

W L T
World Luxury Tourism

World

Luxury Travel

Magazine

Vol. 1 ■ Issue 2 ■ September, 2012

Wines to Die for
The Divine Nectar

**Best Convention
Centres of the World**

In Conversation with –

Mr. Simon Press, Reed Travel
Exhibitions Director, WTM

*Best Chocolate
Destinations of the World*



- Vol. 1
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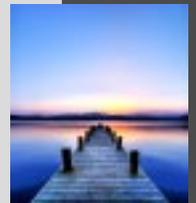
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First, we would like to thank our readers and well-wishers for the overwhelming response given to the first edition of the World Luxury Travel Magazine. The messages, greetings and encouraging words through mails and comments touched our hearts. Thank you for your enthusiastic support! We also thank you for all the feedback given to each of our articles in the e-zine. We look forward to bring you more such quality content filled with information and fascinating features every month.

The World Luxury Tourism (www.worldluxurytourism.com) attended the first ever IT&CM India organized by Singapore based TTG Asia Media and it was the first time that the luxury travel segment was introduced in a TTG Asia event. This

was an excellent platform for us to network and connect with industry colleagues. The recognition given to the World Luxury Travel Magazine in the event has encouraged us to continue doing our best to bring you the most comprehensive e-zine on the world of luxury tourism.

This month we plan to mesmerize you with the old world charm of the **Best Chateau Hotels of France**. Connoisseurs of wine should surely look forward to our feature **Wines to Die for**. Addicted to chocolate? Embark on a journey to the **Best Chocolate Destinations of the World**. We conclude our series of the **Best Convention Centres of the World** in this issue of the e-zine.

I am counting on your feedback. Please keep them coming.

Thank you!

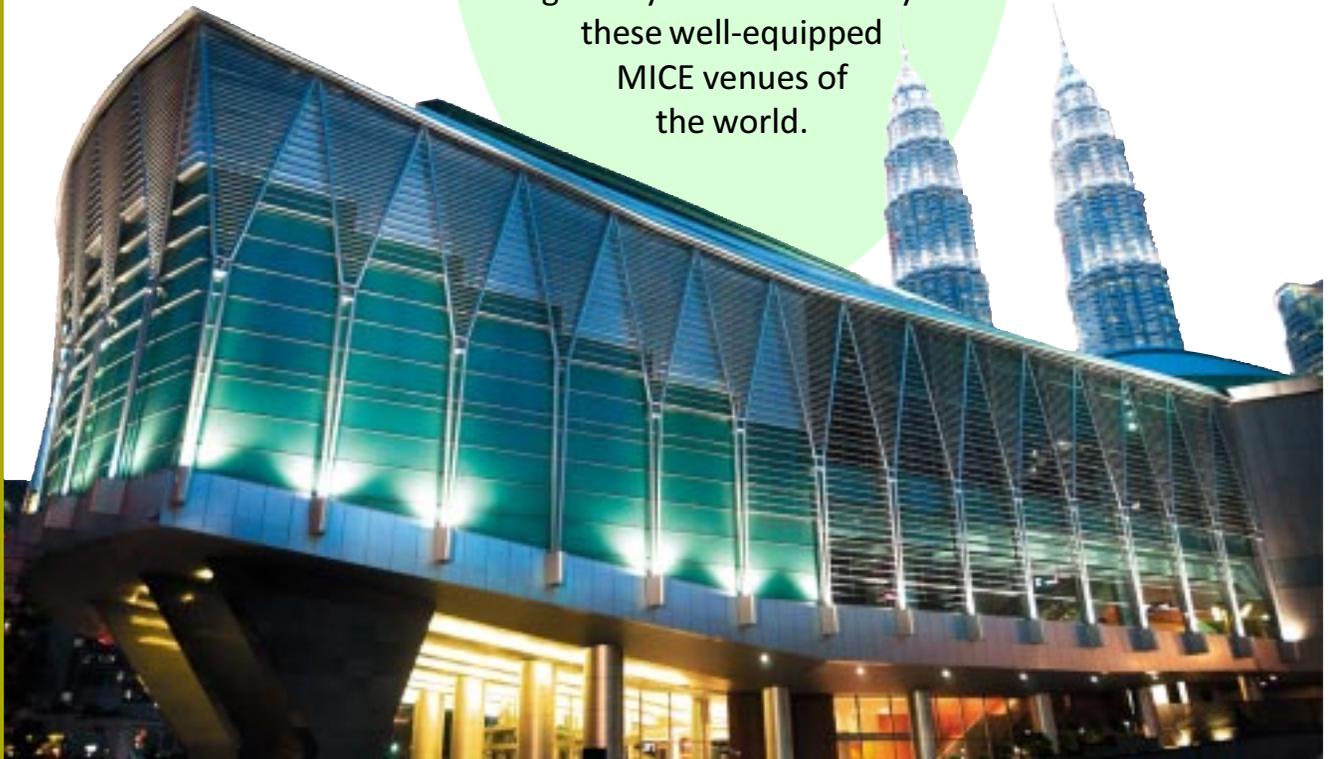
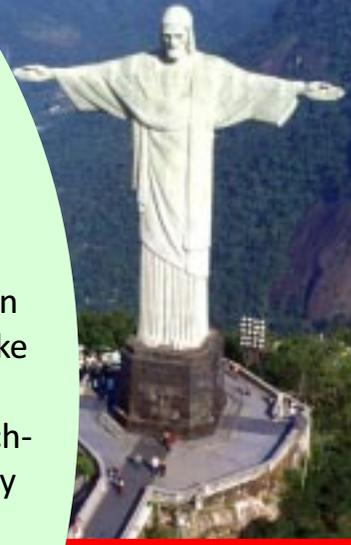
Manashree Prakash
Editor-in-Chief



Cover
Story
MICE

Best Convention Centres of the World

In our August issue of the World Luxury Travel Magazine, we talked about the Five Best Convention Centres of the World. Continuing the series, we bring you the remaining Five Best Convention Centres in the World that sell like hot cakes when it comes to organizing a MICE event. A much-ahead-of-time booking is highly recommended if you want to organize your events in any of these well-equipped MICE venues of the world.





International Convention Centre, Durban

The International Convention Centre in Durban is Africa's leading conference facility and among the world's best conference centres. This largest column free area and multipurpose space in Africa has the most advanced technologies for hosting events.

USPs

- Fully air-conditioned, six interlinked but separate convention halls.
- Central location and close to the airport.



- Movable walls allowing customised utilisation of space, as plenary seating for up to 12,300 delegates or raked seating for 3,880 delegates or one large venue of 9250 sq. m. of flat free floor space.
- Three outdoor courtyard venues of over 1000 sq. m. space.
- Up to 25 meeting rooms.
- A business complex offering banking and foreign exchange facilities, medical services, stationery and postal services.

While in Durban

The vibrant city of Durban is the capital of KwaZulu-Natal and is a potpourri of myriad ethnic groups and cultures. The warm winters and easy accessibility make it a favourite with tourists who arrive here not only for the sun and sand but also to sample the other attractions the city has to offer.

You can choose from many lovely beaches including the Addington or Dairy beaches. There is plenty of fun, food and nightlife to be experienced in the Golden Mile (the road running along the main beaches). You could also head towards Durban's famous South Coast or North Coast with their ever popular holiday resorts. Fascinating game parks, the snake park, the St Lucia Wetland Park and the Drakensberg Mountains are also a few must-sees.

Did You Know?

- Durban is the 3rd largest city in South Africa and its busiest port.
- Vasco da Gama named it as Rio de Natal.
- Mahatma Gandhi began his



political journey in Durban.

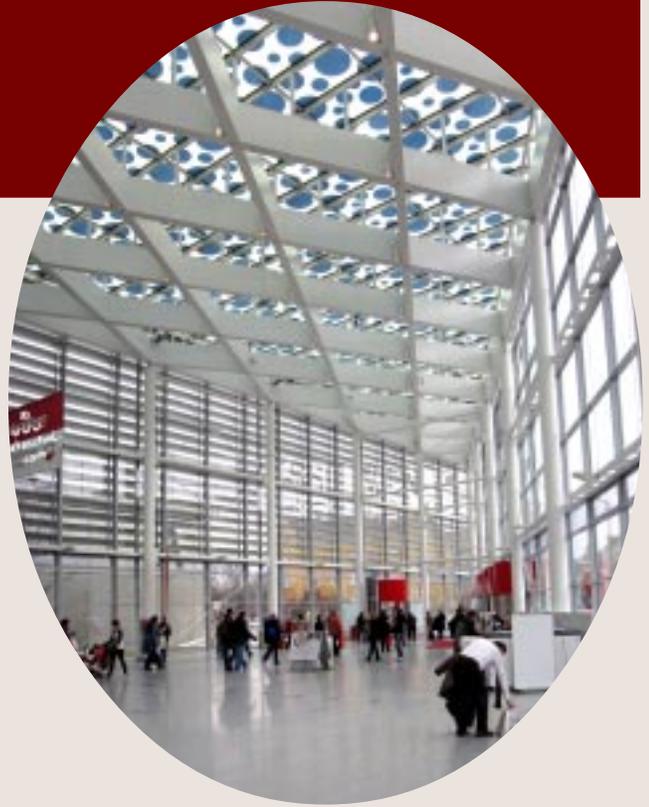
- The African Craft Market is perfect for Zulu beadwork and crafts.
- Durban is one of the leading surfing destinations in South Africa.

Messe Wien Exhibition and Congress Center, Vienna

This centre is located in the 'Prater' area of Vienna, 30 minutes away from the airport and close to the heart of the city. Offering state of the art facilities, it is the perfect venue for hosting high-profile events and exhibitions. This centre has made Vienna an important landmark in the conference venues map.

USPs

- Five buildings with different functions linked by covered walkways.



- Three halls with 46,000 sq. m. gross exhibition space.
- A 9000 sq. m. multi-purpose facility.
- Flexibility of space usage of the five function areas.
- Parking for up to 4300 vehicles.

While in Vienna

Vienna is often called the cultural capital of Europe. Situated on the banks of the River Danube, it combines a rich cultural tradition

of arts and history with all the modern amenities of a city. While in Vienna, do not miss the Schonbrunn Palace, Belvedere Palace, St Stephens Cathedral or the Museum of Fine Arts. The amazing Butterfly House has a collection of hundreds of live beautiful butterflies in a natural rain forest environment. Vienna, the city of music, has been home to legends like Mozart, Beethoven and Strauss. The city is alive with operas, dance, theatre and film festivals.

Mariahilfer Strasse, the city's prime shopping area, is for those who love shopping. It has many boutiques and cafes selling wonderful confectionary.



Did You Know?

- Vienna is home to Tiergarten Schonbrunn, the world's oldest zoological garden.
- The famous Giant Wheel in Prater area is one of Vienna's most popular tourist attractions.
- Vienna has tombs of Beethoven, Strauss, Brahms, Schubert and several other world famous personalities in its Zentralfriedhof cemetery.
- German is the official language of Vienna.
- The largest emerald in the world (2860 carats) is displayed in the Imperial Treasury in Vienna.

