



CAROLINE ZOOB | WORKSHOPS

Join Caroline Zoob & Kate Nicole (Oyster Bridge & Co) in France for a week of Creative Workshops from 4-11 September, 2017



St Victor la Grand' Maison is a small, turrets-and-fairytale-towers chateau about 50 miles north east of Poitiers in the French region of Berry

I spent a week here with my husband a couple of years ago, and was struck by the peaceful atmosphere and relaxed charm and comfort of the place. I thought how marvellous it would be to gather a group of creative people in such a beautiful and inspiring setting for a week of embroidery and mixed media workshops. Days of stitching, painting, more stitching, a bit of swimming, reading, eating delicious food...and more stitching. Following another visit last year, I have followed my instincts and reserved the chateau for seven nights from 4 September, 2017.

THE WORKSHOPS

I am delighted that Kate Nicole, of *Rosehip* and *Oyster Bridge & Co*, has agreed to be a second tutor. This will not only enable us to teach two smaller groups simultaneously, it will also give participants a chance to acquire or develop a wider range of complementary skills. Kate and I use similar materials and share a love of all things vintage, but work in different ways.

We are excited about sharing our techniques and helping you to use these in various projects. At the beginning of the week, you will



be given a choice of projects and classes, from which the timetable will be drawn up, depending on what people choose. We may also create small ad hoc 'breakout groups' for people with particular interests. With time for you to work on your pieces in between classes, we should be able to achieve some exciting results. The studio will be generously stocked with vintage fabrics, papers, haberdashery and other materials. The large, airy living room will be converted into a studio, and some classes may take place in smaller rooms around the property.

RELAXATION

While the focus of the week is on the workshops, we are mindful that it is also a holiday, and want everyone to go home feeling not



only inspired but that they have enjoyed a break in a beautiful and relaxing environment.

Combining work and pleasure, we will visit the gardens of the *Prieure d'Orsan*, one of the most inspiring places we have ever visited.

We hope you will join us for what we plan to be an intensely creative week inspired by beautiful surroundings.





FOOD AT ST VICTOR

You may expect delicious, home made food, stylishly presented. It is expected that we will all eat together around the huge table in the galleried dining hall, or in the romantic byre if the weather is fine. Afternoon tea will be taken on the covered terrace in the teachers' house. All meals for the week are included. Continental breakfast, a light two course lunch and three course supper with wine in the evenings.

ACCOMMODATION

The owner of *St Victor la Grand Maison Marie*, (see below), has renovated her family home with immense style, combining beautiful antiques with modern comforts. It has been awarded 5* by the *French Gites* association, and reviews on *Trip Advisor* are consistently glowing.

The beds are comfortable, with good bed linen, the bathrooms are a mix of glamorous roll top baths and modern walk-in showers. One or two have showers cleverly built into the turrets. One swimming pool is adjacent to the house, and surrounded by a stone terrace with roses and lavender. The other is smaller, and surrounded by a deck, but convenient for a quick plunge for those staying in the nearby outhouses. The views are gorgeous, the grounds extend down to the river Anglin. There are five rooms with en-suite facilities. The



rest of the bedrooms are in the shared houses, created from the outbuildings of the chateau and stylishly renovated, and so bathrooms are shared. Each house has comfortable, spacious living accommodation, perfect for a bit of morning stitching, or sharing a bottle of wine in the evening. While we will all eat together and socialize in the communal rooms it is nice to have space to spread out and enjoy a bit of privacy, and for this, *St Victor* is perfect.

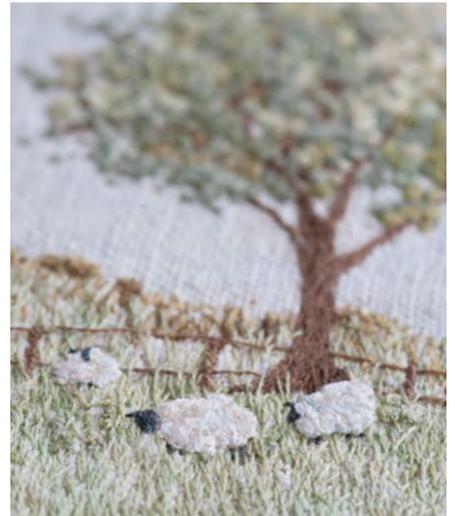


NON PARTICIPATING PARTNERS

Please do consider bringing partners. Most of the rooms are doubles, and the charge for non-participating partners has been set to reflect this. Anyone with a partner whose idea of a holiday is to relax somewhere beautiful, from where they can take lovely walks, enjoy nature, swim, read, take photographs, paint or sketch, will find that this is the perfect place to enjoy a week together. There will be free time after lunch each day as I plan to organize the timetable taking into account the climate, and the need for a bit of a break during the day. My husband will be with us to help with hosting, so he will be up for trips or walks, and if partners come along they may want to hire a car and explore. The region is full of interesting small chateaux, towns such as Argenton and Chauvigny, the house where George Sand lived at Nohant, and the picturesque hilltop town of Gargilesse. A living room with doors opening to the swimming pool will be for our use, and there are comfortable living quarters in each of the shared houses, so partners can be reassured that they can get away from stitching women and enjoy a drink and a book in a quiet place!

About the tutors

CAROLINE ZOOB is a self-taught embroiderer with no formal art training. After school she trained as an opera singer, and then qualified as a solicitor. She discovered antique textiles and took up stitching in her late 30s, when her work was spotted by *Country Living* magazine. Her first show in 2000 sold out and now her delicate, painterly embroideries and collages made from antique papers are much sought after. Her first book, *Childhood Treasures*, was published in 2004. She has designed children's bed linen for a leading UK brand, as well as ranges of ceramics, wrapping paper and cards. Caroline and her husband were tenants of Monk's House, the former home of Virginia Woolf, for ten years, and her books *The Hand Stitched Home* and *Virginia Woolf's Garden* contain embroidered work inspired by the garden they restored and maintained on behalf of the *National Trust*. Caroline is hugely inspired by the countryside, and gardens. An experienced teacher, she enjoys devising workshops and regards teaching as a process of sharing observations and skills generously and, in doing so, helping people to find and follow their own creative instincts.



