



European  
WATERWAYS

EST. 1974



Luxury Hotel  
Barge Cruises

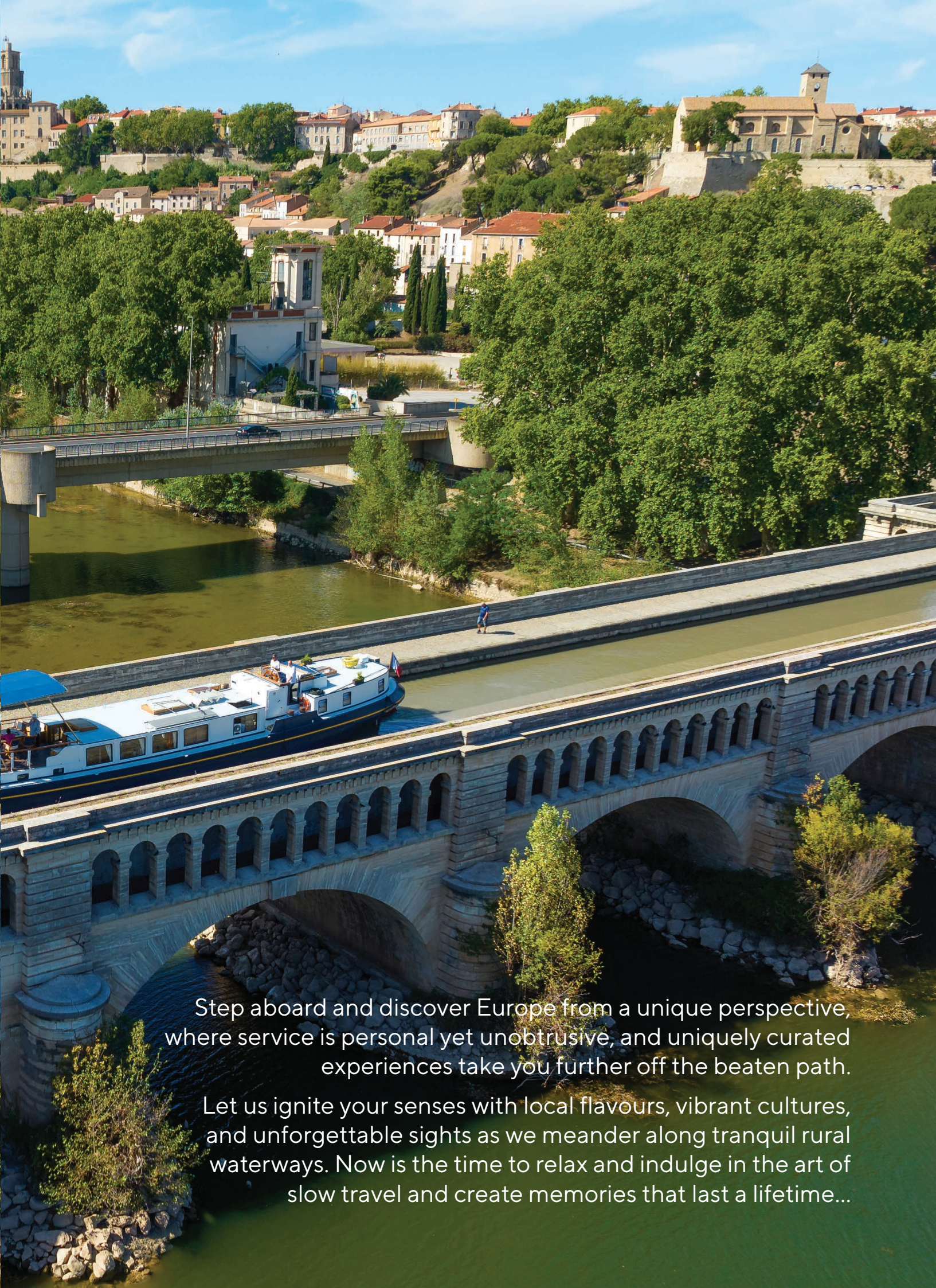


2025/26









Step aboard and discover Europe from a unique perspective, where service is personal yet unobtrusive, and uniquely curated experiences take you further off the beaten path.

Let us ignite your senses with local flavours, vibrant cultures, and unforgettable sights as we meander along tranquil rural waterways. Now is the time to relax and indulge in the art of slow travel and create memories that last a lifetime...





## A Message from the Founders

### Why Choose European Waterways?

#### The Biggest Barging Company in Europe

Established in 1974, European Waterways were pioneers of hotel barge cruising and are now the largest hotel barging company in Europe with a wealth of knowledge to share. Still in the same private ownership of the Directors who run the company, our guests can be assured of consistently high standards of personal service, and our vast experience of the beautiful, smaller canals and rivers we cruise.

#### Cruises in 9 Countries Across Europe

We offer the widest choice of any hotel barge company with destinations across 9 countries – from the picturesque vineyards of Burgundy to the spectacular Scottish Highlands; the sun-drenched canals of the South of France to the delightful waterways of Holland; the storybook Alsace-Lorraine region to the historic Venetian Lagoon and beyond.

#### The Largest, Most Diverse Fleet

In our fleet of 18 vessels, we have hotel barges accommodating between 6 and 20 passengers, with cabin sizes varying from ultra-deluxe suites comparable to top hotel rooms, to more cosy and compact staterooms.

#### Exceptional Service and Expert Staff

Whichever hotel barge you choose, you can be assured of the same high standards of on-board personal service and cuisine as well as the ambience of a floating house party. Each member of our Reservations Team has an in-depth knowledge of our fleet and destinations, so they can offer expert advice to help choose the cruising experience that is best for you.

#### Our Many Happy Clients

Many of our clients travel with us time and time again, often recommending us to their friends – a wonderful endorsement of which we are very proud.

Thank you for choosing our brand-new brochure, showcasing the very best of our 2025/26 cruise season along Europe's picturesque waterways.

Growing up next door to each other on the banks of the River Thames was what first sold us both on the unique experiences that we knew that rivers and canals could bring. From this we decided we should share our passion with the world but in an intimate and bespoke way: exploring the path less travelled with small numbers of like-minded travellers. Five decades have passed since we began that journey and today, we proudly operate the largest fleet of luxury hotel barges in Europe.

Now supported by a dedicated professional team, our passion is undiminished, and our mission remains the same: to immerse our guests in the art of slow travel. In this new era of travel, we believe our emphasis on small groups, private excursions, and insider experiences is more relevant than ever. Join us as we cruise at a leisurely pace through Europe's stunning countryside, connecting sensational views, fascinating cultures, and culinary delights that truly define the heritage of each of our cruise regions.

Lastly, we're delighted to announce that the latest addition to our fleet, Kir Royale is now up and running in Champagne. And, for those seeking a winter escape, you'll be pleased to hear that due to their popularity – our Christmas Markets Cruises will be returning to Alsace aboard Panache this November, ringing in the festive season in style!

We look forward to welcoming you on board.

*Derek Banks*

*John Wood-Dow*



**Platinum Trusted Service Award**

2024

feefo





## INTRODUCTION

The European Waterways Way	4-5
Where we Cruise	6-7
When to Cruise	8-9
Discover Our Exclusive Collection of Hotel Barges	10-11
Welcome on Board	12-13
Cruises for Everyone	14-17
Meet Your Expert Crew	18-19
A Gastronomic Experience	20-23
Wine and Whisky	24-25
Enriching Excursions	26-29
Insider Experiences	30-31
Along the Towpath	32-33

## FRANCE

<b>Burgundy</b>	<b>34-37</b>
La Belle Epoque	38-39
Finesse	40-41
L'Impressionniste	42-43
L'Art de Vivre	44-45
<b>Canal du Midi</b>	<b>46-49</b>
Enchanté	50-51
Anjodi	52-53
Athos	54
<b>Gascony &amp; Bordeaux</b>	<b>56-57</b>
Rosa	58-59
<b>Loire Valley, The Upper Loire &amp; Western Burgundy</b>	<b>60-63</b>
Renaissance	64-65
Nymphaea	66-67
<b>Champagne</b>	<b>68-71</b>
Kir Royale	72-73
<b>Alsace &amp; Lorraine</b>	<b>74-77</b>
Panache	78-79

## HOLLAND

<b>Dutch Canals &amp; Waterways</b>	<b>80-81</b>
Panache & La Nouvelle Etoile (Selected Departures)	82-83

## ITALY

<b>Venice, The Venetian Lagoon &amp; The Po Valley</b>	<b>84-87</b>
La Bella Vita	88-89

## SCOTLAND

<b>The Caledonian Canal, Loch Ness &amp; The Highlands</b>	<b>90-93</b>
Spirit of Scotland	94-95
Scottish Highlander	96-97

## ENGLAND

<b>The Royal River Thames</b>	<b>98</b>
Magna Carta	98-99

## IRELAND

<b>The River Shannon &amp; its Loughs</b>	<b>100</b>
Shannon Princess	100-101

## BELGIUM, GERMANY & LUXEMBOURG

<b>La Nouvelle Etoile (Selected Departures)</b>	<b>102-103</b>
At a Glance Guide	104-105
Deck Plans	106-109
Travelling to Your Hotel Barge	110
Visitors' Book	111



# The European Waterways Way

## Unforgettable Memories on Europe's Inland Waterways

Our hotel barges cruise the smaller rivers and canals that are often inaccessible to larger vessels, offering a unique and intimate cruising experience. Whether you cruise with like-minded travellers on an individual cabin booking or choose to privately charter a barge to share with family and friends with shared interests – you're sure to feel right at home.

## Off the Beaten Path: Experiential Encounters

Our hand-picked itineraries delve into the heart of Europe's hidden gems, taking you on immersive cultural experiences like private wine tastings, visits to artisanal marketplaces, and even private dining experiences with local aristocracy. You may also experience spectacular engineering feats along the way, such as Gustav Eiffel's Briare Aqueduct in Burgundy or the awe-inspiring Arzwiller Boat Elevator in Alsace. Each day, our private small group excursions take you to places 'off the beaten track,' ensuring a truly unique experience.

## A Taste of Local Flavours

Onboard, your chef will meticulously design and prepare delicious meals using seasonal, local ingredients, often compared to world-class restaurants. Discover the distinct ingredients and flavours of the region's specialties, complemented by fine wines and unforgettable views across picturesque countryside. After the chef presents their culinary creation to the table, our dedicated hosts will explain the characteristics of each accompanying wine and cheese as they serve them. A perfect end to the day as you relax in conversation and share the day's experiences with your fellow passengers at the dining table.

## The Ultimate Slow Travel Experience

Imagine a luxurious floating boutique hotel gliding gently at a pace of around 4mph through charming villages and tranquil landscapes. We only cover short distances, and are usually just a few feet from the towpath, so it's effortless to step off and enjoy a stroll or a bike ride, or simply relax on deck with a glass of Chablis, soaking up the breathtaking scenery that surrounds.

## Intimate 'Home from Home' Atmosphere

With a maximum of 20 passengers plus a passenger-to-crew ratio of 2:1 or fewer, you'll receive the attentive and personalized service you truly deserve! The quiet and calm of the cabins feature an array of modern comforts that you'd expect from a five-star hotel. The generous communal living spaces create a warm and social atmosphere, with evenings spent sharing stories and laughter with fellow travellers in the saloon, or under a star-filled sky on deck.

## Mindful Tourism: Cruising Responsibly

By choosing a European Waterways hotel barge cruise, you're maintaining a small travel footprint by supporting local economies. We believe that authentic cultural experiences and meaningful connections have a positive impact on the people and places you visit. And, our commitment to mindful tourism ensures that every aspect of your trip, from locally sourced ingredients to veering away from tourist traps, contributes to a responsible, sustainable, and authentic small group travel experience.







## What's Included?

Our 6-night cruises really are fully inclusive, meaning that once you're on board, all that's left to do is to sit back, relax and indulge in:

- Comfortable accommodation in air-conditioned, en suite staterooms or suites
- Gourmet meals prepared by the on-board chef, complemented with fine wines
- An open bar consisting of premium spirits, fine wines, and non-alcoholic beverages
- Private and often exclusive daily excursions to hand-picked hidden gems
- Comfortable private air-conditioned transfers throughout your time with us
- Complimentary bicycle use, and on most barges a spa pool on the sun deck
- Personalised but unobtrusive service from an experienced crew – Captain, Chef, Tour Guide, and Hosts





# Where we Cruise...



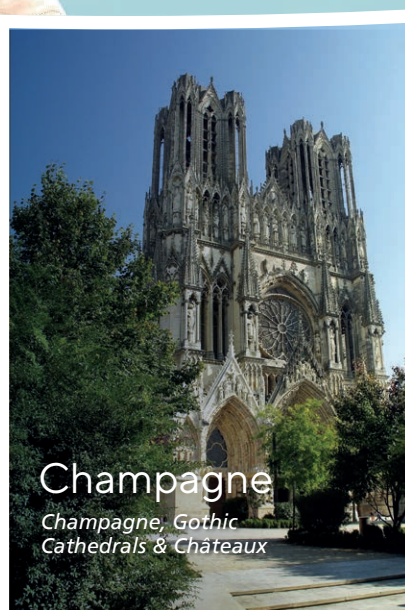
## Gascony & Bordeaux

Vineyards, Orchards & Armagnac



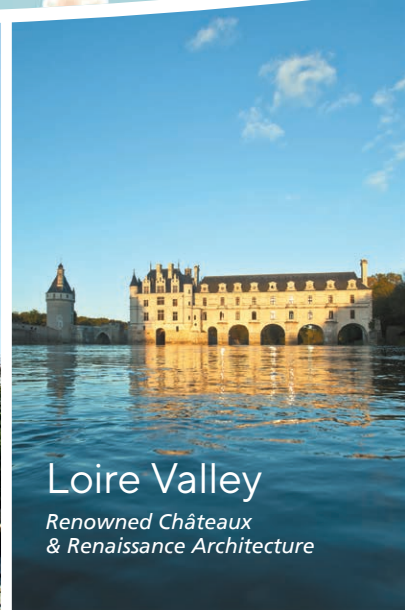
## Canal du Midi

Cathar History, Carcassonne & Colourful Street Markets



## Champagne

Champagne, Gothic Cathedrals & Châteaux



## Loire Valley

Renowned Châteaux & Renaissance Architecture



## Where each hotel barge cruises:

- 1 La Belle Epoque
- 2 L'Art de Vivre
- 3 L'Impressionniste
- 4 Finesse
- 5 Anjodi
- 6 Enchanté
- 7 Athos
- 8 Rosa
- 9 Renaissance
- 10 Nymphaea
- 11 Kir Royale
- 12 Panache
- 13 La Nouvelle Etoile
- 14 La Bella Vita
- 15 Magna Carta
- 16 Scottish Highlander
- 17 Spirit of Scotland
- 18 Shannon Princess





# When to Cruise...

Whether it's the spring, summer, autumn or even winter, we'll help you find the ideal time for your cruise. From the colourful tulip fields of Holland in April to the atmospheric mist of the Scottish Highlands in October – there's something beautiful and unique about each and every month. Whenever you choose to cruise, you can be assured of an ever-changing vista and an unforgettable slow-travel adventure that showcases the best of each season.

## April

- The peaceful countryside comes alive with colours; tulips are in bloom in Holland, and the snow-capped Pyrenees are visible from the Canal du Midi
- The market squares return to life as townsfolk set up their stalls for the coming season, and the Easter parades take place
- Often airfares are lower, with value cruise rates available

## May

- Verdant growth and birdsong in full swing along the towpath and throughout the European countryside – a paradise for nature enthusiasts
- Warming temperatures create the perfect conditions for sightseeing and cycling alongside the canals
- Ideal for champagne lovers, cruise through the lush sloping vineyards and sample the bubbly delights of France's most effervescent region

## June

- Balmy summer evenings mean digestifs, jazz bands on deck, and a game of boules on the bank
- Sunny weather throughout Europe, and seemingly endless days of sunlight in the Scottish Highlands, June is a wonderful time to explore without the summer crowds
- England's social 'season' is in full swing with flower shows, outdoor opera, Royal Ascot and Henley Regatta – a great time to be there





## July

- Incredible Bastille Day fireworks at Carcassonne, the Tour de France, plus art, garden & food festivals galore in Italy, France and the UK
- Fields of ripening corn fringe the canals as the harvest begins; a wonderful time to collect wild herbs with your on-board chef
- Value rates across most of our cruise regions

## August

- Glorious colour in the Scottish Highlands and opera al fresco at the magnificent Arena di Verona in Italy
- The vineyards are abuzz as the wine harvest begins in the South of France
- School holidays and value rates make this the perfect time for a private whole barge Family Cruise charter

## September

- The grape pickers are out across France with the wine harvest now in full flow
- Many regions enjoy cultural events such as the countrywide French Cuisine Festival and the Regata Storica in Venice
- Temperate, clear days ensure the ideal climate for exploration and photography

## October

- Atmospheric, early morning mist over the water, gorgeous autumnal foliage everywhere and the second burst of Highland heather in Scotland
- The fruits of autumn make it high time to indulge in a gastronomic journey, with seasonal delicacies such as truffles, mushrooms and game to be enjoyed
- Value rates, and the feeling of almost 'having the place to yourself' outside of the summer season

## November & December

- Towpaths call for frosty morning walks before being whisked away for an exciting day exploring enchanting Christmas markets in Alsace
- Cooler climes call for decadent hot chocolates on deck, or cosying up with a great read in the saloon as the wintry countryside scenes pass you by
- Your last chance to cruise until next year!







# Discover Our Exclusive Collection of Hotel Barges

Embark on a journey through time with our exclusive fleet of 18 hotel barges, each steeped in rich history and unique character. Our vessels are owned by us or by seasoned, hands on operators who share our commitment to the highest standards of excellence. This diverse collection of luxury hotel barges showcases an array of styles, sizes, and pedigree, reflecting their distinct original purposes. Whether you're drawn to classic elegance or contemporary comfort, we'll help you find a vessel that perfectly suits your taste and makes your voyage unforgettable.



Scottish Highlander



Finesse

## A Unique Cruising Experience

Each of our hotel barges offers a unique cruising experience, boasting its own distinctive characteristics and personality. You can choose from a range of styles, from the charm of a traditional, cosy floating 'country house' adorned with varnished wood, brass, rich textures, and fabrics that reflect the region's beauty, to a spacious, contemporary design crafted with elegance and style in mind.

Our barges are categorised by cruise ratings, primarily based on cabin size. Our Ultra Deluxe cruises feature very spacious cabin suites, offering luxury comparable to high end hotels. Deluxe barges provide comfortable, slightly smaller cabins, while our First Class barges offer compact yet cosy cabins. The size of our vessels varies to accommodate the dimensions of the locks on different waterways, influencing the number of passengers each barge can carry. Our smallest hotel barge, Nymphaea, in the Loire Valley, accommodates 6 guests, while our largest vessel, La Bella Vita, cruises the Venetian Lagoon and River Po with up to 20 passengers.

Regardless of the size or style you choose, you can rest assured that the level of service will remain impeccable throughout your stay, ensuring a memorable and delightful voyage.





*La Bella Vita*



*Scottish Highlander*

## How Their Stories Began

Most of the hotel barges in our fleet started life as cargo vessels carrying merchandise such as wine, timber or grain. Not only did these vessels serve different purposes before life as a hotel barge, but they also enjoy a variety of different hull styles. Today, these barges have been lovingly converted to offer the ultimate luxury boutique accommodation for small groups, whilst retaining their original character and heritage.

The 8-passenger Anjodi, a 1929 Luxe Motor barge, is the founding member of our fleet. She embarked on her first cruise with us along the UNESCO-listed Canal du Midi over 40 years ago. Her single-deck design allows her to navigate beneath the canal's famously low stone bridges effortlessly.

Our oldest vessel, the 8-passenger L'Art de Vivre, was originally designed to be towed by horse. Built in 1917 as an English barge, she carried munitions to the trenches of the Great War before transporting Cognac along the River Charente. Remarkably, she was once owned by the Great Great Grandson of Napoleon!

6-passenger Nympha's Dutch Katwijker design, with its shallow draft, makes her the ideal vessel for navigating the beautiful sandy reaches of the River Cher in the Loire Valley. She is the only vessel to be able to cruise this magical waterway.

The 8-passenger Rosa, an old Dutch Klipper, was initially powered solely by sail and transported various cargoes on the offshore waterways of Holland and Belgium.

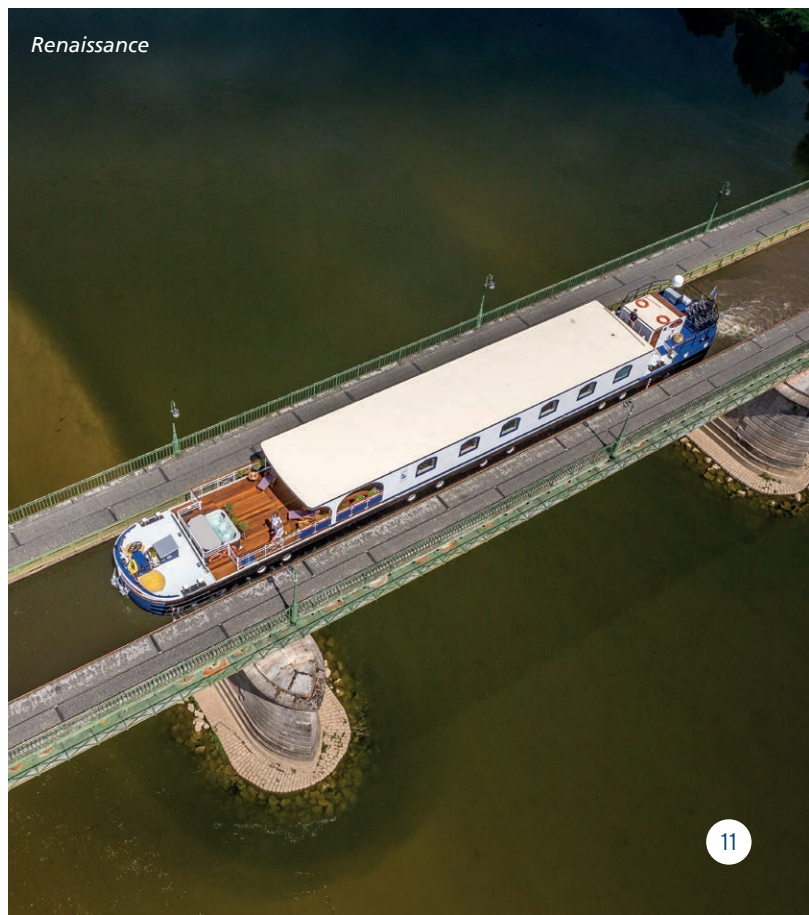
The 12-passenger Spirit of Scotland, although purpose-built over twenty years ago as a hotel barge, exudes a contemporary style that echoes the traditional steamers of the 19th and early 20th centuries. These steamers plied the lochs of Scotland as mail and passenger boats, offering a timeless charm that the Spirit of Scotland proudly upholds.



*Anjodi*



*L'Impressionniste*



*Renaissance*





# Welcome on Board

Whichever hotel barge you choose, you can rest assured that meticulous thought and care has gone into its interior design and furnishings. Each vessel is crafted to create a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere, evoking the charm and sophistication of a 'floating boutique hotel'.

## Your Home Away from Home

Step into the saloon and dining area of your hotel barge and you'll be welcomed by an exquisite blend of traditional and modern features. African hardwood panelling, antique furniture, and period lighting create a timeless elegance, while hand woven rugs and beautiful banquette seating add a touch of contemporary comfort. You'll find all the expected creature comforts, including air conditioning and central heating, Wi-Fi, bluetooth sound system, and a small collection of books and games. Some barges enjoy Starlink satellite internet, and PressReader for access to newspapers and magazines from around the world.

Many of our barges boast a sensational deck top spa pool and sun loungers, perfect for relaxing as you admire the passing countryside and charming villages. Should you desire a refreshment, our attentive hosts are ready to craft the perfect beverage. Alternatively, feel free to help yourself to our fully stocked open bar, offering a selection of premium alcoholic and soft drinks available at your leisure.



*Wheelhouse Observation Area on Scottish Highlander*



*En suite on Finesse*



*Galley Observation Window on Kir Royale*

## Unique Features on Every Barge

Each hotel barge in our fleet has its own distinctive identity, complete with unique features to enhance your journey. Some vessels boast a wheelhouse observation area, a cosy spot perfect for wildlife spotting, relaxing, or watching the Captain skilfully navigate the waters.

Several of our hotel barges feature a demonstration galley, where our talented chefs are thrilled to showcase their delicious creations and offer tips on how to recreate the menu at home. And, for music lovers, some cruises feature a lounge piano, inviting you to play your favourite tunes. Should you wish to stretch your legs at any point during the journey, feel free to wander along the towpath beside the barge on foot, or take advantage of the complimentary bicycles provided. You can meet your fellow guests at a lock further along the route, adding an extra layer of adventure to your experience.



## Your Choice of Accommodation

Our barges offer a variety of accommodation options, from compact yet charming twin or double staterooms to more spacious suites. Regardless of size, each stateroom or suite is meticulously designed to maximise comfort and functionality, featuring private en suite facilities and ample closet and drawer space.

When booking your cruise, you have the opportunity to select your preferred cabin early, ensuring your stay meets your exact preferences. For detailed information about cabin types, please refer to our deck plans on page 106.

## Hotel Barge Categories

The category class refers primarily to the cabins. The service, gourmet meals, wines, escorted excursions, and other amenities on board are of a similar standard on all of our hotel barges.

