



## REPORT

### SAVOY ORDERS

#### 2015 CAPITOLO GENERALE

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

ST. MAURICE D'AGAUNE

AND

AMERICAN DELEGATION TOUR OF HISTORIC  
SAVOY SITES IN HAUTE SAVOIE, FRANCE

September 25 -28, 2015



*Lake Geneva, Switzerland*

### AMERICAN DELEGATION OF SAVOY ORDERS

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## 2015 CHAPTER GENERAL (*CAPITOLO GENERALE*) OF THE SAVOY ORDERS



### Geneva

The annual international reunion and assembly of the 2015 Chapter General (*Capitolo Generale*) of the Dynastic Orders of the Royal House of Savoy was held in Geneva and at the Abbey of Saint Maurice d'Agaune (September 26 – September 27). It was a memorable occasion for members of the American Delegation who participated in the weekend's traditional ceremonies presided over by the Grand Master, HRH Prince Victor Emmanuel of Savoy. The return of the Chapter General to Switzerland was to commemorate the 1500<sup>th</sup> jubilee anniversary of the founding of the ancient abbey of Saint Maurice that commemorates the site of the saint's martyrdom. And, historically Geneva was once the center of political power of the early Counts and Dukes of Savoy, who had controlled both shores of Lake Geneva. This connection with the Savoy dynasty made the city an ideal setting for members of the Savoy Orders from all over the world to

congregate and reaffirm in the 21st century, their millennial traditions and chivalric ideals.

The official investiture ceremony of the presentation of diplomas to new members and to those being promoted in the Orders of Merit of Savoy and of Saints Maurice and Lazarus took place in the Hotel President Wilson on Saturday, the 26<sup>th</sup>. It was followed by the traditional Gala dinner in the grand ballroom of the hotel with about 200 members and guests. On Sunday morning, the knights and dames, transported by buses to the historic Abbey of Saint Maurice d'Agaune in the Valais region of the Alps, donned their church mantles and processed into the abbey for a Solemn Mass in the presence of the Royal Family. Following the Mass, members and guests participated in a benefit luncheon, which brought to an end this convivial and confraternal assembly in the Savoy dynasty's territory of origin.



### Abbey of St. Maurice





The American Delegation consisted of the Delegate Cav. Gr. Cr. Avv. Carl J. Morelli; as well as those being admitted and promoted in the Savoy Orders. Admitted as *dama* in the *Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus*: Ms. Dorothy Flynn of Mission Viejo, California; Admitted as *cavaliere* in the *Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus* were: Henry V. Campbell III of Dallas, Texas and Dr. Allen Marchetti of New York City; Mr. Anthony Schembri, Jr. of New York City was admitted as *cavaliere* in the *Order of Merit of Savoy*. Promoted to the grade of *Ufficiale* in the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus were: Cav. Avv. Frank J. Desiderio of New York City and Cav. Louis Massimo M. Micolucci of Cochranville, Pennsylvania.



Our Delegation contingent also included Dama Dott.ssa Anna Armstrong from San Antonio, Texas, Dama Jolanta Fabicka of New York City, Dama Dott.ssa Catherine Stevenson of Houston, Texas; Cav. Very Rev. Canon Matthew R. Mauriello of Greenwich, Connecticut; Dama di Comm. Mira Zivkovich of New York City and Cav. Avv. Robert M. Clark of Dallas, Texas and guests who came to experience the traditional ceremonies and dazzling events. The shared experience of the Savoy Order's events and chivalric traditions in the magistral seat of the Savoy Orders forged lasting relationships and created indelible memories for our participants.



Comm. Agostino Mattoli, Cav. Dott. Allen Marchetti, Cav. Avv. Robert M. Clark, Uff. Louis M. Micolucci, Cav. Henry V. Campbell III, Cav. Lt. Col. Robert Ruffolo, Cav. Gr. Cr. Avv. Carl J. Morelli, Dama Dott.ssa Anna Armstrong, Dama Dott.ssa Catherine Stevenson, Uff. Avv. Frank J. Desiderio, Dama Dorothy Flynn, Dama Avv. Alessandra Zappa, Dama Jolanta Fabicka, Cav. Anthony Schembri, Jr., Dama di Comm. Mira Zivkovich



## DELEGATES' MEETING

Friday, September 25, 2015

The first event of the weekend took place on the Friday afternoon of September 25, 2015, at the Hotel President Wilson, where the members of the *Consiglio* and Delegates of the Savoy Delegations around the world were invited by the Grand Chancellor Cav. Gr. Cr. Johannes Niederhauser to the annual Delegates' Meeting of the Dynastic Orders of the Royal House of Savoy. Presiding at the meeting was His Royal Highness, Prince Victor Emmanuel of Savoy, our Grand Master, joined by his son HRH Prince Emmanuel Philibert of Savoy. On the agenda of the Chapter General during the plenary meeting, were reports of each Delegation's activities and the exchange of ideas on issues of common concern in their respective delegations.

