

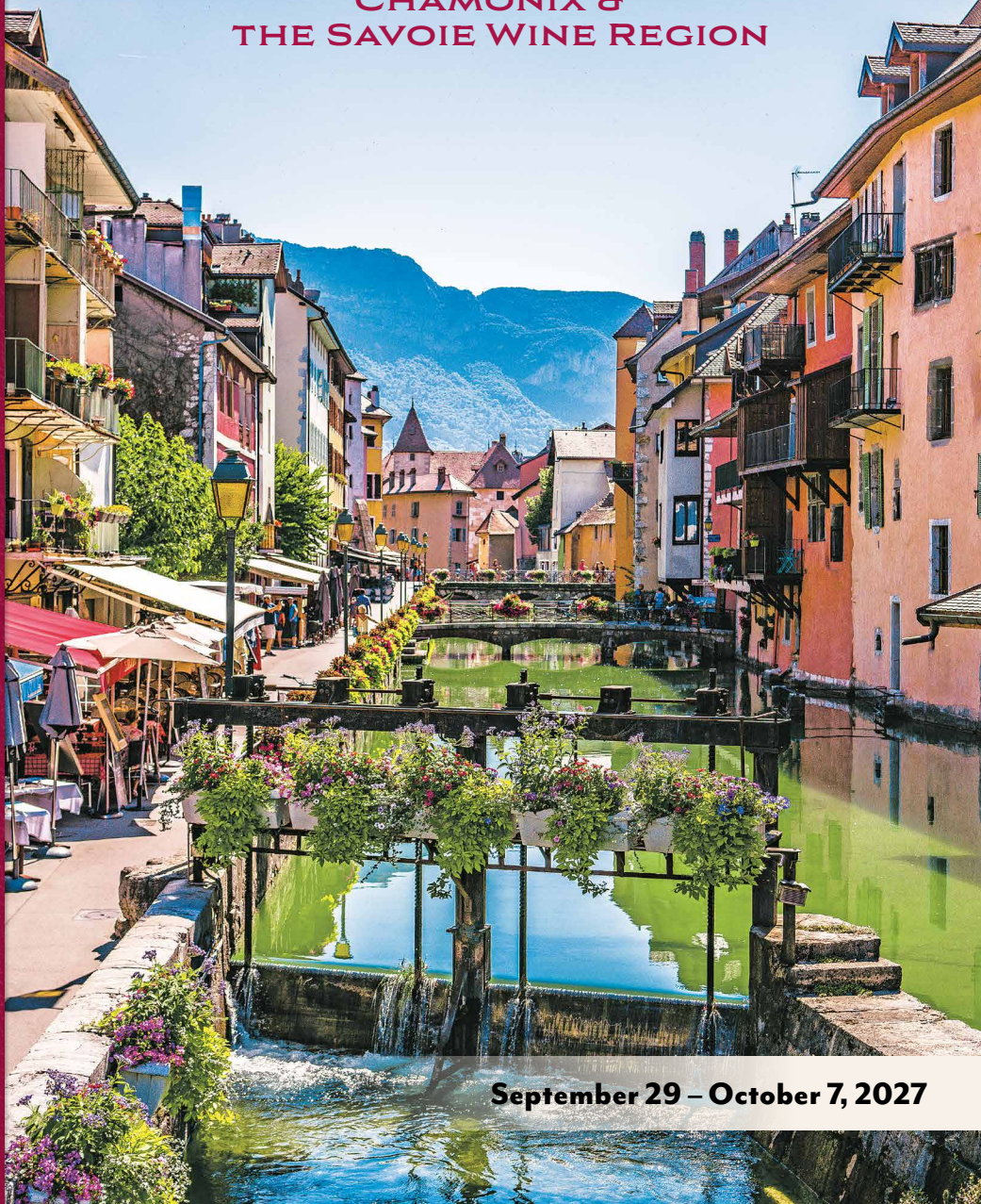


WORLD AFFAIRS
COUNCIL OF
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VILLAGE LIFE®

