JUNE 15–24, 2019

Gastronomy & Culture in Hungary & Slovenia

with Darra Goldstein, world-renowned food scholar and Professor of Russian, Emerita at Williams College
**Travel with Darra Goldstein, world-renowned food scholar and Professor of Russian, Emerita at Williams College.**

Darra Goldstein is the Willcox B. and Harriet M. Adsit Professor of Russian, Emerita at Williams College and Founding Editor of *Gastronomica: The Journal of Food and Culture*, named the 2012 Publication of the Year by the James Beard Foundation. A world-renowned food scholar, she has published widely on literature, culture, art, and cuisine and has organized several exhibitions. She is also an award-winning author of five cookbooks, including *The Georgian Feast*, winner of the 1994 IACP Julia Child Award for Cookbook of the Year.

**Ritz-Carlton, Budapest**

This five-star hotel is located in the heart of Budapest, just a short walk from St. Stephen's Basilica, Erzsébet Square, and the River Danube. The hotel's rooms offer spacious, residential-inspired layouts, contemporary design, and views of the city's picturesque landmarks. Set within a 19th-century heritage building, the hotel presents modern luxury with a hint of tradition. Other five-star amenities include Hungarian-inspired cuisine at Deák St. Kitchen, a lavish buffet breakfast in the hotel's breakfast room, and a spa that draws from European expertise.

**Intercontinental Hotel, Ljubljana**

This hotel is the first five-star and tallest hotel in Slovenia's capital, located in downtown Ljubljana and just a few minutes on foot from Prešeren Square and the Triple Bridge. This hotel has added a slice of international luxury to Ljubljana, offering rooms with sweeping views of the city and a fabulous Mediterranean-inspired menu in the hotel's restaurant overseen by Michelin-starred Italian chef Alfredo Russo. The 18th-floor Saruna spa is a real highlight, with an indoor pool, hot tub, steam room, and two saunas. Daybeds are set up to make the most of the panoramic views.
Itinerary
This custom travel program has been created uniquely for Williams College.

Saturday, June 15, 2019
Departures from the U.S.
Depart from the U.S. on independent flights to Budapest, Hungary.

Sunday, June 16, 2019
Welcome to Budapest
Upon arrival at the Budapest International Airport (BUD), join a group transfer to the luxurious Ritz-Carlton Budapest. In the afternoon, enjoy a welcome lunch with fellow travelers at a local restaurant, followed by an orientation walking tour of the city center of the Pest side of the Danube led by an expert guide. See an eclectic mix of historic and modern buildings, Elisabeth Square's Danube Fountain, and the monumental St. Stephen's Basilica. Back at the hotel, gather over light refreshments for a formal presentation. Dinner and the rest of the evening are at leisure.
Ritz-Carlton, Budapest (B, L)

Monday, June 17, 2019
A Day in Castle Hill & Pest
Dedicate the morning to exploring Castle Hill, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that contains some of Budapest's most important medieval monuments and museums. Start with a visit to Matthias Church, the jewel of Castle Hill, with its remarkable stained-glass windows, frescoes, and decorative tiled roof. Then explore the picturesque fortifications of Fisherman's Bastion and admire the city's best panoramic views over the Danube. Cross the river and continue the morning's touring with a visit to the Hungarian House of Parliament. Inside, we visit just a few of the over 700 rooms—most notably those containing paintings by Károly Lotz and Mihály Munkácsy. After an independent lunch, take a guided tour through Budapest's Opera House, one of the most beautiful Neo-Renaissance buildings in Europe and the crowning achievement of the famous Hungarian architect Miklós Ybl. Our tour concludes with a glass of champagne and an exclusive musical performance by an opera singer. This evening embark on a tranquil cruise along the Danube River for dinner paired with marvelous views of the city.
Ritz-Carlton, Budapest (B, D)

Tuesday, June 18, 2019
Eger & Its Vinous Wonders
Take a day trip to the Eger region, Hungary's northernmost red-wine-producing region, best known for its signature red blend Egri Bikavér, which translates to “Bull's Blood.” Visit a renowned winery and taste different versions of Bikavér, as well as Eger’s newer white blend Egri Csillag. Enjoy a group lunch in Eger and a discussion with a local expert on how the regional food matches with the local wine. In the late afternoon, head back to Budapest and enjoy dinner and the rest of the evening at leisure.
Ritz-Carlton, Budapest (B, L)
Art & Gastronomy in Budapest