### Ultra Deluxe



*Very Spacious Cabin Suites Comparable to Luxury Hotels*



### Deluxe



*Comfortable, Slightly Smaller Cabins*



### First Class



*Compact but Cosy Cabins*





# Cruises for Everyone

Whether you're planning a private charter for friends and family, forging new friendships with like-minded travellers, or seeking a solo escape – our cruises are designed to bring people together through shared interests and extraordinary experiences.









# Cruises for Everyone



Whether you book on an individual cabin basis or charter the entire vessel for more of a private affair, hotel barge cruising is an excellent choice for couples, solo travellers, or families and friends seeking personalised service and unforgettable experiences throughout.

## Forging New Friendships

Many of our guests choose to book a hotel barge cruise on an individual cabin basis (also known as a hotel week) to connect with like-minded travellers who appreciate luxury service, fine dining, exquisite wines, and engaging conversation. They eagerly immerse themselves in local culture and history while enjoying a leisurely voyage of discovery.

## Exclusive Private Charters

Chartering an entire hotel barge allows for tailored itineraries – perfect for multi-generational family gatherings, friends' reunions, special celebrations, or special interest groups. Whatever your ages or interests, we ensure everyone's preferences are met.

## Solo Travellers Welcome

Our gentle voyages are ideal for solo travellers who are warmly welcomed by the crew and fellow shipmates. Join our 'floating house party', where dining is a communal affair around a shared table and enjoy private escorted daily excursions as part of a cohesive group experience.

## Back-to-Back Cruises

Back-to-Back cruises are a great way to extend your journey and explore multiple regions. Popular itinerary combinations include a dual Burgundy and Champagne cruise, or an exploration through Bordeaux and the Canal du Midi in the footsteps of renowned TV chef and restaurateur, Rick Stein.



## Family Cruises: Your Private 'Floating Villa'

Our Family Cruises are private charters offering privacy, flexibility, freedom, and fun for family members of all ages. Imagine having your own private floating villa with full crew, moving to a new location each day!

Bespoke itineraries are tailored to your family's interests, whatever their age. We can substitute many of your chosen barge's Classic Cruise excursions with child-friendly activities like zoo visits and canoeing, and adults can indulge in private wine tastings, tours of family-owned châteaux, and visits to local markets. For additional adventures such as hot air ballooning or horse-riding, these can be arranged directly with the provider for an extra fee.

Having the luxury of an onboard chef allows for flexible meal arrangements, meaning that every age and palate can be catered for with almost any culinary whim indulged. And, when it comes to safety equipment, we can arrange highchairs, travel cots, car seats, children's bikes and helmets, and onboard safety gates so that you can rest assured that your family is in safe hands.



## Explore Our Theme Cruises

Discover a variety of themed charter cruises tailored to suit all types of groups, large or small, centred around diverse interests from local culture and gastronomy to active pursuits like golf and walking.



### Wine Appreciation Cruises

Embark on a journey through the renowned wine regions of France or Italy. Our wine expert will lead tastings on board and accompany you to prestigious vineyards for private tours and tastings of premier and grand cru vintages.



### Whisky Trail

Indulge in our Whisky Trail Cruise in Scotland, featuring captivating tours and guided tastings at several Highland distilleries. Treat yourself to a wee dram of the finest single malts!



### Golf Cruises

Scotland, Ireland, England, and France boast exceptional golf courses such as Royal Dornoch, Golf de Fontainebleau, and Galway Bay. Tee times can be arranged for a memorable round of golf, followed by relaxing hours of cruising on your hotel barge.



### Opera Cruises

Embark on an operatic adventure aboard the hotel barge La Bella Vita between Venice and Mantua. Enjoy al fresco opera performances at the magnificent Arena di Verona, a visit to the Arena Muse Opera, and other Baroque theatres.



### Christmas Markets Cruises

Experience the festive spirit on a Christmas Markets Cruise to the enchanting markets of Alsace. Explore medieval towns adorned with festive decorations, towering Christmas trees, and traditional chalet-style stalls offering hand-blown baubles and seasonal delicacies.



### Culinary Cruises

Perfect for food enthusiasts, our Culinary Cruises feature cooking demonstrations, visits to local markets for fresh seasonal produce, gourmet meals by top-class chefs, and exclusive experiences like private wine tours, truffle hunting, olive oil cooperatives, and goat cheese farms.

### Additional Theme Cruises

Explore other specially crafted itineraries during our season, including Europe's finest landscape Garden Cruises, elegant Royal Cruises visiting England's Royal Residences, and active Walking or Biking Cruises.

Supplements may apply to selected theme cruises.







# Meet Your Expert Crew

Our English-speaking crew, primarily British or French, are dedicated to providing exceptional personal service and attention to detail. They ensure your safety while anticipating your every need, allowing you to simply relax and enjoy your journey.

## Experienced Captain

Your experienced Captain navigates our large vessel with precision, expertly manoeuvring through narrow locks and under low bridges. If you're eager to try steering the barge yourself, they'll do their best to find a suitable stretch for you to navigate under their guidance.

## Master Chef

The barge's master Chef will delight you with culinary creations that feature the best locally sourced ingredients. They have the experience and imagination to produce dishes that cater to your specific dietary requirements. Often, our chefs will also be pleased to show off their skills with a cooking demonstration in the galley.

## Attentive Hosts

Our attentive Hosts ensure your comfort throughout the journey, from preparing the perfect afternoon tea to crafting delightful cocktails for you to enjoy on deck. At meals, they provide detailed descriptions of hand selected wines and cheeses, enhancing your dining experience.





## Knowledgeable Tour Guide

Join daily excursions led by our knowledgeable Tour Guide, fluent in English and deeply familiar with the region's history and culture. They'll enrich your experience with local insight from the moment you step off the barge.

## Friendly Deckhand

Our friendly Deckhands work behind the scenes, keeping an eye on things by ensuring the vessels are clean and tidy, carrying out general maintenance, repositioning the hotel barge minibus and preparing the bicycles when guests require them.



*Spirit of Scotland Captain, Helen*



*Anjodi Captain, Laurent*



*L'Art de Vivre Captain, Matthew*



*Finesse Captain, Mathias*



*Scottish Highlander Captain, Mick*





# A Gastronomic Experience

Each meal is lovingly prepared and elegantly presented each day by the master Chef, whose culinary artistry is sure to impress.

Complemented by expertly chosen wines, and served in an inviting and charming atmosphere, each meal on board is a true event.









## Epicurean Delights

Embark on a culinary journey where traditional French and international haute cuisine takes centre stage. Our highly trained chefs are culinary artists whose gastronomic creations consistently surpass the standards of top restaurants, delighting our discerning clients.

### Finest Locally Sourced Ingredients

Experience the essence of each region through delectable menus crafted from the finest seasonal, and locally sourced ingredients. In Burgundy, savour a fillet of locally reared Charolais beef; on our Midi barges, indulge in a seafood platter of freshly caught shellfish. In Scotland, enjoy locally sourced game and wild salmon, and in Italy, taste the best homemade pasta dishes.

### Culinary Artistry

Our chefs are true artisans, sourcing ingredients from local markets and suppliers, and even bartering with lock keepers for freshly-picked fruit and vegetables along the way. They may also utilise herbs grown in onboard window boxes to infuse dishes with fresh, aromatic flavours. Before each gourmet meal, your chef personally introduces the dishes, tantalising your palate. For enthusiasts, our chefs are delighted to offer demonstrations and share tips, such as creating the silkiest sauces or crafting the perfect soufflé. We gladly accommodate special dietary requests including vegetarian options and allergies; please inform us at the time of booking.

### Hand-Picked Wine Lists

Enhancing the culinary journey, our hosts present carefully curated wine selections, describing each wine's characteristics before serving. Indulge in a smooth Santenay premier cru from southern Burgundy, a dry Sancerre, a crisp Chablis, or an aromatic Riesling grand cru from Alsace – each selected to complement your dining experience flawlessly.





## Highly Acclaimed Cheeses

Indulge in a variety of cheeses during your cruise, each with a rich local heritage waiting to be savoured. Your host will expertly describe the unique qualities of each cheese, from the creamy delights of France like Époisses and Chèvre au Poivre, to Scotland and Ireland's memorable offerings such as Black Crowdie and Cashed Blue. And let's not forget the flavoursome cheeses of Holland and Italy!

Whether you're a gourmand, a wine enthusiast, a cheese lover, or all three, our commitment to gastronomy ensures that every hotel barge experience provides an authentic taste of the region's finest offerings.



## Your Culinary Journey Awaits

With dining a true event on board, here's a taster of what culinary delights await you at each mealtime.

### Breakfast

Awaken to the aroma of brewing coffee. Then enjoy a continental breakfast of fresh fruit, cold meats, crusty French bread, hot buttery croissants and pastries – freshly-baked and collected from the local patisserie each morning – accompanied by delicious preserves, or perhaps a cooked breakfast.

### Luncheon

Luncheon may be a delicious homemade soup and entrée, accompanied by a choice of local cheeses and wines, or perhaps a buffet of imaginative salads, pâtés, quiches, meat or fish platters – often served al fresco on the sunlit deck overlooking the countryside.

### Dinner by Candlelight

On your hotel barge moored beneath the stars, dinner is a gastronomic adventure and the finale to your day's journey of relaxation and discovery. You may be served Chèvre Chaud en Portefeuille, or Marinated Langoustines, followed by Filet d'Agneau au Basilic, Truite à la Chablisienne, or Magret de Canard au Vinaigre de Framboise – all complemented by fine wines. Then a selection of creamy and firm cheeses such as Chaource, Époisses or Morbier, before a delicious dessert, perhaps Ile Flottante, Crème Brûlée à la Vanille avec Tuiles aux Amandes, Tarte Tatin avec Caramel au Beurre Salé or Fondant au Chocolat. And afterwards, of course, relax with coffee and liqueurs in the company of your fellow passengers.





# Wine and Whisky



## Discover Wine and Whisky

Embark on cruises through France's premier wine-growing regions such as Burgundy, Bordeaux, Languedoc-Roussillon, Champagne, and Alsace. With over 50 years of experience, we've cultivated strong relationships with renowned vineyards, witnessing a new generation of winemakers blending modern techniques with time-honoured traditions.

Indulge in a wide selection of wines carefully curated to complement your meals, catering to every palate aboard our cruises. For those on our Scottish and Irish hotel barges that are "too far north for the grape", enjoy private distillery tours and tastings for an immersion into the rich heritage of Celtic whiskies.



## Explore Diverse Wine Regions

From the robust Côte de Nuits and Vosne-Romanée vintages in Burgundy to the rich Minervois, Corbières, and Côtes de Roussillon wines of Southern France; from the crisp, dry white wines of Sancerre and Chablis to the distinctive Rieslings of Alsace and Moselle, and the renowned Champagne, our cruises offer a journey through some of Europe's finest wine regions.

Experience exclusive visits to prestigious domaines in the Côte de Nuits, Chablis, and Sancerre regions, as well as intimate encounters at family-run vineyards like Château de Paraza in the Midi and Villa Widmann-Borletti in Italy's Po Valley.







## Where each hotel barge cruises:

- 1 La Belle Epoque
- 2 L'Art de Vivre
- 3 L'Impressionniste
- 4 Finesse
- 5 Anjodi
- 6 Enchanté
- 7 Athos
- 8 Rosa
- 9 Renaissance
- 10 Nymphaea
- 11 Kir Royale
- 12 Panache
- 13 La Nouvelle Etoile
- 14 La Bella Vita
- 15 Magna Carta
- 16 Scottish Highlander
- 17 Spirit of Scotland
- 18 Shannon Princess

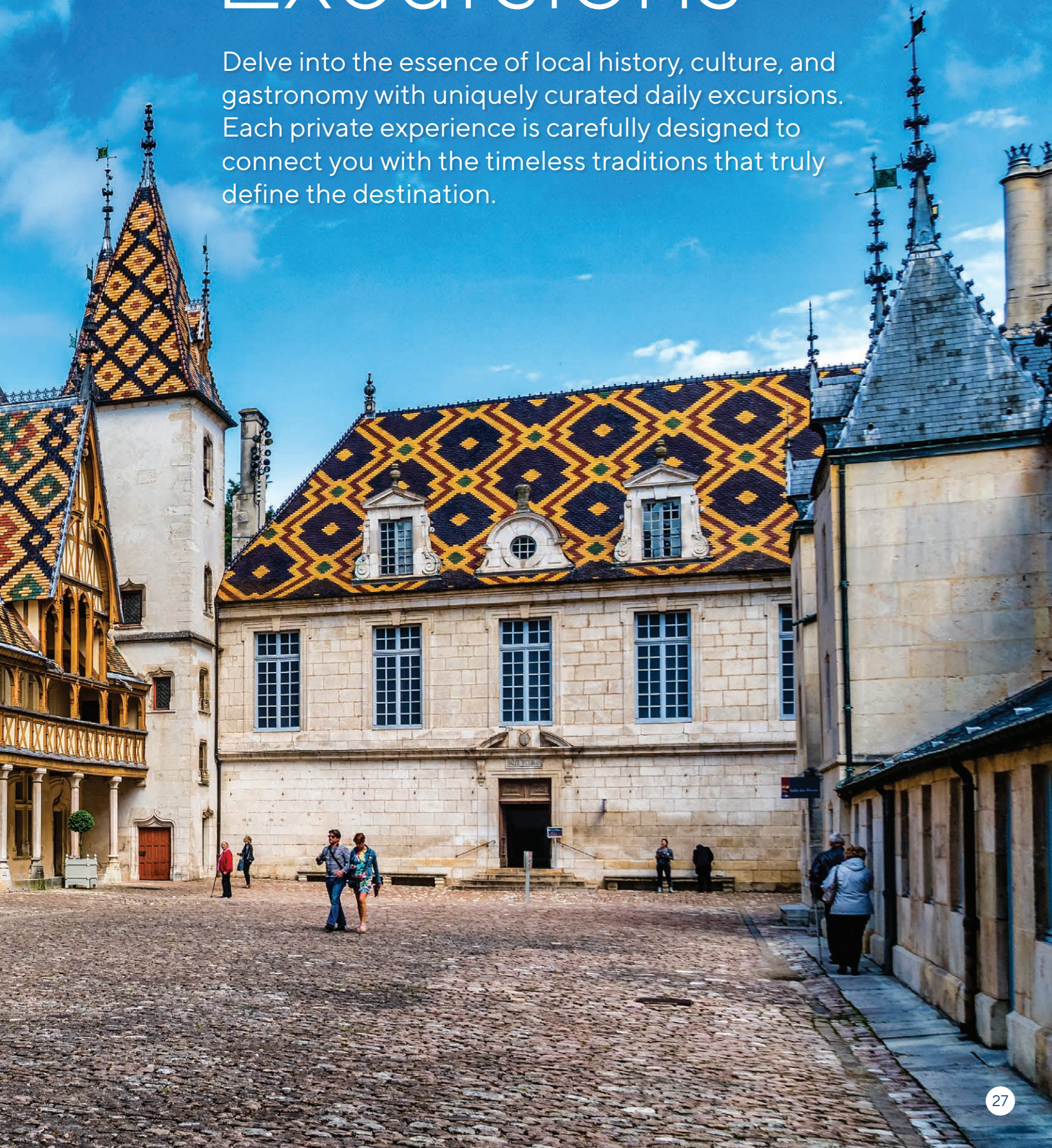






# Enriching Excursions

Delve into the essence of local history, culture, and gastronomy with uniquely curated daily excursions. Each private experience is carefully designed to connect you with the timeless traditions that truly define the destination.





# Exploring your Destination



Each destination along our hotel barging routes has been hand picked to enhance your experience along Europe's picturesque inland waterways. Discover stunning scenery, delve into local history, and explore charming cultural highlights that perfectly complement your cruise.

## Vineyards & Wine Tastings

Whether you're a seasoned connoisseur or simply enjoy a good glass of wine, our cruises offer a wealth of opportunities to explore regional wines. Experience private tours at prestigious domaines, where you'll immerse yourself in the art of winemaking and indulge in tastings of exquisite vintages. Visit renowned estates like Domaine Chanson in Beaune, grand cru domaines in the Champagne village of Aÿ, or intimate family-run vineyards such as Château de Paraza along the Canal du Midi.

## UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Many of our cruises include visits to UNESCO World Heritage Sites, offering glimpses into special historical treasures. Explore places like Abbaye de Fontenay, Reims Cathedral, the hilltop town of Vézelay, and the historic Canal du Midi in France. In Italy, discover iconic sites such as Venice, Mantua, and Ferrara.

## Exclusive Experiences

Enjoy exclusive visits to independently owned stately homes, castles, and châteaux. Delve into the history of places like Château de Ricey-Bas in France, Leap Castle in Ireland, or Villa Ca' Zen in Italy with private guided tours often hosted by the owners themselves, some bearing noble titles like Count, Countess, and Baroness. Indulge in private gourmet lunches amidst grand surroundings.

## Villages, Towns & Cities

Cruise past charming waterside villages where you can explore local shops and markets filled with artisanal products. Wander through elegant towns like Dijon, Strasbourg, and Narbonne, where cobbled streets beckon with unique shops offering perfect souvenirs of your memorable journey with us.



## Artisans & Market Stalls

One of the real pleasures of a hotel barge cruise is being served locally sourced food that has been lovingly prepared by the barge chef. Where possible, your chef will take you to charming local markets for regional delicacies, seasonal produce and artisanal products. There's also the opportunity to visit local artisans at work – perhaps at an oil press in the Midi, on a truffle hunt in Burgundy, or a family-run bakery in Alsace.

## Aperitifs & Digestifs

For aficionados of fine spirits, we offer exclusive visits to local wine and spirits producers. Delight in tastings at esteemed venues like an Armagnac producer in Gascony and the Noilly Prat vermouth distillery in the Midi. In Scotland, savour a whisky tour and tutored tasting at the Ben Nevis Distillery – an experience also featured in our 4-distillery Whisky Trail itinerary, perfect for charter groups of single malt enthusiasts.

*The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Mantua*







Villa Ca'Zen



Local Markets



Delft Pottery



Studio Home of Rosa Bonheur



Highclere Castle

## Comfort & Convenience

Experience unparalleled comfort with our barge's air-conditioned minibus, always at the ready to transport you in style. For many excursions, you'll find yourself just a short walk from the mooring, ensuring ease and accessibility throughout your journey. Each excursion, conducted in English, is typically led by a knowledgeable crew member – be it the Captain or a Deckhand/Tour Guide – who will regale you with fascinating facts and entertaining anecdotes about the places you explore.

## Discover Something New

While our well-travelled passengers have likely visited many of Europe's renowned landmarks, each hotel barge cruise promises a fresh perspective and immersive experience in one of Europe's culturally rich regions. Prepare to uncover hidden gems and gain unique insights into local heritage that will enrich your travel memories.

## Famous Film Locations

For film enthusiasts, our cruises include visits to iconic film settings such as Scotland's Eilean Donan Castle featured in *The World is Not Enough*, England's Highclere Castle known from *Downton Abbey*, and the grand piazzas and canals of Venice, immortalised in films like *Casino Royale*, *Indiana Jones*, and *The Italian Job*.

## Battlefields, Castles & Châteaux

Embark on tours of historic battlefields like Scotland's Culloden Moor, the World War One American Monument at Château-Thierry, and the American battlefield and cemetery at Belleau Wood in Champagne. Dive into architectural marvels and history at sites such as Scotland's Cawdor Castle, Burgundy's Château de Bazoches, and Italy's magnificent Ducal Palace in Mantua.

## Arts & Crafts

Delve into renowned arts and crafts destinations during your cruise, such as Burgundy's 13th century Château de Ratilly known for its pottery, the René Lalique glass collection in Alsace, and the Royal Delft factory famous for its porcelain in Holland. Explore the Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham by the River Thames, or the preserved studio of celebrated artist Rosa Bonheur in Western Burgundy.







Mazet Pralines

# Insider Experiences

Our guests are sophisticated seasoned travellers who have already experienced the most famous sites of the countries we cruise in. With our dedicated 'Insider Experiences' they will escape the madding tourist traps and take the road less travelled to off the beaten path gems, and fully immerse themselves in their chosen region's history, cultures, and culinary delights to become a true destination insider.

Insider Experiences are immersive cultural experiences that aren't always published in our itineraries – with many impromptu, depending on the occasion and the interests of the guests on board. Personalised for each itinerary, they offer a natural opportunity to experience a slice of local life, adding to the intimate nature of their 'gentle voyage of discovery'.

## Engaging with Local Life

As your barge sedately makes its way along one of the waterways of France, Scotland, Holland, or perhaps Italy, you will have the opportunity to meet local people from all walks of life. On a barge cruise through Burgundy, one of the friendly lock keepers may invite guests to visit their charming lockhouse and vegetable garden. In the Loire Valley, meet local Troglodytes in their cave dwellings, chiselled out of rock faces by their forebears many years ago. And during a cruise in Holland, a clog maker's workshop is a real insight into this age-old profession. You may also meet people from very different backgrounds such as the Count of a Renaissance château who will be happy to give you a private showing of his ancestral family home, then invite you to join him for a tasting of wine from his own cellar; or be treated to a special tour of the gardens of a Scottish castle by the head gardener – or even 'the Lady of the house' herself.



Clog Maker's Workshop



Falconry at The Highland Club



Private lunch at Maison Champy



## Exceptional Private Dining Experiences

Whilst meals on board are a fine dining affair, we also offer a number of spectacular private dining experiences ashore. Some of our favourites include a gourmet lunch with a Baroness in the 12th century Château de Ricey-Bas in Burgundy, and dinner on the banks of Lord Byron's River Po with a Countess at the Villa Ca'Zen.

Guests can also enjoy some unique dining venues, such as a private lunch at Maison Champy, served in one of the winery's historic large wooden wine vats or 'caves', a gourmet lunch at the home of the most celebrated female artist of the 19th century, Rosa Bonheur, and a private lunch in the family salon at the boutique champagne house, Frerejean Frères.

## History, Heritage & Craftmanship

Many of the diverse waterways we cruise on have fascinating histories which you can learn about through meeting many of the interesting characters who work and live on them. A private visit to an esteemed boatyard on the Royal River Thames to see craftsmen hand-building traditional river craft is sure to fascinate, while a short jaunt aboard an open wooden boat on the River Loire enjoying a glass of white wine with the owner creates unique travel stories to take home.

## Enjoying the Arts

As the sun sets on a warm French summer evening, imagine unwinding with a refreshing cocktail in hand, accompanied by the smooth sounds of your private onboard jazz ensemble. Or picture this: A dramatic performance on the misty banks of a Scottish loch, where a kilted bagpiper in full regalia transports you to a world of Highland charm. Whether it's the romance of France, the rugged beauty of Scotland and beyond, every moment is a chance to indulge your senses through cultural and musical heritage.

## A Taste of the Good Life

Local gastronomy is also a firm feature of our Insider Experiences. You may find yourself enjoying a truffle hunting demonstration, followed by a tasting of truffles and olive oils in the South of France, or perhaps visiting the confectioners renowned for creating the original praline recipe over 100 years ago – and of course sampling the end product!



*Private Dinner at the Beautiful Villa Ca'Zen*



*Peter Freebody's Boatyard on the River Thames*



*Onboard Entertainment*



*Grape Harvesting*



# Along the Towpath



Embrace the freedom of canalside exploration as your hotel barge glides serenely just a stone's throw from the towpath. Perhaps a brief afternoon stroll is in order after an indulgent lunch, or a further investigation of the idyllic countryside on one of the bicycles provided. In any case there is often the chance to hop off and explore those unique canalside locations that you simply wouldn't encounter anywhere else.

## 'A Bicycle Made for You'

Each vessel in our fleet is equipped with easy to ride, all-terrain bicycles complete with helmets that are available for your use throughout the journey. Our attentive crew members make sure these bicycles are effortlessly offloaded at every lock or mooring, making necessary adjustments for a perfect fit for every rider. For families, children's bicycles are readily available upon request, ensuring everyone can enjoy the scenic towpaths and picturesque surroundings to the fullest.



## Biking Charters

For avid cyclists, we offer 'Bike & Barge' themed cruises tailored for private groups covering longer distances on upgraded bikes. Enjoy half-day guided itineraries that highlight the best of the local area each day, possibly including a countryside picnic (supplement applies).

If the idea of a little pedalling appeals, our reservations team can advise you on the biking opportunities for each cruise itinerary.



## Biking Plus

For those passengers who would like to be a little more adventurous than riding along the nearby towpath, a number of our hotel barges offer a 'Biking Plus' option, where you can take a barge bike on most days and, unguided, follow an interesting, but not too challenging route which we have already researched.

With our carefully crafted biking maps and a backpack, you can explore the surrounding countryside and villages along the lanes, towpaths and byways for an hour or two. Our crew are on hand to fetch you, should you require any assistance. Otherwise, you can just re-join the hotel barge where you left her, or maybe a little further along the canal.

And reassuringly, the itinerary is arranged so that you won't miss any of the organised excursions or much of the cruising!



## e-Bikes

Ideal for exploring Burgundy, Alsace, and the Languedoc up close without breaking a sweat! Our robust fleet of electric bicycles awaits, providing effortless navigation along towpaths and rural lanes. e-Bikes require advance booking with an additional supplement.



## A Walk Nearby...

Gently fuse the relaxation of hotel barging with leisurely exploration on foot. Upon arrival, wander nearby surroundings solo or with fellow travellers. An evening stroll along the towpath primes your appetite for the next gourmet dinner onboard.

