



WINTER 2017
VOLUME XVI NUMBER I



INTO THE HEART OF EUROPE

THE NEWSLETTER OF DISCOVER EUROPE LTD.



I never could quite agree with T.S. Eliot, that April is the cruellest month. He went to school in New England and must have been aware of just how awful February can be! Perhaps it's worse now than in his youth, as big fluffy snowfalls seemed to be increasingly replaced with sleet and freezing rain. The trip we have leaving for Madeira at the end of this month is looking very inviting!

Our most popular winter destination, however, continues to be Iceland, with 16 tours going there between now and the beginning of April. I do love Iceland - I was there twice last year and am going again this month - but as always, my thoughts at this time of year, turn toward spring. Unlike Eliot's protagonist in the *Wasteland*, I find joy, not dread, in the annual renewal.

And we are looking forward to a very busy spring here at Discover Europe, with trips visiting every corner of the continent. To help us handle the extra volume, I am particularly pleased to welcome my older son, Alex, to our team here in New Hampshire. I will, however, resist the temptation to add "& Son" to the company name!

So, please look through this latest newsletter and see if we can't tempt you with some of our wonderful offerings. We have some new destinations, some new short, getaway trips, and a whole collection of tours that just stay in one place (our *Let's Unpack* series) and take day trips from that central hub.

I look forward to seeing you in Europe!
Keep traveling.

Michael Induni, President

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ISLAND LIFE

What is it about an island vacation? In looking over our calendar of tours for this year we couldn't help but notice that we offer trips to just about every major island in Europe! Going to an island in Europe presents a special opportunity. It is easy to go from seashore to mountains to plains and see a variety of topography; to taste the specialties, and experience the culture with minimal travelling.

Think of sitting on a terrace in Mallorca's beautiful village of Deia, where Robert Graves made his home, in the shadow of Teix mountain, looking out over olive trees and ocean; or biting into one of Madeira's exotic fruits such as the tamarillo, a cross between a plum and a tomato; or why not head to Sardinia and see the prehistoric megaliths that are scattered across this country before diving into one of their national dishes of porcheddu (suckling pig).

Or go on our Wild Islands of Scotland tour to spot razorbills, guillemots, puffins, gannets and much more at the Noss National Nature Reserve. Islands offer a single culture within a manageable time frame that allows the traveler to have a more in depth experience of the country. The pace of life seems more relaxed. The hustle and bustle of daily life slows down and time is on your side to absorb, explore and ponder the beauty of island life. Here are some island trips we are offering this year.

THE GAME OF THRONES (ICELAND): APRIL 20TH - 25TH 2017

THE ISLAND OF SAINTS AND SCHOLARS (IRELAND): JUNE 15TH - 24TH 2017

WILD ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND: JUNE 24TH - JULY 3RD 2017

CORSICA AND SARDINIA (ITALY): SEPT 14TH - 23RD 2017

ANCIENT ISLANDS: CRETE (GREECE): OCTOBER 20TH - 28TH 2017

ANCIENT ISLANDS: SICILY (ITALY): NOV 3RD - 11TH 2017

THANKSGIVING IN MALLORCA (SPAIN): NOV 17TH - 25TH 2017

THE MAGIC OF MADEIRA (PORTUGAL): FEBRUARY 2018

If you can't join us because the dates don't work for you, we are happy to create a private island tour for you, your family, and friends.

CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TRIPS

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE TRIPS: CALL: (866) 563-7077 ▪ E-MAIL: info@discovereuropeltd.com ▪ VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.discovereuropeltd.com