Cav. Gr. Cr. Avv. Carl Morelli spoke about the activities of the American Delegation and the American Foundation of Savoy Orders and provided reports about our full calendar of events and programs of the past year which included: the *Savoy History Lecture*, the *Festa della Primavera Reception and Chivalry Awards Presentation* and the *St. Lazarus Mass and Dinner*. Mr. Morelli, assisted by Cav. Anthony Schembri, Jr., also presented to the Delegates his report and copies of the 2014 *Ballo di Savoia Journal* and a cumulative summary of all charitable contributions and grants made by the Savoy Foundation to various causes and programs. Plans were discussed on this occasion for the next year's Chapter General, which will take place in Rome, in on October 7-10, 2016.



## WELCOME DINNER

Friday, September 25

### *La Perle du Lac Restaurant*

On Friday evening, the members of the American Delegation and their guests had an enjoyable dinner at one of the finest restaurants in Geneva, a traditional get together before the official ceremonies and events of the weekend. *La Perle du Lac*, situated in a luxuriant pavilion in the Mon-Repos Park on Lake Geneva's bank, is a world renowned restaurant that has for a number of years always warmly greeted the American Delegation and during the event filled Capitolo weekend. It is well-known for its extensive open-air terraces that overlook beautiful gardens, flanking the lake. The classic French cuisine and lively conversation was complimented by fine local Swiss wines enjoyed by all.



#### *La Perle du Lac Restaurant*

*Cav. Anthony Schembri, Jr., Mr. Giuseppe Pianetti, Ms. Denise Kusters, Dama di Comm. Mira Zivkovich, Cav. Gr. Cr. Avv. Carl J. Morelli, and Dama Jolanta Fabicka*



*Dama Dott.ssa Anna Armstrong and Cav. Anthony Schembri, Jr. La Perle du Lac*



*Dining Out in Local Restaurants in Geneva*  
*Dama Jolanta Fabicka, Cav. Gr. Cr. Avv. Carl J. Morelli, Dama Dorothy Flynn and Cav. Avv. Robert Clark*



Sunday, September 27

### *Les Armures Restaurant*

On Sunday and Monday evenings, several members of the Delegation explored the quaint streets of old Geneva and dined at various charming restaurants, including the venerable *Les Armures*, one of the city's oldest dining establishments. Located in the heart of the ancient hill-topped section of the medieval walled city, the restaurant, noted for its typical regional cuisine and historic setting, has become over the years one of Geneva's favorite restaurants.





*Standing Center: H.R.H. Prince Victor Emmanuel, Duke of Savoy, Prince of Naples, Head of the Royal House of Savoy, XVII Grand Master of the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus and VI Grand Master of the Order of Merit of Savoy Confers Honors Accompanied by HRH Prince Emmanuel Philibert of Savoy and Grand Chancellor Johannes Niederhauser with HRH Prince Serge of Yugoslavia (far left) and Master of Ceremonies Cav. Gr. Cr. Nob. Dott. Carlo Buffa dei Conti di Perrero (far right)*



*Dama Dorothy Flynn*



*Cav. Dott. Allen Marchetti*

## INSTALLATION CEREMONIES ORDER OF SAINTS MAURICE AND LAZARUS AND ORDER OF MERIT OF SAVOY

**Saturday, September 26, 2015**

The Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus and the Order of Merit investitures were held in the afternoon in the conference hall of Hotel President Wilson. The Prince together with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Emmanuel Philibert of Savoy presented the diplomas and insignia welcoming new members of the Savoy Orders. The Grand Chancellor Cav. Gr. Cr. Johannes Niederhauser; the Grand Treasurer Cav. Gr. Cr. Nicholas Gagnebin; and the Master of Ceremonies Cav. Gr. Cr. Nob. Dott. Carlo Buffa dei Conti di Perrero. His Royal Highness Prince Serge of Yugoslavia also participated.

