

# The Castles Ride of the Loire valley on Mangalarga Marchador





**Pain et beurre**



**Amuse bouche**



**fromage de chèvre**



**Soup de hommarde**



**Filet de boef**



**Zandre**



**Petits gateaux**



# Chateau Montpoupon



Two Brasilians, two Germans with two french guides made a tour from castle to castle in the Loire valley in France from September 28th until October 6th, 2012.

France means excellent food and wonderful wines, Loire valley means more than 60 castles within a circle of 50 km and Brasilians mean special horses: Mangalarga Marchadores!

The Loire Valley lies in central France, bordered by the regions of Brittany, Normandy and the Ile de France to the north, the Massif Central and Poitou to the south, Burgundy to the east and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. The river itself is the longest in France (1,020 km /634 miles). One can distinguish 6 diverse regions along this beautiful valley. The ride was mainly in the Blaisois (Blois) in the central part. This fertile land was once the playground of kings and their court, who left behind a trail of magnificent châteaux ranging from exuberant Renaissance to Classical grandeur. With fields of vines stretching along both banks of the river wine has an important place in the Loire Valley, of which Sancerre and Muscadet are the best known.

Sophia and Marcelo Baptista de Oliveira made this trip with Astrid Oberniedermayr and Dieter Mader and the vitrine stallions Patek de Maripá, Urano de Maripá, Ourofino ElFar and the stallion Fandango de Maripá. Again these Marchadores did a wonderful job and gave us great time riding in comfortable Marcha with a speed of 9 km / h along the castles! The rides took two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon. Lunchbreak allways took place in or close to one of the wonderful castles to visit the castle and have some lunch and some wine.

The first day: A leisurely two-hour ride westwards through wooded areas and farmland brought us to the privately owned Château de Montpoupon, home to the "Huntsman Museum" where 25 rooms are dedicated to the history, craft and skills associated with everything to do with horses and hunting. Visit after lunch at the „Auberge du Château“.

Next morning after breakfast pack up and leave the Prieuré de la Chaise, rejoin the horses and ride to the magnificent château de Chenonceau followed by a visit of this jewel of the Renaissance. Lunch at one of the restaurants of the Château. The afternoon was spent riding through the beautiful forest of “Amboise” until Souvigny de Touraine. Here the horses spent the night in the „Gite Equestre Le Tremblay“ in nearby Vallieres Les Grandes (5km). A ten-minute car transfer brought the riders to the majestic Château de Pray overlooking the Loire river.



Ears of Sandango de Maripá



Durofino ElSar and Sandango de Maripá

## Chateau de Chenonceau



Patek and Urano de Maripá

# Chateau de Chaumont



After rejoining with our horses at Souvigny de Touraine the next day we rode along the Loire River to the 15th century Château de Chaumont where we stopped for lunch. Visit of the château and its beautiful gardens (famous). We then rode along the Loire for a few kms before turning south towards Pontlevoy.

Next day we rode over hill and dale to the small fortified castle of Fougères sur Bievre where we stopped for lunch. We then continued on to the Château du Breuil leaving our horses at the „Ecuries de la Fouasserie“ in Cormeray.



