



# TREASURES OF BURGUNDY & PROVENCE



## 9 DAY TOUR | APRIL 29, 2020 | TOUR TYPE: RIVER CRUISE

TORONTO | LYON | MACON | CHALON SUR SAONE | TOURNUS | LYON  
AVIGNON | ARLES | CHATEAUNEUF DU RHONE | LE POUZIN | LYON | TORONTO

### TOUR SUMMARY:

Enjoy this uniquely beautiful cruise along the French rivers of Rhone and Saone. On this 08-day river cruise you will experience picturesque villages, world famous wine producing regions, unforgettable landscapes in the regions of Provence and Burgundy, and be immersed in the impressive and historic cities, monuments and culture. Your cruise will make a round trip route from Lyon to Macon, where some of the world's most expensive wines are made. Enjoy Chalon sur Saone and Tournus and see the half-timbered houses and picturesque countryside landscapes. You will sail to Avignon, where its legacy can be seen in the massive Pope's Palace. View the beauty of Arles, the town that inspired many of Van Gogh's paintings. You can experience the magnificent Ardeche Gorge, a natural wonder in this region of southern France that has been carved out of limestone overtime. Return to Lyon, the third largest city in France where you will disembark the cruise.

	Lower Deck Haydn C4	Lower Deck Haydn C1	Middle Deck Strauss B4	Middle Deck Strauss B1	Upper Deck Mozart A1	Upper Deck Mozart Suite
No. of Cabins	1	4	1	7	5	2
	<b>C\$3899</b>	<b>C\$4299</b>	<b>C\$5499</b>	<b>C\$5899</b>	<b>C\$5999</b>	<b>C\$6499</b>



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## TOUR LODGING INFO: 07 Nights' Accommodation

Accommodation will be provided on a twin sharing basis

CITIES	NIGHTS	DELUXE ACOMMODATION
Cruise	07 Nights	Amadeus Provence



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Experience world famous wine regions such as the Cote d'Or
- Explore Lyon, the third largest city in France and a UNESCO World Heritage city
- Visit the Provençal city of Avignon, home to the Pont du Gard- an ancient architectural masterpiece
- Walk through the town of Arles, which inspired the famous Impressionist painter, Van Gogh
- View the Ardeche Gorge, a natural wonder known as the 'Grand Canyon of Europe'

## TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 07 night's accommodation at listed river cruise
- Free-flowing red & white wines with every lunch and dinner onboard
- Beer and soft drinks with every lunch and dinner onboard
- Daily buffet breakfast while on the cruise
- 06 lunches on board
- 07 dinners on board
- Cocktail reception
- Welcome Dinner
- Captain's Gala Dinner
- 24-hour coffee and tea station
- Bottled water in every stateroom
- Experienced English-speaking cruise director
- Onboard entertainment
- Complimentary Wi-Fi onboard
- Complimentary use of onboard bicycles
- Complimentary state-of-the-art audio headsets for optional excursions
- All port charges and local taxes
- International flights from Toronto
- Airport transfers

## TOUR ITINERARY:

### DAY 01: CANADA - LYON

Board your flight. Overnight on board your flight.

### DAY 02: LYON (ARRIVAL & EMBARKATION) (-/-/D)

On arrival transfer to port. Check in begins at 4:00pm. This afternoon you embark the vessel and get settled into your cabin. This evening, enjoy a Welcome Cocktail, followed by a specially prepared Welcome Dinner. Overnight onboard

### DAY 03: MACON (B/L/D)

After breakfast today you will have the day in Macon, located in southern Burgundy. This is a wine producing region that makes some of the world's most expensive wines. You can spend the morning exploring the city, and perhaps you will join the optional shore excursions to the wine museum that is dedicated to the history and production of Burgundy wines. Another optional excursion is a trip to the Cluny Abbey which is dedicated to St. Peter and was once home to over 10,000 monks. This afternoon is perfect for you to experience medieval Europe. Overnight onboard

#### OPTIONAL EXCURSION: Macon with Wine Museum tour

With its pastel buildings and tiled roofs, Mâconnais has a Mediterranean charm. From Mâconnais we will tour the Beaujolais and Mâconnais wine regions. We will make our way through the vineyards which grace the area, as well as the castles and stately homes which bear witness to the wealth of the region. A highlight of this excursion is the visit to Georges Duboeuf's Hameau du Vin. In the unique setting of a 19th-century railway station, you can marvel at the wine making process: the transporting of grapes and wine, the winemaker's tools and trade, the cellars, the winemaking processes, bottling and corking. Finish the visit with a tasting of Beaujolais wines, in a room housing a barrel organ called a "bouteillophone".