## ...or Further Afield

Throughout the season, walkers can combine hotel barge cruising with easy hikes along scenic routes like Scotland's Great Glen Way, Ireland's footpaths, or picturesque Burgundy or Champagne during autumn's vineyard splendour. Walking groups return seasonally to enjoy this blend of gentle exercise and serene indulgence.

Whether strolling or cycling, discover more about the local people and places, and rejuvenate both body and spirit!





# Burgundy

The Great Wine Region of Burgundy captivates with its scenic vineyards, diverse terroirs, timeless châteaux, and exquisite cuisine, weaving together a rich tapestry of history and natural beauty.









# Burgundy

Heart of Rural France - Vineyards & Châteaux







The 12th Century Hilltop Town of Vézelay



Château d'Ancy le Franc



Burgundy Vineyards



L'Impressionniste Cruising in Châteauneuf-en-Auxois

La Belle Epoque: 🏆 Deluxe | 👤 12 Passengers | 🍷 6 Crew

Finesse: 🏆 Ultra Deluxe | 👤 8 Passengers | 🍷 5 Crew

L'Impressionniste: 🏆 Deluxe | 👤 12 Passengers | 🍷 6 Crew

L'Art de Vivre: 🏆 First Class | 👤 8 Passengers | 🍷 5 Crew

## Burgundy

Burgundy boasts some of the world's finest wines with around 60,000 acres of sunlit vines and arguably the prettiest canals in France. These canals wind their way in smooth curves through the heart of renowned wine growing areas such as Chablis, Côte de Beaune and Côte de Nuits, sometimes rising steeply through a flight of locks that appear like staircases.

The Canal du Nivernais meanders along with the picturesque River Yonne, through a largely undiscovered region near the Morvan Hills, passing sleepy villages and Charolais cattle grazing in the lush pastures. This is the original home of hotel barging with its hand swung bridges and old logging sites, and where time seems to have stood still for centuries.

The landscape around Burgundy is one of rolling hills covered in forests of oak, maple and pine and where spring, summer and autumn each leave a unique signature. Medieval towns are surrounded by unspoilt countryside and the wonderful markets have stalls brimming with fresh local products cultivated on the fertile plains.

In Southern Burgundy, the smooth-flowing River Saône links the Canal de Bourgogne with the charming Canal du Centre which weaves its way through a landscape of vineyards producing renowned wines such as Santenay, Montrachet and Meursault.

Burgundy's gastronomic tradition is certainly rich and diverse and a sedate cruise on a hotel barge along one of its delightful waterways will allow you to indulge in good food and wine, two of the real pleasures in life.

## Typical Cuisine Aboard

### Gastronomy

Boeuf Bourguignon; Magret de Canard au Ratafia de Bourgogne; Tourte Chaude d'Escargots à la Ciboulette; Terrine du Pêcheur Maison

### Wine Cellar

Domaine Jadot, Moulin à Vent; Celliers des Ursulines, Saint Romain; Domaine Camus, Charnes Chambertin Grand Cru; Domaine Ferraton, Châteauneuf du Pape 'Le Parvis'

### Cheese Board

Citeaux; Ami du Chambertin; Bouton de Culotte; Aisy Cendré; Le Petit Vougeot; Chaource; Époisses; Soumaintrain; Mont d'Or







# La Belle Epoque

## Northern Burgundy

**La Belle Epoque:** 🏠 Deluxe | 👥 12 Passengers | 👨‍🍳 6 Crew

In her first life, La Belle Epoque started her career transporting logs between Burgundy and Paris. Today, she is transformed into a deluxe hotel barge carrying a very different cargo along the very same canals.

She has been designed with both elegance and passenger comfort in mind and her welcoming features include a wood panelled saloon/dining room with bespoke, hand built seating and a spacious sun deck with spa pool. The comfortable cabin accommodation comprises two junior suites and four staterooms and a choice of twin or double beds, all with marble en suite facilities.

La Belle Epoque is the perfect vessel to take you on a gentle voyage of discovery through a region studded with tradition and history that goes back centuries. As she meanders along the Burgundy Canal with its undulating countryside, you will find that the towpath is always there for a spot of walking or cycling.

### Cruise Highlights

- Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Abbaye de Fontenay
- Private tasting of Chablis wines at the prestigious Domaine Laroche, including a visit to the 1,000 year old monastery cellars
- Majestic falconry display at the Château de Commarin, with the chance to meet Count Bertrand de Vogüe
- Private champagne tasting at Maison Taisne Riocour
- Dine with the Baron & Baroness of the Château de Ricey-Bas







Domaine Laroche



Abbaye de Fontenay

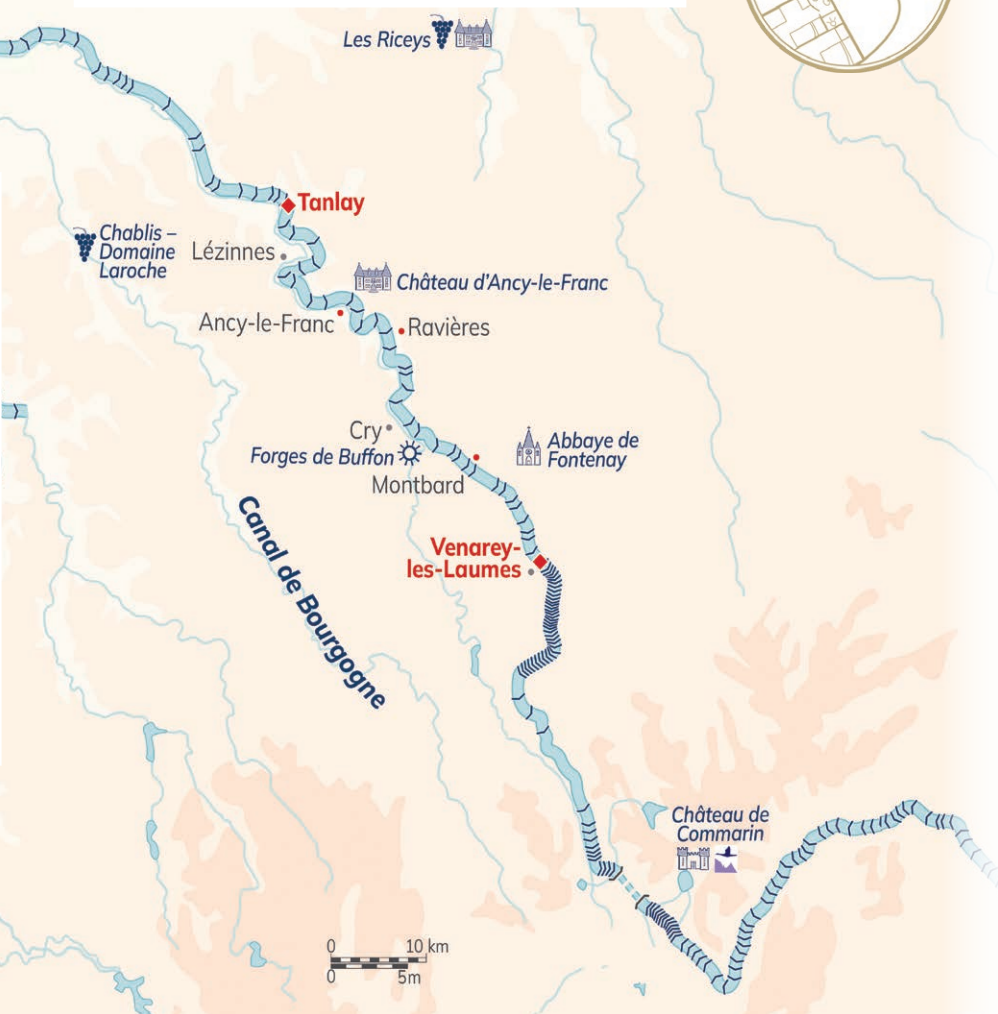


Falconry at Château de Commarin



Junior Suite

View  
deck plan on  
page 106



## ITINERARY

### Venarey-les-Laumes to Tanlay

#### Day 1 Venarey-les-Laumes

Guests are met at the Hotel Westminster in Paris and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to La Belle Epoque where a champagne welcome awaits. Dinner on board.

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

This morning, we cruise through a variety of picturesque pastoral villages to our mooring at Montbard. 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 and a private tour of the building, with the chance to meet the owner, Count Bertrand de Vogüé. Dinner on board.

#### Day 3 Montbard to Ravières

A morning cruise with excellent walking and cycling opportunities, passing the 18th century Forges de Buffon. Afternoon visit to the exquisite UNESCO World Heritage Site of Abbaye de Fontenay, founded by St Bernard in 1118. A serene evening cruise to Ravières, followed by dinner on board.

#### Day 4 Ravières to Ancy-le-Franc

Following breakfast on board, we head to Les Riceys, the most southerly wine growing area of the Champagne region which holds 3 Appellation d'Origine Contrôlées. Here we visit Maison Taisne Riocour, viewing the vineyards and winery with the Baron. We then head to Château de Ricey-Bas for a tasting of some of their champagnes, before a gourmet lunch with the Baron and Baroness in the private family salon. This afternoon, we cruise on to our mooring at Ancy-le-Franc. Dinner on board.

#### Day 5 Ancy-le-Franc to Lézennes

This morning, we tour the stunning Château d'Ancy-le-Franc, renowned for containing France's biggest collection of Renaissance murals. In the afternoon, a gentle descent through the picturesque locks to moor at Lézennes. Dinner on board.

#### Day 6 Lézennes to Tanlay

After breakfast, we tour the vineyards and town of Chablis to enjoy a private wine tasting at the prestigious Domaine Laroche. Here, we visit the 1,000-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. Following lunch, we enjoy a leisurely cruise to our final mooring at Tanlay, with the opportunity to cycle or walk into the village of Saint Vinnemer. Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

#### Day 7 Tanlay

After breakfast, guests are transferred to Paris.

#### Theme Cruises Available:

● Family ● Walking ● Biking ● Wine Appreciation



# Finesse

Southern Burgundy



**Finesse:** 🏠 Ultra Deluxe | 🐾 8 Passengers | 👤 5 Crew

Finesse is a double-decker hotel barge that was built to exacting standards with luxury in mind, enhanced by her modern public areas and spacious cabin suite accommodation.

The well-designed public areas include a saloon with contemporary furnishings and panoramic windows where the emphasis is on making the most of the natural light. There is also an open demonstration galley where guests can watch their chef preparing delicious gourmet meals. Outside, guests can relax on the large sun deck with its al fresco dining area, comfortable seating and spa pool.

The four cabin suites, which can be in a twin or double bed configuration, are very spacious (approx. 265 sq ft including en suite), each one air-conditioned and with a beautifully appointed shower room.

Finesse is the perfect vessel on which to cruise the meandering waterways of Southern Burgundy past vineyards and charming canalside villages, and to discover fascinating places along the way such as Autun, Beaune and Dijon.

## Cruise Highlights

- Visit Clos de Vougeot, home of the Chevaliers du Tastevin
- Visit to Beaune, including Hôtel-Dieu Hospice, one of France's most prestigious historic monuments
- Private wine tasting and exclusive gastronomic lunch in the cellars of Maison Champy
- Visit to the ancient Roman city of Autun, including a 17,000 seat amphitheatre
- Private winery tour and tasting at Domaine Chanzy



Suite





Maison Champy Vineyards



Autun Cathedral



Cistercian Cellar at Château du Clos de Vougeot



## ITINERARY

### St-Julien-sur-Dheune to Chalon-sur-Saône

#### Day 1 St-Julien-sur-Dheune

Guests are met in Paris and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Finesse where a champagne welcome awaits them. Then there is time to wander along the towpath and admire the classic Burgundy scenery before dinner on board.

#### Day 2 St-Julien-sur-Dheune to St-Léger-sur-Dheune

This morning, we cruise along the Canal du Centre to St-Léger-sur-Dheune, descending a series of 11 locks along the way. After lunch on board, we visit the 14th century Château de Germolles, with its ducal chapel, medieval wall paintings and romantic gardens. Dinner on board.

#### Day 3 St-Léger-sur-Dheune to Remigny

This morning, we head to the ancient Roman city of Autun where we tour numerous antique monuments, including a 17,000 seat amphitheatre. Following lunch on board, we cruise past picturesque Burgundian villages to our mooring at Remigny. Dinner on board.

#### Day 4 Remigny to Rully

After breakfast, we drive through the Côte de Beaune vineyards to the town of Beaune. Our first stop will be a visit to the oldest winemakers in Burgundy, Maison Champy. Guests will enjoy a private tour and tasting, followed by lunch in a unique dining venue – one of the winery's historic large wooden wine vats or cuves. We then we go on to visit the stunning 15th century Hôtel-Dieu Hospice before an afternoon cruise past the charming little town of Chagny. Dinner on board.

#### Day 5 Rully to Fragnes

This morning, we continue our cruise along the Canal du Centre to the village of Fragnes. There are perfect opportunities to walk or cycle along the towpath en route. In the afternoon, we escort you on a winery tour and private tasting to the delightful Domaine Chanzy, one of Burgundy's must-see wine estates. Dinner on board.

#### Day 6 Fragnes to Chalon-sur-Saône

This morning, we visit the wall-enclosed vineyard of Clos de Vougeot for a tour of the iconic cellars. Continue along the Route des Grands Cru through the Côte de Nuits, before a stop at the prestigious vineyard of Romanée Conti for a brief history on the significance of its wines. Back on board, our last cruise takes us off the canal and on to the peaceful River Saône, and downstream to Chalon-sur-Saône – our final mooring. After lunch on board, enjoy free time to perhaps enjoy a walk to the elegant waterfront and imposing cathedral, before the Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

#### Day 7 Chalon-sur-Saône

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to their choice of location in Paris.

#### Theme Cruises Available:

- Family
- Biking
- Wine Appreciation







# L'Impressionniste

## Southern Burgundy

**L'Impressionniste:** 🏠 Deluxe | 👤 12 Passengers | 👨‍🍳 6 Crew

A supremely refined vessel, L'Impressionniste offers an onboard ambience that combines traditional and modern French influences to ensure that you cruise in style and comfort.

Her light and airy interior features picture windows and prints reminiscent of the era after which she has been named. In the spacious saloon with its rich coloured teak flooring and soft lighting, there are balloon-backed dining chairs and elegant banquettes that complete the effect.

The cabins, each one bearing the name of a renowned Impressionist painter, offer a choice of accommodation in two large junior suites or four amply-sized staterooms, complemented by modern en suite shower rooms. Twin or double bed configurations are also available.

L'Impressionniste glides gently through the picturesque Ouche Valley in Southern Burgundy through locks dotted with charming lock houses. You will see medieval villages perched on hilltops and have the opportunity to discover a region famed for its history and viticulture, with visits to such places as Beaune, the local 'wine capital', and the elegant city of Dijon.

### Cruise Highlights

- Visit Clos de Vougeot, home of the Chevaliers du Tastevin
- Tour of Dijon and its markets
- Private falconry display & tour at the Château de Commarin, with the chance to meet Count Bertrand de Vogüé
- Tour of Domaine Chanson including a private wine tasting and exclusive gastronomic lunch
- Visit to medieval Châteauneuf-en-Auxois







Junior Suite



Dijon

View  
deck plan on  
page 106



Domaine Chanson



## ITINERARY

### Fleurey-sur-Ouche to Escommes

#### Day 1 Fleurey-sur-Ouche

Guests are met at the Hotel Westminster in Paris and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to the elegant L'Impressionniste where a champagne reception and gourmet dinner awaits them.

#### Day 2 Fleurey-sur-Ouche to Sainte Marie-sur-Ouche

This morning, we cruise along this enchanting canal past sleepy villages and pretty lock houses. After lunch, we visit Clos de Vougeot, headquarters of the Chevaliers du Tastevin, for a tour of the iconic cellars, with the possibility of a private tasting of fine Burgundies on the way back. Dinner on board.

#### Day 3 Sainte Marie-sur Ouche to La Bussière

After breakfast, we enjoy a walking tour of Old Dijon with its impressive Notre-Dame de Dijon church, vivid produce markets and ample shopping opportunities. Lunch on board is followed by a leisurely afternoon cruise to La Bussière. Dinner on board.

#### Day 4 La Bussière to Pont d'Ouche

After a short morning cruise, we discover the UNESCO-listed vineyards of the Côte de Beaune for an insight into the production of the region's finest wines. We continue to the wine capital of Beaune for a private tour and tasting at the renowned Domaine Chanson, before a private lunch in the domaine's château. Afterwards, we visit the fascinating 15th century Hôtel-Dieu Hospice and explore the town, before a short evening cruise and dinner on board.

#### Day 5 Pont d'Ouche to Vandennessen

This morning we leave the Ouche Valley and cruise to Vandennessen-en-Auxois. Lunch is served aboard, before we visit the medieval village, craft shops and castle of Châteauneuf-en-Auxois, which offers a fine overview of the pastoral surroundings. Dinner on board.

#### Day 6 Vandennessen to Escommes

Our final cruise takes us to the canal summit, 1,250 feet above sea level, just before the Pouilly tunnel. This afternoon we visit the moat-encircled Château de Commarin to be treated to a private demonstration of the medieval sport of falconry and a private tour of the building, with the chance to meet the owner, Count Bertrand de Vogüé. Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

#### Day 7 Escommes

After breakfast, guests are transferred to Paris.

#### Theme Cruises Available:

● Golf ● Culinary ● Family ● Wine Appreciation



# L'Art de Vivre

Burgundy – Lower Nivernais Canal & River Yonne



**L'Art de Vivre:** 🏠 First Class | 👥 8 Passengers | 👤 5 Crew

L'Art de Vivre is the oldest hotel barge in our fleet and was built in England during World War One as a supply vessel to the Allied troops battling in the Somme.

Today, her life is a little less dramatic as she cruises one of France's longest-established canals, the Canal du Nivernais.

She is very much a traditional barge in style, with original wood and brass features that emphasise her heritage and create a warm and inviting interior atmosphere. The comfortable, compact staterooms all have modern en suite facilities and the delightful saloon combines contemporary seating with more traditional furnishings.

Outside, there is a sun deck to relax on with a glass of wine as you glide through the pretty Burgundy countryside and a spa pool to soak in. You can explore the ever present towpath on foot or on one of the barge's bicycles, before rejoining L'Art de Vivre at one of the locks up ahead.

Located on the edge of the Morvan hills, this charming region is home to picture-postcard villages and centuries-old history, explored on a gentle cruise aboard L'Art de Vivre which takes you back in time along a magical waterway.

## Cruise Highlights

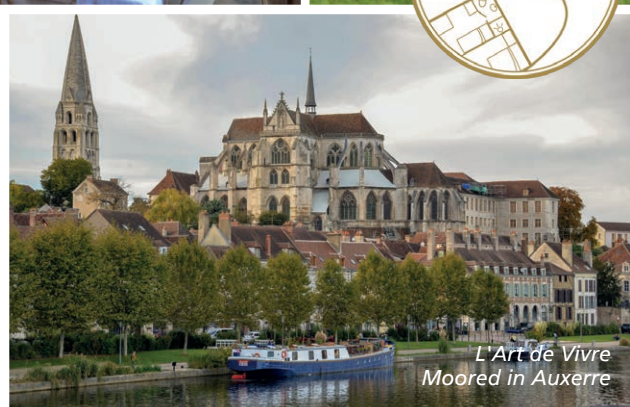
- Explore the stunning city of Auxerre and its magnificent cathedral
- Private Chablis tasting at the prestigious Domaine Laroche, followed by a gourmet lunch in the monks' former refectory
- Visit the UNESCO-listed pilgrimage hilltop town of Vézelay and its basilica
- Visit the elegant 12th century Château de Bazoches
- Discover the Aubigny quarry, followed by a crémant wine tasting at Bailly-Lapierre







View  
deck plan on  
page 106



L'Art de Vivre  
Moored in Auxerre



## ITINERARY

### L'Art de Vivre: Auxerre to Chevroches

#### Day 1 Auxerre

Guests are met at the Hotel Westminster in Paris and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to L'Art de Vivre. Following a champagne welcome, you are free to take a stroll into Auxerre or along the banks of the River Yonne before returning for dinner on board.

#### Day 2 Auxerre to Vincelles

Following lunch on board, we head to the Carrière d'Aubigny, a unique and historic quarry that has played a significant role in the construction of many iconic buildings in Paris. Afterwards, we visit the cellars of Bailly-Lapierre for a tasting before dinner on board.

#### Day 3 Vincelles to Mailly-la-Ville

Our morning visit is to the medieval town of Auxerre; originally the capital of Lower Burgundy, the town prides itself on its lavish Renaissance houses and magnificent cathedral. We then return to the hotel barge for a pastoral cruise to the sleepy village of Mailly-la-Ville. Dinner on board.

#### Day 4 Mailly-la-Ville to Le Saussois

This morning, we head to the celebrated wine village of Chablis where we enjoy a private tasting at the prestigious Domaine Laroche and a delicious gourmet lunch in the monks' former refectory. In the afternoon, we cruise past stunning cliffs to our mooring at Le Saussois. Dinner aboard.

#### Day 5 Le Saussois to Lucy-sur-Yonne

Our morning cruise is through the picturesque Yonne Valley to our mooring at Lucy-sur-Yonne. After lunch on board, we enjoy an excursion to the UNESCO-listed pilgrimage town of Vézelay, one of Burgundy's most famous treasures, with the Romanesque Basilica of St Mary Magdalene, craft shops and fine views of the surrounding countryside. Dinner on board.

#### Day 6 Lucy-sur-Yonne to Chevroches

A morning cruise through beautiful countryside takes us to our final mooring at the pretty canalside village of Chevroches. Here, we visit the elegant 12th century Château de Bazoches, renowned for its archetypal trapezoidal construction and offering beautiful views from its lofty vantage point. Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

#### Day 7 Chevroches

After breakfast, guests are transferred to Paris.

#### Theme Cruises Available:

- Family
- Walking
- Biking
- Wine Appreciation





# Canal du Midi

A spectacular land of rich historic and cultural heritage, where diverse Mediterranean landscapes meet sun-drenched vineyards and awe-inspiring Cathar fortresses.











# Canal du Midi

South of France





The Tree-Lined Canal du Midi



Narbonne



Bagnas Nature Reserve

**Enchanté:** 🏆 Ultra Deluxe | 👤 8 Passengers | 🍽️ 5 Crew

**Anjodi:** 🏆 First Class | 👤 8 Passengers | 🍽️ 5 Crew

**Athos:** 🏆 First Class | 👤 10 Passengers | 🍽️ 5 Crew

## Canal du Midi

The 340-year-old Canal du Midi skirts the sun-drenched shore of the Mediterranean before meandering inland through the fabled 'Cathar Country', with its fortified hilltop villages and walled cities, such as Carcassonne.

This historic canal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is defined by its beauty, lined with plane trees, canalside villages and crossed by pretty, arched bridges. The warm Mediterranean weather and gentle pace of life lulls you into unwinding as your hotel barge slowly cruises along this serene waterway. This is the perfect place for cycling or walking along the ever-present towpath, or simply watching the scenery drift by as you relax on deck with a cool drink.

In the distance you can see the Pyrenees, while closer to hand are the vineyards of the Languedoc that seem to stretch endlessly all around. You will discover a marvellous blend of ancient Gallo-Roman and traditional influences reflected throughout this region of historical importance and visit such places as Pézenas, Minerve and Narbonne.

The cuisine is a delicious combination of Provençal and Mediterranean flavours. Fresh seafood and regional specialities, paired with the excellent local Corbières and Minervois wines, produce an unforgettable repertoire of dining experiences.



## Typical Cuisine Aboard

### Gastronomy

Cassoulet de Castelnaudary; Tarte aux Abricots; Ragout de Calamars à la Provençale; Filet de Dorade aux Olives Lucques; Noisette d'Agneau des Corbières en Croûte de Sel Sauce Romarin; Bouillabaisse

### Wine Cellar

Clos Bagatelle, St Chinian 'La Terre de Mon Père'; Domaine Perdiguier, Cuvée d'en Auger; Domaine Mas Amiel, Côtes de Rousillon 'Le Plaisir'; Domaine Hubert de Beauvignac, Picpoul de Pinet

### Cheese Board

Pélardon; Roquefort Papillon; Cathar au Chèvre; Tomme au Piment d'Espelette; Bleu de Causses; Reblochon; Salers; Morbier; Laguiole; St Felicien; Mimolette





# Enchanté

Canal du Midi

**Enchanté:** 🏠 Ultra Deluxe | 👥 8 Passengers | 👨‍🍳 5 Crew

Enchanté is a spacious, double-decker hotel barge that has been built to the highest standard to offer a stylish onboard ambience that is perfect for enjoying a cruise through this sun-drenched region.

The hotel barge is tastefully furnished in a contemporary style, creating a bright, Art Deco atmosphere. She has a large saloon with outstanding attention to detail, including an open-plan demonstration galley where guests can see their skilled chef at work.

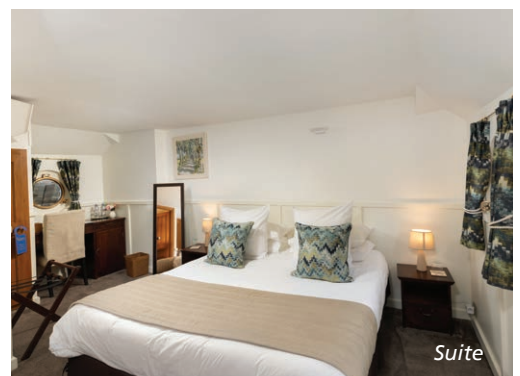
The luxurious air-conditioned accommodation is in four equally spacious twin or double bed suites, the largest of any hotel barge on the Canal du Midi and all with superbly appointed en suite shower rooms.

