



# Sons of American Revolution 2024 Program Honoring France

#### Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024

On arrival at the Paris Charles De Gaulle International Airport (CDG) please make your way to the Oceania Roissy CDC. The Oceania Roissy Hotel offers shuttle service between the CDG and the hotel. Full information will be provided in your SAR Travel Packet. The Oceania Paris is a contemporary hotel located near CDG offering a blend of elegance and convenience. The spacious rooms are tastefully decorated, featuring modern amenities. There is a range of on-site facilities including a fitness center, wellness spa, and a heated indoor pool. There is also a great restaurant and a lobby bar.

After arrival and hotel check-in the balance of the day is on your own to relax after your trip or to enjoy the facilities.

**Evening:** SAR Welcome Reception at the hotel. Heavy hors d'oeuvres. Meet other SAR participants on SAR's 2024 Tribute to France.

### Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Breakfast at your leisure in the Oceania Roissy Breakfast Restaurant. Breakfast included.

**9:00 AM:** After checking out of the Oceania we will depart for Normandy with our private motor coach, driver, and guide. The driving time between the CDG Airport (Roissy) is 119 Miles and should take approximately 2 hours. Arriving Normandy at 11 AM our guide will give us an orientation tour and information on Normandy as we head to the battlefield and the Beaches of



Normandy. Following a guided tour of Normandy Battlegrounds, we will proceed to Bayeux where we will enjoy a lovely lunch at one of the local restaurants. After lunch we will make our



lovely lunch at one of the local restaurants. After lunch we will make our way to the Bayeux Museum where the famous UNESCO Tapestry is displayed.

The Bayeux Tapestry is 70 meters long and 50 centimeters high embroidered cloth that depicts the Norman conquest of England in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. That means that this tapestry has survived for over 9 centuries! This fact alone makes the tapestry impressive, and the craftsmanship that obviously went into its creation is equally remarkable. The tapestry tells the story from the point of view of the Normans, and ends with the Battle



of Hastings, which was the beginning of the Norman conquest. The cloth includes 58 scenes that were embroidered by hand using wool yarn.

After visiting the Bayeux Museum, we will board our coach and make our way to Caen. Caen is approximately 19 miles from Bayeux, and we should arrive Caen within a half hour. Arriving Caen our guide will do an orientation tour of this lovely city before arriving at the Novotel Caen Cote de Nacre our home for the night. The Novotel Caen Cote de Nacre has a friendly and dynamic ambience with spacious and comfortable rooms. After our busy and exciting day and our early departure tomorrow, the balance of the afternoon and evening are on your own to enjoy the Gourmet Bar which features regional dining and drinks. The hotel also offers a lovely garden



terrace and a heated swimming pool for your enjoyment. You may also wish to visit some of the places in town you saw on the orientation tour. Stop by the SAR Hospitality Desk if you need assistance.

#### Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Breakfast at hotel is included and dine at your leisure. Be sure to allow sufficient time to check out of the hotel prior to our departure time at 8 AM.

8:00 AM: This morning we will depart from the Novotel at 8 AM for Vendôme. Our travel time to



Vendôme will be approximately 3 hours arriving around 11 AM. Vendôme, France was the home of Lieutenant General Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, Comte de Rochambeau, French Nobleman and a career military officer. SAR will honor Lieutenant General Rochambeau with a Wreath Laying Ceremony. While Rochambeau accomplished many impressive military feats during his

career, none of his exploits had a greater impact on world history than his role in the American Revolution, when he brought 5,500 French troops to America in 1780 to join the Continental Army and fight alongside Gen. George Washington to win freedom from British rule for the thirteen American colonies. Together, Washington and Rochambeau marched their combined force south to Virginia and trapped British Gen. Charles Cornwallis and 8,000 British troops at Yorktown, forcing their surrender. It was a crushing defeat for the British army.

The French Society of SAR will be joining us for the Honor Ceremony and Lunch. After the ceremony and lunch we will say goodbye to our French Society compatriots and board our coach for our transfer to Tours. Transfer time to Tours is approximately 1 hour. We should arrive Tours around 3 PM. Arriving Tours, we will stop in city center and with our guide do a walking orientation tour of the city while our driver delivers the luggage directly to the hotel. Completing the orientation tour of Tours, we will end at the Hilton Garden Inn Tours Centre where we will stay for four nights.



