

Dear Skating Friends,

2012 has surely been a busy skating season beginning with Skate America in Ontario, CA with its nice warm weather and new competitors' programs. I flew back cross-country to Mississauga site of Skate Canada and it was definitely cooler temperatures. We had a wonderful time in beautiful Quebec City for the Grand Prix Final. The Old Town was adorned with Christmas decorations and snow which made our stay magical! In January, I headed back to the West Coast for the USFS Championships in San Jose CA. Delightful 60-70's temperatures, crowded shuttle vans, and fine skating crowned new champions. Four Continents was cold and snowy but we all had a wonderful time checking out the area including the Olympic Training Center, Air Force Academy, and skaters from four continents – like a mini worlds! To top off the season we flew to Nice, France for Worlds and enjoyed perfect weather, beautiful flowers, and a constant view of the Mediterranean.

Thank you to all of my customers for another great season. It is always fun to catch up with everyone and spend time together watching the competition, sharing our critiques on performances, costumes, and music. That is what makes our sport fun, interesting and unique!

What to do in the "off season"? There are a club competitions and shows all over the United States. Check with usfigureskating.org for an update of these competitions. Theatre on Ice, Synchronized skating, club shows, test sessions, and competitions are scheduled throughout the summer. You just might catch one of your favorite skaters in a guest spot at a show.

I am including photos from Nationals, Four Continents, and Worlds and I hope you enjoy them. Until next October, be safe, have fun, and enjoy summer!

Postcard from Nice-2012

The warm breezes from the Mediterranean, the scent of beautiful flowers, the wine, baguettes, fruits, and regional foods were in abundance as we

enjoyed our stay in Nice, France. Some took the little train through the Old Town in Nice to see the Flower Market, the quaint town squares, and up to Castle Hill for spectacular views of the crescent coastline of Nice.

We were driven over to the Fragonard Perfume Factory for a tour where soap is made and we participated in a demonstration of the beautiful scents that are mixed there. Some of us did go up to the medieval village of Eze. We saw spectacular views of the coastline to Monte Carlo on our climb to a wonderful lunch. We saw changing of the guard at Grimaldi Palace and then on to the Monaco's Cathedral – the final resting place of the beautiful Princess Grace and Prince Rainier.

We again "climbed the mountains" to the artsy village of St. Paul de Vence. French lunch was served at the Tea Room at the Ephrussi de Rothschild Museum in Cap Ferrat. Our group walked through the Gardens with views of Cap Ferrat and Eze. The flora was just beautiful-Japanese gardens, ponds, spring flowers, and beautiful fountains.

It was convenient to travel by tram to the arena. The venue was not an arena. It is a convention center. We exited the arena between events each afternoon and were able to enjoy the hotel patio next to the arena for light snacks or took the tram to a restaurant in Old Town for dinner.

Meryl Davis and Charlie White skated powerfully to a silver medal finish. First time to worlds, Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donahue finished 10th, while Maia and Alex Shibutani were 8th overall. Our U.S. pair teams of Caydee Denny and John Coughlin, Mary Beth Marley and Rockne Brubaker finished 8th and 10th. Ashley Wagner just missed the podium with a 4th place finish and Alissa Czinsy came in 22nd. The men's event was predictable with Patrick Chan's win. Jeremy Abbott skated to 8th and Adam Rippon took 12th. It was still exciting to cheer on our favorites.

We concluded our tour to Nice with our farewell dinner at the Carousel Restaurant in the

beautiful Negresco Hotel. For some it was farewell until next time and for some of us it was on to Paris!

April in Paris was busy as ever but again, blessed with beautiful weather. So much to do and see in Paris and we did, starting with a city tour of Paris including sights of the Eiffel Tower and Arc de Triomphe, and lunch at the restaurant Mollard, which featured floor to ceiling mosaic tiles. We visited Notre Dame and were able to get in front of the line with our wonderful guide Oliver.