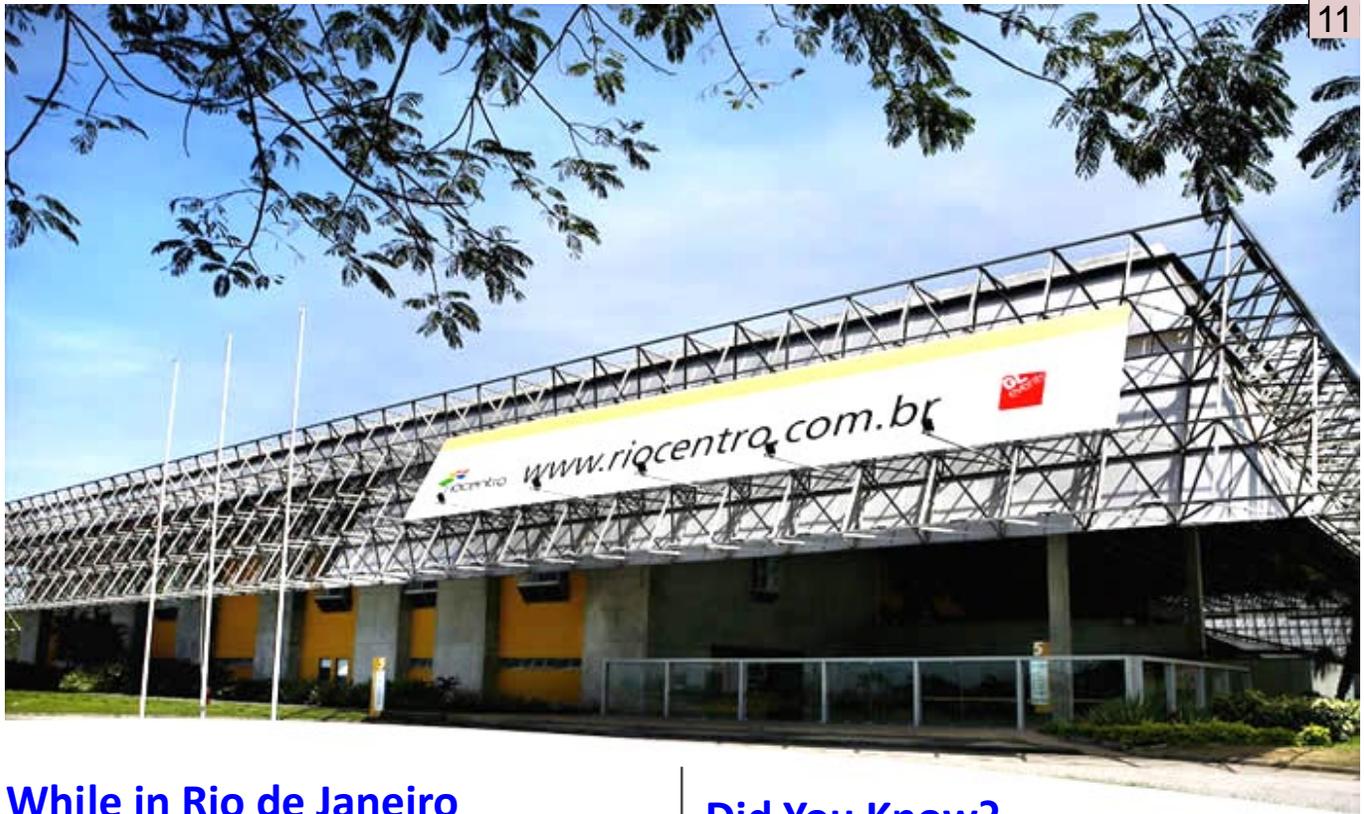
Riocentro Convention Center, Rio de Janeiro

Voted the best convention centre in South America by WTA, Riocentro has world class facilities and has hosted many international events of importance. Located in Barra da Tijuca, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, it is the largest exhibition centre in Latin America.

USPs

- Total space of 571,000 sq. m.
- Total exhibition space of 100,000 sq. m.
- Parking lot with 7000 spaces.
- Multifunctional auditorium with 4500 seating capacity.
- 16 modular meeting rooms with 270 seating capacity.
- Wi-Fi network, telecommunications station, heliport.
- A huge tropical garden with pond.





While in Rio de Janeiro

The world landmark statue of Christ the Redeemer looms benevolently over the 'Cidade Maravilhosa' or the 'Marvellous City' of Rio de Janeiro. It has everything the tourist heart longs for – splendid mountains, lovely beaches and beautiful rainforests. First on the tourist homage list is the iconic Christ the Redeemer Statue on Corcovado Mountain. The Sugar Loaf Mountain with its fantastic views and cable car ride is also popular. The Botanical Gardens house fascinating species of plants and birds. The beautiful beaches like Copabanca, the Ilha de Paqueta Island and the National Historical Museum are also must visit tourist hot spots.

Did You Know?

- The best time to visit The Redeemer is by evening when the view is particularly beautiful.
- Rio de Janeiro was the capital of Brazil for almost 200 years.
- Rio de Janeiro means the river of January.
- The Maracana, one of the world's most spectacular stadiums, is in Rio de Janeiro.
- Rio de Janeiro is Brazil's second largest city.
- Christ the Redeemer statue is around 40 m. tall and is counted among the Seven Wonders of the World.



Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC)

The KLCC, recently voted as the 'Best Convention Center in Asia', is a 40-hectare 'city within a city' including the KLCC Park and the Petronas Twin Towers. This world class facility has hosted several international events, exhibitions and shows.

USPs

- Plenary Hall with 2 levels having seating capacity of 3,000. It has state of the art audio-visual, sound and lighting facilities; digital conferencing voting systems; interactive microphone system; built in simultaneous interpretation system.
- Exhibition Halls with 9,710 sq. m. space, which can be divided into 4 halls; seating capacity 3500; complete catering facilities.
- Conference Hall with 1800 theatre style seating capacity, which can be divided into 3 halls with technologically advanced audio-visual and lighting systems.
- 20 Meeting rooms with flexible partitioning facilities to accommodate 43-220 people; rooms have data channels and telecommunications facilities.
- Banquet Hall with 740 people theatre style seating.
- Grand ballroom with 2000 banquet seating capacity.

While in Kuala Lumpur

In 130 years, Kuala Lumpur has grown from a small mining town to this world class city that it is today. A mix of modernity and tradition, this wonderful city has many landmarks worth visiting. Foremost is the Petronas Towers, the world's tallest twin towers. The view from the top is breath taking. The 50-acre KLCC Park and the long row of upmarket restaurants facing it are not to be missed either. The Kuala Lumpur Tower with its superb views, the beautiful 'arches and minarets' railway station, the Batu caves and the Merdeka Square are all popular



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tourist spots. If shopping beckons, head towards the Central Market selling Malaysian craft items or drive a hard bargain at China Town or the bustling Little India.





The Convention Centre Dublin

This fantastic Convention Centre Dublin with its state of the art conference facilities is definitely on the international conference centre map. It has positioned Ireland as on the world stage for international conferences, meetings and events.

USPs

- 22 purpose-built meeting rooms.
- Auditorium with 2000 seats.
- 4,500 sq. m. of exhibition space.
- Theatre capacity for 3,000 delegates in The Forum.
- Banqueting facilities for up to 2,000 guests.
- Intimate boardrooms, large and small halls and meeting rooms.
- Cutting edge technology and Wi-Fi throughout.
- 20 minutes from Dublin airport.



While in Dublin

Dublin, the capital city of Ireland, is a favourite with tourists for its historical tours, sight-seeing, shopping, restaurants and bars and the vibrant night life and last but not the least, the famed Irish hospitality. Trinity

College, containing millions of books and priceless manuscripts, attracts many visitors who admire its beautiful architecture.

The Guinness Storehouse with its giant pint glass shape houses the popular Gravity Bar and affords a spectacular view of Dublin. Not to be missed also include the St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin Castle, the National Museums, Kilmainham Gaol and the National Gallery of Ireland. Finally, do not miss the fun, food and shopping at Temple Bar.



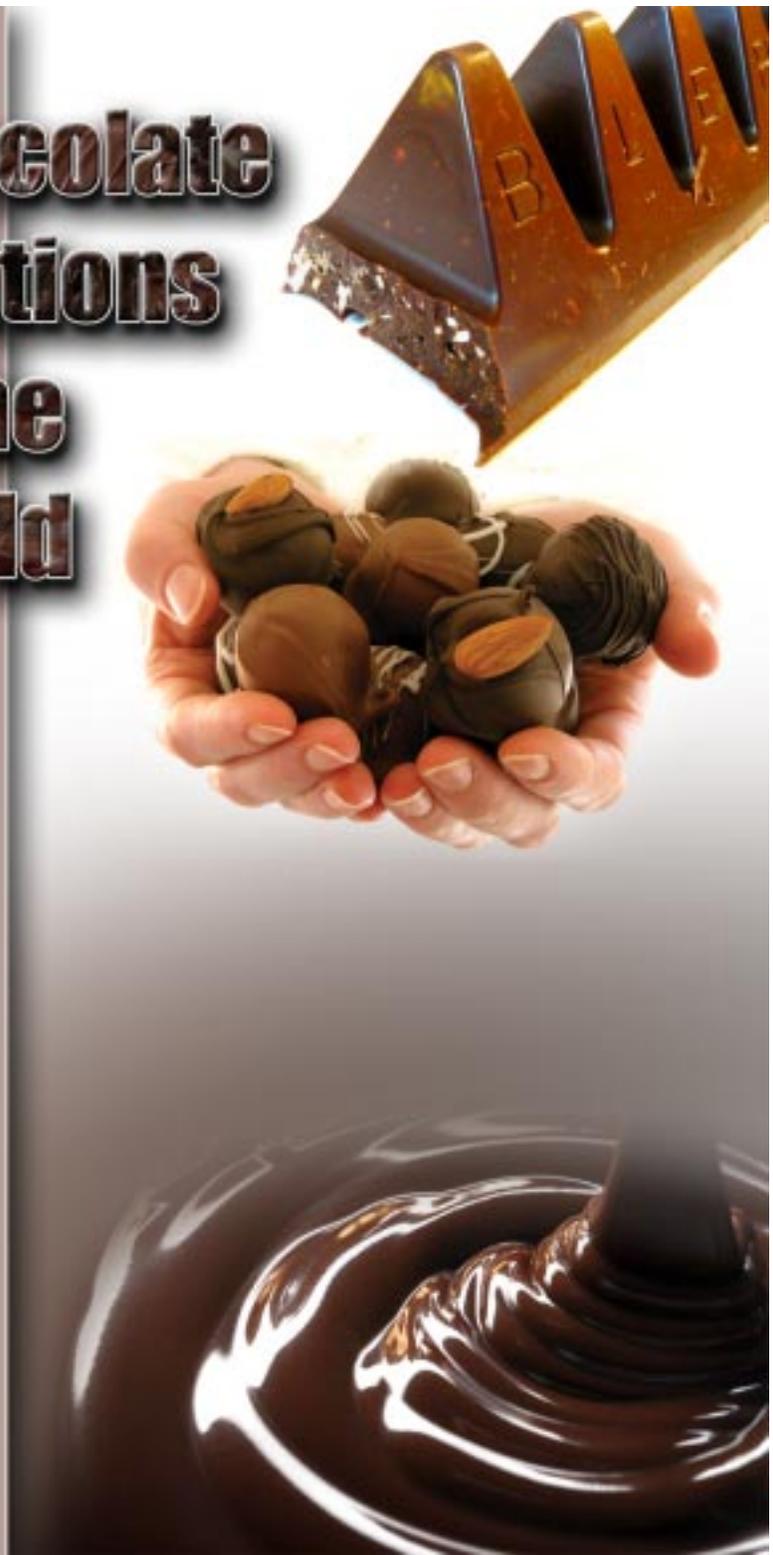
Did You Know?

- Ten million glasses of the famous Dublin 'black pint', Guinness, are produced daily all over the world.
- 48 per cent of Dublin's population is less than 35 years old.
- The Phoenix Park in Dublin is the largest city park in Europe.
- Dublin means Black Pool (Dubh Linn) which was on the site of the present Dublin Castle garden.
- Dublin is reputed to have 666 licensed pubs.
- Dublin houses the world's only Leprechaun Museum.

Best Chocolate Destinations of the World



Paradise! It's the ultimate word to describe the feeling when a delicious, mouth-watering, yummy bite of chocolate slowly melts in your mouth. The hangover of this intoxicating ecstasy and fulfilling experience makes you long for more. It feels as if there is nothing better on earth than that dark brown piece of gooey chocolate. This is the effect chocolate has on every chocolate lover on earth, a feeling beyond comparison. So get ready for an adventure in the luscious world made of chocolate that may make you crave for some while reading it. Here's presenting you the best chocolate destinations of the world.



• Oaxaca, Mexico

This is the place where all the magic as well as the fantasy of chocolate originated, where people consider chocolate as “the drink of the gods”. Oaxaca is a city in south-eastern Mexico where in a year each people consume 5.5 pounds of chocolate on an average. In today’s advanced culinary world, a lot of Oaxaca’s chocolate is made from old family recipes in old fashioned ways. There are numerous chocolate factories here, although the Abastos Market for artisan chocolate stalls, Guelaguetza, La Soledad and Chocolate Mayordomo need special mention.

