

## **Faringdon U3A Wine Appreciation Group Mosel Valley trip June 2019**

### **Background**

At our February meeting Stuart McGuigan generously offered to organise a short trip to the Mosel hotel and vineyard of Wolfgang Köhl in Brauneberg, near Bernkastel. Unfortunately, there wasn't sufficient interest to make this a runner but the idea prompted the Cellar Team to see if this idea could be developed.

We have now found a specialist tour operator which puts together bespoke trips, exclusively in Germany, including fine wine tours of the Mosel. The proposal is that the Wine Group's vineyard trip in 2019 will be to the Mosel Valley. We will invite Travel Without Borders (TWB) <http://www.travelwithoutborders.co.uk> to be our package tour company for members to book places with directly, as individuals. The U3A does not allow us to act as a tour operator.

At our April meeting we handed out a preliminary prospectus for this trip and about a dozen people said they would be interested to hear more. We've had detailed conversations with the tour company and have firm travel dates plus a single room supplement cost, so this updated plan is now recommended by The Cellar Team for Wine Group members to book. We will decide whether to continue with the trip if the response is strong enough for it to be viable for TWB. We must have your reply on the linked Booking Request form by 1700 on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July please.

And we apologise for the length of this email but there's a lot of detail that you'll need to know before deciding to come on what promises to be a terrific trip covering great wines, their vineyards and traditional local foods. We've also added some links for more info.

Kind regards,

The Cellar Team

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### **Tailor-made fine wine and dine tour to the Mosel valley for the Faringdon U3A Wine Appreciation Group, prepared by Travel Without Borders**

#### **Introduction**

Travel Without Borders is a specialist UK tour operator which concentrates on holidays and short trips to Germany. This Leicester-based company has an ATOL licence which means travellers are protected in case of insolvency, though the company strongly advises that we have our own travel insurance. This Faringdon U3A trip is based on one of TWB's tried and tested Mosel packages to the village of Ediger-Eller.

Although none of the wine group has travelled with TWB before, the Smiths, McGuigans and Burns have all had excellent short breaks in the Mosel valley and can enthusiastically recommend the area for its dramatic scenery, towering vineyards, charming towns and villages, hospitable hosts with great food and terrific wines – often at remarkably reasonable prices!

### **Itinerary**

Ediger-Eller is not just one of the most attractive villages in the Mosel Valley, but it is indeed one of the prettiest villages across the whole of Germany and in 2010 it won a gold medal to prove it! Ediger is home to the family-run Moselromantik Hotel Zum Löwen\*, perfectly situated, with its large terrace, overlooking the Mosel. The history of the hotel dates back to 1840 and the hotel, its restaurants and wine-production business have remained in the same family ever since.

Accommodation at the hotel is stylish and comfortable and the restaurant – run by the owner, Kurt Saffenreuther- is an oasis for gourmet food lovers! Not only is Kurt a great chef, he also grows and produces his own wine, and his daughter was once wine queen! So who better to help us prepare our special “fine wine & dine” packages. In addition, there is a chance the wine queen or wine princess could welcome us to Ediger-Eller and we may even have a guided tour of the charming village.

- Sunday 23 June 2019: Outward flight from London Stansted to Frankfurt-Hahn (current timings are departure at 0730 and arrival at Frankfurt-Hahn at 0955)
- Coach transfer from the airport to the Hotel zum Loewen in Ediger-Eller (NB hotel does not have a lift)
- 4 nights’ bed & breakfast accommodation in a superior room with balcony and river view, or in a junior suite, but without balcony or river view (subject to availability). Standard double rooms will be allocated for single occupancy, but they do not have a balcony or river view unfortunately; they face the mountains, as do the junior suites.
- Three-course evening meals on three days plus one culinary wine-tasting dinner with 4-course menu and 4 wines from the hotel’s own winery (including water and coffee)
- Two wine tastings with different wine producers in Ediger-Eller and one/two other resorts
- Vineyard visit specially requested – subject to local conditions and availability of a suitable owner.
- River cruise from Ediger to the town of Cochem
- Coach excursion to nearby town of Zell followed by possible stop in the village of Kroev
- Coach pick up from Cochem back to Ediger with a stop in the famous ‘sleeping beauty’ village of Beilstein
- Thursday 27 June: Coach transfer from the Hotel to Luxembourg airport with return flight to London Stansted (current timings are departure at 2150 and arrival at 2205)

## **Assumptions**

- The Ryanair flights chosen will give us a near full first day and a long final day in the Mosel. † See below for alternative BA flight option.
- To minimise travel costs TWB will book the flights as soon as they come available later this summer.
- Return flight costs include reserved standard seats (supplement for extra leg room), priority boarding and two cabin bags (one of which is usually a handbag for women). Ryanair is strict, but hand luggage is up to 10kg. There will be a supplement for hold baggage.
- The price is based on 12 persons travelling together. The hotel can accommodate up to 16 in doubles plus four single rooms.
- The standard price is for sharing double rooms. Single rooms are available for a supplement.
- Accommodation is naturally subject to availability and in order to guarantee superior rooms/those rooms with a river view, it is wise to book as soon as possible. TWB will allocate rooms as they receive the bookings.
- We cannot guarantee that English speaking staff will be available but English is widely spoken in Germany. There will not be a local TWB rep in Germany but we will have their emergency number. This is their normal procedure for small groups.

