

# La Belle France

## Paris and Provence with WBJC!

**91.5FM**  
**WBJC**



Notre Dame, Paris

### WBJC 91.5 and the irrepressible Jonathan Palevsky takes you on a deluxe cultural tour of Paris and sunny Provence

filled with music, art and, of course, great food and wine this November. You will spend five nights in the magical City of Lights and attend outstanding performances, including Verdi's great opera *Don Carlo*; the Czech Philharmonic in an all-Tchaikovsky program; and recitals from two generations of Italian piano mastery—from the legendary Maurizio Pollini to rising star Beatrice Rana. In addition, we'll have a private chamber concert exclusively for the group in a marvelous antique-filled private home. Finally, you have the option of a ballet evening by Canadian choreographer Crystal Pite at the historic Palais Garnier.

Given the music we'll hear it is appropriate that in Paris we'll explore the 19th century: in Paris through the collections of the Musee d'Orsay and the Rodin Museum, and a fun history-filled walk; outside the city, at the grand Chateau de Chantilly, filled with the best private collection of paintings outside of the Louvre and magnificent stables. Our home in Paris is the 4-star Hotel Westminster, formerly the home of the Duke of Westminster and still with a British flair.

All this is preceded by four days in the south of France. From Roman generals to painters, poets, and writers to *gourmands* of all stripes, Provence has long been an inspiration for good living. We will savor it all: Roman monuments, charming hill towns, picturesque landscapes, outstanding food and wine. Our base is the lovely 5-star Hotel d'Europe in the medieval town of Avignon, home of the Papacy during the 14th century and one of the most powerful cities of the time. We also visit the city of Arles with its splendid Roman remains and traces of Van Gogh. Best of all we'll dine in some of the region's top restaurants and sample some of its fine wines.

**November 15–25, 2019\***



#### Jonathan Palevsky

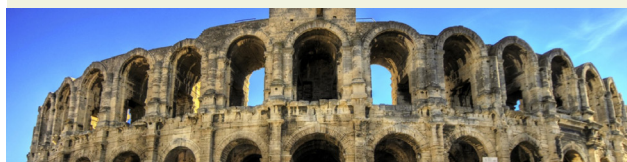
has been with WBJC since 1986 and has been the station's Program Director since 1990. He is originally from Montreal and came to Baltimore in 1982 to study classical guitar at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. On WBJC he is the host of the WBJC Opera Preview, the music review program Face the Music, Music in Maryland, and is co-host of Word on Wine. His off-air obsessions include skiing, playing guitar and being the host of Cinema Sundays. He has led many WBJC tours with suitable éclat!



#### Tour Highlights

- Prime tickets to four musical performances by the Paris Opera, Czech Philharmonic, and recitals by major pianists Maurizio Pollini and Beatrice Rana
- Private concert exclusive to the group in Paris
- Guided tours of historic sites in Paris and Provence with expert private guides
- Excursions from Avignon to Arles, Chateaufort du Pape and the Petit Luberon
- Excursion from Paris to the Chateau of Chantilly
- Private wine tasting near Chateaufort-du-Pape
- Olive oil tasting at one of the finest producers in Europe
- Deluxe accommodation at four & five-star hotels in Paris and Avignon
- Fine dining at some of the region's top restaurants
- First class travel on the TGV, France's high-speed train
- Travel by private air-conditioned motorcoach on all excursions
- Informal talks by WBJC's Jonathan Palevsky
- Plenty of free time to relax, shop and sightsee!

