# EXPLORE

























### Alsace, crossroads of Europe





# HOW TO GO THERE



High speed train from Paris : 2h 20 Strabourg.

- Departure Paris Gare de l'Est train station
- Arrival Strasbourg train station
- Departure approximately every 2 hour

Flights from Paris Airport /Bordeaux/Lyon/ Marseille Strasbourg aiport is situated at 20mn from City center

### Transportation

To visit the center, we always recommend a walking tour

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# MUSTSEE





With its monumental cathedral featuring carvings as delicate as any piece of lacework, Strasbourg is one of Europe's most attractive cities. Thanks to the richness and sheer density of its heritage sites, the entire town centre has been listed as UNESCO World Heritage. Strasbourg is definitely well worth a visit, to discover its history, its cuisine and its unique atmosphere

#### MUST SEE

#### La Petite France

"This is the most picturesque district of old Strasbourg. Fishermen, millers and tanners once lived and worked in this part of town where the streets have been built level with the waterways. The magnificent half-timbered houses date from the 16th and 17th centuries. Their sloping roofs open out onto lofts where hides were once dried."

#### The cathedral of Notre-Dame

"A prodigy of the gigantesque and the delicate," as Victor Hugo claimed. Strasbourg Cathedral (1015-1439) is an absolute masterpiece of Gothic art. The 142 m high spire looks incredibly lightweight and made the Cathedral the highest edifice in all Christianity until the 19th century. Three high-spots make the visit unforgettable. Outside, the facade is the greatest "book" of images the Middle Ages has to offer. Hundreds of sculptures stand out from the wall accentuating the effects of shadow and light. The colour of the red sandstone changes throughout the day depending on the colour of the sky. In the summer evenings, the illuminated scenography is an enchantment. Inside, the long aisle inspires peace and reflection. The 12th- to 14th-century stained-glass windows and the rose window are not to be missed. The monumental organ has a remarkable cabinet decorated with automated figures. The astronomical clock built in the Renaissance period and mechanism dating back to 1842 is a masterpiece in itself, where the procession of apostles can be admired every day at 12:30 p.m.

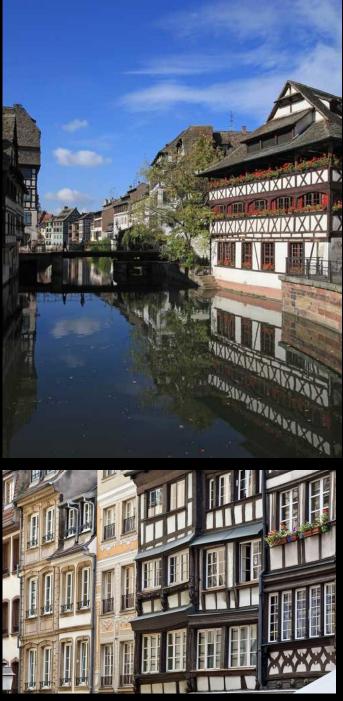
### The Oeuvre Notre-Dame Museum

"One of the finest collection of medieval works in France. Located at the foot of the Cathedral, this charming Museum owns one of the finest collections of medieval art in France, and even in Europe. The collections span seven centuries of art in Strasbourg and in the Upper Rhine River basin. From the renowned Christ's Head, known as the Wissembourg Christ's Head, one of the oldest stained-glass windows on record, to the crystal baskets painted in the mid-17th century by Sébastien Stosskopf, the master of still-life, the remarkable collections testify to the vitality of art in Strasbourg during the Middle Ages and Renaissance. The masterpieces of medieval sculptures from the Cathedral, among which the Church, the Synagogue ou the famous Tempter, are displayed side by side with the best witnesses of Upper Rhine art in the 15th and 16th centuries. The place granted great artists such as sculptor Nicolas de Leyde or painters Conrad Witz and Hans Baldung Grien match their talents. The tour of the Museum, the synthesis of all arts, is made in complete harmony with the architecture of the site: behind the ancient gables of the building housing Oeuvre Notre-Dame, an organism responsible for the construction and restoration of the cathedral since the 13th century, the interior decors, together with the cool courtyards and the charming Gothic berb garden contribute to the feeling of intimacy with the rich past of Strasbourg "











### THE ALSACE WINE ROUTE



The Wine Route is the capricious ribbon that runs along the eastern slopes of the Vosges, quietly rolling down the mountainsides and taking in fifty-one local wines that boast the registered designation of origin 'Alsace Grand Cru'. Take your time discovering the very soul of the Wine Route, starting out from Marlenheim, passing through the Cleebourg vineyards and ending your journey in Thann. Admire the ruins of castles, lose yourself in the streets of medieval towns, follow the wine trails and enjoy the panoramas...

