



LA CREUZETTE PRESENTS:

Exploring French Garden Styles with Keith Kirsten



General information

This holiday is hosted by Louis Jansen van Vuuren, Hardy Olivier, and DeVerra Auret at the renowned Château de La Creuzette in the Limousin Region of France. (www.lacreuzette.com.)

Keith Kirsten will be your knowledgeable guide accompanying the group as we explore the marvelous gardens and other special places of interest on the program.

Experience a magnificent overview of French garden styles with Keith Kirsten, the guru of gardening and world-renowned horticulturist. From the wonderful garden of Monet just outside Giverny, and the incredible gardens at Chateau de Courances to the world-renowned garden festival at Chaumont-sur-Loire. At La Creuzette we focus on the variety of garden styles of Central France and in the evenings we sit down at beautiful tables and enjoy delectable meals.

When: 15 - 21 June 2020

Costs: €3 500 per person sharing and this includes:

- Collection from Charles de Gaulle airport and road transfer via Giverny and the Loire region
- One night's stay in Giverny in twin rooms
- One night's stay in a Hotel in the Loire in twin rooms
- Road transfer to La Creuzette
- Luxurious accommodation at La Creuzette for the remaining 4 nights
- Full board accommodation (i.e. all meals with drinks, also at restaurants we visit)
- All excursions including entrance fees and gratuities
- All cooking demonstrations and guest chefs
- Transfer to Chateauroux and train back to Paris at the end of the stay at La Creuzette.

* An extra single supplement amount of €650 is payable for single occupation at La Creuzette and at the hotels.

Over and above the cost of the trip, guests need only budget for the cost of their flights, visas, and expenditure of a personal nature.

How it works:

In order to secure your place on the trip, a deposit in the amount of 1000 Euros per person is payable once you confirm that you wish to take up one of the limited places available. The deposit can be paid by VISA or MASTERCARD and all we need are the card details in order to process a 'remote' debit. We shall write to confirm your booking, as soon as the transaction has been processed. The balance of the land arrangement costs will be invoiced a month prior to departure and can be paid prior to arrival or upon arrival at La Creuzette by VISA/MASTERCARD.

La Creuzette will issue visa-letters (if needed) once you have made your flight booking that makes the Schengen visa application process a lot easier.

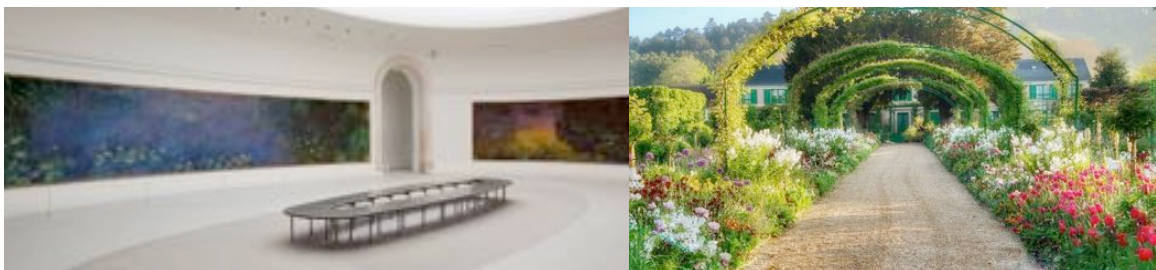
La Creuzette guests normally arrive on the direct Air France flight that arrives in Paris around 06h00 on the 15th June. We request an early arrival time on the first day of the tour as to not delay the itinerary of the day. Guests who wish to fly with other airlines that may arrive later in the day will perhaps need to consider arriving a day earlier (and enjoy some time in Paris).

At the end of your stay at La Creuzette, the group travels back from Chateauroux station arriving in central Paris mid-day on the 21st June. The train tickets are booked and provided by La Creuzette as part of the package.

Our program for the week will be as follows:

Day 1: (Monday, 15 June)

Early morning arrival at Charles de Gaulle where you are collected and transferred to our breakfast venue at the Golden Tulip Roissy (just 10 minutes from the airport). This will be the meeting point for all guests who may be transferring from elsewhere this morning. Around 08:30, we drive through to central Paris where guests who are already in Paris will join us at the **Musée de l'Orangerie**. We will do a special visit of Monet's famous Nymphaea cycle before we continue to Giverny where we visit the breathtaking **garden of Monet**. Late afternoon we check-in at our Hotel in Giverny and enjoy an early dinner at the Hotel.



