



**Discovering the Treasures of Bordeaux, UNESCO World Heritage Site:
Exemplary 17th to 21st Century Architecture, Decorative Arts, Châteaux & Gardens**

**Sponsored by
Institute of Classical Architecture & Art**

**Arranged by
Pamela Huntington Darling, Exclusive Cultural Travel Programs**

**Sunday, June 17 to Saturday, June 23, 2012
6 days and 6 nights**



The City of Bordeaux, Port of the Moon, is described by UNESCO World Heritage as “an inhabited historic city, an outstanding urban and architectural ensemble, created in the Age of Enlightenment, whose values continued up to the first half of the 20th century.”

The Bordeaux region, a place of exchange and commerce for over 2,000 years, thanks in part to its production of its fine wine, has, after Paris, more edifices on the national list of Historic Monuments than any other city in France, priding majestic Neo-Classical buildings, several of which influenced Classical architecture in the United States, such as the James B Duke House, now NYU’s Institute of Fine Arts, listed on the U.S. National Register of Historical Buildings, modeled after Hôtel Labottière, or the great Ogden Codman house in New York, inspired by several houses he had admired in Bordeaux.

The creation of Bordeaux’ unique ensemble of 18th century public buildings, residences, streets and squares, considered purer and more perfect than many examples in Paris, is a tribute to the philosophers of the French Enlightenment who influenced by their beliefs the city’s planning: to produce admirable buildings—theatres, town halls, other official sites, and private mansions—in an imposing planned setting—with squares, parks, walks, fountains and inspiring perspectives.

By the middle of the 18th century, ancient Greece and Andrea Palladio became the principal references to the new “Neo-Classical style”. 20th and 21st century architects have continued in this honourable tradition designing remarkable buildings in Bordeaux and its wine region.

During our exclusive architectural and decorative arts program, lead by our expert lecturer, we will visit the most significant examples of classical architecture of the 18th century, majestic buildings and town houses in the historic center of Bordeaux, and be received by prominent officials.

We will also enjoy privileged visits, luncheons or dinners with our hosts at Bordeaux’s most significant chateaux celebrated for their architecture—ancient and contemporary—and for their fine wine, such as: Chateau Cheval Blanc, featuring a wine cellar created by architect Christian de Portzamparc; Chateau Saint-Georges, designed by Victor Louis, classical architect of the exemplary 18th century Grand Theatre of Bordeaux; Chateau Lafite Rothschild, whose circular wine cellar with Neo-Classic pillars was designed by architect Ricardo Bofill; Chateau La Mission Haut Brion, including a cloister, a 17th chapel, and a remarkable garden; and Château Margaux, celebrating pure Palladian style, interior decor recently renovated by French classical architect Francois-Joseph Graf.

We will reside at the 5-star luxury **Grand Hotel de Bordeaux & Spa**, a French Historic Monument, member of the “Leading Hotels of the World”. Situated on a superb square, the hotel, part of the late 18th century development of the city center, was designed by classical architect Victor Louis, also responsible for the Grand Theatre, located on the opposite side of the square. The recent restoration was achieved respecting the rich historic past of the building. The sophisticated interior decoration, recently renovated by famed decorator Jacques Garcia, was inspired by classical French tradition. Website : www.ghbordeaux.com/uk/index.php .

Tour Highlights

Bordeaux was designated a UNESCO World Heritage for its remarkable urban and architectural ensemble. During our significant architectural and decorative arts tour, with our expert lecturer, we will enjoy private visits, walking tours, luncheons, receptions, and dinners with our hosts at the following sites, among others:

Afternoon walking tour With our expert lecturer, we will explore the Cours du Chapeau-Rouge, where the most distinguished private buildings were constructed. The Hôtel Boyer-Fonfrède and the Hôtel de Saige were designed by classical architect Victor Louis, a native of Paris; while the Hôtel Bonnaffé was designed by his rival; local classical architect Etienne Laclotte. The Hôtel de Saige was modelled on the Palazzo Mancini in Rome; and after the French Revolution, it became the seat of the Prefecture for almost a century and a half.