### Short history

Launched in 1953, the Alsace Wine Route is one of **the oldest wine routes in France**. It offers visitors - both neophytes and connoisseurs – a **wide range of activities** related to wine and the vineyard all year round.

Originally a popular touring rally, it has become one of the jewels of the Alsace! It winds 170km from the north to the south of the region, passing through 70 wine-growing villages, renowned for being some of the **most beautiful villages in the Alsace**. Many visitors marvel at the **fortified towns and villages** of Eguisheim, Kaysersberg, Ribeauvillé, Riquewihr, Andlau, Obernai...

The Alsace Wine Route is also a popular gathering place. From April to October, villages organise wine and **harvest festivals** in turn. Folklore entertainment, processions and wine-tastings take place all day long, and even at night, in a lively and **friendly atmosphere** !

The Alsace Wine Route has contributed to the fame of Alsace Wines for the past 60 years.

The most famous Wine Route in France proudly reveals its medieval châteaux and Renaissance houses and the flowery lanes of its charming villages. A land of tradition and wine, offering a unique experience for the visitor. Officially established as a tourist route in 1953, it celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2013.

Renowned for its remarkable and simple itinerary, the Wine Route invites you to discover the region and its wine producers. It winds through sloping valleys along the foothills of the Vosges for more than 170km, crossing the entire wine region from Marlenheim to Thann and meeting some 1000 producers. It also includes an isolated section around Wissembourg, in the far north of the Alsace.

Five regions carry (or are in the process of gaining) the "Vignobles et Découvertes" label:

The "Pays de Wissembourg" wine region

The "Vignoble de Strasbourg", from Marlenheim to Molsheim

The "Cœur d'Alsace" wine region, between Mont Sainte-Odile and the Château du Haut-Kœnigsbourg

The "Terre et Vins au Pays de Colmar" wine region, around Colmar

The "La Route des Vins Sud-Alsace" wine region, around Thann and Guebwille





The moment you step over the threshold of the great door at Haut-Koenigsbourg Castle, you find yourself in a whole new world: the Middle Ages. Cross the lower

Courtyard with its inn, forge and mill then climb the spiral stairways leading to the Lord's furnished apartments. Plunge into an environment of architecture and furnishings steeped in history. The omni-present drawbridges, armoury, keep and cannons are a constant reminder of the purpose of this mountain fortress, which has been besieged, destroyed and pillaged numerous times since its construction.

This prestigious fortress was abandoned after 1633, and then given to Kaiser Wilhelm II von Hohenzollern in 1899 by the town of Sélestat. He commissioned the architect Bodo Ebhardt, a specialist in medieval fortifications, to restore the castle. Its renovation satisfied his passion for the Middle Ages, whilst he dreamed of a return to the old German Empire.

The political ambition of this huge renovation project, undertaken at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup>century, was to legitimize the newly forged Hohenzollern imperial dynasty, and create a symbol for the world of the power held by this new empire. Today, the restoration is admired more for its educational potential: although it is not altogether perfect, the result is undeniably authentic. Much to the delight of fortress enthusiasts, this restoration of the Haut-Koenigsbourg offers a remarkable insight into 15<sup>th</sup> century mountain fortresses in the Alsace region.

Visit the artillery platform, also referred to as the Grand Bastion: an exceptional monument with a characteristic structure. Take the time to enjoy the breathtaking panoramic view over the Alsace plain, the Vosges Mountains, the Black Forest and even, on a clear day, the Alps...

The Haut-Koenigsbourg castle is one of the symbols of Alsatian heritage and a witness to the course of European history. Visitors from all horizons have the ideal environment to become more familiar with castle architecture, the Middle Ages and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century restoration through a wide choice of tours, activities and events.

When you visit the Haut-Koenigsbourg you visit so much more than just a monument...



### COLMAR



### History, figures, heritage

For Georges Duhamel (as he wrote in 1931), Colmar was the "most beautiful town in the world". It has also often been said that it is the most Alsatian town in Alsace! Without going over the top with superlatives, Colmar undoubtedly remains an exceptional town due to the wealth and variety of its historical and architectural heritage.

The capital of central Alsace, situated near Germany and Switzerland between the Vosges and the Rhine, Strasbourg and Mulhouse, the town offers visitors an exciting glimpse of 1000 years of European history.