French Alps

CHAMONIX &
THE SAVOIE WINE REGION



September 29 – October 7, 2027

The Savoie region of France, nestled in the Alps, beckons with its sublime vistas of shimmering glacial waters, soaring Alpine peaks and cozy, inviting villages. This 9-day, 8-night French land trip boasts medieval sites to discover and stunning natural beauty to admire. Unpack once at the lovely *Imperial Palace Hotel* on the shores of Lake Annecy, then spend your week exploring this beautiful area. Discover the spectacular Château de Menthon-Saint-Bernard, an architectural jewel, and take a private tour of a bell foundry. Marvel at mountain vistas, a glacier, an ice cave and a river-carved gorge. On a boat, cross deep-blue Lake Annecy; on a cable car, soar high above Chamonix for views of Mont Blanc; on a cogwheel train, ascend to Europe's largest glacier. Throughout, delight in the incredible scenery, mouthwatering cuisine and welcoming culture.

Exclusive Highlights

- 7 nights at the *Imperial Palace Hotel*.
- Specially arranged boat cruise on Lake Annecy, ending in the charming town of Talloires.
- Private guided visit to the spectacular Château de Menthon-Saint-Bernard.
- At Chamonix, the opportunity for a specially arranged cable-car ascent for unforgettable panoramic views of Mont Blanc.



Above: Château de Menthon-Saint-Bernard
Cover: Picture-perfect Annecy



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Dear Curious Traveler,

Enjoy this exclusive, immersive itinerary not offered by other alumni travel providers. Unpack once at the lovely *Imperial Palace Hotel*, then spend a week exploring the lakes, mountains, and villages of this stunning region. The wide range of included excursions and activities will appeal to adventure lovers, culture enthusiasts, and history buffs alike.

In one unique example, visit the Paccard Foundry, established in France in 1796. Known for creating bells for churches, cathedrals, and carillons worldwide, the foundry has produced some 125,000 bells over its history. Take a guided tour through the workshop, explore the on-site museum, and admire the size, variety, and sounds of the bells produced here.

And of course, spectacular Alpine adventures await. Test your mettle at Step into the Void, a glass skywalk experience with views of Mont Blanc. Explore the ice caves beneath the Mer de Glace glacier. And traverse a suspended walkway through dramatic gorges some 80 feet above the Fier River. History, culture, incredible scenery, and culinary delights are yours to discover in the Savoyard region.

Other educational groups share this departure, so make your reservation today. Call (800) 942-5004 (email: travel@wacphila.org).

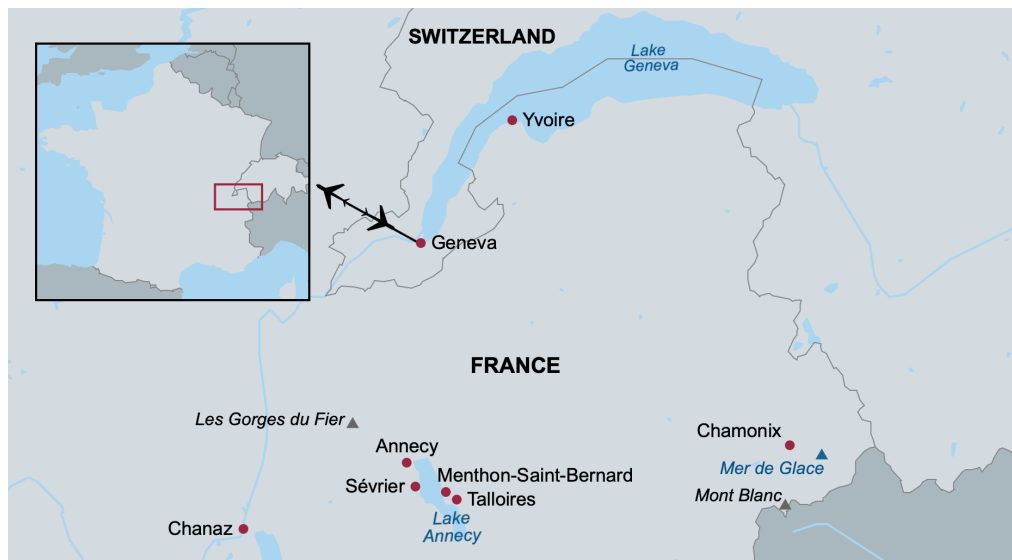
Warm Regards,

Andrew Haught, Director of Travel

Can't travel at this time? Ask about the Council's other cruises with Gohagan & Company to Istanbul and the Arctic Circle.

