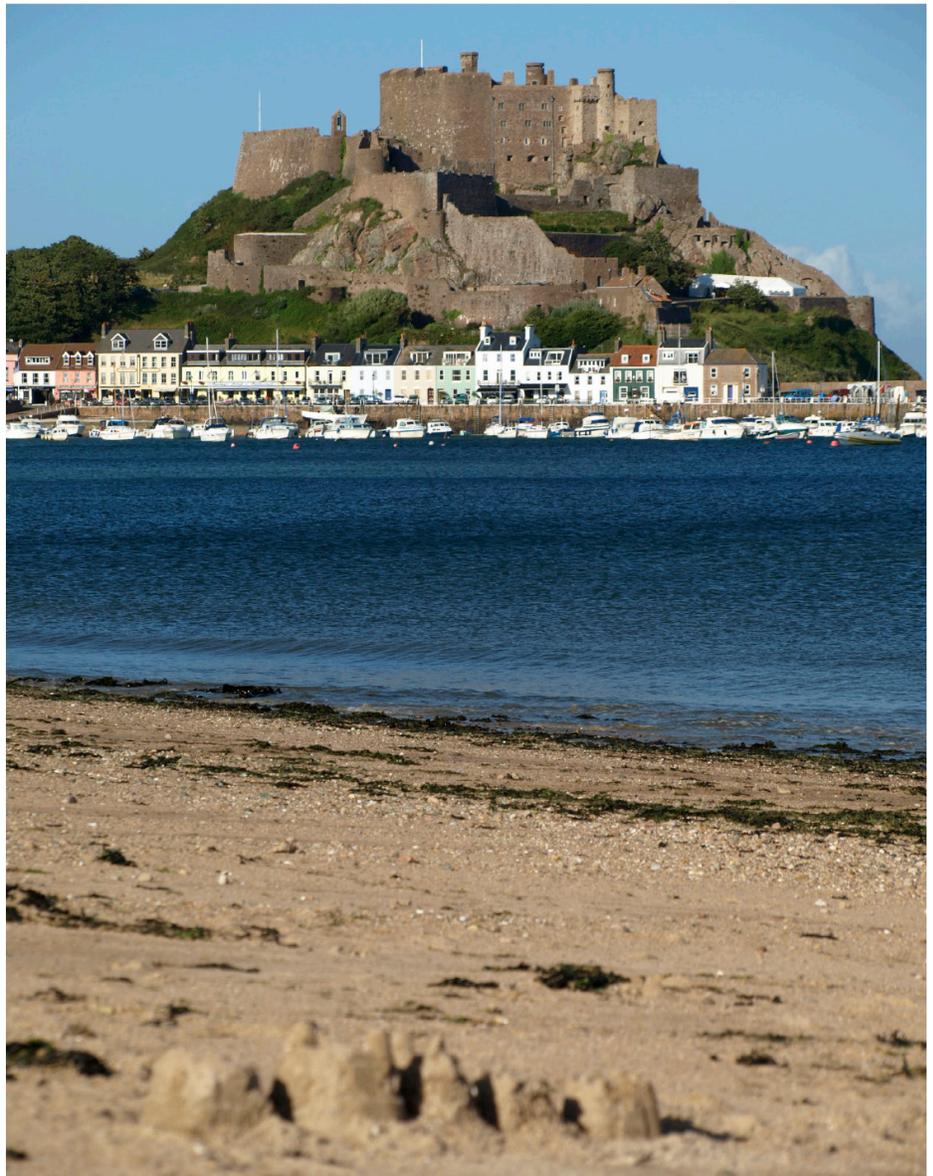
And then there is the holiday to prepare for. The Induni family are trying something new and different this Christmas - we are all meeting up in France (except for Alex - he has to stay home and "mind the store!"). My mother, my brother and all his family are going to join us in Camon for Boeuf en Croûte (it is frowned upon to call it Beef Wellington in France!) and Bûche de Noël.