Besides, with its 67,000 inhabitants, Colmar retains a 'country town' atmosphere which contributes so much to its charm. Wonderfully preserved from the ravages of time, its homogenous **historical centre** is classed as a 'protected area' and has benefited from careful restoration and ongoing improvements for more than 20 years.

### MUST SEE

### The Dominican Church

Started in 1283, the construction of the Dominican church mainly dates back to the first half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. It is an important example of the mendicant orders architecture, even if the Dominicans arrived in 1278 were temporarily driven out of the city in 1330. In 1458, the roof and the cloister were damaged by a fire. After that, reconstruction works have been necessary. In 1720, thanks to the installation of a baroque decorating, the church was less austere than before. The Dominican church was during the most part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century used to non-religious ends, before becoming again a place of worship in 1898. The church has been restored in the early 80's and 90's.

Around 1475, Martin Schongauer's studio created the Altarpiece of the Dominicans which is today exposed in the Unterlinden museum. Since 1973 the Dominican Church owns the masterpiece of Martin Schongauer, Madonna of the Rose Bush, which was exposed in the Saint Martin collegiate church.

### The fishmonger's district

The fishmonger's district is the place where most of the professional fishermen and boatmen of Colmar lived. They were in a powerful corporation. The caught fishes were stored in fish ponds or sold in the fishmonger's district. In 1706 a huge fire destroyed more than forty houses in the district. From 1978 to 1981, important renovation works made it possible to restore many half-timbered houses in this district which is between the Tanneurs district and the picturesque little Venice.

### **The Pfister House**

The Pfister house was built in 1537 for the hatter Ludwig Scherer, who made his fortune with money trading in the Val de Liepvre. Despite its medieval features, the house is the first example of architectural renaissance in Colmar. With its two-storey corner oriel, its wood gallery, its octagonal turret and its mural paintings which represent biblical and secular scenes, the Pfister house became one of the symbols of the old Colmar. It owns its name to the family





# SUGGESTED DAY TOURS





9am – Meet your English speaking driver guide and depart for a full day wine tour in the Alsace vineyards.

The Alsace Wine Route winds its way from north to south, for more than 170 kilometers (106 miles) along the eastern foothills of the Vosges. It has become famous the world over for its exceptional natural beauty as it leads visitors across rows of undulating, vine-covered hills, and through quaint villages.

Begin the day with a stop in the **Mittelbergheim wine producing region**. The area is home to the Zotzenberg, Kastelberg and Wiebelsberg Grand Crus and the soils found here are particularly favorable for Riesling.

Here, experience your first Alsace wine discovery by tasting a selection of different wines including Pinot Blanc, Sylvaner and Riesling. Continue on to Dambach la ville wine area. The village itself is considered to be located at the heart of the Alsace wine region and is home to the Grand Cru Frankstein. Riesling and Gewurztraminer are particularly well adapted to the well-drained granite-mica scree which filters water and retains heat well.

Enjoy a second wine tasting session in a typical "caveau", the name given to the local wineries

. After some free time for lunch depart for the **Ribeauvillé/Riquewihr** wine producing area that is surrounded by 5 Grand Crus appellations: Geisberg, Kirchberg, Osterberg, Schoenenbourg and Sporen. If Riesling is without a doubt the king of grapes in this area, Pinot Gris, Muscat and Gewürztraminer are also known to produce excellent wines on the neighboring soils. Here famous wine growers include the Trimbach family that have been making wine since 1626 or the Hugel family who only began their activity in 1639!

Not only will you be amazed by the beauty of these two Medieval towns, it is also here that you will **experience our 2 afternoon tasting sessions** in some of the most highly selected wineries so as to complete your Alsace wine tasting experience. Return to Strasbourg.



### DAY 1 -

9am – Meet your English speaking driver guide and depart for a full day wine tour in the Alsace vineyards.

**Meeting with the owner of wine estate in Barr**. Stroll in the vineyard with the owner who was a precursor of organic and biodynamics winemaking in Alsace. Wine-tasting.

### Visit of Obernai, a charming medieval town.

At the crossroads of the three large regions of Alsace : the vineyards with the wine route, the Vosges and the large rural plain starting right at the town gates, appears and spreads out the proud city of Obernai.Located at 25 km south west of Strasbourg where the little valley of the Ehn river opens out, Obernai used to bear the name of "Ehenheim" precisely because of the Ehn river. Obernai is so attractive that it is the most visited city of the Bas-Rhin after the capital of Europe.