• Brussels, Belgium

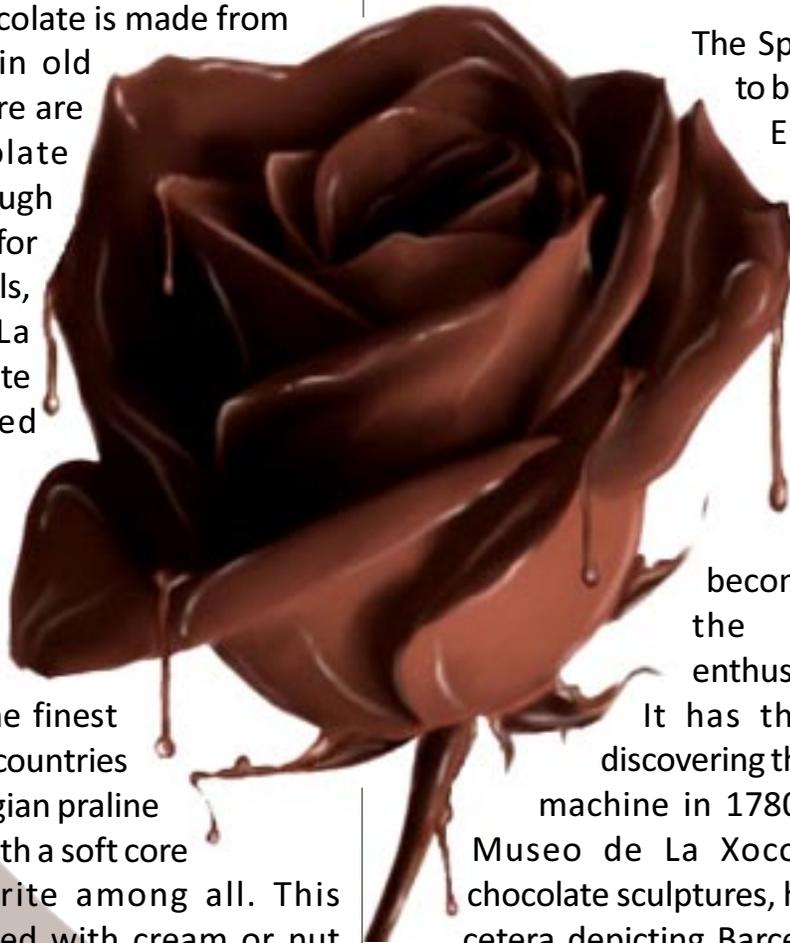
Belgium is one of the finest chocolate producing countries in the world. The Belgian praline – a chocolaty layer with a soft core is the most favourite among all. This chocolate ball is filled with cream or nut pastes. There are 12 chocolate factories, 16 chocolate museums, 2100 chocolate shops and four famous locations to visit for the chocolate aficionados – Brussels, Halle,

Eupen and Bruges. The special delicacies at the Wittamer Café, Pierre Marcolini, Neuhaus, Godiva, Zaabar and Mary in Sablon district in Brussels will be a mesmerizing treat for your taste buds.

• Barcelona, Spain

The Spanish can boast to be the first among Europeans to experience the deliciousness of chocolate that is considered to be brought back from the New World, and this city has become a hub for all the chocolate-enthusiasts ever since.

It has the privilege of discovering the first chocolate machine in 1780. The museum Museo de La Xocolata, features chocolate sculptures, hot chocolate, et cetera depicting Barcelona’s enriched chocolate heritage. The big names like Chocolate a la Taza, Chocolates Amatller are still manufacturing world-class chocolates for more than 150 years. Other shops like



Dulcinea, Fargas and Pasteleria Escriba are worthy of mention as well.

• **Tain-l'hermitage, France**

Tain-l'Hermitage is in a wine-growing district near Lyon in south-eastern France. Based in this small town in the heart of a wine-making nation is Valrhona — a French chocolate manufacturer and world-famed producer of Valrhona chocolates. The chocolate is made with natural fat from cocoa butter and no vegetable fat is added. Here not only world class chocolate is made but there is also a chocolate-cookery school, named “Ecole du Grand Chocolat” where professional chefs, chocolatiers as well as amateurs get provision to learn to make desserts of varied flavours.

• **Zurich, Switzerland**

World famous chocolate companies like Cailler-Nestle, Toblerone, Lindt, Treuscher and Sprungli find their origin here in Switzerland



and owe their fame to this place. Zurich is the heart of chocolate production in Switzerland. For a mind-boggling experience, the Swiss travel system and Nestle in collaboration offer a pleasure trip on “The Swiss Chocolate Train”. This train departs from Montreux and reaches Broc, halting at Gruyeres. At

Broc the visitors get to see the Nestle factory. Some worthy chocolate boutique names include Truffe, Schrober and Merkur.

• **Hershey, Pennsylvania**

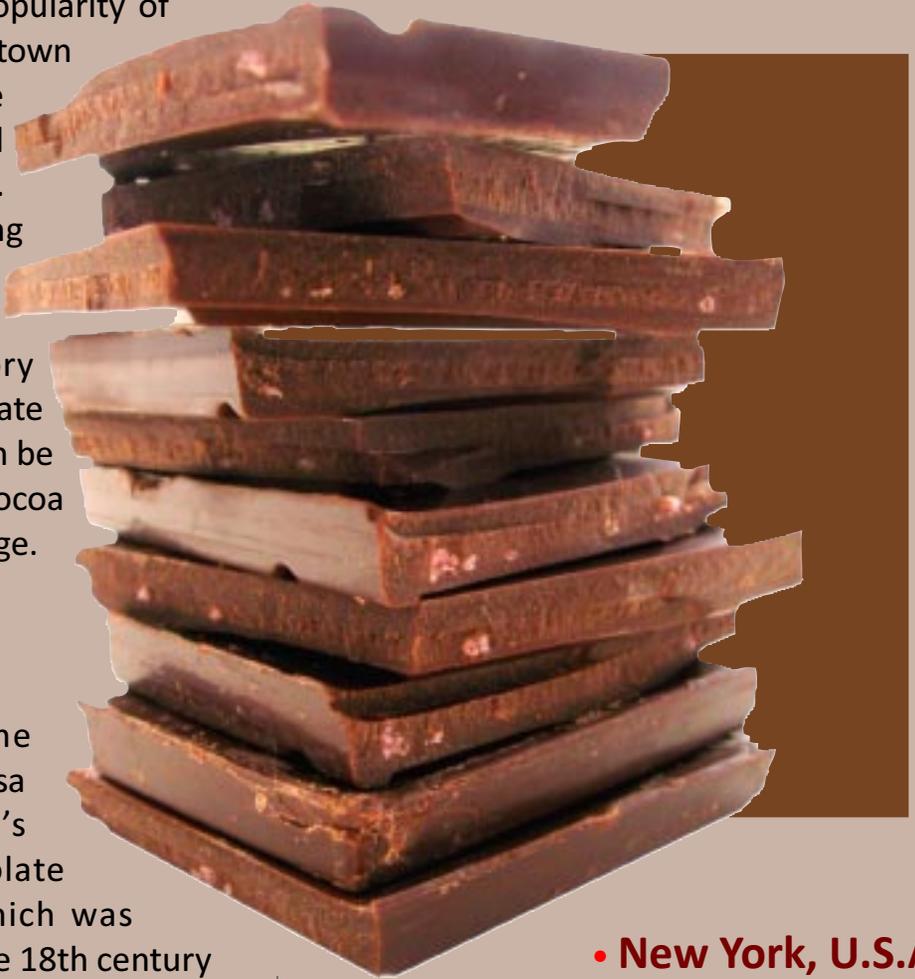
“The sweetest place on earth” as they callit, was originally known as Derry Church but has been later renamed as



Hershey, owing to the popularity of Hershey chocolates. This town is home to both the Hershey Company as well as H. B. Reese Company. Some of the eye-catching chocolate attractions are Hershey's Chocolate World, the Hershey Story Museum and the Chocolate Spa. Other places that can be visited are Café Zooka, Cocoa Beanery and Iberian lounge.

• Villajoyosa, Spain

Often addressed as the "Chocolate City", Villajoyosa is the home to Spain's earliest gourmet chocolate manufacturer Valor which was established in 1881. In the 18th century it started importing cocoa beans from Ecuador and Venezuela. The very best of Valor- chocolate with churros is a special one. There is an awesome chocolate museum in Villajoyosa where this history of chocolate making is showcased along with the process of making of the local favourites. Apart from these, the other chocolate stops include Siroco, Chocolate Perez, Chocolates Clavileno, Mokafe and Jose Vinache Soriano Chocolate outlets.



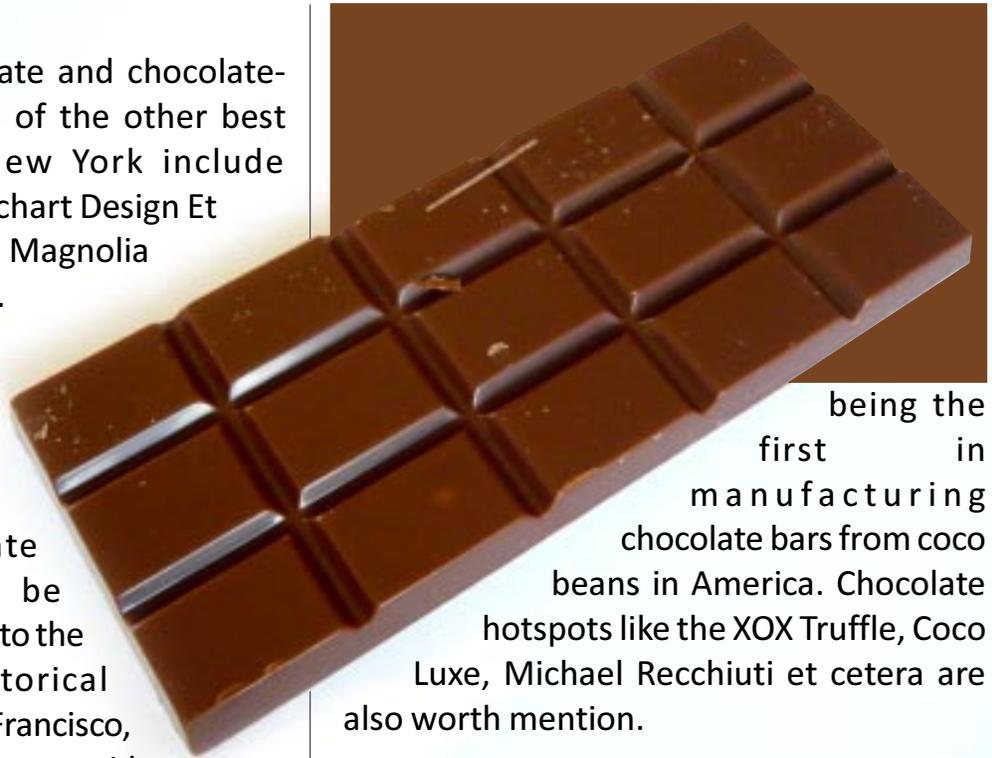
• New York, U.S.A

This is the place where chocolatiers from all corners of the globe have come and brought along their recipes for luscious chocolate treats. One can tour with the New Cuisine Chocolate Tour or the Luxury Chocolate Tour to know more about the history of the shops here and the delicacies made. The hot favourite is said to be the Jacques Torres Chocolate with craves like pain au chocolat(chocolate pastry), champagne

truffles, rich hot chocolate and chocolate-coated almonds. Some of the other best chocolate shops in New York include Mariebelle, Li-Lac and Richart Design Et Chocolat, Chocolate Bar, Magnolia Bakery and Max Brenner.

• San Francisco, California

A fine day in chocolate paradise cannot be completed without a visit to the “chocolatically” historical Ghirardelli Square in San Francisco, California. Your chocolate tour guide will share with you the legends of the old chocolate factories in the Bay Area. You can savour the taste of fresh chocolates in free tours of factories including that of Scherffen Berger, which has made its mark in history



being the first in manufacturing chocolate bars from cocoa beans in America. Chocolate hotspots like the XOX Truffle, Coco Luxe, Michael Recchiuti et cetera are also worth mention.

