



# European WATERWAYS

EST. 1974



## Luxury Hotel Barge Cruises

2024/25





# Welcome Aboard...

...from the Directors

*Thank you for choosing our brand-new brochure, showcasing the very best of the 2024/5 hotel barge cruise season along Europe's picturesque waterways.*

*2024 marks a special occasion for us at European Waterways, as we celebrate the company's 50th anniversary as pioneers of inland waterways cruising.*

*Looking back, it was growing up next door to each other on the banks of the River Thames that first sold us both on the unique experiences that rivers and canals could bring. From this, we decided that we wanted to share our passion with as many people as possible – but in an intimate and bespoke way – exploring off the beaten track with small numbers of like-minded travellers.*

*Today, we operate the largest fleet of luxury hotel barges in Europe, now supported by a dedicated professional team, but our passion remains undiminished and the ethos remains the same – to offer the enjoyment of slow travel on smaller rural waterways to explore some of the most historic regions of Europe – their scenery, heritage, people, culture, food and wine. In today's new age of travel, we believe that our concept of small groups of passengers, private excursions and unique insider experiences – all whilst cruising through charming countryside at walking pace – is even more relevant to travellers' aspirations.*

*Lastly, as the company continues to grow, we're delighted to announce for 2024 the latest addition to our fleet – the 8-passenger **Kir Royale**, cruising the Champagne region of France. And, due to its popularity – our Christmas Markets Cruises will be returning to Alsace aboard **Panache**, ringing in the festive season in style!*

*We look forward to welcoming you on board.*

## 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.



*Derek Banks*

*John Wood-Dow*

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*Comfort, Luxury & Style*



# Where we Cruise...



## Scotland

*Majestic Scenery, Castles and Whisky*



## England

*Picturesque Riverside Villages, Castles, Palaces and Pubs*



## Ireland

*Lush Green Landscapes and Gaelic History*



## Gascony & Bordeaux

*Vineyards, Orchards and Armagnac*





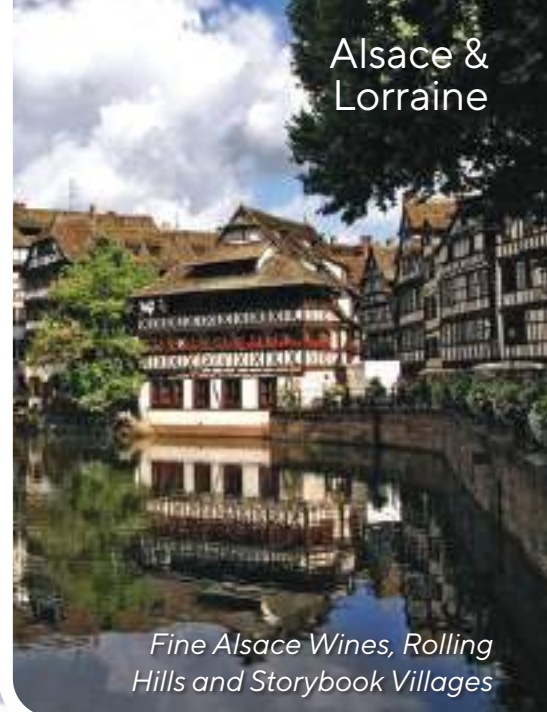
## Holland

*Tulips, Windmills  
and Historic Dutch Towns*



## Champagne

*Champagne, Gothic  
Cathedrals and Châteaux*



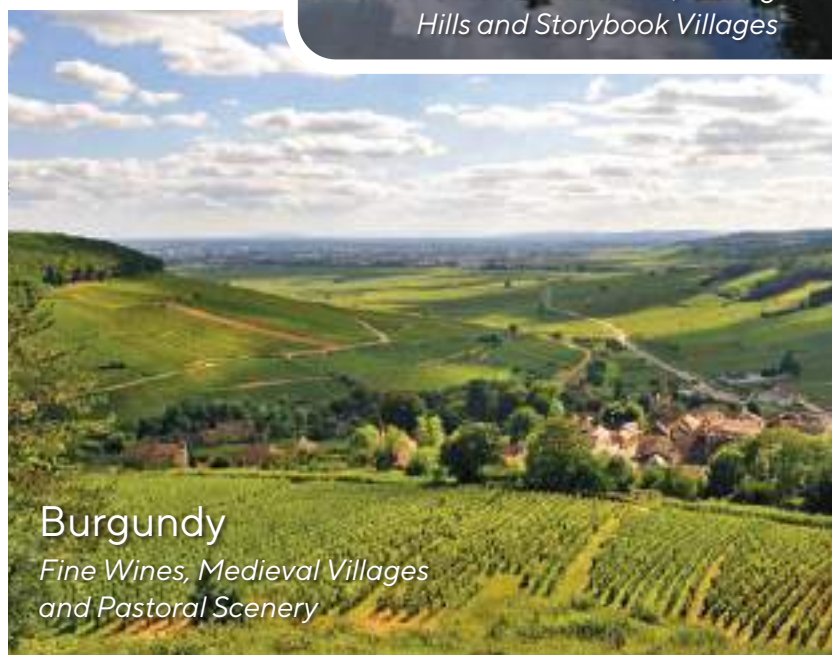
## Alsace & Lorraine

*Fine Alsace Wines, Rolling  
Hills and Storybook Villages*



## Loire Valley

*Renowned Châteaux  
and Renaissance Architecture*



## Burgundy

*Fine Wines, Medieval Villages  
and Pastoral Scenery*



## 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
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- 15 Magna Carta
- 16 Scottish Highlander
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- 18 Shannon Princess



## Canal du Midi

*Cathar History, Carcassonne  
and Colourful Street Markets*



## Italy

*Renaissance Architecture  
& Italian Gastronomy*





# 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 Charter Cruise



## 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 busy 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!





# Our Exclusive Collection of Hotel Barges

The hotel barges in our 18-vessel fleet have a wealth of history behind them. Most of the vessels are owned by us, and others by experienced hands-on operators who work with us and meet our required high standards. You'll find a wide variety of styles, sizes and pedigrees within the fleet, due to their specific purpose when originally built.



*Finesse*



*Scottish Highlander*

## Individual Characters

All our barges offer a similar cruising experience, with each having its own characteristics and personality. Styles will range from the feel of a traditional, classic cosy floating 'country house' with varnished wood and brass, rich textures and fabrics, and interiors to reflect the beauty of the region, to a more spacious contemporary appearance, designed with style and elegance in mind.

Each barge has been awarded a cruise rating, with each category primarily referring to cabin sizing. Our Ultra Deluxe cruises enjoy very spacious cabin suites, comparable to luxury hotels. Deluxe barges offer comfortable, slightly smaller cabins, whilst our lead-in First Class barges enjoy compact but cosy cabins.

Vessel sizes also vary, mainly to conform with the dimensions of the locks on the different waterways on which we cruise. Size also influences the number of passengers which are carried, from 6 on our smallest hotel barge, Nymphaea, in the Loire Valley, up to 20 passengers on our largest vessel, La Bella Vita, cruising the Venetian Lagoon and River Po. Whatever the size or style, you can rest assured the level of service remains impeccable throughout your stay.



*L'Impressionniste*



*Anjodi*





*Enchanté*



*Spirit of Scotland*

## Heritage

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.

8-passenger Anjodi is a 1929 Luxemotor barge, and the founding member of our fleet – embarking on her first cruise with us along the UNESCO-listed Canal du Midi over 40 years ago. The single-deck design of the barge allows her to pass freely below the canal's famously low stone bridges.

Originally designed to be towed by horse, the 8-passenger L'Art de Vivre – our oldest vessel – is an English barge, built in 1917 to carry munitions to the trenches of the Great War, before transporting Cognac along the Charente River. 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.

8-passenger Rosa is an old Dutch Klipper that was originally powered by sail only and carried different cargoes on the offshore waterways of Holland and Belgium.

Although purpose-built twenty years ago as a hotel barge, 12-passenger Spirit of Scotland's contemporary style evokes that of the traditional Steamers that plied the lochs of Scotland in the 19th and early 20th centuries as post and passenger boats.



*Renaissance*



*La Bella Vita*



*Nympha*





## Life On Board

Whichever hotel barge you choose, you can be assured that a lot of thought and care has gone into its interior design and furnishings to create a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere on board, reminiscent of a 'floating boutique hotel'.

### A Home Away From Home

In the saloon and dining areas of your hotel barge, you will see that traditional features such as African hardwood panelling, antique furniture and period lighting are complemented by more modern features such as hand-woven rugs and beautiful banquette seating – along with expected creature comforts such as air-conditioning and central heating. There is Wi-Fi on board, a sound system, a selection of books and games, and on some barges – a TV/DVD player in the saloon or within the cabins.

Most of the barges have a sensational deck-top spa pool, and sun-loungers to sit back and admire the passing countryside and villages. If you require a refreshment, our hosts will be on hand to whip up the perfect beverage. Or, if you'd prefer, you're more than welcome to help yourself to our fully-stocked open bar featuring high-end alcoholic or soft drinks for whenever you please.



*En suite on La Belle Epoque*



*Wheelhouse Observation Area on Scottish Highlander*



### Unique Features

Each barge enjoys its own unique identity, some with interesting features such as a covered wheelhouse observation area – a cosy spot for wildlife spotting, relaxing or perhaps watching the Captain navigate the waters. Enjoying the delights of our on-board chef? Let us know! Some of our vessels feature a demonstration galley, where our chefs will be delighted to showcase their delicious creations and offer tips on how to recreate the menu at home. And those with a love of music may choose to tickle the ivories on the lounge piano on some cruises.

If at any point along the way, you feel you'd like to hop off and stretch your legs – feel free to wander along the towpath beside the barge on foot, or perhaps take advantage of the barges' complimentary bicycles and meet your fellow guests at a lock further along the route.



## Your Choice of Accommodation

The accommodation on each barge ranges from compact and charming twin or double Staterooms to more spacious Suites. Irrespective of size, every Suite or Stateroom is skilfully designed to make optimum use of space, and features

private en suite facilities, a closet and drawer space. For any cruise, you can select a specific cabin of your choosing, particularly if you book early. For cabin information on room types, please refer to our deck plans on page 102.

### Ultra Deluxe

Very spacious cabin suites comparable to luxury hotels



### Deluxe

Comfortable, slightly smaller cabins

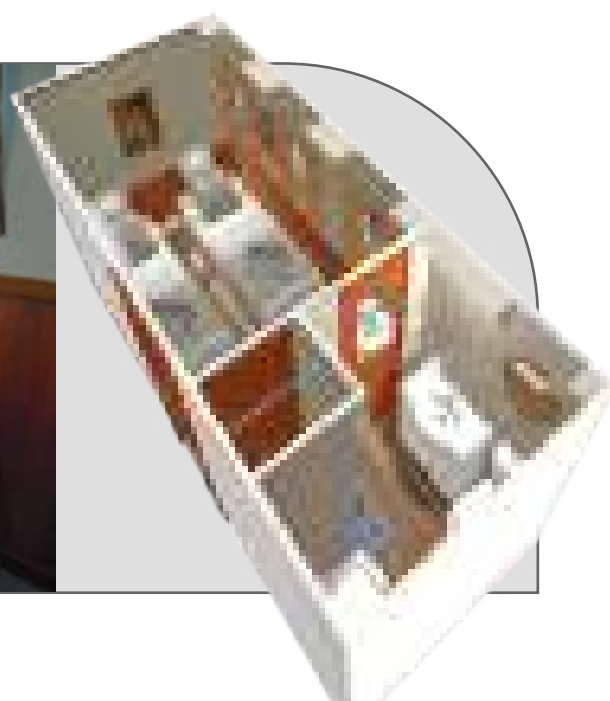


### Category

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.

### First Class

Compact but cosy cabins





# The Hotel Barging Experience



A hotel barge cruise is a very special way of exploring many of the glorious inland waterways of Europe, particularly those that larger river cruisers just cannot reach.

## The Ambience

On board, there is a relaxed, intimate 'house party' atmosphere, whether you choose to cruise with other like-minded people, or charter the whole barge privately as a family or a group of friends.

## Life on Board

Whether your interests lie in gastronomy and wine, local history and culture, or just relaxing on deck with a good book and a glass of Chablis, a "slow boat" voyage with us offers the ultimate in experiential travel. Each day as your 'floating boutique hotel' glides sedately along at walking pace, you can relax on deck and take in the passing countryside, then perhaps hop off at the next lock to stroll along the towpath or enjoy a little exercise on one of the barge's bicycles.

You may come across some locals playing a game of boules, or a charming canal-side village to explore and then re-join your hotel barge, which will never be far away. During your gentle voyage of exploration, your hotel barge may negotiate a truly impressive feat of engineering, such as Gustave Eiffel's aqueduct across the River Loire at Briare, the amazing Boat Elevator at Arzwiller in Alsace, or the world's oldest canal tunnel at Malpas on the Canal du Midi. Each one is an unforgettable experience in its own way.

