

NEW ORLEANS TOUCHES IN FRANCE

PARIS / VERSAILLES / BORDEAUX

June 1-9, 2025

Presented by The Historic New Orleans Collection

The Historic New Orleans Collection is delighted to announce its annual spring international journey, which in 2025 will focus on the incredibly rich cultural heritage – with so many ties to Louisiana – of two great French cities, Paris and Bordeaux. Beginning in the City of Lights, which will be in full late springtime splendor, our itinerary features private access to amazing places – royal apartments at Versailles, special collections at historic libraries, and behind-the-scenes looks at the freshly restored Notre Dame cathedral! After speeding down to southwest France via the famed TGV train, we spend four days soaking up the architectural, scenic, and gastronomic glories of Bordeaux and its famed wine country. You'll be special guests in private homes, splendid chateaux, and majestic theaters, and you will discover Bordeaux's amazing 18th century urban fabric, one of the best preserved in the world, reflecting the time when merchants, sailors, and vintners from Bordeaux were active in the early days of New Orleans. Great food and lovely company enrich the tour, and whether you've never been to France, or been a dozen times, we're confident this trip will be a magical one.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel Rochester Champs-Elysées, Paris—One of the finest 4-star hotels in Paris' coveted 8th Arrondissement, the Rochester offers a pleasant and convenient base for our touring in and around Paris. The hotel is surrounded by beautiful architecture, fine restaurants, lovely green spaces, and the legendary shops of the Champs-Elysées. We will be reserved into upgraded Privilege Rooms, which offer a bit more space and refined furnishings. The hotel's public spaces offer elegant damasked gold-plated fabrics in the palatial grand hall and the lovely library/lounge, and the daily breakfast is a perfect taste of Paris.

Intercontinental Le Grand Hotel, Bordeaux—This sumptuous hotel is itself truly one of the great monuments of Bordeaux, constructed in 1789 on a design by architect Louis Victor, who also designed the iconic Opera House immediately across the square. The hotel has been the most opulent address in the city for many years, and its stylish and warm rooms – again, here we are upgraded to Premium level rooms to provide some extra space – offer sublime comfort. The hotel has two fine restaurants, including one with two Michelin stars, as well as a delightful rooftop bar which will be open for the summer season during our stay. All the charm of historic Bordeaux is within easy walking distance, the grand 18th-century architecture, the fine shops, and atmospheric allées and squares.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Sunday, June 1

Arrivals in Paris

Hotel Rochester Champs-Elysées (Dinner)

- Independent arrivals into Paris CDG airport.
- Private group transfers (by sedan, SUV, van, or sprinter) will be provided for all guests arriving on June 1, 2025.
- Morning check-ins are not guaranteed without booking an extra pre-night (May 31). Lunch is on your own today.
- At 2:00pm, gather for a guided afternoon stroll around the 8th Arrondissement and along beautiful stretches of the Champs-Elysées. An easygoing, but informative introduction to our hotel's corner of Paris. Today happens to be the one day of the month when the Champs-Elysées itself is closed to vehicular traffic, making it the perfect time to explore the neighborhood in tranquility.
- Afternoon check-in at the Hotel Rochester and some down time to settle in or further explore on your own.
- Meet up with fellow travelers for an evening walk to a lovely neighborhood restaurant where a classic Parisian menu will be offered as our welcome dinner.

Monday, June 2

Paris Behind Closed Doors

Hotel Rochester Champs-Elysées (Breakfast, Lunch, Reception or Dinner)

- Buffet breakfast.
- Transfer by private coach to the core of the city and disembark for a guided stroll through the gardens and stately architecture of the Palais-Royal, built as the home of Cardinal Richelieu in the 1630s, and transformed in the following century by graceful arcades and a peaceful public garden.
- Most of our morning is spent exploring the beautiful spaces and fantastic historic documents and resources of the Bibliotheque National's Richelieu center. Here, we will be provided with special access to amazing books and documents that, at least in part, tell the story of New Orleans, Louisiana, and the early people (both French and American) who helped establish the city.
- Relax during a classic Parisian bistro lunch in a lively spot not far from the library.
- Meet a renowned Parisian rare books dealer in his private boutique in the heart of Haussman's Paris, with chances to admire beautiful historic works.
- Return by private coach to the hotel for a bit of down time.
- This evening, we hope to visit the gorgeous residence of the United States Ambassador, ensconced in verdant gardens alongside the Palais de l'Elysée – home of the French President. If confirmed, we would be guests of the ambassador for a look at the spectacular historic home, which has major New Orleans connections. If the visit cannot be confirmed, we will instead spend a lovely evening out together at a fine dining restaurant not far from our hotel.