The Hilton is a contemporary 4-Star Hotel with views overlooking the Loire in the heart of the city of Tours. All rooms are fully equipped providing all the necessary comforts for your 4-night stay. Fine dining options are available. After the brief

check in procedures the balance of the afternoon is at leisure.

**7:00 PM SAR Group Dinner**: Tonight, we will dine at one of the lovely restaurants in Tours. Since we are in town we will simply walk from the hotel to the restaurant.

#### Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Breakfast at leisure at hotel restaurant. Dine at your leisure.



## 9:00 AM We will depart the hotel for a half day tour of the area where we will visit Villandry Chateau and Gardens. The Château de Villandry an18th Century Marvel.



The spectacular Château de Villandry is most famous for its magnificent Renaissance gardens, featuring formal boxwood hedging laid out in intricate geometric patterns. Inside the Château de Villandry, guests can experience extravagant neoclassical interiors with gilded fittings, sumptuous silk and Spanish

old master paintings. Restored and refitted by the Count of Castellane, the château's interiors are some of the grandest in France and are representative of 18<sup>th</sup> century tastes.

From the Chateau we will visit one of the famous wine estates and enjoy wine tasting after the tour. The estates in the Villandry Area are known for their sparkling and white wines.

Then on to Sainte Maure de Touraine, home of Goat Cheese. We will dine at a local Goat Cheese restaurant for a light lunch before returning to the hotel. We will have our local expert guide who will explain about the wines and cheeses of this region during out ride back to Tours.

#### Return to the hotel around 2:00 PM.

Balance of the afternoon and dinner are for you to enjoy on your own. Please stop by the SAR Hospitality Desk for suggestions and assistance with dinner reservations.

#### Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Breakfast at leisure at the hotel breakfast restaurant.

9:00 AM: We will depart Tours with our coach, driver, and expert guide to Saumur. Travel time



approximately 1.5 hours. Enroute our guide will provide information on the areas we pass and arriving Saumur an overview of the city. We will proceed to le Cadre noir the French Horse and Riding Institute for a guided tour of the Institute. I'Equitation (IFCE) is the public body which supports the professional development of the equine sector. The principal purpose of the ecuyers, each one is an expert in their field and they are to pass on their

technical and theoretical knowledge and they are also required to train and keep in condition the horses.



After the tour we will have lunch at one of the great local restaurants such as L'Escargot before heading to the Fontevraud Abbey for an afternoon guided tour. Built 1101 as a Monastery and is the burial site for King Henry II, his wife Eleanor, and their son Richard the Lionheart. The Abbey is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

After the Abbey tour we will head back to Tours arriving at our hotel around 4 PM. Balance of the day and evening at your leisure. Please stop by the SAR Hospitality Desk if you need assistance on sights and restaurants, etc.

#### Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Breakfast at leisure at the hotel's breakfast restaurant.



**9:00 AM**: This morning we head out for an exciting and important day. We will start our day with a tour of Clos Luce, de Vinci residence of Leonardo da Vinci (1516-1519). Leonardo arrived with three of his paintings, the Mona Lisa, Sainte Anne, and Saint Jean Baptiste. Leonardo lived at the Clos Lucé for the last three years of his life, and died there on 2 May 1519.



We proceed on to Chateau Royal de Chaumont-sur-Lorie. We will begin with a tour of the Chateau, and we have invited members of SAR French Society to join us for this important day where we will honour Jacques-Donatien LeRey de Chaumont at a luncheon. At lunch we will do our presentation of our wreath laying ceremony.

Jacques-Donatien Le Rey de Chaumont



With sympathy for the American cause, Jacques-Donatien Le Ray de Chaumont acted as a bridge between King Louis XVI and American representatives. In addition to being a supportive voice that swayed the French government to aid the Patriots, Le Ray provided a great deal of his own funding to arm, supply and clothe the fledgling Continental Army. He also helped equip and manage the combined French and American naval

fleet. In addition, he ordered that a merchant vessel be transformed into a warship, which he gifted to the Americans as the UWS *Bonhomme Richard*.