Outside, the spacious sun deck boasts an al fresco dining area, a gorgeous spa pool and comfortable loungers to relax in while the countryside drifts slowly by.

Enchanté is a hotel barge that offers an alluring blend of luxury and modernity. She is a vessel that will charm any discerning traveller on her sedate journey through the Midi countryside.

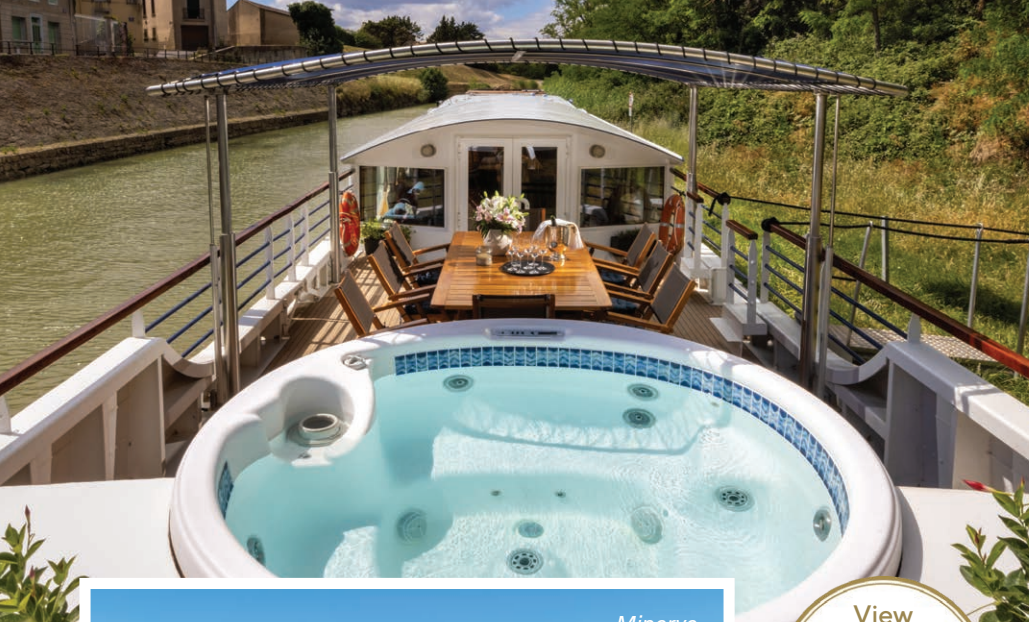
## Cruise Highlights

- Private tour, tasting and gourmet lunch at the family-owned Château de Paraza
- Tour Narbonne's Archbishop's Palace and experience the colourful market
- Join an olive oil tasting and truffle hunt at Mas d'Antonin
- Visit stunning Minerve, named as one of the 'Most Beautiful Villages of France'
- Tour of the enchanting medieval city of Carcassonne



Suite





Minerve



Narbonne



Enchanté

## ITINERARY

### Sallèles d'Aude to Trèbes

#### Day 1 Sallèles d'Aude to Le Somail

Guests are met in Narbonne and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Enchanté where a champagne welcome and cruise to Le Somail awaits. Dinner on board.

#### Day 2 Le Somail to Roubia

This morning, we join a truffle hunt demonstration, following an expert truffle dog in search of the coveted 'black gold' beneath oak trees. After a truffle sampling, we go on to learn about the local olives and their oils during a tasting session. Afternoon cruise along the Grand Bief to the historical village of Roubia. Dinner on board.

#### Day 3 Roubia to Homps

This morning's excursion is to Narbonne, where we tour the Archbishop's Palace, Cathedral and Via Domitia, and explore the indoor market. Enjoy an afternoon cruise past vineyards and pine trees to the picturesque village of Homps, where guests are free to explore before dinner on board.

#### Day 4 Homps to Puichéric

This morning, we enjoy a private winery tour at the 17th century Château de Paraza whose 70 hectares of vineyards border the canal. After tasting some of their fine wines, among the best in the Languedoc, we have a private lunch in the château's salon. This afternoon, we return to the barge for a cruise to Puichéric. Dinner on board.

#### Day 5 Puichéric to Marseillette

Today, we visit the fortified hilltop village of Minerve, named one of the 'Most Beautiful Villages of France', and learn about its dramatic medieval history as the centre of the Cathar religious rebellions against the Catholic Church. This afternoon, we'll cruise along the 340-year-old Canal du Midi, ascending its locks as the relief becomes steeper. Dinner on board.

#### Day 6 Marseillette to Trèbes

This morning, we visit the famed fortress city of Carcassonne, dating back to the Gallo-Roman era, and is the most complete medieval fortified city in existence today. This afternoon, we glide past picturesque vineyards and hamlets to Trèbes. Once a major ally to Carcassonne, this medieval town still retains unique paintings within its 13th century church. Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

#### Day 7 Trèbes

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to their choice of location in Narbonne.

#### Theme Cruises Available:

- Golf
- Family
- Wine Appreciation
- Culinary



# Anjodi

Canal du Midi



**Anjodi:** 🏠 First Class | 👥 8 Passengers | 👤 5 Crew

Anjodi is very much a hotel barge of the classic Dutch design and also the founding member of our fleet, embarking on her first cruises along the historic Canal du Midi over 40 years ago.

Her beautiful interior makes the most of traditional materials such as African hardwoods and shining brass to create a warm onboard feel, reminiscent of a classic yacht.

The charming saloon is particularly welcoming, with its combination of richly coloured wooden flooring, elegant French dining furniture and comfortable banquette seating, as well as a fully-stocked bar.

The four compact, cleverly-designed staterooms, featuring hardwood panelling and brass portholes, offer a choice of twin or double bed accommodation, each with en suite facilities.

The spacious sun deck is shaded by an adjustable canopy and there are comfortable sun loungers and a spa pool to soak in with a glass of chilled white wine.

Anjodi is a very well-known hotel barge having achieved 'film star' status some years ago following her many appearances in the television series *Rick Stein's French Odyssey*, when she carried the TV chef and restaurateur on a voyage of culinary discovery through Southern France. Why not follow in his footsteps with a cruise along the Canal du Midi, a 340-year-old canal with UNESCO World Heritage status?

## Cruise Highlights

- Private wine tasting at the Château de Paraza
- Cruise through the world's oldest canal tunnel at Malpas
- A unique culinary experience at Le Mas d'Antonin, including truffle hunting, olive oil sampling, and a gourmet lunch paired with local wines
- Cruise in the shadows of the Pyrenees mountains, through the vineyards and discover Cathar history
- Tour Carcassonne – the most complete medieval fortified city in existence



Stateroom





Views of the Pyrenees from Carcassonne



View  
deck plan on  
page 107



## ITINERARY

### Marseillan to Le Somail

#### Day 1 Marseillan

Guests are met in Narbonne and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Anjodi where a champagne welcome awaits them. Enjoy an early evening cruise on the Étang de Thau, before dinner on board.

#### Day 2 Marseillan to Portiragnes

This morning, we take the opportunity of an early visit to the nearby Maison Noilly Prat vermouth distillery. After lunch, we cruise along the 340-year-old Canal du Midi through the beautiful Bagnas nature reserve. Dinner on board.

#### Day 3 Portiragnes to Béziers

After breakfast, we visit Pézenas, the delightful Languedoc capital famed for its associations with the French playwright Molière. Following lunch on board, we cruise further along the Canal du Midi to ascend the 7-lock flight of unique oval locks at Fonserannes to moor at Béziers. Dinner on board.

#### Day 4 Béziers to Capestang

This morning's excursion is a culinary experience at Le Mas d'Antonin, an estate producing high-quality truffles and olive oil. Here, we take a private tour, following the expert truffle dogs in search of the coveted 'black gold' beneath oak trees. After a sampling, we enjoy a gourmet lunch with fine local wines. Return to Anjodi to cruise through the world's oldest canal tunnel at Malpas, and on to our mooring in Capestang. Explore the magnificent 14th century architecture of the village before dinner on board.

#### Day 5 Capestang to Sallèles d'Aude

This morning, we visit Narbonne, a Roman Mediterranean capital, to explore the indoor market at the hub of this bustling town. Following lunch on board, we cruise through a series of locks on the Canal de la Robine to our mooring at Sallèles d'Aude. Dinner on board.

#### Day 6 Sallèles d'Aude to Le Somail

In the morning, we visit the famed fortress city of Carcassonne, followed by the final cruise along the historic Canal du Midi to the delightful village of Le Somail. This afternoon, enjoy a private wine tasting experience at the Château de Paraza, before returning for the Captain's Farewell Dinner.

#### Day 7 Le Somail

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Narbonne.

#### Theme Cruises Available:

- Family
- Biking
- Wine Appreciation



# Athos

## Canal du Midi



View  
deck plan on  
page 107

**Athos:** 🏆 First Class | 👥 10 Passengers | 👤 5 Crew

Athos was originally built as a commercial sand, grain and wine barge but has since been converted into the luxury vessel you see before you. Though she now carries a very different cargo, her association with wine continues as she meanders through the Languedoc-Rousillon region of France.

In her saloon there are comfortable sofas and an elegant dining area, while the five air-conditioned, twin or double bed staterooms each have all modern comforts including an en suite shower room.

Outside, her spacious sun deck has an adjustable canopy to offer shade, comfortable hardwood deckchairs and a spa pool.

Athos is one of the most traditional hotel barges cruising the Canal du Midi and her welcoming ambience will make your voyage through the Languedoc landscape truly memorable.



## ITINERARY

### Argeliers to Marseillan

#### Day 1 Argeliers

Guests are met in Béziers and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Athos where a champagne welcome awaits them. Dinner on board.

#### Day 2 Argeliers to La Croisade

Breakfast aboard before we drive to the famous medieval double-walled city of Carcassonne where you will enjoy a guided tour. Lunch aboard the barge followed by an afternoon's cruise to La Croisade, with plenty of opportunity to walk or bicycle along the towpath. Dinner on board.

#### Day 3 La Croisade to Capestang

After breakfast, we enjoy a tasting at L'Oulibo, the local olive oil press. Next it's a short drive to Minerve, the ancient capital of the Minervois, which boasts a 12th century Cathar fort surrounded by deep limestone gorges. Relax after lunch on board, whilst we cruise to Capestang, or you can enjoy a wine tasting at a local château, such as Château de Cabezac. Dinner on board.

#### Day 4 Capestang to Fonserannes

This morning's excursion is to Narbonne, where we tour the Archbishop's Palace, Cathedral and Via Domitia, and

explore the indoor market. After lunch in the atmospheric market, we return to Athos and cruise to Fonserannes, passing through the famed Malpas Tunnel en route. Dinner on board.

#### Day 5 Fonserannes to Portiragnes

This morning we visit Pézenas, the delightful Languedoc capital famed for its associations with the French playwright Molière. After lunch aboard we negotiate the Fonserannes Staircase Locks and traverse the 19th century aqueduct over the River Orb to moor at Portiragnes. Dinner on board.

#### Day 6 Portiragnes to Marseillan

This morning we cruise through the Petite Camargue, passing pink flamingos, bee-eaters and Europe's largest mussel and oyster beds, as well as the unique 'round lock' at Agde. After lunch in Marseillan we end a perfect day with a fascinating tour of the Noilly Prat distillery and, if you choose, a tasting before the Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

#### Day 7 Marseillan

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to their choice of location in Béziers.

#### Theme Cruises Available:

- Family
- Golf
- Wine Appreciation

## Cruise Highlights

- Tour of the medieval city of Carcassonne
- Private tour and tasting at a Minervois winery
- Organic olive tasting at L'Oulibo
- Cruise through the natural haven that is the Petite Camargue
- Tour and tasting at the Noilly Prat vermouth distillery













# Gascony & Bordeaux

A region of vividly colourful landscapes, wonderful gastronomy and a 'terroir' that produces world-renowned wines.





# Gascony & Bordeaux

Southwest France, Canal de Garonne

**Rosa:** 🏠 First Class | 🐾 8 Passengers | 🍷 4 Crew

Rosa is an old Dutch 'Clipper' barge that was built early in the last century to carry cargo on the coastal waterways of Holland. Now, as a charming hotel barge, she navigates the much calmer canals of southwest France.

The pretty, wood-panelled saloon has comfortable seating, a dining area and bar, and the four cosy, air-conditioned staterooms have full en suite facilities. Outside there is a spacious sun deck with parasols, comfortable loungers to relax in, and a spa pool. Rosa also featured alongside Anjodi in the successful television series, *Rick Stein's French Odyssey* and you will be able to enjoy your own personal odyssey through this captivating part of Southwest France.

## Gascony

Initially part of the historic dukedom of Gascony, this region is famed for its outstanding pastoral vistas and rich culinary traditions. Expect quaint farms, villages untouched by time and a spectacular palate of tastes, scents and colours.

## Bordeaux

The Bordeaux region with its 'special terroir', has been producing astonishing wine for around 2,000 years, though it may just be the stunning châteaux, eclectic markets or artistic pastimes that you fall in love with.

## Cruise Highlights

### Gascony

- Private tour of the Château de Lamotte-Bardigues, accompanied by the resident Countess
- Guided tour and private tasting at a renowned local Armagnac producer
- Visit Moissac and its UNESCO classified abbey
- Tour and private tasting in the Brulhois wine region

### Bordeaux

- Tour of world renowned Saint Émilion
- Cruise across the 1,900 foot Agen aqueduct
- Tour the River Garonne aboard a traditional flat-bottomed boat
- Wine, cheese and Armagnac tastings

## Typical Cuisine Aboard

### Gastronomy

Entrecôte de Bazas à la Bordelaise; Confit de Canard et Son Jus au Thym; Filet de Truite au Beurre Blanc; Pruneaux à l'Armagnac; Gâteau Basque

### Wine Cellar

Château Roquetaillade Le Bernet, Graves; Baron d'Ardeuil, Buzet; Domaine Lussac, Château Lyonnat, Lussac - Saint Émilion; Château Cheval Noir, Saint Émilion Grand Cru

### Cheese Board

Le Bleu de Quercy; Templais Sec; Tomme de Lomagne; Cabécou; Roquefort; Laguiole; Chaource; Fourme d'Ambert; Crèmeux



## ITINERARY

### Gascony - Montauban to Boé

#### Day 1 Montauban

Guests are met in Toulouse and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Rosa where a champagne welcome awaits them. Dinner on board.

#### Day 2 Montauban to Montech

We take a short drive to an artisanal dairy farm at Ramier, where we experience an entire cheese making process, culminating in a delicious tasting. After lunch and a brief stroll, we meander up a flight of nine locks to moor in the little town of Montech. Dinner on board.

#### Day 3 Montech to Castelsarrasin

After breakfast, we head into the Côtes du Frontonnais wine region for a wine tasting at the renowned Château Bellevue la Forêt. Lunch on board is followed by a guided tour of an inclined water plane, an amazing feat of engineering that bypasses five locks and, when back in service in the future, will lower vessels 43 feet all in one go. An afternoon cruise to Castelsarrasin before dinner on board.

#### Day 4 Castelsarrasin to Moissac

Today, we visit the UNESCO-classified 7th century Abbaye St-Pierre de Moissac for a private tour and lunch at its excellent restaurant, Le Florentin, situated in front of the spectacular entrance of the abbey. Later, we cross the River Tarn via the 1,000 foot-long aqueduct, the Pont Canal du Cacor, then descend towards Moissac through a staircase of delightful locks. Dinner on board.

#### Day 5 Moissac to Pommevic

This morning, we visit Castelsarrasin's market for breakfast, before cruising through Moissac and across the swing bridge to our mooring at Pommevic. After lunch, we tour the 18th century Château de Lamotte-Bardigues accompanied by the resident Countess before a drive to Auvillar, a 15th century village atop a gorge above the River Garonne. Dinner on board.

#### Day 6 Pommevic to Boé

A morning cruise through the bucolic countryside to our final mooring at Boé. After lunch, we visit Domaine de Lapeyrade for a tour and private tastings of their Armagnac and Floc du Gascogne wines before visiting the medieval town of Nérac and its castle, once home to Henry IV of France. Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

#### Day 7 Boé

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to their choice of location in Toulouse.



Stateroom



Château de Lamotte-Bardigues



Rosa

### Bordeaux - Castets-en-Dorthe to Boé

#### Day 1 Castets-en-Dorthe

Guests are met in Bordeaux and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Rosa where a champagne welcome awaits them.

#### Day 2 Castets-en-Dorthe to Meilhan-sur-Garonne

Morning visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Saint Émilion, famous for its Bordeaux appellations. Later, we stop at Château Franc Mayne, producer of grand cru wines, where we enjoy a tasting. In the afternoon, we cruise to our mooring in the port of Meilhan-sur-Garonne. Dinner on board.

#### Day 3 Meilhan-sur-Garonne to Lagrère

This morning, we enjoy a cruise to the charming little village of Lagrère. Following lunch on board, we tour the River Garonne aboard a traditional flat-bottomed boat. We then visit the beautiful village of Le Mas d'Agenais, along with a local dairy farm, where you can enjoy a tour and sumptuous tasting of goat's cheeses. Dinner on board.

#### Day 4 Lagrère to Buzet-sur-Baise

We depart early and enjoy the colourful market of Lavardac, before a stroll in the 13th century bastide village of Vianne with its medieval streets and atypical 12th century Romanesque church. After lunch at its excellent restaurant, 'Le Moulin des Saveurs', we cruise to our mooring at Buzet-sur-Baise. Dinner on board.

#### Day 5 Buzet-sur-Baise to Serignac-sur-Garonne

After breakfast, we enjoy a leisurely cruise to Serignac-sur-Garonne with time to explore the towpath or relax on deck. After lunch on board, we visit the medieval town of Nérac and then stop at the Lapeyrade estate for a cellar tasting of Armagnac, the oldest alcohol in France. Dinner on board.

#### Day 6 Serignac-sur-Garonne to Boé

Morning cruise to Boé, crossing the Plan Canal d'Agen, one of the longest aqueducts in France. After lunch, we enjoy a stroll through the historic town of Agen before a tour and tasting of biodynamic wines at the family-owned Domaine du Bois de Simon. Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

#### Day 7 Boé

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to their choice of location in Bordeaux.

Theme Cruises Available:

- Wine Appreciation (Bordeaux)
- Golf (Gascony)

Saint Émilion







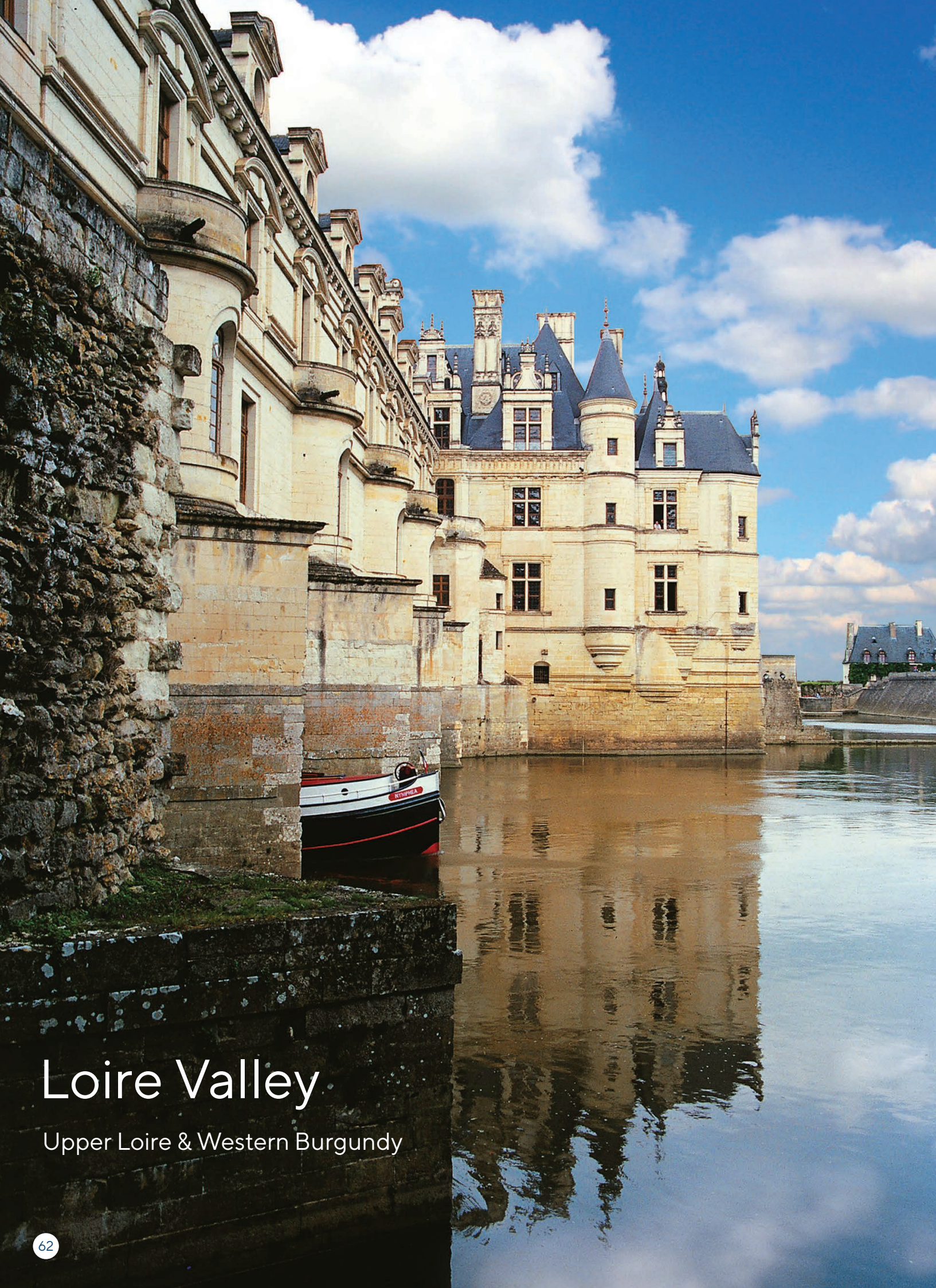


# Loire Valley

A fairytale region of exquisite Renaissance châteaux, steeped in Royal French History, and graced by the calm waters of the River Loire and its meandering tributaries.







# Loire Valley

Upper Loire & Western Burgundy





Château de la Bussière



Renaissance Cruising Across the Briare Aqueduct



Vineyards of Sancerre



Château d'Amboise

**Renaissance:** 🍷 Ultra Deluxe | 👤 8 Passengers | 🍽️ 5 Crew

**Nymphaea:** 🍷 First Class | 👤 6 Passengers | 🍽️ 2-3 Crew

## The Loire Valley

The River Loire and its main tributary, the River Cher, have carried cargo and passengers for over 2,000 years, since pre-Roman times. 'The Valley of the Kings of France' is a timeless region of spectacular beauty and grace and we are delighted to offer the only hotel barge navigating the heart of the real Loire Valley.

Here, the aristocracy of France have built their castles and palaces over the centuries and you will have the opportunity to visit architectural gems such as the châteaux of Villandry, Valençay and, most memorably, Chenonceau - which Nymphaea actually cruises under! Private tastings of Touraine and other fine local wines are also a highlight.

Further east, the upper reaches of the River Loire meet Western Burgundy where France's oldest canal, the Canal de Briare, crosses the mighty river by way of Gustav Eiffel's spectacular aqueduct. A cruise on this canal aboard the opulent hotel barge Renaissance offers a taste of the Loire with visits to elegant châteaux, as well as a foray into the vineyards of Sancerre.

## Typical Cuisine Aboard

### Gastronomy

Filet Mignon de Veau aux Champignons de Saumur; Feuilleté de Crottin de Chavignol; Filet de Sandre Sauce Échalotes et Persil; Friture d'Éperlans Sauce Tartare

### Wine Cellar

Domaine Clément Lissner, Riseling Grand Cru; Domaine Jean Teiller, Menetou-Salon; Domaine Franck Breton, La Coulée des Muids; Domaine de la Cotellerie, Le Vau Jaumier

### Cheese Board

Valençay; St Maure de Touraine; Selles sur Cher; Pouigny St Pierre; Crottin de Chavignol; Ami du Chambertin; Chabichou du Poitou; Epoisses





# Renaissance

Upper Loire & Western Burgundy



**Renaissance:** 🏠 Ultra Deluxe | 👤 8 Passengers | 🧑 5 Crew

Renaissance has been designed to carry her guests in ultimate luxury along the Canal de Briare, France's oldest canal, completed in 1642 and steeped in history on a cruise route that features elegant châteaux, small countryside villages and the famed wine-growing region of Sancerre.

She is a very spacious hotel barge and the beautifully-appointed saloon with its wooden beams, classic dining furniture and artwork, evokes the atmosphere of a classic French manor house. The comfortable leather sofas and hand-built bar where you can enjoy your pre-dinner aperitif, add to the feeling of onboard opulence.

The 'Renaissance mood' extends to the four very generously-sized twin or double bed suites (average approx. 250 sq ft including en suite), each one fully air-conditioned and complemented by a large en suite shower room.

Outside, the large forward deck includes a covered roof extension with a circular table for al fresco dining, comfortable hardwood sun loungers and a heated spa pool.