#### OPTIONAL EXCURSION: Guided tour to Cluny Abbey

The Abbey of Cluny in Burgundy was the center of a major monastic movement in the Middle Ages. Its church was the largest Christian building in the world until St. Peter's Basilica was rebuilt in Rome in the 16th century. Although most of the great Abbey of Cluny is in ruins, you can still see remnants showing the size and glory the abbey possessed at its zenith and imagine it as it once was. Today, one transept of the 12th-century abbey church remains, along with the 15th-century abbots' residences and 18th-century convent buildings. The site also includes beautiful gardens and a museum with Romanesque artifacts. Your guide will show you around the ancient Benedictine abbey. This church, with its unusual dimensions, was completed under the abbacy of Pierre the Venerable and consecrated in 1130. Its principal architect was Hézelon de Liège. The idea for its construction is said to have originated from a monk's dream.

### DAY 04: CHALON SUR SAONE - TOURNUS (B/L/D)

Today you can continue to explore the famous wine region with a half day stop in Chalon sur Saone. Here you can find half-timbered houses that overlook the town square, local art galleries, specialty shops, and even a museum dedicated to photography. In the countryside you can find famous vineyards such as Pommard and Puligny, a true delight to wine lovers. After returning to the ship you will sail towards Tournus and enjoy a brief stop to soak in the scenic landscapes surrounded by medieval

towns of Brancion and Cormatin which you can visit and tour if you choose to join the optional excursion.

Overnight onboard

#### **OPTIONAL EXCURSION: Burgundy excursion to Beaune with wine tasting**

After breakfast, take a scenic drive along France's Burgundy wine route through Pommard, Volnay and Meursault. In Beaune, the wine capital of Burgundy, you will enjoy a guided tour of the beautiful Hôtel-Dieu, founded as a hospice in 1443. Today, it covers a large area of the town with its museum, three courtyards, outbuildings, 15th-century bastion and hundreds of meters of cellars, which are notable for containing the personal reserve of the Hospices. The four buildings open to the public are situated around the Court of Honor and represent the Hôtel-Dieu of former times. The great Salle des Pauvres ("hall of the poor"), is decorated with multi-colored beams which are unique in the world. Serenity reigns here which will leave no one unmoved. The rooms overflow with treasures: statues, furniture, pottery, paintings, tapestries and more. The kitchen has been restored to look exactly as it did in the 19th century. The polyptych of "The Last Judgement", a masterpiece by the Flemish painter Rogier Van Der Weyden, is particularly well presented. Later, enjoy a wine tasting experience at one of Beaune's famous cellars.

#### **OPTIONAL EXCURSION: Excursion to Brancion and Cormatin**

We leave Chalon-sur-Saône and drive to Brancion for a short photo stop before continuing to the Castle of Cormatin. Behind its understated exterior lies inestimable splendor. The castle is undoubtedly one of the most sumptuous castles in Burgundy, and, in addition, it boasts a Renaissance garden. The sculpted yews break up the symmetry as you enter this moated château. The rich, colorful interior reflects the French and more particularly, the Parisian fashion during the reign of Louis XIII. Built between 1605 and 1629 by the du Blé family, it chronicles the history of the arts at this time in France. The formal Renaissance garden has the "fountain of life" at its center. Beyond this is a maze with a charming wrought-iron aviary. From the top of this you can get an overview of the park.

#### **DAY 05: LYON (B/L/D)**

This morning you will wake up in Lyon, the third largest city in France that is at the confluence of the Rhone and Saone rivers. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage city that is well known for its cuisine and historical and architectural landmarks such as the Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourviere and Old Lyon. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon onboard as the vessel sails through the picturesque countryside.

Overnight onboard

#### **OPTIONAL EXCURSION: City tour of Lyon**

Lyon not only marks the meeting of the Saône and Rhône Rivers, but it is also the gastronomic capital of France. Its rich, ancient history includes Roman ruins and early Christian sites. The city tour begins with a coach trip to the Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourvière. The well-known pilgrimage church stands on a hill, offering an unforgettable view of the city. After you've had a look around on your own and enjoyed a drive along the banks of the Saône, with views of various sights including the Cathedral of St. John and the Palace of Justice, you will have the opportunity to explore Lyon's Old Town. Take a gentle stroll through the Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with the famous Roman theatre and buildings showing the influence of the Italian Renaissance.

#### **DAY 06: AVIGNON (B/L/D)**

Today you will have a full day in Avignon, a Provençal city that is home to the Papal Palace which was once the seat of Western Christianity in the 14th century. Perhaps you will choose to further explore this landmark which was home to six papal conclaves before it returned to Rome on an optional excursion. This area is also known for the Pont du Gard which is a three-level aqueduct that was constructed over 2000 years ago by the romans, and even today it is known as an ancient architectural masterpiece.

Overnight onboard

#### **OPTIONAL EXCURSION: Avignon walking tour with Papal Palace**

Today's excursion is a guided walk through Avignon, also known as the "City of Popes" due to the role the city played in the Avignon conspiracy of the 14th century, when a pope abandoned Rome and fled to Avignon. Avignon's lavish Palais des Papes (Palace of the Popes), is a fortress, church and palace all in one and was considered the center of the Christian world during the 14th century. From 1309 to 1377, seven popes resided in this impressive building, one of the world's most fascinating examples of Gothic architecture. Another must-see is the Pont d'Avignon, a ruined 12th-century bridge that once spanned the Rhône and is immortalized in a folk song about dancing on the bridge.

