



Italy, Monaco & France!

An Exclusive Garden Journey with Joe Lamp'l

September 17 – 27, 2023

“Some spots are the cradle of genius. Provence is one.”
Lawrence Durrell



Hi, I am **Joe Lamp'l** inviting YOU to join me on my next exciting custom garden adventure. In 2023 we are heading to gorgeous Lake Como, stunning Provence and the magnificent French Riviera! Savor the beauty these dazzling regions offer: lush gardens, delicious food and wine, colorful villages and romantic Roman ruins.

I hope to see you in Bella Italia in 2023!

Happy travels,

Joe Lamp'l



**EARTHBOUND
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

T. 800.723.8454 / T. 206.842.9775 / F. 206.238.8480

www.EarthboundExpeditions.com

YOUR JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

3 Nights Varenna, on Lake Como, Italy's Lake District

3 Nights Menton, French Riviera

4 Nights Arles, Heart of Provence



INSIDER EXPERIENCES

Stunning villas and gardens of Lake Como with a local guide ♦ Giardini di Villa della Pergola ♦ Hanbury Botanical Gardens ♦ Jardin Serre de la Madone and Close du Peyronnet, Menton ♦ Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild, St Jean Cap Ferrat ♦ Visits and tours of the stunning gardens of Italy and France ♦ Colorful Provençal markets ♦ Wine tasting ♦ The Roman arena of Arles ♦ Traditional dining ♦ Historic walks in Bellagio, Aix-en-Provence and Arles, with local experts ♦ A fun group of like-minded, fun travelers

IT'S INCLUDED

- Travel with garden host, Joe Lamp'l
- Entrance fees and guided visits of multiple gardens
- Guided by an Earthbound Expeditions expert guide
- Accommodations in charming, centrally-located 4 and superior 3-star hotels
- Transport by private air-conditioned coach
- All breakfasts plus nine additional meals featuring regional specialties
- Wine and hors d'oeuvres happy hour with your garden host
- Outings to a village market, Roman ruins of Arles, St Paul Mausole
- Wine tasting in Provence
- Gratuities for your drivers and Earthbound guide

TRIP FACTS

11 Days/10 Nights (not including air travel)

\$5,395 per person based on Double Occupancy

\$1,495 single supplement (waived if you are willing to share and a roommate is found)

September 17, 2023: Journey begins in Varenna on Lake Como at 6:00pm

September 27: Journey ends in Arles after breakfast

SAVE \$200! Pay your final balance by check and save \$100pp ♦ Earthbound Expeditions and Joe Lamp'l travel alumni always save \$100pp



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Your Garden Adventure Begins!

DAY 0: Depart the USA for Bella Italia

Today say “arrivederci” to the USA and make your way to Italy’s majestic Lake District.

Note: If you have a bit of time, we suggest arriving a day or two early! Lake Como is so beautiful, you may never wish to leave!

DAY 1: September 17 - Buongiorno! Meet in Bella Italia on the Shores of Lake Como

Many identify the Lake District as Italy’s most beautiful region and Lake Como certainly is a wonderful place to start our garden journey. Take some time to enjoy the rich atmosphere of this northern Italian gem. Upon arrival, you may wish to tour the nearby gardens of Villa Cipressi or the Villa Monastero before meeting your guide and hosts this evening for a welcome orientation and multi-course dinner. *Sleep in Varenna at the Hotel Royal Victoria (D)*

Note: Earthbound Expeditions will be offering one complimentary group transfer at *11AM from Malpensa airport in Milan to the hotel in Varenna on Lake Como. For those who do not mind a little adventure, you may decide to arrive a few days early, in which case you would transfer independently to the hotel. From Malpensa airport in Milan, simply catch the public bus or light rail from the airport to the Milan Central Station, where you can purchase tickets for the nearly hourly departures to the Varenna-Esino station. Please note there are two airports in Milan - the complimentary transfer will be from Malpensa airport.

