

# 3 Flags Festival

March 10-14, 2004 - St. Louis, Missouri

THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE BICENTENNIAL

France  
Spain  
America



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## For Immediate Release

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### **The Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Ball: A Glamorous Display of Period Dress, Food and Entertainment**

*French, Spanish, U.S. and Native American Dignitaries to Attend*

**St. Louis** – Three Flags Festival participants are invited to relive the past and put on their best doublets, breeches and bodices for the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Ball. As part of the Three Flags Festival in St. Louis, the ball will commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Louisiana Purchase. “President Thomas Jefferson” will host the event Saturday, March 13, 2004, at 7:30 p.m. at the Chase-Park Plaza Hotel.

“In 1804, the people of St. Louis marked the occasion with a ball at the governor’s mansion. We are excited to include The Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Ball as part of the celebration of this monumental anniversary in 2004,” said Elizabeth Gentry Sayad, co-chair of the National Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Committee.

Dignitaries from the French, Spanish and U.S. governments as well as the Osage Nation are expected to attend.

Attire for the event will be period costumes or black tie. Activities will include a silent auction, dinner, a Grand March and period dances such as the Fandango, French Quadrille and Virginia Reel. The silent auction will include:

- Platinum Mini Dragonfly Brooch with 32 round brilliant diamonds weighing .15 carat, inspired by the original Tiffany design for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis in 1904.
- Paloma Picasso freshwater pearl torsade with eight strands and sterling sliver clasp provided by Tiffany & Co., saluting Spain.
- Hand-painted butterfly vase from Atelier Le Tallec from Tiffany’s private stock porcelain, saluting France.
- Eighteen inch bronze portrait of Saint Louis founder Pierre Laclède by Harry Weber.
- Artist’s proof of an original painting in a series by Stuart Morse saluting the lands traversed by Lewis and Clark. (The original is on loan to the Missouri State Capitol.)

(more)

Chefs from Le Cordon Bleu will join the culinary team at the Chase Park Plaza to create a meal celebrating the French, Spanish and Native American cultures of the Louisiana Territory. Menu items include a Spanish tortilla with tomatoes, olives, peppers and chorizo; terrine of Mediterranean fish; beef tenderloin with foie gras wrapped in puff pastry; and Osage corn pudding.

The event will benefit the St. Gemme Beauvis/Amoureux House, built in 1792 by Jean Baptiste St. Gemme Beauvais. It was constructed in the French Creole vernacular post-in-ground (*poteaux-en-terre*) manner that was common in the 18th century in Ste. Genevieve. The St. Gemme Beauvis/Amoureux House has vertical log walls made of cedar that are set directly into the earth without a foundation. It is one of three such structures in Ste. Genevieve and one of only five surviving examples of this type of construction in the United States.

“The preservation of this historic structure as well as the exhibits it houses ensures the people of St. Louis, the surrounding Creole Corridor, as well as the rest of the nation will be able to learn about French colonial America,” Sayad said.

The ball is sponsored by the Bicentennial Ball Committee and Les Amis, the region’s French colonial heritage preservation group.

Advance reservations are required for the ball. Patron tables can be reserved for \$10,000 each, and regular tables at \$5,000 each; patron seats are \$1,000 per guest, and regular seats are \$150-\$500 per guest. All tables seat 10. All but \$100 is tax-deductible for each reservation. For more information and to purchase tickets, call 573-883-7102.

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*The Louisiana Purchase Three Flags Festival in St. Louis, March 10-14, 2004, will commemorate the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial and the treaty’s role in the history of the United States and Missouri. Leading up to the anniversary of the final transfer of the Louisiana Territory, which took place in St. Louis on March 10, 1804, the public events and other programming of the Three Flags Festival will highlight the continuing importance of the Louisiana Purchase in American politics and culture. The Three Flags Festival has been developed by the National Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Committee, which is a coalition of major St. Louis, regional and national public and private organizations and citizens.*