

CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

# *French Open*

THE TOURNOI DE ROLAND-GARROS

Exploratory Series 2009

by land



**W**atch world class tennis at Roland Garros, then enjoy a private walking tour of the city, stroll along the Seine and the Canal St. Martin, savour fresh croissants, visit leading designer studios and dine with some of the country's most celebrated chefs. This is a unique chance to be a part of one of the most exciting sports events in the world as you take in the rich diversity of experiences that Paris has to offer.



Horizon & C<sup>o</sup>.

## IMMERSE YOUR SENSES...

### SEE

Federer slide across the clay as he matches wits with Nadal.

### SMELL

the pungent garlic aroma of heavenly Escargot à la Bourguignon.

### TASTE

a legendary pinot noir sitting at the counter of l'Atelier du Joel Rubuchon.

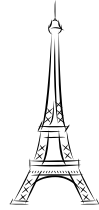
### TOUCH

the flying buttresses on the magical cathedral of Notre Dame.

### HEAR

the thunderous roar of thousands of tennis fans in Roland-Garros.

# The Trip



### DAY 1 - PARIS

Arrive at Paris Charles de Gaulle and transfer to your boutique luxury hotel. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure for you to explore the surrounding area on your own or simply recover from jet lag in the hotel's decadent rooms. **Hotel:** Lancaster Hotel **Meals:** None

### DAY 2 - PARIS

Whether it is strolling the famed Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré with a personal shopper; exploring the Louvre Museum with you iPod-based Da Vinci code museum tour, or taking a Soundwalk through the lively St. Germaine district, there is something to suit every mood and interest this morning. This afternoon, enjoy a guided stroll through the surrounding district of the Marais, one of those rare Parisian neighbourhoods that combines excellent museums, boutiques, dining, and nightlife in a postcard-perfect historic setting. Highlights of our walk include the Musée National Picasso (in an old house in the Marais, and full of the art works Pablo couldn't bear to part with); the eternally elegant Place des Vosges and a tea tasting at the atmospheric Mariage Frères tea house, one of the city's finest tea sellers. Tonight, we suggest that you enjoy an aperitif on the terrace of the famed Cafe Flore, where the greatest writers of the 20th century used to gather to argue over literature and philosophy. **Hotel:** Lancaster Hotel **Meals:** Breakfast

### DAY 3 - PARIS

Sleep in and enjoy a leisurely breakfast, then choose how you wish to spend the morning. After lunch, set out for your seats at centre court of the Tournoi de Roland-Garros, one of the most beautiful tennis venues in the world. The French Open is renowned for



its clay courts and the havoc they cause the top players. In 2008 Spanish sensation Rafael Nadal and took home the glory for an incredible 4th time, denying Federer yet again the one crown that has thus far eluded him. Depending upon the exact dates of your trip, you will have the opportunity to witness everything from the opening matches to the Men's finals. Enjoy the superb calibre of play, take in the chic Parisian crowd, and enjoy a Kir Royale at the hospitality bar. For your final dinner, we recommend the L'Atelier de Joel Robuchon, a dramatic black-and-red restaurant built around an open kitchen featuring some of the most inventive cooking in France. **Hotel:** Lancaster Hotel **Meals:** Breakfast

### DAY 4 - PARIS/HOME

This morning after breakfast, check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport for your flight home. **Hotel:** None **Meals:** Breakfast

## LOCAL DIVERSIONS...

### EPIC WINES

Pinot Noir found its fame in Burgundy, where it is the primary grape used for red wines, but it is also a major component in the production of most fine quality Champagne and California sparkling wines. Pinot Noir is one of the most difficult grapes to grow, but it is also one of the very best when it is done properly. It has very specific needs for its growing conditions - if it receives too little heat in the growing season, its wines are thin and pale, but if the growing season is too warm, the wines have an overripe, cooked flavour.

### CITY WALKS

Stroll the vibrant cobbled streets and romantic corners of the Marais district, a place where austere walls camouflage grandiose palaces and lush gardens amidst the bustle of contemporary life. One of the city's oldest neighbourhoods and home to such infamous characters as Victor Hugo, make sure to peek through doorways into elaborate ancient courtyards for a step back in time. Explore the unique shops, peruse the contemporary art galleries and sip a leisurely café au lait in the perfect beauty of the Place des Vosges.

### FOODIE HEAVEN

Every region in France is known for special dishes - Burgundy for its escargots plucked off the grapevines; Périgord for its truffles and foie gras; Normandy for its soft, rich cheeses, Calvados, and cream sauces; Brittany for its fresh seafood and oysters; and Alsace for its sauerkraut and wines. Today, Parisian restaurants represent almost every region of France. You can go on a complete culinary tour of the country without leaving the city.