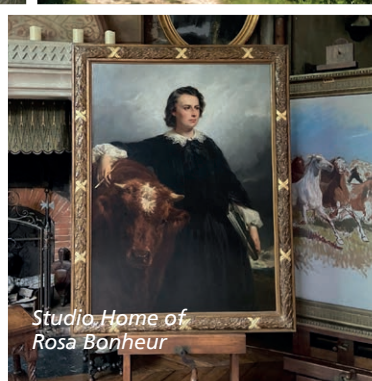
With her refined onboard ambience, Renaissance is the perfect vessel on which to cruise a historic canal and experience the splendour of landmarks en route, including Gustav's Eiffel's aqueduct across the mighty River Loire.

## Cruise Highlights

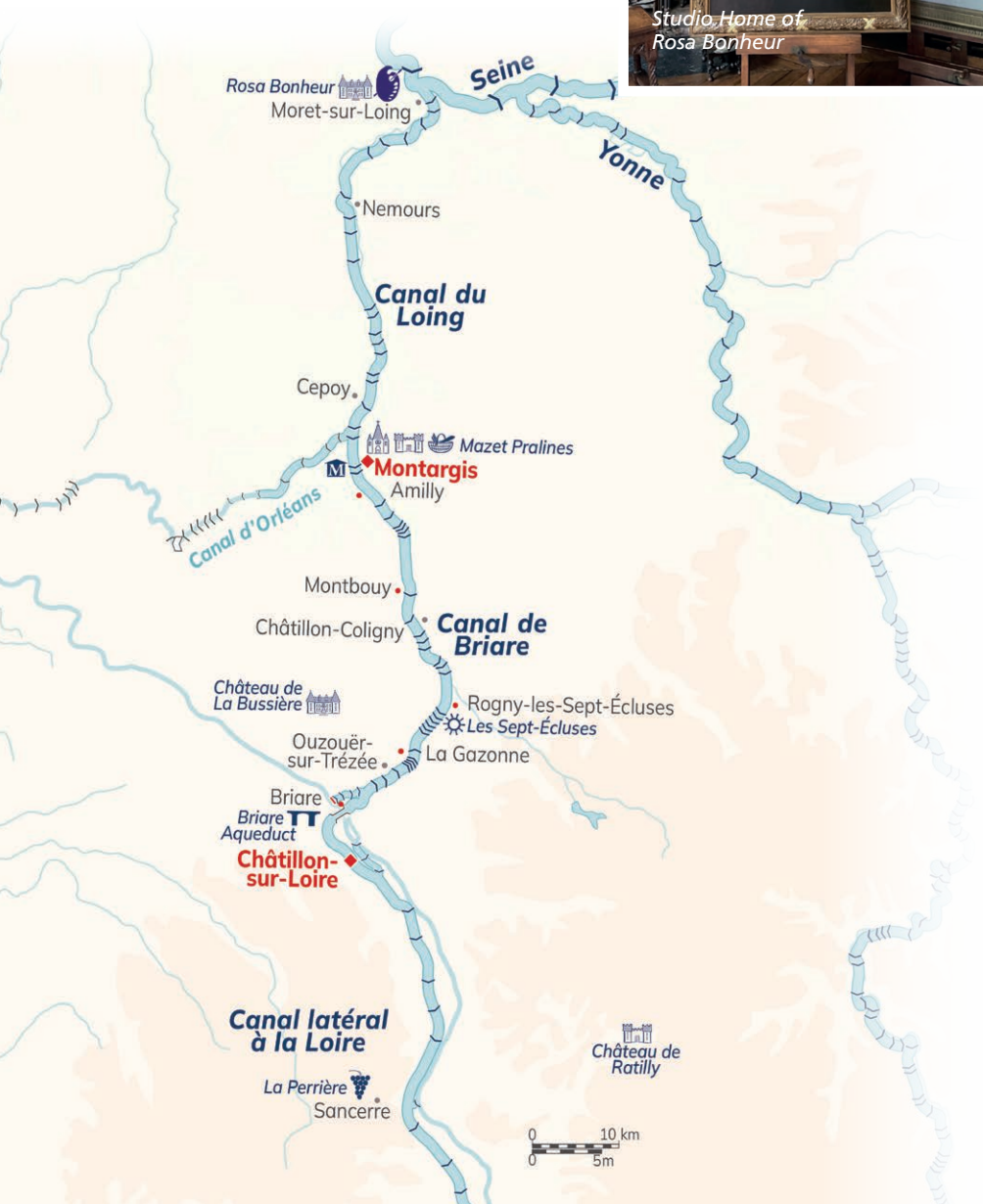
- Visit the 'time capsule' studio home of 19th century artist Rosa Bonheur with a private lunch in the salon
- Tour of the privately-owned Château de La Bussière, including a cooking demonstration using seasonal produce
- Tour of Montargis including its 11th century château and 12th century Church of the Madeleine
- Cruise across the aqueduct at Briare, built by Gustave Eiffel over the River Loire
- Private wine tasting at the renowned Sancerre winery of Hubert Brochard







Studio Home of  
Rosa Bonheur



## ITINERARY

### Montargis to Châtillon-sur-Loire

#### Day 1 Montargis to Amilly

Guests are met at the Hotel Westminster in Paris and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Renaissance where a champagne welcome awaits them. We enjoy an afternoon cruise through the picturesque 'Venice of Gâtinais.' Dinner on board.

#### Day 2 Amilly to Montbouy

This morning, we cruise through the Loire countryside to moor at Montbouy. After lunch, we visit the privately-owned Château de La Bussière, known as the 'Fishermen's Castle', with its wonderful ornamental and vegetable gardens, where we enjoy a cooking demonstration with the barge chef using seasonal produce from the gardens. Dinner on board.

#### Day 3 Montbouy to Rogny-les-Sept-Écluses

After breakfast, we explore the town of Montargis, exploring the 11th century château, 12th century church and the Fishermen's Quarter. Our footsteps finally bring us to Mazet, the confectioners renowned for creating the original praline recipe and enjoy a tour and tasting. Later, we enjoy an afternoon cruise to the village of Rogny-les-Sept-Écluses, near its 350-year-old 7-lock flight. A short stroll to the locks is worthwhile before dinner on board.

#### Day 4 Rogny-les-Sept-Écluses to La Gazonne

After breakfast, we enjoy a short walking tour of Moret-sur-Loing, famous for its association with the Impressionist painter Alfred Sisley. We then head to the Château de Rosa Bonheur – home to the most celebrated female artist of the 19th century. We take lunch in the private salon before joining the present owner for a tour and to hear more about the history of this remarkable lady and view some of her works. Later, we enjoy an afternoon cruise to La Gazonne. Dinner on board.

#### Day 5 La Gazonne to Briare

A morning cruise to our mooring at the little town of Briare, site of Gustave Eiffel's magical aqueduct across the River Loire. We preview Friday's crossing of this amazing 10,000 ton, 662 metre Pont Canal which was completed in September 1896. Our afternoon visit is to the renowned Sancerre winery of Hubert Brochard for a tour and private tasting. Dinner on board.

#### Day 6 Briare to Châtillon-sur-Loire

This morning, we wander around fresh produce stalls in the market in Briare, before making a short cruise across the Briare aqueduct with lunch on board. This afternoon, we visit the delightful 13th century Château de Ratilly with its spectacular selection of turreted towers. In the castle's workshops, we see traditional pottery being made and learn about this artisanal craft for ourselves. Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

#### Day 7 Châtillon-sur-Loire

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Paris.

#### Theme Cruises Available:

- Family
- Golf
- Wine Appreciation



# Nymphea

Loire Valley



## Cruise Highlights

- Tour of Château de Chenonceau and gardens, followed by a scenic cruise under the famed château
- Visit a Troglodyte cave dwelling and see the silkworm nursery
- Excursions to the Château d'Amboise and Château du Clos Lucé
- Private wine tasting at Bruno Curassier's Domaine de la Grange
- Visit to Château de Villandry and its magnificent gardens

**Nymphea:** 🏠 First Class | 👥 6 Passengers | 🧑 2-3 Crew

Nymphea's Dutch design with its shallow draft makes her the ideal vessel for navigating the beautiful sandy reaches of the River Cher in the Loire Valley. No other hotel barge cruises this magical waterway.

Her traditional interior, reminiscent of a classic yacht, features a warm decor of rich varnished hardwoods, stained glass and shining brass. The traditionally furnished saloon and dining area have a warm and welcoming country house atmosphere and there is an additional upper saloon area with more comfortable seating to relax in. Nymphea has three compact but comfortable cabins, two twin staterooms and one twin or double stateroom, all with air-conditioning and en suite facilities.

Outside, the sun deck offers the perfect vantage point from which to admire the next picturesque waterside village, elegant château, or stunning stretch of scenery as it slowly comes into view. You will even get to cruise through the arches of probably the most photographed château in the Loire Valley, Château de Chenonceau – not once, but twice – a rare privilege afforded to very few boats! And if you wish to explore the River Cher's towpath and surrounding countryside, there are 6 bicycles available for your use.

Nymphea's crew of Captain/Tour Leader and Master Chef are most knowledgeable about the history, wine and cuisine of the region and they will be there to help make your journey through the 'Valley of the Kings of France' truly unforgettable.







Château de Villandry



Château du Clos Lucé



View  
deck plan on  
page 107



## ITINERARY

### Moulin de Nitray (Round Trip)

#### Day 1 Moulin de Nitray

Guests are met near Tours and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Nymphéa where a champagne welcome awaits them. Dinner on board.

#### Day 2 Moulin de Nitray to Vallet

After breakfast, we stroll up to Nitray to visit the château and rose garden. We taste their range of Touraine wine before returning to the barge and cruising up to the hamlet of Vallet. In the afternoon, we enjoy an excursion to Château de Villandry on the banks of the Loire. The château is world-renowned for its amazing array of ornamental, water, vegetable and herb gardens. Dinner on board.

#### Day 3 Vallet to Civray-de-Touraine

After a short morning cruise, we enjoy a pre-lunch aperitif at Bruno Curassier's Domaine de la Grange before continuing our cruise to Civray de Touraine. After lunch on board, we tour the Château d'Amboise, a Royal Residence of the Kings of France for 200 years. We also visit Château du Clos Lucé nearby, Leonardo Da Vinci's home for the last 3 years of his life. Dinner on board.

#### Day 4 Civray-de-Touraine to Chissay-en-Touraine

This morning, we cruise under the 5-arch bridge of the impressive Château de Chenonceau before mooring at Chisseaux and indulging in an afternoon tour of the château and its expansive gardens. Evening cruise to Chissay-en-Touraine and dinner ashore at a local restaurant, La Boulaye.

#### Day 5 Chissay-en-Touraine to Montrichard

A morning cruise takes us towards the Troglodyte village of Bourré where we moor and explore some of these utterly fascinating dwellings. After lunch, we drive to the Château de Valençay which George Sand once proclaimed as "one of the most beautiful on earth". Evening cruise to Montrichard. Dinner on board.

#### Day 6 Montrichard to Moulin de Nitray

Following breakfast, we explore the street market of Montrichard and the 11th century château overlooking the medieval town square, as well as the local vineyard of the Meriau family, to taste the regional Touraine vintages. In the afternoon, we cruise back downstream to Nitray before the Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

#### Day 7 Moulin de Nitray

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to the drop-off point near Tours.

#### Theme Cruises Available:

- Family
- Biking
- Honeymoon



# Champagne

The Champagne region: a mosaic of sloping vineyards beneath expansive skies, and home to the eponymous sparkling wine – an enduring symbol of celebration and luxury.











# Champagne

The River Marne and Canal Latéral à la Marne





Reims Cathedral



Champagne Vineyards



Frerejean Frères



Château-Thierry American Monument



Kir Royale: 🏆 Ultra Deluxe | 👤 8 Passengers | 🧑 5 Crew

La Nouvelle Etoile: 🏆 Deluxe | 👤 8 Passengers | 🧑 5 Crew

## Champagne

The River Marne flows from Épernay to Paris, meandering through the beautiful region of Champagne. There is a plethora of vineyards spread across the undulating plains as far as the eye can see and there will be plenty of opportunity to sample the sparkling wine to which the region has given its name, including private tastings at renowned champagne houses.

This is also a part of France that is rich in both modern and ancient history and during our voyage we visit a number of significant landmarks, châteaux and one of the finest Gothic cathedrals in the country where 33 Kings of France were crowned.

As well as champagne, the region is rich in other delicious products, particularly its wonderful creamy cheeses, with the towns of Meaux and Coulommiers at its heart.

You can cruise the Champagne region aboard the 8-passenger hotel barge Kir Royale, or the 8-passenger hotel barge La Nouvelle Etoile.

## Typical Cuisine Aboard

### Gastronomy

Filets de Saumon à la Sauce Champagne;  
Blanc de Volailles à la Crème de Maroilles;  
Cassolette de Saint Jacques au Champagne

### Wine Cellar

Champagne Frerejean Frères; Champagne Boizel; Champagne Ayala; Domaine Ferraton, Saint Joseph 'La Source'; Domaine Sainte Eugénie 'La Reserve'

### Cheese Board

Brie de Meaux, Chaource, Cendré de Champagne; Langres; Maroilles; Caprice des Dieux; Belle des Champs





# Kir Royale

The River Marne and Canal Latéral à la Marne



View  
deck plan on  
page 108

**Kir Royale:** 🏠 Ultra Deluxe | 👤 8 Passengers | 👤 5 Crew

Kir Royale, the latest addition to our fleet, has a fascinating history. Converted to a beach landing craft in World War Two, she was sunk before being refloated and eventually transformed into a hotel barge. She now cruises the beautiful region of Champagne with its plethora of vineyards stretching across the rolling hillsides as far as the eye can see. There will be plenty of opportunities to sample the sparkling wine to which the region has given its name with private tastings at renowned champagne houses.

Her saloon is spacious and airy and has been the subject of a complete refit with bespoke furniture and a bar, piano and separate dining area. The four generous and individually decorated suites are each over 200 sq ft in area and are also newly renovated. They have ultra-modern en suite bathrooms with his and hers sinks, and a luxurious oversized rainforest shower.

Outside, there is a cosy forward sun deck where you can relax on a sun lounger or unwind in the heated spa pool. There is also a large and sheltered aft sun deck with covered dining area and additional sun loungers, plus an upper observation deck for a panoramic view.

Imbued with an air of style and elegance, Kir Royale is a great choice for discovering Champagne – whether you're cruising alongside the rolling vineyards, or perhaps on a private tour, savouring the wines, history and culture of this famous region.

La Nouvelle Etoile (see page 102) also cruises in Champagne in early summer.

## Cruise Highlights

- Private tour and tasting at Maison Boizel on the iconic Avenue de Champagne
- Tour the majestic cathedral in Reims, where the Kings of France were once crowned
- Visit the boutique champagne house of Frerejean Frères and enjoy private lunch in the family domaine
- Enjoy a private winery tour and tasting at Maison Ayala, in the Grand Cru village of Aÿ
- Cruise the pretty River Marne past waterside vineyards
- Visit Château-Thierry, the scene of fierce battles in World War One, and Belleau Wood

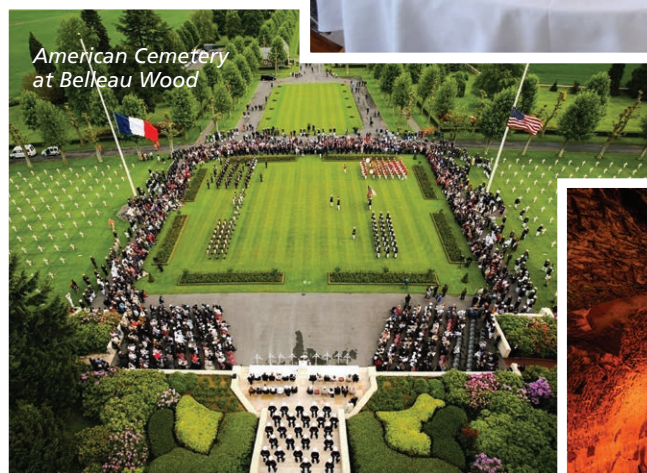


Suite

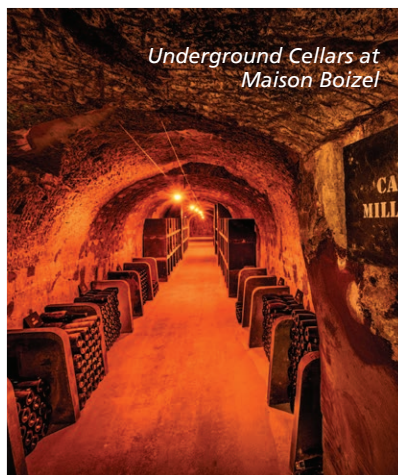




Al Fresco Dining



American Cemetery at Belleau Wood



Underground Cellars at Maison Boizel



## ITINERARY

### Château-Thierry to Châlons-en-Champagne

#### Day 1 Château-Thierry

Guests are met at the Hotel Westminster in Paris and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Kir Royale where a champagne welcome awaits them. Dinner on board.

#### Day 2 Château-Thierry to Dormans

This morning, we set off on our first voyage along the meandering River Marne and cruise to the pretty riverside town of Dormans, the site of a château, water mill and World War One memorial. After lunch on board, we visit the renowned champagne house of Maison Ayala, situated in the grand cru village of Aÿ, for a private tasting. Dinner on board.

#### Day 3 Dormans to Damery

This morning, we visit the World War One battlefield and monument at Château-Thierry and the American cemetery at Belleau Wood. After returning to the barge and lunch on board, we enjoy a relaxing afternoon cruise along the Marne to our mooring at Damery. Dinner on board.

#### Day 4 Damery to Dizy

After a leisurely breakfast, we head off for a private champagne tasting and tour at the boutique grand cru winery of Frerejean Frères with a stop en route at a hillside vineyard to learn some of the key attributes of champagne grape growing. After the tasting we enjoy a gourmet private lunch in the salon of the family domaine. Return to the barge to continue our cruise along the Canal latéral à la Marne to Dizy. Dinner onboard.

#### Day 5 Dizy to Tours-sur-Marne

This morning, we visit the prestigious Maison Boizel on the iconic Avenue de Champagne. Explore the UNESCO-listed underground cellars for the 'family treasure' featuring bottles dating back to 1834. Afterwards, enjoy a private tasting of two exclusive champagnes. An optional visit to the Musée du Champagne awaits before lunch on board. This afternoon, we'll cruise to the pretty Tours-sur-Marne. Dinner on board.

#### Day 6 Tours-sur-Marne to Châlons-en-Champagne

This morning, we visit the magnificent 800-year-old Reims cathedral, a Gothic masterpiece where the Kings of France were crowned, before some free time perhaps to wander around this delightful city with its grand squares and elegant shopping arcades. After lunch on board, we cruise to our final mooring at Châlons-en-Champagne. Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

#### Day 7 Châlons-en-Champagne

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Paris.



# Alsace & Lorraine

A unique blend of French and German cultures, storybook villages, world-class white wines, and a colourful storied history.







# Alsace & Lorraine

Canal de la Marne au Rhin







Alsace Vineyards



La Petite France

**Panache:** 🍷 Deluxe | 👥 12 Passengers | 🍳 6 Crew

**La Nouvelle Etoile:** 🍷 Ultra Deluxe | 👥 8 Passengers | 🍳 5 Crew

## Alsace & Lorraine

Once a vital thoroughfare connecting Paris with Alsace and Germany by means of the River Marne and River Rhine, the charming Canal de la Marne au Rhin has been transformed and modernised almost beyond recognition since it was completed over 150 years ago.

Today, the canal and the surrounding region of Alsace & Lorraine offers a captivating blend of French and German cultures, and picturesque scenery characterised by lush green landscapes and charming chocolate-box villages featuring quaint half-timbered houses and cobbled walkways. A gentle canal cruise whilst navigating through locks and bridges aboard hotel barge Panache adds to the journey's charm, revealing new vistas at every turn.

This unique region of France is also home to the city of Strasbourg, famed for its impressive Gothic cathedral, and the scenic Route des Vins d'Alsace stretching just over 100 miles. However, the most remarkable experience along the waterway may be the 450ft inclined plane of Saint-Lois Arzwiller, also known as the Arzwiller Boat Elevator, which replaced a series of 17 locks that previously would have taken more than a day to pass.

As well as its famed white wines, the cuisine of Alsace & Lorraine is characterised by a hearty blend of French and German culinary influences, featuring flavourful dishes like choucroute garnie, tarte flambée, and baeckeoeffe. With more Michelin-starred restaurants here than in any other part of France, the region's cuisine is a true highlight.



Strasbourg



## Typical Cuisine Aboard

### Gastronomy

Quiche à l'Oignon et au Munster; Spätzle aux Écrevisses et Herbes Fraîches; Tarte Alsacienne et sa Crème fouettée; Truite aux Amandes; Filet de Poulet Fermier Rôti au Riesling

### Wine Cellar

Domaine Pfister, Gewurtztraminer Silberg; Domaine Clément Lissner, Riesling grand cru; Cave Cleebourg, Pinot Noir 'Passion'

### Cheese Board

Tomme Fermière d'Alsace; Munster-Géromé; Tomme de Yenne; Brouère; Rousot; Caprice des Dieux



# Panache

Canal de la Marne au Rhin



**Panache:** 🏠 Deluxe | 👥 12 Passengers | 🍹 6 Crew

In the summer and autumn, Panache cruises the beautiful and varied waterways of Alsace & Lorraine, a region of France offering a unique mix of French and German cultures, history and local gastronomy.

Panache is a hotel barge that has been fitted out in traditional yacht style with brass and mahogany fittings in the spacious public areas and very comfortable cabin accommodation. In the saloon the picture windows let in plenty of natural light, and the tempting cocktail bar and comfortable leather sofas are enhanced by polished hardwood flooring and separate dining area.

The cabin accommodation comprises six generously sized junior suites, all with en suite bathrooms that have twin hand-basins and oversized showers. Outside, the spacious sun deck is the perfect place to unwind and admire the passing scenery from one of the comfortable chairs, whilst the heated spa pool and chilled glass of champagne completes the picture.

Panache's voyage through Alsace & Lorraine will give you the opportunity to appreciate the very best of the region, passing storybook villages along the way and even experiencing Europe's most famous boat elevator!

She offers a handful of festive Christmas Markets Cruises in Alsace between November and December, offering visits to the traditional Strasbourg, Riquewihr, and Colmar Christmas markets. For more information, please see page 17.



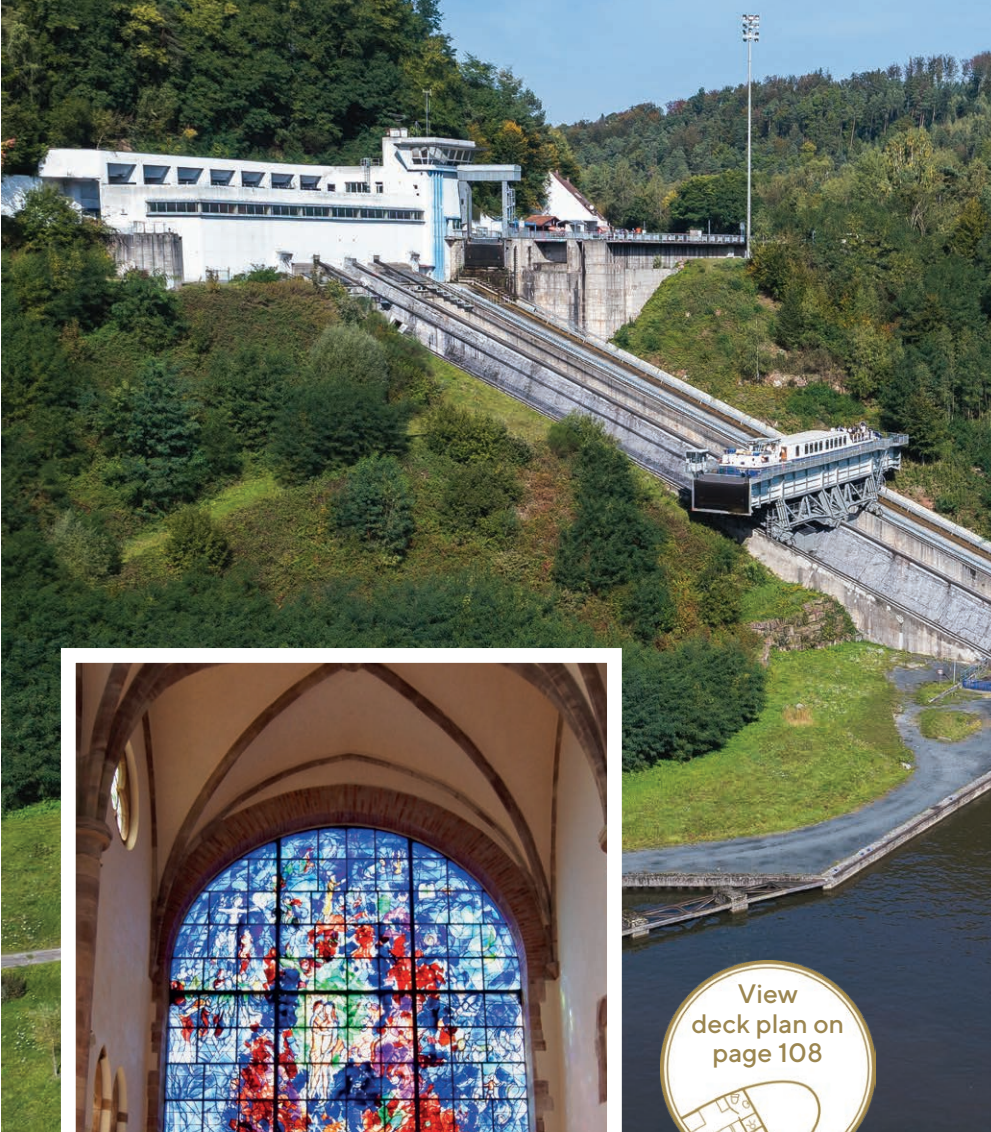
La Nouvelle Etoile (see page 102) also cruises in Alsace & Lorraine in late summer.