Congratulations to the honorees from the American Delegation of Savoy Orders, including: Dorothy Flynn, admitted as *Dama, Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus (OSSML)*; Henry V. Campbell III, admitted as *Cavaliere OSSML*; Dr. Allen Marchetti, admitted as *Cavaliere OSSML*; Cav. Avv. Frank J. Desiderio, promoted to *Ufficiale OSSML* and Cav. Louis Massimo Micolucci, promoted to *Ufficiale OSSML*. Mr. Anthony Schembri, Jr. was admitted as *Cavaliere* in the *Order of Merit of Savoy*



*Cav. Henry V. Campbell III*



*Cav. Anthony Schembri, Jr.*



*Uff. Avv. Frank J. Desiderio*





*Blessing of the Church Robes*



*Cav. Avv. Robert M Clark, Cav. Anthony Schembri, Jr., Cav. Gr. Cr. Dott. Sergio Pellecchi, Coordinator of the Savoy Orders for the Americas, Dama Dott.ssa. Catherine Stevenson and Cav. Henry V Campbell III*



*Cav. Anthony Schembri, Jr., Cav. Henry V. Campbell III, Dama Dorothy Flynn, Uff. Louis M. Micolucci and Delegate Cav. Gr. Cr. Avv. Carl J. Morelli*



*Comm. Agostino Mattoli and Dama Dott.ssa Anna Armstrong*



*Cav. Gr. Cr. Avv. Carl J. Morelli, Uff. Louis M. Micolucci, Cav. Anthony Schembri, Jr., Dama Dorothy Flynn, Cav. Lt. Col. Robert Ruffolo, Cav. Avv. Robert M. Clark*



*Uff. Louis M. Micolucci and Mrs. Jocelyn Micolucci*



RECEPTION AND  
GALA CHARITY  
DINNER

Saturday  
September 26, 2016

The Grand Ballroom  
Hotel President Wilson



In the evening, over 200 guests in formal attire attended a glittering Reception and Gala Charity Dinner in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel President Wilson. The hotel is ideally situated on Geneva's waterfront promenade, facing the magnificent panorama of the *Lac Lemman* and *Mont-Blanc* with picturesque views of the Alps. Just steps from the most beautiful parks and the boutiques in the renowned Rue du Rhône, the hotel is one of the city's most coveted locations. The Grand Master and Grand Chancellor welcomed the attendees and thanked all members for their commitment to the centuries old tradition of charity and good works.







*Standing: Uff. Avv. Frank Desiderio, Cav. Anthony Schembri, Jr., Dama Jolanta Fabicka, Cav. Gr. Cr. Avv. Carl Morelli, Grand Chancellor Johannes Niederhauser, Mrs. Jocelyn Micolucci, Uff. Louis M. Micolucci, Cav. Very Rev. Canon Matthew Mauriello, Cav. Avv. Robert Clark*  
*Seated: Mrs. Barbara Desiderio, Dama di Comm. Mira Zivkovich, Ms. Denise Kusters, Mr. Giuseppe Pianetti*



*(Clockwise facing the camera): Cav. Dott. Allen Marchetti, Dama Dorothy Flynn, Cav. Avv. Robert Clark, Cav. Henry V. Campbell III, Dama Dott.ssa Catherine Stevenson, Comm. Agostino Mattoli, and Dama Dott.ssa Anna Armstrong.*