Obernai, the birthplace of St. Odile, is a condensed version of Alsace. The town will come up to the visitor's expectations whether he be gourmet, sportsman, history lover or just an ordinary tourist. Here, welcoming people is a tradition and our smile comes from the heart. You will feel like home.

Lunch at a quality winstub, a restaurant offering local specialties. - to be paid on site

# Private visit of the renowned Spindler's wood marquetry in Boersch, a famous symbol of arts & crafts in Alsace. Meeting with the owners.

Visit of Mittelbergheim, ranked among the Most Beautiful Villages in France.

This renowned gastronomic centre stands on the slopes at the foot of the Crax hill. Its remarkable location and architectural heritage have earned it the title of one of 'the most beautiful villages of France'

**Wine tasting** With Albert Seltz, the owner of Domaine Albert Seltz in Mittelbergheim, which makes wine since 1576! Visit of the 16<sup>th</sup> century cellar, and wine-tasting. Albert is the wine producer who succeeded to have the Zotzenberg Sylvaner from Mittelbergheim acknowledged as Grand Cru by the wine authorities. It is the only Sylvaner Grand Cru in the world! Albert will talk with passion about his work around Sylvaner and other varieties.

5pm – End of the tour at your hotel

Winetasting at Domaine Trimbach in Ribeauvillé, one of the most famous wineries in Alsace, and the largest exporter of Alsatian wines to the US. Alternative: winetasting at Domaine Marcel Deiss in Bergheim, famous for his mix of varieties of the same plots (completion). Visit of Riquewihr, ranked among the Most Beautiful Villages in France. Lunch at a quality winstub.

Meeting with Jean-Christophe Bott, the owner of Domaine Bott-Geyl in Beblenheim. Winetasting.

Visit of Colmar, the Alsatian wine capital, where strolling is so enjoyable, and discovery of its





### DAY 2 -

9am – Meet your English speaking driver guide and depart for a full day wine tour in the Alsace vineyards.

Winetasting at Domaine Trimbach in Ribeauvillé or similar, one of the most famous wineries in Alsace, and the largest exporter of Alsatian wines to the US. Alternative

Winetasting at Domaine Marcel Deiss in Bergheim famous for his mix of varieties of the same plots (complementation).

### Visit of Riquewihr, ranked among the Most Beautiful Villages in France.

Winegrowing community on the Wine Route (altitude 300 m), Riquewihr currently has 1228 inhabitants and is a member of the Association of the Most Beautiful Villages in France. It stands 4 km from Ribeauvillé. Many shops and boutiques, as well as hotels, restaurants and Winstubs, an intermunicipal campsite, bed-and-breakfast rooms and furnished flats. Many winegrowers offer guided tours of their cellars with tastings.

Lunch at a quality winstub. - to be paid on site

# Meeting with Jean-Christophe Bott, the owner of Domaine Bott-Geyl in Beblenheim. Winetasting

**Visit of Colmar**, the Alsatian wine capital, where strolling is so enjoyable, and discovery of its historical and architectural heritage.

\*It is no longer necessary to praise the charms of Colmar: its half-timbering, its canals, its flowery town-centre... A condensation of an idyllic Alsace, the Alsace wine capital is the guardian of a lifestyle which you need to discover!

It provides the intimacy of a medium-sized town combined with the most remarkable rich heritage. Birthplace of the famous sculptor Bartholdi, father of the famous Statue of Liberty Leading the People, it also saw the birth of Hansi, the most famous Alsacian illustrator. Nevertheless, the place you really need to visit is of course the "Petite Venise"! However, you will also enjoy strolling on foot in the large town centre renowned for the half-timbered houses of the Quai de la Poissonnerie. Culture thirsty people will end their tour of Colmar at the Unterlinden Museum to admire its famous Retable d'Issenheim (the Isenheim Altarpiece)...





# NOTE -Alsace holds a particular place in history books. The 1870 War, 2 world wars... For centuries, Germany and France hard-fought for it!

Some places and landscapes are forever scarred by this past. Trample the places which saw the French and Prussian troops, fight in the 1870 War. Imagine the hell of the Great War by advancing in the thin trenches of the Vieil Armand, an iconic battleplace where 30,000 soldiers perished...

Nowadays, our region is a model of reconciliation and a symbol of a fraternal Europe. However, it strongly and with decency keeps alive the memory of the victims. As in the European Centre for Deported Resistance Members, the Struthof, the only camp built in France in 1941; or at the Alsace-Moselle Memorial, which recounts the history of Alsace and Moselle from 1870 through to the Franco-German reconciliation and European integration.