Spend the morning exploring Budapest’s contemporary art scene with visits to three of the city’s famous galleries. Have lunch on your own before heading to The Central Market Hall, Budapest’s cathedral of food and one of Europe’s largest and most spectacular indoor markets. See the great variety and abundance of ingredients (mostly local and seasonal) on display, discuss the culture of eating and drinking in Hungary, and taste a selection of foods. After the market visit, head to a classic coffeehouse to sample some of the elegant cakes for which Hungarian bakers are known. Finish your day at an acclaimed tasting table and enjoy a dinner with top Hungarian wines and food.

Ritz-Carlton, Budapest (B, D)

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Arrival in Slovenia

This morning, check out of the hotel and enjoy a morning visit to the vibrant and architecturally interesting Locals’ Market before departing Budapest and heading to Ljubljana. En route, stop in Tihany, a small town featuring the Tihany Abbey, a Benedictine monastery established in 1055. Also visit a local winery to sample locally produced wines and enjoy a copious lunch. Continue on a scenic drive to Ljubljana, traversing beautiful landscapes and the region’s small towns. Upon arrival in Ljubljana, check into the centrally located Intercontinental and enjoy a restful evening at leisure.

Intercontinental Hotel, Ljubljana (B, L)

Friday, June 21, 2019

Artistic Heritage of Ljubljana

This morning, embark on a guided walking tour of the old Baroque center of Ljubljana. Walk the stalls of the famed open-air farmers market full of colorful produce, fragrant flowers, and delicious cheeses elegantly displayed around the plaza. Next, embark on a guided cruise along the Ljubljanica River to discover architecture inspired by the Viennese Secession and Art Nouveau. Lunch today is a feast of regional specialties at a cozy Slovenian restaurant. Then visit the house of architect Jozef Pucnik, who rebuilt Ljubljana after the devastating earthquake in 1895, remodeling Ljubljana after Vienna and Prague. Later this afternoon, take a guided tour of the National Gallery of Slovenia’s permanent collection, exploring neoclassicism, early Slovene modernism, and realism. Dinner and the rest of the evening are at leisure.

Intercontinental Hotel, Ljubljana (B, L)

Saturday, June 22, 2019

Idyllic Landscapes of Lake Bled

This morning is devoted to Slovenia’s natural beauties. Slovenia is an exceptionally green country—the third most forested country in Europe after Finland and Sweden. Its mostly unspoiled countryside is gentle and rolling, perfect for photographs. Take a 45-minute drive through the beautiful wooded landscapes north of the capital to the idyllic Lake Bled, one of Europe’s most scenic bodies of water. At the lake, visit the picturesque Bled Castle and enjoy rides on traditional “Pletna” boats. The historic Pletna, which originated in 1590, is powered by a standing oarsman rowing with two oars. Afterwards,
enjoy a lunch of local specialties and sample the region’s famous cream cake. On the way back to Ljubljana, stop at a farm to learn more about local agriculture and how it translates into traditional Slovenian cuisine.

*Intercontinental Hotel, Ljubljana (B, L)*

**Sunday, June 23, 2019**

**A Slovenian Artistic Touch**

This morning, explore Old Ljubljana’s history and architecture, and learn about local and national gastronomy as you sample a variety of Slovenian dishes along the way. Enjoy free time for lunch and shopping in the early afternoon, before meeting with a local artist in her studio. This evening, gather for a celebratory farewell dinner in one of the city’s acclaimed restaurants.

*Intercontinental Hotel, Ljubljana (B, D)*

**Monday, June 24, 2019**

**Return to the U.S.**

This morning, board a group transfer to the airport for independent return flights to the U.S.

*(B)*

Photos: (right) Cream Cake (29cm) and (below) Art Nouveau in Ljubljana (Jean-Pierre Dalbéra)
GASTRONOMY & CULTURE IN HUNGARY & SLOVENIA

DATES: June 15–24, 2019

TOUR COST:

Land Package .................................................................. $5,595
Single Supplement ....................................................... $1,395

Tour Price is per person based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 18 paying participants. Land prices are calculated as of October 2018 and are subject to change.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: Moderate, good walking ability advised.