Highlights of Gala  
Charity Reception and  
Dinner



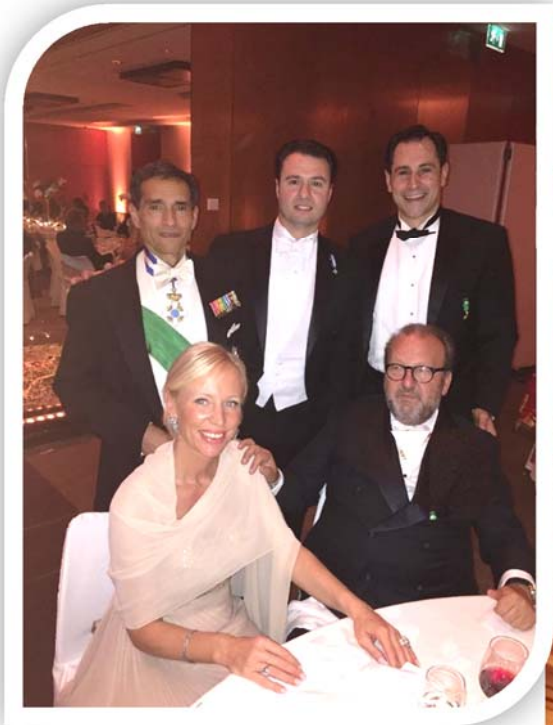




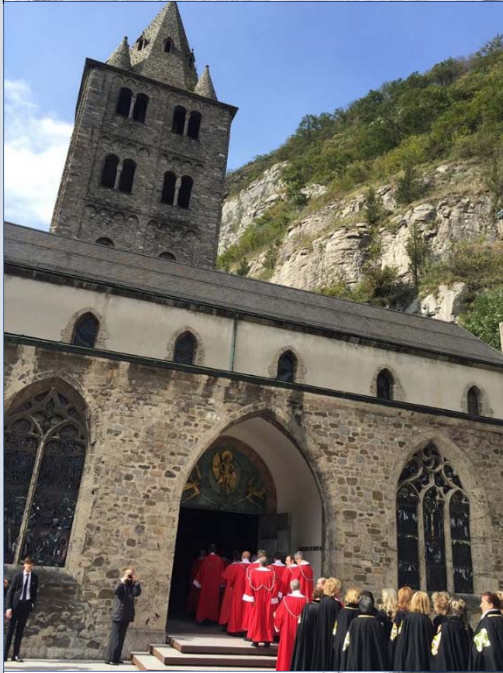












## MASS AND CAPITULO GENERALE AT THE ABBEY OF ST. MAURICE D'AGAUNE

**Sunday, September 27, 2015**

On a glorious, sunny Sunday morning, the American Delegation, joined our confreres in the international Savoy Orders and departed from the Hotel President Wilson on board a bus provided by the Chancellery for our pilgrimage to the 1500 year old Abbey of Saint Maurice in the Swiss village of Saint Maurice d'Agaune, to participate in the annual Procession and Solemn Mass. The Abbey was constructed on the site where Saint Maurice and his companions, all Christian Roman soldiers of the Theban Legion, were martyred for refusing to renounce their faith. Saint Maurice is the Patron Saint of Savoy and of many Swiss, French and Savoyard villages as well as the Patron Saint and Protector of the Italian Royal House. Approximately 200 robed members of the Savoy Orders processed with the Grand Master.

Passing through some of the most beautiful landscape in southwestern Switzerland following the shoreline of Lake Geneva – Lausanne and Montreux – and by the ancient Savoy Castle of Chillon and dozens of small vineyards and villages – the American Delegation arrived at about 11:00 am at the historic abbey.

## PROCESSION INTO THE ABBEY



The Chapter Mass was celebrated at Abbey of Saint-Maurice d'Agaune in the presence of Their Royal Highnesses Prince Victor Emmanuel, Duke of Savoy, Princesses Marina and Maria Pia of Savoy and Prince Serge of Yugoslavia. The Solemn Mass was celebrated by Cav. Gr. Cr. Monsignor Paolo De Nicolo, Titular Bishop of Mariana (Corsica), Grand Prior of the Dynastic Orders, assisted by Chaplains of the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus. Approximately 200 robed members of the Savoy Orders processed with the Grand Master. This was an exceptional occasion due to the closing of the Jubilee Year celebrating the one thousand five hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Abbey. The oldest active abbey of the West, it is administered by the Canons Regular of St. Augustine, which preserve the treasures and relics of the martyrs of the Theban Legion, especially those of Saint Maurice, the patron saint. The sacred relics of Saint Maurice, encased in an ornate gold reliquary, rarely displayed, were on view during the annual Mass, as tradition dictates. The powerful and extraordinary choir and soloists enhanced the majesty of the ancient religious ceremony.