Place de la Bourse (originally Place Royal)

Historically important, the Place de la Bourse was the first public square that was open on one side, in this case onto the majestic Garonne River. In 1729, King Louis XV sent his Architect in Chief, Jacques Gabriel to Bordeaux to draw up a preliminary plan. Gabriel devised an architectural ensemble that has been the glory of Bordeaux ever since. The three buildings were finally finished in 1755 under the direction his son Ange-Jacques Gabriel, who subsequently became more famous than his father. We will also admire the “Miroir d’Eau”, the largest (3,450 square meters) water mirror in the world.



Hôtel Labottière

Private reception and dinner at Hôtel Labottière, built in 1773 by classical architect Etienne Laclotte, property of Bernard Magrez, proprietor of wine estates in Bordeaux and worldwide, is an admirable example of Bordeaux’s late 18th century architecture. It is noteworthy that the James B Duke House, designed by architect Horace Trumbauer, considered among the grandest and most sophisticated houses in New York, now NYU’s Institute of Fine Arts, listed on the U.S. National Register of Historical Buildings, was modeled after Hôtel Labottière. Set in a large park with century old clipped yew hedges, the chateau re-opened a year ago after remarkable restoration. Classified French Historic Monument, it now houses Bernard Magrez’ “Centre d’Art du Chateau Pape Clement”, with the mission of promoting contemporary artists.

Grand Theatre de Bordeaux

When it was inaugurated in 1780, the Grand Theatre of Bordeaux was considered the most spectacular opera house in France, if not Europe. Importantly, it was the centrepiece of a whole new, classically inspired neighbourhood in Bordeaux. All the other buildings around the square were planned to complement the Grand Theatre. The classical façade, with 12 monumental columns, influenced the design of other “temple theatres” throughout France in the latter 18th century. Its grand staircase was totally innovative. Architect Charles Garnier replicated the staircase 80 years later when he designed the Paris Opera House. We will enjoy a private visit to appreciate both the exterior and the interior.



Morning walking tour With our expert lecturer, we will visit the most significant examples of 18th century townhouses, as well as the contemporary High Court building in the same neighbourhood. The Hôtel de Saint Marc (1784 plans by Victor Louis) is an exemplary late 18th century aristocratic townhouse and is conserved in its original form with a portal on the street, followed by a courtyard, then the townhouse proper with a entry in the form of a demi-rotunda. A local master woodcarver sculpted the panels in the salons, which are similar to the “Bordeaux” interior panels in the Metropolitan Museum. We will be received at the Tribunal de Grande Instance (1992-1998) designed by Richard Rogers (Pritzker Prize 2007), with its transparent outer walls and the seven courtrooms in separate wooden “cases” that resemble wooden wine vats, according to some critics.



Palace of Rohan (City Hall)

We will be received by the Director General for International Relations of the City Hall of Bordeaux to tour the princely setting of the Hotel de Rohan. Another example of the architectural coherence of Bordeaux, the clean lines and classical elements that structure the Rohan palace show the influence of Victor Louis’s design for the Grand theatre. The grand staircase is an outstanding example of French “stereotomy”, or cutting blocks of stone so that they fit together to support the weight of the arch or staircase without columnar support.

Hôtel de Lalande – Musée des Arts Décoratifs

The head curator of this elegant town house, constructed in 1779, a significant example of 18th century classical architecture by Etienne Laclotte, a Bordeaux native and descendant of a family of architects and master builders, now Bordeaux’s Decorative Arts Museum, will guide us through this rich example of architectural features and decorative arts in the history of 18th century Bordeaux.

Petit Hotel Labottière

A passion for authentic restoration is what motivated the French owners of this perfect historic townhouse (1773), designed by classical architect Etienne Laclotte, who also designed the Hôtel de Lalande (Bordeaux’s Decorative Arts Museum). It is a perfect example of the art of French living, which we will be invited to enjoy with our hosts during a convivial dinner.