• Cologne, Germany

Known best as the “chocolate capital” of Germany, this city is home to the world-renowned Stollwerck Chocolate Company, which till some time before was the second largest supplier of chocolates in the United States. The Imhoff Stollwerck, locally known as chocolate museum celebrates the history of chocolate around the world and company’s 150th anniversary and has interactive exhibits, samples and a huge chocolate fountain. Other mentionable chocolate shops are TortchenTortchen, Weiber Confectionery, Demnitz Chocolaterie, La Maison du Chocolate, Mama Chocolate and Leonidas Chocolates.

Besides the above chocolate destinations, the Chocolate Boutique Hotel in Bournemouth, England definitely deserves a mention here. Located on the south coast of England, Bournemouth was found to be the happiest place in the UK in a 2007 survey by First Direct. Based on the theme of chocolate, the Chocolate Boutique Hotel is an awesome experience for the Choco-addicts of the world. Here you can eat, drink, breathe, bathe and sleep chocolate. Chocolate-themed rooms, delicious chocolate cocktail at the chocolate-bar, Chocolate Delight Workshops make it a memorable experience.

The unbridled love of people for chocolates has been known since around 1100 BC. There are chocolate lovers all around the world and it is not surprising if you find one who is willing to go that extra mile just to earn his chocolate. If you are a chocolate lover yourself, we suggest you include one of these above mentioned destinations in your itinerary and we promise you would not regret your decision.





World Tourism Day

Event
Watch

Everyone from the tourism industry is planning to observe World Tourism Day in their own unique way. However, there are many who are still wondering about the significance of this day. To address these curious minds, the World Luxury Travel Magazine talks about this day and how it is not only important for the tourism industry but also for the mass.

The World Tourism Day is celebrated on September 27 every year. The date has a special significance as it was chosen to mark the anniversary of the day when the statutes of the UNWTO (United Nations World Tourism Organization) were adopted in 1970. This is considered a major milestone in the history of global tourism. The World Tourism Day is observed to create global awareness about the importance of tourism and its impact on society in various fields.



"World Tourism Day is an opportunity to reflect on the importance of tourism to global well-being. As we travel, let us engage with other cultures and celebrate human diversity. On this observance, let us recognize tourism as a force for a more tolerant, open and united world." Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations.





History

The idea of World Tourism Day was born in the 3rd session of the UNWTO General Assembly in 1979 and it has been celebrated since 1980. In 1997 the UNWTO General Assembly decided to choose a host country every year from various regions, which would collaborate with the organization in celebrating the World Tourism Day. In 2003 the geographic order of regions hosting celebrations was decided.

Special themes are chosen as theme of the year to bring the focus on a particular issue. Past themes have included 'Tourism and Cultures', 'Tourism Enriches' and 'Tourism

and Biodiversity'.

The UNWTO Secretary-General sends a message every year to all the people across the world to participate in observing this day. Various tourism-based organizations and government agencies with a tourist link celebrate the event. The Day is marked by holding various special events and festivities. Various activities are held including photo competitions with tourism as the theme, tourism awards, discounts and special offers on tourist sites or special tours or free entries and so on.



World Tourism Day 2012

The World Tourism Day 2012 will have 'Tourism and Sustainable Energy: Powering Sustainable Development' as its theme. This theme coincides with the UN International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, and will reinforce the synergy of tourism and energy sectors in contributing to the successful achievement of the UN objectives with regard to



sustainability. Maspalomas, Spain will play host to the official celebrations this year. This is indeed a highly appropriate choice as Spain is among the world's top five countries focussing on renewable energy with 20 per cent of the country's energy consumption coming from renewable sources. This year's theme serves to highlight the role of tourism in promoting sustainability with focus on access to affordable and efficient energy services for the whole world. Tourism has a major hand





in sustainable energy initiatives, whether it is in the field of renewable energy sources in the aviation sector or energy saving measures implemented in hotels all over the world. The tourism industry is not only focussed on environment-friendly measures but it is also throwing up employment opportunities for millions in various sectors including tourism and energy.

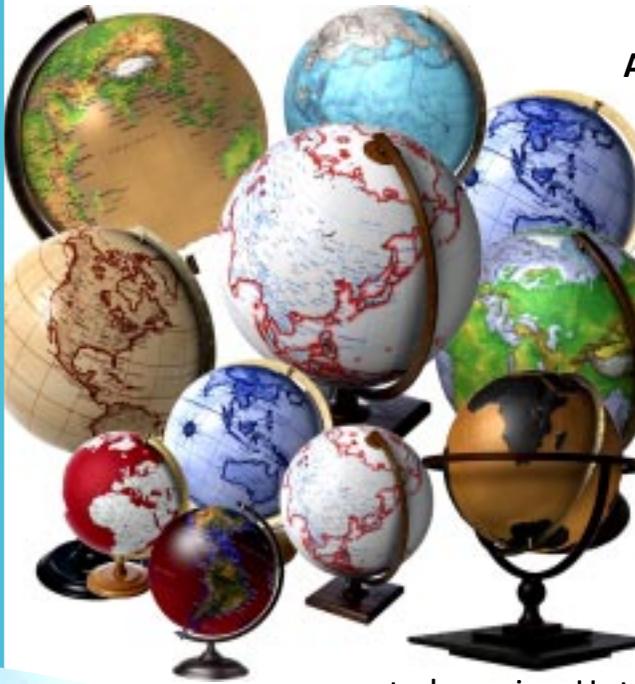
World Tourism Day 2012 Events

A host of events are lined up as part of the official celebrations including the Annual World Tourism Day Photo Competition and a Twitter Competition. The UNWTO is also giving invitations to visit the “online energy school”, which is a part of a UNWTO initiated project- Hotel Energy Solutions, designed for hoteliers to help them to cut carbon emissions. A ‘Think Tank’ also forms a part of the celebrations in which top experts and policy makers in the tourism and energy sectors will participate.

Get involved

The observance of this day is not confined to only a handful of highbrow officials or tourism and energy related organisations. This day is also significant for every individual in his capacity as inhabitant of the planet Earth – for you, for me. Each one of us is responsible for contributing our bit to protect the natural resources of our planet. We can start by making a mental commitment towards conserving our planet’s energy resources, as—





A tourist: Simple steps like switching off lights in hotel rooms, unplugging electrical appliances when not in use; showering instead of bathing, not asking for linen change every day unless necessary, will help save energy and water.

A tour operator: Use renewable sources of energy for supplying power to offices and vehicles. Be aware of your carbon footprint; reduce carbon emissions and costs by using Hotel Energy Solutions E-toolkit.

There are a whole range of other activities to mark this day to bring about awareness. For instance, we can hold events or competitions on the current theme of the World Tourism Day; go on a trip as a responsible traveller (read the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism before the trip) and take advantage of the free entry and special discounts offered by many destinations on this day. Above all we must remember that the planet and its resources are limited and it is our responsibility to protect it by using them sensibly.



Feature

Wines to Die for

The Divine Nectar

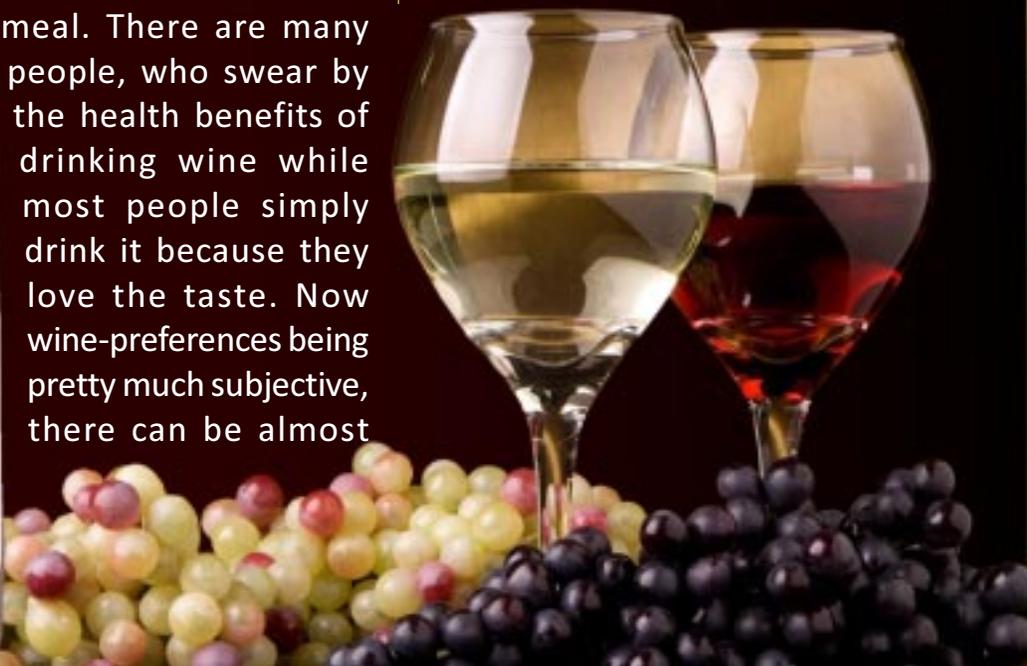
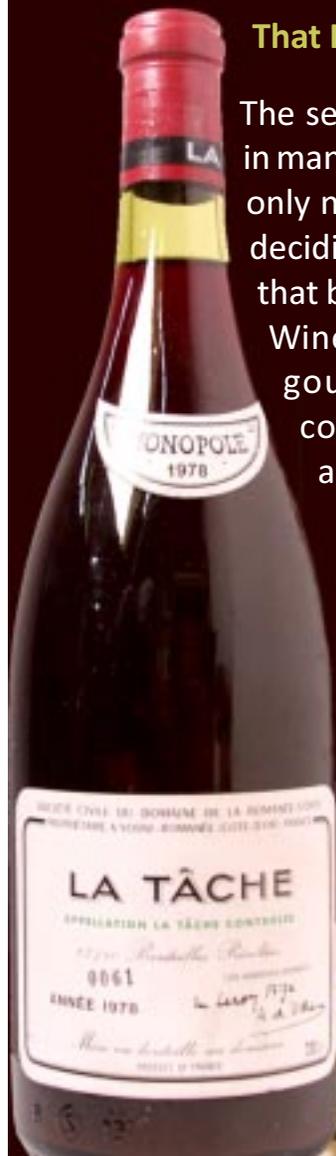
“O for a beaker full of the warm South,
Full of the true, the blushful Hippocrene,
With beaded bubbles winking at the brim...
That I might drink, and leave the world unseen...” — *sighed Keats.*

The sentiment will find echoes in many wine lovers’ hearts; the only note of dissent may be in deciding what the contents of that beaker should be!

Wine is an integral part of gourmet dining, complementing the food and adding a sparkle to the meal. There are many people, who swear by the health benefits of drinking wine while most people simply drink it because they love the taste. Now wine-preferences being pretty much subjective, there can be almost

endless discussions on the merits of the various bubbliies.

So, what are some of the best wines in the world? It is difficult to compile a list, which can be satisfactory or comprehensive enough to answer that or find favour with every wine lover. However, below are some of the all-time favourites most wine experts agree on:





**1945 Château
Mouton-Rothschild
(Red wine,
Bordeaux, France)**

Renowned British expert Michael Broadbent in his book "Vintage Wine" writes, "The first thing to notice is its extraordinary colour. Its bouquet is equally distinctive; in fact one of the most astonishing smells ever to emerge from grapes grown out of doors. The power and spiciness surges out of the glass like a sudden eruption of Mount Etna:

cinnamon, eucalyptus, ginger. There is simply no other wine like it. Seemingly tireless - indeed another half-century anticipated".

The wine is also famous for its labels which are specially designed by famous artists of the day (who were paid in wine) The 1945 Mouton-Rothschild label was designed by Philippe Julian to commemorate the Allied victory and the hallmark V represents Churchill's 'V for Victory'.

Chateau Mouton Rothschild was the first estate which started complete chateau bottling of the produce.