## Cruise Highlights

- Tour the beautiful city of Strasbourg and visit its Gothic cathedral
- Explore the Route des Vins d'Alsace with a private wine tasting
- Experience an ascent or descent of the unique Arzviller boat elevator
- Visit the spectacular René Lalique Collection
- Tour of Sarrebourg including a visit to the Chagall chapel
- Enjoy a candlelit meal whilst cruising through the Arzviller tunnels







Arzviller Boat Elevator



Chagall Chapel



View  
deck plan on  
page 108



## ITINERARY

### Krafft to Niderviller

#### Day 1 Krafft

Guests are met in Strasbourg and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Panache where a champagne welcome awaits you. Dinner on board.

#### Day 2 Krafft to Strasbourg

This morning we cruise past the Gran Ried wetlands to arrive at the historic city of Strasbourg. Later, we enjoy a tour of the beautiful 'capital city of Europe' including, of course, a visit to the 12th century Gothic pink sandstone cathedral. We also visit Place Gutenberg and explore the boutiques of La Petite France. Dinner on board.

#### Day 3 Strasbourg to Waltenheim-sur-Zorn

After breakfast, our cruise takes us past the impressive European Parliament building on the outskirts of Strasbourg and on to our picturesque mooring at Waltenheim-sur-Zorn. This afternoon we enjoy a scenic drive on the Route des Vins d'Alsace, and a private tasting at the long-established family winery, Domaine Lissner. Dinner ashore this evening at a traditional Alsatian restaurant.

#### Day 4 Waltenheim-sur-Zorn to Saverne

This morning, we cruise further along the canal to the enchanting town of Saverne. After lunch we take a walking tour of the town and drive up to Château Haut-Barr to enjoy the wonderful views. Dinner on board.

#### Day 5 Saverne to Lutzelbourg

After a morning visit to Saverne's market we enjoy a cruise to our mooring in the picture postcard village of Lutzelbourg. In the afternoon, we visit the mountaintop town of La Petite Pierre, then tour the outstanding René Lalique collection of Art Nouveau and Art Deco glassware. Dinner on board.

#### Day 6 Lutzelbourg to Niderviller

This morning we cruise through beautiful Alsatian countryside, stopping to see artisan glassblowers en route. We then ascend the unique Arzviller boat elevator that carries Panache 450 feet up the mountainside in minutes and enjoy a candlelit cruise through the two Arzviller tunnels to our final mooring at Niderviller. After lunch on board, we tour the historic town of Sarrebourg and its beautiful Chagall chapel. Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

#### Day 7 Niderviller

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to their choice of location in Strasbourg.

Theme Cruises Available:

- Family
- Christmas





# Holland

A kaleidoscope of springtime colours, historic towns of the Old Masters lined with picturesque canals, and a vibrant culture of cycling, cheese-making, and innovative design.









# Holland

## Dutch Canals & Waterways



**Panache:** 🏆 Deluxe | 👤 12 Passengers | 👤 6 Crew

**La Nouvelle Etoile:** 🏆 Ultra Deluxe | 👤 8 Passengers | 👤 5 Crew

Cruise the delightful waterways of Holland's western provinces in the spring past windmills sitting majestically above the polders. Springtime is, of course, the time of year when visitors have the opportunity to see the tulips at their very best, but lovers of culture also come from far and wide to tour the traditional Dutch cities and their many museums. Delft, Leiden and Haarlem will charm you, just as they did the great Dutch artists.

Visitors to Holland are entranced by the vivid colours of the bulb fields and the magnificence of the formal displays such as at the world-renowned Keukenhof Gardens which we visit. Other attractions, including the Royal Delft pottery and Zaanse Schans with its conservation area, are equally memorable.

Two of our hotel barges – Panache (see page 78) and La Nouvelle Etoile (see page 102) – cruise the waterways of Holland at the best time of year, in the spring.

### Cruise Highlights

- Tour Keukenhof Gardens with the largest display of flowers in the world
- Visit the vast Aalsmeer flower auction
- See the windmills of the Zaanse Schans conservation area
- Visit the Royal Delft pottery to see the world famous earthenware being hand-made and painted
- Tour picturesque Haarlem and enjoy a Dutch cheese and wine tasting
- Tour the charming city of Leiden, Rembrandt's birthplace





The World Famous Delft Pottery



Keukenhof Gardens



Alkmaar



View  
deck plans on  
pages 108-109



Aalsmeer Flower Auction

## ITINERARY

### Alkmaar to Delft

#### Day 1 Alkmaar

Guests are met in Amsterdam and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Panache where a champagne welcome awaits you. Dinner on board.

#### Day 2 Alkmaar to Zaanse Schans

Enjoy a walking tour of the town of Alkmaar, before our first cruise to Zaanse Schans where, after lunch on board, we explore the openair conservation area with its traditional windmills and houses, giving you a vivid impression of the Dutch way of life in the 17th and 18th centuries. Dinner on board.

#### Day 3 Zaanse Schans to Haarlem

We enjoy an early morning cruise to the historic city of Haarlem, dating back to the 13th century. After lunch on board, we visit the world famous Keukenhof Gardens, renowned for its 100 acres filled with over 7 million flowering bulbs. Dinner ashore this evening at a local restaurant.

#### Day 4 Haarlem to Oude Wetering

An optional early morning tour to Aalsmeer flower auction, where some 17 million cut flowers from all over the world are traded each day. Breakfast is followed by a tour of Haarlem, where we will stop to enjoy a private tasting of fine Dutch cheese and wines. After lunch on board, we cruise to our mooring at Oude Wetering. Dinner on board.

#### Day 5 Oude Wetering to Leiden

After breakfast we cruise to Leiden, the beautiful birthplace of Rembrandt. This afternoon we take a tour of the city on a private boat trip in which we learn all about the city's historical charm. Free time to explore the many local cafés, boutique shops, markets and antique dealers. Dinner on board.

#### Day 6 Leiden to Delft

Morning cruise to Delft, a city which was one of the home ports of the Dutch East India Company. Following lunch, we visit the Royal Delft factory, just 5 minutes' walk from our mooring, to learn how this world-famous porcelain is made. You will have time during the afternoon to explore Delft further. Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

#### Day 7 Delft

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to their choice of location in Amsterdam.

#### Theme Cruises Available:

- Golf











# Italy

Discover the enchanting canals, colourful lagoon islands, and the centuries of culture, history, and nature of Venice and the Po Valley.

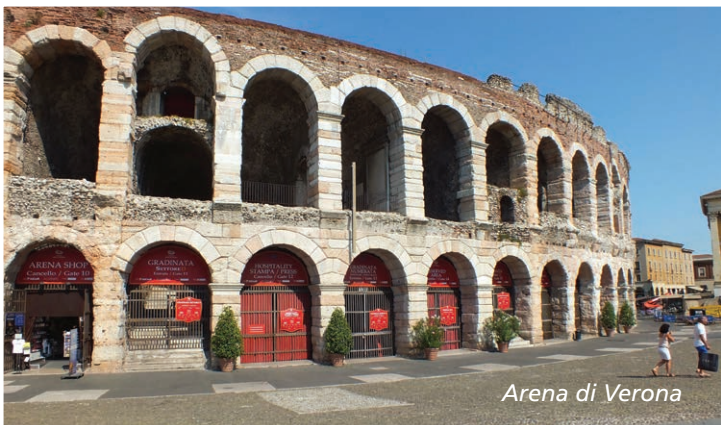




# Italy

Venice, the Islands of the Venetian Lagoon,  
the Canal Bianco and the Po Valley to Mantua





Arena di Verona



Ducale Palace in Mantua

La Bella Vita: 🏆 First Class | 👥 20 Passengers | 🧑 6-10 Crew

## Italy

The majestic waterways that envelop the historic city of Venice and the picturesque lakeside town of Mantua once served as vital trade routes for the Romans and earlier settlers. Travelling between these two captivating cities offers a magical journey, revealing the rich history and diverse cultures of the Renaissance, Roman, Etruscan, and Byzantine eras.

A highlight of our cruises in Italy is the charming coastal town of Chioggia, often referred to as 'The Venice without Tourists.' Here, visitors explore the stunning canals in a serene and peaceful setting. Further along the route lies the breathtaking Renaissance city of Ferrara, home of the impressive moated Estense Castle and the elegant Schifanoia Palace. Mantua, located on the Canal Bianco alongside the Po River, is accessible only to smaller boats, making it a true gem during a cruise aboard La Bella Vita.

When it comes to cuisine, the Veneto is a treasure trove of rich flavours and fresh ingredients. Savour exquisite risottos, succulent seafood, and indulgent tiramisu, all paired with world-class Italian wines. Immerse yourself in the culinary traditions of Venice and its surrounding regions for an unforgettable gastronomic adventure in this spectacular region.



## Typical Cuisine Aboard

### Gastronomy

Lasagne alla Bolognese; Melanzane alla Parmigiana; Ravioli; Vitello Tonnato; Seafood of the Venetian Lagoon; Tiramisu

### Cheese Board

Gorgonzola DOP; Asiago Mezzano DOP; Parmigiano Reggiano (40 months); Burrata di Andria; Taleggio DOP; Pecorino Toscano DOP

### Wine Cellar

Banfi Chianti Classico DOCG; Prosecco Valdobbiadene Millesimato; Brunello di Montalcino; Franciacorta DOCG - Contadi Castald; Pieropan Soave Classico; Marco Felluga Pinot Grigio





# La Bella Vita

Venice, the Islands of the Venetian Lagoon, the Canal Bianco and the Po Valley to Mantua

**La Bella Vita:** 🏠 First Class | 👤 20 Passengers | 👥 6-10 Crew

La Bella Vita cruises Italy's Venetian Lagoon, River Po, and Bianco Canal between Venice and the lakeside Renaissance city of Mantua. A stylish 20-passenger vessel, La Bella Vita enjoys a typically modern Italian interior, reflected in the use of vibrant colours throughout, creating an atmosphere of casual relaxation.

The generous saloon consists of an inviting bar area to enjoy a glass of prosecco, cosy seating areas with leather sofas and a lounge piano, and a spacious dining room with louvre doors that provide spectacular views as you're served delicious Italian specialities and wines.

Accommodations include two upper deck junior suites and eight lower deck staterooms, all air-conditioned and with en suite facilities. Head to the sun deck and you'll be greeted by an extensive seating area with a large canopy, comfortable sun loungers and relaxing spa pool.

On selected departures, La Bella Vita embarks on a 6-night circumnavigation of the colourful Venetian Lagoon islands, with highlights including Murano, Burano, Lido and more. Visit our website for details.

La Bella Vita also offers special summer Opera Cruises. Included will be front stall seats to enjoy an acclaimed opera such as Aida or Carmen in the magnificent setting of the open-air Arena di Verona. For more information, please see page 17.



## Cruise Highlights

- Tour of historic Venice, The Naval Museum and the Pavilion of Gondolas
- Tour of Chioggia with its Roman, Etruscan and Byzantine history
- Dinner ashore at the 17th century stately home, Villa Ca'Zen
- Private visit to the wine cellars of Villa Widmann-Borletti
- Visit Mantua's 14th century Ducal Palace and gardens
- Tour of the Renaissance city of Ferrara, including the beautiful Estense Castle



Junior Suite





*Villa Widmann-Borletti*



*Villa Ca'Zen*



View  
deck plan on  
page 108



## ITINERARY

### Venice to Mantua

#### Day 1 Venice

Guests are met at the Best Western Hotel Bologna in Mestre and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to La Bella Vita for a prosecco welcome. Afternoon cruise along the Giudecca Canal past some of Venice's most famous monuments, before dinner on board.

#### Day 2 Venice to San Pietro in Volta

This morning, guests embark on a guided visit to the Doge's Palace. After lunch, enjoy free time to perhaps visit the quiet Castello District and the Naval History Museum, or head to Murano island on a private water taxi to visit the famed glass factory. Late afternoon cruise to Pellestrina with time, perhaps, for a stroll along the 18th century Istrian sea wall, before dinner on board.

#### Day 3 San Pietro in Volta to Taglio di Po

After breakfast, we cruise to Chioggia. Here we visit the charming city centre and its famous fish market. There will also be the opportunity to enjoy a short tour of Chioggia's pretty canals in a traditional locally-built boat. This afternoon, we travel upriver to Taglio di Po for dinner ashore hosted by the owners at the beautiful 17th century Villa Ca'Zen.

#### Day 4 Taglio di Po to Zelo

This morning, we join the Bianco canal and cruise to Adria, an ancient Etruscan town where we visit the Archaeological Museum. After lunch on board, we drive to the Bagnoli Estate for a tasting and tour of the Renaissance gardens and 17th century wine cellars. Dinner back on board.

#### Day 5 Zelo to Vallazza

Morning excursion with a guided tour of the Renaissance city of Ferrara, including the beautiful exterior of the Estense Castle. Return to the hotel barge moored in Zelo for an afternoon canal cruise past villages and farmsteads to Vallazza. Dinner on board.

#### Day 6 Vallazza to Mantua

Our final cruise has a dramatic approach to Mantua where the intricate frescoes, Gallery of Mirrors and some 12,000 paintings and sculptures all create a Grand Finale to our Italian Renaissance adventure. Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

#### Day 7 Mantua

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Mestre.

#### Theme Cruises Available:

● Family ● Opera ● Golf ● Wine Appreciation ● Gardens



0 20 km  
0 10 miles









# Scotland

An inspiring land of mountains, glens and famous battlefields, with magical lochs that reflect the legends of the past.

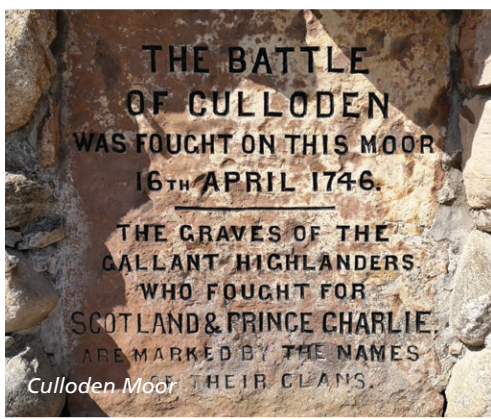




# Scotland

The Caledonian Canal, Loch Ness & The Highlands





Spirit of Scotland: 🏠 Deluxe | 👤 12 Passengers | 👤 6 Crew

Scottish Highlander: 🏠 Deluxe | 👤 8 Passengers | 👤 5 Crew

## The Scottish Highlands

The Scottish Highlands are truly magical - a magnificent vista of expansive lochs, formidable mountainsides and historic battlegrounds. We cruise sedately through the Great Glen between Inverness and Fort William, navigating beautiful lochs and the engineering masterpiece that is the Caledonian Canal.

Ancient castles perched on the water's edge, heather-clad hillsides and magnificent views of the surrounding mountains make it arguably the finest inland cruising in the world and an unforgettable experience.

Along the way, you will visit places that have featured strongly in the centuries-old history of the region, such as Cawdor, Eilean Donan, Glencoe and Culloden Moor. You will also find out more about Scotland's best-known export - whisky - on a private tour of a long-established distillery and, of course, taste the 'water of life' itself.

Cuisine is traditional Scottish fare, with your creative chef preparing dishes using locally sourced game and beef, wild salmon and seafood paired with a selection of fine international wines. And for whisky lovers there is a wide range of single malt and blended whiskies to savour on board.

Scotland's legends of the past, the taste of single malt and the mythical inhabitant of Loch Ness all contribute to a bewitching charm only experienced in the dramatic Highlands.

## Typical Cuisine Aboard

### Gastronomy

Munro of Marinated Salmon; Fillet of Aberdeen Angus Beef with a Sherry and Wild Mushroom Sauce; Hickory Smoked Venison with Candied Walnuts and Blue Cheese

### Whisky Cellar

The Macallan Gold; Ben Nevis 10 Year Old; The Singleton of Glen Ord 15 Year Old; Lagavulin 16 Year Old; Isle of Jura 10 Year Old. A wide selection of French and international wines are also served aboard

### Cheese Board

Bonchester; Isle of Kintyre Mature Cheddar; Connage Smoked; Scottish Brie; Dunsyre Blue; Black Crowdie; Lanark Blue; Caboc Gruth Du; Strathdon Blue; Sharpam







# Spirit of Scotland

The Caledonian Canal, Loch Ness & The Highlands

**Spirit of Scotland:** 🏠 Deluxe | 👥 12 Passengers | 👤 6 Crew

Spirit of Scotland is an elegant hotel barge with extensive public areas inside and out that are perfect from which to admire the breathtaking Highlands scenery in comfort as she cruises the Caledonian Canal and the lochs of the Great Glen.

Although purpose built twenty years ago as a hotel barge, her style evokes that of the traditional steamers that plied the lochs of Scotland in times gone by.

Accommodating up to 12 passengers in comfort, her interior features a bright and spacious saloon and dining area with picture windows, a separate bar, and an integral forward wheelhouse giving views of the cruise route ahead. The 6 air-conditioned staterooms offer a choice of twin or double beds and are complemented by well designed en suite shower rooms.

Outside, there are separate areas where you can relax on a recliner, or perhaps in the heated spa pool, as well as a covered dining terrace. The large upper sun deck is the ideal place to admire the dramatic backdrop as you cruise on deep-water lochs such as Loch Oich, and pass historic landmarks along the way.

Hit the links at the likes of the stunning seaside Castle Stuart or the famed Championship Royal Dornoch aboard our Golf Cruise. For more information please see page 17.



## Cruise Highlights

- Tour of the Ben Nevis Distillery with a private whisky tasting
- Majestic falconry display on the banks of Loch Ness
- Tour of Cawdor Castle and gardens, home of Shakespeare's Macbeth
- Visit Eilean Donan Castle, featured in The World is Not Enough & Highlander
- Visit Culloden Moor, scene of the last major battle on British soil in 1746
- Wonderful river, canal and loch cruising, & excellent opportunities for walking







Cawdor Castle



View  
deck plan on  
page 109



## ITINERARY

### Banavie to Muirtown

#### Day 1 Banavie

Guests are met at the Kingsmills Hotel in Inverness and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Spirit of Scotland where a champagne welcome awaits them. Dinner on board.

#### Day 2 Banavie to Laggan

We begin our week this morning with a cruise to Laggan. After lunch on board, our tour today takes us to the Ben Nevis Distillery for a tour and private tasting of several single malts. Dinner on board.

#### Day 3 Laggan to Kytra

This morning we visit Eilean Donan Castle, a beautiful spot overlooking three sea lochs, well known amongst film aficionados having featured in *The World is Not Enough* and *Highlander*. After lunch on board, we cruise across the very scenic Loch Oich, and then onto our pretty mooring at Kytra. Dinner on board.

#### Day 4 Kytra to Fort Augustus

This morning we cruise to Fort Augustus and down the flight, to moor at the entrance to Loch Ness. After lunch on board, visit the private Highland Club, sited in a former 19th century Benedictine Monastery, where we are treated to a falconry and birds of prey demonstration on the banks of Loch Ness. This evening, we have dinner ashore at a local restaurant.

#### Day 5 Fort Augustus to Dochgarroch

This morning we enjoy a picturesque cruise across the world-famous Loch Ness and beneath the 13th century ruins of Urquhart Castle, before mooring at Dochgarroch. After lunch we visit Culloden Moor, scene of the last major battle on British soil in 1746. If time allows, then we take a tour of Clava Cairns, a pre-historic clan chieftain burial site dating back to 2,000 B.C. and setting for the *Outlander* TV series. Dinner on board.

#### Day 6 Dochgarroch to Muirtown

This morning, our final cruise will take us to Muirtown. After lunch we visit Cawdor Castle, forever immortalised in Shakespeare's 'Scottish Play', *Macbeth*. Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

#### Day 7 Muirtown

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to their choice of location in Inverness.

#### Theme Cruises Available:

- Whisky Trail
- Golf
- Family
- Gardens





# Scottish Highlander

The Caledonian Canal,  
Loch Ness & The Highlands

**Scottish Highlander:** 🏠 Deluxe | 👥 8 Passengers | 🧑 5 Crew

Scottish Highlander has the atmosphere of a comfortable country house with subtle use of tartan furnishings and landscape paintings, a reminder of the spectacular surroundings to be seen on your voyage through the Great Glen.

At 117 feet long, she is spacious and has every comfort needed for enjoying the magnificence of the Highlands during spring, summer, and autumn.

The warm and welcoming saloon features rich-coloured wooden panelling, large picture windows and comfortable leather Chesterfield sofas to relax in, perhaps with a mellow single malt whisky from the very well-stocked bar.

Accommodation for eight guests is in three twin/double staterooms and one larger twin/double junior suite, each one centrally heated and with en suite facilities.

There is a cosy observation area behind the wheelhouse where you can admire the passing scenery and chat to the Captain about life on the Caledonian Canal and its interconnecting lochs. On the forward deck area there is more seating where you can appreciate the far-reaching views and rugged Highland landscape.

If you're a fan of a wee dram then our Whisky Trail Cruise could be the ultimate getaway for you. For more information please see page 17.



## Cruise Highlights

- Tour of the Ben Nevis Distillery with a private whisky tasting
- Majestic falconry display on the banks of Loch Ness
- Tour of Cawdor Castle and gardens, home of Shakespeare's Macbeth
- Visit Eilean Donan Castle, featured in The World is Not Enough & Highlander
- Visit Culloden Moor, scene of the last major battle on British soil in 1746
- Wonderful river, canal and loch cruising & excellent opportunities for walking

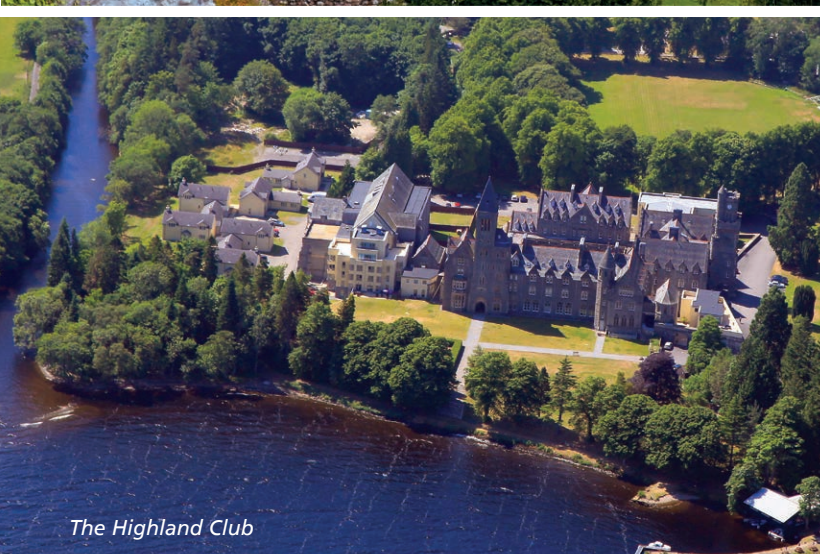


Suite





Whisky Bar Aboard



The Highland Club


View  
deck plan on  
page 108

## ITINERARY

### Muirtown to Banavie

#### Day 1 Muirtown

Guests are met at the Kingsmills Hotel in Inverness and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Scottish Highlander where a champagne welcome awaits you. Dinner on board.

#### Day 2 Muirtown to Dochgarroch

Our first cruise will take us up the Muirtown lock flight to Dochgarroch. After lunch on board, we enjoy Cawdor Castle, forever immortalised in Shakespeare's Macbeth. Dinner on board.

#### Day 3 Dochgarroch to Fort Augustus

This morning, we visit Culloden Moor, scene of the last major battle on British soil in 1746. If time allows, then we take a tour of Clava Cairns, a pre-historic clan chieftain burial site dating back to 2,000 B.C. and setting for the Outlander TV series. After lunch on board, we cruise Loch Ness past Urquhart Castle, navigating closely beneath its spectacular 13th century ruins, before continuing our cruise to Fort Augustus. Dinner on board.

#### Day 4 Fort Augustus to Kytra

After breakfast, we cruise up the flight to our mooring at Kytra. After lunch on board, enjoy time to explore Fort Augustus before we visit the private Highland Club, a spectacular exclusive set of residences and a former 19th century Benedictine Monastery. It is here we are treated to a falconry and birds of prey demonstration on the banks of Loch Ness. This evening, we dine ashore at a local restaurant.

#### Day 5 Kytra to Laggan

This morning, we cross the scenic Loch Oich and on to our mooring at Laggan. After lunch onboard, we visit Eilean Donan Castle, a well-known spot amongst film aficionados having featured in The World is Not Enough and Highlander. Dinner on board.

#### Day 6 Laggan to Banavie

Our final cruise today will see us cross Loch Lochy to the small settlement village of Banavie. After lunch on board, our tour today takes us to the Ben Nevis Distillery for a tour and private tasting of several single malts. Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

#### Day 7 Banavie

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to their choice of location in Inverness.

#### Theme Cruises Available:

- Family
- Golf
- Honeymoon
- Whisky Trail







# England

## The Royal River Thames

**Magna Carta:** 🏠 Deluxe | 👤 8 Passengers | 👤 5 Crew

Magna Carta will take you on a slow, meandering journey along the prettiest stretches of the River Thames, past Royal Palaces and quaint riverside towns and villages – a captivating mixture of olde worlde England and the natural beauty of the surrounding countryside.