*Lineup of Members of the Savoy Orders Preceding the Procession into the Abbey of St. Maurice*





*Procession and Solemn Mass at the Abbey of St. Maurice d'Agaune with Members of the Savoy Orders and the Royal Family, September 27, 2015*



*Grand Master H.R.H. Prince Victor Emmanuel of Savoy Processes into the Abbey of Saint Maurice d'Agaune with the Members of the Dynastic Orders of the Royal House of Savoy*









RECESSIONAL







## DELEGATION TOUR OF HISTORIC SAVOY SITES IN SAVOY, FRANCE



*Royal Abbey of Hautecombe*



*Lunch at the L'Auberge du Père Bise on the shores of Lake Annecy Lake*



*Ancient Annecy*

For many years, the members of the American Delegation of Savoy Orders have participated in an annual tour on the day after the Capitolo Generale. This year's tour of historic Savoy sites in the Savoy region of France provided a glimpse into the intimately interwoven history of the Savoy dynasty with the Savoy region.

The Delegate, Cav. Gr. Cr. Avv. Carl J. Morelli, led the *cavalieri* and *dame* from New York, Texas and Connecticut joined by family members. The tour contingent consisted of Cav. Henry V. Campbell III, Dama Jolanta Fabicka, Uff. Avv. Frank Desiderio and Mrs. Barbara Desiderio, Cav. Dott. Allen Marchetti, Cav. Very Rev. Canon Matthew Mauriello and Cav. Anthony Schembri, Jr. The tour departed from the Hotel President Wilson to the ancient Royal Abbey of Hautecombe, followed by lunch in the Michelin rated *L'Auberge du Père Bise* and a tour of Annecy Castle in the Savoie region in France.

Passing bucolic villages and alpine passes and accompanied once again by English speaking tour guide, Mme. Chantal George, the tour group crossed the border from Switzerland into Savoy, France. Under the sovereignty of the Savoy Dynasty from about 1,000 to 1860, this greatly coveted frontier region was for centuries a nation in its own right, powerful and independent, with its own rich history and traditions.



*Cav. Dott. Allen Marchetti in the Savoy Tour Bus*



## The Royal Abbey of Hautecombe



*Royal Abbey of Hautecombe*



*Intricate Stone Carvings of the Facade and Interior*



*Tomb of King Umberto II and Queen Marie-José of Italy*

Located on the west bank of Le Bourget Lake, overlooking the expansive lake, is a historic jewel, the **Royal Abbey of Hautecombe**, built in the troubadour Gothic style. It is renowned as a spiritual center and for being the necropolis of the early members of the House of Savoy and several of the later Savoy kings and queens. A former Cistercian monastery and later a Benedictine monastery, it is the most widely visited monument in Savoy located in Saint-Pierre-de-Curtille near Aix-les-Bains, in Savoy, France.

Hautecombe was for centuries the burial-place of the Counts of Savoy. **Count Humbert III (1135-1189)**, known as "Blessed", and his wife Anne were interred there in the latter part of the 12th century; and about a century later **Boniface of Savoy, Archbishop of Canterbury (1245-1270)**, son of **Count Thomas I of Savoy**, was buried in the sanctuary of the abbey church. He had come from England with King Edward I to accompany him on a crusade, but died at the castle of St. Helena in Savoy. The **abbot Anthony of Savoy**, a son of **Charles Emmanuel I**, was also buried there in 1673 as was the Savoy **King Charles Felix of Sardinia-Piedmont** after his death in 1831.

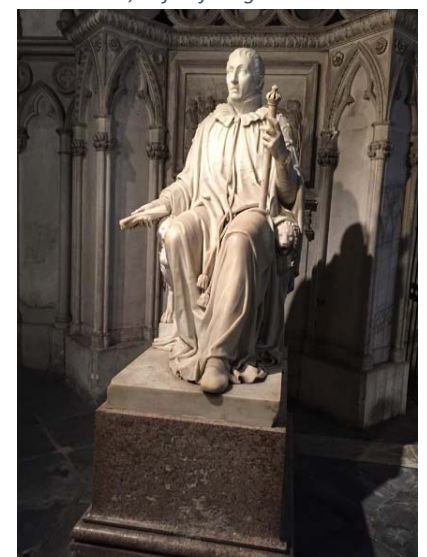
The last Savoy king of Italy, **Umberto II**, was entombed in a separate chapel in 1983 and was joined with his wife **Queen Marie-José** following her death in 2001.