“ I can't tell you how marvellous it was....
I feel more confident and I can't wait to do further projects ”

KATE NICOLE has always been creative. From an early age she was introduced to French brocantes from which she acquired a love of old and vintage things. An art foundation course was followed by travelling and working overseas, always making and creating, often selling her work as she went. On her return to England, she took up her paintbrush and needle again, building up a small collection of flower paintings inspired by a hydrangea painting she had made for her mother a long time ago. She taught herself calligraphy, and now her work with paper paraphernalia, often embellished with stitching and exquisite writing and framed in antique French frames, is extremely popular and sold in several independent boutiques. Like Caroline, Kate is self taught, and always developing and practising new techniques.



PRICE LIST (price per person)

If you are interested in booking a place please email Caroline at sales@carolinezoob.co.uk and she will send you a booking form. The completed form, together with a non-returnable deposit of £500, must be received by 1 March 2017.

Room with double bed & en-suite bathroom	£2100
Room with double bed & shared bathroom (see Rooms in Shared Houses on next page)	£1900-£2000
Room with twin beds, shared occupancy	£1700
Room with twin beds, single occupancy	£2000
Non-participating partner sharing a double room	£600

INCLUDED

- 7 nights accommodation
- All meals, with wine at supper
- At least 30 hours of tuition and all materials
- An excursion to the *Prieure d'Orsan* gardens with lunch.

NOT INCLUDED

- Travel costs. The nearest airport is Poitiers. We will try to minimize transfer costs by arranging shared cabs/pick ups.
- Costs for other local excursions, Depending on available

transport and how people feel, there may be opportunities to visit nearby towns.

- Participants must take out travel insurance which covers them for medical treatment, including repatriation costs.

ROOMS The following three rooms are in the Violet le Duc wing, with a turret. All have beautiful views, are decorated with great style and yet are very comfortable. On the ground floor of this wing, there is a comfortable sitting room with doors opening onto the pool terrace.



LA CHAMBRE GRISE

- Double bed
- Turret shower en suite with private bathroom one floor below
- Pool view

An elegant room with tall windows and shutters, furnished with beautiful antiques. On the first floor, with three short staircases.



LA CHAMBRE BLANCHE

- Double bed
- Bathroom with a luxuriously deep tub and hand-held shower
- Pool view

A large square room with ceiling arabesques and high windows framing the treetops and turrets of the chateau. At the top of the wing, so four short flights of wooden stairs with handrails.



LA CHAMBRE ROUGE

- Double bed
- Bathroom with a beautiful bathtub and hand-held shower
- Park and river views

This room is on the first floor in the oldest part of the manor house, accessed via a stone spiral staircase. The bathroom is in a round tower, and the tall windows have views over the river and park.



L'ATELIER

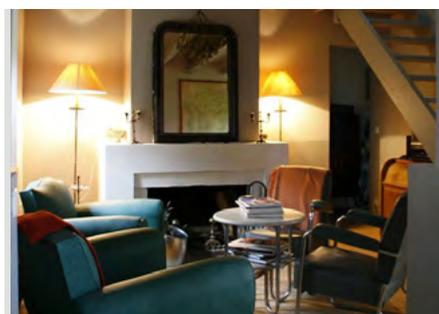
- Double bed
 - En-suite bathroom (shower only)
- Loft style renovation on ground floor of the stable block. Chaise longue overlooking the treetops, and separate living room area with comfy sofa and kitchenette.

L'ECURIE

- Double bed
 - En-suite bathroom (shower only)
- New for 2017, no pictures yet. Again, on the ground floor of the stable block, it is to be in the same style as *L'Atelier*, with a double bed and walk in shower.

ROOMS IN SHARED HOUSES

The owner of *St Victor* has renovated various outbuildings which are normally rented as self-contained gites to families or groups of friends. Hence the bedrooms do not have en-suite facilities. Each house has a charming sitting area and kitchen. Of course, they would be ideal for two couples where the women want to stitch and the men want to go off and explore/walk/hunt for antiques or paint. It is hoped that even if the people in the shared houses are not friends before the workshop, that after a week of repairing to their shared houses for a bit of late night stitching and perhaps a nightcap or two, they will become so.



L'ORANGERIE

- 2 rooms with double bed
- The old Limonaia or lemon house, with large arched windows and a high ceiling giving it a spacious feel. There is a large living room, with tables to work at and a comfy seating area and views towards the manor house. There are two double bedrooms and one bathroom with a bath and hand-held shower. As the ceilings are high, the wooden open staircase to the first floor is longer than usual.

LA MIELLERIE (Courtyard side)

- 2 rooms with double bed
- From the end of the XIXth and early XXth century the estate was planted with multiple species of bee friendly flora. This is when *La Miellerie* came to life, as a place to keep wood for beehive construction and machines for the extraction of honey. It is a large, almost industrial building with huge bow windows opening onto the river Anglin. It has large living quarters on the ground floor, with a spiral staircase (see picture) leading to two double bedrooms on the first floor. There is also a summer kitchen and garden terrace overlooking the river.

LA MIELLERIE (Garden side)

- 2 rooms with double bed
 - One twin room
 - Three bathrooms (two with showers, one with a bathtub)
- The pool is a few steps away. On the ground floor there are large and comfortable living quarters with a terrace and garden overlooking both the pool and the river.

