

## FRANCE: LA BELLE EPOQUE – CLASSIC BURGUNDY CRUISE

7-day / 6-night Hotel Barge cruise & GUIDED sightseeing – from/to Venarey-les-Laumes to Tanlay



<b>Cruise departs:</b>	Paris every Sunday from 29 <sup>th</sup> March to 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2020
<b>Fully inclusive costs from:</b>	\$7625 per person twin share (Stateroom) or \$7850 (Junior Suite)
<b>Value season departures:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> March to 19 <sup>th</sup> April, 19 <sup>th</sup> July to 23 <sup>rd</sup> August & from 4 <sup>th</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2020
<b>High season supplement from:</b>	<b>\$1375</b> per person twin share
<b>High season departures from:</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> April to 12 <sup>th</sup> July & 30 <sup>th</sup> August to 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
<b>Single cabin supplement from:</b>	\$2785 (High Season \$3280)

La Belle Époque in her first life carried logs from Burgundy to Paris, but today she is transformed into a deluxe hotel barge carrying a very different cargo along the very same canal.

Designed with elegance and passenger comfort in mind, features include a wood-panelled saloon / dining room with bespoke, hand-built seating and a spacious sun deck with spa pool. The cabins comprise of two junior suites and four staterooms, a choice of twin or double beds, all with marble en suite bathrooms facilities.

La Belle Époque is the perfect vessel to take you on a gentle voyage of discovery through a region studded with traditions and history that go back centuries. New to the itinerary is a demonstration of the medieval sport of falconry at the Château de Commarin, in addition to La Belle Époque's extensive array of excursions including a visit to the town of Chablis, where guests will enjoy a private wine tasting at the prestigious Domaine Laroche. There, they will also tour the 1000-year-old Obédiencerie, originally part of the monastery of St. Martin, where the monks developed the craft of winemaking in the Middle Ages. Other cruise highlights include a private tasting at a boutique Champagne house, then dine with a Baroness at the Château de Ricey-Bas, a former castle that was converted to a magnificent royal residence, and a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Abbaye de Fontenay, a former Cistercian abbey founded by St. Bernard in 1118.

As she meanders along the Burgundy Canal with its undulating countryside, if you're feeling more active, take one of the free onboard bikes provided or walk to the next mooring point, the crew will be happy to help and point out their favourite walking trails and cycle paths.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**

## Suggested itinerary: \*

### **Sunday Day 1 Venarey-les-Laumes**

Guests are met at our meeting point in central Paris and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to La Belle Epoque where you welcomed aboard by the crew, with champagne and canapés. After time to settle into your cabin, enjoy your first dinner on board and an introduction to Burgundy's excellent cuisine.

### **Monday Day 2 Venarey-les-Laumes to Montbard**

After breakfast we cruise through woodlands and rolling fields with great towpath biking and walking opportunities past the tiny canalside villages of Nogent, Courcelles and Les Granges. After an early lunch, we visit the moat-encircled Château de Commarin to be treated to a private demonstration of the medieval sport of falconry\*\*. The close up encounter with these majestic birds against the backdrop of the castle grounds is an amazing experience and afterwards, we meet Count Bertrand de Vogue, the current resident and 26<sup>th</sup> generation of the de Vogue family to maintain continuous residence since the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, who will give a fascinating insight into the Château's history. This is followed by a private tour of the building. Dinner on board.

### **Tuesday Day 3 Montbard to Ravières**

Morning cruise with excellent towpath walking or cycling, passing the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Forges de Buffon. Then after lunch we are escorted to the exquisite UNESCO World Heritage Site of Abbaye de Fontenay founded by St Bernard in 1118. Representing a distinctive example of early Cistercian architecture and virtually intact, Fontenay allows an exceptional glimpse of Cistercian life and industry with its peaceful gardens, ponds and fascinating cloisters, dormitories and scriptorium. Return to the barge and cruise to Ravières. Dinner on board.

### **Wednesday Day 4 Ravières to Ancy-le-Franc**

After breakfast we head to Les Riceys, the only wine growing area of the Champagne region to have 3 *Appellation d'Origine Contrôlées*. Here we visit the Maison Alexandre Bonnet for a private champagne tasting, a family owned Champagne house renowned for a stunning yearly harvest of Pinot Noir that leads to some exquisite vintages. After tasting an array of champagnes we drive to Château de Ricey-Bas; with its 12<sup>th</sup> Century vaulted cellars and thousand year history it's the ideal location to appreciate the rolling vineyards and enjoy a glimpse of family life in a rural château. Here we will be greeted for a Champagne aperitif and a gourmet lunch with the Baroness herself, which we take in either the private salon or the atmospheric vaulted 13<sup>th</sup> Century kitchen. We will spend the remainder of the afternoon strolling the beautiful gardens or exploring the regal chateau interiors.

We return to the barge and begin our cruise to Ancy-le-Franc, with plenty of opportunity to walk or cycle along the towpath... or sit on deck with another glass of bubbly. Dinner is served on board.

### **Thursday Day 5 Ancy-le-Franc to Lezennes**

This morning we visit Château d'Ancy-le-Franc, a beautifully symmetrical, 16<sup>th</sup> Century masterpiece contains France's biggest collection of Renaissance murals and is set in magnificent gardens and parkland. In the afternoon, a cruise along the Burgundy Canal, descending through the locks to moor at Lezennes for dinner.

### **Friday Day 6 Lezennes to Tanlay**

After breakfast a leisurely cruise to our final mooring at Tanlay, with the opportunity to cycle or walk into the village of Saint Vinnemer. Following lunch, we visit the town of Chablis, dating back to Roman times, and enjoy a private wine tasting at the prestigious Domaine Laroche. There, we also visit the 1000-year-old Obediencerie, originally part of the monastery of St Martin, the founders of Chablis, where for centuries, the domaine's wines have been aged. Later we return to the barge for the Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

### **Saturday Day 7 Tanlay**

After breakfast, guests are transferred to Paris.

*\* This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change and is weather dependant. On alternate weeks the cruise will be in the reverse direction. \*\* The falconry display is weather dependent.*

Other hotel barge cruises available from **Outdoor Travel** – with weekly departures – in **Ireland** on the River Shannon, Windsor on the **River Thames** near London, Scotland on the **Caledonian Canal** and the **Loire Valley**, the **Bordeaux** region, **Provence** or on the **Canal du Midi** in the south of France and **Venice** in Italy.

## **Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations**

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