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October 23-
November 6, 2009
15 Days

Autumn in Napa Valley

This travel package planned and escorted by Clara Hill.

If you love food and wine, check out the wine country lifestyle with us! This fall journey west is sure to include some beautiful colors, sights and sounds. Enjoy Napa Valley and San Francisco with a local step-on guide as well as time to explore on your own

October 23 “westward ho!” We start travel in our guaranteed departure cities, getting acquainted with our traveling companions as we journey to Kearney, NE, for the night. Our hotel has a heated indoor pool for your enjoyment.

October 24 following **breakfast** we make our way to **The Great Platte River Road Archway Monument**. History comes to life as we trace the steps of the pioneers through realistic displays with wireless headsets. We continue west with a lunch stop and afternoon break before arriving at our hotel in Cheyenne, WY.



October 25 enjoy **breakfast** before continuing our trek westward. We will cross the Continental Divide this morning on our way to Salt Lake City, UT, our overnight stop. We'll have breaks and a lunch stop along the way.

October 26 after **breakfast** a local guide joins us for a tour of Salt Lake City. On our driving tour, we'll see the impressive State Capitol, built in 1915 of Utah Granite as well as some of the venues of the 2002 Winter Olympics. Our tour will end at Temple Square, where we'll visit the Mormon Tabernacle. One can stand at the back and hear a pin dropped at the pulpit, 170 feet away. We then continue west, traveling past the Great Salt Lake. At its normal level, it covers 1,800 square miles but only averages 15 feet in depth. It rises and falls dramatically, with changes in the weather. We then travel to Winnemucca, NV, for the night.



October 27 following **breakfast** we're off to California and **Napa Valley Wine Country**. We arrive this afternoon with plenty of time to get settled, explore and enjoy our beautiful hotel where we will stay the next **3 nights**. A wonderful restaurant is located right in the hotel for your convenience.



October 28 enjoy **breakfast** before beginning our tour of beautiful Napa and Sonoma Valleys. Our first stop, overlooking the Sonoma valley is **Viansa Winery**, a picturesque wine country destination. Viansa produces over 15 fantastic varieties of wine. In 1989 the vision of a Tuscan sanctuary where wine, food and Italian traditions would be shared became a reality. It sits gracefully on the crest of a hill, surrounded by acres of healthy vineyards, groves of olive trees and a unique 90-acre natural preserve that's home to native California plants and wildlife. The Italian varieties that flourish in Viansa's wine country vineyard include those made from familiar grapes such as Sangiovese and Pinot Grigio. But the wine touring selection becomes far more eclectic with lesser known varieties such as Arneis, Aleatico and Primitivo. This unusual focus helped Viansa gain an international reputation for California-grown, Italian varieties. Viansa also satisfies the thirst for classic California wines with several award-winning varietals such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Merlot, and Cabernet Franc.



We will enjoy a **tour and tasting** along with time in the Marketplace which offers an extensive line of

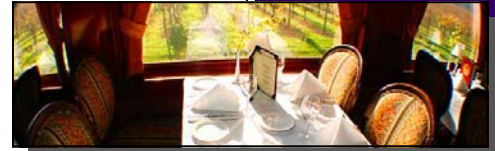
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“Cal-Ital” culinary delights ranging from pestos and aiolis to salsas, marinades, dipping oils, dessert sauces and baking mixes. Viansa also produces an olive oil made from olives harvested from trees on their wine property. This afternoon we visit **Domaine Carneros Chateau**, a landmark of the Carneros region. Completed in 1989, the 18th century chateau-style building was architecturally inspired by Chateau de la Marquetterie in Champagne, France. Situated atop a knoll surrounded by vineyards, the chateau offers exquisite views of endless vineyard-covered hills. It offers a perfect setting to savor wine. Domaine Carneros features Pinot Noir and sparkling wine. We’ll enjoy a tour and tasting.