But the real present will be having my mum there. At 89 she doesn't really travel much any more and this will be the first Christmas in about 30 years that she will be able to spend with both her sons.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Michael Induni, President

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## THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

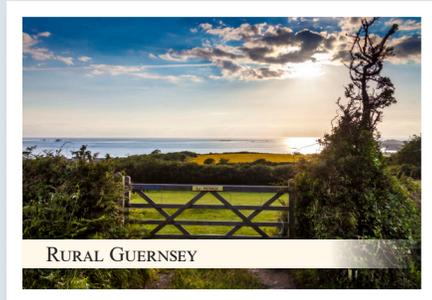
by Sarah Franklin

While flying over the English Channel on my last trip to Europe, I could spot the Channel Islands. I commented to my husband on how close they were to the coast of France, yet they were English, why? This seemed odd to me, and, as with so many other places in Europe, therein lies the history. Due to their location, from the stone age onwards the islands were used as a trading post and a sparring ground. The Romans, The Britons (escaping the Anglo-Saxons) and Norse raiders all appeared there. The Duchy of Normandy, annexed the territory in 933 CE and ever since, the islands have enjoyed their current semi-independent status. They are not represented in the English Parliament, but are self-governed and thus not subject to UK tax law. Their unique status stems from the fact that they are still considered to be part of the Duchy of Normandy, from the time when William the Conqueror was both King of England and Duke of Normandy. This is a simplified version of the history from a non-historian, but what is fascinating to me is how these idyllic, serene and naturally beautiful islands represent the deep connection there once was between England and France (who call the islands the *Îles de la Manche*). continued on page 2

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In modern history, the Channel Islands were the only British territory to be occupied by the Germans in World War II. For five years from 1940-1945, it was a dark and treacherous time for the people who lived there. There wasn't a large, organized resistance simply because there was nowhere to hide. Today, although agriculture and fishing industries still abound, tourism (they are known as the "honeymoon islands") and off-shore financial centers are the main economic drivers.

The beauty of these islands is defined by wild cliffs overlooking rolling waves, pristine beaches and azure blue seas. Some compare it to the Caribbean yet with a very different heritage and climate. One can see the span of history - Dolmens or burial sites from the Neolithic Period: Iron age fortifications and battlements: underground hospitals and old concrete gun emplacements from the occupation, all right next to today's shops and cafes.



RURAL GUERNSEY

The NYT best seller *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shafer and Annie Barrows, is a novel placed in the aftermath of the occupation on the island of Guernsey. A wonderful study about human bonds and love during difficult times, it is currently being turned into a movie featuring three Downton Abbey stars: Matthew Goode, who played Henry Talbot; Jessica Brown Findlay, who played Lady Sybil Branson; and Penelope Wilton, who played Isobel Crawley. Discover Europe has designed a tour, **THE CHANNEL ISLANDS**, which is a tribute to this novel, soon to be film. We will not only explore the vestiges of the past but will take in the incredible scenery of the islands' golden beaches, fantastic gardens, and ocean vistas. See our day-by-day itinerary for the details and if you haven't read the book, we thoroughly recommend it!

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you haven't read the book, we thoroughly recommend it!



SAINT PETER PORT



## AN ICELANDIC CROSSWALK

How do you slow down cars and give pedestrians safety without using speed bumps or traffic signs? Check out Iceland's new 3D pedestrian crossings. Painted as an optical illusion to give the driver an image of concrete blocks floating above the surface, these innovative paintings solve the problem in a unique and ingenious way. Ralf Trylla, Iceland's environmental commissioner, after seeing similar projects in New Delhi, India, called for these to be painted.



## FAVORITE HOTELS

### POMME D'OR HOTEL LIBERATION SQUARE ST. HELIER, JERSEY

Originally opened in 1837, this hotel was purchased, renovated, and re-opened by George & Ada Seymour in 1930. The hotel has been under the continuous ownership and management of five generations of the Seymour family ever since! Travel back in time to "Honeymoon Island" and relive the literary magic of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* on our trip to **THE CHANNEL ISLANDS**, September 6-15, 2018. Contact Discover Europe for the full itinerary.

## A NEW PUZZLE

**Q: DURING WORLD WAR II, WHERE WAS THE ONLY BRITISH SOIL TO BE INVADED AND OCCUPIED BY THE GERMAN ARMY?**

To answer, go to Discover Europe's Facebook page, like the page and leave an answer. The winner, selected at random, will receive a voucher for \$200 off any trip listed in this newsletter!

## . . . AND A WINNING SOLUTION

**Q: AN ISLAND IN EUROPE HAS AN OFFICIAL ANTHEM ABOUT A SPIDER, ADAPTED FROM A POPULAR, ANCIENT CHILDREN'S SONG. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE ISLAND?**

**A: Mallorca!** The anthem, adapted by Joan Alcover i Maspons (1854-1926), is based on an ancient and popular Mallorcan children's song.

