



## **MOIRA FITZPATRICK'S TRIP TO EUROPE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016**

**Dear Colleagues & Friends:**

**Greetings from Vancouver – we enjoyed a particularly sunny, dry summer this year, which prompted severe watering restrictions in the rainforest! But it is November now and the reservoirs are being replenished, and some of the ski hills have opened early - hoping to make up for the dearth of snow last season.**

**In the meantime, I managed to escape to Europe late September where again the weather was mostly wonderful. I spent time in Paris, Provence, Cote d'Azur, Barcelona & Tuscany; I thought you might be interested to know about some of the fantastic hotel properties I visited. Also, I came across some wonderful art exhibitions, museums, restaurants and participated in some very interesting city walking tours. I hope you will find some suitable suggestions for your client's European holidays in 2017.**

**We are excited to be working with a new hotel in Paris, La Villa Haussmann, which will open December 2016 and also Hotel Castell d'Empordà in the Costa Brava, Spain.**

**Please call Moira directly for bookings, "VIP" treatment and an added amenity at all of the hotel properties.**

**FRANCE - Provence**

October 4<sup>th</sup> to October 7<sup>th</sup> 2016

## HOTEL LE PIGONNET – Small Luxury Hotels

5 Avenue du Pignonnet, F-13090

Aix en Provence, France

Tel: +33-442-590-290

Website: [www.hotelpignonnet.com](http://www.hotelpignonnet.com)

Director of Operations: Tatiana Halimi

Chef: Thierry Balligand



From Paris I traveled to Aix-en-Provence, the sun-drenched, laidback hometown of Paul Cézanne and Émile Zola – a charming city with monuments, distinctive architecture, winding streets full of shops, museums, gardens, galleries and other attractions. The cultural capital since Roman times, Aix-en-Provence hosts an annual summer festival that includes operas, plays, concerts and recitals.

I stayed at the lovely 18th century **Hotel & Spa Le Pignonnet**, which is within walking distance of the city centre. This contemporary style, 44 room/suite luxury boutique hotel features magical and immaculately maintained gardens and hotel terrace with a wonderful view of Mount Sainte Victoire, once a favorite subject of Cézanne. I enjoyed a delightful dinner at **La Table du Pignonnet**, expertly prepared under the guidance of Chef Thierry Balligand. The hotel also offers cocktails at the intimate inside bar or champagne with a light meal at the garden lounge bar, **Le 5**.

## LE MAS CANDILLE – Relais & Châteaux

Boulevard Clément Rebuffel, 06250

Mougins, France

Tel: +33 4 92 28 43 43

Chef étoilé, David Chauvac.



Nestled on the hillsides above Cannes and close to Mougins, where Pablo Picasso spent the last fifteen years of his life, this luxury Hotel offers a tranquil sanctuary on their four-hectare grounds. Moira enjoyed a wonderful lunch with the owner Mark Silver at their Michelin starred gastronomic restaurant “Le Candille”. The fine cuisine and exceptional service were very much appreciated along with the stunning views over the foothills of the Alps.

**ADD THE PINK BAR THAT SAYS FRANCE- Côte d'Azur**

October 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> 2016

## LE MAS DE PIERRE – Relais & Châteaux & Ensemble

2320 Route de Serres - 06570

Saint Paul de Vence, Provence

Tel : +33(0)4 93 59 00 10

Website: [www.lemasdepierre.com](http://www.lemasdepierre.com)

General Manager: Christian Baumgarten

Chef: Emmanuel Lehrer



Following a superb stay in Provence, Moira arrived at this idyllic, 5-star hotel nestles at the foot of Saint Paul de Vence, one of the oldest walled, medieval towns on the French Riviera, famous for its modern and contemporary art museums and galleries, such as the Foundation Maeght.

The 54 room/suite hotel comprises 48 rooms, 6 VIP suites and a 4500 sq ft **Private Villa**, which accommodates 6-8 guests, and includes a study, kitchen, dining-room, lounge, 3 bedrooms with bathrooms, private garage, swimming pool, BBQ and 1.5 acre garden. The new building **La Bastide des Fleurs** contains the six adult-only VIP suites, each with a pool-side cabana and private butler. A gourmet restaurant La Table de Pierre features Mediterranean cuisine prepared by Chef Emmanuel Lehrer. The bar **La Princesse** offers drinks by the fireplace or on the terrace at any time.