October 29 after **breakfast** we continue our tour of wine country with a stop at **Castello di Amorosa Castle**...think Tuscan castle...moat, drawbridge, church, gargoyles and a great hall. We’ll again **tour and taste!** We’ll also make a stop at **Dean & DeLuca Gourmet Store**. This evening, enjoy relaxed elegance, an artfully prepared **dinner** and world-class wines aboard the **Napa Valley Wine Train**. Our trip takes us gently past world-famous vineyards as we savor our fine food and wine.



October 30 enjoy **breakfast** before we bid “farewell” to Napa Valley. We continue to **San Francisco**, where a **local guide** will join us for a tour, including **Chinatown, Golden Gate Bridge, Fisherman’s Wharf, Pier 39 and more**. We’ll have time to have lunch and explore the Wharf. This evening we’ve planned an outstanding **dinner** at a restaurant overlooking the bay. Our ideally-located hotel for the next **2 nights** is between Fisherman’s Wharf and Ghirardelli Square!

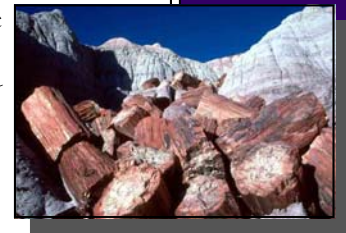


October 31 enjoy **breakfast** before we experience a **bay cruise** that sails under the Golden Gate Bridge and circles Alcatraz, allowing you to see every angle of this mysterious island. You’ll hear chilling accounts of harrowing escape attempts by Alcatraz’s notorious criminals as well as their descriptions of the brutality of life on the island. Following our cruise you will have the rest of the day and evening to enjoy the sights and sounds of Fisherman’s Wharf.



November 1 following **breakfast** we begin our trek eastward. Sit back, relax and enjoy the scenic drive through the San Joaquin Valley of central California. This evening we stay in Barstow, CA. The movie, *Erin Brockovich* took place in this city!

November 2 after **breakfast** we travel into Arizona for an overnight stay in scenic Flagstaff. You are sure to enjoy this new beautiful property with such amenities as, a microwave and refrigerator in each room, evening reception and an indoor pool.



November 3 following **breakfast** we drive through **Petrified Forest National Park**. With one of the world’s largest and most colorful concentrations of petrified wood, multihued badlands of the **Painted Desert**, historic structures, archeological sites and displays of over 200-million-year-old fossils, this is a surprising land of scenic wonders and fascinating science. Albuquerque, NM, is our destination for the evening.

November 4 enjoy **breakfast** before we make our way to Weatherford, OK. As this is a travel day, you will have the opportunity to catch up on your journal, enjoy a book or watch a movie. Our hotel is conveniently located close to several restaurants.

November 5 following **breakfast** we continue east to Overland Park, KS. This evening we enjoy a “farewell” **dinner** and “**Church Basement Ladies: A Second Helping**” at the New Theatre Restaurant. Inspired by the books of Janet Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson including the best seller, “Growing up Lutheran.” The hilarious antics and down-to-earth charm within the church basement will have you “laughing until your side dish hurts.”



November 6 enjoy **breakfast**, then sit back and share memories with your traveling “family” as we make our way back to our departure cities.

Your 15-day Autumn in Napa Valley package includes: Luxury motor coach transportation, lodging for 14 nights, luggage handling, admission/tickets to bolded attractions, gratuities to step-on guides, 14 breakfasts and 3 dinners (meals inclusive of tax & gratuities).

\$2,699 per person double occupancy

\$2,609 per person with 3 or 4 persons sharing a room with 2 beds

\$3,619 single room accommodations

Reservations: As long as space available

Deposit: \$260 per person due with reservation

Balance due: September 23

Cancel by: September 23 for penalty free cancellations

Early Booking Discount: \$50 per person discount applied to final payment if deposit is received by May 22

Peace of Mind Protection: 5% of trip cost, due with deposit

Travel Insurance: available at a group rate

Guaranteed Departure Cities: Ames, Cedar Rapids, Clear Lake, Coralville, Decorah, Des Moines, Fort Dodge, Marshalltown, New Hampton, Newton, Waterloo, Webster City, Williams

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