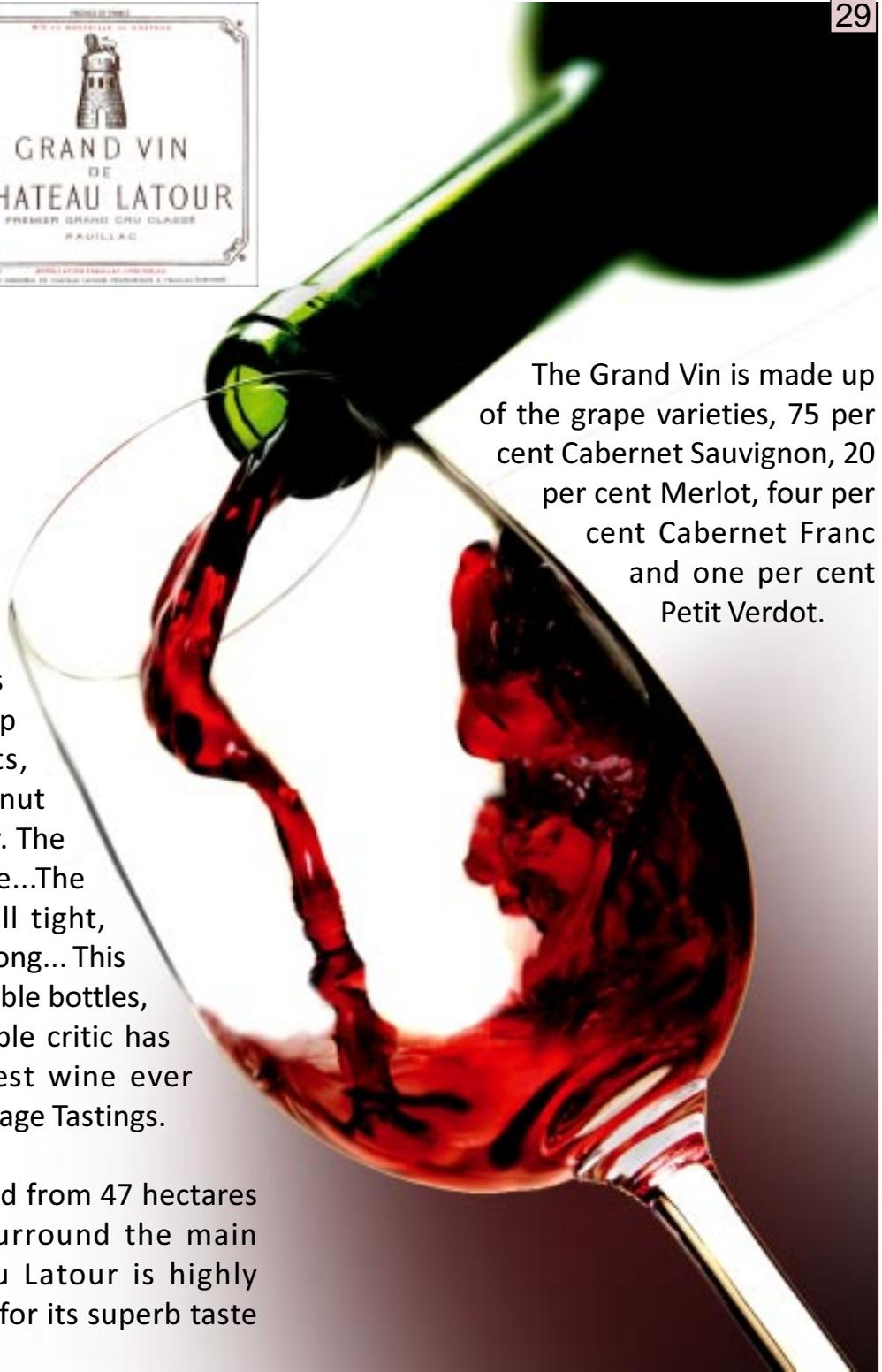


1961 Château Latour Grand Vin (Red Wine, Bordeaux, France)

“The 1961 Latour set a high bar immediately. Its nose had great, deep cassis and black fruits, along with smoke, walnut and layers of complexity. The aromas were so intense...The palate was big and still tight, incredibly youthful and long... This was one of those incredible bottles, which is why one notable critic has hailed it as the greatest wine ever made,” John Kapon, Vintage Tastings.

The Grand Vin is distilled from 47 hectares of old vines, which surround the main Chateau. The Chateau Latour is highly regarded in the Medoc for its superb taste and consistency.

The Grand Vin is made up of the grape varieties, 75 per cent Cabernet Sauvignon, 20 per cent Merlot, four per cent Cabernet Franc and one per cent Petit Verdot.

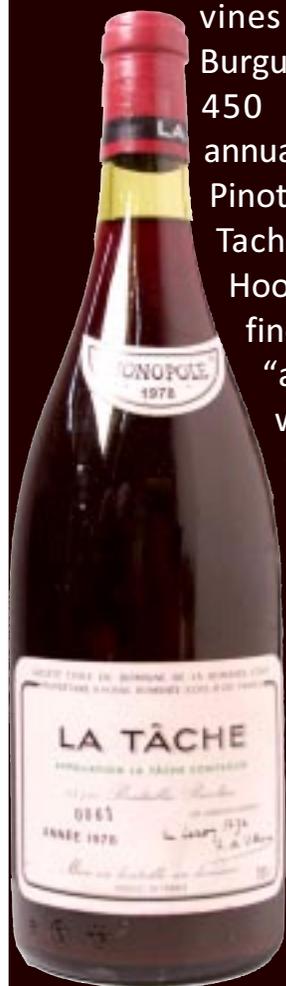


1978 La Tâche- Domaine de la Romanée-Conti (Red wine, Burgundy, France)

DRC, as it is called at times, is a product of the famous Romanée-Conti vineyard. The

4.4 acre Grand Cru monopole with vines over 50 years old is in Burgundy, France. Only around 450 cases are produced annually and are made from the Pinot Noir grape. The 1978 La Tache in the words of Huon Hooke is “all about fragrance, finesse and balance” and is “as close to the perfect wine as it gets”. About this wine, Robert Parker said, “It is among the greatest red Burgundies I have ever tasted – will continue to improve for several decades”.

To make one bottle of Domaine de la Romanée-Conti it takes the produce of three vines.



1921 Château d'Yquem (White-Dessert, Bordeaux, France)

Eulogised by Michael Broadbent as “the most staggeringly rich Yquem of all time” and David Peppercorn MW as “one of the

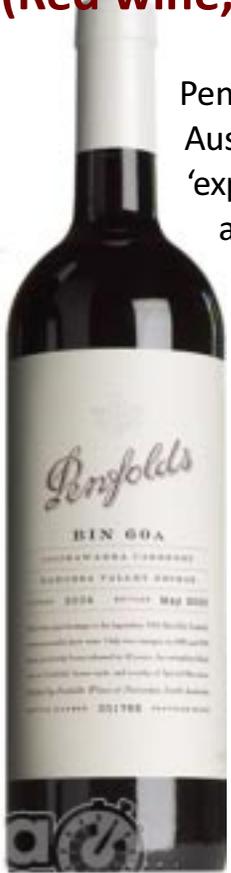


miracles of the last century”, this wine has got the rank of Premier Cru Supérieur. The vines are checked at least half a dozen times and only the best grapes are chosen. The Chateau d'Yquem wines are known for their complex taste, longevity and concentration.

This wine owes its unique taste to the ‘noble rot’ (fungus Botrytis) with which the grapes are infected.



1962 Penfolds Bin 60A (Red wine, South Australia)



Penfolds Grange, one of the best Australian wines, was first made 'experimentally' by Max Schubert after coming back from his year-long sojourn in Europe, spent learning all about wine making. The 1962 Penfolds is a blend of one-third Coonawarra Cabernet and two-thirds Barossa Shiraz. "It is Australia's greatest red wine and is glorious, wonderful wine with potent cedar, blackcurrant, espresso aromas... a finely woven tapestry of innumerable flavours." -James Halliday.

In 2004, a 750 ml bottle of 1951 Grange was bought for around \$50,000.

1947 Château Cheval-Blanc (Red wine, Bordeaux, France)

"One of the greatest wines of all time" seems



a high praise, but it seems fully deserved by this jewel among Bordeaux wines.

"Incredibly pronounced chocolaty, leathery nose, resembling port wine. Rich and ripe with great extract... the celebrated aftertaste... A perfect out-of-this-world experience".

This overripe, concentrated and rich wine was the result of a very hot summer and 'tropical' harvesting.

The movie 'Sideways' featured the 1961 Cheval Blanc as Miles's treasured bottle of wine.



Lafite
Rothschild in
north-west
Bordeaux, France.

“The super-aromatic bouquet of flowers, black truffles, cedar, lead pencil and red fruits is followed by one of the most powerful and concentrated Lafites I have tasted. Medium to full-bodied, velvety-textured, rich, and pure, it is a testament to what this great estate can achieve when it hits the mark. This youthful wine will last for another 30 or more years”-Robert Parker

The Chateau Lafite 1787, one of the world’s most expensive wines and a collector’s item has President Jefferson’s initials on it. This wine is, however, no longer drinkable on account of its age.

1959 Chateau Lafite (Red wine, Bordeaux, France)

This favourite of many wine aficionados is a superb wine coming from the Chateau



Chateau Haut-Brion 1959 (Red wine, Bordeaux, France)

“There is no wine that can deliver the

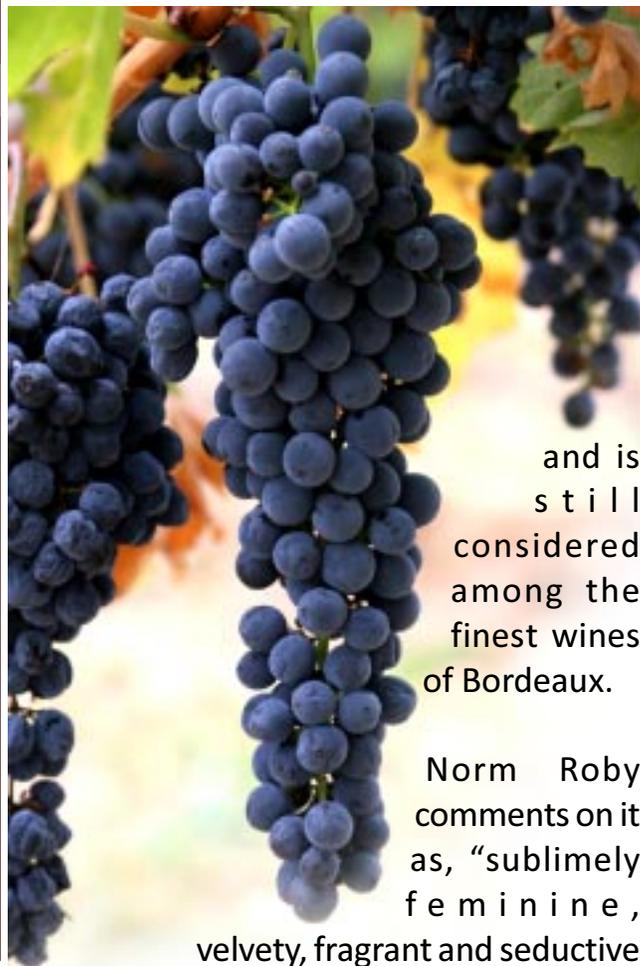
complexity, depth and balance from its aromatics to the flavours on the palate better than a great Haut-Brion and the 1959 has everything going for it” – said Nikos Antonakeas. Haut Brion is one of the original four first growths and is considered one of the best wines of the world. It has evolved from the rich, earthy taste of the 50s and 60s to the complex style enjoyed presently.

The grapes are harvested by hand and the same team of workers handles each parcel, to increase the teams' familiarity with the individual vines.

Chateau Margaux 1990 (Red wine, Bordeaux, France)

Chateau Margaux was one of the four wines awarded the rank of Premier cru or first growth in the 1855 Bordeaux Classification





and is still considered among the finest wines of Bordeaux.

Norm Roby comments on it as, “sublimely feminine, velvety, fragrant and seductive tone”. Apart from a few minor changes the label has remained the same, reflecting the elegance of the wine itself.