The hotel has now closed until April 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 to complete an exciting 5.5 million Euro renovation.

## St. Paul de Vence Tourist Office guided tours

serviceguide@saint-pauldevence.com

Tele: +33 (0)4 93 32 86 95

The Tourist Office offers 10 guided tours around St. Paul de Vence, for individuals or groups. The tours are available Mon – Sat; reservations required. I took two of these excellent tours – to the Maeght Foundation, St. Paul de Vence, including the Cemetery and Folon Chapel.

## Fondation Maeght

623, Chemin des Gardettes

06570 Saint-Paul-de-Vence, France

Tel: +33 (0)4 93 32 81 63

Website: [www.fondation-maeght.com](http://www.fondation-maeght.com)



A visit to the **Maeght Foundation** was first on my list of attractions. The museum, which opened in 1964, is a unique example of a private European Foundation presenting modern and contemporary art in all its forms. Designed by Catalan architect Josep Lluís Sert, the museum is decorated with paintings, sculptures, drawings and graphic works of modern art from the 20th century and contemporary artists -- Bonnard, Baraque, Chagall, Calder, Giacometti, Léger, Miró, to name a few.

## St. Paul de Vence Cemetery

Chemin de Saint-Paul, 06570  
Saint-Paul-de-Vence, France

Exploring the **St. Paul de Vence Cemetery** proved to be interesting and enlightening. Famous people buried in the cemetery include Marc Chagall, who lived in the village from 1966 to 1985. For almost 20 years, he painted local landscapes featuring romantic couples, goats and cockerels floating across the village and its ramparts, in the fragrance of immense bouquets of flowers.

## Folon Chapel

Place de l'église, 06570  
Saint-Paul de Vence  
Tel: +33 (0)4 93 32 41 13

I also enjoyed a visit with the guide to the **Folon Chapel**, where I discovered admirable works designed by the Belgian artist Jean-Michel Folon, who developed a bond with St. Paul de Vence over 30 years. His works include a mosaic, stained glass windows, sculptures and paintings, all embellishing the walls and the ceiling of the chapel.

## FRANCE - Paris

September 30<sup>th</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup> 2016

### LA VILLA MAILLOT & SPA – Lifestyle Preferred Hotels & Resorts

143, avenue de Malakoff

75116 Paris

Tel : +33 (0)1 53 64 52 52

Website: <http://www.lavillamaillot.com>

General Manager: Thomas Sechet



First stop at the City of Light and La Villa Maillot & Spa, situated in the heart of Paris, close to the Arc de Triomphe and just 10 minutes from the Champs Elysees. This 18th century villa is now a charming boutique hotel and member of the Preferred Hotel Group. To celebrate its 25th anniversary, La Villa Maillot has undergone an ambitious renovation seamlessly blending the classic and

contemporary. The hotel offers 42 guestrooms and suites, with some of the largest 4-Star rooms in Paris hotels, including kingsize beds, plus a beautiful Japanese garden, a bar and Spa area.

Featuring a fireplace and cozy atmosphere, the hotel's new **V Bar** serves as a breakfast buffet dining area during the morning and a bar during the rest of the day and evening. The **M Spa**, which includes Turkish baths, sauna, lounging area and treatment room, offers guests relaxation and rejuvenation after a busy day in the city. The hotel also includes excellent concierge services by renowned Irish Concierge Patrick Millet who has been with the hotel for 25 years.

**October 1st 2016**

## **L'AUBERGE DAB**

161, Avenue de Malakoff – 75006 Paris

Tel: +01 45 00 32 22

Website: [www.auberge-dab.com/en/](http://www.auberge-dab.com/en/)



This traditional French Brasserie is steps away from La Villa Maillot and perfect for the first dinner in Paris. They offer a wonderful table d'hôte menu for 39 Euros that includes four courses, plus a cocktail and half a bottle of wine per person. L'Auberge Dab specializes in fresh oysters and seafood, which can also be enjoyed at their outside patio.