*Meano de Maripá*

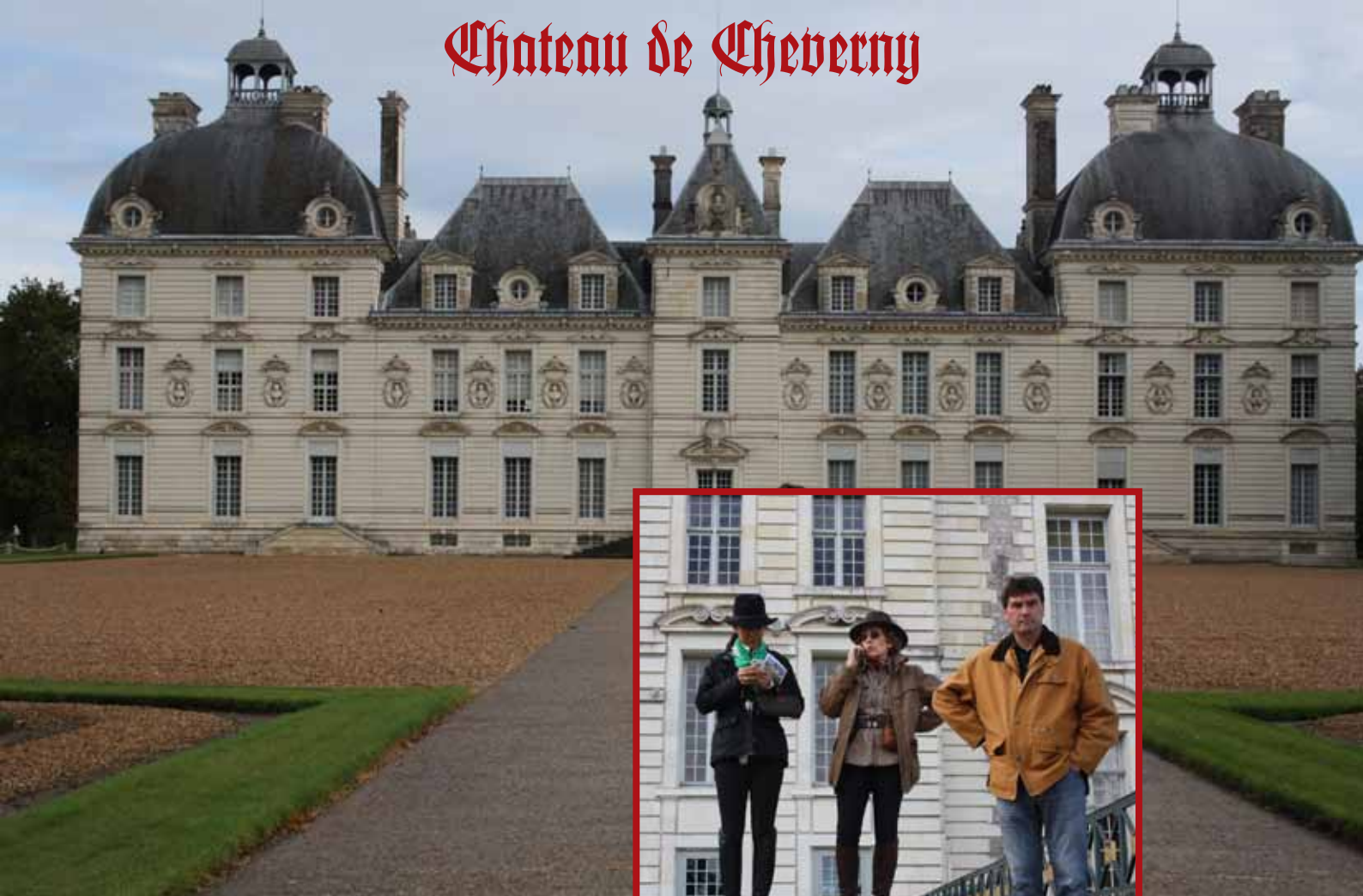


*Patek de Maripá*



*Durofino ElSar and Sandango de Maripá*

# Chateau de Cheverny



The next morning we visited the elegant and beautifully furnished Chateau de Cheverny with its spectacular grounds, stables, kennels... without horses because it was raining.

The Cheverny Hunt, which rides twice a week in winter, is famous throughout the Sologne.





# Chateau de Chambord



Durofino ElSar

Sandango de Maripá

Patek de Maripá

Urano de Maripá



Our last day's ride took us to the heart of the Sologne. After lunch in Villesavin, we rode on to the impressive Château de Chambord through the large forested domain of the château. We end our ride in front of this imposing chateau that was built as a hunting lodge for King Francois 1er. This is where we say goodbye to our horses who board their truck and leave for Germany while we went on to Paris to see the show of the 4 big riding schools! It was an unforgettable tour! Thank you for everything, Sophia and Marcelo!



Sandango de Maripá

Durofino ElSar



Patek de Maripá

Urano de Maripá