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**To secure your spot, call Travel Department at World Affairs Council of Philadelphia
at 800-942-5004 or visit www.wacphila.org/travel**



Day 1 | September 29

Depart your home city for an overnight flight to Geneva, Switzerland.

Day 2 | September 30 R-D

Geneva, Switzerland | Anancy, France

Transfer to the lovely *Imperial Palace Hotel*. Unpack for the week and settle in, then enjoy lunch on your own. Wander the grounds and explore the hotel, which has hosted famed visitors over the years, including Winston Churchill, Edith Piaf and Charlie Chaplin. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception and Dinner at the hotel.

Day 3 | October 1 B-L

Anancy

Tour Anancy, sometimes called the “Venice of the Alps,” known for its picturesque canals, pastel-colored houses and cobbled medieval streets. Stroll through the Vieille Ville (Old Town), and see the Palais de l’Isle, built on a small rocky island, and Cathedrale Saint-

Pierre. Cross Lover’s Bridge, an ironwork footpath in the perfect spot — with Lake Anancy and the mountains on one side, and the Canal du Vassé, lined with plane trees, on the other. The Château d’Anancy, built in the early 1200s, is situated high on a hill, offering fine views of the town and the beautiful lake beyond. Stroll the local market, filled with fresh produce, meats, cheeses, flowers and herbs, as well as textiles and handmade goods.

Stop at Au Fidèle Berger, a renowned pastry shop and chocolatier that has been operating since 1918. Wrap up with a wine and cheese tasting

at the fromagerie Pierre Gay, awarded the “Meilleur Ouvrière de France” (Best Craftsman of France) for the past 10 years.

Day 4 | October 2 B-L

Talloires | Sévrier

On a boat cruise of Lake Anancy, cross the crystal-clear, turquoise-colored water, taking in gorgeous mountain views. Disembark in the picturesque town of Talloires, nicknamed “The Pearl of the Lake.” Enjoy an included lunch at a traditional Savoyard restaurant. Next, travel to Sévrier for a delightfully unique experience at the Paccard Bell Foundry.



Left: Reblochon cheese

Below: Cable car in Chamonix





Day 5 | October 3

B

Chamonix & Mont Blanc

This morning, enjoy your chosen excursion: You can ride the iconic rack-and-pinion train to Montenvers, where you'll take a gondola to the Mer de Glace glacier and enter the cave beneath the glacier. Or take a specially arranged cable-car ascent to a terrace offering unforgettable panoramic vistas of the French, Swiss and Italian Alps. From there, ride an elevator to the Summit Terrace at 12,605 feet, to experience a breathtaking view of Mont Blanc. Test your mettle at

"Step into the Void," a glass-room attraction. Spend the afternoon exploring the charming resort town of Chamonix on your own.

Day 6 | October 4

B-L-D

Les Gorges du Fier & Chanaz

Travel to Gorges du Fier, where the Fier River has carved out a spectacular narrow gorge. Walk along a suspended walkway affixed to the rock face, some 75 feet above the river. Then visit the picturesque canal-side village of Chanaz. Visit traditional workshops to observe local artisans at work and sample

their products. This evening, immerse yourself in the local culture and traditions in a conversation with residents.