Our group traveled over to Versailles and what a place it was with beautiful gardens and fountains. We were so fortunate to have a wonderful guide for most of our time in Paris-Antoine. He took us to the oldest restaurant in Paris, where we had a delicious lunch. We continued on to our wine and cheese tasting and yes, I thoroughly enjoyed the meats and cheeses along with the wine!

One of the favorite places to visit in Paris was the hilltop village of Monte Martre and Sacre Coeur church. It was too foggy for us to see the views of Paris, but we enjoyed our visit there. Antoine was kind enough to take us to the Lourve. He did a great job with information on all of the major exhibits. It was Easter week and the Lourve was crowded with vacationers.

Free time was spent at either the Museum d'Orsay, La Orangerie Museum, visiting the Opera House, or window shopping along the Rue de Rivoli. Our hotel the Westminster was centrally located to walk down to the Tullieres and to the museums. Our last night was spent on a dinner cruise down the Seine, where we saw the full moon rise in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower and the miniature Statue of Liberty. We were treated to the light show of the Eiffel Tower as we disembarked. What a wonderful night to end our stay in Paris!

TOUR UPDATES

2012 Skate America

The location to 2012 Skate America has still not been announced. I will E-mail you all once I know the location.

2012 Skate Canada-Windsor, Ontario

I still have availability for this tour. Please contact me if you are interested.

2013 USFS Championships-Omaha, NE

I still I still have availability for this tour. Please notify me as soon as possible, as I will release some of my seats back to the LOC.

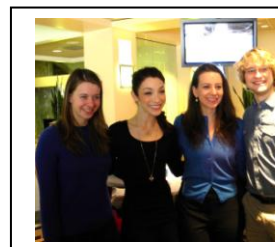
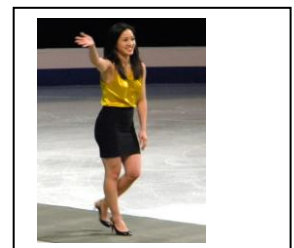
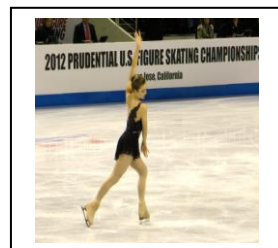
2013 Worlds-London, Ontario

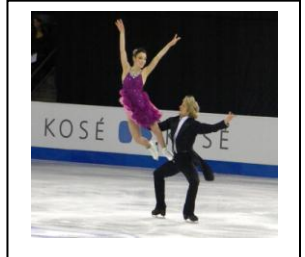
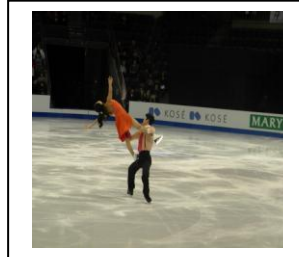
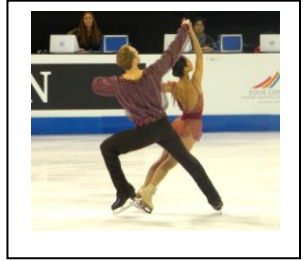
There are a limited amount of lower level seats that will be available to my group shortly. If you are interested, please E-mail as soon as possible, as this will probably be the last time any additional seats in the lower level will be available.

Thank you to all of you who have traveled with Silver Blade Tours, this past season! It is always nice to see returning clients and also to meet new clients. Our company is gradually expanding and bringing in more people to our favorite sport. My goal is to know each and every one of you and provide you the best! Enjoy summer and thank you for a wonderful season!

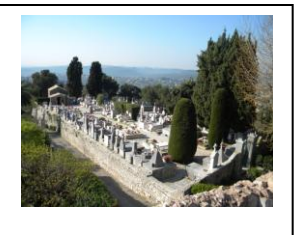
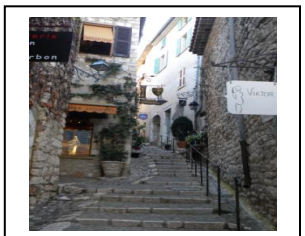
All the best, Claudyne and Victor

Photos from 2012 USFS Championships





Colorado Springs, Nice, Eze, & Monte Carlo



More photos of Nice and Paris

