"EXPLORING THE LOIRE VALLEY, THE LAND OF CHÂTEAUX" - 6 DAYS/5 NIGHTS

**DAY 1**

Arrival in the Loire Valley for 10 a.m.

10 a.m. Château of Chambord 2 hrs
Visit of the château with HistoPad and the French-style gardens. A visit of this masterpiece of the French Renaissance, with its extraordinary architecture to the glory of King Francis I where the spirit of Leonardo da Vinci still lives.
Lunch in Chambord or Cheverny/Cour-Cheverny

2.30 p.m. Château of Cheverny 1 hr 30 min
Guided visit of the Château and gardens. A private château that has been the residence of the same family for over 6 centuries... See the finest furniture collection in the Loire Valley châteaux.

5 p.m. Monmousseau wine cellar 1 hr 30 min
Visit and tasting. After an emotional journey through a world of light, you will be introduced to the secrets of the great wines with fine bubbles at the heart of one of the biggest tuffeau stone cellars in Touraine.

7 p.m. check-in at the hotel (in or near Blois)
Then dinner at the hotel or in one of the restaurants in the centre of Blois.

10 p.m.* Sound & Light Show at the Royal Château of Blois 45 min
A chance to enjoy an amazing experience! On the 4 façades of the courtyard, projections of monumental video images transform the château and bring it to life.
*From 21 April to 23 September: every evening (except 21 June and 13 July), 10 p.m. (April, May, September) or 10.30 p.m. (June, July, August)

**DAY 2**

10 a.m. Château royal of Blois 1 hr 30 min
Guided visit. The château evokes the destiny of 7 kings and 10 queens and reveals all the secrets of the French Court... A wonderful example of the evolution of French architecture from the 13th to 17th century.

11.30 a.m. A prestigious horse and carriage ride 2 hrs
A prestigious Percheron horse and carriage ride through the old town. A guided tour taking you to the banks of the River Loire for a tasting of regional specialities at a buffet including an aperitif, various dishes, Loire Valley wines and coffee.

2 p.m. International Gardens Festival 2 hrs
Self-guided visit of the International Gardens Festival* at the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire. 30 new and original creations made by designers from all over the world.
* from April to November

4 p.m. Château of Chaumont-sur-Loire 1 hr
Self-guided visit. A panoramic view over the untamed Loire with one of the finest perspectives over the royal river!

5.30 p.m. A trip in a traditional boat on the River Loire 1 hr 15 min
A trip with the Millière-Raboton association. Leaving from Chaumont-sur-Loire, a chance to enjoy new discoveries and unexpected encounters on the Loire, Europe’s last untamed river.

7.30 p.m. Check-in and dinner at the hotel
In or around Amboise

**DAY 3**

10 a.m. Royal Château of Amboise 1 hr 30 min
Guided visit. This magnificent château attracted the royal court and artists, including Leonardo da Vinci, whose resting place is in the chapel. Customised services for groups (visits and/or private tastings, etc.).
Lunch: in the town centre of Amboise

2.30 p.m. Château of the Clos-Lucé 1 hr 45 min
Self-guided visit of the Château du Clos-Lucé – Parc Leonardo da Vinci. An immersion in the daily life of Leonardo da Vinci, who lived here from 1516 to 1519: his bedroom, his work rooms... and 40 models of his inventions!
Free time in the town of Amboise

7 p.m. check-in and dinner at the hotel
Amboise or Chenonceaux

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DAY 4

9.30 a.m. Château of Chenonceau 2 hrs 15 min
Audio-guide visit of the Château then self-guided visit of the gardens. Chenonceau, with its rich furnishings and wonderful flower gardens, gracefully spans the River Cher, making this a unique site... Special botanic and/or floral art visits for groups on reservation.

Lunch at the Château de Chenonceau or in the village of Chenonceaux or during a boat trip on La Bélandre.

2.30 p.m. Boat trip on the River Cher 1 hr 15 min
A trip on La Bélandre with a commentary and a chance to pass below the arches of the Château de Chenonceau, for a unique perspective on the monument!

4.30 p.m. Père Auguste wine cellar 1 hr 15 min
Visit and tasting at the “Caves du Père Auguste”, a wine cellar for visitors with the “Excellence Welcome” label. The Godeau family has been at work for 5 generations in the wine cellars dug out by their ancestor. They welcome visitors to share an experience focusing on their wines.

6.30 p.m. Check-in and dinner at the hotel
Amboise or Chenonceaux.

DAY 5

9.30 a.m. Guided visit to the city of Tours 2 hrs or 3 hrs
Tours, a City of Art and History, never fails to charm visitors with its ancient districts, squares and pedestrian streets lined with half-timbered houses, and its historic monuments (cathedral, town hall, etc.).

Lunch in the centre of Tours or in Villandry

12 p.m. Château de Villandry 2 hrs
Guided visit of the Château then self-guided tour of the gardens. Take the time to stroll through the six exquisite gardens (vegetable garden, ornamental garden, sun garden, etc.). In the château: 18th century interiors and a collection of Spanish paintings.

4.30 p.m. Poires tapées or wickerwork 1 hr 15 min
Exploring local skills: Poires tapées (dried pears) from Rivarennes or wickerwork from Villaines-les-Rochers.

6.30 p.m. Check-in and dinner at the hotel
In or around Azay-le-Rideau

DAY 6

9.30 a.m. Château of Azay-le-Rideau 1 hr 30 min
Guided visit. The Château is encircled by a river and a romantic park, evoking all the charm of the Renaissance. It has been magnificently restored and features prestigious historic decoration.

11.30 a.m. Château de l'Aulée winery 1 hr 15 min to 2 hr 30 min
Visit and tasting at the Château de l'Aulée winery, a wine cellar with the “Excellence Welcome” label. Marielle Henrion welcomes visitors to her vineyards and wine cellar to share with them the emotion of her wines. Meals available for groups.

Lunch on site or in a restaurant in Azay-le-Rideau or Langeais

2.30 p.m. Château of Langeais 1 hr 30 min
Guided visit of the Château. Combining the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, this royal residence houses an exceptional collection of furniture and has an exquisite landscaped park.

About 4 p.m., end of stay in the Loire Valley