October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016

## CONTEXT TRAVEL TOUR



Tel: 1-215-392-0303 / 1-800-691-6036

Email: [info@contexttravel.com](mailto:info@contexttravel.com)

Website: [www.contexttravel.com](http://www.contexttravel.com)

Context is a network of **scholars and specialists, with a focus on** archaeology, art history, cuisine, urban planning, history, environmental science, and classics – who design and lead **in-depth walking seminars for small groups** (5 or fewer). Intellectually curious travelers participate in an intimate, hands-on, conversational experience that offers priceless local knowledge. Context, which adheres to the precepts of sustainable travel, is lauded in travel publications, guide books, and by its customers for its innovative approach to travel. For information on how to arrange for a city walking tour call 1-800-691-6030 or visit [www.contexttravel.com](http://www.contexttravel.com).

### Musée d'Orsay and Paris in the 19th Century



*Le Musée d'Orsay*

D'Orsay Paris

This 3-hour, in-depth Musée d'Orsay tour examines the rich 19th- and early 20th-century collections of this world-class museum. In the company of an historian and equipped with skip-the-line tickets, we'll dive into one of the best collections of Impressionist art in Paris and learn about the major art movements of the period—from the Barbizon school and Realism, to Impressionism—as well as their most celebrated players including Monet, Degas, and Courbet.

Le Musée d'Orsay is a museum in a station. Located in the centre of Paris on the banks of the Seine, opposite the Tuileries Gardens, the museum was installed in the former Orsay railway station, built for the Universal Exhibition of 1900.

October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016

## LE PETIT PERGOLESE

38 rue Pergolese,

75116 Paris, France

Tel: +33 (0)145002366

Website: [www.lepergolese.com](http://www.lepergolese.com)



I discovered that guests can dine with the Parisians and enjoy fabulous cuisine within walking distance of La Villa Maillot. The renowned **Le Petit Pergolese** was made famous by Charles Aznavour, who has frequently delighted guests with his songs. This Michelin-recommended restaurant offers a reinterpretation of southern cuisine with Japanese touches by Stéphane Gaborieau, awarded the 'Meilleur Ouvrier de France'. It was one of the best meals of my trip, but be careful they don't rush you. Once you order your food, it arrives within minutes, so if you want a long leisurely

meal, take your time ordering and let them know you want some time between courses! Can't wait to go back...

## ADD THE PINK BAR THAT SAYS SPAIN – Barcelona – Costa Brava

October 11<sup>th</sup> to October 13<sup>th</sup> 2016

### SANT PERE DEL BOSCH

Lloret de Mar, 17310

Girona, Spain

Tel: + 34-972-36-16-36

Website: [www.santperedelboschotel.com](http://www.santperedelboschotel.com)

Owner: Eva Olmos



Set high above the Mediterranean on Spain's Costa Brava, this luxury castle-like hotel, has its origins as a 9th century Benedictine monastery. Nestled in a natural reserve, adjacent to the Sant Pere del Bosc Shrine, the hotel resides among beautiful gardens some 6 km from the historical centre of Lloret de Mar and its five fabulous beaches, and less than one hour's drive from Barcelona. The hotel features an award-winning Spanish restaurant, L'India, with a Wine List highlighting local Catalan wines plus others, carefully selected with perfect pairing in mind. The hotel also offers a bar and

terrace.

**October 13<sup>th</sup> to October 14<sup>th</sup> 2016**

## **HOTEL CASTELL D'EMPORDA**

17100 La Bisbal D'Emporda

Girona, Spain

Tel: + 34- 34 972 64 62 54

Website: [www.hotelcastellemporda.com/en](http://www.hotelcastellemporda.com/en)

Owner: Albert Diks



Located about 1 1/2 hours drive from Barcelona, and just a few kilometres from beautiful Costa Brava beaches, this impressive hilltop castle sits on 12 hectares of gardens dotted with olive and oak trees, overlooking an undulating quilt of cultivated fields. A four-star hotel, formerly a 14th century castle once owned by a crusader and a captain of Christopher Columbus, Castell d'Emporda presents a

contemporary flair and features a stunning roof terrace, inviting pool, expansive gardens, divine 17th century chapel, a spectacular view and great location between the Pyrennes and Costa Brava, just 30 km from Girona.