## Private Guided Excursions

Our hotel barge cruises offer a balanced daily blend of gentle cruising and enriching excursions. After an early morning breakfast, or perhaps a light al fresco lunch on deck accompanied by a glass or two of chilled rosé, there is an escorted excursion – maybe to a charming local market where your chef shops for the evening meal, to a château or a vineyard for an exclusive tour and private tasting. Many of our visits are to 'off the beaten track' hidden gems that larger groups cannot access – offering an authentic immersion into the culture, history and gastronomy of the region.

## Wining and Dining

After a day of cruising and sightseeing, there is time for an aperitif or maybe a relaxing soak in the deck-top spa pool, before a gourmet dinner prepared by the onboard chef using fresh, locally-sourced ingredients. To further enhance your immersive dining experience, your host 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.







## What is Included?

Each hotel barge cruise is for 6 nights and includes:

- Comfortable accommodation in air-conditioned, en suite staterooms or suites
- Gourmet meals prepared by the on-board chef, complemented with fine wines
- Private and often exclusive daily excursions to hand-picked hidden gems
- Private air-conditioned transfers to designated pick-up points
- Complimentary bicycle use and on most barges, a deck-top spa pool
- Attentive service from an experienced crew – Captain, Chef, Tour Guide, and Hosts



## Hotel Barging Compared to Other Forms of Cruising

- Hotel barges cruise the smaller rivers and canals that are often inaccessible to larger vessels
- Our hotel barges accommodate a maximum of 20 passengers, with a passenger to crew ratio of 2:1 or less; ensuring attentive and personalised service
- Cruises cover shorter distances, at a very slow speed and never at night
- Cruising just a few feet from the towpath, it's easy to step off and explore on foot or bicycle
- Unique cruising experiences that are not available to larger vessels e.g. Eiffel's aqueduct at Briare, or the boat elevator at Arzwiller
- With an on-board chef, meals focus on the specialities of the region
- Private, whole barge charters are possible for families, friends and special interest groups
- The pace is gentle, with time for immersion in the local culture, history and gastronomy
- Excursions are in small groups to places "off the beaten track"
- Canals are quieter, usually with little other water-borne traffic, and never any rough weather!



# Cruises for Everyone

From multi-generational family charters and special interest groups to like-minded couples and solo travellers, we offer something for everyone.





# Cruises for Everyone



With capacity for up to 20 passengers on board, a hotel barge cruise offers a more intimate, informal atmosphere than on larger river and ocean cruise vessels, so it is an excellent choice for couples, single travellers, families, or small groups.

## Making New Friends

Many of our guests choose a hotel barge cruise with us because they relish the chance to meet other like-minded travellers who enjoy the finer things in life, such as great service, fine dining, wine and good conversation. They are keen to find out more about local culture and history, but at the same time want an absorbing, slow-paced voyage of discovery.

## Private Whole Barge Charters

When you charter one of our hotel barges – be it for a precious family gathering or friends' reunion, a one-off celebration, or as a special interest group – we can arrange tailored itineraries to please everyone, whatever your ages or interests.

## Travelling Solo

Our gentle voyages are also ideal for the solo traveller who will be welcomed into the fold by the crew and their fellow ship-mates to join the 'floating house party', with everyone dining together around the same table and enjoying all the private escorted daily excursions as a group.



## Family Charters

A hotel barge charter offers so much flexibility, freedom and fun for family members of all ages. It's like having your own 'private floating villa' in a different location every day!

## Tailored Activities

Each Charter Cruise enjoys the same route as its Classic Cruise itinerary. On our Family Charters we'll create a bespoke itinerary, substituting many of the Classic Cruise excursions with your preferred family activities – from trips to the zoo to canoeing excursions. Some other activities, such as hot air ballooning and horse-riding, carry a supplement and must be booked directly with the provider. For the adults, we can arrange a spectacular selection of experiences including private wine tastings, tours of family-owned châteaux, trips to charming local markets and so much more.

## Catering for All Ages

Having the luxury of your own on-board chef means that meal arrangements are a flexible affair, and that every age and palate can be catered for – with almost any culinary whim indulged.





## Tandem Barge Cruises

These are ideal for larger groups – perhaps friends, or a multigenerational family, a wine club, a party of golfers, or even a company incentive group who require more cabins than a single vessel can provide. Planned in advance, on certain cruise routes, we can position two hotel barges together, allowing as many as 20 passengers to cruise in tandem.

## Back to Back Cruises

Combining eligible “Back to Back” cruises is a fantastic way to extend your trip and discover multiple regions, some of our most popular being a dual Burgundy & Champagne cruise through the heart of France, experiencing the best of each world-renowned wine region. Or perhaps following in the footsteps of renowned chef Rick Stein and enjoying the culinary offerings of both Bordeaux and the Canal du Midi.



## Theme Cruises

We can arrange a wide selection of themed charter cruises which will appeal to all types of groups, large or small and centred around interests, from local culture and gastronomy, to more active pursuits such as golf and walking.

### Wine Appreciation Cruises

These are available where we cruise through the wine regions of France or Italy. Our wine expert will conduct tastings on board your hotel barge and also take you to renowned vineyards for private tours and tastings, often of some of the finest wine available, including premier and grand cru vintages.



### Whisky Trail

For lovers of the single malt, we have created our own Whisky Trail Cruise in Scotland, with fascinating tours and tutored tastings in a number of Highland distilleries. Treat yourself to a wee dram!



### Golf Cruises

Scotland, Ireland, England and France all have great golf courses such as Royal Dornoch, Wentworth and Galway Bay to inspire every keen golfer. Tee times can be arranged so that you can play a memorable round of golf and return to your hotel barge for a few hours' cruising.



### Opera Cruises

Lose yourself in an Operatic adventure aboard hotel barge La Bella Vita; cruise past timeless Renaissance architecture in Venice & Mantua, indulge in sumptuous Italian cuisine and take the best seats in the house for your al fresco Opera experience at the magnificent Arena di Verona.



### Christmas Markets Cruises

Enjoy the spirit of the season on a festive cruise to the charming Christmas markets of Alsace, with its medieval centres adorned with festive decorations, giant Christmas trees and nativity displays, and traditional chalet-style market stalls selling unique hand-blown baubles, seasonal delicacies and so much more.



### Culinary Cruises

Ideal for the self-confessed 'foodie', our culinary cruises offer an array of cooking demonstrations, local market visits to discover fresh seasonal produce, gourmet meals prepared by top-class chefs and insider experiences such as private wine tours and tastings, truffle hunting, unique olive oil co-operatives and goat cheese farms.



### Other Theme Cruises

Other theme cruises are also available during our season with specially constructed itineraries: from Europe's finest landscape Garden Cruises to elegant Royal Cruises, visiting some of England's finest royal residences, or more active Walking or Biking Cruises.

Supplements apply to selected theme cruises



# Exceptional Service



Our English-speaking crews, mainly British or French, pride themselves on their level of personal service and attention to detail. Whilst their primary role is to maintain guest safety throughout, they're also experts in anticipating your every need, so that all you need to do is relax.

## Our Expert Crew

Your experienced **Captain** is sure to impress with his or her ability to guide their exceptionally large vessel into the smallest lock, and under the lowest of bridges with just inches to spare. If you're keen to steer the barge yourself, feel free to ask your Captain who will do their best to find a less-challenging stretch to navigate with you.

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.

Our attentive **Hosts** are there to anticipate your every need, from preparing the perfect cup of afternoon tea, to concocting a delicious cocktail to enjoy on deck. And, at the dining table, they'll perfectly describe the characteristics of every hand-selected wine and cheese as they serve them with care.

Each of our daily excursions are led by our extremely knowledgeable English-speaking **Tour Guides**. From the moment you leave the barge for an excursion - their local knowledge will immerse you in the region's history and culture.

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.





“ Coq au vin is a real crowd pleaser on board – it’s authentic and classically rich, but without the heavy feel. I love to make it as much as I love to eat it. ”

Anjodi Captain, Laurent



Renaissance Captain, Hadrien



L'Art de Vivre Captain, Matthew



“ I actually started my career as a Host, then a Tour Guide, and Deckhand before Derek Banks (company founder) encouraged me to take the leap and go for my very own boat licence! ”

Finesse Captain, Mathias



“ I am so proud to be making trips of a lifetime for people. ”

Scottish Highlander Captain, Mick







# A Gastronomic Experience

Gourmet cuisine and fine wines served with care in a relaxed and charming setting.



# A Gastronomic Experience



The classic traditions of French and international haute cuisine are a true highlight of your cruise. Our highly-trained chefs are experienced culinary artists, whose gastronomic creations are often rated higher by our discerning clients than those they have sampled in top restaurants!

## Finest, Locally-Sourced Ingredients

To give you a true taste of the region you are cruising through, your chef will create mouth-watering menus using the finest ingredients from local markets and specialist suppliers. In Burgundy you may be served a fillet of locally-reared Charolais beef, whilst on one of our Midi barges the chef may prepare a seafood platter of shellfish fresh from the harbourside. In Scotland, you may be served locally-sourced game and wild salmon and on a cruise in Italy you will certainly savour the very best homemade pasta dishes.



## Menu

### 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 conserves, 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.





## Culinary Artistry

As well as procuring from markets and local suppliers, our chefs may use herbs grown in onboard window-boxes. Sometimes they even bargain with lock-keepers along the way for fruit and vegetables freshly-picked that day. Before every gourmet meal, to whet the appetite, your chef will come to the table to introduce the dishes prepared. And if you are a real 'foodie', the chef will be happy to give you a demonstration and offer some useful tips, perhaps on how to make the silkiest of sauces, or whip up the perfect soufflé. Our chefs are also very happy to accommodate requests for vegetarian or other special diets, intolerances and allergies, which should be made at the time of reservation.



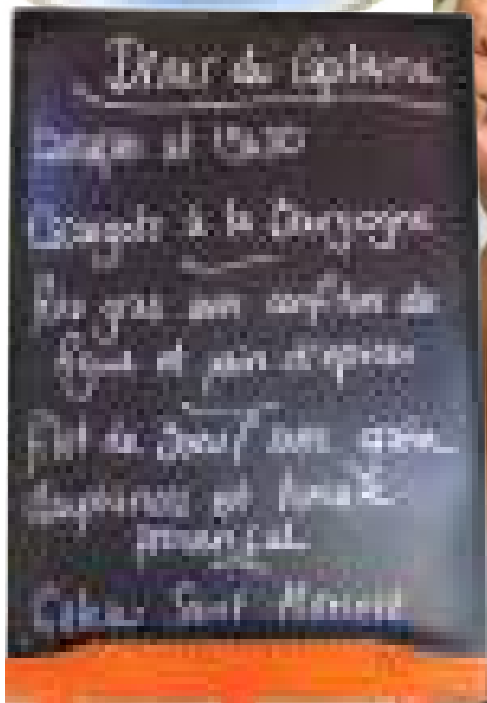
## Hand-Picked Wine Lists

To enhance the immersive gastronomic experience, your host for each lunchtime and evening meal will take the time to outline the characteristics of each accompanying wine before serving it with care. It may be a smooth Santenay Premier Cru from southern Burgundy, or a dry Sancerre; a crisp and flinty Chablis, or an aromatic Riesling Grand Cru from Alsace. Each wine has been chosen to marry perfectly with the food.

## Highly Acclaimed Cheeses

During your cruise, you will have the opportunity to sample many different cheeses, each with a rich local heritage. Again, your host will take the time to describe every cheese's individual qualities – from the creamy products of France such as Époisses and Chèvre au Poivre, to the memorably named delights of Scotland and Ireland such as Black Crowdie and Cashel Blue. And let's not forget the flavoursome cheeses that Holland and Italy have to offer.

Whether you are a gourmand, wine enthusiast, cheese lover – or perhaps all three – we are passionate about ensuring the gastronomy on board every hotel barge gives a true insight into the very best a region has to offer.





# Wine and Whisky



Many of our cruises are through some of the best wine-growing regions of France, such as Burgundy, Bordeaux, Languedoc-Roussillon, Champagne and Alsace.

We have developed strong relationships with many renowned vineyards over more than 30 years, seeing a new generation of viticulturists combine modern techniques with age-old processes.

There is something to please every palate and during your cruise you will enjoy a wide selection of wines, all served to pair with your meals.

And for those of you aboard our hotel barges in Scotland and Ireland which are "too far north for the grape", there will be distillery tours and private tastings to savour the wonderful whiskies of the Celtic world.







## 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

From the full-bodied Côte de Nuits and Vosne-Romanée vintages of Burgundy to the 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 the Alsace and Moselle regions, and of course, Champagne.

There are visits to some of the most renowned domaines of the Côte de Nuits, Chablis and Sancerre regions, as well as to smaller family-run vineyards such as the Château de Paraza in the Midi and Villa Widmann-Borletti in the Po Valley in Italy.





# Enriching Excursions

Daily escorted visits to fascinating  
local places of interest.





# Exploring your Destination



Each hotel barging destination has been carefully selected so that its wonderful scenery, local history and charming cultural highlights perfectly complement your cruising experience along Europe's beautiful inland waterways.

## Vineyards and Wine Tastings

Whether you are a connoisseur or simply know what you like, our cruises have a lot to offer when it comes to discovering the wines of a region. You will experience private tours of long-established domaines, immersing yourself in the art of great winemaking and sampling the sumptuous results. You may also visit a producer of fine Burgundy wines such as Domaine Chanson in Beaune, a renowned grand cru domaine in St Émilion, or a smaller, family-run vineyard, such as the Château de Paraza in the Canal du Midi.

## UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Often, our cruises include visits to UNESCO World Heritage Sites. These places of special historical interest include the Abbaye de Fontenay, Reims Cathedral, the hilltop town of Vézelay and the Canal du Midi in France. On our Italy itinerary, there is of course Venice, as well as the cities of Mantua and Ferrara.

## Exclusive Experiences

We offer exclusive visits to a number of independently owned stately homes, castles and châteaux. At many of them – such as the Château de Ricey-Bas in France, Leap Castle in Ireland, or Villa Ca'Zen in Italy – you'll be treated to a private guided tour, often with an exclusive gourmet lunch accompanied by the owners, some of which hold noble titles including Count, Countess and Baroness.

## Villages, Towns & Cities

Our hotel barges cruise past many charming waterside villages en route where you can discover all sorts of little shops and market stalls selling unusual, artisan products. On our tours of elegant places such as Dijon, Strasbourg and Narbonne, there is time to wander the cobbled streets and browse the shops for that perfect gift or memento of your cruise with us.



## Markets & Artisan Food Products

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 the 'tipplers' among you, we take you on visits to local wines and spirits producers, such as an Armagnac producer in Gascony and the Noilly Prat vermouth distillery in the Midi. On our Scotland cruises, there is a whisky tour and tutored tasting at the Ben Nevis Distillery, which also features in our 4-distillery Whisky Trail itinerary for charter groups of single-malt lovers.







Villa Ca'Zen



Local Markets



Delft Pottery



Studio Home of Rosa Bonheur



Highclere Castle

## Famous Film Locations

For film buffs, we also visit some famous film locations, such as Scotland's Eilean Donan Castle (*The World is Not Enough*); Highclere Castle in England (*Downton Abbey*); and Venice's grand piazzas and canals which have appeared in numerous films including *Casino Royale*, *Indiana Jones* and *The Italian Job*.

## Battlefields, Castles and Châteaux

Some of our cruises include tours of bygone battlefields – Culloden Moor in Scotland, the Château-Thierry World War One American Monument, the American battlefield and cemetery at Belleau Wood – both in Champagne, and the World War Two battleground at Wingen-sur-Moder in Alsace. For architecture and history lovers we visit such gems as Cawdor Castle in Scotland, Château de Bazoches in Burgundy, or Mantua's magnificent Ducal Palace in Italy.

## Arts and Crafts

On many cruises, you may also visit some renowned arts and crafts locations – perhaps Burgundy's 13th century Château de Ratilly – famed for its pottery, the René Lalique Glass Collection in Alsace, the Royal Delft factory – famed for its porcelain, the Stanley Spencer Gallery at his hometown of Cookham by the River Thames, or the untouched studio of celebrated artist, Rosa Bonheur in Western Burgundy.

## Comfort and Convenience

Your barge's ever-present, air-conditioned minibus is always there to take you on tour in comfort, whilst some visits are just a short walk away from the mooring. Each excursion, conducted in English, is usually led by a crew member – the Captain or Deckhand/Tour Guide – who will have some interesting facts and amusing stories to share about the places you visit.

Our well-travelled passengers have usually seen many of Europe's more famous sights, but on each hotel barge cruise we aim to show you something new as part of a unique insight and immersive experience through one of Europe's heritage-rich regions.







# Insider Experiences

*Falconry at The Highland Club*

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 visit hidden places and meet local people from all walks of life.

## Authentic and Immersive

These 'Insider Experiences' are unique and personalised and each one offers the chance to uncover a true slice of local life. These forays to get 'under the skin' of local culture and history are not always shown in our published itineraries and many are impromptu, depending on the occasion and the interests of the guests on board.

## Places and People

On a Burgundy barge voyage, one of the friendly lock-keepers you meet may proudly want to show you around their little waterside home and vegetable garden. While in the Loire Valley, you can meet local Troglodytes in their cave dwellings chiselled out of rock faces by their forbearers many years ago. And during a cruise in Holland, a visit to a clog maker's workshop is a real insight into a highly-skilled 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*



*Private dinner at the beautiful Villa Ca'Zen*



*Dine with the Baroness at the Magnificent Château de Ricey-Bas*

## Private Dining Experiences

Whilst every meal will be a fine dining affair, we also offer a number of spectacular private dining experiences ashore. Some of our favourite experiences include a gourmet lunch with a Baroness in the 12th century Château de Ricey-Bas in Burgundy, dinner on the banks of Lord Byron's River Po with a Countess at the Villa Ca'Zen, and a delicious lunch at the Domaine Laroche in Chablis hosted by the Sommelier.

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 "cuves", or a gourmet lunch at the home of the most celebrated female artist of the 19th Century, Rosa Bonheur.





*Peter Freebody's Boatyard on the River Thames*

## Heritage and History

Many of the diverse waterways we cruise in Europe have fascinating histories and you will be able to find out more from some of the interesting characters who work and live on them. A private visit to a boatyard on the royal River Thames to see craftsmen hand-building traditional river craft will be a real education, while an hour or so aboard an open wooden boat on the River Loire enjoying a glass of white wine with the owner may be another enjoyable diversion.



*Mazet Pralines*



*Private lunch at Maison Champy*

## A Taste of the Good Life

Local gastronomy is also a firm feature of our Insider Experiences. You may find yourself enjoying a truffle hunt 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 – and of course sampling the end product!



*Grape Harvesting*

## Local Culture and Music

And don't be surprised if one balmy evening as you are enjoying a pre-dinner cocktail with your fellow passengers, you are put 'in the mood' by your own on board jazz band. Or more dramatically still, serenaded by a bag-piper in full traditional regalia on the misty banks of a loch in the Scottish Highlands.



*Onboard Entertainment*

## Become an Insider

Our guests are often sophisticated, knowledgeable travellers who have already seen all of the most famous sites in the countries we cruise. Now they want to explore those out-of-the-way places and take 'the path less travelled', to meet hosts whose only guests are our guests.

Hotel barging devotees who are keen to discover the real heart of Europe away from the madding crowds and tourist traps, will find that our Insider Experiences really do add to the intimate nature of their 'gentle voyage of discovery'.



# Along the Towpath



One of the joys of a voyage of exploration aboard a hotel barge is that your vessel is only a few feet from the towpath, with the opportunity to step off and stretch your legs whenever you wish. 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 canal-side locations that you simply wouldn't encounter anywhere else!

## 'A Bicycle Made for You'

Every vessel in our fleet carries easy to ride, all-terrain bicycles with helmets for use throughout your stay. Our crew members are there to offload them at the next lock or at one of the barge moorings, and to make any adjustments to each bicycle to suit the rider. Children's bicycles are readily available on request for family groups, so you all that's left to do is enjoy the towpaths and surrounding scenery.



## Biking Charters

For more committed cyclists, we can offer biking charters for groups over longer distances on upgraded bikes, with half-day guided itineraries that make the best of the local area each day, perhaps including a picnic in the countryside (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, when 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

This is the ideal way to get even closer to the beautiful Burgundian, Alsatian, and Languedoc countryside – enjoying all that the unique surroundings have to offer, without breaking too much of a sweat! Our comfortable and robust shoreside fleet of electric bicycles are ready and waiting for you to take to the towpath in complete confidence, assisting you in your leisurely exploration of rural France. (e-Bikes must be booked in advance, at an additional supplement).



*Our Bespoke Biking Maps*



## A Walk Nearby...

The beauty of hotel barging and walking is that two very relaxing activities are merged to give you the best of both worlds. From the moment you arrive at your vessel, you can explore the nearby surroundings at leisure on your own, or with your new-found shipmates. An evening stroll along the towpath is a great way to sharpen your appetite for the next gourmet dinner on board.

## ...or Further Afield

Throughout the season, walkers can combine a hotel barge with some easy hiking – perhaps along the Great Glen Way in Scotland, the footpaths of Ireland, or in picturesque Burgundy in the autumn when the colours of the vineyards are at their finest. In fact, walking groups return to us time and again to enjoy this satisfying blend of gentle exercise and relaxing indulgence.

Whatever your chosen method of perambulation – on foot or on two wheels – you will have seen a little more of the people and places around you - and done yourself some good at the same time!





# Burgundy

The wine-growing region of Burgundy lies at the very heart of rural France with a rich and unique history.





# Burgundy

Heart of Rural France - Vineyards & Châteaux







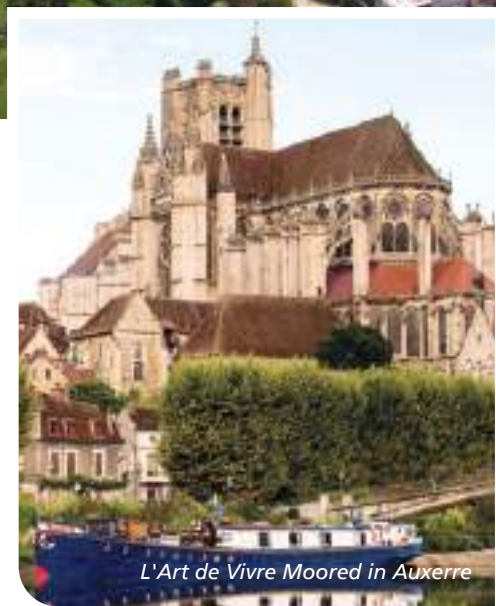
Burgundy Vineyards



The 12th century hilltop town of Vézelay



Château d'Ancy le Franc



L'Art de Vivre Moored in Auxerre

**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 Nivernais Canal 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 the Burgundy Canal 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 Burgundy Canal 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 Époque

Northern Burgundy

**La Belle Époque:** 🏠 Deluxe | 👥 12 Passengers | 🚢 6 Crew

In her first life La Belle Époque 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 Époque 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 wine tasting of Chablis wines at the prestigious Domaine Laroche
- Majestic falconry display at the Château de Commarin, with the chance to meet Count Bertrand de Vogue
- Private champagne Tasting at Maison Taisne Riocour
- Dine with a Baroness at the magnificent Château de Ricey-Bas
- Excellent walking opportunities, "Biking Plus" and optional hot air ballooning available

“A gentle cruise through rolling hills past medieval villages”

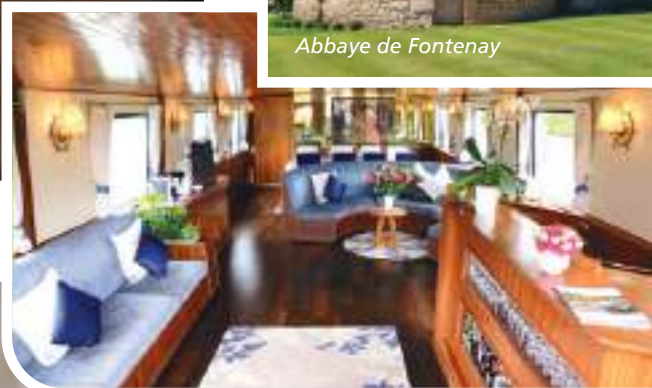




Domaine Laroche



Abbaye de Fontenay

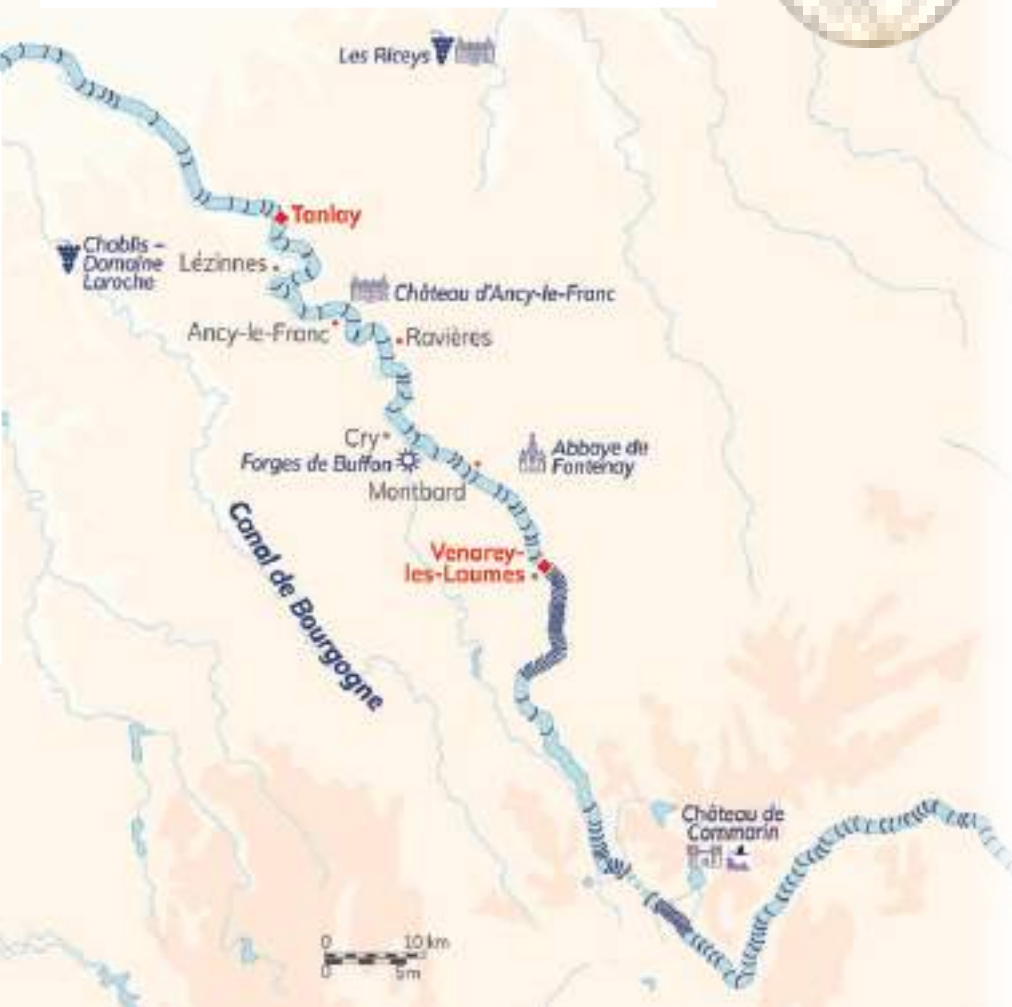


Junior Suite



Falconry at Château de Commarin

View  
deck plan on  
page 102



## 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 Vogue. 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 to 3 Appellation d'Origine Contrôlées. Here we visit Maison Taisne Riocour, viewing the vineyards and winery before tasting some of their champagnes. We then head to Château de Ricey-Bas for a gourmet lunch with the Baroness herself, which we take in either the private salon or the atmospheric vaulted 13th century kitchen. This afternoon we cruise on to our mooring at Ancy-le-Franc. Dinner on board.