## WHERE WE SLEEP...

### The Lancaster Hotel

Located in the heart of Paris, just off the Champs Elysées, the Hotel Lancaster is a luxurious hideaway, constructed in a 19th-century private mansion. It is an intimate address, with the feel of an elegant private residence. The hotel offers 46 rooms and 11 suites over 8 floors, in a plush atmosphere that cultivates a certain art of living à la Française. Traditional furniture, paintings by old masters, antiques and the re-creation of historical fabrics celebrate the decorative arts in the best light. Its interior courtyard has become a Zen garden retreat. All the feel of a thoroughly charming traditional home.



## WHERE WE PLAY...

The French Open is held in Paris, France every summer. The clay courts of the Roland Garros provide the most interesting feature of the tournament. The clay court slows the ball down, and can do a number on players' footwork. Traditionally there have been clay court specialists who emerge from the French Open, who win when higher ranked players falter. Sampras and Federer could never master the clay. Will threepeat champion 2005, 2006, and 2007 Rafael Nadal and Justine Henin win it again in 2008, or will a newcomer seize the French Open?



## PARIS OPTIONS

Paris is one of our favourite cities, and we always encourage people to spend as much time as possible here. We would be happy to add days to the beginning or end of your journey in Paris so that you have more time to relax and pursue your personal pleasures. We can also arrange extensions to different parts of France or elsewhere in Europe. Call our Personal Trip Planners for more details. A partial menu of Paris based options include:

**Option 1 - Private Louvre:** Enjoy a private back door visit to the Louvre guided by a passionate art history lecturer who will share his intimate knowledge of the innumerable masterpieces. Prices on request.

**Option 2 Haute Couture:** A private guided tour of Cecile Henri workshop, one of the last remaining embroidery workshops for Haute Couture and ready made clothes: Prices on request.

**Option 3 Michelin-starred cooking:** Join renowned chef Alain Passard, 3 star-chef in the Michelin guide, 19/20 in the Gault-Millau, for a lunch-time cooking class in his kitchen. Prices on request.

**Option 4 Private Tasting:** Taste wines in some of the most famous caves of Paris with Philippe Faure-Brac, one of the worlds' leading sommelier (elected world's best sommelier in 1992). Prices on request.

# The Details



**Level of Activity:** *Light* - Strolling through city streets, walking on cobblestones. Suitable for all ages and abilities, with some opportunities for extended walks.

**Start/Finish:** Paris, France

## What's Included:

- all accommodations on a shared twin/double room basis
- upgrade on arrival, subject to availability
- tickets for the lower levels on Centre Court at Roland Garros
- all breakfasts
- champagne and homemade canapes on arrival
- all local transfers, including airport pick-up and drop-off
- all guided tours and sightseeing costs
- all pre-departure materials, including documents wallets and destination details

**Trip Operator:** **Horizon & Co.** (founded in 1963), is Canada's leading boutique travel company. Horizon designs and stages authentic and deeply personal travel experiences that are carefully choreographed to induce a life-long memory. In addition to offering published trips on seven continents, Horizon builds private custom trips for discerning individuals and small groups.

**Trip Format: Independent Trips** are designed for independent-minded travellers who like to travel on their own (without a Horizon escort), but still want to experience our superbly designed itineraries at reasonable prices. The itinerary and prices are always fixed, and the departure dates may be flexible or fixed depending on the specific trip.

**Tickets:** The starting price for our French Open package is based on lower level tickets to centre court during the opening rounds. If you wish to attend other days, supplemental charges will apply (see our website for more details or call us). Not surprisingly, tickets to the finals are the most expensive, most coveted, and most likely to disappear quickly, so call quickly once you make up your mind.

## Dates & Prices

DURATION	3 NIGHTS / 4 DAYS
DATES	MAY 24 - JUNE 7, 2009
PRICES	FROM \$3,450 USD (PER PERSON SHARING)
SGL SUPP	\$1,050 USD

\*price is based on the opening rounds of the tournament - call for pricing supplements for other tournament days.

## Horizon & Co.

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## BOOK YOUR TRIP...

Consult your local travel professional, email us directly at [admin@horizon-co.com](mailto:admin@horizon-co.com), book online using our website at [www.horizon-co.com](http://www.horizon-co.com), or call us and speak to our travel experts at 1-800-387-2977.

## THE FINE PRINT...

The terms & conditions governing your booking are located in our brochures or on our website, as well as more information on insurance, cancellations and waivers and other policies.

## PAYMENT & DEPOSITS

In light of the volatility and scarcity of the tickets, a non-refundable deposit of \$2,000 per person is payable at the time of booking, and the balance of the trip price will be payable 120 days in advance.

## CONTACT US...

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