KENT: THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND



THE ITALIAN KITCHEN



GARDENS OF SCOTLAND



MILAN & THE ITALIAN LAKES

AUSTRIA

VIENNA - MIT SCHLAG?
AUG 25TH - SEPT 2ND

CROATIA

THE DALMATIAN COAST
APRIL 22ND - MAY 1ST

DENMARK

WONDERFUL COPENHAGEN
SEPTEMBER 21ST - 26TH

ENGLAND

THE BEST OF ENGLISH
GARDENS
MAY 16TH - 25TH

THE WEST COUNTRY
JUNE 8TH - 17TH

WEST COUNTRY GARDENS
JUNE 13TH - 23RD

THE CAPTIVATING COTSWOLDS
JUNE 30TH - JULY 9TH

STATELY HOMES OF ENGLAND
JULY 2ND - 11TH

DISCOVERING EAST ANGLIA
JULY 21ST - 29TH

THE MAGIC OF MEDIEVAL
ENGLAND
JULY 28TH - AUG 5TH

THE PEAK DISTRICT
AUGUST 18TH - 26TH

THE PASSIONATE GARDENER
SEPTEMBER 7TH - 16TH

UNITARIAN ENGLAND
SEPT 21ST - OCT 1ST

POLDARK'S CORNWALL
SEPT 25TH - OCT 4TH

KENT: GARDEN OF ENGLAND
OCTOBER 5TH - 14TH

FRANCE

THE GARDENS OF WINE
COUNTRY
MAY 4TH - 13TH

NORMANDY, BRITTANY & THE
LOIRE
MAY 25TH - JUNE 3RD

THE WINES OF BORDEAUX
SEPT 29TH - OCT 7TH

THE CHÂTEAU DE CAMON
OCTOBER 6TH - 14TH

GERMANY

THE ROMANTIC ROAD
JUNE 8TH - 17TH

THE NEW BERLIN
SEPTEMBER 1ST - 9TH

GREECE

ANCIENT ISLANDS: CRETE
OCTOBER 20TH - 28TH

HOLLAND
FLORAL FLANDERS
APRIL 17TH - 25TH

ICELAND

G. O. T. ICELAND
APRIL 20TH - 25TH

IRELAND

ISLAND OF SAINTS & SCHOLARS
JUNE 15TH - 24TH

ITALY

UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN
MAY 5TH - 12TH

ITALIAN LAKES & GARDENS
JUNE 1ST - 10TH

MILAN & THE ITALIAN LAKES
SEPTEMBER 6TH - 15TH

CORSICA & SARDINIA
SEPTEMBER 14TH - 23RD

THE ITALIAN KITCHEN
OCTOBER 5TH - 14TH

ANCIENT ISLANDS: SICILY
NOVEMBER 3RD - 11TH

CHRISTMAS MARKETS OF
ITALY
DECEMBER 1ST - 9TH

PORTUGAL

LANDSCAPES OF PORTUGAL
APRIL 27TH - MAY 6TH

LUXURIOUS LISBON
OCTOBER 26TH - 31ST

SCOTLAND

THE GARDENS OF SCOTLAND
JUNE 1ST - 10TH

WILD ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND
JUNE 24TH - JULY 3RD

SKYE & THE HIGHLANDS
JULY 13TH - 23RD

SPAIN

ALLURING ANDALUCIA
APRIL 17TH - 25TH

THE PILGRIM'S WAY
JUNE 1ST - 10TH

THANKSGIVING IN MALLORCA
NOVEMBER 17TH - 25TH

WALES

WALES & THE WELSH
BORDERS
MAY 9TH - 18TH

 Indicates a
"Let's Unpack: One-Stop Trip"
One hotel, countless memories.

In addition to those listed here, Discover Europe also runs tours that are custom-designed for a variety of not-for-profit organizations such as Harvard University, Bryn Mawr, Smith College, Tufts University, Vassar College and many others. Although these "sponsored" tours are not listed here, they are often available to non-members upon request. Full details can be found on our website.

Discover Europe can also organize private tours for groups of 2 to 20. Contact us for details.

LISBON: CITY OF SEVEN HILLS

Known also as The City of Seven Hills (like Rome), this vibrant city sings through its Fado, (a beautiful but eerie feminine song sung in late night tabernas), vibrates with a Bohemian beat in the Bairro Alto district, where night life abounds, and stands tall with its many monuments and miradouros (viewpoints) of the port. You can walk (bring good shoes for hills and cobblestones) or take the many forms of public transport, including trams, to the historic museums, chapels, squares and gardens that define one of the oldest cities in Europe.