Tuesday, June 3

Historic Beauty in Paris: The Marais and Notre Dame

Hotel Rochester Champs-Élysées (Breakfast, Lunch)

- Buffet breakfast.
- Drive across town into the quiet Marais district, its wondrous collection of surviving historic palaces and squares making it one of Paris' most sought-after neighborhoods.
- Discover the tiny Cognacq-Jay Museum, a lush house museum created in the early 1900s that recreates an Age of Enlightenment Parisian salon home with exquisite paintings, but especially decorative arts and furnishings from the 18th century, when New Orleans was being shaped.
- Follow our guide through the excellent Musée Carnavalet, a beautiful building it itself, dedicated to the history of Paris. We will have a custom tour bringing out periods of greatest interest, and also special connections or episodes of relevance to Louisiana.
- Stop to enjoy a gastronomic lunch at a historic café in the heart of the Marais.
- In the afternoon, our expert guide will introduce several of the area's most beautiful *hotels particuliers* and discuss their unique architecture and history. If time permits, we will sneak inside the delightful Forney Library, which preserves medieval design will also housing a fine collection of historic decorative art volumes and catalogs.
- We've saved the best for last today. Prepare to marvel at the newly reopened Notre Dame Cathedral, more sparkling than ever after its 6-year renovation/rebuilding project after the devastating April 2019 fire. We will be guests of a preservationist for a special look at restored portions of the church, with some private access.
- Return to the hotel by private coach, and enjoy dinner and the evening on your own.

Wednesday, June 4

A Day in Versailles

Hotel Rochester Champs-Élysées (Breakfast, Lunch)

- Buffet breakfast.
- Head out of Paris this morning as we take a full-day deep-dive into the magnificent royal estate of Versailles, the royal palace that set the bar for all others.
- Enjoy the grand vistas, bubbling fountains, and green spaces both geometric and freeform as we pass the morning taking in the gardens of Versailles, including a stop at the Petit Traianon. The gardens will be fragrant and colorful in their late springtime best.
- Dine in royal splendor at the acclaimed "Ore – Ducasse" on the first floor of the Pavillon Dufour (1821).
- Marvel at the splendid interiors of the Palace of Versailles itself during our slotted afternoon guided tour. By special arrangement, our group will have the privilege of privately visiting the stylish apartments of Queen Marie Antoinette as part of our in-depth architectural and decorative arts tour.
- Return to our hotel for one final independent evening in Paris.

Thursday, June 5

High-Speed Train to Bordeaux and its Wine Country

Intercontinental Le Grand (Breakfast, Tasting, Dinner)

- Buffet breakfast.
- After our larger bags are loaded onto a private truck for shipment to Bordeaux, transfer mid-morning to the Gare Montparnasse, where we board a high-speed TGV train and settle into our assigned seats for the journey. The train – inaugurated in 2017 - covers 325 miles in just over two hours!
- Lunch will be on your own today, either aboard the train or at the Bordeaux St-Jean station upon arrival.
- Upon arrival in Bordeaux, immediately immerse yourself in the city’s unique connections with New Orleans, as we head to an “in-city” winery of historical import. The Freres Seignouret estate dates back to 1830, the brainchild of a Bordeaux native who moved to the new, vibrant city of New Orleans and made a fortune as an upholsterer and cabinetmaker. As the city’s wealth grew, demand for the finer things skyrocketed, and Francois Seignouret realized the potential of importing the superb wines from his hometown to Louisiana. Learn about the remarkable connections between the Historic New Orleans Collection and this beautiful estate (opened 1830) as we take a private afternoon tour and enjoy a tasting, with the wines still of excellent quality almost 200 years later!
- Entering the historic core of Bordeaux, we check into our lovely rooms at the Intercontinental Le Grand, housed in a monumental palace dating back to 1789. Enjoy a bit of free time to settle in or explore the surrounding streets and squares.
- With the late sunset, we enjoy an evening walking tour in the immediate neighborhood of our hotel, with special focus on the charming Place de Parlement and the stunning Mirroir d’Eau (“Water Mirror”) along the Garonne River across from the classically inspired 18th-century Place de la Bourse.
- Celebrate our arrival in Bordeaux with a delightful buffet dinner in a private space of the hotel’s excellent “Bordeaux Restaurant,” with some fine local wines on offer.