### This tours is an exemple , we are pleased to also being able to offer on WWI or WW2and update the programs depending on clients interest

# 9am – Meet your English speaking driver guide in the lobby of your hotel and departure Le Fort de Schoenenbourg (Ligne Maginot)

"The fort at Schoenenbourg, the most important Maginot Line fortification in Alsace, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It comprises 8 blocks for 650 men. You can tour the barracks, the kitchens, the command post, the generating plant, see gun positions, retractable gun turrets, magazines for the ammunition. Documents on the history of the Maginot Line and on military life in a fort are on display. "

### Then departure for Natzweiler camp

Opened in 1941, Struthof is the only structure of its type on French soil. 52,000 prisoners were forced to work in the quarry near the camp. 22,000 people died here, often of hunger and exhaustion. But some also died in an "experimental" gas chamber which makes this camp an essential place of remembrance.

### End of your day with a visit of the mémorial des Combats de la Poche de Colmar

This Museum and Memorial, set up in Turckheim, a medieval city, and housed in the vaulted basement of the former presbytery, relates the two months of fierce fighting in the vicinity of Colmar during the harsh winter of 1944-1945. On display are weapons, equipment, uniforms, posters, photogaphs, dummies wearing German, American and French uniforms, models of tanks and fighter planes... The Museum is dedicated to all the veterans. It is the symbol of Freedom restored for a troubled region of France. It also contributes to preserve an endangered heritage and to teach future generations.

Lunch will be at leisure- to be paid on site 5pm- end of the tour at your hotel

# KONZENTRATIONSLAGER NATZWEILER - STRUTHOF

### Craft & Heritage in Northern Alsace - 1 day



# 9am – Meet your English speaking driver guide and depart for a discovery day of craft and heritage in Northern Alsace:

•Guided tour of the Lalique Museum in Wingen-sur-Moder. Inaugurated in 2011 in the village where René Lalique implemented its glass factory in 1921, the Lalique Museum\'s ambition is to make you discover the Lalique creation in all its diversity, putting the accent mainly on what is produced by Lalique in Wingen-sur-Moder: glass and crystal. The presence of sandstone for silicium and of lush forests in the region where Wingen-sur-Moder is located, allowed the developement of the glass and crystal industry.

### •Visit of Hunspach, small town

•Listed among the most beautiful villages in France, Hunspach is situated on the "roadof the picturesque villages", half way between Haguenau and Wissembourg, in the North of Alsace. Its architecture ,its costumes and its traditions tell part of the history of Alsace.

•Visit of a handwork pottery in Betschdorf, a village of potters in the Haguenau area (Pays de Haguenau) famous for its blue potteries in sandstone glazed through salt spray. The ancestral technique makes the pieces waterproof and allows the preservation of food.

•Guided tour of Wissembourg. Wissembourg is nestled snugly in the midst of dense forests and fertile vineyards at the foot of the Vosges. A town with a long tradition, history has left it with an indefinable and picturesque charm which is just waiting to be discovered

•Lunch at a quality winstub, a restaurant offering local specialties. – to be paid on site 5pm- end of the tour at your hotel





# 9am – Meet your English speaking driver guide and depart for a full day tour in Alsace

**Depart for the beautiful town of Colmar**. Discover the charm of the old town, its prestigious monuments, the Pfister house, the Koïfhus, Saint Martin collegiate church, and the picturesque neighborhoods of small Venice or of the tanners.

Then depart for the most beautiful village of **Eguisheim**. Surrounded by vineyards, the narrow and concentric streets highlight the architectural merits of its half-timbered houses, lovingly decorated with flowers. After a walk in the village participate in **a wine tasting session** to discover the world renowned Alsace wines in a typical winery.

Your tour then continues on to the **beautiful town of Riquewirh**. Surrounded by ramparts, the village has been very fortunate to survive war and destruction. Its tiny streets, fortified walls and old houses have preserved their 16C splendor virtually intact, making for remarkable architectural harmony.

Free time for personal discovery and lunch.

After lunch you will follow the breathtaking **Alsace 'Wine Route'.** Located between the Rhine valley and the Vosges mountain range, the 60 year old route winds across the slopes for more than 170 kms. The itinerary leads across rows of undulating, vine covered hills, and through quaint villages with narrow streets and charming flower decked houses clustered around the local church steeple.

**Finally, reach Haut Koenigsbourg castle**. Here, follow your guide for a tour of this mighty fortress that overlooks the valley. Built in 12th century, the Castle occupied a strategic position controlling the wine and wheat routes to the North and the salt route that came from the East.