Before heading back to the hotel, we will visit the country home of Martin Boyer and enjoy a wine and cheese reception. Here as we enjoy the local wine and cheese, we will enjoy a brief lecture on the local wine and cheeses.

Return to the hotel on our private coach with our guide. Arriving at the hotel approximately 5:00 PM. Balance of day and dinner on your own. Stop by SAR Hospitality Desk for assistance. This is our last night in Tours so you will want to be sure you have enjoyed everything special in Tours.

#### Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Breakfast at leisure at the hotel. Please be sure you allow time this morning to check-out of the hotel and be ready to depart at 9:00 AM.

**9:00 AM:** Time to depart Tours with our private motorcoach, driver, and guide. Our first stop will be Bourges. This is about a one-and-a-half-hour drive. On arrival we will do a tour of the Bourges Cathedral is a Roman Catholic church located in Bourges, France. The cathedral is dedicated to Saint Stephen and is the seat of the Archbishop of Bourges. (built 1195–1255) and was added to the list of the World Heritage Sites by UNESCO in



1992. We will lunch at one of the local restaurants in Bourges before boarding our coach for a one-and-a-half-hour drive to Moulin. On arrival in Moulin, we will honor General Charles Francois du Busson dex Aix with the SAR official wreath laying ceremony. After the ceremony we will board our coach and head to Vichy about a one-hour transfer.



Arriving Vichy, we will check into the Mercure Vichy Thermalia Hotel. This contemporary hotel combines modern comfort with the charm of its surroundings. Rooms are spacious and offer all amenities to make your stay enjoyable. Guests can indulge in the soothing benefits of the nearby thermal spas and wellness centers.



The hotel features a gourmet restaurant, and offers a fitness center, swimming pool, and outdoor terrace.

**Evening:** after you have relaxed from the day, we will enjoy a wonderful dinner at the hotel restaurant.

#### Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Breakfast in the hotel restaurant before departing. Please be sure to check out of the hotel prior to departure time.

10:00 AM: Today we will join our driver and guide and head for Chateau Ravel which is just a



short 50-minute transfer from our Vichy Hotel. We will tour the Chateau. The Château de Ravel is a castle situated in Ravel, Fance. The castle of Ravels was begun by Bernard de Ravel, noted in 1171. The present structure dates from a number of periods. The origins of the site date back to 1147, though the existing buildings are 13th century or later. The eastern walls and towers date back to feudal times. Privately owned, the Château de Ravel

is listed as a Historic Monument by the French Ministry of Culture since 1958.



After our tour we will lunch in Ravel with our wreath laying ceremony honoring **Comte** d'Estaing. **Charles Henri Hector, Count of Estaing.** Count d'Estaing in 1769. D'Estaing commanded the French squadron sent in 1778-1779 to support the American Revolution.

After lunch and our ceremony, we will board our coach with our guide and will travel on to Lyon for our three-night stay. Travel to Lyon is approximately two and a half hours. Enroute to Lyon, we will enjoy a vineyard stop with wine tasting.



Arriving Lyon we will check into our hotel in Lyon for the next three nights, The Inter-Continental Lyon - Hotel Dieu a fivestar hotel ideally located in the heart of an exceptional historical building. Steeped in history this hotel is grandiose but intimate.

Evening - Tonight we will enjoy an SAR group dinner at one of the fabulous restaurants in Lyon. Beautiful three course dinner with wine.

#### Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Breakfast at the Inter-Continental Hotel. Breakfast is at leisure and is included.

**9:00 AM:** Half day tour, we will depart hotel with our private coach and guide for a city tour of Lyon and a visit to the Royal Deux Pont Museum. We will return to the hotel around 12:30 PM.

Lunch and afternoon on own. For information and assistance please stop by the SAR Hospitality desk for information and suggestions.

7:00 PM: Dinner with members of the France Society at one of the wonderful Lyon Restaurants.

#### Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Breakfast at leisure at hote

Breakfast at leisure at hotel



**9:00 AM:** Depart hotel for a tour of the Museum of the Resistance. After the visit of the Museum. we will visit a Rhone wine vineyard for a tour followed by wine tasting and lunch. We will return to our Lyon Hotel by 3 PM.

