



## *La Fête Nationale A Bastille Day and Summer Gardens Duet*



### **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](http://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.

*It is the week of Bastille celebrations and the glorious Summer gardens are in full bloom. Experience a magnificent overview of French garden styles with Keith Kirsten, guru of gardening and world-renowned horticulturist. From the spectacular formal gardens of Vaux-le-Vicomte just outside Paris to the world-renowned garden festival at Chaumont-sur-Loire. At La Creuzette we celebrate Bastille Day with a seductive dinner feast in the shimmering park, and we enjoy a special music concert before the fireworks and champagne corks start to pop.*

**When:** 10<sup>th</sup> till the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**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 3 nights
- Full board accommodation (i.e. all meals with drinks, also at restaurants we visit)
- All excursions including entrance fees and gratuities
- All music concerts and entertainment
- Transfer to Bourges 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 10<sup>th</sup> July. 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 Bourges station arriving in central Paris late afternoon on the 15<sup>th</sup> July. 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:** (Wednesday, 10 July)

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**. Louis Jansen Van Vuuren will be your guide for a special visit of Monet's famous Nymphaea cycle. From here 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:** (Thursday, 11 July)

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:** (Friday, 12 July)

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 down river 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:** (Saturday, 13 July)

Breakfast will be served at 9am in the main dining room. After breakfast, we drive to nearby **Montluçon** where today is market day. We stroll through the beautiful medieval part of the village and later we enjoy a special wine tasting and lunch at the

best cave in town. Early afternoon, we enjoy the beautiful **Priory garden at Notre Dame d'Orsan**. This was the inspiration for the garden design at Babylonstoren in Franschhoek. We return to La Creuzette for a moment's repose before we sit down to a private concert, followed by a dinner feast in the garden and a pre-Bastille day surprise.



**Day 5:** (Sunday, 14 July)

**Bastille Day!** 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. We return to **La Creuzette** and en-route we stop at a nearby village where their annual brocante (antique market) has been set out throughout the village. Back at La Creuzette, there will be time to relax before we sit down to our farewell Bastille feast.



**Day 6:** (Monday, 15 July)

After breakfast, we load the luggage, say goodbye to La Creuzette, and drive to **Ainay-le-Vieille**, often referred to as 'little Carcassonne'. Here we visit the rose garden and the 18<sup>th</sup> 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. Around 15:30 we leave for the station from where your train to Paris departs.



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

