

French Wine Explorers

French Wine Explorers is an American tour company that specializes in wine and culinary tours of France (for novices and experts) that are low on pretension and high on enjoyment. In 2003, they offer eight departures to Bordeaux, Burgundy, Champagne, the Rhone Valley, Provence, the Loire Valley and Beaujolais. The scheduled programs are fully escorted by Lauriann Greene and Jean-Pierre Sollin, certified sommeliers living in France.

Among the highlights of the 2003 season: Best of Bordeaux, two tours including an unprecedented number of tastings at the most prestigious chateaus such as Lafite Rothschild, Latour, Margaux, Haut-Brion, Mouton Rothschild, Leoville Barton, Cos d'Estournel and others. The May Bordeaux tour is led by wine journalist Robin Garr of WineLoversPage.com. Cooking and Wine in Provence, a week of hands-on cooking and wine tasting classes, winery visits and sightseeing, is based at a beautifully-restored, 16th-century Provençal home. Two tours to Burgundy, one a luxury champagne tour and the other including the Northern Rhone Valley, highlight the region's best wineries and a special tasting of wines from Domaine de la Romanée Conti.

The average group size is 10-12 guests. All tours include air-conditioned transportation; three- and four-star hotels with private baths; gourmet meals; all wine tastings and sightseeing; and services of a bilingual wine expert throughout. Prices range from \$2,595 to \$4,595. For a free brochure, send an e-mail to

info@wine-tours-France.com or call 877-261-1500. Information is also available at www.wine-tours-France.com.

Cosmetic Surgery Vacations



A Malaysia-based company called Beautiful Holidays wants to entice people to book a vacation that includes surgery. They claim to offer competently performed procedures in a resort environment, plus vacation benefits, for the price of what a client would pay for surgery only in Northern Europe or the United States.

The trips focus on the island of Penang, on the northwest coast of Malaysia. The packages include a telephone or video conference preconsultation with the surgeon; round-trip air travel and airport transfers by limousine; translation services for non-English speaking guests; five-star hotel accommodations; plastic, reconstructive, cosmetic, dental and oral surgical services as requested, performed at Loh Guan Lye Specialist Center; beauty and spa treatments; pre- and post-surgery skin treatments; medical appointments; sightseeing while in Penang; and postsurgery consultation once back home.

The company also plans to launch a similar program for general surgery. (www.beautiful-holidays.com)



Kid's programs, teen activities, casinos for adults... all on your Aruba Vacation.

Aruba "Summer" SunSation

Aruba's Suite Summer SunSation has been extended for travel through December 20. Three-night vacations include roundtrip airfare on American Airlines with accommodations in a one-bedroom Grand Suite at La Cabana (taxes and service charges included) and roundtrip airport-resort transfers. U.S. air travel taxes and island departure taxes are additional.

Each package comes with a \$50 food and beverage credit per adult. In addition, children under 12 (to a maximum of two children per room) stay free in the same room with at least one paying adult and when using existing bedding.

Sample per person prices start at \$599 from Miami, \$725 from New York JFK, Boston or Philadelphia and \$815 from Chicago. Five- through eight-day packages are also available.

Situated along Eagle Beach, La Cabana features a Health & Fitness Center; three swimming pools; five tennis courts; the Club Cabana Nana children's program; teen activities; casual theme nights; diverse dining; live entertainment in the Tropicana Showroom; and the Royal Cabana Casino, Aruba's largest gaming house. Contact Liberty Travel at 888-271-1586 or www.libertytravel.com.

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