#### Day 5 Ancy-le-Franc to Lézinnes

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 Lézinnes. Dinner on board.

#### Day 6 Lézinnes 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 1000-year-old Obediencerie, originally part of the monastery of St Martin – the founders of Chablis, where for centuries, the Domaine's wines have been aged. 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.

#### Themed 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 a 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 twin- or double-bedded configuration, are very spacious (approx. 265sq 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
- Excellent opportunities for walking and biking. "Biking Plus" option available

“ Contemporary style amidst timeless landscapes ”





Autun Cathedral



Cistercian Cellar at Château du Clos de Vougeot

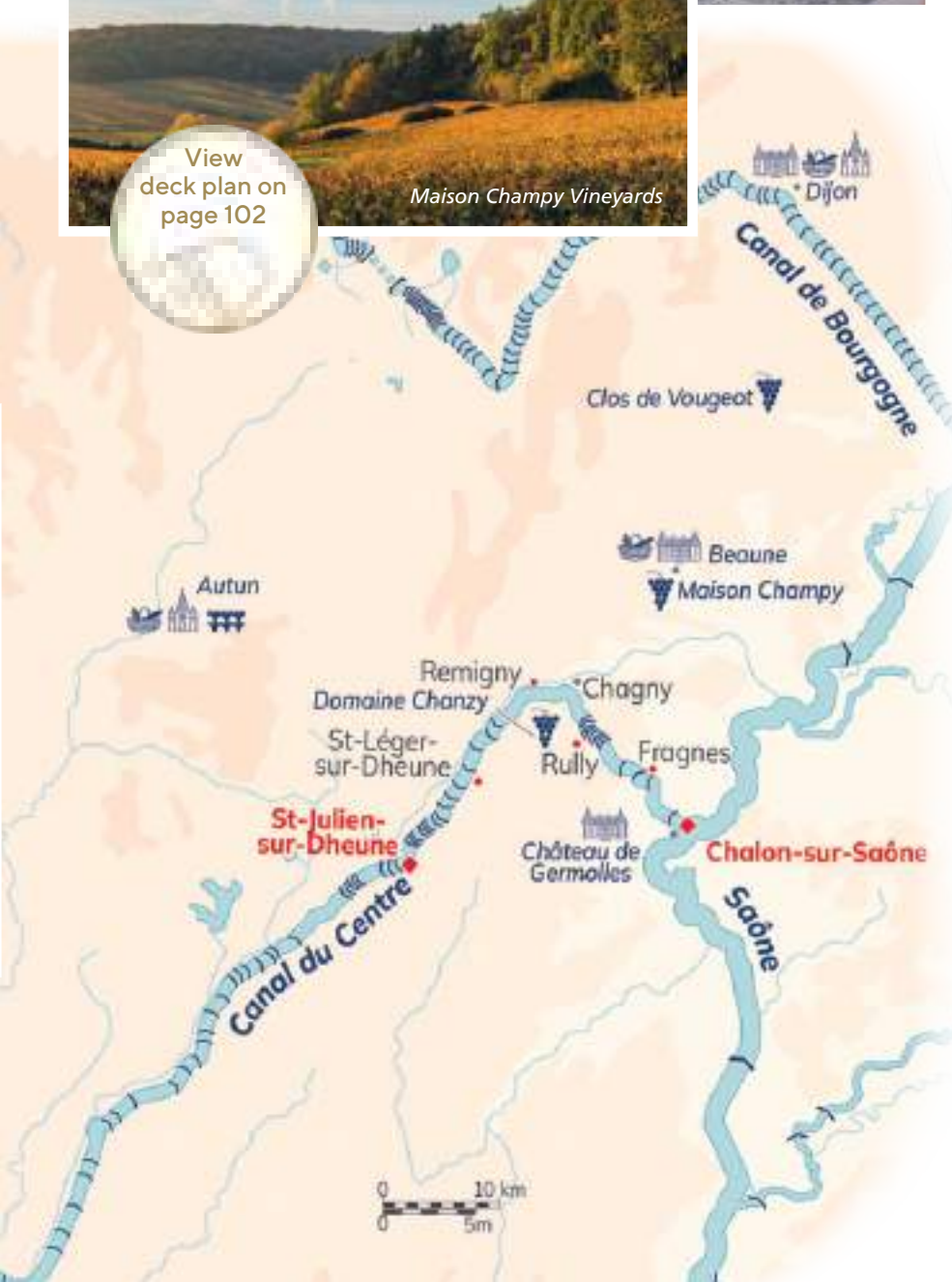


Suite



View  
deck plan on  
page 102

Maison Champy Vineyards



## ITINERARY

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

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

Guests are met in Dijon 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-Leger-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 "caves". 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 Fagnès

This morning, we continue our cruise along the Canal du Centre to the village of Fagnès. 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 Fagnès to Chalon-sur-Saône

This morning we visit the wall-enclosed vineyard of Clos de Vougeot for a tour of the iconic cellars. 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 Dijon.

#### Themed 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 with their 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
- Majestic falconry display at the Château de Commarin, with the chance to meet Count Bertrand de Vogue
- Tour of Domain Chanson including a private wine tasting and exclusive gastronomic lunch
- Visit to medieval Châteauneuf-en-Auxois
- Excellent walking opportunities, "Biking Plus" and optional hot air ballooning available

“A journey through Burgundy's vineyards”





Domaine Chanson



Dijon



Château de Commarin



Junior Suite



View  
deck plan on  
page 102

## 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 home. 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, where our guide gives us 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 Vandenesse

This morning we leave the Ouche Valley and cruise to Vandenesse-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 Vandenesse 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 Vogue. Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

#### Day 7 Escommes

After breakfast, guests are transferred to Paris.

#### Themed 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 cabins 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 wine tasting of Chablis and Petit Chablis at the prestigious Domaine Laroche, followed by a delicious gourmet lunch in the Domaine's dining hall
- Visit the UNESCO-listed pilgrimage town of Vézelay and its hilltop basilica
- Visit the elegant 12th century Château de Bazoches
- Excellent walking opportunities, "Biking Plus" and optional hot air ballooning available

“A gourmet voyage  
through pastoral scenery”



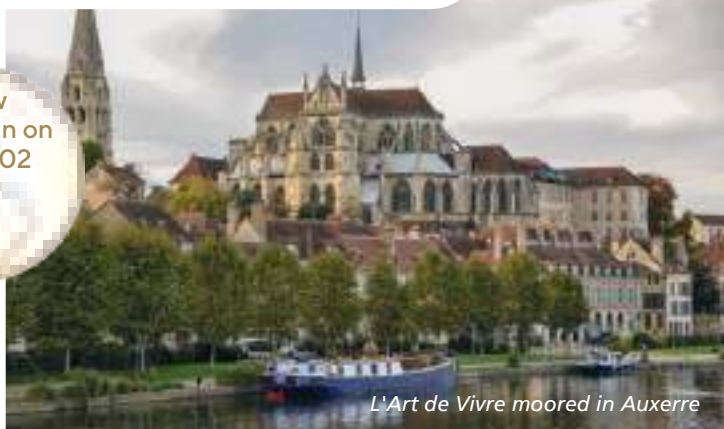


Château de Bazoches



Stateroom

View  
deck plan on  
page 102



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

Our morning cruise takes us through some delightful locks to our rural mooring at Vincelles. Following lunch on board, we head to the Carrière d'Aubigny, a subterranean wonderland of stonework. Afterwards, we visit the cellars of Bailly-Lapierre for a private tasting before dinner on board.

#### Day 3 Vincelles to Maily-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 Maily-la-Ville. Dinner on board.

#### Day 4 Maily-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 Domaine's dining hall. 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. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure, before the Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

#### Day 7 Chevroches

After breakfast, guests are transferred to Paris.

#### Themed Cruises Available:

■ Family ■ Walking ■ Biking ■ Wine Appreciation



# Canal du Midi

The Midi – a land with rich heritage, diverse Mediterranean landscapes, sun-drenched vineyards and 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 Provençale 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-bedded 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 a truffle hunt and taste the delicious findings
- Visit stunning Minerve, awarded one of the 'Most Beautiful Villages of France'
- Tour of the medieval city of Carcassonne
- Excellent opportunities for walking and biking. Biking Plus option available

“Contemporary luxury  
in charming surroundings”





Narbonne



Minerve



Suite



View  
deck plan on  
page 102

## 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, following the expert dogs as they search under the trees before sampling the "black gold" that we find. We also learn about the local olives and their oils and taste them as well. 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 'plus beaux villages de France', and learn about its dramatic medieval history as 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 this 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.

#### Themed 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 cabins, featuring hardwood panelling and brass portholes, offer a choice of twin or double bedded accommodation, each with en suite facilities.

The spacious sundeck 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 chef 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
- Join a truffle hunt and taste the delicious findings at Mas d'Antonin
- View the Pyrenees mountains across the vineyards and discover Cathar history
- Tour Carcassonne – the most complete medieval fortified city in existence
- Excellent towpath for walking and cycling. "Biking Plus" option available

“ Classic yacht style amidst the vibrant colours of the south ”





Château de Paraza



Views of the Pyrenees from Carcassonne



View  
deck plan on  
page 103

## 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 a morning 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 to Narbonne, where we tour the Archbishop's Palace, Cathedral and Via Domitia and explore the indoor market. After a gastronomic lunch ashore, we return to the barge 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 join a truffle hunt in Mas d'Antonin, following the expert dogs as they search under the oak trees before sampling the "black gold" that we find. We also learn about the local olives and their oils and taste them as well. 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.

#### Themed Cruises Available:

■ Family ■ Biking ■ Wine Appreciation





# Athos

## Canal du Midi



**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/double-bedded staterooms each have all modern comforts including an en suite shower room.

Outside, her spacious sundeck 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.

View  
deck plan on  
page 103

## 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 at 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.

#### Themed 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
- Excellent towpath for walking and cycling





# 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 with 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 palette 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 past-times that you fall in love with.

## 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

## 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

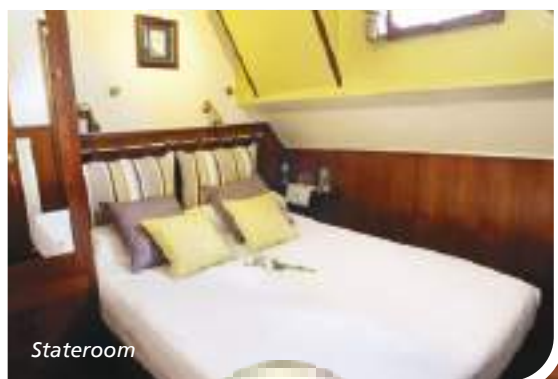
### Bordeaux

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



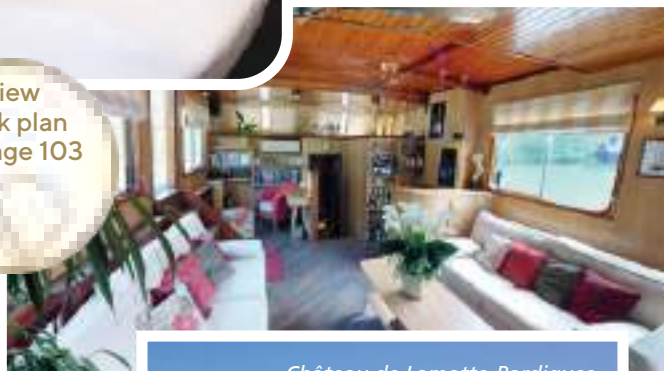


Saint-Émilion



Stateroom

View  
deck plan  
on page 103



Château de Lamotte-Bardigues



## 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 the 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 la Motte 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 Flocc du Gasconne 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.

