

## Western Europe Chateaux and Gardens | Small Group Tour for Seniors

### Reading List

#### **Paradise on Earth: The Gardens of Western Europe**

by Gabrielle Van Zuylen

Traces the history of gardens from Mesopotamia through the cloister gardens of the Middle Ages and the labyrinths of the Renaissance up to the urban parks of today, with a listing of great European gardens and a glossary.

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#### **Claude Monet: Life and Art**

by Paul Hayes Tucker

This lavishly illustrated book presents the first complete overview of the life, art, and times of the quintessential Impressionist. Tucker, one of our foremost authorities on Monet, offers a striking new view of the artist, showing him to be a far more complicated figure than previously acknowledged, fiercely competitive and ambitious, as well as sensitive and inventive.

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#### **Monet's Garden: Through the Seasons at Giverny**

by Vivian Russell

A new paperback edition of Vivian Russell's much-admired exploration of Claude Monet's garden at Giverny. This book ventures behind the scenes to chart the history of one of the world's most famous gardens, linking the world of Monet the artist with Monet the gardener. Four chapters trace the garden through the changing seasons, paying special attention to the atmosphere and light that so preoccupied Monet and became the focus of his life as a painter. Throughout, the work done by Giverny's present-day gardeners is analysed to reveal the practical techniques of maintaining the most-visited garden in the world.

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#### **History of Western Europe**

by James Robinson

By far one of the greatest history books ever written, James Robinson's classic of Western European history is an absolute must-read for anyone seeking a greater understanding of the power struggles and armed conflicts that formed the Europe, and the world, of today. Spanning over a thousand years, from the stunning fall of the western Roman Empire to the rise of the German industrial/military empire on the eve of World War I, Robinson weaves a beautiful, easy to read historical narrative of the major events and figures of European history. From Philip Augustus to Prince Metternich, from Charles Martel to the Holy Roman Empire and the Papal States, James Robinson's heavily illustrated history takes you on a journey of several lifetimes, and aims to leave you better and more informed than when you began.

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