SALVADOR DALI MUSEUM – FIGUERES  
GALA'S CASTLE  
JEWISH QUARTER OF GIRONA

## ITALY - Tuscany

October 6<sup>th</sup> to October 8<sup>th</sup> 2015

### RELAIS BORGIO SANTO PIETRO – Relais & Châteaux

Loc. Palazzetto, I-53012

Chiusdino (SI), Italy

Tel: +39-577-751-222

Website: <http://www.borgosantopietro.com>

Owners: Jeanette & Claus Thottrup



Next on my itinerary was Italy and the Relais Borgo Santo Pietro. Located 35 minutes southwest of

Siena, this splendid, restored 13th century Tuscan Villa is surrounded by 13 acres of landscaped gardens. Guests can stroll through the forests to the beautiful nearby Abbey of San Galgano and the small chapel of Montesiepi or visit the world famous wineries of Chianti and Montalcino. Just 45 minutes away is San Gimignano with its spectacular views over Elsa Valley, plus a plethora of art galleries, wine shops and delightful restaurants. An hour away, Florence promises a shopping paradise and renaissance treasures.

This 15 room/suite hotel includes the self-contained Santo Pietro Master Suite, which takes up an entire floor, plus 7 garden suites resembling cottages with carved fireplaces, private terraces and gardens. I enjoyed a wonderful tasting menu on the candlelit terrace of the gourmet dining room **Mia Modo**, plus lunch at the more casual pool-side Treehouse Restaurant & Bar, while admiring gorgeous, strutting peacocks. The hotel has recently opened a new cooking school that features traditional Tuscan dishes. Other activities include an artist-in-residence program, Tuscan wine tastings, truffle hunting, flower deco courses, basketball, badminton, bocce, and trampolining, and golfing at the Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed course in nearby Siena.

## ITALY - Florence

October 8<sup>th</sup> to October 11<sup>th</sup> 2015

### VILLA LA VEDETTA

Viale Michelangiolo, 78

50125 Florence, Italy

Tel. +39 055 681631

Website: [www.villalavedettahotel.com](http://www.villalavedettahotel.com)

Owners: Beatrice & Aldo Grassi



From the Tuscan countryside to a romantic urban retreat set atop Florence's Piazzale Michaelangelo -- La Villa La Vedetta was my next stop. Surrounded by an Italian garden and its own private park, the hotel features panoramic views of the city, including the famous Duomo. The 18-room hotel offers an array of two and three-night packages that include golf, gourmet, cooking classes, spa treatments, as well as guided tours of Chianti country and its castles.

I savoured dinner in the gourmet **Onice Lounge & Restaurant**, listed in Italian and international gastronomic guides, and renowned for its creative fusion of traditional and international flavors and seasonal menus. Opening on to the garden, the restaurant is open for lunch and dinner. The hotel includes a swimming pool, large Jacuzzi, bar, sauna, fitness facility, as well as complimentary

parking, internet and shuttle to the city centre.

**October 9<sup>th</sup> 2015**

Dinner at **LA BOTTEGA DEL BUON CAFFE**

Lungarno Benvenuto Cellini, 69/r - Firenze, Italy

Tel: +39 055 55 35 677

Website: [www.borgointhecity.com](http://www.borgointhecity.com)

Owners: Jeanette & Claus Thottrup

Chef: Antonello Sardi - 1 Michelin Star



I dined at the famous La Bottega Del Boun Caffè, owned by Borgo Santo Pietro, overlooking the River Arno. This Michelin Star restaurant combines classic Florentine style with elegance and glamour, and focuses on fresh locally grown food and the finest Tuscan wines. Guests can also dine al-fresco beneath the magical shadows of the medieval tower of San Niccolò.

## ITALY - Venice

**October 11<sup>th</sup> to October 13<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**HOTEL LONDRA PALACE – Relais & Châteaux, Virtuoso**

Riva degli Schiavoni, 4171

30122 Venice, Italy

Tel: +39 041 520 0533



Website: [www.londrapalace.com](http://www.londrapalace.com)

General Manager: Alain Bullo



Next I traveled from Florence to the heart of Venice, just a few steps from St. Mark's Square, where the **Londra Palace** has been a favorite gathering place for artists, travelers and tourists for over 140 years. Each of the 53 individual rooms are decorated in Biedermeier style and feature elegant upholstery, brocades and marble bathrooms. Guests can enjoy a view of St. Mark's Lagoon on one side, and the rooftops and bell towers of Venice's historic centre on the other.