Friday, June 6

The Best of the Médoc

Intercontinental Le Grand (Breakfast, Lunch, Tasting)

- Buffet breakfast.
- Head out on quiet country roads into the relatively flat countryside north of Bordeaux that is home to many of the world’s most exclusive wines – Latour, Margaux, etc. These very top estates will be open only for wine industry VIPs during “Connoisseurs’ Week” but happily the area has many fine estates for us to explore.
- Our day in the Médoc will begin with a historic grand cru classé estate near Margaux for an introduction to the high-level wine culture that has been rooted in this region for many centuries. Walk the garden, see the cellars, and have a light morning tasting.
- We then head to the small village of Arcins for a gourmet wine-accompanied lunch at the charming Lion d’Or.
- After lunch, meet a dynamic young winemaker in her family’s beautiful home on the left bank. A third generation producer, she will introduce the estate’s terroir, walk us through the vines, explain the innovative cellars, and then share several great vintages during a private tasting.
- Drive back to Bordeaux for an independent dinner.

Saturday, June 7

The Majesty of Historic Bordeaux

Intercontinental Le Grand (Breakfast, Lunch)

- Buffet breakfast.
- No coach is needed today as our touring keeps us within the beautiful 18th-century city center of Bordeaux. Tour the grandiose interiors of the Grand Theatre, the beautiful opera house adjacent to our hotel. While there, learn about Edmond Dédé, a black, freeborn Creole composer and musician – native of New Orleans - who was one of Bordeaux's leading musical figures in the 19th century.
- Walk along some of the prettiest streets of Bordeaux's UNESCO-designated historic core, learning about the city's influence on Paris' eventual 19th-century transformation. See grand palaces and historic monuments such as the remarkable Porte Cailhau gate.
- Opened privately for our small group, the Michelin-recommended Bo-tannique Restaurant provides the perfect respite from a busy day in old Bordeaux, with excellent healthy cuisine in a cozy and comfortable environment.
- Choose between either free time in Bordeaux's bustling shopping district, or a continued guided tour featuring the city's medieval cathedral and its stately Museum of Fine Arts.
- Independent dinner in Bordeaux, with (possibly) an optional concert or musical performance at the Grand Theatre.

Sunday, June 8

Saint-Émilion: The Ultimate Wine Village, and a Fond Au Revoir

Intercontinental Le Grand (Breakfast, Lunch, Tasting, Reception, Dinner)

- Buffet breakfast.
- Strike out into the wine country once again, this time heading east to the picturesque hills surrounding Saint-Émilion, one of France's greatest wine villages. A guided tour unlocks the secrets of the pretty walled town, with hidden gardens, secret courtyards, and rock-hewn churches to keep us busy. Free time will also be given to enjoy the town's excellent shops.
- Step into true 18th-century elegance as we then make a private visit to the beautiful Chateau de la Dauphine, built in 1750. It takes its name from a very early visitor - Maria Josepha of Saxony, wife of the then-Dauphin and mother of multiple future French kings, including the ill-fated Louis XVI. Stroll through the tranquil gardens, see rare breeds, and then sit down for a magical lunch in the gilded halls of the chateau.
- After lunch, tour the cellars and sample some of the estate's finest wines.
- Back in Bordeaux, a bit of free time is provided to prepare for tomorrow's departure.
- A truly memorable farewell event is planned for our final evening together in France. The owners of a stunning historic home (1790), the only 18th-century *hotel particulier* still used as a private residence in Bordeaux, have invited us into their home. We'll find connections with New Orleans, admire their amazing decorative arts and paintings collections, and then join them for an aperitif in their garden before sitting down for a grand celebratory dinner in their garden pavilion. All in all - a magical evening!