### 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 Lagrèze

This morning we enjoy a cruise to the charming little village of Lagrèze. Following lunch on board, we tour the Garonne River 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 goats' cheeses. Dinner on board.

#### Day 4 Lagrèze 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 the decktop. 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

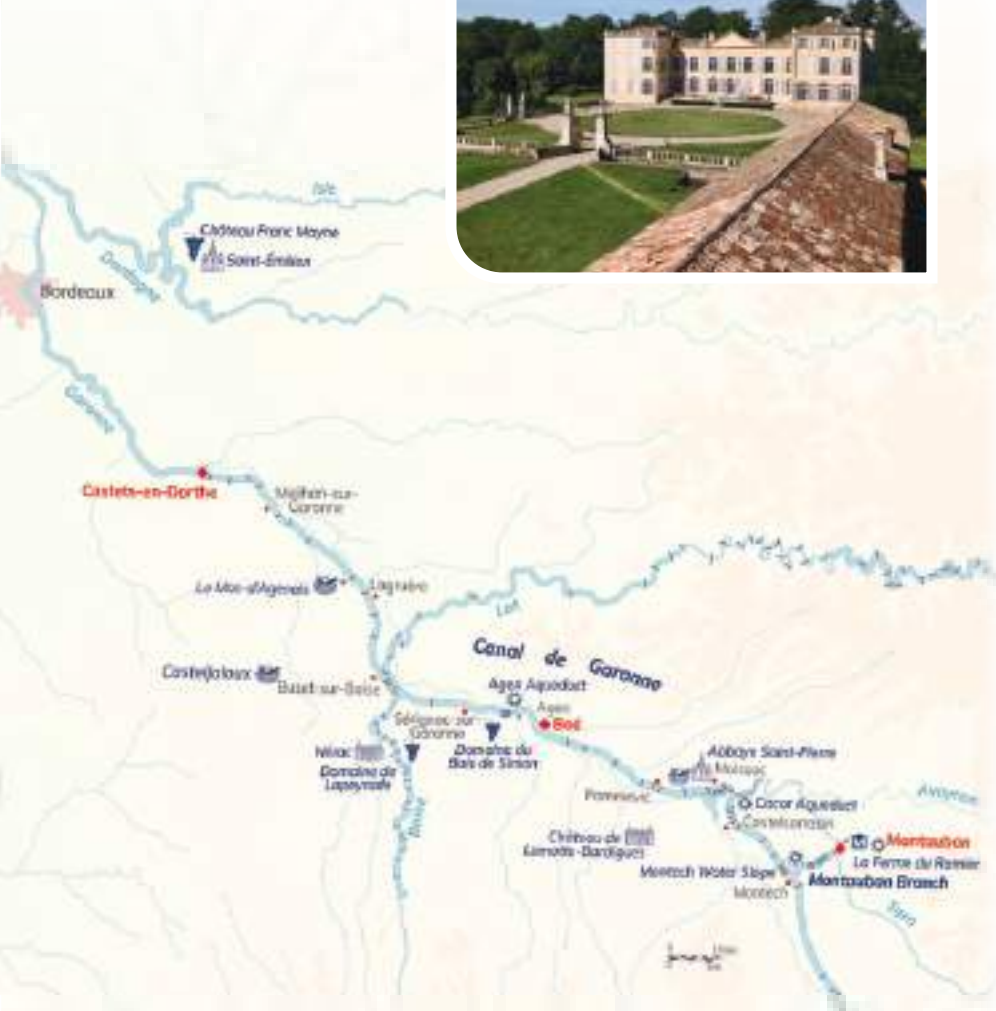
Morning cruise to Boé, crossing the Plan Canal d'Agen, one of the longest aqueducts in France. After lunch, we enjoy a stroll through the historic town of Agen before a tour and tasting of biodynamic wines at the family-owned Domaine du Bois de Simon. Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

#### Day 7 Boé

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

#### Themed Cruises Available:

■ Wine Appreciation (Bordeaux) ■ Golf (Gascony)



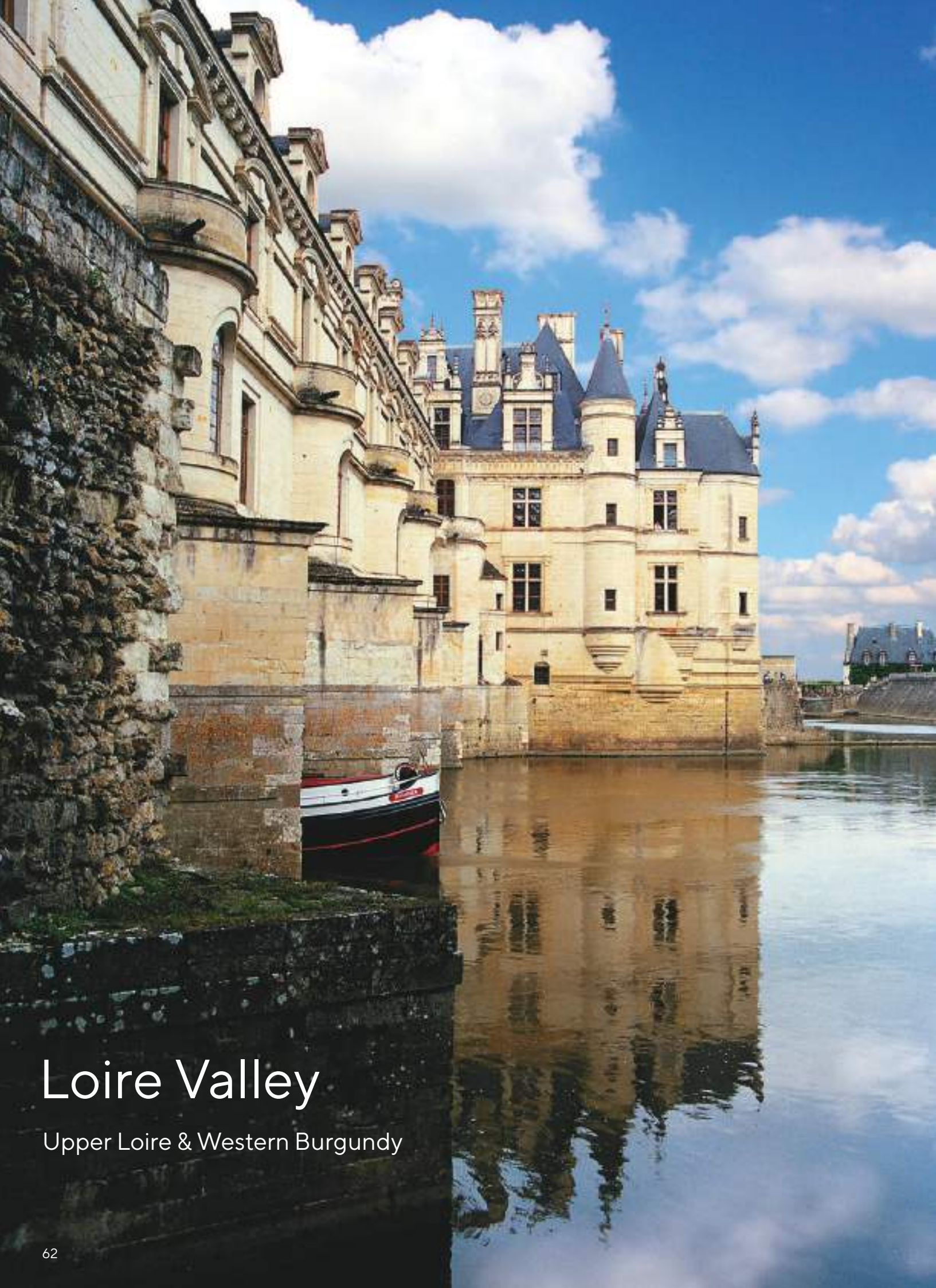


# Loire Valley

A fairytale region of exquisite  
Renaissance châteaux,  
Royal French history and  
contrasting waterways.







# Loire Valley

Upper Loire & Western Burgundy





Domaine la Perrière



Renaissance cruising past the 7-lock flight at Rogny-Les-Sept-Écluses



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

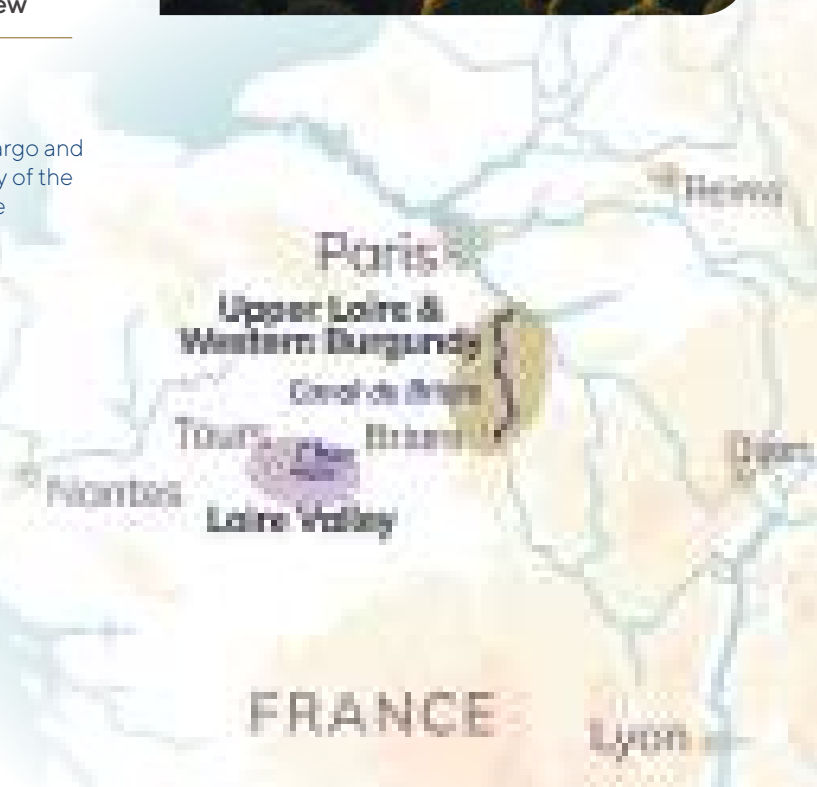
Filet Mignon de Veau aux Champignons de Saumur; Feuilleté de Crottin de Chavignol; Filet de Sandre Sauce Échalotes et Persil; Friture d'Éperlans Sauce Tartare

### Wine Cellar

Domaine Clément Lissner, Riseling Grand Cru; Domaine Jean Teiller, Menetou-Salon; Domaine Franck Breton, La Coulée des Muids; Domaine de la Coterellaie, 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-bedded bedroom suites, (average approx. 250sq 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 and lunch in her salon
- Tour of the privately-owned Château de La Bussière, including a cooking demonstration using seasonal produce from the gardens
- 7-lock flight at Rogny-Les-Sept-Écluses, a national historic monument
- Cruise across the aqueduct at Briare, built by Gustave Eiffel over the River Loire
- Private wine tasting at the renowned Sancerre winery of La Perrière
- Excellent opportunities for walking and biking. "Biking Plus" option available

“Ultimate luxury  
on board our flagship”





Studio Home of  
Rosa Bonheur



La Perrière

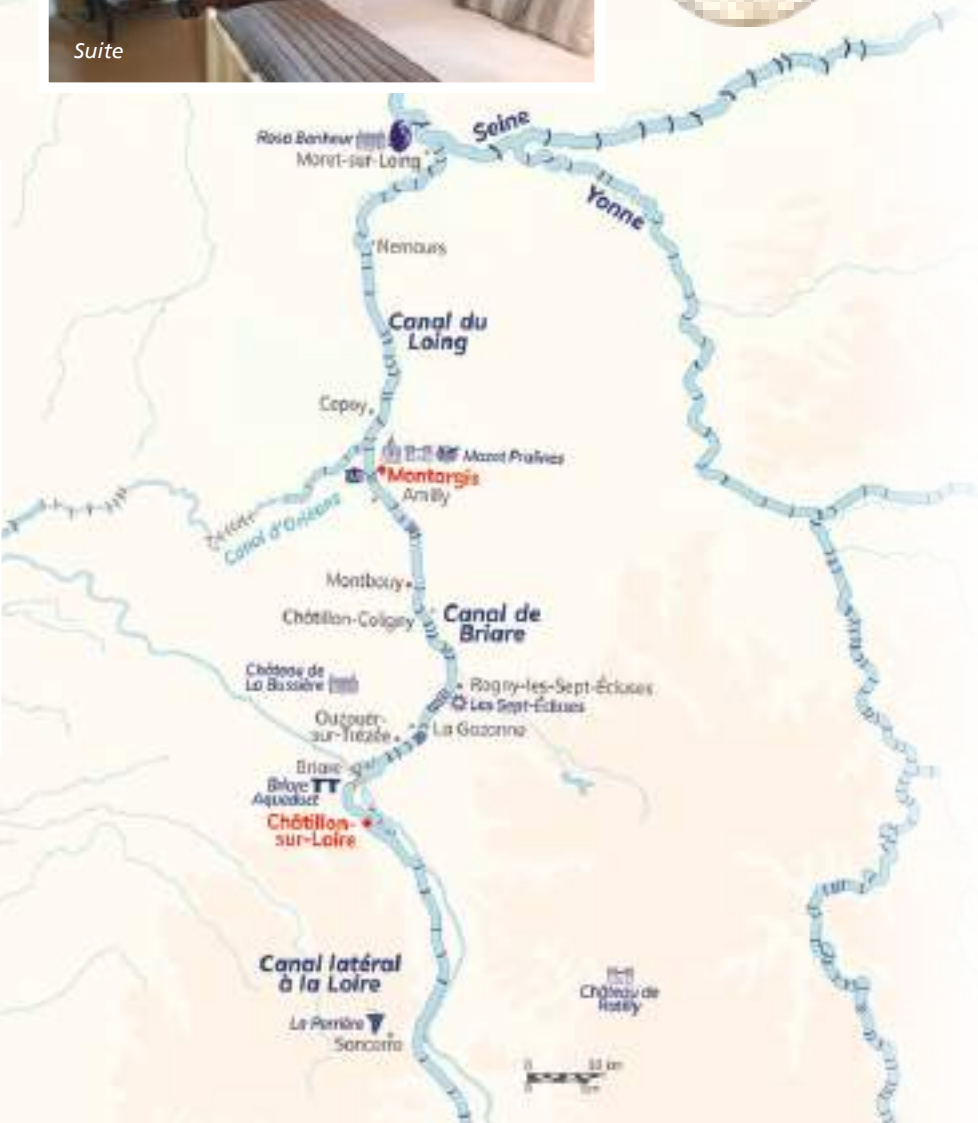


Château de Ratilly



Suite

View  
deck plan on  
page 103



## 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 "little 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 La Perrière 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.

