



Item: Fast Lane News #30 in 2023 (#177 since 2020 published on Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023  
From: Peter in our office in Oldsmar, FL  
To: Our Fast Lane Travel Family and Friends at home in Australia, Canada, Europe, Iceland, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, South Africa and in the USA!  
Subject: Bordeaux is magnificent this time of year; Christmas in Vienna; My Final Thoughts



## I. Now Floating on the Garonne:

### Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023:

I went to the office this morning to wrap up a couple of open Euro Delivery planning items. Also, we are getting more inquiries about custom family trips. Likewise, the European Delivery Program is ramping up. There is always the “Epcot” syndrome we must deal with. “Peter, I’m in Europe on business and I want to tack on a long weekend. I want to see the Normandy Beaches; visit the PORSCHE Factory in Stuttgart, my wife wants to see David in Florence and do a little shopping in Milan, and we hear Vienna is the most beautiful city in Europe for sightseeing?” One of our key specialties is that we try to incorporate as many of the brand name destinations that customers have read about, or which have been mentioned by friends. A customer today thanked me profusely for sharing our knowledge and advice with him. We laid out a wonderful trip. Now the hard part starts - making reservations in 5 countries during peak season. And, no, you can’t do that online. We must call our key contacts, make a deposit or pre-pay the whole stay, and lock in the space. **Back to the Bordeaux River Cruise:** Christina ran me to the TPA Airport, and I flew TPA – JFK – CDG – BOD. Departed JFK punctually at 20:30 and arrived at CDG 20 minutes early – the gate was occupied so we waited on the tarmac.

### Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023:

Finally, after about a half an hour the plane was able. At Paris’ CDG Susan Sheridan – our wonderful travel agency manager – had organized a VIP Transfer Service for my arrival – I wanted to see how the service worked. What we can do for customers in some European cities is to provide such a



service where you are met at the top of the jetway as you get off the plane. That service is very useful, especially at huge European airports where you don't speak the language. It is a bit pricey at about \$240 to \$300 per arrival, however if you have a tight connection in Europe or are worried about this is the way to go. There is nothing like a friendly face on top of the jetway.

Unfortunately, our connecting flight to Bordeaux did not leave until 16:30 so after a transatlantic flight, a layover of six hours plus was not pleasant; however, our guide took us to a lounge which was about 5 minutes walking from our gate to Bordeaux. In the lounge we had refreshments and coffee . . . lots of coffee. He then returned at 15:45 and escorted us to the Bordeaux gate. No problem. I had purchased Air Tags for everyone and was reassured that all my luggage was on board the AB 321 CDG to BOD. In less than an hour, after a beautiful flight over the French countryside, we landed in Bordeaux. Here is some advice: if you ever go on an AMA cruise from Bordeaux. Go to the bathroom after you get off the plane, because once you are at the luggage belt, there are no bathrooms until after you collect your luggage and are out of the customs area.

We were met at the airport by representatives of AMA waterways, the luggage was loaded efficiently on the bus, and 15 minutes later we were at the river looking at this magnificent river ship on the Garonne River. Check in was smooth and a gin & tonic helped overcome the arduous flight and layover.

### **Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023:**

Today the AMA Dolce headed from Bordeaux to Saint-Emilion. I was awakened by some thumping overhead. My stateroom #305 apparently was right under the jogging track. No problem, it was good to know that some folks were up early exercising. It was a smooth trip to Saint-Emilion. Lots of wine tasting. I'm too incoherent to keep writing. Some pictures will have to suffice.





















## II. **Christmas trip**

Christmas in Vienna is an exciting tour beginning December 1<sup>st</sup> and ending December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023.



This tour promises to get you into the holiday spirit. You will arrive in Vienna and be transferred to the beautiful Kempinski where you will stay for several nights, and while there you will take walking tours of the beautiful city, partake in an Opera and explore the Spanish Riding School.







After taking a train, first class, to Salzburg you will be whisked away to Several Christmas markets during the day and evening hours as well and take the funicular to Hohensalzburg. You will delight in the ambiance of holiday excitement as well as be greeted with tastes and smells that are sure to delight your senses. We will also be taking you to visit the Vienna “Zentralfriedhof” (Museum), and Naschmarkt. Delight in taste of wassail and apfelstrudel.





### III. FLLT Advertising

After you have registered on [www.fastlanetravel.com](http://www.fastlanetravel.com) for one of our exciting tours, you will need to book your **flights** and **travel protection**. To assist you with these plans, please call our **Luxury Travel Manager, Susan Sheridan at 813-475-5989**. We strive to ensure THE best experience for our clients; our 24/7 emergency support desk is expertly serviced by in-house air specialists. Travel with ease as we have you covered in all locations, at all times. Susan can also counsel you on any pre-/post- private or small group tours, river, or Mediterranean cruises. Also, we highly recommend securing a travel insurance plan. Protecting your trip will give you peace of mind for any medical emergencies, cancellations, delays, or baggage issues.



### My Final Thoughts: On the 8th day - God created Seniors

Source: Ralph Sica

#### Most seniors never get enough exercise.

In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys, and other things, thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach, and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature, requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So, if you find, as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.



## Nine Important Facts to Remember as We Grow Older:

#9 Death is the number 1 killer in the world.

#8 Life is sexually transmitted.

#7 Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

#6 Men have two motivations: hunger and hanky-panky, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.

#5 Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.

#4 Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.

#3 All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

#2 In the 60's, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.

#1 Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today may be a burning issue tomorrow.



Please stay healthy and stay young; be happy and take good care of yourself...Let's look forward to the great times we will have together again on one of our fabulous PORSCHE Tours this year and let's look forward to 2024. **I will see you soon in Stuttgart. Can't wait. Peter**