Balance of the afternoon and evening on your own to enjoy Lyon. This is your last day in Lyon so you will want to be sure to stop by SAR Hospitality Desk for suggestions and assistance with reservations.

#### Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Breakfast at the Inter-Continental Hotel Breakfast Restaurant. Be sure to allow sufficient time to have breakfast and check out of the hotel before our 9 AM departure time.



9:00 AM: Today we will depart Lyon for Dijon. The drive is approximately 2 hours. Enroute to Dijon we will stop at Berze Castle (one hour drive from Lyon) for a tour of the castle followed by a vinevard tour.

As we head to Dijon, we will stop for lunch to honor Vergennes with our wreath laying ceremony. (Location TBA).

Charles Gravier, Comte de Vergennes was a French statesman and diplomat. He served as



Foreign Minister from 1774 to 1787 during the reign of Louis XVI, notably during the American War of Independence. Vergennes hoped that by giving French aid to the American revolutionaries he would be able to defeat Britain and secure American independence.

At conclusion of our ceremony, we will continue on to Dijon about 20 minutes.



Arriving Dijon, we will check into the Oceania Hotel LeJura for our two-night stay. The hotel is in a prime location of the historic city center. The rooms are spacious and offer all needed amenities. The hotel has a wonderful restaurant where the chefs showcase local and

international cuisine. You are also sure to enjoy the fitness center, the relaxing sauna, and the indoor pool.

Balance of the afternoon and evening on your own. The SAR Hospitality Desk will be ready to assist you with dinner reservations.

#### Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Breakfast at the hotel's breakfast restaurant. Breakfast is included and at your leisure.

**9:00 AM:** We will depart the hotel for our tour of the Dijon area. We will visit Hospices de Beaune followed by a local vineyard tour and then lunch at a local restaurant. We will return to the hotel around 3 PM.

Balance of day at leisure to enjoy Dijon. Dinner on own. SAR Hospitality staff will be available to make suggestions on activities and dinner options. This will be your last night in Dijon so be sure to stop by the Hospitality Desk for suggestions and information.

#### Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Breakfast at leisure at the hotel. Remember to allow plenty of time to enjoy a wonderful breakfast and check out of the hotel before 9:00 AM when our coach will depart for Paris.



**9:00 AM:** We are off to Paris for our two-night stay. We will depart Dijon on our private coach with our guide and will make several stops along the way. We will visit Chateauneuf and enjoy lunch and wine tasting in Chablis. After lunch we will visit Cathedral St. Etienne Dauxerre.

Arriving Paris we will have an afternoon city tour of Paris with our guide before heading to our



hotel, The Marriott Opera Ambassador conveniently located in a central area close to stores, boutiques, gardens, restaurants, and the famous Opera Garnier. All rooms have lovely views of the city and elegant appointments. The Ambassador will be your home in Paris for our two-night stay.

**Evening:** An exciting river cruise and dinner has been arranged for you on the Seine Boat.

#### Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Breakfast at hotel is included and is at your leisure to enjoy.

Day at leisure to enjoy Paris. Do and see everything you always wanted. For suggestions on sightseeing, museums, events, and restaurants stop by the SAR Hospitality Desk.

**Evening:** Gala Farewell to France with our friends and members of the France Society. Farewell program. This will be an elegant Paris farewell gala.

#### Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Breakfast at leisure at hotel.

**Departure Day:** Depart for the CDG airport for flights returning to the US or extend to stay additional nights in Paris.

#### Included in Program:

Hotel - 14 Nights - see included hotels.
1-Night Roissy - CDG airport - Oceania
1-Night Caen - Novotel
4-Nights Tours - Hilton Garden Inn
1-Night Vichy - Mercure
3-Nights Lyon - Inter-Continental Lyon
2-Nights Dijon - Oceania LeJura
2-Nights Paris - Marriott Opera Ambassador

Breakfast Daily in hotel restaurants 10 Lunches 4 Wine Tasting 7 Dinners

2 Receptions

Daily touring with private coach, driver and expert, English speaking guide, and entrance fees.

Per Person Price based on two persons sharing double accommodations:Double Rate:\$6,450.00 per person (\$12,900.00 per couple sharing a room)Single Supplement:\$1,990.00 Single Supplement (One person in a single room)