#### Themed Cruises Available:

■ Family ■ Golf ■ Wine Appreciation



# Nymphea

Loire Valley



**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.

## Cruise Highlights

- Cruise under the famed Château de Chenonceau
- 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
- Tour of Château de Chenonceau and gardens
- Colourful street markets
- Optional hot air ballooning

“ Classic yacht décor  
amongst the châteaux ”





Château du Clos Lucé



Château de Villandry



View  
deck plan on  
page 103



## ITINERARY

### Moulin de Nitray (Round Trip)

#### Day 1 Moulin de Nitray

Guests are met near Tours and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Nymphaea 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.

#### Themed Cruises Available:

■ Family ■ Biking ■ Honeymoon





# Champagne

The Champagne region - a mosaic of sloping vineyards beneath expansive skies and home to the eponymous sparkling wine that excites the senses.







Reims Cathedral



Moët & Chandon Vineyards



Frerejean Frères



Château-Thierry American Monument

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

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

The River Marne flows from Epernay 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 our brand-new 8 passenger hotel barge Kir Royale, or the 12 passenger hotel barge Panache.

## 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 Frère; Champagne  
Domaine Pannier; 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

London

Brussels

Luxembourg

Reims

Paris

Nancy

Dijon



# Kir Royale

The River Marne and Canal latéral à la Marne



NEW FOR  
2024

**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 small forward sun deck to watch the progress of the barge, a large and sheltered aft sun deck with covered dining area, sun loungers and heated spa pool, plus an upper observation deck with 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.

Panache (see page 76) also cruises in Champagne in early summer.

## Cruise Highlights

- Private tour and tasting at world-renowned champagne house, Moët & Chandon
- Tour the majestic cathedral in Reims, where the Kings of France were once crowned
- Visit the boutique champagne house of Frerejean Frères and enjoy lunch in the family domaine
- Enjoy a private winery tour and tasting at Maison Pannier, the largest champagne house in the western Marne Valley
- Cruise the pretty River Marne past waterside vineyards
- Visit Château-Thierry, the scene of fierce battles in World War I, and the American Cemetery at Belleau Wood

“ A Champagne Voyage ”





Moët &amp; Chandon Cellars

American Cemetery  
at Belleau Wood

En Suite



Suite

View  
deck plan on  
page 104

## 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 visit Maison Pannier, a select champagne house with a labyrinth of medieval underground cellars, for a tour and a private tasting. After lunch, we cruise along the River Marne to the pretty riverside town of Dormans, the site of a château, water mill and World War One memorial. 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 Marne to Dizy. Dinner on board.

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

This morning, we visit the world renowned, Moët & Chandon, founded in 1743, where we are guided through their vast underground cellars, the largest in the region. This is followed by a tasting of some of Moët's best-known vintages in an elegant private salon, hosted by an experienced cellar master. After lunch back onboard we cruise to our pretty mooring at Tours-sur-Marne, joining the Canal Lateral à la Marne en route. 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 and wonderful white wines.



# Alsace & Lorraine

## Canal de la Marne au Rhin



**Panache:** 🍷 Deluxe | 🐾 12 Passengers | 🧑 6 Crew

**La Nouvelle Etoile:** 🍷 Ultra Deluxe | 🐾 8 Passengers | 🧑 5 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 panoramic 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 selection of festive Christmas Markets Cruises in Alsace between November and December, offering visits to the traditional Strasbourg, Haguenau and Colmar Christmas markets. For more information, please see page 17.



La Nouvelle Etoile (see page 98) 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
- Excellent opportunities for walking and biking. "Biking Plus" option available

“ Discover a unique blend of French and German cultures ”

### 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; Roussot; Caprice des Dieux



La Petite France

Arzwiller Boat Elevator

Junior Suite - Panache

Saloon - Panache

Chagall Chapel

View  
deck plan on  
pages 104-105

## 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 across the Gran Ried wetlands to 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 Arzwiller boat elevator that carries Panache 450 feet up the mountainside in minutes and enjoy a candlelit cruise through the two Arzwiller 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.

#### Themed Cruises Available:

■ Family ■ Christmas





# Holland

A kaleidoscope of Springtime colours  
the historic towns of the Old Masters and  
fascinating Dutch culture.





# 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 76) and La Nouvelle Etoile (see page 98) – 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 visit a museum of the Dutch painter, Frans Hals
- Tour the charming city of Leiden, Rembrandt's birthplace

### Typical Cuisine Aboard

#### Gastronomy

Braised Beef Fillet in Juniper Berry and Red Wine Jus; Saddle of Lamb with Eggplant Caviar; Roasted Duck Breast with a Grillotes Sauce.

#### Wine Cellar

Domaine Henri Bourgeois, Sancerre 'Les Baronnes'; Pouilly Fuissé 'Vignes Romanes'; Domaine Jadot, Moulin à Vent; Domaine Ferraton, Châteauneuf du Pape 'Le Parvis'

#### Cheese Board

Gouda; Limburger; Leyden; Brokkel Ould; Maasdam; Roomano; Reypenaer; Leerdammer; Wijngaard; Boeren Truffel Kaas.

“ A land of colour in the spring ”



The World Famous Delft Pottery



Keukenhof Gardens



Alkmaar



View  
deck plan on  
pages 104-105



La Nouvelle Etoile Cruising in Holland

## 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

Perhaps we take a 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, including the famous Frans Hals Museum and a fine selection of boutique shops. 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 cafes, 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.

#### Themed Cruises Available:

- Golf





# Italy

The captivating waterways of the Veneto and the Po Valley offer a rare cruising experience, one where centuries of culture, history and nature intertwine.







# Italy

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

A cruise aboard La Bella Vita on the Venetian Lagoon, River Po and Canal Bianco between Venice and the lakeside Renaissance city of Mantua is a truly magical experience. There is the opportunity to enjoy diverse landscapes and nature en route, from colourful lagoon islands to wild beach dunes and pine woods full of birdlife. The itinerary includes fascinating guided tours of Ferrara, Mantua and Chioggia which give a real insight into the many cultures – Renaissance, Roman, Etruscan, Byzantine – that have influenced this region of Italy for centuries.

La Bella Vita is a stylish 20 passenger vessel with a typically modern Italian interior, reflected in the use of vibrant colours throughout to create an atmosphere of casual relaxation. There is an inviting bar area in which to enjoy a glass of Prosecco and a spacious dining room with louvre doors that open to give a perfect view as you are served delicious Italian specialities and wines. She has two upper deck junior suites and eight lower deck staterooms, all air-conditioned and with en suite facilities, while above there is a huge sun deck with a large canopy, comfortable 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 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

“ The Italian good life  
– in style ”

## Typical Cuisine Aboard

### Gastronomy

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

### 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



Villa Ca'Zen



Chioggia



Villa Widmann-Borletti

View  
deck plan on  
page 104



Stateroom

## ITINERARY

### Venice to Mantua

#### Day 1 Venice

Guests are met in Venice 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 a guided tour of the Doge's Palace. Dinner on board.

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

Guests have the choice of a guided walking tour to the Castello District, where we will discover some of the hidden historical Venice or a private water taxi to Murano Island to visit the glass factory. Late afternoon cruise to Pellestrina and 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 17thC 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.

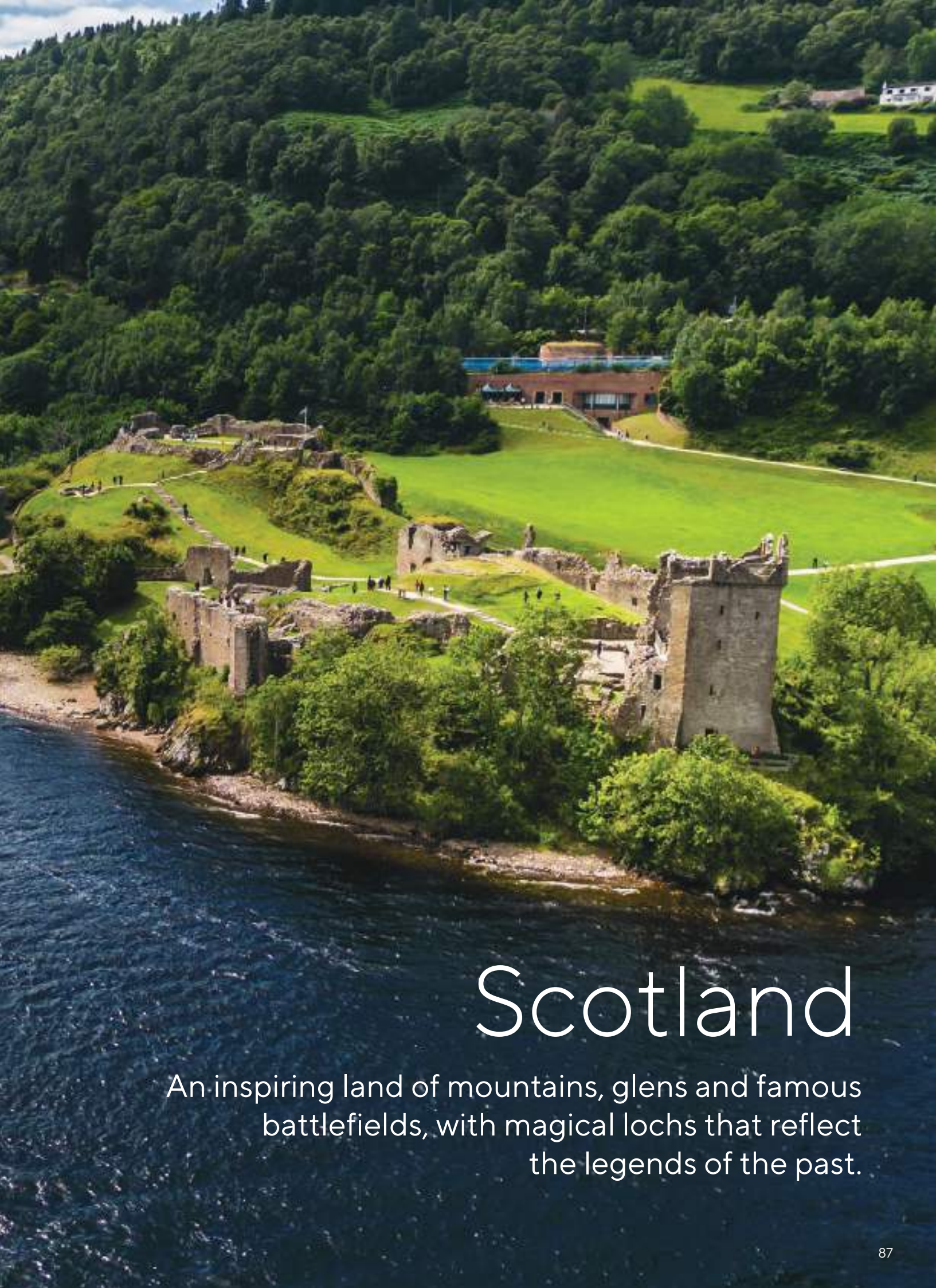
#### Day 7 Mantua

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

#### Themed Cruises Available:

■ Family ■ Opera ■ Golf ■ Wine Appreciation ■ Gardens





# Scotland

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





Culloden Moor



Eilean Donan Castle



Cruising past Urquart Castle

**Spirit of Scotland:** 🍷 Deluxe | 🧑 12 Passengers | 🧑 6 Crew

**Scottish Highlander:** 🍷 Deluxe | 🧑 8 Passengers | 🧑 5 Crew



Ben Nevis Whisky Distillery

## 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 six air-conditioned cabins 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

“ A memorable voyage of discovery through the best of Scotland ”





Cawdor Castle



View  
deck plan on  
page 105



Stateroom



## 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 with a cruise this morning 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 cruise across the very scenic Loch Oich, and then onto our pretty mooring at Kytra. After lunch on board 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" & "Highlander." Dinner on board.