Chateau Margaux 1787, valued at \$500,000 by its owner and broken accidentally by a waiter, was the world's most expensive wine never to be sold.

Screaming Eagle (Red wine, Napa Valley, California, USA)

This estate is located in Oakville, California and produces around 500 cases annually so the demand is very high, so are the prices. The prices of this wine range anywhere between US\$1300 to over US\$2500 for a bottle at an auction. It is considered to be one of the finest cult wines. “97 Screaming Eagle starts off





with a complex perfume featuring black currants, oak, caramel, chocolate and toasty oak along with tobacco and licorice scents. Elegant and sophisticated on the palate, this full bodied wine offers a long finish filled with red and black fruits”, said Wine Cellar Insider Jeff Leve.

A lot of six magnums of Screaming Eagle were sold for US\$500,000 at a charity auction event making it one of the most expensive bottles soldever.

The wines above are on many oenophiles’ wish list of must haves or at least must taste. In case you are wondering what all the fuss is about, look at it from a wine-lover’s perspective. For the connoisseur, wine is not just a drink, it is a complete experience. Fernando Garvin has the last word when he says, “Wine makes a symphony of a good meal”.



The Blessed Country England

“This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England” – wrote the bard in his play King Richard II. It is not only the English who love their land. England with its rich historical past, bustling cities, beautiful countryside and long stretch of coastline is a popular tourist destination attracting visitors from all over the globe. It has nine distinct regions, each with its unique landscape and culture. From ancient Stonehenge to modern London, England has something of interest for every tourist.



Climate

The English weather is famous for its unpredictability, as the British island is surrounded by the sea. In general, the English climate may be classified as temperate maritime with warm summers and cool winters, and mild climate overall.

Summer – June – August (70°F average),

Autumn – September – November

Winter – January and February (51°F)

Spring – March – May

Rainfall – Rainfall varies; Lake District is the wettest region with 130 inches of rain annually, west coast gets 40 inches and east coast gets 20 inches of annual rainfall on an average.

Sunshine – South coast is sunniest with around 1750 hours of sunshine; mountain areas get less than 1000 hours of sunshine.

Best time to go – There are different attractions throughout the year but generally speaking, April to September is the best time to go.

Getting there and around...

There are many options to go to England. Heathrow



Airport, London is the main airport handling international flights followed by Gatwick Airport. Eurolines, National Express (bus), the Eurostar (train) and Eurotunnel (car) are popular options for land travel. Various ferry operators ply from mainland Europe and Ireland to England.

While in England, car is a good travel option. Alternatively, you can use public transport. Traveline offers great travel solutions by bus, coach, taxi or train.

Tourist attractions

London– This vibrant capital city gets 30 million international visitors annually. Top destinations in London include Buckingham Palace, Tower of London, Tower Bridge, British Museum,



London Eye, St Paul's Cathedral, The Houses of Parliament and Trafalgar Square. For a taste of the English way of life, have the famous 'afternoon tea', or a pint and a good time at the local pub. For retail therapy, head to the upscale Harrods or Selfridges. If you love a bargain, the high streets are your happy hunting grounds.



Stonehenge— One of the most intriguing spots to visit, Stonehenge is a pre-historic site near Salisbury. Believed to date back to 3000 BC it has inspired several theories about its purpose ranging from burial to astronomical purposes. Meanwhile the awe-inspiring large stones stand in circular splendour and mysterious silence.

Bath— Reminiscent of Jane Austen novels,

this World Heritage City is famous for its Roman baths and Thermae Bath Spa. The haunt of the rich since the 18th century, it still attracts tourists who marvel at the Georgian architecture, the Royal Crescent, Pulteney Bridge and the Pump rooms.





Hampton Court Palace– This imposing royal palace, once the home of Henry VIII, embodies Tudor grandeur at its best. It stands on the Thames in the Middlesex County. Some of the attractions here are the huge Henry VIII kitchens, The Great Hall, the beautiful 60-acre gardens and the world famous Maze.



Brighton– This seaside city has the beach to offer of course, but it also has other must-see spots. They include the Royal Pavilion, the Palace Pier, the Lanes and the West Pier. You can taste fresh seafood here, admire the marine life at Brighton Sealife Centre and shop, eat and have fun at the Brighton Marina. Do not miss the vivacious nightlife here, complete with music and pubs.

Oxford and Cambridge– These beautiful university towns are famous for their colleges, museums and beautiful buildings. Oxford is the oldest university in England and some of the attractions include the



Ashmolean Museum, the Oxford Botanic Gardens and the Oxford Castle. Cambridge attractions include the famous university, the Fitzwilliam museum and the Scott Polar



Institute. Both places have shopping, attractive restaurants and an active nightlife.

Cornwall—Cornwall is famous for its lovely beaches and ruggedly beautiful coastal scenery. If you want some time away from beaches, visit the world's largest greenhouse in the Eden Project; visit Tintagel Castle, St Michael's Mount and wind up your day with local seafood, clotted cream or pasties washed down with your favourite brew.



Cotswolds— This lovely rural area on the Cotswold Hills has rightly been given the official designation of 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty'. Apart from its quaint and scenic villages, tourist attractions include the Forest of Dean, Blenheim Palace, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury.



Lake District— This famous region in North West England has been immortalised by the Romantic poets. Located in Cumbria County it is renowned for its beautiful lakes and mountain scenery. Go walking, hiking or mountain climbing, visit Hadrian's Wall, explore Carlisle Castle or art galleries, take guided tours or relax with drinks and music in the pubs.

English cuisine

Traditionally English cuisine is simple and hearty with wide use of natural produce. Traditional favourites include roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, fish and chips, shepherd's pie and mashed potatoes. In





recent times, however, Indian curries, Chinese, Italian and American fast food are also getting popular. Cheese is popular with Cheddar topping the list. The ritual of the afternoon tea, very dear to the English, is worth a mention. Traditionally sandwiches, scones, muffins, crumpets and a variety of cakes are served along with the tea. Other popular drinks include apple cider, ale, stout, porter beer, punch and grog.



Quick facts

- Area Code: 44 (England); 020 (London)
- Electricity: 240 volts
- Emergency Number: 999
- Time: GMT (EST+5 hours)
- Currency: Pound

Some helpful tips

- The weather can be unpredictable so plan accordingly. Be prepared with rain-proof wear and layered clothes.
- Watch out for pickpockets, do not walk alone in parks at night and do not show off your wallet, jewellery etc.
- Driving is on the left side of the road.
- Bed and Breakfast accommodations are cheap and easily available.
- Politeness is important; use 'please', 'thank you' and 'sorry'.

England beckons

England is a fascinating holiday destination. It is a complete package where you can shop, dance and eat at its glittering cities or watch a beautiful sunset from a country cottage. Catch the latest music festival or explore ancient castles. Whatever you are looking for on a vacation, England has it all. England is beckoning, are you responding?



Luxe
Stays

Top Luxury Chateau Hotels of France

Not all magical getaways are located in remote mountains or faraway islands. Some retreats are within easy reach and yet manage to transport you into havens of luxury and calm. When they come in the shape of ancient chateaus, they carry you back in time from the cosy comforts and modern amenities of your home.

France as a tourist spot needs no introduction. However, if you want to explore the beauty of the French countryside and leisurely sip wine, head for the lovely chateaus France is justly famous for. Many of the Ancient seats of noble families or royalty have been lovingly restored and renovated into wonderfully relaxing and luxurious holiday retreats.

Some of the top names among the luxury French chateaus are:



Chateau de Bagnols

This lovely 13th century chateau in the Beaujolais area captures your imagination at once with its towers, moat and the impressive drawbridge entrance. Set against



scenic vineyard forests and hills as backdrop, it has 21 beautifully decorated rooms and suites. Superb service and fine dining are added attractions. A historical monument, the chateau has restored and retained antique furniture and period furnishings and is often considered the finest vineyard hotel in the world.

Highlights

- Location: Proximity to Lyons (12 miles) and Geneva or

Paris (2 hours),

- Amenities: Room service, pets allowed, child friendly, swimming pool, wheel chair access,
- Business: Banqueting and meeting facilities; business centre with high speed internet,
- Activities: Ballooning, horse-riding, wine-trail tours, golfing.



Piece de resistance: Truly breath-taking views of the lovely Beaujolais vineyards and hills!

Chateaus Les Crayeres

Grandly imposing and stunningly set amidst 7-hectares of a lush landscaped park, this chateau in Reims, Champagne, is a luxury





gourmet getaway. It has 20 elegantly furnished rooms and suites, 17 of them inside the chateau and 3 in the pavilion in the park. Tantalising glimpses of the famed cathedral and basilica of Reims can be seen from some of the rooms. The restaurant (two star Michelin awarded chef), is the focal point of any stay here, serving food that lingers in the memory long after it has been eaten.

Highlights

- Location: Located in the heart of the champagne area, the nearest airport is Charles de Gaulle, Paris,
- Amenities: Air-conditioned rooms, lift/

elevator, child friendly, pets allowed, valet parking,

- Business: One meeting room for upto 20 people; copier, fax, Wi-Fi,

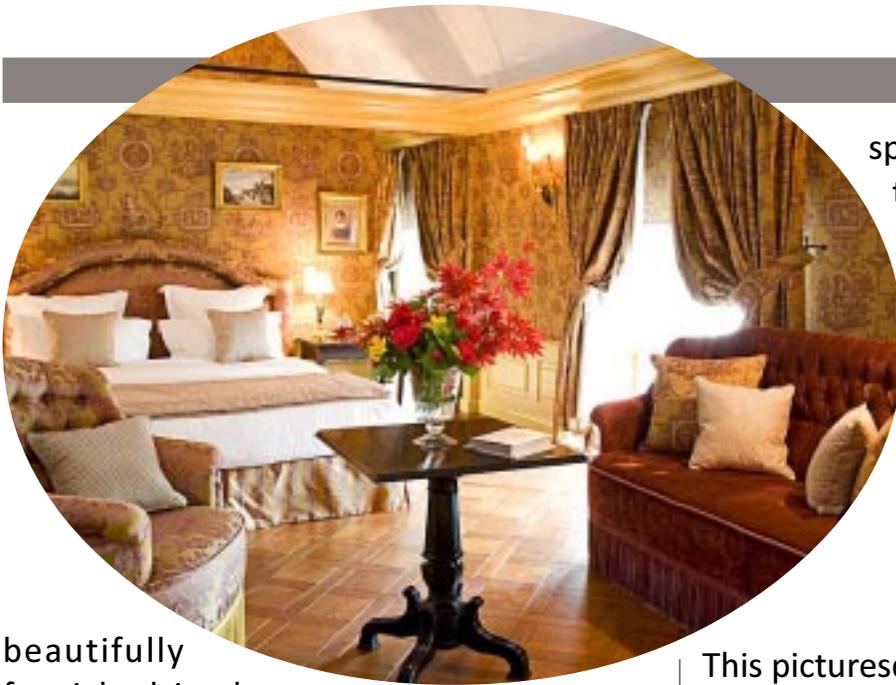
- Activities: Tourist spots- Notre Dame Church, Saint-Remi Basilica, Foujita Chapel; Provins; winery tours; golfing; shopping, tennis etc.

- Piece de resistance: Superb gourmet fare and a wine list with over 400 champagnes.

Chateau De Mirambeau

This lovely Renaissance-style chateau is set amidst 8 hectares of verdant parkland. Lying between Cognac and Bordeaux, this grand retreat has 22 luxurious rooms and suites





beautifully furnished in the French 'art de vivre' spirit; there is antique furniture, crystal chandeliers and rich silk fabrics everywhere. It has 2 swimming pools, 2 tennis courts and a fitness centre. The food is French gastronomy at its best and the service is impeccable.

Highlights

- **Location:** Ideally located between Cognac and Bordeaux, one hour away from the Bordeaux airport,
- **Amenities:** Wellness centre, 2 swimming pools, child friendly, pets allowed, free car park,
- **Business:** 3 meeting rooms for upto 40 people, free Wi-Fi,
- **Activities:** Local winery tours, swimming,

spa, horse-riding, fishing, hiking, tennis, casino.