\* <https://www.mosel-hotel-loewen.de> (German only)

## **Price and payments**

Travel Without Borders estimate the cost per person, including return flight, for people sharing a double room, to be between £650 and £700 for a minimum of 12 travelling. The single room supplement is £100 per person. Prices will be finalised in August/September when the airline has released the flights, at which time the balance of the deposit will be due.

1. We pay Travel Without Borders a £50 per person initial deposit when making our booking. All payments must be made by bank transfer or cheque. Credit and debit cards are not accepted. (If the eventual price is more than that quoted in this mailing, whether flying by Ryanair or BA, this deposit will be refunded.)
2. The balance of the deposit is £250 per person and payable when the total tour cost has been confirmed in August or September.
3. The tour balance is payable by 14 April 2019 (10 weeks prior)
4. The only out-of-pocket expenses will be lunches, drinks and shopping.

## **Timings**

- a) **Friday 6 July 2018.** Deadline for replying to this Wine Appreciation Group mailing. If 12 or more people have made a firm commitment by then we will ask Travel Without Borders to send you a booking form.
- b) **25 July 2018.** Travel Without Borders' deadline for receiving your booking and initial deposit of £50 per person. The best rooms will go to those who book earliest.
- c) **August/September 2018.** Confirmation of total tour cost when the £250 per person balance of deposit becomes due.
- d) **14 April 2019.** Final balance due to Travel Without Borders
- e) **23 June 2019.** Travel

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† BA flight option.

The proposed Ryanair flight leaves Stansted at 0730 which will mean an 0530 check-in (TBC). This goes to Frankfurt-Hahn which is very close to the Mosel. The return Ryanair flight will be from Luxembourg at 2150 to give us a long day in the Mosel.

The BA Heathrow option, flying into and out of Luxembourg, means a longer transfer both to and from the hotel, and would cost approx. £150 per person more. Please note that the 0825 BA flight time would mean an 0625 check-in (TBC). The return flight timing is almost the same as Ryanair's. If twelve of us at least want the Heathrow + BA option we'll go with that. Please use the Booking Request form to tell us your preference.

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### Small print

These are some of the main standard provisions in TWB's Terms and Conditions – some of which may vary from what's in this mailing. The full schedule can be found here <http://www.travelwithoutborders.co.uk/terms--conditions.html>

1. DEPOSIT Along with a signed booking form, a variable deposit per person is required (minimum £150) - you will be advised of the deposit due at time of booking (deposit requirements vary mainly due to the fluidity of transport costs). Optional insurance premiums must also be paid when booking. N.B. Failure to send in a signed booking form will not negate the contract. After your deposit has been received, we will send you your holiday confirmation invoice and this will detail the cost of the holiday and will be your contract with the Co. Under no circumstances can we accept a booking unless it is accompanied by the required deposit. We reserve the right to impose a surcharge for payments made by credit card.
2. PAYMENT OF BALANCE No final invoice will be sent unless amendments are made by the passenger (see clause 4), or a surcharge (see clause 14) has to be made. The balance of payment must be paid to travel without borders by you or your travel agent at least 8 weeks (for

special events and groups 12 weeks) before departure (reminders will not automatically be sent) and this is most important, as the Co. reserve the right to treat as cancelled any bookings not paid in full by the date due, and to retain the deposit paid. Refusal to honour any payment by the bank or card source will incur an extra £35.00 charge to cover bank and administration costs, which will be automatically added to any outstanding balance. The Co. regrets it cannot offer any credit.

4. AMENDMENTS AND CHANGES BY THE PASSENGER A fee of £25 per amendment/change per person will be charged to a confirmed booking. There may be additional charges to suppliers and in particular for certain airlines an amendment may be treated as a cancellation and a new booking required; name changes are not possible in respect of airline bookings.

5. CANCELLATION BY THE PASSENGER Cancellations must be submitted in writing by the signatory on the booking form/person who made the booking and are only accepted on the date received. All cancellations must be sent by special or recorded delivery. In addition to any insurance premiums paid, which will be automatically forfeited, the following conditions will strictly apply:

Period before departure, within which written instructions are received by travel without borders /  
Cancellation charge (written as a % of total holiday price) excluding insurance premium:

- More than 56 days / Deposit only
- 43-56 days / 40% (or deposit, if greater)
- 29-42 days / 60% (or deposit, if greater)
- 8-28 days / 80% (or deposit, if greater)
- Departure date – 7 days / 100%

23. FINANCIAL PROTECTION When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive holiday from us you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong.

### **About Travel Without Borders**

Travel Without Borders organise unique German holidays. With over 20 years experience in the travel industry, working exclusively providing trips to Germany, we have the expertise, passion and appreciation of the country and its culture. We run a small, fully bonded, hands-on personal service, which we use to our and your advantage. We love Germany and all it has to offer. It has vibrant cities, historical towns and breath-taking scenery. Germany has an abundance of culture and history with many famous hotspots, but it also has an endless amount of cycle and walking trails, spa towns, wine & beer festivals, and Christmas Markets in practically every city and town across the country. We want you to have the same magical experiences as many of our customers have had. That's why they keep coming back to us!

25/06/18

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Hotel Zum Löwen



River Mosel from the hotel