#### Day 4 Kytra to Fort Augustus

This morning we 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. After lunch on board we cruise to Fort Augustus and down the "flight", to moor at the entrance to 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 world-famous Loch Ness and beneath the 13th century ruins of Urquhart Castle, before mooring at Dochgarroch. After lunch we visit Cawdor Castle, forever immortalised in Shakespeare's "Scottish Play", Macbeth. If time allows, we end our tour at the Clava Cairns, a pre-historic clan chieftain burial site dating back to 2,000 B.C. Dinner on board.

#### Day 6 Dochgarroch to Muirtown

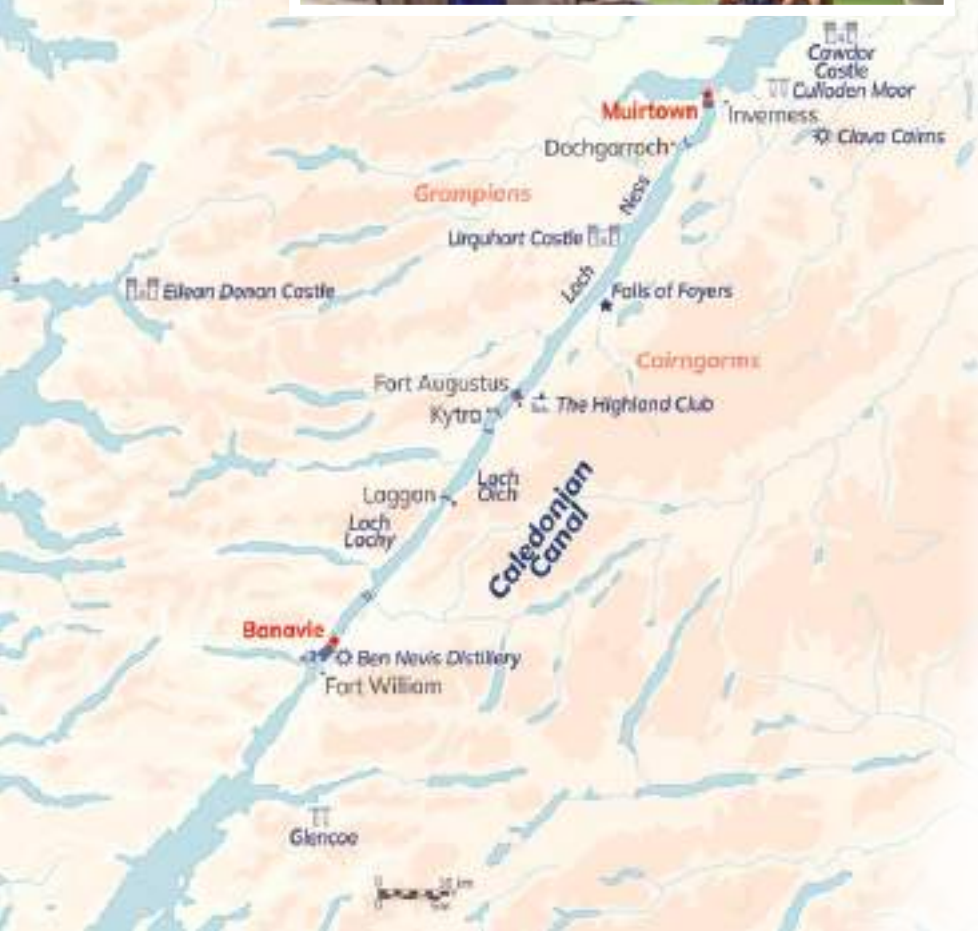
This morning, our final cruise will take us to Muirtown. After lunch we visit Culloden Moor, scene of the last major battle on British soil in 1746. If time allows, then we take a tour of Clava Cairns, a pre-historic clan chieftain burial site dating back to 2,000 B.C and setting for the Outlander TV series. 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.

#### Themed 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

“A journey through  
the majestic Highlands”





The Highland Club



Urquhart Castle



Cameron Suite



Ben Nevis Whisky Distillery

View  
deck plan on  
page 104

## 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 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 3 Dochgarroch to Fort Augustus

This morning we enjoy Cawdor Castle, forever immortalised in Shakespeare's Macbeth. After lunch on board, we cruise Loch Ness pass 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 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. Following lunch onboard there is time to explore the village of Fort Augustus before we cruise up the "flight" to our mooring at Kytra. 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

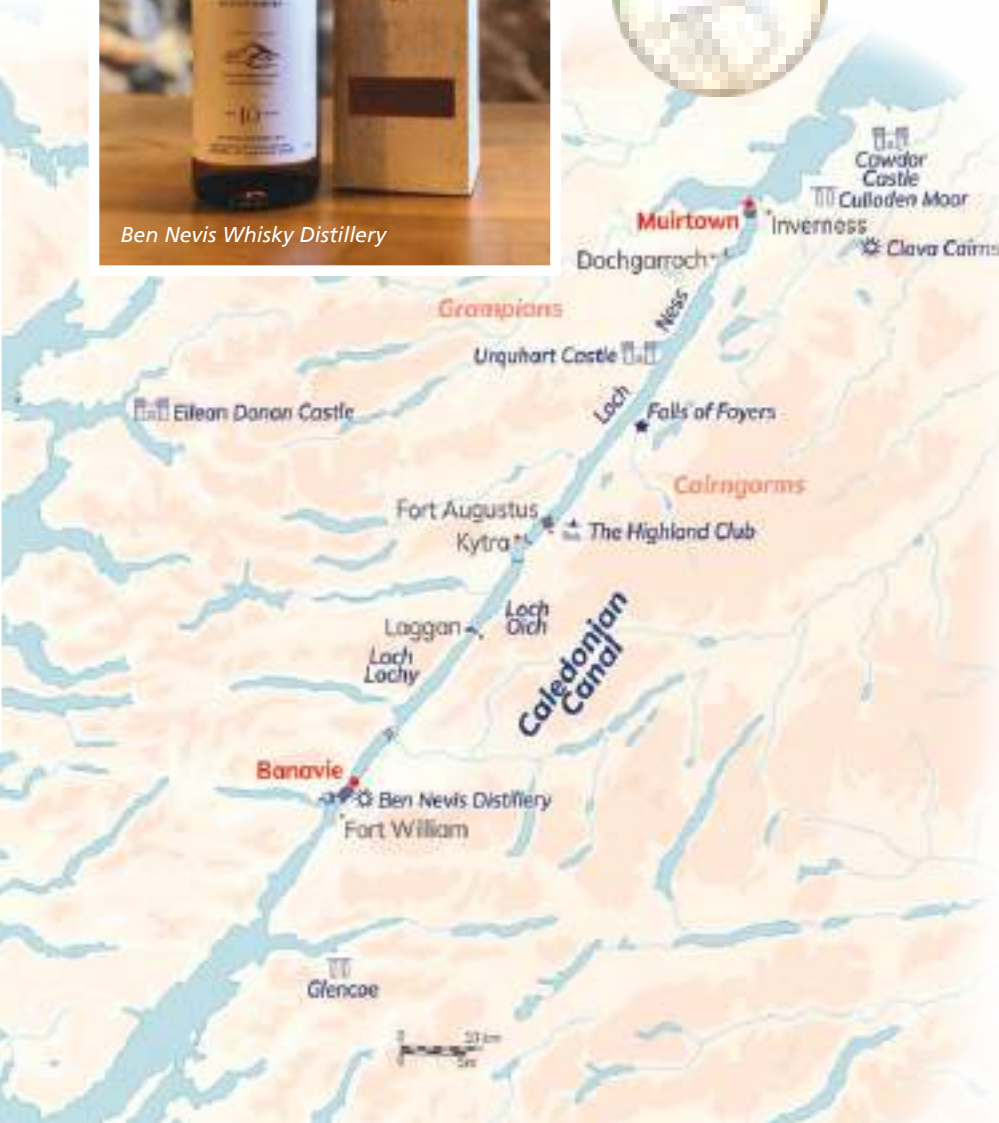
Our final cruise today will see us cross Loch Lochy to the small settlement village of Banavie. After lunch on board, our tour today takes us to the Ben Nevis Distillery for a tour and private tasting of several single malts. Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

#### Day 7 Banavie

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

#### Themed Cruises Available:

■ Family ■ Golf ■ 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, including the real “Downton Abbey”, 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/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.

### Typical Cuisine Aboard

#### Gastronomy

Roasted Guinea Fowl with Wild Mushrooms;  
Breast of Duck with Port Sauce and Cherries;  
Rack of Lamb with a Herb Crust, Sweet  
Potatoes and Spinach

#### Wine Cellar

Don Cayetano Merlot; Reserve de Gassac,  
Herault; Domaine Michel Thomas, Sancerre;  
Les Pontilles, Sauvignon Blanc; Baroncini  
Rosso di Montalcino

#### Cheese Board

Applewood Smoked Cheddar; Double  
Gloucester; Cropwell Bishop Organic Stilton;  
Cornish Yarg; Dunsyre Blue Bath Soft Cheese;  
Sage Derby

### 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
- Great walking and bicycling opportunities along the Thames Footpath
- Tour of Highclere Castle (Downton Abbey) on selected departures
- Private tour of Dorney Court, one of England's finest Tudor manor houses

“ The history and beauty  
of the Royal River ”





Suite



Windsor Castle



Olde Bell at Hurley

View  
deck plan on  
page 105



## 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.

#### Themed 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 largest 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 sundeck 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.

### Typical Cuisine Aboard

#### Gastronomy

Baked Baby Lobster; Roast Shoulder of Lamb; Black Velvet Crêpes filled with Raspberries and served with Champagne Sauce; Carpaccio of Beef with Hot Foaming Smoked Oysters and a warm Salsa of Herbs and Chanterelles

#### Wine Cellar

Juan Gil 4 Meses, Monastrell; Frankland River Alkoomi, Chardonnay, Domaine Bergerie de L'Hortus, Coteaux de Languedoc AOC; A selection of Irish whiskies also available aboard

#### Cheese Board

Cashel Blue Farmhouse Cheese; Cooleeney; Boilie Goats' Cheese; Carrigbyrne St. Brenden; Durrus; Gubbeen; Corleggy; Crozier Blue; Macroon Buffalo Ricotta

### 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

“An unforgettable taste of the Emerald Isle”





Portumna Castle



Ancient Clonmacnoise



Stateroom



View  
deck plan on  
page 103



## 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 you. 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 Guinness & Oyster pub. This afternoon with 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.

#### Themed 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 80).

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.

### Typical Cuisine Aboard

#### Gastronomy

Veal Medallions in a Girolles and Truffle sauce; Breast of Duck with a passionfruit glaze; Homemade Flammekueche Tart; Pears poached in Gewürztraminer Wine with Gingerbread Ice Cream

#### Wine Cellar

Florimont Riesling; Fleurie Christian Lauverjat; Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils, Monthélie; Domaine Tortochot, Gevrey-Chambertin "Les Corvées"; Lycée Viticole d'Amboise, Cabernet Franc

#### Cheese Board

Limburger; Cambozola; Edam; Bleu de Gand; Brusselae Kaas; Soumaintrain; Morbier; Pouligny-Saint-Pierre; Mont d'Or; Saint Félicien; Bleu de Gex

### 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 Bernkastel, home of the best Moselle wines





Burg Eltz, A Fairytale Castle



Ghent



Suite

View  
deck plan on  
page 105



## 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
- Cruise to Antwerp for a tour of the old quarter and a visit to famous Flemish painter Rubens' house
- Visit Ghent and its magnificent cathedral
- Enjoy a stroll around or 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 cathedral
- Cruise the River Somme and visit Compiègne, site of the World War One Armistice signing
- Experience a full day excursion to Giverny to see Claude Monet's home and the gardens that served as both inspiration and subjects for some of his most famous works.
- Visit Auvers-sur-Oise where Vincent van Gogh spent the last years of his life and was buried in the cemetery

### Germany and Luxembourg - September & October

- Visit Burg Eltz, the 12thC "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

“Voyages of  
Exploration”



# At a Glance Guide

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	Dijon	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
Nymphaea	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	Champagne Alsace & Lorraine	Canal latéral à la Marne River Marne Canal de la Marne au Rhin	Paris Strasbourg	May & June July - 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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## 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.