*A Side Chapel in the Abbey*



*Statue of Queen Maria Christina of Sardinia, wife of King Charles Felix*



*Statue of King Charles Felix of Sardinia-Piedmont (1821-1831)*

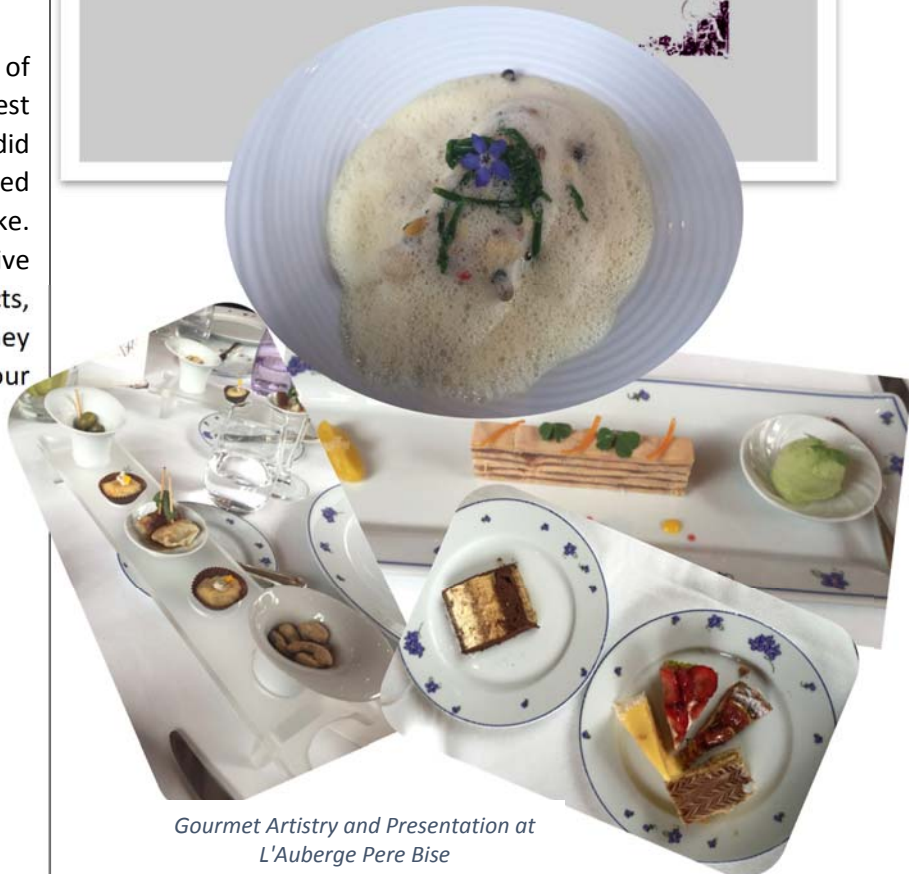
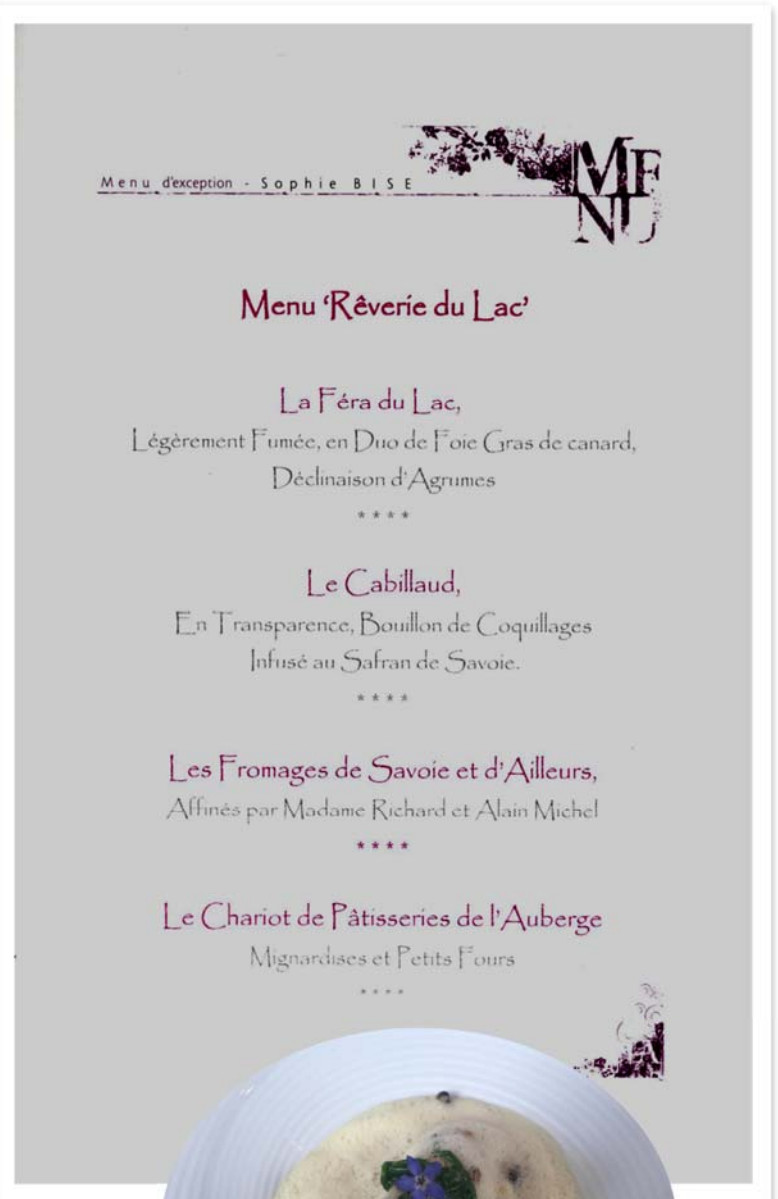


