

## Doug & Marcia's Canadian trip

Our last stop, Quebec City, was the one we had been looking forward to and were not disappointed. The Chateau Frontenac is as big and beautiful as we remember from our 2013 cruise and is so historical and elegant inside as well. We had another very good local guide for a morning tour of the city and the Isle of Orleans, where we had a tasty lunch in a cafe that was in such a beautiful, peaceful location. We won't mention the other meals in French cafes' and restaurants so not to make you jealous, but they were good!

We had beautiful weather to walk around the lower and upper parts of the City and an unexpected treat was a fireworks show from the St. Lawrence river right below our hotel on Thursday and Saturday. We saw it both nights .....It was an absolutely gorgeous display that we enjoyed so much because it had been a long time since we had seen a fireworks show live. Our extra day there was well worth it! We actually ran into and spoke to a family from Tallahassee/Panama City (had FSU apparel on) during one of the fireworks show. We ran into an FSU college student (had a Madison Social t-shirt on) from Tallahassee on the street a day earlier. Of course Doug talked football for a few minutes.

The farewell dinner in the Chateau was in a private, elegant dining room with wine, hors' derives and a piano player for the reception before dinner. Dinner was excellent as usual, as was the view looking over the St. Lawrence river through the big windows in the dining room. The farewells after everyone was finished with dinner were something different for us. As I mentioned earlier, the positives of the small group (21) and a group of good travelers, certainly showed. Of course everyone had had meals with different individuals and couples on the tour multiple times, visited with each other multiple times and all had gotten to know each other very well. The goodbyes were hugs, kisses, some tears as everyone said goodbye. It was a new experience for us.

On the way to Quebec City we had a nice lunch at Montmorency Falls and then took a walking tour of the grounds to the falls with an excellent funny guide, but right when we got to the Falls a very strong thunderstorm hit. It was windy with lightning and even with umbrellas everyone got soaked. The reason for telling you this is to illustrate that as a well-traveled group, there was no complaining or getting upset, it was taken in stride as one of the things that can happen. It is always interesting to see some people complain and be so negative when there is just a minor disruption or change on a cruise ship, but groups like this just take everything in stride. It really added to the enjoyment of the tour.

To summarize, you were correct that Tauck is first class in their hotels and restaurants, everything works seamlessly and our tour director was professional, personable and set just the right tone. The amount of free time and flexibility for some meals, both as part of the tour and on our own, really added to the visit of each city. As you know, finding good restaurants is always high on our list when we travel! Of course, there were many other aspects of the tour we enjoyed. As you know we have been on a tour before with the usual number of guests and after this tour we felt the additional cost

**for the small group was absolutely worth it. I think we would always go with the small group for any possible future tours.**

**I will end with a couple of post tour items. One of our group created an email list and sent to everyone, and yes we have received a few e-mails from our fellow travelers, including our Tour Director who became an Aunt for the first time on the night of our farewell dinner. Everyone asked her to send us the details of her new niece. One of the group does sketches, which are pretty good, and he is going to email all of us copies of the ones he made during the trip. Finally, sitting in the Atlanta airport at the gate waiting for our (late) flight to board for Tallahassee, around 11:00PM, we saw three of our tour group get off the plane that landed at our gate. So, we were able to say goodbye to them once again.**

**Great trip and great memories.**

**Doug & Marcia**