From Henry VIII's Hampton Court, past Windsor Castle and on to Henley-on-Thames, frequent stops allow plenty of time to wander and explore some of England's prettiest counties.

During the cruise, there is a diverse programme of escorted visits along the way – art galleries, stately homes, and even a boatyard that has been building traditional river craft for centuries.

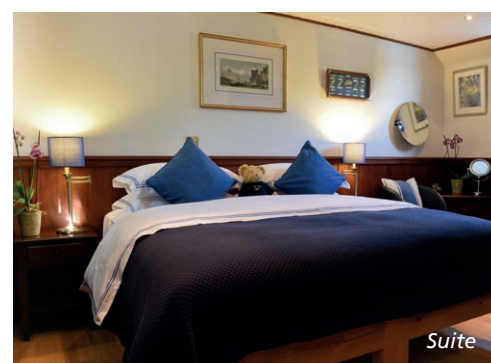
Magna Carta's large saloon and dining area feature picture windows and stylish furnishings, and the sense of refined space continues in the four very generous, air-conditioned twin or double suites, with their combination of period furniture and contemporary en suite shower rooms.

Outside you can unwind in the heated spa pool, or enjoy a mouth-watering al fresco lunch prepared by your onboard master Chef.

With a seasoned Captain at the helm, and an attentive crew at your service, why not take a cruise through history aboard Magna Carta.

### Cruise Highlights

- Explore Henry VIII's Hampton Court Palace
- Moor beneath and visit Windsor Castle
- Moor at the Cliveden estate and tour its gardens
- Tour the Stanley Spencer Gallery at Cookham
- Private tour of Dorney Court, one of England's finest Tudor manor houses
- Tour of Highclere Castle (Downton Abbey) on selected departures







Windsor Castle



Olde Bell at Hurley



View  
deck plan on  
page 109



## ITINERARY

### Hampton Court to Henley-on-Thames

#### Day 1 Hampton Court Palace

Guests are met at the Stafford Hotel in central London for afternoon English Cream Tea, before being transferred to Magna Carta where a champagne reception awaits them. Dinner on board.

#### Day 2 Hampton Court Palace to Shepperton

This morning, we explore the magnificent Hampton Court Palace, famous for connections to Henry VIII and containing the finest Tudor ceiling in existence. After lunch aboard, we cruise through Molesey, Sunbury and Shepperton Locks to our private mooring. Optional pub visit before dinner on board.

#### Day 3 Shepperton to Windsor

After breakfast, we cruise through Runnymede past the Magna Carta Memorial to our mooring at Windsor. Our afternoon excursion is to Windsor Castle, the largest inhabited castle in the world. We explore the State Apartments, St George's Chapel and enjoy the far-reaching views. Dinner on board.

#### Day 4 Windsor to Cliveden

This morning, we take a short drive to the Tudor Manor house of Dorney Court, a very special home that has been owned by the Palmer family for more than 450 years. Later, we cruise upstream past the fabulous waterside houses of Bray to our exclusive mooring on the celebrated Cliveden estate. Dinner on board.

#### Day 5 Cliveden to Hurley

After breakfast, we tour the grounds of Cliveden and learn about the history of the house and stories of intrigue and scandal! A short drive takes us to visit the Stanley Spencer Gallery in nearby Cookham. After lunch, we cruise through Cookham and Marlow and up to the 11th century village of Hurley where there is an optional visit to the Olde Bell, one of the oldest inns in the country. On selected departures we tour Highclere Castle (more popularly known as Downton Abbey), in place of our visit to Dorney Court. Dinner on board.

#### Day 6 Hurley to Henley-on-Thames

After breakfast, we walk the village of Hurley and visit Peter Freebody's boatyard. Here we see craftsmen build and restore wooden boats at a yard that is family owned and has been for centuries. A morning cruise to Henley-on-Thames through fabulous countryside to our final mooring along the famous Henley Regatta rowing course. Then, an earlier lunch, followed by a fascinating tour of Christ Church, Oxford's grandest college, founded by Cardinal Wolsey and then again by King Henry VIII. Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

#### Day 7 Henley-on-Thames

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to central London.

#### Theme Cruises Available:

- Family
- Walking
- Golf
- Royal



# Ireland

## The River Shannon & its Loughs



**Shannon Princess:** 🍷 Deluxe | 👥 10 Passengers | 👤 5 Crew

The River Shannon and its loughs represent Ireland at its finest and your cruise aboard Shannon Princess features a landscape of rolling green fields, ancient Celtic landmarks and an abundance of wildlife.

The renowned legends and fables of Ireland are well understood by the hospitable Irish people, who will be happy to tell you more about Ireland's eclectic history, folklore and ancient traditions. Marvel at their astounding hospitality as you immerse yourself in haunted ancient castles, 6th century ruins, and of course, a pint or two of Guinness, affectionately known as 'the black stuff'.

Shannon Princess is the only hotel barge cruising the River Shannon and its picturesque, intertwining loughs. Her thoughtfully-designed interior includes a comfortable saloon and dining area with panoramic windows. The five junior twin/double staterooms, also with picture windows, are stylishly furnished and each is air-conditioned and accompanied by a modern en suite shower room.

The large rooftop sun deck is certainly the place to relax and watch the countryside glide by, as well as the inviting dining area with circular table to savour that gourmet al fresco meal on warmer days.

Revel in the Irish way of life in an enthralling voyage aboard the Shannon Princess, through the heart of an astounding country.

### Cruise Highlights

- Tour the legendary 6th century Clonmacnoise ruins
- Full day excursion to Portumna Castle and Galway
- Visit the unusual, haunted Leap Castle
- Birds of prey demonstration at Adare Manor
- Tour of the Kilbeggan Whiskey Distillery with a private tasting
- Excellent walking and fishing opportunities



Stateroom





## ITINERARY

### Glasson to Killaloe

#### Day 1 Glasson

Guests are met in Dublin and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Shannon Princess where a champagne welcome awaits. Dinner on board.

#### Day 2 Glasson to Athlone

This morning, we begin our cruise around the beautiful Inner Lakes of Lough Ree and then continue north as we explore some of the 365 islands on the lake. We then cruise on to our mooring at Athlone. After lunch, we visit the Kilbeggan Whiskey Distillery, the oldest licensed whiskey distillery in the world. Dinner on board.

#### Day 3 Athlone to Shannonbridge

Today, we negotiate Athlone Lock and cruise to the Clonmacnoise ruins, a famed 6th century university and an early monastic settlement. Following a tour, we continue cruising to our mooring at Shannonbridge. Then, after lunch, we indulge in a private tour of Leap Castle, reputed to be Ireland's most haunted house.

#### Day 4 Shannonbridge to Terryglass

This morning, we cruise a very pretty stretch of the River Shannon through Meelick Lock and onto idyllic Lough Derg before we moor at Terryglass Harbour. This afternoon, we visit Birr Castle to see the magnificent gardens, fascinating Science Centre and the historic Great Telescope. Dinner on board.

#### Day 5 Terryglass to Mountshannon

Today, our tour encompasses both the walled gardens of Portumna Castle and the lively centre of Galway city before lunch at a traditional pub, famed for its Guinness and oysters. This afternoon, we cruise across Lough Derg to moor at Mountshannon. Dinner on board.

#### Day 6 Mountshannon to Killaloe

This morning, we cruise to Killaloe where we have time for a brief exploration of the town. We lunch on board, then set off to Adare Manor, a magnificent estate located on the banks of the River Maigue where we are treated to a falconry demonstration. We end the afternoon by visiting a traditional Irish hand-weaving workshop. 'Sláinte' cocktail reception and Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

#### Day 7 Killaloe

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Dublin.

#### Theme Cruises Available:

- Family
- Walking
- Golf
- Artisan







# Belgium, Germany & Luxembourg

Belgian Waterways and The River Moselle

**La Nouvelle Etoile:** 🏆 Ultra Deluxe | 👥 8 Passengers | 👤 5 Crew

La Nouvelle Etoile has been designed to offer a very high level of comfort and convenience, to provide an onboard blend of traditional elegance and modern-day facilities.

The spacious, air-conditioned saloon with its attractive cocktail bar, piano and elegant furnishings provides a truly sophisticated setting, while each of the four generous 215 sq ft cabin suites is lavishly equipped and the en suite bathrooms feature double hand basins and oversized showers. On deck there is a large sun deck with comfortable loungers and a hot tub. This cruise on the luxurious La Nouvelle Etoile is a journey back in time through a picturesque landscape along delightful canals, and through historic cities. She also cruises in Alsace & Lorraine (page 76) and Holland (page 82).

If you're looking for an experience that is different from the classic canal cruise, we offer a number of voyages of exploration that cover a larger distance in the same time period. From the majestic windmills of Holland to the historical beauty of Belgium, from the 'Venice of the North', Bruges, all the way to the 'City of Love and Lights', Paris, and through the fairy-tale castles and sloping vineyards of Germany and Luxembourg.

## Cruise Highlights

### Holland to Belgium

- Visit to the ancient distillery of Ketel One
- The spectacularly colourful flower auction at Aalsmeer

### Belgium to Paris

- Cruise along the River Seine into Paris past the Eiffel Tower
- Visit to Claude Monet's house and gardens at Giverny

### Germany and Luxembourg

- Visit to the oldest town in Germany, Trier, birthplace of Karl Marx
- Enjoy private wine tastings in Zell and Berncastel, home of the best Moselle wines



Suite





Burg Eltz, A Fairytale Castle



## ITINERARY

### Holland to Belgium - May

- In Holland, see the world-famous flower displays of Keukenhof Gardens
- Visit the Royal Delft pottery factory and see how the world-famous porcelain is made
- Stop in historic Willemstad en route to Antwerp for a tour of the old quarter
- Visit Ghent and its magnificent cathedral
- Enjoy a private floating tour of Bruges

### Belgium to Paris (11 nights) - May

- Enjoy guided walking and floating tours around Bruges, the 'Venice of the North'
- Tour medieval Ghent with its magnificent altar piece
- See France's largest cathedral in Amiens
- Visit Compiègne, site of the World War One Armistice signing
- Experience Giverny to see Claude Monet's home and the gardens that served as subjects for some of his most famous works
- Cruise through Paris past the Eiffel Tower

### Germany and Luxembourg - September & October

- Visit Burg Eltz, the 12th century 'Queen of German Castles', one of the few not destroyed by King Louis XIV
- Cruise the River Moselle past picturesque hillside vineyards
- Enjoy private wine tastings in Zell and Berncastel, home of the best of Moselle wines
- Tour Trier, Germany's oldest town and see the Porta Nigra, the magnificent Roman city gate
- Tour Luxembourg with a visit to its capital



# At a Glance Guide

## Category

The category class refers primarily to the cabins. The service, gourmet meals, wines, escorted excursions and other amenities on board are of a similar standard on all of our hotel barges.

VESSEL	CATEGORY	CRUISE REGION	CRUISE ROUTE	PICKUP LOCATION	DEPARTURES	LENGTH OF VESSEL	CREW	MAX PASSENGER CAPACITY
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### FRANCE

La Belle Epoque	Deluxe	Northern Burgundy	Burgundy Canal	Paris	April - October	127 ft	6	12
Finesse	Ultra Deluxe	Southern Burgundy	Canal du Centre & River Saone	Paris	April - October	127 ft	5	8
L'Impressionniste	Deluxe	Southern Burgundy	Burgundy Canal	Paris	April - October	127 ft	6	12
L'Art de Vivre	First Class	Burgundy	Canal du Nivernais & River Yonne	Paris	April - October	100 ft	5	8
Enchanté	Ultra Deluxe	South of France, the Midi	Canal du Midi	Narbonne	March - October	100 ft	5	8
Anjodi (1)	First Class	South of France, the Midi	Canal du Midi	Narbonne	March - October	100 ft	5	8
Athos (1)	First Class	South of France, the Midi	Canal du Midi	Béziers	April - October	100 ft	5	10
Rosa	First Class	Southwest France, Gascony Southwest France, Bordeaux	Canal de Garonne Canal de Garonne	Toulouse Bordeaux	April - June July - October	100 ft	4	8
Renaissance	Ultra Deluxe	Western Burgundy / Upper Loire	Canal de Briare	Paris	April - October	127 ft	5	8
Nymphea	First Class	Loire Valley	River Cher	Tours	June - September	81 ft	2-3	6
Kir Royale	Ultra Deluxe	Champagne	Canal latéral à la Marne River Marne	Paris	April - October	127 ft	5	8
Panache	Deluxe	Alsace & Lorraine	Canal de la Marne au Rhin	Strasbourg	June - December	127 ft	6	12
La Nouvelle Etoile	Ultra Deluxe	Alsace & Lorraine	Canal de la Marne au Rhin	Strasbourg	July & August	127 ft	5	8

### HOLLAND

Panache	Deluxe	Western Provinces	Dutch Waterways	Amsterdam	March - May	127 ft	6	12
La Nouvelle Etoile	Ultra Deluxe	Western Provinces	Dutch Waterways	Amsterdam	March - May	127 ft	5	8

### ITALY

La Bella Vita	First Class	Venice & the Po Valley	Venetian Lagoon River Po/Canal Bianco	Venice	April - October	148 ft	6-10	20
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### SCOTLAND, ENGLAND, IRELAND

Spirit of Scotland	Deluxe	Scotland	Caledonian Canal & Lochs	Inverness	April - October	127 ft	6	12
Scottish Highlander	Deluxe	Scotland	Caledonian Canal & Lochs	Inverness	April - October	117 ft	5	8
Magna Carta	Deluxe	England	River Thames	London	April - October	117 ft	5	8
Shannon Princess	Deluxe	Ireland	River Shannon & its Loughs	Dublin	April - September	110 ft	5	10

### GERMANY & LUXEMBOURG

La Nouvelle Etoile	Ultra Deluxe	Luxembourg/Germany	River Moselle	Frankfurt/Koblenz	August - October	127 ft	5	8
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### Biking:

**Ultra Deluxe** - Very spacious cabin suites comparable to luxury hotels

**Deluxe** - Comfortable, slightly smaller cabins

**First Class** - Compact but cosy cabins

- ✓✓✓ - Towpath biking and good rural biking routes.
- ✓✓ - Some towpath biking and/or rural biking routes.
- ✓ - Limited biking opportunities
- + - 'Biking Plus' option available

### Notes

- (1) Anjodi and Athos can 'tandem' for larger groups up to 18.
- (2) Other theme cruises are available on request.

*Please note that on many of our cruises, on alternate weeks we travel in the reverse direction. The route, excursions and pick up/drop off points remain the same for both directions.*

APPROX. CABIN SIZE (SQ. FEET)	INTERIOR DECKS	TV/DVD PLAYER IN CABIN/SALOON	SPA POOL	BIKING	THEME CRUISES (2)
Jr. Suite 150-165 Staterooms 125-130	2	-	Yes	✓✓✓ +	Family, Walking, Golf, Wine Appreciation
Suites 265	2	-	Yes	✓✓✓ +	Family, Biking, Golf, Wine Appreciation
Jr. Suites 152-156 Staterooms 110-124	2	-	Yes	✓✓✓ +	Family, Biking, Golf, Culinary, Wine Appreciation
Staterooms 100	1	-	Yes	✓✓✓ +	Family, Walking, Biking, Golf, Wine Appreciation, Tennis
Suites 165	2	-	Yes	✓✓✓ +	Family, Golf, Wine Appreciation, Culinary
Staterooms 91-102	1	-	Yes	✓✓✓ +	Family, Golf, Wine Appreciation
Staterooms 93-102	1	-	Yes	✓✓✓	Family, Golf, Wine Appreciation, Art, Tennis
Staterooms 104-114	1	DVD Player in Saloon	Yes	✓✓✓	Golf, Wine Appreciation
Suites 235-265	2	TV/DVD Player in Cabins	Yes	✓✓✓ +	Family, Golf, Wine Appreciation
Staterooms 65-91	1	-	No	✓✓	Family, Biking, Golf, Wine Appreciation, Honeymoon
Suites 205-230	2	TV in Saloon	Yes	✓✓	
Jr. Suites 150	2	TV/DVD Player in Cabins	Yes	✓✓✓ +	Family, Christmas Markets
Suites 215	2	TV in Cabins TV/DVD Player in Saloon	Yes	✓✓	
Jr. Suites 150	2	TV/DVD Player in Cabins	Yes	✓	Family, Golf
Suites 215	2	TV in Cabins TV/DVD Player in Saloon	Yes	✓	
Jr. Suites 135 Staterooms 105	2	-	Yes	✓	Family, Opera, Golf, Wine Appreciation, Garden
Staterooms 130	2	TV/DVD Player in Cabins	Yes	✓	Family, Golf, Whisky Trail, Garden
Jr. Suite 148 Staterooms 115	1	-	No	✓	Family, Golf, Whisky Trail
Suites 200	2	TV/DVD Player in Cabins	Yes	✓✓	Family, Walking, Golf, Royal, Antiques, Tennis
Staterooms 125	1	-	Yes	✓	Family, Walking, Golf, Artisan
Suites 215	2	TV in Cabins TV/DVD Player in Saloon	Yes	N/A	



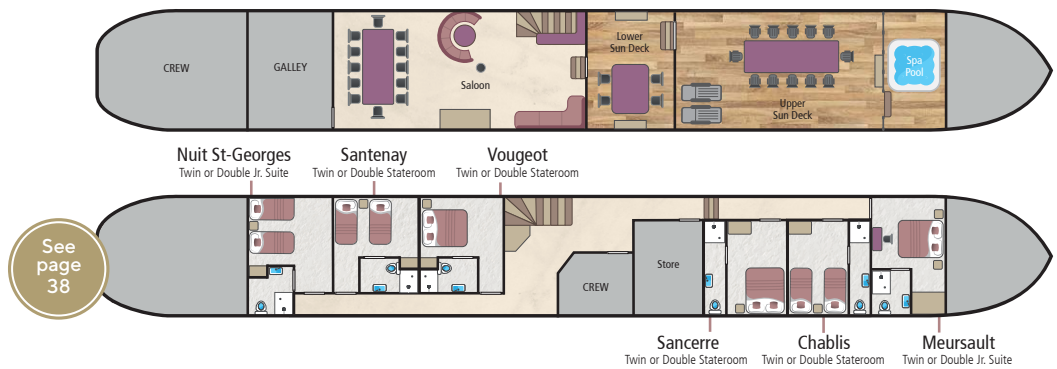
## La Belle Epoque

 **Deluxe**

 **12 Passengers**

 **6 Crew**

- 127 Feet Long
- 2 Twin/Double Junior Suites (150 - 165 sq ft incl. en suite)
- 4 Twin/Double Staterooms (125 - 130 sq ft incl. en suite)
- Air-Conditioned/Centrally Heated
- Spa Pool



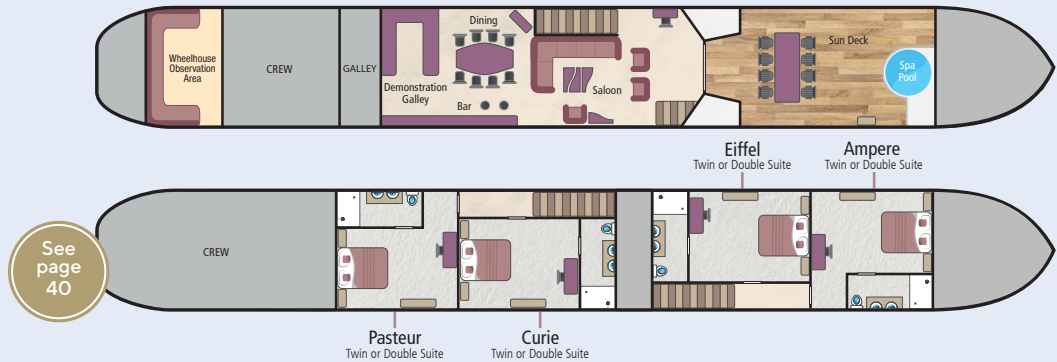
## Finesse

 **Ultra Deluxe**

 **8 Passengers**

 **5 Crew**

- 127 Feet Long
- 4 Twin/Double Suites (265 sq ft incl. en suite)
- Air-Conditioned/Centrally Heated
- Spa Pool
- Observation Open Galley



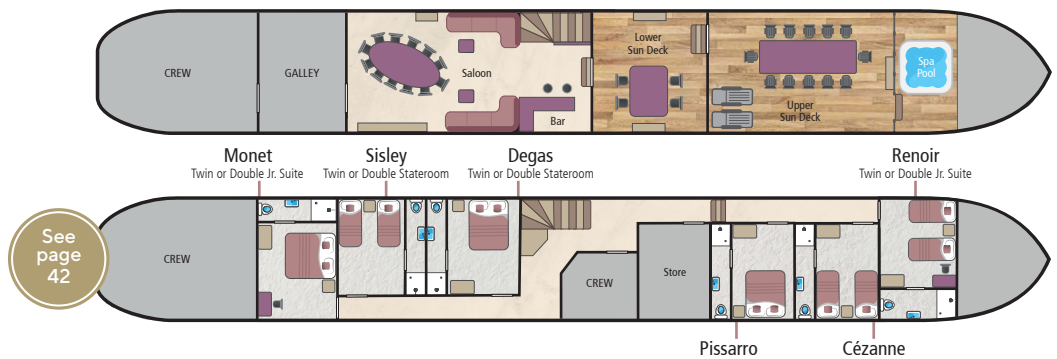
## L'Impressionniste

 **Deluxe**

 **12 Passengers**

 **6 Crew**

- 127 Feet Long
- 2 Twin/Double Junior Suites (152 - 156 sq ft incl. en suite)
- 4 Twin/Double Staterooms (110 - 124 sq ft incl. en suite)
- Air-Conditioned/Centrally Heated
- Spa Pool



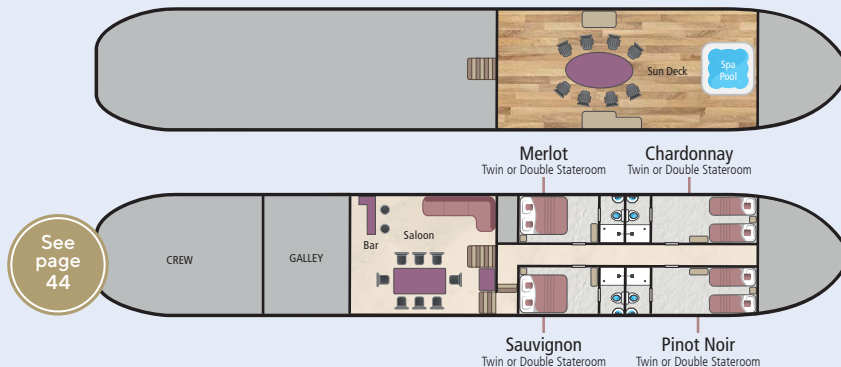
## L'Art de Vivre

 **First Class**

 **8 Passengers**

 **5 Crew**

- 100 Feet Long
- 4 Twin/Double Staterooms (100 sq ft incl. en suite)
- Air-Conditioned/Centrally Heated
- Spa Pool



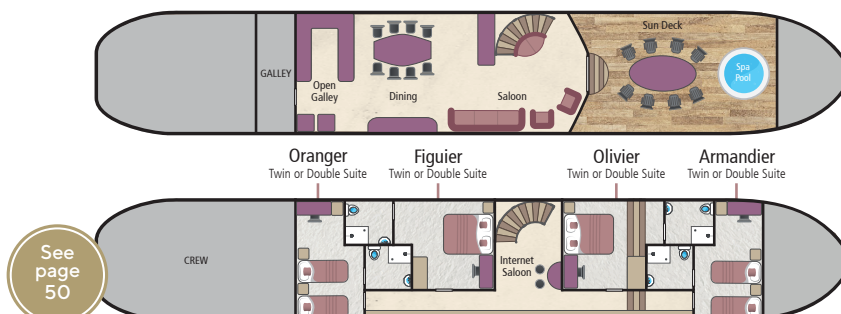
## Enchanté

 **Ultra Deluxe**

 **8 Passengers**

 **5 Crew**

- 100 Feet Long
- 4 Twin/Double Suites (165 sq ft incl. en suite)
- Air-Conditioned/Centrally Heated
- Spa Pool
- Observation Open Galley

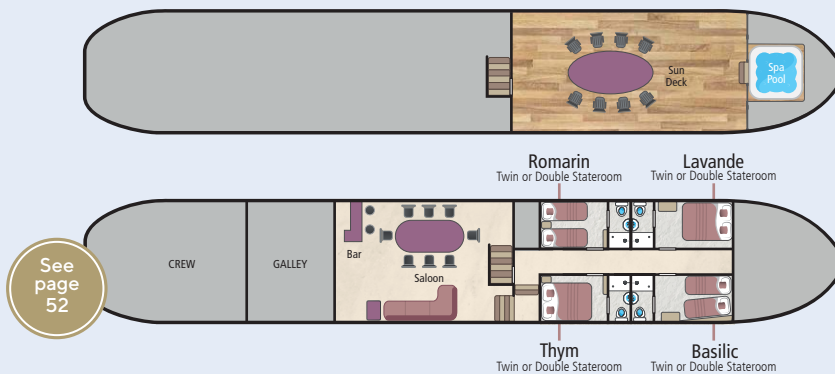




## Anjodi

- First Class
- 8 Passengers
- 5 Crew

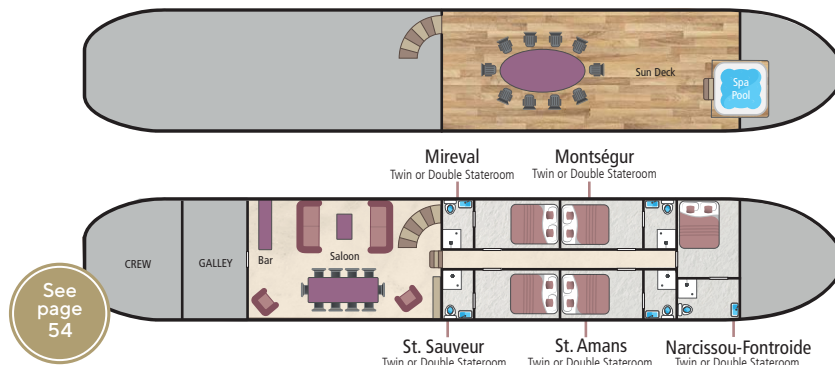
- 100 Feet Long
- 4 Twin/Double Staterooms (91 - 102 sq ft incl. en suite)
- Air-Conditioned/Centrally Heated
- Spa Pool



