



## Two Loire Valley trips

In the fall of 1998 we'll repeat our popular trips through France's famous chateau region. Short biking days, quiet flat roads, and many inviting stops make these trips ideal for less experienced cyclists. Please call for full details.

### Big Loire, Little Loir

Sept. 12 to 17, 1998. 5 days, \$1095. (Single supplement: \$200)

The Loire river has a little brother: Le Loir, which weaves through a pastoral region whose enchanting villages and broad meadows have won it the nickname "La Douce France" (Gentle France). This Loir, too, has its historic chateaux and colorful gardens, all the more charming for their peaceful and uncrowded surroundings. Our trip gives you the best of both Loires, from the rugged clifftop castle of Chateaudun to the canals of Vendome. We end at the valley's most famous creation: Chateau Chambord, so enormous that King Francois I nearly bankrupted himself to get it built.

### Valley of the Kings

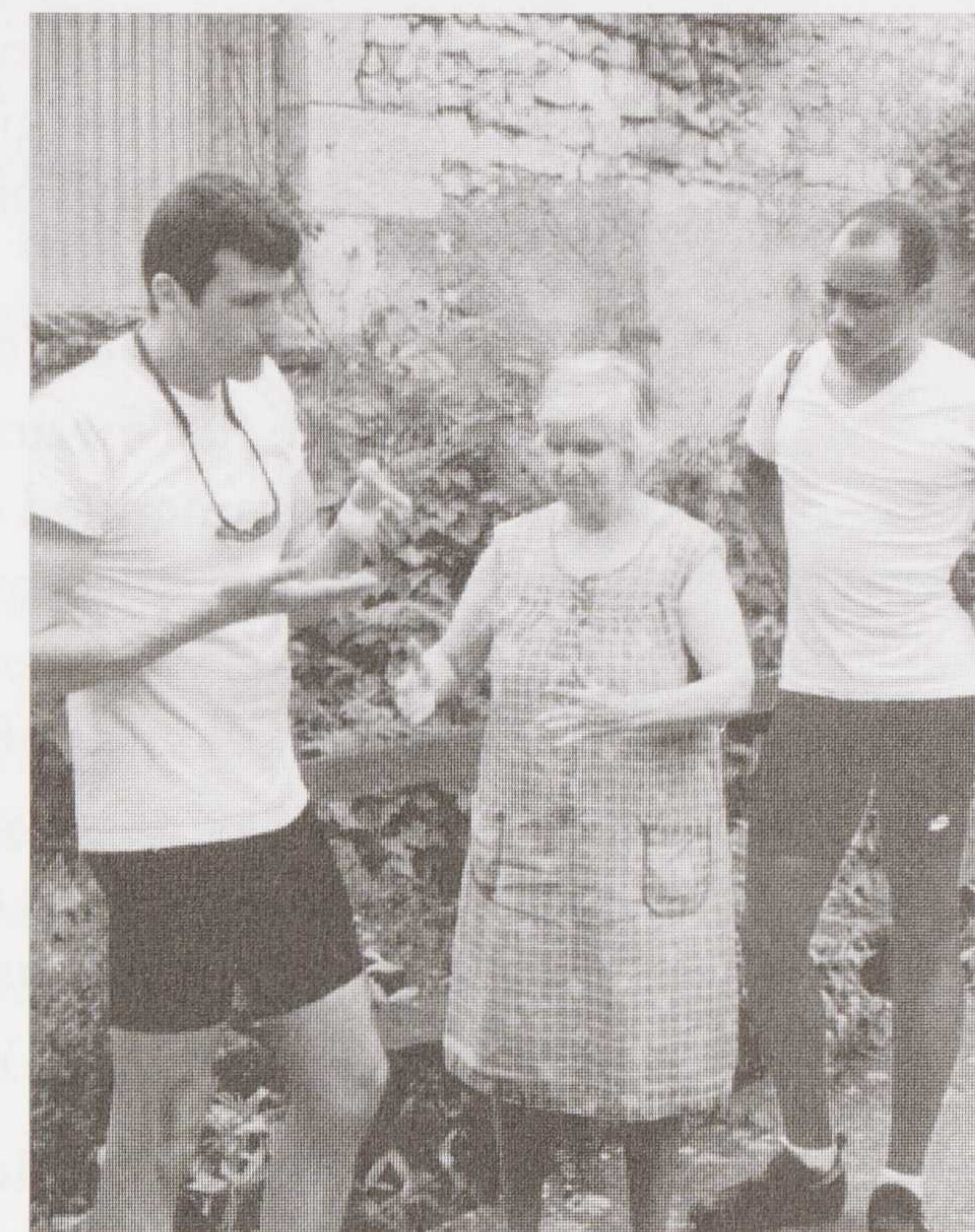
Sept. 18 to 25, 1998. \$1495. (Single supplement: \$250)

This week combines pastoral roads with glamorous chateaux: Blois, Chenonceau, Chinon, Villandry, and Saumur, and many others. Our September 1998 *Valley of the Kings* departure is intended for those who would enjoy a mixed-gender trip: Half the spots are reserved for gay men, half for lesbians.

## On a bike, you see the world

*differently. You can move at your own pace. Pull over with ease to admire a patch of wildflowers. Strike up a conversation with an elderly gardener who wants to brag a little about her plants. And at the end of the day, enjoy a gourmet dinner without guilt.*

Our bike trips offer small roads that ribbon through forests and farmlands. Repeatedly through the day you'll stop: To explore the ruins of an old Roman aqueduct, to climb a prehistoric Indian ceremonial mound, or to cool off with a quick swim. Find out for yourself why so many people feel a biking vacation provides a perfect balance of activity and relaxation.



### Price of each biking trip includes:

- Comfortable hotels each night;
- Services of two tour guides (one guide on certain trips with small groups);
- All breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 5 dinners with wine included\*;
- Transportation for luggage — and tired riders;
- A wine-tasting (French trips);
- Map, guidebook, and routes.

### Not included:

- Airfare;
- Bike rental (\$50 extra; or bring your own).

\*The 5-day *Big Loire, Little Loir* includes 1 lunch and 4 dinners.

**Start and end times:** Each bike trip begins at 6:00 p.m. on the date listed, with a reception, orientation, and dinner. Early arrivals can join us for a get-acquainted walking tour at 4:00 p.m. Trips officially end after breakfast on the last day, but our final night is spent in that town, so if you have tight connections you can depart earlier.