**1:00 pm Lunch: L'Auberge du Père Bise, Annecy, Haute Savoie, France**



After working up an appetite touring the expansive Abbey, the tour group was taken to a picturesque regional and historic restaurant, the irresistibly charming *L'Auberge du Père Bise*. The menu is an elegant blend of classicism and modernity, particularly known for offering refined gourmet preparations using fish from Annecy Lake with a perfect combination of the most savory ingredients. Idyllically located on the banks of Lake Annecy in the village of Talloires, 30 miles south of Geneva, the one-hundred year-old inn is at once elegant, charming and sophisticated. Michelin rated, it is one of only 19 top establishments in France.

Surrounded by protective mountains, the water of Lake Annecy is reputed to be one of the cleanest in the world, inspiring Paul Cezanne's splendid painting of the same name. The *Père Bise* offered breathtaking views from its terrace on the lake. The chef Sophie Bise is famous for her creative dishes using only regional and local fresh products, which are also sculpted to look as lovely as they taste, prepared an exquisite menu for the tour members.



*Gourmet Artistry and Presentation at  
L'Auberge Pere Bise*



*Savoy tour members savor the exquisite delicacies and service of l'Auberge du Père Bise*





## 2:30 pm Tour of Annecy and Château d'Annecy



*Panoramic View of Annecy*

After the sumptuous gourmet luncheon, the Savoy tour members departed for the ancient town of Annecy, which is located between Geneva and the old Savoy capital of Chambéry. Its history was strongly influenced by these two towns between the 10th and the 19th centuries. Starting as the capital of the county of Geneva, after the demise of the last of the Counts of Geneva, it became integrated into the House of Savoy's possessions in 1401. In 1444, the town was designated by the Princes of Savoy as the capital of a region embracing their possessions of the Genevois, Faucigny and Beaufortain.

With the advance of Calvinism in 1535, it became a center for the Counterreformation and the bishop's See of Geneva was transferred here. Saint Francis of Sales who was bishop of Annecy, was born at the nearby castle of Sales in 1567.



In 1416, Amadeus VIII, the count of Savoy became the family's first Duke of Savoy, a title which was to legitimize at European level the geostrategic role of Savoy and which was to earn its rulers the appellation of "Gatekeepers of the Alps," since they controlled key western crossings from Northern Europe into the Italian peninsula. With the gradual unification of the Italian regions by the House of Savoy, the Savoy region was ceded to France on June 14, 1860, the last province to become part of the French nation.



Before returning to Geneva, members toured the quaint ancient streets of Annecy and the Chateau d'Annecy, a fortress which dominates the old French town. It was bought by the town, restored and transformed into a museum, *le musée-château d'Annecy*. The castle is listed as a “monument historique” by the French Ministry of Culture.



*Charming Ancient Streets in Annecy*



*The Fortress of Annecy*

*By Dama di Comm. Larissa Van Duser  
Principal Photography: Cav. Anthony Schembri, Jr., Cav. Avv. Robert M. Clark, Dama Dott.ssa Catherine Stevenson*