*Once everyone has booked their flights, if everyone arrives earlier (or later) than 11AM, we may adjust the transfer departure time.



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“You may have the universe if I may have Italy.”

-Giuseppe Verdi

DAY 2: September 18 - Stunning Gardens and Villas

Today we will set out to discover some of Italy’s most beautiful gardens. Joined by a local Italian guide and traveling by small ferry, we’ll visit the Villa Balbianello, a Renaissance villa so spectacularly situated, it has figured in many Hollywood films. We’ll tour both the residence and its famous terraced gardens.

Next on our agenda, the Villa Melzi. Known at the “Pearl of Lake Como,” this residence was built in the Neo-classical style and boasts gardens commissioned to Luigi Canonica and the agronomist Luigi Villoresi. The gardens are filled with exotic trees, as was the custom for the time period, as well as Egyptian and Roman statues, which add to the romantic atmosphere of the garden. Stay on in the garden, or join the group to return by public ferry to your hotel. *Sleep in Varenna at the Hotel Royal Victoria (B, L)*

DAY 3: September 19 - The Villa Carlotta and Bellagio

Today we set out to explore the gorgeous gardens of Villa Carlotta. With its magnificent botanical garden and art masterpieces, the 70,000 square meters of gardens and museum will certainly be a highlight of your stay on Lake Como.

The beautiful villa was built at the end of 17th century by the Milanese marquis Giorgio Clerici in a natural basin between lake and mountains, facing the dolomite Grignas and the peninsula of Bellagio. *The Last Kiss of Romeo and Juliet* is only one of the masterpieces in this extraordinary collection.

Though the gardens of Villa Carlotta chiefly owe their reputation to the spring flowering of the rhododendrons and azaleas, consisting of over 150 different sorts, they certainly merit a visit in every period of the year. There are old varieties of camellias, century old cedars and sequoias, tropical plants, a rock garden and fern valley, rhododendrons and bamboo garden, an agricultural tools museum and, of course, the sweeping views of Lake Como.

Enjoy a free afternoon in Bellagio. A wonderful village full of shops and restaurants, Bellagio is a perfect place to stroll and relax. Join the group to return to Varenna, or stay and return on your own by public ferry. Meet this evening for an included dinner.

Sleep in Varenna at the Hotel Royal Victoria (B, D)





DAY 4: September 20 - South to the Italian Riviera!

After an early breakfast, we say “arrivederci” to Lake Como and head to the coastal town of Alassio. Here we find one of the most stunning gardens of the Italian Riviera, the Giardini di Villa della Pergola! The colors and scents will light up your senses giving you an experience that you will hardly forget. Situated on the green slopes of the Alassian hills, the villa enjoys an enviable view of the sea and is surrounded by twenty-two thousand square meters of park in perfect harmony with the surrounding vegetation. It is one of the botanical wonders of the Riviera and the Mediterranean! After our visit and lunch, we set off for the garden paradise of Menton.



Located in Europe’s mildest climate and sheltered by the high Maritime Alps, orange and lemon trees bloom here even in winter. (It is said that Menton’s first lemons were planted by Eve.) Picture-postcard pretty and with year-round seaside sunshine, Menton is where the British inadvertently invented the French Riviera. When the widowed monarch Queen Victoria arrived in 1882, the city already boasted 5,000 British residents busy building mansions and planting tropical gardens. Enjoy a stroll on the promenade and relax in your beautiful surroundings. *Sleep in Menton at the Hotel Royal Napoleon (B, L)*

About Menton, France

“My city is a garden” - The slogan for the city was not chosen at random. With an exceptionally mild climate and 316 days of sunshine a year, Menton is a paradise for botanists who have acclimatized exotic plants from far away destinations. The sub-tropical species flourish and grow at ease in sun-soaked Menton.