Day 2: (Tuesday, 16 June)

After breakfast, we load the luggage and depart for **Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte**. This architectural phenomenon is one of France's finest examples of a Baroque château and regarded as the most beautiful castle in the world. We enjoy lunch at the Château restaurant. Afterward, we continue exploring the castle complex and its gardens that made André Le Nôtre famous. We continue to the **Château de Courances**, a French Renaissance water garden with five centuries of history. Courances is celebrated for the waterworks, fed by 14 natural springs, that grace its magnificent park. Late afternoon we drive to the Loire region where we check into our Hotel. Dinner will be enjoyed at a nearby bistro.



Day 3: (Wednesday, 17 June)

After an early breakfast, we start with our first excursion to the International Garden Festival at **Chaumont-sur-Loire**. Here you will see fresh and exciting renderings of new generation landscapes and experimental gardens. After a light lunch, we continue a little further downriver to enjoy the visual pleasure of the world's most famous kitchen garden at **Villandry**. We continue towards La Creuzette and dine at the famous l'Escale truck stop. As the sun sets we arrive at La Creuzette, your chateau holiday residence. Relax and unwind and settle into your rooms.



Day 4: (Thursday, 18 June)

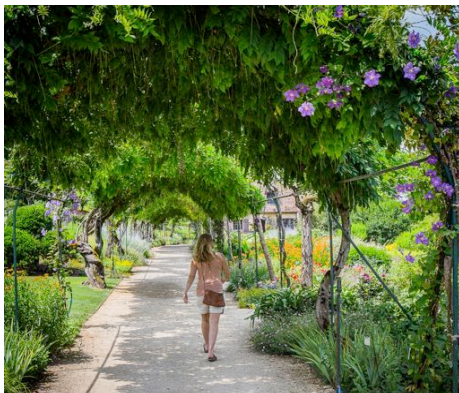
Breakfast will be served at 9am in the main dining room. Today is market day in Boussac. After breakfast, we meander through the colourful market stalls which are laden with fresh fruit and vegetables, fragrant soap from Marseilles and other artisanal

products from the region. Here we find inspiration for our lunch menu. Using the fresh ingredients selected at the market, lunch will be prepared and enjoyed at the long stone table in front of the La Creuzette summer kitchen. After lunch, we drive to the beautiful **Priory garden at Notre Dame d'Orsan**. This was the inspiration for the garden design at Babylonstoren in Franschhoek. We spend the afternoon in this magical garden. Later, we return to La Creuzette for a moment's repose. We meet in the dining room of the summerhouse at 19h30 for a glass of champagne followed by dinner.



Day 5: (Friday, 19 June)

After breakfast, today's excursion takes us to the picturesque village of **Apremont** which is located on the banks of the Allier River. Listed as one of the most beautiful villages of **France**. It is home to the romantic **French Folly Gardens** filled with rare trees and floral borders; a Chinese bridge and a Turkish pavilion that seems to float at the edge of a lake. We have lunch at the **Bistro de la Lavoie**. Afterward, we amble through the quaint village before heading back to La Creuzette. Later, we meet for a cooking session by a guest chef, followed by dinner.



Day 6: (Saturday, 20 June)

After breakfast, we drive to **Ainay-le-Vieille**, often referred to as 'little Carcassonne'. Here we visit the rose garden and the 18th Century Chartreuse gardens. We continue to Bourges where we enjoy lunch at La Gargouille. This small bistro is right next door

to the famous cathedral and the beautiful Bishop's garden, which we will visit after lunch. We return to La Creuzette late afternoon where you will have some time to pack before we meet for drinks, followed by our farewell dinner.



Day 7: (Sunday, 21 June)

After a leisurely breakfast, we have some time to relax at **La Creuzette** before we depart for **Châteauroux** where your fast train to Paris awaits.

Please note that this itinerary may be amended to accommodate suppliers, service providers and the weather.