## COURIER'S CORNER: ADRIAN METCALFE

Q: WHERE IS YOUR FAVOURITE TOUR DESTINATION?

A: *Nafplio, Greece | Caernarfon, Wales | Galway, Ireland*

Q: DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE CITY?

A: *Athens, Heraklion, Rome, Palermo, Galway, Cork, Dublin, Swansea*

Q: IS THERE A SPECIAL MOMENT THAT STICKS OUT ON A DISCOVER EUROPE TOUR?

A: *Dylan Thomas means so much more when you read it in Cwmdonkin Park rather than on 110<sup>th</sup> Street.*

Q: WHAT DO YOU ALWAYS PACK?

A: *I wish it was my toothbrush!*

Q: WHY ARE YOU A TOUR GUIDE?

A: *I ignited my interest and love of travel while a student at University, spending two summers digging for artefacts in Sicily and two in Macedonia (ancient that is).*

Q: DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE PLACE TO STAY?

A: *Divani Palace Hotel in Athens for the view from the rooftop bar, Hotel Diodorus in Agrigento.*



Q: CAN YOU SHARE YOUR MOST MEMORABLE DINING EXPERIENCE ON A TRIP?

A: *Roast lamb in Greece on Easter Sunday.*

Q: DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE FOOD EXPERIENCE?

A: *See above!*

*Join Adrian Metcalfe on:*

### **A GREEK EASTER**

Tour through a land whose influence defines countless aspects of modern culture and celebrate the holiest day of the year in one of the foremost hearts of Orthodoxy.

APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup> 2018

### **WONDRIOUS WALES**

From the romantic appeal of Tintern Abbey to breathtaking vistas on St. David's Peninsula, an exploration of places, personalities and history that constitute the haunting beauty of this land.

JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup> 2018

### **ANCIENT ISLANDS: CRETE**

From Athens to Heraklion, we will explore the ancient Minoan civilization stretching back into the mists of time.

SEPT. 27<sup>TH</sup> - AUG. 6<sup>TH</sup> 2018

## AN AFTERNOON A WORLD AWAY

*by Tiffany Mannion*

I had the great pleasure to be part of Discover Europe's *CORSICA AND SARDINIA* trip in September. My sister joined me, and we both came home with suitcases full of memories, none more precious than our time in Sartène.

We had free time to explore the "most Corsican of Corsica's towns," and while many of our fellow travelers made lunch their first priority, we set out to find the pulse of the place. The town, heart of vendettas and superstitions, is steeped, even today, in the wild, historic passion of this stunning island. We were not simply searching for a glimpse of history, we were walking through a portal into a town where every alley, street and doorway whispered a wonderful story.

The town is built of granite, on granite. A seemingly endless maze of passageways is connected by steep steps designed to guard against unexpected attack. We wandered in every direction, enchanted by the seemingly



abstract organization, and ended where we began, outside the Église Sainte-Marie. Home of one of the oldest traditions in Corsica, this church re-enacts The Passion on Good Friday. We stepped into the cool darkness and over to the wooden cross, displayed on the wall. Our fingers touched the cool metal chains and our eyes followed the pictures of the annual procession across the walls.

Heading back into the sunshine, we gathered samples of Sartène from assorted storefronts. Eggplant quiche, Mirto (a liqueur made from the myrtle plant), Corsican beer, local wine, chestnut candies and cookies, essential oils, candles and porcelain tea cups.

Meeting up with the others, we were happy to share the thrill of our perambulations and our efforts to get lost in time and place in search of the pulse of Sartène. Of all the towns on the island, there is a strong, wild, shadowed beauty that pulled at our hearts as we boarded the bus.

Last weekend, my sister and I got together. We sat at the table and uncorked the Mirto and remembered Sartène, our favorite and the most "Corsican of Corsica's towns."

## CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TRIPS

### AUSTRIA

#### VIENNA - MIT SCHLAG?

Old-world European elegance with day trips, a performance at the Vienna State Opera House and of course - dessert!

 JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> - 23<sup>RD</sup> 2018

#### THE ROMANTIC ROAD

Alpine settings and medieval half-timbered houses dot the romantic, winding road from Vienna to Heidelberg. Explore the realm of the Hapsburgs, one of the greatest dynasties the world has ever known.

OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup> 2018

### CROATIA

#### THE DALMATIAN COAST

Bask in the "Pearl of the Adriatic" - one of Europe's best-kept secrets.

APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup> - MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> 2018

### DENMARK

#### WONDERFUL COPENHAGEN

A long weekend adventure into the land of fairy tales in search of "hygge."

 JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup> - 19<sup>TH</sup> 2018

### ENGLAND

#### POLDARK'S CORNWALL

Visit the heart of Poldark's Cornwall and experience the unique micro-climate washed by the warming currents of the Gulf Stream.

APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup> - 29<sup>TH</sup> 2018



BLENHIM PALACE

#### TREASURE HOUSES OF SOUTHERN ENGLAND

See the full glory of Britain's Stately Homes set against the backdrop of a glorious full-blown English spring.

MAY 6<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup> 2018

#### THE BEST OF ENGLISH GARDENS

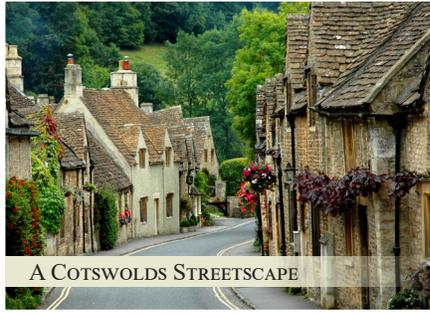
Our annual homage to the Chelsea Flower Show and gardens of southern England.

MAY 15<sup>TH</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup> 2018

#### WALES AND THE LAKE DISTRICT

Castle ruins, medieval streets and magnificent Celtic heritage define these regions of stunning beauty.

MAY 26<sup>TH</sup> - JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> 2018



A COTSWOLDS STREETSCAPE

#### THE CAPTIVATING COTSWOLDS

Quintessential English countryside unfolds between visits to Oxford, Kenilworth, Stratford-upon-Avon, and Bath.

JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup> 2018

#### BRITAIN IN BLOOM

Famous summer gardens of England await and include a day at the Royal Horticultural Society's premier show at Hampton Court.

JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> 2018

#### DISCOVERING EAST ANGLIA

Experience life in a country house hotel with popular guide Gavin Miller in his home region.

JULY 20<sup>TH</sup> - 28<sup>TH</sup> 2018

#### MAGIC OF MEDIEVAL ENGLAND

Medieval England comes to life as we stay in York and Nottingham and visit the annual Robin Hood Festival. A trip that will appeal to young travelers and grandparents alike!

JULY 27<sup>TH</sup> - AUG. 4<sup>TH</sup> 2018

#### THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

Award-winning beaches, coastal castles and small rural hamlets make up this stunning archipelago. Explore these wonderful islands, officially the sunniest place in Britain.

SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup> 2018

#### TREASURE HOUSES OF NORTHERN ENGLAND

From York to the Lake District, journey behind the usual tourist facade and explore the remarkable natural beauty of the north.

SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> - 29<sup>TH</sup> 2018

#### THE WEST COUNTRY

Walk in the ancient land of myth and legend in the southwest peninsula of England and journey through the mists of its Celtic past.

OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup> 2018

#### KENT: THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND

Away from London and into the rolling hills of Kent. Enjoy brilliant and eclectic explorations from Dover to Dorking.

OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup> - 27<sup>TH</sup> 2018

#### A DICKENSIAN FEAST

The Rochester Dickens Festival, and Dickensian sites from London to Broadstreet. And all in time for Christmas.

NOV. 28<sup>TH</sup> - DEC. 7<sup>TH</sup> 2018

### FRANCE

#### PRINTEMPS EN PROVENCE

Follow in the footsteps of Cezanne, Van Gogh, Gauguin, Picasso, and Matisse and leave inspired by landscapes of brilliant color.

 APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup> - 14<sup>TH</sup> 2018

#### NORMANDY, BRITANNY & THE LOIRE

From the rolling beaches of Normandy to the romantic beauty of chateau country; an ever-changing panorama unfolds through some of the loveliest regions of France.

MAY 24<sup>TH</sup> - JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> 2018

#### THE WINES OF BORDEAUX

A tour of the senses, featuring chateaux, sprawling vineyards, medieval villages, wine and local food tastings.