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DAY 5: September 21 - Hanbury Gardens and the Gardens of Menton

This morning we depart for the nearby Clos du Peyronnet, a garden privately owned by the Waterfield Family. Next, we'll make a short drive to the Jardin Serre de la Madone (Hill of the Madonna). Started as a winter garden by Lawrence Johnston, (Hidcote Manor in England), the Serre de la Madone was purchased after his death by several passionate groups who have joined forces to restore and revitalize it as an international center for rare plant enthusiasts.

After lunch together in Menton, we'll briefly cross back over the border to Italy in order to visit the Hanbury Botanical Gardens, an UNESCO heritage site which was created in 1867 by a young Englishman, Thomas Hanbury, primarily for a place to do botanical experimentation. It is now operated by the University of Genoa. After our visit, we'll be back to our seaside hotel in France in time for an independent dinner.

Sleep in Menton at the Hotel Royal Napoleon (B, L)

DAY 6: September 22 - An Outing to Monaco

This morning we are off to the regal principality of Monaco. With an area of just 0.78 sq miles and a population of 36,371, Monaco is the second smallest and the most densely populated country in the world. Prince Albert of Monaco resides in the 12th century Palace of Monaco along with his family as the Grimaldis have done for the last seven centuries.

Delighting all of the senses, the spectacular gardens of Monaco offer everything from lush, flowering rose bushes and exotic cacti to serene Japanese landscapes. Unique plants of native and foreign origin dot the Principality - from the casino terraces to the median strips along the esplanades - in a panorama of carefully tended and stunning displays. From the hill where the palace is perched, you can soak up the fantastic views of the bay and the high-rises of Monte Carlo. We'll stroll through the Exotic Gardens and the Observation Cave. We'll pay our respects to Princess Grace before returning to Menton.

Sleep in Menton at the Hotel Royal Napoleon (B, L)



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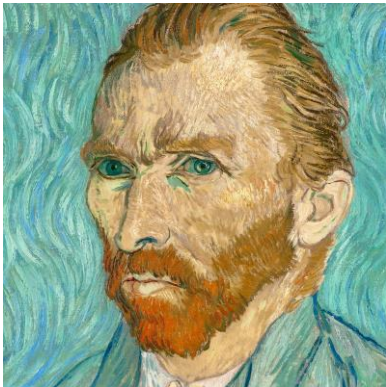
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DAY 7: September 23 - West to Arles via St Jean Cap Ferrat

This morning, we'll drive west along the magnificent coastline of the Côte d'Azur to Beatrice Ephrussi de Rothschild's dazzling villa and gardens. Laid out as a series of 'rooms': Spanish, Florentine, Japanese and Provençal, the garden is a delight to see. Set in front of the villa is a formal French water garden, which leads up to a temple surrounded by Aleppo pines. The villa interiors contain the original Ephrussi furnishings, paintings and collections, which can all be viewed. We'll have time to tour the gardens and have an audio tour of the interior before boarding our coach for Aix-en-Provence.

Charming Aix (pronounced like the letter "X"), was founded by the Romans in 123BC and has been a vibrant architectural and cultural jewel in Provence ever since. Your guide will take you on a walking tour to show you the highlights, and allow a wee bit of time to wander, then we're off to our home for the next four nights: Arles!

Sleep in Arles at the Hôtel du Forum (B, D)



DAY 8: September 24 - A Day in Van Gogh's Arles

Sleep in, or take an early morning walk and join your guide and group in the late morning for an in-depth walking tour of Arles. A gem of Provençal history, ancient Arles, with its seven UNESCO World Heritage monuments and sites, has been an inspiration to artists such as Picasso and Van Gogh, and is now quickly becoming internationally known for its photography festival, along with its many photography galleries and exhibits. We'll have lunch together, then you have the afternoon free to relax or further explore this

ancient Roman town. *Sleep in Arles at the Hôtel du Forum (B, L)*

DAY 9: September 25 - St Paul Mausole and St Rémy: In Van Gogh's Footsteps

Today we head into the scenic countryside to the peaceful St Paul Mausole, a veritable masterpiece of Provençal Romanesque art, built in the neighborhood of the Gallo-Roman site of Glanum. The covered walk of the cloister frames a lovely little garden. This is the famous asylum where Vincent Van Gogh spent time resting and painting, and is still a psychiatric institution today, which encourages therapy through art. You may glimpse some irises and other frequent subjects of Van Gogh's paintings on the grounds here.