Arles Amphitheatre

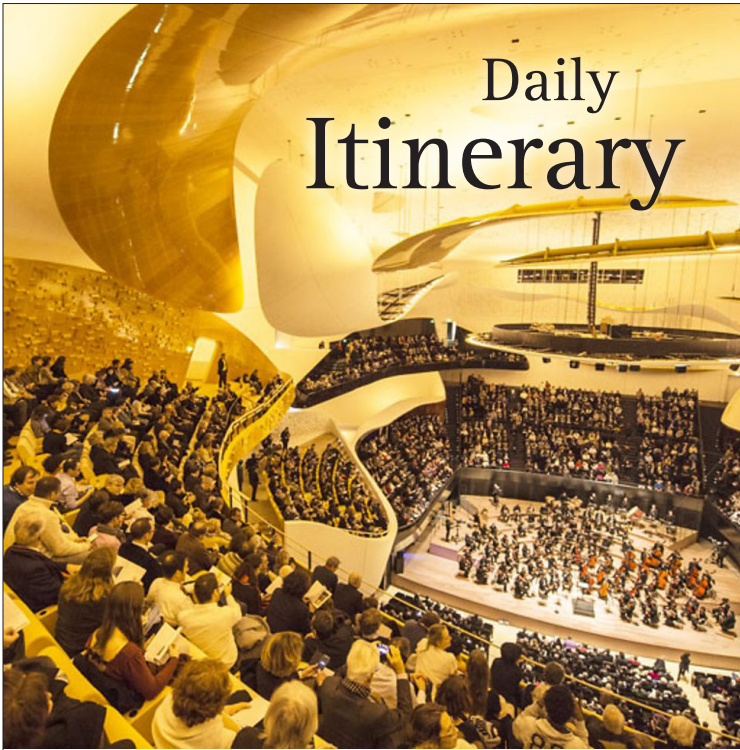


**Tour Cost:** \$5,875 per person, ground only, double occupancy. Group limited to 25 participants.

The France tour is an exclusive presentation by WBJC 91.5 and is organized by The Grand Tour Travel Company, Peterborough, New Hampshire.

\*Tour begins November 16 at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport

# Daily Itinerary



Philharmonie de Paris

## Friday, November 15

*Optional* group flight departs from Dulles Airport for arrival in Paris the following day. Transportation from Baltimore to Dulles will be provided for passengers on the group flight.

## Saturday, November 16 **Bienvenue!**

On arrival at Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris, we board France's high-speed train, the TGV, for first-class passage to Avignon. Our home the next four nights is the Hotel L'Europe, the 16th century mansion of the Marquis de Graveson, where Napoleon, Charles Dickens, Victor Hugo and other luminaries have stayed. After a rest from your journey, we convene for a **welcome drink** at the hotel, then our **welcome dinner** nearby.

## Sunday, November 17 **Roman Arles**

**Breakfast** is served **daily** at both hotels. This morning we head down the Rhone to the ancient city of Arles. On the way, we pass St. Paul de Mausole, and the sanatorium little changed from when Vincent Van Gogh was its patient in 1889-90. Then it's on to sample the products of an award-winning producer of olive oil. **Lunch** is nearby at a superb Michelin-starred restaurant below the village of Les Baux. We continue to Arles and visit its huge Roman amphitheatre, the Romanesque church of St. Trophime with its elaborate carved façade, and trace the steps of Van Gogh. We return to our hotel in late afternoon, and your evening is free.

## Monday, November 18 **City of Popes**

From 1309 to 1403, seven French Popes and three anti-Popes based the Papacy in Avignon during the Great Schism in the Catholic Church. We will tour the Palace of the Popes and walk some of the picturesque streets of the old town. Then we'll make a foray into the countryside for a delectable **lunch** and **wine tasting** near the famed wine-growing town of Chateauneuf-du-Pape. Evening free.

*top right: Le Pont d'Avignon  
right: Chateau de Chantilly*

## Tuesday, November 19 **Luberon Countryside**

We set off to explore the Luberon region of picturesque villages, lavender fields, and rocky landscape. L'Isle sur la Sorgue, with its charming canal-lined streets, is famous for its Sunday antique market, antique shops and Provençal market.

**Lunch** is near the perched village of Gordes, then we travel on to Rousillon, a pretty town named for its red clay cliffs upon which it lies. We bid farewell to Avignon with **dinner** in a characteristic bistro in town.