## Athos

- First Class
- 10 Passengers
- 5 Crew

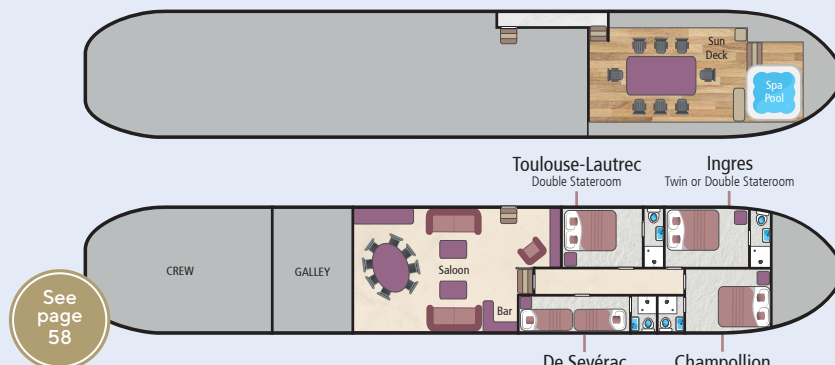
- 100 Feet Long
- 5 Twin/Double Staterooms (93 - 102 sq ft incl. en suite)
- Air-Conditioned/Centrally Heated
- Spa Pool



## Rosa

- First Class
- 8 Passengers
- 4 Crew

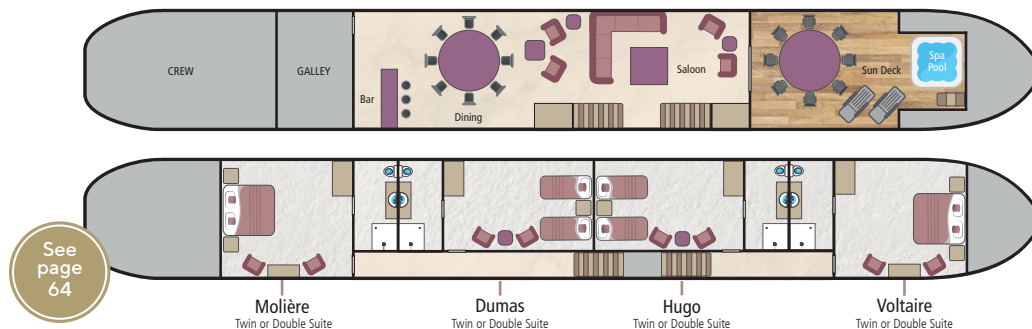
- 100 Feet Long
- 2 Double Staterooms (104 - 114 sq ft incl. en suite)
- 1 Double/Twin Stateroom (92 sq ft incl. en suite)
- 1 Twin Stateroom (107 sq ft incl. en suite)
- Air-Conditioned/Centrally Heated
- Spa Pool
- DVD Player in Saloon



## Renaissance

- Ultra Deluxe
- 8 Passengers
- 5 Crew

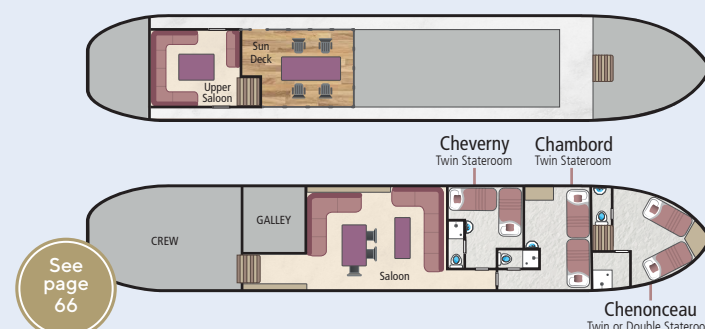
- 127 Feet Long
- 4 Twin/Double Suites (Average 235 - 265 sq ft incl. en suite)
- Air-Conditioned/Centrally Heated
- Spa Pool
- TV/DVD in Cabins



## Nymphea

- First Class
- 6 Passengers
- 2-3 Crew

- 81 Feet Long
- 2 Twin Cabins (65 - 91 sq ft incl. en suite)
- 1 Twin/Double Stateroom (91 sq ft incl. en suite)
- Air-Conditioned/Centrally Heated





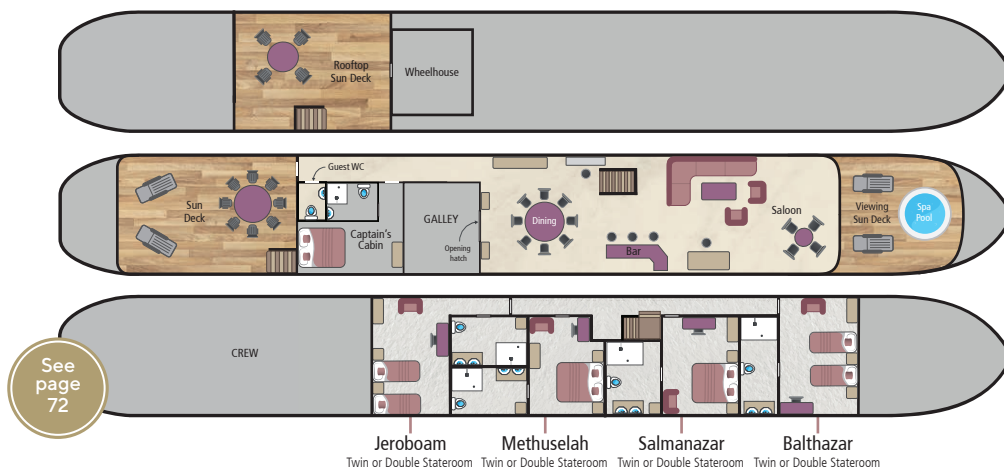
## Kir Royale

 Ultra Deluxe

 8 Passengers

 5 Crew

- 127 Feet Long
- 4 Twin/Double Suites (205 – 230 sq ft incl. en suite)
- Air-Conditioned/Centrally Heated
- Spa Pool
- TV in Saloon
- Galley Observation Window
- Piano



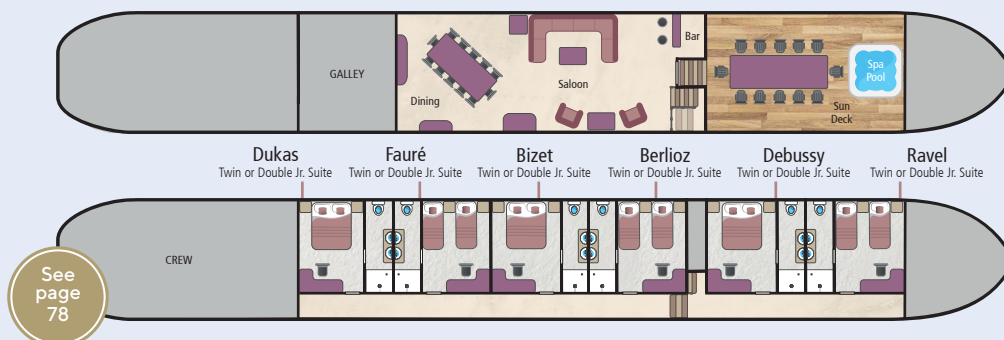
## Panache

 Deluxe

 12 Passengers

 6 Crew

- 127 Feet Long
- 6 Twin/Double Junior Suites (150 sq ft incl. en suite)
- Air-Conditioned/Centrally Heated
- Spa Pool
- TV/DVD in Cabins



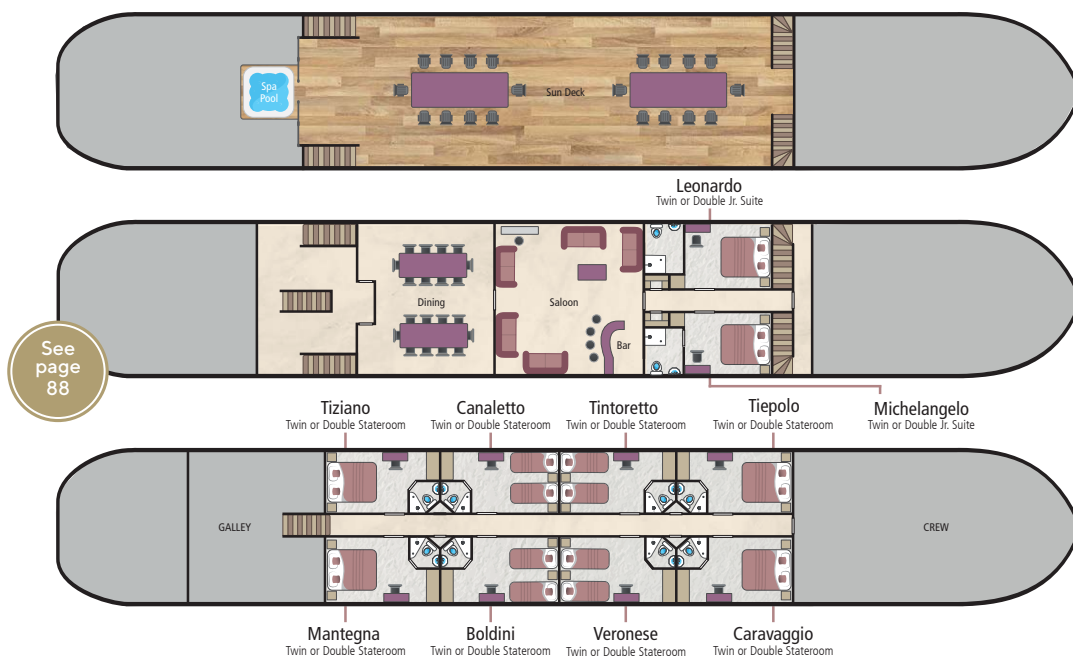
## La Bella Vita

 First Class

 20 Passengers

 6-10 Crew

- 148 Feet Long
- 2 Twin/Double Junior Suites (135 sq ft incl. en suite)
- 8 Twin/Double Staterooms (105 sq ft incl. en suite)
- Air-Conditioned/Centrally Heated
- Spa Pool
- Piano



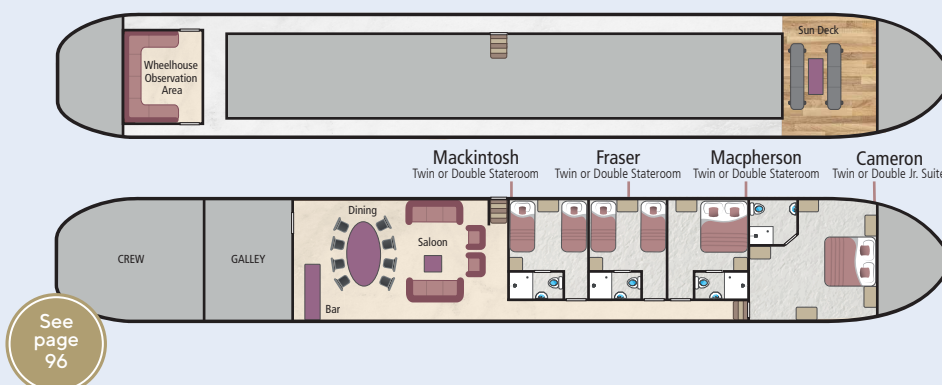
## Scottish Highlander

 Deluxe

 8 Passengers

 5 Crew

- 117 Feet Long
- 1 Twin/Double Junior Suite (148 sq ft incl. en suite)
- 3 Twin/Double Staterooms (115 sq ft incl. en suite)
- Centrally Heated/Air-Conditioned (Saloon Only)
- Wheelhouse Observation Area





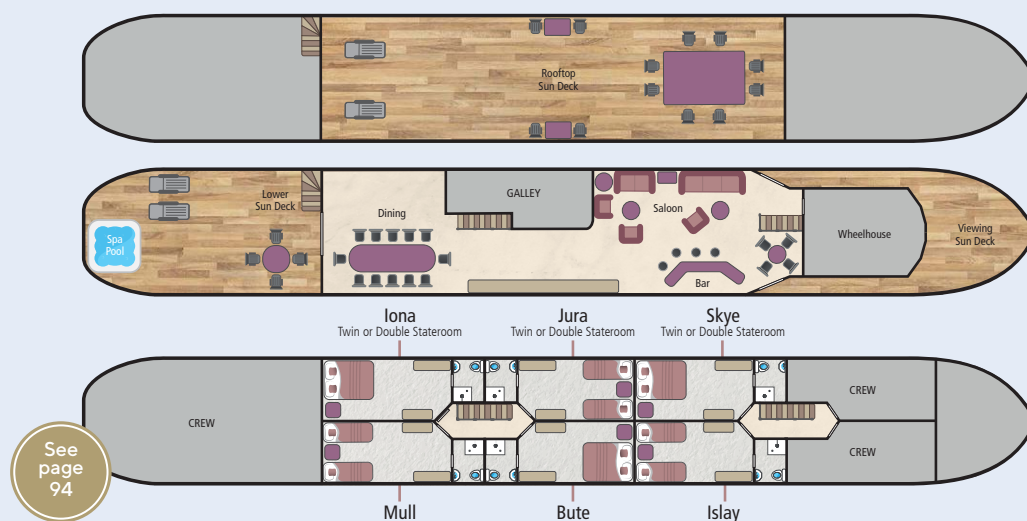
## Spirit of Scotland

 Deluxe

 12 Passengers

 6 Crew

- 127 Feet Long
- 6 Twin/Double Staterooms (130 sq ft incl. en suite)
- Separate Cabin for Tour Leader
- Air-Conditioned/Centrally Heated
- Spa Pool
- TV/DVD Player in Cabins



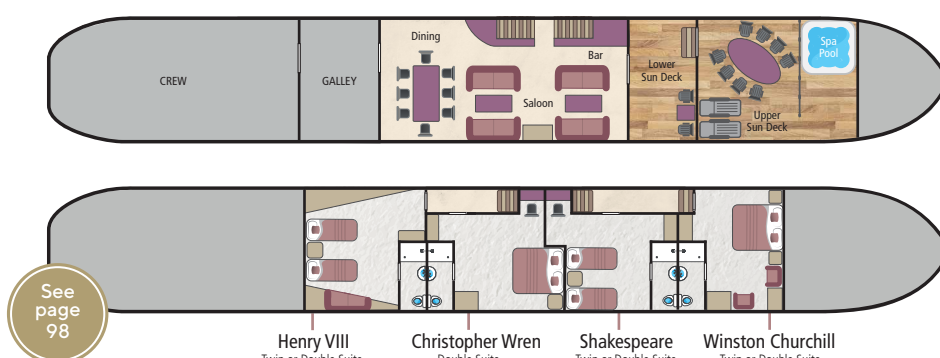
## Magna Carta

 Deluxe

 8 Passengers

 5 Crew

- 117 Feet Long
- 3 Twin/Double Suites (200 sq ft incl. en suite)
- 1 Double Suite (200 sq ft incl. en suite)
- Air-Conditioned/Centrally Heated
- Spa Pool
- TV/DVD in Cabins



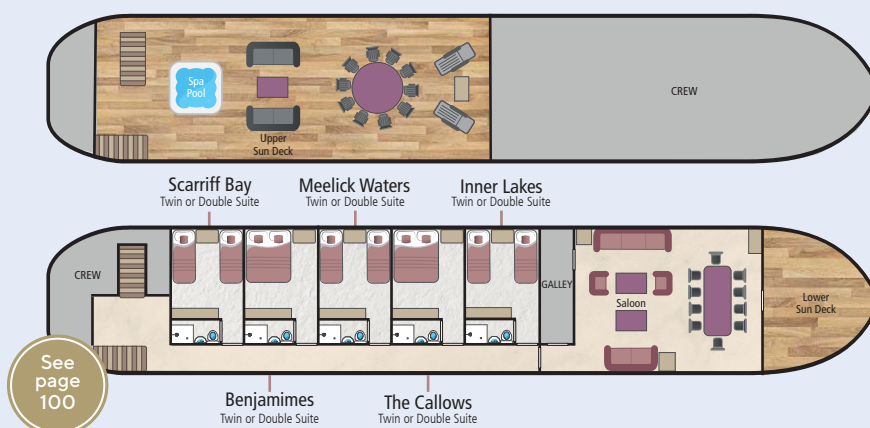
## Shannon Princess

 Deluxe

 10 Passengers

 5 Crew

- 110 Feet Long
- 5 Twin/Double Staterooms (125 sq ft incl. en suite)
- Air-Conditioned/Centrally Heated
- Spa Pool



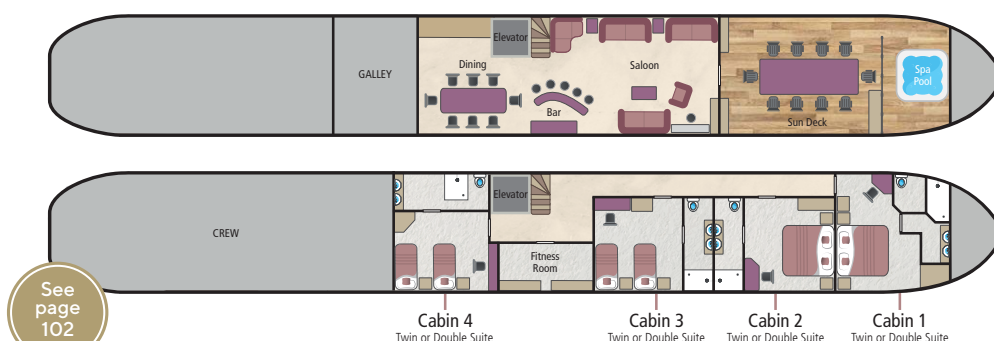
## La Nouvelle Etoile

 Ultra Deluxe

 8 Passengers

 5 Crew

- 127 Feet Long
- 4 Twin/Double Suites (215 sq ft incl. en suite)
- Air-Conditioned/Centrally Heated
- Spa Pool
- TV/DVD
- Elevator
- Fitness Room





# Travelling to Your Hotel Barge



Meeting Point at a Hotel in Central Paris

## Getting There is Half the Fun!

We know that your luxury barge cruise will be a memorable experience, and we hope your journey to your destination will be just as enjoyable! Whether you're flying into local airports, hop on high-speed trains, or driving across borders, each travel option has its advantages. Here's a practical guide to help you plan your journey to your hotel barge's meeting point, ensuring your adventure begins well before you step aboard.

### Hotels

Designated meeting points for your chosen hotel barge are mostly within lobbies of luxury hotels that we have carefully selected for our clients' comfort and convenience. You may wish to stay in the same hotel before, or after your cruise if you are spending additional time in the region. Meeting times are predominantly on a Sunday afternoon, with return transfers on the following Saturday morning. With Burgundy cruises, return transfers are from a meeting point in central Paris such as the Hotel Westminster. Charter groups can choose their meeting point within a 30-minute drive of where the hotel barge is moored.

### By Car

Driving to the hotel barge through rural countryside at your own pace in your own (or hired) car, can be a very enjoyable 'top and tail' to a cruise. For passengers travelling from the UK, there are many cross-channel routes, including the Eurotunnel, which takes only 35 minutes. Parking is often available at the meeting point hotel or at another convenient location. We can also provide clear directions, or a direct pick-up can often be arranged. Please note that parking is at your own risk and expense. You can also arrange your own private transfer from a railway station or airport, including those just outside the French borders. Driving times to the barges are reasonable, ranging from around one hour from Toulouse for a Canal du Midi barge to four hours from Geneva for one of our Burgundy barges.

### By Train

Rail services in Europe, and particularly in France, are excellent. The high-speed TGV trains operate from Paris to all regions and link to the Eurostar trains from London. Transfers from local stations to the meeting point is usually very easy, or a direct hotel barge pick up can often be arranged from the platform. In addition, there are reliable rail services into France from cities in neighbouring countries, such as Barcelona on the northeast coast of Spain, and Zurich in central Switzerland which give access to our Canal du Midi, and Alsace & Lorraine cruising regions.

### By Plane

As well as the major hubs such as Paris, London, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, and Brussels, there are many well-served regional airports near our cruise routes such as Lyon, Montpellier, Carcassonne, Toulouse, Strasbourg, Venice, Verona, and Inverness. Flying to or from airports in adjoining countries such as Barcelona, Zurich or Geneva is also an attractive option if you wish to spend some time in another destination before or after your barge cruise.



## We Can Help

Although we cannot package your tour, we can recommend a number of partner travel companies with a deep understanding of our business, who can help you with your individual requirements for booking flights, trains, ferries, hotels, car hire and even chauffeured limousines. Our experienced travel team will be happy to assist you with any travel queries you may have.

“Excellent air, rail, road links; Convenient meeting and transfer arrangements”





## “ La Bella Vita

We could not have had a better experience, the crew was exceptional, the food and wines were excellent! The off-barge excursions were well organised and tour guides really informative! Such a relaxed environment cruising down the Po River with its stunning villages and then floating into the Venetian Lagoon, all well beyond our expectations!

- Ms Myranwy K

## “ Anjodi

Our trip was awesome! I would recommend the crew and the barge to anyone! - Mr Joel J

Photo Credits: Glencoe Photography, ROAVR, Marie-George Stavelot, François Verlet, Visit Scotland/Scottish Viewpoint, Atout France - R-Cast, Cédric Helsly, Alain Doire, Daniel Philippe, A.S. Flament -CDT Marne, Chris Nixon, Adrian O'Brien, Brian Holt, Chris Thompson, Zoltan Biczo, Dave Pruett, Alberto Rossini, Andre Juncker, Celine Petot, Kerri McConnel, Hilke Maunder, Kathleen Stogell, Francois Allaire, Brett Cornell, Rose Palmer Sungail, Lily Heise, Lauren Yakiwchuk, Jo Castro, Daniel Oschin, Château de Commarin / Pierre Holley, Serge Chapuis, Château de Chenonceau / Marc Jauneaud, Musée Lalique, Mark Gleckman, Communauté de communes du Val de Sully, L. De Serres, Graham Crerar, Judi Cohen, Colmar Tourisme, Philippe Escudé - Clip Clap Video, Elaine Wilson, Edward Green, Olivier Loizelet (Aeropix), Elliot Roberts, R.C. Staab. A huge thank you to our wonderful clients for allowing us to share their travel photos.

# Visitors' Book

We always like to hear what our clients think about their hotel barge cruises. Here is a selection of recent comments from the independent review website Feefo. All reviews can be viewed online at [www.feefo.com](http://www.feefo.com)

## “ Renaissance

If you are looking for an off the beaten path, quiet, exclusive, pampering experience, then look no further. I had never been on a barge trip, but I have done many river cruises and ocean cruises but both don't compare to a barge trip. So, if you're looking for something unique, intimate and exclusive, then I highly recommend this type of travel.

- Mrs Sophia B

## “ Finesse

We just love European Waterways! As repeat 'Bargers', we know we can always expect fabulous excursions, amazing meals, wine and cheese, and a friendly and fun crew to attend to every need to make sure we have an exceptional experience. This sailing proved all this and more. The week goes by so quickly since we are having so much fun. We look forward to booking another sailing!

- Mrs Brooke M

## “ L'Art de Vivre

A most enjoyable trip through the beautiful Burgundy countryside. Very relaxing, with just five passengers and five crew members. We went through over 25 locks on the canal, a unique experience to watch each time.

- Mr Paul C

## “ Magna Carta

This was the best trip choice I've made - cruising the River Thames on the magnificent Magna Carta. If you love a mix of relaxation, you won't find a better way than sitting on the deck and watching the world flow by as you cruise - and active, as you can choose your activities from sightseeing to golfing! I cannot wait to return.

- Ms Carol P

## “ La Bella Vita

This cruise, the wonderful crew, the fellow passengers, the food, the wine, and the perfect weather confirmed our hope that a perfect vacation is possible!

- Dr George P

## “ Spirit of Scotland

When my friends ask, "how was the vacation", my go-to response is that, "it met and far exceeded expectations." For a once in a lifetime opportunity, I was thrilled with what European Waterways coordinated!

- Trusted Customer

## “ Rosa

7 days of pure pleasure during my time on the Rosa barge. The crew was exceptional and made our group of 6 feel like this was our home for the week. Thank you to all of the Rosa crew for giving me this amazing week!

- Ms Toni Z



**Platinum Trusted  
Service Award**

2024

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For reservations contact your travel agent or:

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Tel: (03) 57 501 441

Email: [info@outdoortravel.com.au](mailto:info@outdoortravel.com.au)

Website: [www.outdoortravel.com.au](http://www.outdoortravel.com.au)

