**LIFE Institute**

**Summer 2019**

**Courses**

**Course Title**

**The Châteaux of the Loire Valley: the ideals of the Renaissance**

**Note: This series begins on Wednesday July 10 and ends August 14**

**Course Description**

Less than 20 years ago, the Loire Valley joined the exclusive club of UNESCO World Heritage. With its architectural and artistic treasures, the French “Valley of the Kings” remains the cradle of the French Renaissance in the 15th and 16th centuries. It is in the Loire Valley that Joanne of Arc won one of her most decisive victories against the English; and, it is in the Loire Valley that the kings of France chose to build a string of royal residences, away from ever volatile Paris and invented Court life. The source of this brilliant civilization? Italy. Inspired by what he discovered in Italy, King Francis I had Chambord, the largest château of the early 16th century, built. Five centuries later, the Loire Valley remains at the heart of French history, culture and identity.

*Participants will learn through a series of illustrated lectures, taught by an expert.*

**Instructor Bio’s**

Olivier Courteaux received his B.A. in history, M.A. in war and conflict studies and Ph.D. in contemporary international relations from the University of Paris-Sorbonne. He has lectured at various Canadian universities, including Ryerson and the Royal Military College of Canada. He is the author of *The War on Terror: the Canadian Dilemma* (2009), *Canada Between Vichy and Free France, 1940-1945* (2013) and *Quatre Journées qui ébranlèrent le Québec* on Charles de Gaulle’s famous 1967 “Vive le Québec Libre” (2017). His latest book, *The Empress Eugenie at Suez, 1869: France and Egypt during the Second Empire* is scheduled for release in April 2019.

**Day & Time**

Wednesday, 12 p.m.

**Dates**

July 10 to August 14

**Category**

History

**NOTE:**

Ginny’s numbering system: S21 The Loire Valley