After visiting the Basilicas gardens, or taking a sunset cruise along the Tagus river, wind your way along the cobbled lanes in the old Chiado neighborhood with its old style cafes, theatres, and bookshops. Or visit one of the many quaint restaurants serving octopus, tuna, or the national dish:

bacalhau a bras, salted codfish in a creamy sauce over layered potatoes.

This is a city of cobbled lanes, late night bars for sipping port, and surprises for those who like to wander without a destination. Let Lisbon's winding narrow streets guide you with their sumptuous aromas, enticing sounds, bustling life, and stunning views. Stay a while and blend into this sensuous city, you won't regret it!



COURIER'S CORNER

David Phillips

Q: WHERE IS YOUR FAVORITE TOUR DESTINATION?

A: For its warmly handsome old houses in honey-colored stone that line its incomparable main street; its wool church both welcoming and imposing; its fine hotels and pubs and restaurants; its fascinating Arts and Crafts heritage; the wondrous Cotswold landscapes surrounding, and most of all for the idyllic gardens of all varieties - Hidcote, Kiftsgate, Mill Dene, Bourton House - within a stone's throw: for all this, Chipping Campden is almost perfect.

Q: DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE CITY?

A: I'm trying to think of my favorite city meanwhile because that seems like the easiest question. I'm inclined to say Toulouse, or maybe Seville but then again I've got a big soft spot for Turin. Ljubljana is a little jewel. And Berlin is so dynamic and extraordinary, and I love the culture and sophistication of Vienna. Amsterdam is the most beautiful city in Europe, if you ask me. London is my home, it's got everything and I wouldn't want to live anywhere else. Then again, you simply can't beat Rome. And I haven't even mentioned Paris or Budapest or Prague, Lisbon, Porto or Barcelona. I wonder what Stockholm is like...

Q: IS THERE A SPECIAL MOMENT THAT STICKS OUT ON A DISCOVER EUROPE TRIP?

A: I love being read to. On a trip to Wales, a sort of literary pilgrimage, with a group from Massachusetts, we had lunch one day with a poet called Menna Elfyn. She had a soft, caressing voice. She told us wonderful stories, disarmingly funny, about her activist past, and then began to read her Welsh-language poems. We didn't understand them, of course, but were all seduced by the subtle, honey-rich sounds, at once familiar and exotic, and by the strange rhythms, rhymes and assonances of that poetic tradition. When she translated the poems for us, these mysteries resolved into stories and observations that were funny, touching, full of insight and truth. For me and I think for the whole group it felt like a uniquely privileged window into a fascinating and beautiful language and culture.

Q: WHAT DO YOU ALWAYS PACK?

A: Binoculars, Swarovski compact HD, 8 x 25. I can't pretend I use them all the time - in fact there have been plenty of trips when they've never left the comfort of my suitcase - but I always pack them. Just in case. For the theatre maybe or the opera; for a detail in a fresco or mosaic high up in the corner of a wall; for a sculpted capital in a Romanesque church; for a possible sighting of a bird I'm hoping to see skulking in a reedbed



ITALIAN DAVID

somewhere or soaring up in the mountains; for gazing far away. Binoculars and maps, lots of maps. You can never have enough maps.

Q: CAN YOU SHARE YOUR MOST MEMORABLE DINING EXPERIENCE ON A TRIP?

A There've been lots - I can't forget a birthday dinner in the hills above Taormina when Mount Etna erupted before our eyes as we sang Happy Birthday - but I single out a lunch one day in a restaurant called The Old Swiss House in Lucerne. Beautiful, indulgent, sophisticated but theatrical, eye-wateringly expensive, with a spectacular wine cellar and preposterously delicious food. We had the simplest, most commonplace dishes imaginable - tomato soup, wiener schnitzel and chocolate mousse - and they were transformed somehow from prosaic to sublime and they were gorgeously served and I fell in love with each dish in turn. This was seven or eight years ago, I suppose, and I'm still in love with the chocolate mousse today. I've never been back. I hope it never changes.