- **Piece de resistance:** The Cognatheque – a room dedicated to wine and cognac tastings with an amazing wine list to choose from.

Chateau De Vault-De-Lugny

This picturesque chateau lies in the heart of France, in its Burgundy region. Set in 100 acres of green grounds, where peacocks strut elegantly along with other birds, it is surrounded by a moat. The 14 rooms and a suite are all 'no smoking' areas. The superb traditional cuisine is prepared from the chateau's own kitchen garden produce and served under 16th century vaulted ceilings in front of a huge fireplace in the chateau's dining room. The indoor pool is amazingly located in the chateau's ancient vaulted





cellars. An English-style bar serves a wide variety of drinks.

Highlights

- **Location:** Located ideally near Chablis, Vezelay and Morvan Park; Dijon airport is 96 km away,
- **Amenities:** Room service, butler and valet parking, laundry service, child friendly and pets allowed too,
- **Business:** Seminar room for up to 25 persons, Wi-Fi, photocopier, overhead projector,
- **Activities:** Explore Burgundy, Morvan National Park, fishing in the moat, croquet, tennis, horse-riding, rafting, canoeing, hiking, hot air ballooning, wine-tastings etc.
- **Piece de resistance:** The charming medieval ambience of this boutique chateau with the moat around it.

Chateau de la Barre

Nestled amidst the hilly wooded countryside of Loire Valley, this scenic chateau with its 16th century fortifications, sits pretty on a 100 acre park land. Beautiful antiques, family portraits, chandeliers, fabrics and fireplaces add to the opulent charm of the rooms. The 3 double rooms, 2 suites and 2 single rooms have all modern amenities and lovely views of the grounds. A superb dinner is served three days a week in a grand 17th century dining room along with the best wines of the Loire valley.

Highlights

- **Location:** Ideally located between Chartres and Tours at the Loire Valley entrance, 2 hours away from Paris; nearest airport is at Tours,
- **Amenities:** Express check-in, spa rooms,

best for children above 12 years; no pets allowed,

- **Business:** One meeting room for up to 15 people,
- **Activities:** Visiting nearby tourist spots- Loire chateaux, small Loir valley, Le Perche; hot air ballooning; French and cooking classes; horse riding, golfing,



wine tastings and archery.

- **Piece de resistance:** The owner and hosts Comte and Comtesse de Vanssay who embody gracious hospitality at its best.

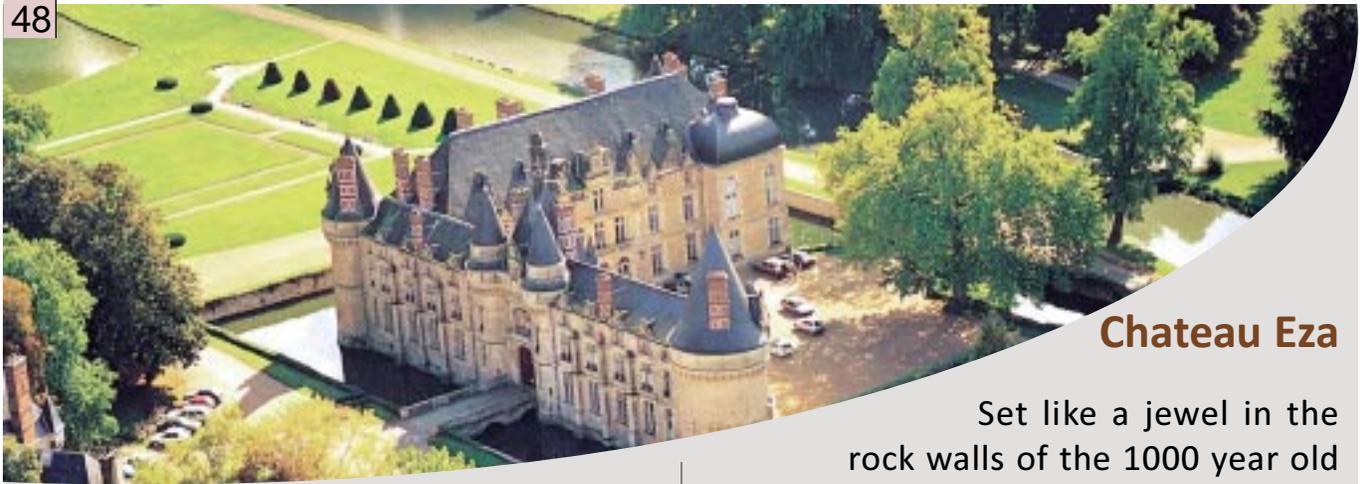
Chateau d'Esclimont

The Renaissance style Chateau d'Esclimont near Chartres seems straight out of a fairy tale,



complete with towers, turrets and a moat and lovely 60-hectare park land. This 16th century property converted into a luxury hotel offers 52 rooms in 5 categories. The rooms with beautiful antiques, chandeliers and paintings have an air of palatial grandeur. All the rooms offer lovely views of lake, park or courtyard. Fifty people can sit in the 18th century restaurant and enjoy the best of regional French cuisine with over 400 wines to choose from. The outdoor heated swimming pool in the lovely setting of the castle and gardens is surely worth taking a dip.





Chateau Eza

Set like a jewel in the rock walls of the 1000 year old 'museum village' of Eze, the 400 year old chateau Eza is located on the Cote d'Azur overlooking the panoramic Mediterranean Sea. Most of the 12 uniquely designed rooms and suites have enchanting views from private balconies. They also have Wi-Fi access, televisions and complimentary toiletries. The Michelin starred restaurant serves superb French and Mediterranean cuisines in retractable-roofed, glass-walled dining room or on the outdoor terraces. This is a magical retreat that has it all.

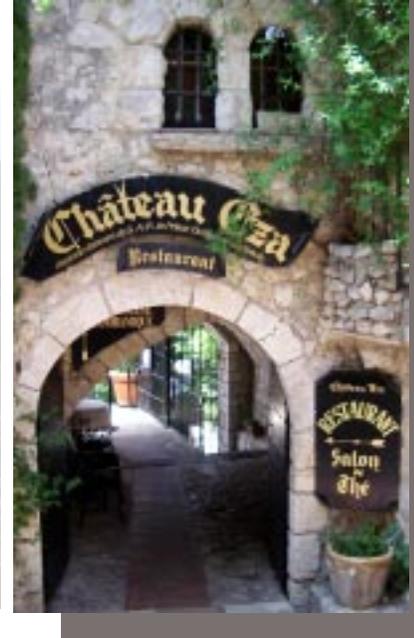
Highlights

- Location: Located between Versailles and Chartres with Paris less than an hour away; nearest airport – Paris – Orly (50km),
- Family: TV, phone, minibar in rooms; limo or town car available; spa treatment; children friendly; dogs are allowed,
- Business: Eight beautiful meeting rooms for upto 208 people; video projector, fax, direct dial telephone; banquet room; easy Wi-Fi access; translation facilities (on request),
- Activities: Nearby tourist spots include Chateau de Versailles, Chartres Cathedral, winery tours, hot air ballooning, helicopter rides, golfing, horse riding, tennis, swimming etc.
- Piece de resistance: The stunning, fairy tale chateau backdrop.

Highlights

- Location: Perfectly located on the Cote d'Azur between Nice and Monaco; Nice International Airport 18km. away,
- Amenities: Private beach; Michelin starred restaurant; limousine and taxi services from airport or train; chartered jet, helicopter services; beauty services; baby-sitting services,

- **Business:** One meeting room for upto 20 persons; Internet access, Wi-Fi, fax, copier, equipment rental etc.
- **Activities:** Sightseeing (Monaco, Nice), shopping, golfing, horse riding, boating etc.
- **Piece de resistance:** The sensational views of the French Riviera from the 400m high chateau.



Bonnes vacances

Plan a vacation in a luxury French chateau. Look over your shoulders and see the lingering shadows of a bygone era of kings and nobles, roaring fireplaces, moats, drawbridges, silk tapestries and medieval paintings. Smile gently and look again, and you are back in your beautiful room with the bright sunlight filtering through the windows. Check in into one of these amazing French chateaus and enjoy the best of two worlds!

Bangkok

Where East Meets West

Popularly known as Krung Thep, Bangkok is the capital of Thailand. Being the melting pot of different cultures, races and religions for centuries, Bangkok is as intoxicating in its diversity as it is timeless. Rich with cultural traditions dating back to 1700s, this modern metropolis now has a population of over eleven million. The small trading centre that began as a port community on the bank of the river Chao Phraya 200 years ago is one of Asia's most prosperous cities today. Enviably infrastructure, easy accessibility, integrated services and state-of-the-art facilities also make it a perfect MICE destination. The city is a haven for shoppers, a delight for foodies and a respite for corporate honchos. To sum it up, Bangkok serves as a perfect concoction of modern day life and ancient rich culture.



Fast facts:

Currency: Thai Baht (THB)

Language: Thai, English

Population: 62,828,706

Calling Code: ++66

Time: Thailand is seven hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time.

Best time to visit: October to March when the temperature is cooler.

Public phones: Call boxes require B1, B5 or B10 coins and/or a phone card (sold at post offices or convenience stores). Some accept credit cards for international calls.

Drugs: Those in possession of illicit drugs face one to ten years' jail and fines. Punishment for drug dealing or trafficking is severe.

Smoking: New rules prohibit smoking in all air-conditioned buildings and public places.



What to see:

The Grand Palace is the residence of former Thai kings. It houses the Royal Chapel, the Royal Collection of Weapons, the Coin Pavilion and a museum of artifacts from the Grand Palace. This famous centre of Thai Art is a landmark of the city as well.





(standing Buddha), Wat Bawornniwet and Wat Sutat Wararam.



The temples of Bangkok are scattered all over the city. There are hundreds of impressive temples including the Wat Pho (reclining Buddha temple), Wat Aroon (temple of Dawn), Wat Traimit (golden Buddha temple), Wat Pukoatong (the golden mountain temple), Wat Benchamaborpit (the marble temple), Wat Ratchaborpit, Wat Intrararam

Bangkok canals also form part of the tourist attractions. These are really famous and are the reason behind the naming of the city as the Venice of the East. Canals also serve as one of the major modes of transportation enabling easy transportation between different parts of the city. From the Chao Phraya River the canals are surrounded by traditional Thai houses, old temples, royal





barge museum etc., all of which make up for an interesting and refreshing sight.

The **floating markets** of Bangkok are known for their exemplary Thai charm. Merchants paddle along the canals in their canoes with fresh fruits and vegetables selling them to the shoppers on the banks. The markets are typically vibrant and colourful. The most famous of the floating markets is the Damnoen Saduak, which is about 100 kilometres southwest of the city.

Thai cuisine

Thai cuisine has always been a favourite of many food enthusiasts. Striking Thai delicacies often become a reason for a trip to Bangkok. Thai food is a little spicy, distinct and can be a totally different experience in terms of taste. Thai food is characterized by balance and strong flavours, especially of lemon grass and fresh coriander.

Bangkok is not only the commercial and the cultural centre of Thailand but is also one of the most visited cities in Asia. The city offers a wide range of entertainment options, visual delights and a myriad of activities. This ancient city of Buddhism, lively floating markets and mouth-watering cuisine can be both overwhelming and intriguing to anyone visiting for the city for the first time. Nevertheless, take a tour of the capital city of Thailand in a local ‘tuk-tuk’ or in a bright candy coloured cab and savour the best of both worlds.





05-08 Nov 2012 ExCeL London
The Leading Global Event for the Travel Industry

In Conversation with –

**Mr. Simon Press, Reed Travel Exhibitions
Director, World Travel Market (WTM)**

Every year in November, the entire global travel industry turns its eyes towards London. This is when London plays host to the World Travel Market – one of the biggest events of the travel industry in the world. This four day event organised by the Reed Travel Exhibitions and held at ExCeL London (Exhibition Centre London) attracts over 50,000 exhibitors and buyers from the travel industry with 182 countries and regions being represented. The World Luxury Travel Magazine had the opportunity to interview the **Reed Travel Exhibitions Director, World Travel Market Mr. Simon Press** recently.

Mr. Simon Press has worked in the exhibitions industry for a number of years including some

of the biggest exhibition companies. During that time he managed awards, conferences and buyers' clubs that have enabled him to understand the importance of delivering high quality buyers to exhibitors.