I dined royally at the hotel's gourmet restaurant **Do Leoni**, which combines traditional Venetian cuisine with elaborate innovative dishes that delight even the most refined palates. My culinary experience was enhanced by the elegance of the indoor dining room, which includes crystal, original paintings, and a veranda on the Riva degli Schiavoni. The wine and champagne list offers a rich selection of prestigious labels made by the Maitre-Sommelier Samuel Baston.

**October 11<sup>th</sup> to October 13<sup>th</sup> 2015**

## **PEGGY GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM**

Palazzo Venier dei Leoni

Dorsoduro 701, I-30123 Venice, Italy

Tel: +39 041 2405 411

Website: [www.guggenheim.org/venice](http://www.guggenheim.org/venice)



A must for all tourists, I visited the **Peggy Guggenheim Collection** located on Venice's Grand Canal. One of Europe's premier museums devoted to modern art, it includes masterpieces ranging in style from Cubism and Surrealism to Abstract Expressionism. The collection has become one of the most respected and visited cultural attractions in Venice. Among the artists represented are Picasso, Duchamp, Léger, Dalí, Miró, Mondrian, Kandinsky, and Pollock.

October 12<sup>th</sup> 2015 at 1:00pm

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Website: [www.contexttravel.com](http://www.contexttravel.com)

**Shylock's Venice Tour**



Context offers this 3-hour **Shylock's Venice Walking Tour** exploring the area known as the Jewish ghetto, founded in 1516 and so vividly depicted in Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice. The tour offers special insight into what was once a thriving Jewish community— its history, culture, religious practices, and even food. With a small group, we visited three Synagogues, as well as two moving memorials to Italian Jews lost in World Wars I and II.

## ENGLAND - Surrey

From Venice I flew to London where I visited **Chartwell, Winston Churchill's home**, with its beautiful grounds and extensive memorabilia. It was so impressive it left me questioning my humble achievements in life – no medals, no wars won, no political successes. Of course, I still enjoy the wonderful world of travel and all the great experiences and memories it has afforded me.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and hope our US associates enjoyed a Happy Thanksgiving!

**Please call Moira directly for bookings, "VIP" treatment and an added amenity at all of the properties.**

Very best wishes,

Moira

Moira Fitzpatrick



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[LinkedIn](#)

**PROPERTIES REPRESENTED BY MOIRA FITZPATRICK**

**Please call Moira directly for bookings, "VIP" treatment and an added amenity at all of the properties.**

**Clayoquot Wilderness Resort,**  
Relais & Chateaux & Virtuoso  
Tofino, British Columbia, Canada  
[www.wildretreat.com](http://www.wildretreat.com)

**Le Mas de Pierre,**  
Relais & Chateaux & Ensemble  
St. Paul de Vence, Provence, France  
[www.lemasdepierre.com](http://www.lemasdepierre.com)

**The Post Hotel & Spa,** Relais & Chateaux  
Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada  
[www.posthotel.com](http://www.posthotel.com)

**La Villa Maillot,**  
Preferred Hotels & Resorts  
Paris 16ème, France  
[www.lavillamaillot.com](http://www.lavillamaillot.com)

**Manoir Hovey,** Relais & Chateaux  
Virtuoso & Ensemble  
North Hatley, Quebec, Canada  
[www.manoirhovey.com](http://www.manoirhovey.com)

**Borgo Santo Pietro,** Relais & Chateaux  
Chiusdino, Siena, Italy  
[www.borgosantopietro.com](http://www.borgosantopietro.com)

**East Winds Inn,** Ensemble  
St. Lucia, Eastern Caribbean  
[www.eastwinds.com](http://www.eastwinds.com)

**Villa La Vedetta**  
Florence, Italy  
[www.villalavedettahotel.com](http://www.villalavedettahotel.com)

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