Monday, June 9

DEPARTURES

(Breakfast)

- Individual transfers (via sedans, SUVs, vans, or sprinters) will be provided to meet all flights or trains departing from Bordeaux on June 9th.

TOUR INFORMATION

Hotels:

- Paris: Hotel Rochester Champs-Élysées, 92 Rue de la Boétie, Paris 75008
- Bordeaux: Intercontinental Le Grand, 2-5 Pl. de la Comedie, Bordeaux 33000

Price per person, double occupancy: \$8,995 (includes a \$350 donation to THNOC); single supplement: \$2,095.

Included: 8 nights in hotels; breakfast daily at the hotels, 6 lunches, 3 dinners, 5 tastings/receptions; wine/beer included with all lunches and dinners; all travel outlined in the tour schedule, including TGV train from Paris to Bordeaux; private airport transfers for Paris arrivals on June 1, and Bordeaux departures on June 9; entrance fees for outlined activities; donations to allow for special access where possible; professional tour escorts; handling of two pieces of luggage per person (including luggage truck service between Paris and Bordeaux); and gratuities for drivers, guides, and restaurant wait staff.

Not included: airfare, passport or visa fees; airport transfers upon arrival; taxis; meals not included in the itinerary; extra beverages, alcohol, laundry, phone calls, and personal costs not specified in the tour package; gratuities for hotel housekeeping; travel insurance; any other items not specifically included in the itinerary.

Optional Services:

- **Extra nights at the Hotel Rochester Champs-Élysées (Paris)**—If you would like to arrive up to 2 nights prior to the start of the tour (June 1), a special group rate of \$550 (Privilege double) and \$525 (Privilege single) will be available to participants, pending availability.
- **Extra nights at the Intercontinental Le Grand (Bordeaux)**—If you would like to extend your trip for up to 2 nights at the end of the tour (June 9), a special group rate of \$675 (Premium double) and \$650 (Premium single) will be available to participants, pending availability.

Deposits and refunds: A deposit of \$1,500 per registrant is required to reserve space on the tour, of which \$1,000 is nonrefundable for ISDI's registration and planning fee unless the tour is cancelled due to low enrollment. Deposit payments can be made by credit card, by wire transfer, or by check payable to International Seminar Design, Inc.

Reservations can be made by calling (202) 244-1448, ext. 1 (Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–6 p.m.), or by emailing the below registration form to info@isditravel.com, or mailed to International Seminar Design, Inc. 5614 Connecticut Avenue NW, #295, Washington, DC 20015-2604.

Final payment and payment for optional services (single supplement, extra nights, private car transfers) are due by February 7, 2025. Final payment must be made by wire transfer or check payable to International Seminar Design, Inc. (ISDI). Credit cards are not accepted for final balance.

Flights: Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for their own air arrangements. **Please do not purchase airline tickets until the operation of the tour is confirmed by ISDI.**

Cancellation policy: Cancellation by participant must be made in writing to ISDI and is effective only upon acknowledged receipt by ISDI.

- Cancellations made on or before February 7, 2025, will forfeit \$1,000 of the \$1,500 deposit.
- Cancellations made between February 8, 2025, and April 15, 2024, will forfeit \$4,500 (50% of tour price).
- Cancellations made on or after April 16, 2025, will forfeit 100% of full amount.

Tour registration is non-transferable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not allowed. After the tour has commenced, no refunds will be issued for any reason including, but not limited to, unused portions of tour. If the tour is cancelled by ISDI or The Historic New Orleans Collection due to low enrollment, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments.

Passports are required for travel to France. Passports must be valid for at least 6 months after the intended date of departure. They must also have been issued within the past 10 years. For additional information, please call the Embassy of France at (202) 944-6000. Please be aware that airlines may have additional restrictions on passports near their expiration dates. Please consult your airline. In addition, in early 2025, the European Union is likely establishing a new travel authorization requirement called ETIAS. ISDI will provide more information about this additional requirement when it is formally announced.