He has joined Reed Travel Exhibitions in 2007. He was the Exhibition Director of Arabian Travel Market before joining WTM in 2008 as the Head of Sales, which gave him a valuable insight into the premier global event for the travel industry before taking up the current position of Exhibition Director at the start of 2010.

Here is an excerpt of the interview of World Luxury Travel Magazine (WLTM) with Mr. Simon Press.



WLTM: The growth of WTM is remarkable. The participation has seen a steady increase along with the status of WTM London. What are the general major objectives that you look forward to achieve with every WTM event?

Mr. Press: World Travel Market continues to live up to its reputation of being the leading global event of the travel industry every year, encouraging business to take place between the exhibitors and the buyers (WTM Meridian Club Members) to ensure WTM means business.

We also attempt to be year round content providers to the industry. With our WTM Vision Conference series, launched three years ago, now well under way, this offers trends, forecasts and insights for senior industry delegates to help shape their businesses. Next year we plan to hold our WTM Vision Conferences in Moscow, Sao Paulo, Shanghai, London, Dubai and Mumbai.

WLTM: What will be the major focus of WTM in this year's November event in London?

Mr. Press: World Travel Market, the leading



global event for the travel industry, is the event where the industry conducts its business deals. WTM 2012 is poised to facilitate even more business with a number of new initiatives planned, including a more comprehensive Speed Networking line-up.

WLTM: What are the objectives behind the formation of the WTM Meridian Club? Who can be a member of this elite international buyers club?

Mr. Press: WTM Meridian Club, the leading global business network: making contacts, concluding deals, is the original buyers club

for the global industry's senior buyers.

At WTM 2012 it will celebrate 21 years of facilitating the travel industry's business deals.

There is a whole portfolio of business and networking opportunities across the four days of WTM, starting with WTM Speed Networking before the exhibition opens on Monday, November 5. Last year, 208 buyers and 411 exhibitors started negotiations at WTM Speed Networking. On the second evening there is an informal networking reception for buyers and exhibitors to discuss

deals. A WTM Meridian Club 21st Anniversary Reception for buyers and exhibitors takes place on the Wednesday evening.

On the final morning there is the Networking Breakfast followed by, new for WTM 2012, a final speed networking opportunity for buyers and exhibitors to further discuss business.

Buyers can register at www.wtmlondon.com/register as a visitor the application will then be reviewed to see if they qualify for WTM Meridian Club status. Buyers will be emailed to confirm their status.

WLTM: Is there any specific difference between ATM Buyer's Club and WTM Meridian Club? Is a membership in any of these two clubs qualify the respective member to participate in any of the events by any of these two clubs, even if he is not a direct member of the club?

Mr. Press: The ATM Buyer's Club and WTM Meridian Club are ultimately similar in the fact that they are dedicated



**world
travel
market** 

05-08 Nov 2012 ExCeL London
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for the buyers of travel products at both events.

The ATM buyer's club is solely for qualified buyer's interested in purchasing products from Middle Eastern Exhibitors whereas WTM Meridian Club is open to all qualified buyers in the industry who would like to purchase products from exhibitors.

Both buyers' clubs have separate comprehensive vetting systems in place to determine the top buyer's in the industry.

WLTM: On its 21st Anniversary, what are your future plans and objectives of this

international WTM Meridian Club?

Mr. Press: We plan to continue to encourage business at



WTM both during and post the four day event.

By introducing the second Speed Networking session on Thursday this allows Exhibitors and WTM Meridian Club members to further discuss business and tie up any business deals that may have been discussed on Monday.

WLTM: How would you predict the growth and development of the tourism industry in the near future? What is WTM's insight as one of the important trend setters in the travel industry apart from being the most important tourism event in the world?

Mr. Press: We are presenting a number of reports at this year's World Travel Market, which predicts certain areas of growth and development. We work closely with

Euromonitor International to bring the industry the latest trends and statistics from the different regions around the world, as well as presenting the World Travel Market 2012 Industry Report, which looks at what holiday makers are doing and what is being discussed on the exhibition floor.

If you wish to attend either of these sessions please register at www.wtmlondon.com/ register and attend World Travel Market on either the Monday November 5 or Tuesday November 6.

WLTM: What is WTM's take on the luxury travel market? Is there any exclusive plan of WTM on this segment of the world travel industry?

Mr. Press: The World Travel Market 2012 - the leading global event for the travel industry is delighted to announce its exclusive luxury business event – A Taste of ILTM at WTM.

WTM is using the experience and expertise of fellow Reed Travel Exhibition's event International Luxury Travel Market (ILTM) to deliver a bespoke business event for exhibitors and Meridian Club buyers from the luxury sector.

The event, which takes place in South Gallery Rooms 19 – 22 at 3 pm on Tuesday, November 6, will see 40 luxury exhibitors meet, discuss, business and sign contracts with 40 luxury buyers.

The event, in its second year, is a pre-appointment driven session with all meetings pre-approved by ILTM.

A number of leading luxury exhibitors have already signed up to take part in the event, including:

- Golden Eagle Luxury Trains Ltd, Russia/Siberia
- Aqua Vista Hotels & Resorts, Greece
- Palmwings Beach Resort & Spa, Turkey
- Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection

- Gran Hotel Bahia Del Duque, Spain
- Chic Outlet
- Corinthia Hotels Group
- The Taj Hotels

WLTM: Please tell us about International Luxury Travel Market and its importance for WTM?

Mr. Press: ILTM, the leading 'by invitation only' event for the global luxury travel industry, takes place in Cannes from December 3 – 6, 2012. It hosts many niche luxury travel companies as well as the large well known luxury travel brands.

Luxury travel is a very important sector for WTM with a number of our exhibitors looking to discuss deals and sign contracts with luxury buyers.





Happenings

Festivals *in* October



What: Oktoberfest

Where: Munich, Germany

When: September 22 – 7

Oktoberfest, the mother of all beer festivals, is a heady mix of beer, entertainment and good times. What began as a marriage celebration of Prince Ludwig in 1810 evolved into the world's largest fair with an



attendance of over 6 million visitors. The traditional tapping of the first keg by the Mayor marks the official opening of the festival. Things to look out for include, beer tents, colourful parades, concerts and bands, fun rides and Ferris wheels, dirndl clad waitresses (carrying 8 beer mugs at a time) and of course gastronomic delights like Sauerbraten, Blaukraut and Bratwurst. Dirndl or



lederhosen is the right attire for the event. Beware of challenges 'Prost' and 'Das Boot'!

Trivia: *Clothes to be seen in - dirndl and lederhosen!*

www.oktoberfest.de/en

What: Masskara Festival

Where: Bacolod, Philippines

When: October 1 – 22

This festival of smiling faces started in 1980 to cheer up the Bacolod City at a time of double gloom due to falling sugar prices (the main crop) and the death of many prominent

citizens in an inter-island vessel accident at sea. The festival was a reminder of the city's nickname as the 'city of smiles'. The festival also was a declaration of the city's spirit to triumph over difficult time.

'Masskara' meaning a crowd of smiling faces also refers to the smiling masks donned by the participants. Popular events include the street dance competition where masked dancers in colourful costumes sway to Latin music on main streets; the Masskara beauty pageant and the Electric Masskara.

Trivia: *The festival theme this year is "Life's Good in Bacolod".*

www.themasskarafestival.com





**What: Albuquerque
International Balloon Fiesta**

**Where: Albuquerque, New
Mexico, USA**

When: October 6 – 14

This annual festival of hot air balloons is the largest one of its kind in the world. The event takes place at the Balloon Fiesta Park and is a spectacular display of hundreds of colourful balloons from various countries floating gently over the



countryside. Over 700 balloons are launched from the park and visitors can interact with pilots while they are getting ready for the launch. Main events include fireworks, Mass Ascensions, Special Shape Rodeos and Balloon Glows. Various events and competitions enliven the event.

Trivia: The event was originated in 1972 as the highlight of KOB Radio's 50th birthday celebration.

www.balloonfiesta.com

**What: Cirio
De Nazare**

**Where:
Belem, Brazil**

**When: 2nd
Sunday of
October**

This religious festival involves a procession of thousands of believers who participate in carrying the statue of Our Lady of Nazareth from Icoaraci to Belem. It is a river procession (on the Amazon) with hundreds of boats taking part. The next morning the statue is carried from Cathedral da Se to the Basilica of Nazare to the accompaniment of music, dancing and





fireworks. Millions throng the street trying to touch the rope pulling the carriage carrying the statue. The statue is carried back to the Cathedral two weeks later. Visitors can enjoy local delicacies, take part in various events or just enjoy the festive atmosphere.

Trivia: The statue was once lost in Brazil and rediscovered by a cattleman in the site of the present day Basilica.

www.ciriodenazare.com.br/

What: Vegetarian Festival

Where: Phuket, Thailand

When: October 15 – 23

Do not be fooled by the almost boring name of this festival! This ten-day festival is one of most spectacular and interesting festivals in Asia. It marks the beginning of 'Lent' for Taoists when they abstain from meat in all forms for the sake of spiritual cleansing. Religious processions, offerings and cultural events mark



the beginning of the festival with Jui Tui temple acting as the focal point. Shocking acts of self-mortification can be witnessed here like, walking on hot coals, piercing of cheeks with swords and

cutting tongues with saws or axe blades etc. Mediums invoke deities and bless devotees. Several stalls selling fruits, incense and candles for the deities are set up along the roadside.

Trivia: Those who follow the ten-day vegetarian diet and the rituals are believed to be blessed with good fortune.

www.phuketvegetarian.com

What: Fantasy Fest

Where: Key West, Florida

When: October 19 – 28

This ten-day street carnival is a time to let your hair down and party with a zest. Started in 1979 to perk up tourism during the off season, the

event now is a full blown street party attracting thousands of visitors. This carnival cum Halloween celebration includes costume parties, masquerade balls, adult-only events



and the climactic parade consisting of around 70,000 people. It is a mind boggling spectacle of dazzling floats and



costumes ranging from creative to bizarre. The creative events include the Monster's Ball, Dungeons & Dragons and choosing of a Conch King and Queen every year.

Trivia: The theme this year is Zombie Nation Vacation.

www.fantasyfest.com/

What: Bridge Day

Where: West Virginia, USA

When: October 20

The venue of action is the 265 m. high New River Gorge Bridge from where daredevil jumpers hurl themselves down in an 8-seconds free fall before





their parachutes open. Over 450 BASE (building, antennae, span, earth) jumpers take part in this thrilling stunt which is watched by over 40,000 spectators. Participants can take off from the diving board or parachute or rappel to the bottom. Prior parachuting experience is mandatory for jumpers. Spectators can watch the jumpers, admire the gorgeous view or buy trinkets or eats from the hundreds of vendors lined along the side.

Trivia: *This is the largest extreme sports event in the world.*

www.officialbridgeday.com/

What: Cork Jazz Festival

Where: Cork, Ireland

When: October 26 – 29

This renowned Jazz festival takes place on the last weekend in October and features over 1000 musicians at over 80

venues. The pubs and hotels of Cork overflow with thousands of Jazz lovers and performers. Considered one of Europe's best Jazz festivals, it has featured renowned names like Chick Corea and Ella Fitzgerald. Apart from the wonderful performances, street entertainment, a Festival club, Jazz choir workshops and lectures also form part of the musical proceedings.



Trivia: *The festival was started in 1978 by Jim Mountjoy to attract weekend visitors to his hotel.*

www.guinnessjazzfestival.com/

What: Halloween

Where: New York, USA

When: October 31

Halloween, the 'scary' festival, traces its roots to Pagan Harvest Festivals and festivals held in honour of the dead. Halloween is synonymous with children going 'tricking or treating', costume parties, carving pumpkin lanterns, apple bobbing, playing pranks or watching horror

movies. A huge night parade attracts over two million people dressed up in every imaginable (or unimaginable) costume on earth! The highlight of the parade is the giant puppets whose 'march' is controlled by up to 1000 people. The event is enlivened by live bands, dancers, various performers and dozens of floats.

Trivia: *Samhainophobia is the fear of Halloween.*



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