 SEPT. 28<sup>TH</sup> - OCT. 6<sup>TH</sup> 2018

#### MEDITERRANEAN SHORES

From Barcelona to Nice, azure waters, white sand beaches, mountain villages and boundless sunshine create a mood of tranquility that is truly irresistible.

OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup> - 20<sup>TH</sup> 2018

#### THE CHÂTEAU DE CAMON

An extended stay at the magnificent Abbaye Château de Camon with day trips exploring the region from Carcassonne to the Pyrenees.

 OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup> - 27<sup>TH</sup> 2018

#### CORSICA & SARDINIA

Natural island beauty and rich history flourish in the Mediterranean climate of these two stunning islands.

OCT. 25<sup>TH</sup> - NOV. 3<sup>RD</sup> 2018

### GERMANY

#### GERMAN ANCESTORS

Join Matthias Kort and trace the history of German emigration to the United States.

APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> - MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2018



THE BRANDENBURG GATE

#### THE NEW BERLIN

Explore the city that two of our best tour guides, Matthias Kort and Sara Cereda-Kort, call home. After the fall of the wall, culture and a modern, happening city is revealed!

 MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> - 26<sup>TH</sup> 2018

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE TRIPS: CALL: (866) 563-7077 • E-MAIL: [info@discovereuropeltd.com](mailto:info@discovereuropeltd.com)  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.discovereuropeltd.com](http://www.discovereuropeltd.com)**

### ACROSS THE ALPS

Wend your way south from Munich to the Italian Lakes, crossing the Alps through Bavaria, Austria and into the Dolomites of Northern Italy  
SEPT. 26<sup>TH</sup> - OCT. 5<sup>TH</sup> 2018

### THE ROMANTIC ROAD

Alpine settings and medieval half-timbered houses dot the romantic, winding road from Vienna to Heidelberg.  
OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup> 2018

### GREECE

#### A GREEK EASTER

Join the locals for spit-roasted lamb on the beach on this, the most important of Greek holidays. Visits to Athens and Delphi as well.  
APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup> 2018

#### ANCIENT ISLANDS: CRETE

From Athens to Heraklion, explore the ancient Minoan civilization stretching back into the mists of time.  
SEPT. 27<sup>TH</sup> - OCT. 6<sup>TH</sup> 2018

### ICELAND

#### G.O.T. ICELAND

Join this Icelandic tribute to the highly acclaimed show, *The Game of Thrones*, led by someone who was actually in it!  
APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup> 2018

#### THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Long dark winter nights set the stage for the possibility of seeing the lights dance across the sky and fill your days with wonder.

 FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> - 25<sup>TH</sup> 2019

### IRELAND

#### THE GARDENS OF IRELAND

See a thousand shades of green that make up Ireland's rich garden landscape.  
MAY 24<sup>TH</sup> - JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> 2018

#### ISLAND OF SAINTS AND SCHOLARS

A literary exploration of this beautiful island from the Dublin of James Joyce to Yeats' Country, around Sligo.  
AUGUST 16<sup>TH</sup> - 25<sup>TH</sup> 2018

#### THE EMERALD ISLE

Introducing Ireland, both north and south, for a glimpse this beautifully complex island of epic struggles and scenery.  
SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> - 29<sup>TH</sup> 2018

### ITALY

#### THE ALMAFI COAST

Described by Charles Dickens as "one succession of delights", this dramatic area possesses countless cultural and scenic wonders.

 MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> 2018



BAROLO VINEYARD

### THE ITALIAN KITCHEN

Journey from farm to table in the Piedmont and Emilia Romagna regions. A gastronomic tour with samplings of the regions specialties.  
OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup> 2018

### CORSICA & SARDINIA

Natural island beauty and rich history flourish in the Mediterranean climate of these two stunning islands.  
OCT. 25<sup>TH</sup> - NOV. 3<sup>RD</sup> 2018

### PORTUGAL

#### LUXURIOUS LISBON

Experience this sensuous city and the region through its mesmerizing Fado, delicious seafood and soothing Port.

 NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> - 6<sup>TH</sup> 2018

#### THE MAGIC OF MADEIRA

Walk away from winter to experience an exotic destination referred to as the island of eternal spring.

 FEB. 22<sup>ND</sup> - MAR. 3<sup>RD</sup> 2019

### SCOTLAND

#### SKYE & THE HIGHLANDS

The breathtaking landscapes, the romance of legends, and the drama of noble and fiercely independent inhabitants will endear you the Scottish highlands.

JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup> - JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2018

#### THE HIGHLANDS BY RAIL

The ride from Inverness across to the Kyle of Lochalsh is known as one of the "Great Railway Journeys of the World," with two nights on the Isle of Skye, soaking up tales of the Lords of the Sea Kingdom.

SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> - 23<sup>RD</sup> 2018

#### CHRISTMAS IN SCOTLAND

Time in Glasgow and Edinburgh with the holidays spent in a Scottish Castle.  
DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> - 28<sup>TH</sup> 2018

### SPAIN

#### BARCELONA & MALLORCA

Explore the vibrant city of Barcelona and then fly to the island paradise of Mallorca.  
APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup> - 26<sup>TH</sup> 2018

### THE PILGRIM'S WAY

Trace the Way of St. James on the ancient pilgrimage route from Bilbao to Santiago.  
MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> 2018

### MEDITERRANEAN SHORES

From Barcelona to Nice, azure waters, white sand beaches, mountain villages and boundless sunshine create an irresistible mood of tranquility and contentment.  
OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup> - 20<sup>TH</sup> 2018

### THANKSGIVING IN MALLORCA

An extended stay in Sóller, with day trips to Deia, Palma and Valldemossa. Enjoy Thanksgiving dinner Mallorcan style.

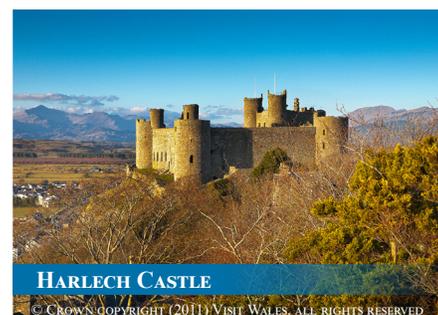
 NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup> 2018

### WALES

#### WALES AND THE LAKE DISTRICT

Castle ruins, medieval streets and magnificent Celtic heritage define these regions of stunning beauty.

MAY 26<sup>TH</sup> - JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> 2018



HARLECH CASTLE

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### WONDROUS WALES

From the romantic appeal of Tintern Abbey to breathtaking vistas on St. David's Peninsula, an exploration of places, personalities and history that constitute the haunting beauty of this land.

JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup> 2018



Indicates a "Let's Unpack: One-Stop Trip." One hotel, countless memories.

## CUSTOM TOURS

In addition to those listed here, Discover Europe also runs tours that are custom-designed for a variety of organizations such as Harvard University, Bryn Mawr, Smith College, Tufts University, Vassar College and many others. Although these "sponsored" tours are not listed here, they are often available to non-members upon request.

Discover Europe can also organize private tours for groups of 2 to 20. Contact us for details.

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## CAMON: THE VILLAGE OF ROSES

Camon, “The Village of Roses”, is where our trip **THE CHÂTEAU DE CAMON** stays in the Ariège department of southwest France, and is officially listed as one of the “*Plus Beaux Villages de France*.” This is a title of distinction identifying rural villages of natural and historic significance throughout France. When you enter the old, once-fortified walled town, it’s like entering a secret garden. Each house has its own climbing rose, that welcomes you with its scent and color. The village takes pride in its roses taking care to prune accordingly to make the most blossoms last sometimes through November.

According to the official website, “The Most Beautiful Villages in France,” Charles Ceyrac, Mayor of Collonges-la-Rouge, felt a strong need to protect and promote the heritage of these rural villages and initiated this association, which

became official in 1982. Today, it includes 157 villages spread over 14 regions. Their ambition is to “reconcile villages with the future and to restore life around the fountain or in the square.”

The hundreds of yellow, pink, red and fuchsia colored roses that adorn the rambling age old street of Camon beckon and woo any traveler who passes by, yet also protect and hold the past with their supporting thorny vines reminding the visitor to “look but don’t touch.”



## THE DIFFERENCE WITH SMALL-GROUP TRAVEL

Many tour companies focus on “small-group travel,” however, the meaning varies from tour company to tour company. Some companies define small groups as 20-25 travelers. Here at Discover Europe, we carefully design all our tours to allow for a maximum of 15 travelers and a minimum of 5. We strive to never go over this number, because we value the authentic, flexible, and personal experience that a small group makes possible. There is something special about being a part of a small group, and we’re dedicated to making sure that your experience is the best that it can be. Here are some things that set traveling with Discover Europe apart, and some tips for traveling in a small group.