JOIN DAVID IN 2017 ON:

THE WEST COUNTRY: JUNE 8TH - 17TH



PUZZLER

Q: BERLIN'S BRANDENBURG GATE OPENED ON AUGUST 6TH 1791. IT IS MODELED AFTER WHICH FAMOUS GATE IN ATHENS?

To answer, go to [Discover Europe's Facebook](#) page, like the page and leave an answer. The winner, drawn at random, will receive a voucher for \$200 off any trip listed in this newsletter!

Congratulations Deryth T. from Maine, our latest winner!

TAKE OFF AIRPORT HOURS

by Tiffany Mannion

I land in a pile of stale air, tissues and trash on the carpet and tangled in a mess of headphone wires. As I wait for the seatbelt sign to switch off, I grab my phone and wait for permission to power up. Everyone bounds from their seats to get their carry-on and their coats and their neck pillows. I get my Mobile Passport App on my phone. I turn it on and walk through the four brief questions for international arrivals and receive an electronic receipt with an encrypted barcode. Three minutes later, I grab my gear and head out into the lines. The difference is, with myMobile Passport App, I head into the Global Entry lines. I scan my encrypted



barcode on the electronic scanners, following the lines for Global Entry and I am free. Out in the whipping winds of Boston's Logan Airport and drinking in the awe-somely fresh feeling of being home.

How do you get it? Visit www.mobilepassport.us. See

if your arrival airport is using the Mobile Passport App. If they are, simply download the app on your smartphone. The app will walk you through the quick initial set up. This free app is a great way to take off airport hours and get you home as quickly as possible.



FAVORITE HOTELS

POUSADA DE LISBOA, PRAÇA DO COMÉRCIO

With Lisbon at your feet, you can focus on relaxing into the great history and culture of Portugal's largest city. Located in the heart of the noblest area of the city, you can soak in the local community just outside the door.

Personally discover the myriad of reasons why Travel and Leisure named Portugal as the "Destination of the Year in 2016" and join Discover Europe on the *Landscapes of Portugal* trip, April 27th - May 6th and *Luxurious Lisbon*, October 26th - 31st.



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'...the world is a classroom! We are all learning together and discovering the treasures of this earth both geographically and culturally. The more we connect, the better we are able to understand the "why" of everything. Possessions are transitory but our experiences change us forever.' Marguerite O.,
Chateau de Camon

I love seeing and feeling different cultures. Traveling expands my vision of the world by experiencing all the differences and the sameness. Margery W., **Late Summer Gardens**

SCHOOL IS IN SESSION!

There are, however, no text books to read, equations to solve, and certainly no cafeteria food! The lively sounds of open air food markets replace the school bell, calling you to class. It's market day in Bologna, Italy!

Your lessons start the moment you breathe in. Tables piled high with produce, the colours of the rainbow and beyond. Each farmer and producer proudly displaying the bounty of their hard work. The rapid fire exchange of Italian sings out while each perfectly sun ripened tomato is selected. Once your basket is full, you head

back to the cooking school ready to roll up your sleeves and dig in. Courses are replaced with courses as you learn to dig into recipes that have been perfected in Italian kitchens for centuries. Working alongside the chef, you will roll and shape pastas with accompanying sauces happily bubbling away on the stove. The school day ends with a meal, nurtured from farm to table as you sit down together to relax, reflect, and dine. A+ all around!

Want to head back to school with us? Join us for [THE ITALIAN KITCHEN](#), October 5th - 14th 2017.



INTRODUCING ALEX INDUNI

Alex is our new Operations Assistant and handles flight bookings and other day-to-day tasks around the office. Having spent most of his adult life in the mountains of Colorado, any place that the temperature is below freezing and the mountain scenery is breathtaking is the place for him. He has traveled extensively while growing up with his father (Michael Induni). He learned to swim on the south coast of France, has chased falcons in England, ridden scooters in Mallorca and picked pomegranates in Greece. He dreams of exploring the Alps in Northern Italy and enjoying some real Italian food.