Terms & Conditions: ISDI strongly recommends that all tour participants be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and up to date with their boosters. Upon receipt of registration, ISDI will send registrant a Participant Tour Agreement detailing the full terms and conditions for this tour. This document must be signed and returned to ISDI before participant's registration is considered complete and any arrangements can be confirmed.

Travel Insurance: Travel Insurance is not included in the tour cost, but participants are strongly encouraged to purchase a travel protection plan in conjunction with this tour, including coverage of trip cancellation, trip interruption, emergency evacuation/repatriation, medical expenses, lost or damaged baggage, and other expenses and/or losses incurred due to unexpected situations. Should a participant cancel at any time after registering for the tour, ISDI must strictly abide by the cancellation policy outlined herein. Travel insurance information will be sent upon tour registration.

Liability Clause

The Historic New Orleans Collection (THNOC) and International Seminar Design Inc. (ISDI), their officers, directors, and staff do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for this tour, including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, bus, taxi, or other transportation companies, local ground, visa processing services, providers, or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, THNOC and ISDI are not responsible for any injury, loss, or damage to person or property, death, delay, or inconvenience in connection with the provision of any goods or services occasioned by or resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God, force majeure, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, strikes or other labor activities, criminal, terrorist, or threatened terrorist activities of any kind, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, structural or defective conditions in lodging facilities (or in any heating, plumbing, electrical, or structural problems therein), mechanical or other failure of airplanes or other means of transportation or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely, dangers associated with animals, sanitary problems, food poisoning, epidemics, or the threat of disease thereof, disease, lack of access to or quality of medical care, difficulty in evacuation in case of a medical or other emergency, or for any other cause beyond the direct control of THNOC and ISDI. Participants assume all risk. ISDI reserves the right to decline to accept any traveler on the tour if

that person's presence is likely to be detrimental to the enjoyment of the tour by others or for failure to abide by THNOC's regulations and/or the directions of the Tour Director. Travelers who have been removed from the tour waive the right to a refund for any part of the fee. ISDI may send the traveler home at the traveler's expense. The payment of your deposit shall constitute agreement to the above. Prices are based on a minimum of 20 paying participants and on the exchange rate of November 14, 2024.

REGISTRATION

Tour registration prior to December 10, 2024, is reserved for members of THNOC's Bienville Circle and Laussat Society.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Name as it appears on passport:

A copy of your passport's identification page is due with final payment by February 7, 2025.

Name as it should appear on name badge:

Cell phone:

Date and time of arrival in Berlin:

Airline and flight number (for private car transfer only):

Hotel floor preference: low floor high floor no preference

Bed preference: double king two beds

(All efforts will be made to fulfill these requests, but they cannot be guaranteed.)

Health information (due by February 7, 2025):

Dietary restrictions:

Food allergies:

Walking difficulties:

Price per person, double occupancy: \$8,995

Single supplement: \$2,095

Please enclose a deposit of \$1,500 (per person) with your registration form.

Final payment of \$7,495 (per person), plus single supplement (if applicable), and payment for optional services is **due by February 7, 2025.**

REGISTRATION FEES

QTY			SUBTOTAL
	Main Tour: Registration (per person, double occupancy)	x \$8,995	
	Main Tour: Single supplement	x \$2,095	

OPTIONAL SERVICES

	Extra nights at Hotel Rochester, Paris, double occupancy	Dates Requested:	x \$550	
	Extra nights at Hotel Rochester, Paris, single occupancy	Dates Requested:	x \$525	
	Extra nights at Intercontinental Le Grand, Bordeaux, double occupancy	Dates Requested:	x \$675	
	Extra nights at Intercontinental Le Grand, Bordeaux, single occupancy	Dates Requested:	x \$650	
TOTAL:				

If you wish to charge your reservation to a credit card, please complete:

Select one: ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ AmEx

Card Number: Exp. Date:

Mail to: International Seminar Design, Inc.

5614 Connecticut Avenue NW, #295

Washington, DC 20015-2604

Email to: info@isditravel.com

For further information, please call (202) 244-1448, ext. 1.

Registration is considered complete once both the Participant Tour Agreement and the initial deposit are received.