#### **OPTIONAL EXCURSION: Excursion to Pont du Gard and Uzès**

The Pont du Gard is the greatest surviving stretch of a fifty-kilometer-long (thirty-one mile) aqueduct, built by the Romans in the middle of the first century to supply fresh water to the city of Nimes. With just a seventeen-meter difference in altitude between beginning and end, the aqueduct was quite an achievement for its time. Some miles further on, near the start of the aqueduct, lies the city of Uzès. This lovely old town perches on a hill above the River Alzon. Half a dozen medieval towers rise above its tiled roofs. The most fetching is the windowed, Pisa-like Tour Fenestrelle, tacked onto the cathedral. The narrow lanes are lined with Renaissance and Neoclassical houses which were once the residences of the 17th- and 18th-century bourgeoisie, who had grown rich on textiles.

#### **DAY 07: AVIGNON - ARLES (B/L/D)**

Today you will be able to spend the day in Arles, a city on the Rhone River that is famed for inspiring the paintings of Van Gogh. As you walk through the town; many settings may seem familiar as some of Van Gogh's best-known pieces reflect the same beauty that you will experience and be inspired by. An optional excursion today can take you outside of town, to the Camargue Nature Park. This is a park that spans over 86,000 hectares and is known for its unique flora and fauna, including semi-wild bulls and white Camargue horses.

Overnight on board

#### **OPTIONAL EXCURSION: Arles walking tour**

Arles boasts a rich history. It was founded by the Gauls, who made it their capital. During the course of centuries, Arles was home to archbishops, became part of the Kingdom of the Franks and, later on, capital of the Kingdom of Burgundy. During our two-hour city walk, pass many ancient or Roman sights and monuments and see why UNESCO has chosen to declare Arles a World Heritage Site. A visit to the Roman arena is a must while in Arles. Why not take a break in the café that served as the model for Vincent Van Gogh's "Café Terrace at Night"? While strolling through the city, you might even meet pilgrims walking the Way of St. James, which begins in Arles!

**OPTIONAL EXCURSION: Excursion to Camargue Nature Park**

The Camargue is like its own little country. Once you're a few minutes south of Arles, you enter the unique atmosphere of the area, with its series of long, level roads criss-crossing the marshes and farmlands. For the protection of the exceptional fauna and flora, part of the Camargue was listed as a nature reserve as early as 1927. In 1970, the whole Island of Camargue (the delta of the Rhône River) was listed as the Regional Nature Park of Camargue. It is home to an astonishing range of wildlife, including the renowned Camargue bulls and horses that live in semi freedom, and many hundreds of species of birds. You will also visit Saintes Maries de la Mer, located on the Mediterranean Sea where the Rhône joins the ocean. This village is steeped in history and boasts stunning beaches which meet the blue waters of the Mediterranean Sea.

**DAY 08: CHATEAUNEUF DU RHONE - LE POUZIN (B/L/D)**

This morning you have an opportunity to view the Ardeche Gorge, a natural wonder of the area where the gorges are a canyon that has been hollowed out of the limestone plateau- a truly remarkable site. The vessel will remain for a short time in Le Pouzin and you will have the chance to explore the Ardeche Gorge on an optional excursion. As you return to the vessel this evening you will enjoy a Gala Dinner with the Captain. Overnight on board

**OPTIONAL EXCURSION: Excursion to the Ardeche Gorge**

The Ardèche Gorge is often referred to as the Grand Canyon of Europe, its spectacular limestone cliffs tower up to 1,000 ft above the meandering river below. The entrance to the Ardèche Gorge is through the famous Pont d'Arc near Vallon which, at 192 feet is, according to the Natural Arch and Bridge Society, "the largest natural bridge in Europe". You will take the famous Gorge Trail, from which you can see the harmonious meanderings of the river. Beautiful viewpoints such as the Pont d'Arc and Serre de Tourre offer the greatest views onto the canyon and the river Ardèche.

**DAY 09: LYON (DISEMBARKATION & DEPARTURE) (B/-/-)**

Enjoy breakfast on board before you disembark this morning. Transfer to the airport in time for your departure flight back home.

**END OF OUR SERVICES**

**EXCURSION PACKAGES:**

Excursion	A	B	C
Excursion to Macon including Wine Museum tour	X	X	X
Guided tour of Cluny Abbey		X	X
Burgundy excursion to Beaune with wine tasting	X	X	X
Excursion to Brancion and Cormatin			X
City tour of Lyon	X	X	X
Avignon walking tour with Papal Palace	X	X	X
Excursion to the Pont du Gard and Uzès			X
Arles walking tour	X		X
Excursion to the Camargue Nature Park		X	X
Excursion to the Ardeche Gorge		X	X
Package price per person (booked in advance)	C\$352	C \$518	C\$598