Château Margaux



The most celebrated and possibly the most beautiful chateau in Bordeaux’s wine country will be specially opened to us for a private visit dedicated to its architectural details. Château Margaux, classified as a French Historic Monument, prides pure Palladian style with its four columns, peristyle, and triangular fronton. Its construction began in 1810, commissioned by the Marquis Colonilla with architect Guy-Louis Combes, a student of Victor Louis (architect of the Grand Theatre in Bordeaux). Francois-Joseph Graf, reputed French classical interior designer, recently renovated the Château’s interior.

Château Palmer

Nothing is as fascinating as seeing restoration work in progress. We are invited to meet with the director and the architect to admire the new installations of the winery at Château Palmer and the new landscaping of the adjacent Palmer Village, an ensemble of small houses built for the winery and vineyard workers, surrounded by marvellous gardens, followed by luncheon at the chateau, home of one of the “grand cru classé” of Margaux.



Château Lafite Rothschild

This is one of the first wineries in Bordeaux to hire a renowned architect, Ricardo Bofill from Barcelona, Pritzker Prize winner 2004, to renovate its cellar. Built between 1985-1987, the result is both esthetic and practical. Bofill designed an octagonal cellar, which, instead of having miles of corridors as in a rectangular cellar, saves each worker 300 kilometers of walking per year. The 16 columns in the center provide drama and strength. Vines grow on the roof, covered by seven feet of soil, which Bofill admits was a challenge to take into consideration.

Château de Bouilh

Extraordinary, although only one-third of the planned edifice was finished (1786-1787), as work was interrupted by the French revolution. The Marquis de la Tour du Pin commissioned Victor Louis, architect of the Grand Theatre in Bordeaux, to build a chateau that would be worthy to host a visit by King Louis XVI. Unfortunately, both the King and the Château were victims of history. But, what is left is monumental. The proprietor, Countess Feuilhade de Chauvin, will welcome us and, in the admirable library, unveil for our pleasure the original plans by Victor Louis.



Château Saint-Georges



We will enjoy a private visit and relaxing luncheon with the proprietor at Château Saint-Georges, designated a French Historic Monument. Located on a hill overlooking its sloping vineyards and the neighboring chateaux, the chateau creates a stunning image of grandeur and elegance. Château Saint-Georges dates back to Gallo-Roman time, when a sumptuous villa overlooked the vineyards. In 1602, a barony was created when Henry IV sold the estate to a Saint-Emilion family. It

passed down through the family until the last Baron of Saint-Georges, the King's Treasure, who commissioned the celebrated 18th century Classical architect Victor Louis to redesign the chateau; the towers date from the 13th century.

Château Cheval Blanc

Private visit to discover the new additions designed by architect Christian de Portzamparc, the first French architect to win the Pritzker Prize in 1994. Another architectural statement for one of the top-ranking wineries: at the cost of 16,000,000 Euros and 18 months of construction work, the "cellar under the hill" has become as famed as the Hanging Gardens of Babylon in their time. Besides being an "architectural sculpture", it has been certified "High Environmental Quality" due to the materials used, the conservation of water and energy, the acoustics and the mastering of "hygrometrique". Natural light illuminates the interior, and the walls provide natural aeration. The roof of the winery is covered with vegetation, which the architect admits was a challenge due to the extra weight, where we can enjoy a splendid view of the vineyard.



Saint-Emilion Village

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list as a "cultural landscape", with our expert lecturer, we will enjoy strolling through this "open-air museum" composed of a medieval village and surrounding vineyards.

Morning and afternoon walking tour With our guide, expert on the architectural patrimony of Bordeaux, we will discover 18th century "*hôtels particuliers*", many designated French Historic Monuments, occupying entire streets of central Bordeaux. We will enjoy a relaxing luncheon at one of Bordeaux's acclaimed bistros in a historic setting.