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

**Deluxe** - Comfortable, slightly smaller cabins

**First Class** - Compact but cosy cabins

## Biking:

- ✓✓✓ - 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 themed 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	THEMED 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	-	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)

• Spa Pool

• Air-Conditioned / Centrally Heated



## Finesse

Ultra Deluxe

8 Passengers

5 Crew

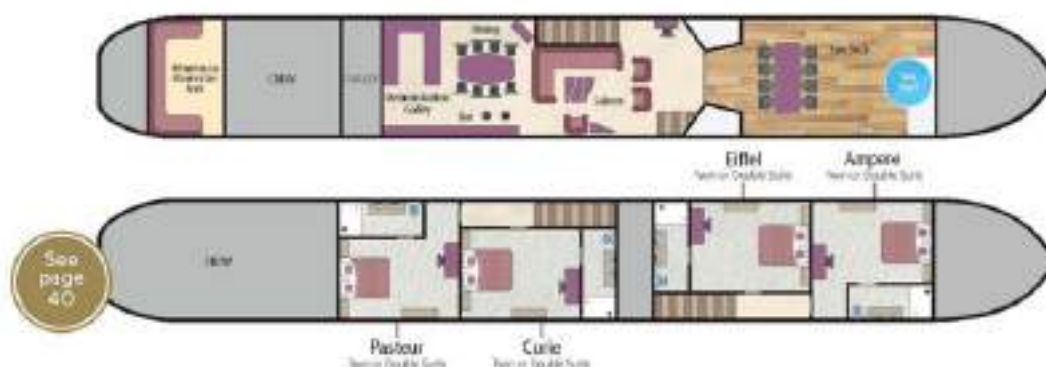
• 127 Feet Long

• 4 Twin/Double Suites  
(245 sq. ft. incl. en suite)

• Spa Pool

• Air-Conditioned / Centrally Heated

• Demonstration Open Gallery



## L'Impressionniste

Deluxe

12 Passengers

6 Crew

• 127 Feet Long

• 2 Twin/Double Junior Suites  
(152 - 158 sq ft incl. en suite)

• 4 Twin/Double Staterooms  
(110 - 124 sq ft incl. en suite)

• Spa Pool

• Air-Conditioned / Centrally Heated



## L'Art de Vivre

First Class

8 Passengers

5 Crew

• 100 Feet Long

• 4 Twin/Double Staterooms  
(100 sq ft incl. en suite)

• Spa Pool

• Air-Conditioned / Centrally Heated



## 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

• Demonstration Open Gallery

• Guest Computer





## Anjodi

- First Class
- 8 Passengers
- 5 Crew

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

See page 52

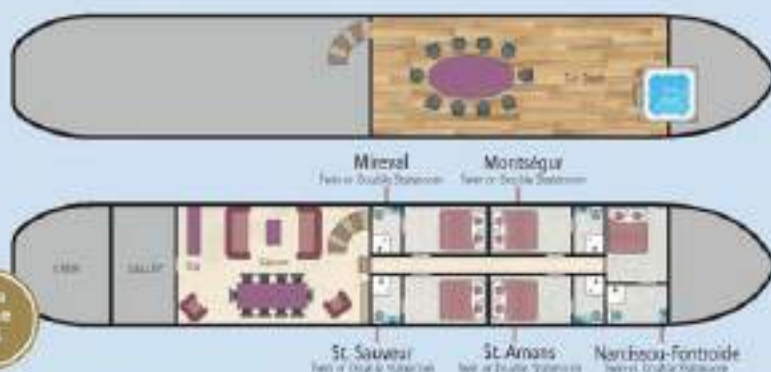


## Athos

- First Class
- 10 Passengers
- 5 Crew

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

See page 54



## 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)
- Spa Pool
- Air-Conditioned / Centrally Heated
- DVD Player in Saloon

See page 58

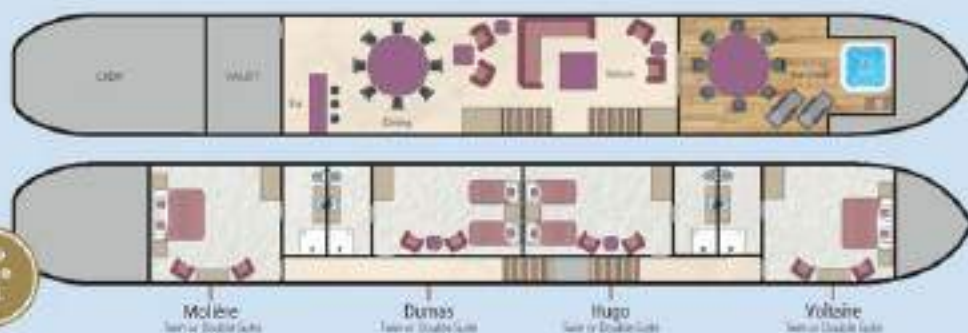


## Renaissance

- Ultra Deluxe
- 8 Passengers
- 5 Crew

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

See page 64



## Nymphaea

- First Class
- 6 Passengers
- 2-3 Crew

- 81 Feet Long
- 2 Twin Cabins (65 - 97 sq ft incl. en suite)
- 1 Twin/Double Stateroom (97 sq ft incl. en suite)
- Air-Conditioned / Centrally Heated

See page 66





## 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



## 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



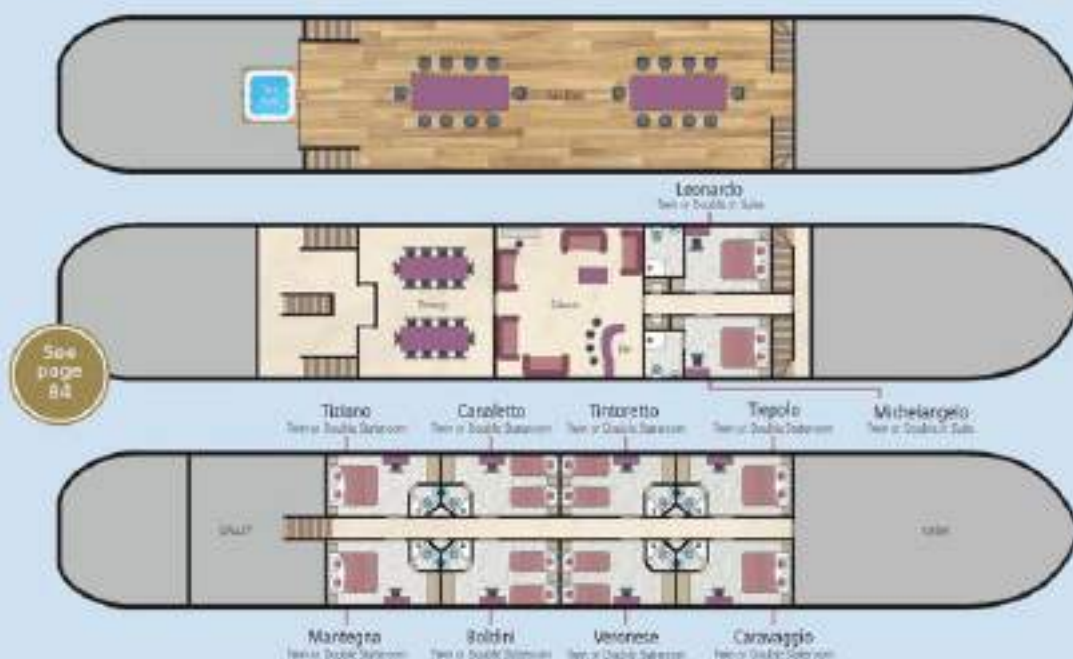
## La Bella Vita

First Class

20 Passengers

6-10 Crew

- 145 Feet Long
- 2 Twin/Double Junior Suites (175 sq ft incl. en suite)
- 8 Twin/Double Staterooms (105 sq ft incl. en suite)
- Air-Conditioned / Centrally Heated
- Spa Pool
- Plans



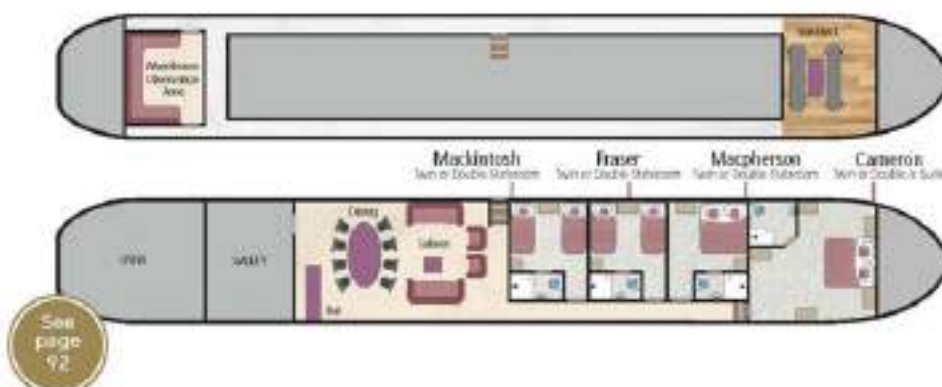
## Scottish Highlander

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
- TV / DVD Player in Cabins
- Spa Pool

See page 90



## 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
- TV / DVD in Suites
- Spa Pool

See page 94



## 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


See page 96



## La Nouvelle Etoile

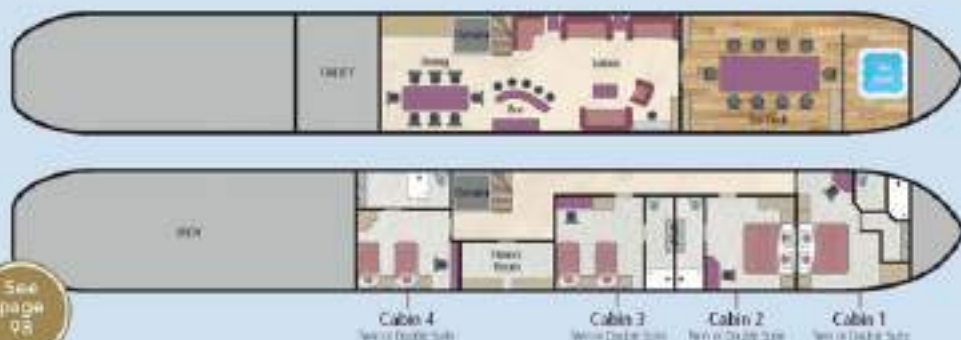
 Ultra Deluxe

 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

See page 98





# Travelling To Your Barge



Meeting point at the Hotel Westminster in central Paris

## Getting There is Half the Fun!

On every hotel barge cruise, wherever it may be, we aim to give our guests authentic and immersive experiences. As your barge sedately makes its way along one of the waterways of France, Scotland, Holland, Italy and beyond, you will have the opportunity to visit hidden places and meet local people from all walks of life.

### Hotels

Our designated meeting points mostly have a hotel option that we have carefully selected to offer a comfortable stay for one or more nights in the cruise region. Meeting times are predominantly on a Sunday afternoon, with return transfers on the following Saturday morning. For Burgundy cruises, return transfers are from a meeting point in central Paris such as the Hotel Westminster. Charter parties can be met at any hotel or other meeting point of their choice within a 30-minute drive of the hotel barge.

### 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 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 to a Canal du Midi barge, to four hours from Geneva to 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 in Northern Spain and Zurich in Switzerland which give access to our Midi and Alsace 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. We can also advise regarding your choice of travel, accommodation, and timings. Please ask our experienced team for more information.

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





Our Operations Base in Burgundy



## “ Panache

Excellent service and dining... as usual! This was our third trip with European Waterways. Each trip has been unique in its own way. The crew and captain worked together to make sure our needs and preferences of everyone individually were met.

*Trusted Customer*



## “ Finesse

Everything was just perfect. The entire crew, the barge, the food, the excursions were simply superb. I can not recommend anything to improve the experience, because it was by far the best holiday my wife and I ever had. Celebrating our anniversary on board with a "surprise" party the crew organized for us crowned the whole trip.

*Mr Haluk S*



# 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 at [Feefo.com](https://www.feefo.com)

## “ Enchanté

Elegant, bespoke and relaxing vacation. An unforgettable experience. Staff were exceptional and personal, yet professional. Dining was constantly surprising and fabulous. Excursions were intimate and more enjoyable with just 8 persons. Cannot wait until next time!

*Dr Robert P*

## “ La Bella Vita

La Bellissima Vacanza! Fabulous service, great accommodations, terrific food and wine service, fascinating tours, most interesting and compatible cruise mates, and the best crew ever! Our experience on La Bella Vita was truly "la bellissima vacanza"!

*Trusted Customer*

## “ L'Art de Vivre

We felt right at home from the time we set foot on the boat. We were pampered, the accommodations were spotless, the food was fantastic, and the excursions were top of the line. This is definitely a trip I would do over and over. The crew went above and beyond to make this one of the best vacations ever!

*Ms Shelli N*

## “ Scottish Highlander

A highland fling to remember. The knowledgeable and engaging crew were always cheerful and willing to please. It made the tour more meaningful and created a relaxing holiday!

*Mr Michael S*

## “ Athos

Barging: An experience not to be missed! The crew on our barge was incredible. They couldn't have done more to accommodate our needs. The itinerary was the perfect balance between touring and relaxing.

*Mr David T*

## “ L'Impressionniste

A memorable experience. This cruise was made perfect by two things: the staff of the barge, and our fellow cruisers.

*Ed & Valerie S*

## “ Shannon Princess

Unbelievable luxury, treat yourself! Everything was 5-star, the crew, the tours, the food was the best I have ever had anywhere, ever! It was the most luxurious, fun, unbelievable experience.

*Ms Tamara R*

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CRUISE  
World

Contact Cruise World on 09 917 4440 | 0800 500 732  
info@cruiseworld.co.nz | www.cruiseworld.co.nz