5pm- end of the tour at your hotel













## HIGHLIGHT - CHRISTMAS IN ALSACE

### HIGHLIGHT – CHRISTMAS IN ALSACE



As early as end of November, Alsace invites you to a magical land! From the Saint Catherine, on November 25<sup>th</sup>, to the Epiphany, on January 6<sup>th</sup>, Alsace adorns itself with its finest decorations to celebrate the most magnificent day of celebration: Christmas.

Over a hundred Christmas markets throughout the region will have you experience the unique atmosphere of Christmas in Alsace. The program of your visit: towns and villages decorated with thousands of lights, gourmet markets where you can taste sweet treats, craft markets where you will discover the regional know-how...

You will also marvel at the great Christmas tree of Strasbourg, the tallest in Europe, you will make the joy of your children at the Colmar children's market and will bring back some original decorations from the Mulhouse fabric market! Not to mention the festive atmosphere of all the little Alsacian villages throughout the Advent period. The list of cultural events is far too long. The simplest solution: come and visit us and experience a timeless moment. It's Christmas in Alsace.

With sparkling lights, a friendly atmosphere, the gentle fragrance of spices and cinnamon, not to mention the towns and villages putting up their decorations, in Alsace you can experience Christmas like nowhere else. A time for sharing these ancient traditions, Christmas weaves its magic all over Alsace. In addition to keeping the rituals and traditions alive, you can enjoy the simple pleasure of getting together and admiring the splendour of the decorations in a friendly atmosphere, the likes of which you will find nowhere else on earth. From late November onwards, Christmas markets, songs, fairy tales and legends bring the region to life as the finest of the year's holidays approaches.

http://noel.tourisme-alsace.com/en/christmas-experience-in-alsace/

### Strasbourg, Capital of Christmas

Why not start dreaming of Christmas right now ?

The Christmas Market will take place from 30th of November to 31st of December. Since 1570, Strasbourg opens out its Christmas market around its prestigious Cathedral.

It increasingly expanded through Europe, thanks to its business tradition and its tolerance and humanism spirit which make up its history and its identity.

With its 12 Christmas markets, Strasbourg invites you to a pleasing stroll in the heart of his historical centre.





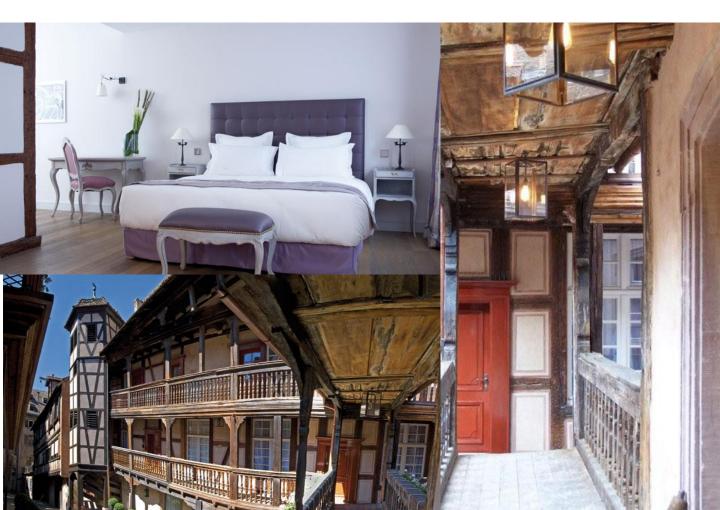
# HOTELS WE RECOMMEND

### LA COUR DU CORBEAU 4\* - STRASBOURG



Walk and get lost in corridors and on the passageways of a building of the 16th Century, perceive the courtyard through a window, or a sculptured statue which enjoys itself while the time goes by. Memory of formerly Alsatian inn from the time of all Czars and Princes. An established 4-star hotel of 57 rooms among which 19 suites at just a step from the Cathedral.

http://cour-corbeau.com/





In the heart of the Petite France, the UNESCO World Heritage-listed historical centre of the city of Strasbourg, lies the beautiful boutique hotel "Le Bouclier d'Or". This tastefully renovated Bourgeois-style Mansion marries original architecture with the latest technologies and environmentally friendly features.

A unique site with 22 luxury rooms and suites, a Spa « L'Ecrin du Bien-Etre », meeting rooms and a bar « Le Meyerhof » for an exceptional leisure or business stay.

http://www.lebouclierdor.com/

