



Debbi Baron

Managing Director of Domaines & Terroirs, a company specializing in French cheese, food & wine journeys of discovery.

Married, single or significant other:
Significant other – Jean-Paul Bignand

Children: Domaines & Terroirs!

What brought you to Europe?

In 1995, the time was right to shake up my world and embark on an adventure, so I relocated from Los Angeles to France to service the growing list of French clientele for my firm, the worldwide design firm Gensler. Arriving in Paris at the end of November 1995 to a foot of snow and a national transportation strike, I soon thereafter began commuting between Paris, the Emirates and our London office. What keeps me here in Europe is artisanal CHEESE!

Your favorite restaurant & what five people, living or dead, you'd invite to dine with you there?

The long-since defunct Parisian restaurant specializing in cheese – Androuët, with Bach, Leonardo da Vinci, Queen Elizabeth I, Barack Obama and Eleanor Roosevelt.

If you could come back in another life, who would you be?

Eleanor of Aquitaine.

Favourite film?

Way too hard to answer with just one! *Dangerous Liaisons* – for the karmic retribution; *Shakespeare in Love* – for fun; *The Honest Courtesan* – for Rufus Sewell.

Your three favourite books?

The Art of Worldly Wisdom by Baltasar Gracián y Morales (the path); *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood (a parable); *Le Guide des Fromages* (the source).

Who's been the biggest influence in your life?

Two people: my father who gave me an insatiable curiosity and a love for books, and my first boss, Ed Friedrichs, who told me that anything is possible – make an effort.

Where's your favourite place to holiday and why?

Europe in general, France most of the time. In Europe one can find every kind of environment and deep cultural roots which can be explored through the local cheeses (with people, food & wine thrown in). When I'm not here, minus the deep roots, it is California for the same reasons.

Who's been the guiding force in your life?

The universe with its infinite wisdom.

Philosophy or motto in life?

Philosophy: Present moment, only moment.

Motto: If life were perfect, you wouldn't have to live it, so get on with it!

Favourite sandwich?

A hunk of artisanal cheese with a good baguette or a rare garlic mayo burger at Gourmet Burger Kitchen (GBK). ★

Compiled by Virginia E. Schultz