Townhouses designed by the most noteworthy architects are assembled around the rue de Mirail, where the features of both the exteriors and interiors will be commented by our expert guide, including: Hôtel Lecomte (1650), a facade with a "triumphal arch" around the double entry door leads to the courtyard and the stairway, an outstanding example of stereotomy; Hôtel Leberthon (1742), pure, sumptuous Louis XV style undoubtedly the work of a gifted architect: curved window frames and Mansard roofs, the staircase of honour built by master masons; and the perfectly preserved Hôtel Basquiat-Pierlot, architect Andre Lhote, where every detail remains in place from the 18th century—no additions— even the garden remains.

We will enter the courtyard to admire the façade of the Hôtel de Poissac (1775-1778), architect: Nicolas Papon, a symmetric plan which, between four colossal ionic pilasters has an rare motif of deeply carved floral garlands holding up three carved medallions. An unusual gateway marks the entry of the Hôtel Ragenau (1643-1656), architect Pierre Légiise: constructed as a "villa in town". The Hôtel Martin is from an earlier time (1607-1643), and was considered to be the most sumptuous town house in Bordeaux. Queen Marie de Medicis stayed there when passing through Bordeaux. In mid-afternoon, we will return to the hotel for relaxation before dinner.

Château de Malle

The proprietors will welcome us for a private visit and luncheon at their historic residence. Château de Malle is a textbook example of a typical 17th century chateau in the region of Bordeaux. In this case, both the chateau and the garden, inspired by both Italian gardens in Florence and the royal garden in Versailles, are classified as a French Historic Monument and a "Remarkable Garden". The original statues in the park represent gods and goddesses associated with wine and were carved centuries ago by Italian sculptors.





Château La Mission Haut-Brion

We will have a private visit at Château La Mission Haut-Brion, dating back to when the monks of the Order of Saint Vincent de Paul ran the estate, between the 17th and 18th century. Across from Chateau Haut-Brion, one of Thomas Jefferson's favourite wines, La Mission Haut-Brion is also owned by the Domaine Clarence Dillon and produces a wine as highly esteemed. Between 1821-1884, the owner, originally from New Orleans, shipped its wine to Louisiana. We will admire the restoration of the historical

buildings, including a cloister, a 17th chapel, as well as an extensive garden.

Château du Taillan

We will enjoy a convivial farewell dinner with the proprietors of this 18th century château, classed as a French Historic Monument, dating from the Middle Ages. Henri Cruse acquired the chateau in 1896, and it has been in the family since. Its remarkable classic facade dates from the 18th century. The wine cellar and vaults were rebuilt in the 15th century. The grounds cover 150 hectares, with 30 hectares dedicated to the vineyard. We will be invited by our hosts for cocktails on the terrace overlooking the estate, followed by a delicious dinner in the 18th century wooden-paneled dining room; a memorable and convivial evening.



The Institute of Classical Architecture & Art and Pamela Huntington Darling, specializing in organizing cultural travel programs, welcome you to join us for this exclusive tour.

For more information or to register, please call or email Pamela Huntington Darling at your earliest convenience: Tel. (Paris, France) +33 1 45 67 62 81; Email pdarling@exclusiveculturaltours.com .

Tour Price: Land cost: Double occupancy: \$6,000 per person; single supplement: \$1,000; based on an exchange rate of \$1.35/1 Euro; a minimum of 15 participants (maximum 20 participants); ICAA membership at Contributor or Individual~Professional level or higher; and a fully tax-deductible \$500 ICAA tour donation.

Rate includes: 6 days of private visits and receptions; 6 nights of hotel accommodations at the 5-star luxury Grand Hotel de Bordeaux & Spa; 6 breakfasts; 4 luncheons and 4 dinners; transportation to and from events; all private visits, and expert lecturers.

To assure availability, please reserve now. Confirmation will be treated according to date of your registration.

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A detailed itinerary will be sent to the confirmed participants. Due to the exceptional character of our private visits and receptions, they are subject to modification, addition and deletion as deemed necessary to offer a most significant tour. Confirmed participants will be notified.