## Wednesday, November 20 **The City of Lights**

Bidding *adieu* to Provence, we board the TGV again for a trip back to Paris. Our home for five nights is the Hotel Westminster, a 4-star hotel located in the heart of the city near the Opéra, with a historic past. Lunch is on your own and your afternoon is free. Tonight we **dine** in an elegant brasserie, before attending a performance at the sleek Opera Bastille of Giuseppe Verdi's stirring drama *Don Carlo*. Fabio Luisi, a frequent conductor at the Met, leads the fine cast headed by the stellar bass René Pape as King Philip and the powerful mezzo Anita Rachvelishvili as the Princess Eboli.

## Thursday, November 21 **19TH Century (and one 20TH century) Genius**

The magnificent Musée d'Orsay is housed in the former Orsay railway station built for the 1900 Universal Exhibition, and appropriately displays art from 1848 to 1914, a seminal period of French Impressionism, Courbet, Degas, Cassatt and many other artists. After **lunch** at a traditional restaurant, Rodin beckons. The great sculptor used the Hôtel Biron as his workshop before donating the house, grounds and his entire collection of sculptures and paintings to the French State. Many of his most famous are in the beautiful gardens.

Tonight Maurizio Pollini, 77 years old and a legend of the keyboard, performs a recital at the new Philharmonie de Paris, designed by Jean Nouvel. Program TBA.





## Friday, November 22 Chantilly

The Chateau de Chantilly was entirely rebuilt in the 19th century, after the original castle was destroyed during the French Revolution. It houses the art collections of the Princes of Condé, considered the finest in France after that of the Louvre. Adjoining the gardens designed by Le Notre, later the landscaper of Versailles, are the Grand Écuries, which we'll visit after **lunch**. This evening is free with an option to attend a performance by the Ballet of the Paris Opera presented by the esteemed Canadian choreographer Crystal Pite in the iconic 19th century marvel, the Palais Garnier.

## Saturday, November 23

### 18th Century Design and Tchaikovsky

From the Grands Boulevards to the Palais Royale, we cut a wide swath through historic sights from 19th century Paris on foot. Again at the Philharmonie, the eminent Czech Philharmonic performs an all-Tchaikovsky program under its music director Semyon Bychkov.

## Sunday, November 24 City of Music

A doubleheader!: a morning recital at the historic Théâtre des Champs Elysées by Beatrice Rana, a young Italian pianist of extraordinary gifts who has already captivated Europe and New York. The afternoon is free before a chamber concert exclusively for the group at a beautiful private home in the 9th *arrondissement*. Our **gala farewell dinner** is at the splendid Café de la Paix, the famous brasserie designed by Charles Garnier, the architect of the Opéra.

## Monday, November 25 Adieu!

The optional group flight returns home from Charles de Gaulle airport, with arrival the same day.

*Itinerary is subject to change.*

*Meals in **bold** are included in the price of the tour.*



detail: Manet's, *Le Déjeuner sur l'herbe*

Musée d'Orsay



Roussillon

## Tour Registration

**Tour Cost: \$5,875 per person, ground only, double occupancy.**

**Single supplement: \$900**

**Optional group flight: \$1,090, economy on United, includes coach from Baltimore to Dulles.**

**Deposit: \$1000 per person first come, first served**

**Balance deadline is Friday, September 20, 2019.** After that date, call for availability.

**Contact** The Grand Tour to reserve your place on the tour with a credit card deposit, or send a check made payable to The Grand Tour for the deposit amount to: WBJC France Tour, The Grand Tour, PO Box 274, Peterborough, NH 03458. Registration materials can be downloaded from [www.wbjc.com](http://www.wbjc.com)

**Questions?** Contact The Grand Tour at 800-727-2995 / [info@thegrandtour.com](mailto:info@thegrandtour.com) or Joe Hutchins of WBJC at 410-580-5801 /

Opera Bastille