Nearby, in the village of Eygalières, we will visit the Jardin de l'Alchimiste, designed by Eric Ossart et Arnaud Maurières, who were asked to create a garden that would tie into the fascinating history of the house, the Mas de la Brune. The gardens boast a labyrinth, and the "magical gardens" have been planted in three colors representing the Alchemist steps to immortality: red, black and white.

An additional private garden visit is being arranged in the afternoon, after which we'll return to Arles in time for a free evening and independent dinner.

Sleep in Arles at the Hôtel du Forum (B, L)



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DAY 10: September 26 - The Pont du Gard, an ancient Roman Masterpiece

The amazing Pont du Gard was built shortly before the Christian era to allow the aqueduct of Nîmes (which is almost 31 miles long) to cross the Gard River. The Roman architects and hydraulic engineers who designed this bridge, which stands almost 150 feet high and is on three levels – the longest measuring 900 feet long – created a technical and artistic masterpiece.

After our visit, we'll enjoy a wine tasting at a nearby estate followed by a delicious Provençal farewell feast. *Sleep in Arles at the Hôtel du Forum (B, L)*

DAY 11: September 27 - Your Journey Culminates in Arles

Your garden journey concludes this morning. There is a train station in Arles that links to many major cities in France. You may want to consider booking a flight home from Marseilles, allowing enough time (1.5 hours) to reach the airport from Arles. Or, zoom north to Paris on the TGV train. You are just hours away from the City of Light.

Bon Voyage!

Reservations & Questions

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Meet Your Host!



Joe Lamp'ol is the host and executive producer of the Emmy Award-winning national series *Growing a Greener World* on PBS, currently airing in 96% of the US and in 38 countries. He has been featured on NBC's *Today Show*, ABC's *Good Morning America*, The Weather Channel, and the DIY Network.

Joe has been the recipient of The American Horticultural Society's B.Y. Morrison Communication Award, which recognizes effective and inspirational communication, as well as the Garden Writers Association Gold Award for Best

On-Air Talent, and more.

Joe has traveled the US and beyond showing people beautiful gardens and, more importantly, telling the stories of the people behind those gardens. Joe aims to highlight the heroes doing great things for the planet through organic gardening, green living, small farming, and simple yet significant ways to lighten their footprint on this planet.

Joe lives with his family on their north Atlanta, Georgia farm.

-Journey Details Subject to Change -



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Know Before You Go!



Reservations and Deposits: Early reservations are essential to guarantee space on the date you wish to travel. A \$500 per person deposit is needed to confirm your space on this journey. You can make your secure credit card deposit online, by phone or by mail. Once the deposit is processed, a deposit packet is sent with pertinent journey details.

Deposits are refundable for 60 days minus a \$150 admin fee. A second deposit of \$1,500 is due 150 days before departure. Questions? Call our helpful travel staff at 800-723-8454.

Health Matters: It is the responsibility of each guest to be aware of their physical abilities or limitations, and to be in sufficient good health to undertake the trip. To make the most of your journey and participate in the various planned group activities, you should be able to be on your feet and walk unassisted for two to three hours (often over uneven cobblestones or pathways) with frequent standing. If you have questions about the physical requirements for your journey, please email or call our travel office.

Concerts, Gardens, Festivals and Events: If, for any reason, the organizers of a scheduled concert, garden, festival or event cancel or postpone a planned activity with little or no notice, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to secure a similar event or secure another concert(s). Strikes, unscheduled delays, lack of funds and acts of God are beyond the control of Earthbound Expeditions. Cancellation of an event, festival or concert is not cause for refund.

Hosted Journeys: If a host or special guest is unable to attend as planned, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to find another host who has similar interests, talents expertise. The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.



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