DEPOSIT & FINAL PAYMENT: A deposit of $1,000 per paying participant will be required to guarantee participation in the program. This may be paid by check, or by Visa or MasterCard. Final payment will be invoiced and is due on March 7, 2019 by check only.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: International and U.S. domestic airfare are not included in the package cost. Participants are responsible for all aspects of their air arrangements arriving in Budapest, Hungary, and departing from Ljubljana, Slovenia.

INCLUSIONS: Four (4) nights at the Ritz-Carlton Budapest and four (4) nights at the Intercontinental Hotel, Ljubljana; entrance fees to all sites listed in the itinerary; land transportation by deluxe private motor coach including one (1) group transfer from the airport upon arrival in Budapest and one (1) group airport transfer upon departure from Ljubljana; breakfast daily, five (5) lunches, three (3) dinners, two (2) wine tastings; two (2) glasses of wine or beer at dinners; academic leadership of Darra Goldstein; services of an ISDI Tour Director; expert, local guides for planned sightseeing activities; personal listening devices; handling of two (2) pieces of luggage per person upon arrival and departure at the hotels; gratuities for guides and motor coach drivers; bottled water on motor coach; taxes, service fees, and porterage fees.

TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE: Airfare, airline taxes, and fuel surcharges; airport porterage; individual airport/hotel transfers for those not using the scheduled group transfers; excursions, activities, or meals during traveler’s free time; any items or excursions listed as optional; personal services; travel extensions; personal insurance for health, baggage, and tour cancellation; passport fees; visa fees; gratuities for hotel housekeeping; any other items not specifically included in the itinerary.

TRIP INSURANCE: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available through Williams College and other providers for comprehensive coverage of such expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident, and damaged or lost luggage. Williams will send you insurance information upon receipt of your reservation.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: International Seminar Design, Inc. (“ISDI”) and Williams College reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason including insufficient numbers of participants, as well as the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time. If bookings fall below the minimum required, passengers will be advised of potential additional costs or itinerary alterations before departure date.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations must be received in writing by ISDI, and charges are calculated as of the day notification is received in writing by ISDI. If a tour member cancels, the following scale of charges is incurred: There is a non-refundable administrative fee of $500 per person. The costs associated with any tickets purchased for planned activities (as indicated in the itinerary) are non-refundable. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or before March 7, 2019: full refund minus $500 per person administrative fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or between March 8 and May 1, 2019: full refund of recoverable land costs, less $2,850 per person cancellation charge. Cancellations received on or after May 2, 2019: no refund. After the tour has commenced, it is not possible to issue any refunds. No refunds for any unused portion of the tour including, but not limited to, occasional missed meals or any missed sightseeing tours. Costs for promotion, staff, and other group expenses are not refundable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not acceptable. The tour cost is non-transferable. A package of cancellation, baggage, and medical insurance is strongly recommended. International Seminar Design, Inc. (ISDI) acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations, and all other services relating to this tour. ISDI, the President and Trustees of Williams College, the Society of Alumni of Williams College, and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity, which may be caused by any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus, or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of the tour.

FOR QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Williams Alumni Travel Study
Tel: (413) 597-4011
Email: alumni-travel@williams.edu

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Enclosed is my credit card information or deposit by check made payable to International Seminar Design, Inc. in the amount of $1,000 per person.

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**LAND PACKAGE DEPOSIT ($1,000 PER PERSON):**

- ☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ Check Make check payable to International Seminar Design, Inc.

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**ROOMING OPTIONS:** *(please select)*

- ☐ Double Occupancy; I will share a room with ____________________________________________________________________
- ☐ Single Supplement ($1,395)
- ☐ I would like a roommate but will pay the price of the single supplement if one cannot be found.

**EACH PARTICIPANT MUST SIGN** *(registration invalid without signature)*

The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risks therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless Williams College Alumni, International Seminar Design, Inc (ISDI) and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licenses, or representatives from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death or for the loss of and/or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, this tour.

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**COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM BY MAIL OR FAX TO:**

International Seminar Design, Inc.
4115 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Suite 101
Washington, DC 20016

Fax: (202) 244-1808

For Questions: Call (202) 244-1448 or email info@isditravel.com