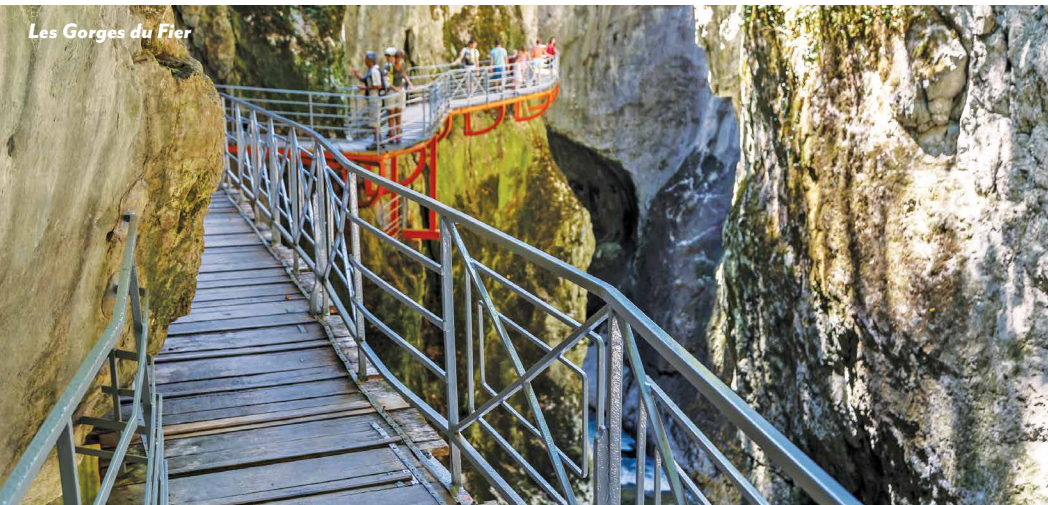
Day 7 | October 5

B-L

Savoie Wine Region/ Yvoire

This morning choose your excursion. Enjoy a private, guided visit to a winery in Cruet, where you'll see the cellar and taste local wines paired with cheeses. Wrap up with a delectable lunch in Apremont at the famed Chez Laurence & Sophie – Auberge Saint Vincent. Or head to Yvoire, a charming medieval fishing village known for its

Les Gorges du Fier



preserved architecture, cobblestone streets and floral displays. See the 14th-century Yvoire Castle, a former fortress, and the 11th-century Saint-Pancras Church, which features an onion-domed roof. Have lunch at a lakeside restaurant — try the regional specialty, fresh perch fillets from Lake Geneva! Return to Annecy and spend the afternoon at leisure.

Day 8 | October 6 B-D

Menthon-Saint-Bernard

Cap off a fabulous week with a private guided visit to the spectacular Château de Menthon-Saint-Bernard. Perched high on a rocky crest, the castle is an architectural jewel. It is also a living residence, still occupied by the same family for almost 1,000 years. After your tour, meet the château's winemaker and indulge in a wine and cheese tasting as you soak up the panoramic views of the



vineyard and the lake. Return to Annecy, where you can enjoy lunch on your own. Spend the afternoon at leisure, strolling through the town and along the lake, or visiting any shops and galleries you missed. Tonight, gather with your fellow travelers to enjoy a delicious meal and bid adieu to your amazing French Alpine adventure!

Day 9 | October 7 B

Annecy | Geneva,
Switzerland | Return to
Home City

Following breakfast, check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport for your return flight home.

Note: This itinerary is subject to change due to local conditions.



Wine, cheese and more!

Savoyard cuisine is hearty and delightful, featuring locally produced cheeses, cured meats, homegrown produce and herbs, and fresh lake-caught fish. Delectable local specialties include *raclette*, melted cheese served with potatoes or bread; *tartiflette*, a casserole of potatoes, cream, cheese, bacon and onions; and *fondue Savoyarde*, a mix of local cheeses and white wine, served with bread.

Speaking of wines, they are also notable — after all, this is France! Located in the foothills of the Alps, Savoie vineyards benefit from high altitudes, a cool climate and diverse mountain soils. Wines produced here are crisp, light-bodied white wines and fresh, spicy red wines.