**MORE FLEXIBILITY** - Being a part of a smaller tour allows for flexibility within the scheduled itinerary. The tour guide gets to know the interests of the group more intimately and can make alterations and additions to the itinerary accordingly.

**DEEPER CONNECTIONS** - Being part of a small group allows you to create deeper relationships with your fellow travelers, your tour guide and the places you visit. Eating at the same dinner table, sharing stories, and walking together, create shared and valued memories. Many leave our tours with lasting friendships and a connection with the tour guide that wouldn’t be possible in a larger tour.



SMALL-GROUP TRAVELERS JUDITH  
AND DAUGHTER ANN

**MORE AUTHENTICITY** - With a small tour, you’ll be traveling in a small van or minibus. This allows our groups to explore areas that may not be accessible to a full size 50-passenger bus. We strive to get off the beaten path, out of the cities, and into the countryside to really show you the heart and soul of the country and its heritage.

**LESS WASTED TIME** - Everything becomes easier in a small group. You’ll spend less time checking into hotels, less time in line to enter places, and less time waiting for other tour members to finish in the gift shop!

### AND SOME TIPS...

**PERSONAL LIMITS** - You do not need to take part in everything offered on the itinerary. Down time is totally acceptable. Take advantage of your accommodations, enjoy your surroundings, read a book, or whatever promises the best time possible!

**ENJOY THE DISCOVERY**- Because you are part of a group tour, it is likely your fellow travelers come from all backgrounds and we recommend keeping religion and politics out of conversation. Enjoy the excitement of learning and discovering new places!

**BE PREPARED** - Be aware that the streets and buildings are older in Europe, and steps are often uneven and worn. There may be cobble streets and narrow stairs, so wear comfortable shoes because a short walk does not always mean an easy walk. Your safety is paramount and we will do everything possible to make your trip enriching and memorable.

## A NEW TAKE ON OLD FAVORITES

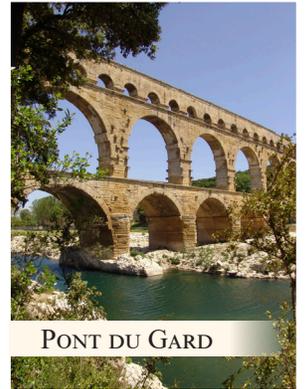
At Discover Europe, we enjoy brainstorming places to visit that we haven't been to for a while, and revisiting old favorites with updated itineraries. Here are four trips we love. These destinations have been off of our calendar, but close to our hearts and we thought we would bring them back just for you! Scheduled in both the spring and fall, these four destinations are designed to avoid the crowds and bring you to the heart of Europe. We are thrilled to reintroduce them!

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### PRINTEMPS EN PROVENCE, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup> - 14<sup>TH</sup> 2018

Discover a stunning countryside with a long-standing reputation for the finest food and wine, beautiful cities, and a cultural heritage stretching from the prehistoric to the avant-garde. Whether you're a first-time traveler to France, or have visited many times before, this trip will be sure to offer something new. Discover why Provence has been a magnet for painters from Van Gogh to Matisse. Unpack in the heart of Provence on this "One-Stop" tour in the Roman city of Arles and explore:

AVIGNON | THE PONT DU GARD | ROMAN NÎMES | ANCIENT HILLTOP VILLAGES | AIX-EN-PROVENCE



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### GARDENS OF IRELAND, MAY 24<sup>TH</sup> - JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> 2018

The warm, moist climate of Ireland inspired many English land owners in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to enhance their Irish estates with a world of Anglo-Saxon garden design. The result is a wonderful collection of some of the world's finest gardens nurtured with a backdrop of stunning green. See the warmth of people and place as you travel east from Killarney to Dublin exploring the very best the island has to offer. Add an optional extension to Northern Ireland to complete your experience. Highlights include:

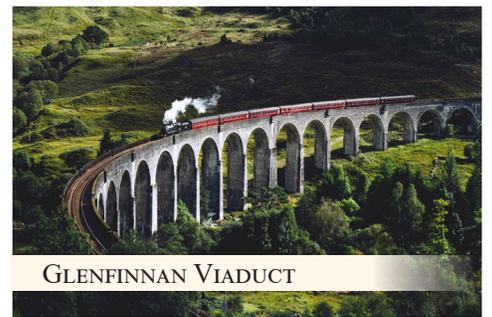
DUNLOE CASTLE GARDENS | RING OF KERRY | MUCKROSS HOUSE & GARDENS | WATERFORD | MOUNT USHER | ILNACULLIN GARDEN | DERREN GARDEN | LISMORE CASTLE & GARDENS

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### THE HIGHLANDS BY RAIL, SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> - 22<sup>ND</sup> 2018

Few visitors travel to Scotland without leaving a part of their heart behind in the Highlands. The breathtaking landscapes, romantic tales and legends, and drama of both noble and fiercely independent inhabitants leave a beautifully indelible impression. Begin in the capital, Edinburgh, steeped in atmosphere and history before heading north to Inverness, the "Capital of the Highlands." Continue your journey across the dramatic landscape of the Highlands to the enchanting Isle of Skye. Travel between cities by train, watching the magnificent landscapes roll past. Enjoy one of the "Great Railway Journeys of the World," with plenty of time for a wee dram in the local pub. Discover the best of Scotland this fall and visit:

EDINBURGH | PALACE OF HOLYROOD HOUSE | INVERNESS | SKYE | KYLE OF LOCHALSH | GLASGOW  
DUNVEGAN CASTLE | URQUHART CASTLE | LOCH NESS | EILEAN DONAN CASTLE | TALISKER WHISKY DISTILLERY



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### MEDITERRANEAN SHORES, OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup> - 20<sup>TH</sup> 2018

Discover Europe's Gavin Miller designed this tour, which explores his favorite cities and villages along the Mediterranean shoreline from Spain to southern France. With overnights in Barcelona, Arles and Nice, discover the quintessence of this intoxicating region of brilliant light and landscape found in:

BARCELONA | CARCASSONNE | PROVENCE | ARLES | ANCIENT HILLTOP VILLAGES  
COTE D'AZUR | AVIGNON



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# INTO THE HEART OF EUROPE

THE NEWSLETTER OF DISCOVER EUROPE LTD.



FEATURING THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

95 Adams St.  
Keene, NH 03431

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## SEASONED TRAVELERS IN THE ITALIAN KITCHEN

by Fred and Jean Leventhal

In October 2017, we traveled to northern Italy on our seventh trip with Discover Europe. The trip was called *THE ITALIAN KITCHEN*, and we enjoyed special experiences, like a truffle hunt near Alba, the center of the white truffle culture in Italy; a cooking class in Bologna, where we made, and then ate for lunch, three different pastas and their appropriate sauces; a tour of the large open-air food market in Turin, where we tasted local cheeses and cured meats from artisanal suppliers; wine-tasting at a small winery in Barolo, followed by a special dinner in their restaurant; visits to a small cheese-making facility to watch Parmaggiano-Reggiano being made by a two-man team (and taste the aged cheese), and to a family enterprise that makes the prized Aceto Balsamico (balsamic vinegar) in Modena—definitely not the pale factory-produced imitation sold so widely now. Of course there were historic and cultural sites along the way as well—cathedrals, a monastery, palaces and art galleries, and fabulous meals and hotels. The trip demonstrated everything we have loved about Discover Europe trips since our first one to Greece ten years ago.

We were a group of six—our group size has ranged from four (to Tuscany) to twenty-one (with a museum-sponsored tour in 2007), but has mostly ranged from seven to ten members. This year, we had Sara, an amazing guide, who knows everything about Italy (she's from the Piedmont region), but all our

guides have been wonderful people who we now cherish as friends, as well as experts in their respective areas. The pace of the tour was relaxed and balanced, with plenty of free time to enjoy the particular aspects of the place, as well as the special experiences and organized tours, led by knowledgeable local guides. Our hotels were excellent—comfortable, central, quiet, and staffed by friendly people.

We are constantly recommending Discover Europe to people we meet on our travels and to friends at home. For its value, variety, and excellent choices of hotels, guides and itineraries, it is unique in the travel world. It has enriched our lives immeasurably over the last ten years, taking us to various regions of Italy (Tuscany, Umbria, Sicily and the north), Spain, France and Greece. We hope we have many more trips ahead of us.

Fred and Jean Leventhal  
Cambridge, MA



FRED AND JEAN LEVENTHAL