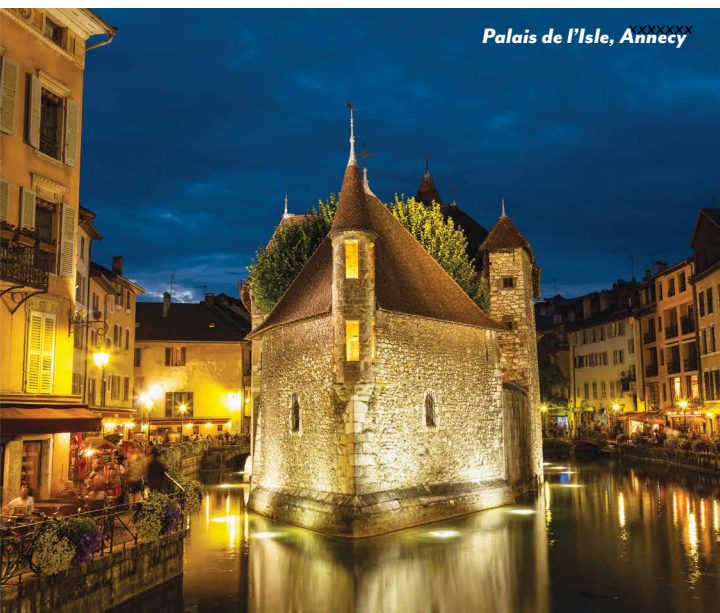
There's also a local tradition of artisans producing nut oils — especially walnut and hazelnut — using a traditional process passed down through generations. They shell and dry the nuts, grinding them into a paste with stone mills, slowly roasting the paste in cast-iron pans over a fire, and extracting the oil with presses. Local artisans also roast coffee beans in small batches while rotating them to develop unique, caramelized flavors.



Chanaz



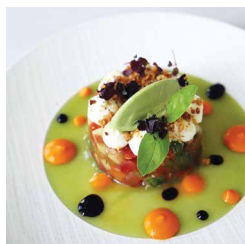
Train to Montenvers



Palais de l'Isle, Annecy

INCLUDED FEATURES

- 7-night stay in the *Imperial Palace Hotel* in Annecy, France.
- Welcome Reception.
- Included Meals | 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 3 dinners.
- Complimentary coffee, tea and water are served with all meals plus wine, beer and soft drinks at included dinners.
- Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Director accompanies you throughout the program.
- Expert lecturers and faculty leaders enrich your experience with their knowledge and insight.
- During included excursions, our experienced, English-speaking local guides will teach you about the history, culture and natural splendor of the destination.
- Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Complimentary water is available in your room and on excursions.
- Hospitality desk in the hotel.
- Our extensive pre-departure materials better prepare you for your travel experience.
- Complimentary travel mementos.



Savoy cuisine

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Advantages of booking your air with Gohagan include:

- Our experts know the best flight itineraries that work with your travel program's start and end times, and they will work to find the best rates comparable to those available to the public.
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- 24-hour emergency support throughout the program to handle any schedule changes and unexpected delays.
- Flexibility to change or cancel reservations up to 60 days prior to departure with minimal penalties on applicable tickets.

See the World Together!



Imperial Palace Hotel

On the shores of Lake Annecy, bordered by a beautiful green park, the first-class *Imperial Palace Hotel* welcomes you with a majestic Belle-Époque façade. The hotel is ideally located a few minutes from the Annecy city center.

Enjoy a luxurious stay in one of the hotel's 90 rooms and 14 high-end suites. Stroll the grounds for beautiful views of the lake, mountains and adjoining park. Savor refined, creative cuisine in one of two restaurants overlooking Lake Annecy. Relax at the Cristal Spa, or visit the Imperial Casino, both on-site.

2027 DEPARTURE DATE | September 29 to October 7 | Tour Begins: September 30

The Gohagan Difference — An Inclusive Luxury Experience

For your comfort and convenience, our fares are comprehensive. We offer incredible inclusions not typical of all providers.

Included in your Rate:

- Wi-Fi/Internet
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- All Taxes, including V.A.T.
- Travel Director

\$2,050
value per person

Occupancy	Standard Rate	Special Savings Rate*
Double	\$6,495	\$5,745
Single	\$8,115	\$7,365

***The Special Savings Rate is valid if booked by 1/27/27 and paid in full at booking. These Special Savings consist of \$500 Early Booking and \$250 Pay-in-Full Savings.**

- All rates are in U.S. dollars, per person, based on double occupancy, including taxes, unless stated otherwise.
- Single occupancy has limited availability.
- A surcharge of 3% will be applied to all bookings paid by credit card to cover payment processing costs. This fee is non-refundable and will be added to the total booking amount at checkout. No surcharge applies to payments made by e-check (ACH). This fee is non-refundable and will be added to the total booking amount at checkout.
- Deposit amount is \$2,000 per person. Final Payment is due at least 150 days prior to departure.
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