SPECIALLY PREPARED PROGRAM
FOR THE PROBUS CLUB OF MILTON

TRUE HEARTBEAT OF FRANCE

OCT 09 – 21, 2019 (13 DAYS)

INTRODUCTION

TRUE HEARTBEAT OF FRANCE

Our 13 day tour starts with a 7 night cruise on the Amadeus Provence to experience the treasures of Burgundy and Provence. Experience the French love of the very best things in life in Lyon, Avignon and Paris plus enjoy

"THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES OF FRANCE" AS WELL. THIS TOUR SHOWS YOU THE "TRUE HEARTBEAT OF FRANCE".

ITINERARY

DAY 1 / WED, OCT 09, 2019
DEPART CANADA

Gather at Pearson International Airport for our flight to Lyon.

Transportation:
Air Canada / Lufthansa

Tentative flight schedule:

AC 876 / Toronto – Frankfurt / depart 9:40pm / arrive 11:10am next day

LH 1076 / Frankfurt – Lyon / depart 12:20pm / arrive 1:35pm

DAY 2 / THU, OCT 10, 2019
LYON – EMBARKATION (D)

Upon arrival, meet your local assistant and transfer to Lyon pier for your cruise. This afternoon board the vessel and get settled into your cabin. This evening, enjoy a Welcome Cocktail, followed by a specially-prepared dinner.

Accommodation: onboard MS Amadeus Provence (7 nights)

MS Amadeus Provence - Start an unforgettable adventure and enjoy the typically provincial feel aboard the AMADEUS Provence. This new addition to the fleet travels exclusively along the Rhône and the Saône, two of France's most beautiful rivers.

On this Premium cruise ship, the generous interior planning and design provides comfortable room for 140 passengers and offers all the luxuries of a floating 5-star hotel. In keeping with the standard of this ship, you will have excellent food including breakfast, lunch and dinner daily along with unlimited wine with dinner. Every evening brings delightful evening entertainment.

The restaurant and Panorama-Bar offer beautiful views of the passing riverscapes, and the outdoor, glass-shielded River Terrace allows you to relax in the open regardless of the weather. The AMADEUS Provence is the first ship of the fleet to include a pool deck with a swimming pool and a Lido Bar. The services on board are complemented by fitness and massage areas and a hairdresser.

As a guest on board, you are free to do as much or as little as you like. With a staff and crew trained to the highest standards, the ambience onboard is relaxed yet impeccably gracious, designed to make you feel right at home in the heart of France.

DAY 3 / FRI, OCT 11, 2019
MACON (B, L, D)

This morning the vessel arrives in the town of Mâcon, located in southern Burgundy. This wine-producing region produces some of the most expensive wines in the world.

Maconnais excursion incl. Wine Museum tour (morning): 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 a visit to Georges Duboeuf's Hameau du Vin. In the unique setting of a 19th-century railway station, learn about 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".

We return to the ship for lunch.

Visit to Cluny Abbey (afternoon): 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 of the Abbey. 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 consecrated in 1130.

DAY 4 / SAT, OCT 12, 2019
CHALON-SUR-SAÔNE – TOURNUS (B, L, D)

Continue to explore the wine region with a stop in the town of Chalon sur Saône. Half -timbered houses overlook the square, and it offers art galleries, specialty shops as well as a museum dedicated to photography. The countryside is filled with famous vineyards such as Pommard and Puligny, a wine lover's delight.

Burgundy excursion to Beaune including wine tasting (morning): After breakfast, take a scenic drive along France's Burgundy wine route through Pommard, Volnay and Meursault. In Beaune, the wine capital of Burgundy, 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. The rooms house many treasures: statues, furniture, pottery, paintings, tapestries and more. 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.

We return to the ship for lunch.

Enjoy the afternoon at leisure or join an optional excursion to Brancion und Cormatin (at additional cost).

DAY 5 / SUN, OCT 13, 2019
LYON (B, L, D)

At the confluence of the Rhone and the Saône rivers, sits the third-largest city in France. This UNESCO World Heritage city is known for its cuisine as well as historical and architectural landmarks such as the Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourviere and the Vieux Lyon (Old Lyon) which is the Renaissance area along the bank of the Saône.

City tour of Lyon (morning): 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 Sâone, 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 stroll through the Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with the famous Roman theatre and buildings showing the influence of the Italian Renaissance.

We return to the ship for lunch.

Relax this afternoon as the vessel sails through the picturesque countryside.

DAY 6 / MON, OCT 14, 2019
AVIGNON (B, L, D)

The Provencal city of Avignon is home to the Papal Palace, once the seat of Western Christianity in the 14th century. The Papal Palace was home to six papal conclaves but became obsolete when the papacy decided to return to Rome. The area of Provence is also home to the Pont du Gard; a three-level aqueduct constructed over 2000 years ago by the Romans and is one of the architectural masterpieces of the ancient world.

Avignon walking tour incl. Papal Palace (morning): 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 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.

We return to the ship for lunch.

There are many interesting little shops and cafes found on the streets of Avignon. The everyday life of its citizens involves local bakeries, theater and dance performances and going for a promenade through the park. You can relax on the ship this afternoon and watch the daily life of Avignon from the comfort of a deck chair or stretch your legs and explore on your own.

Also available is an optional excursion to Pont du Gard and Uzès (at additional cost).

Your vessel remains in Avignon this evening.

River Cruise Map

DAY 7 / TUE, OCT 15, 2019
ARLES (B, L, D)

Today is your opportunity to relax and enjoy your 5-star floating hotel. This morning is yours to do with as you wish. Also available an optional Arles walking tour (at additional cost).

Lunch on board.

Excursion to the Camargue Nature Park (afternoon): Once you're a few minutes south of Arles, you enter the unique 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 in 1927. 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.

DAY 8 / WED, OCT 16, 2019
CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-RHÔNE – LE POUZIN (B, L, D)

Excursion to the Ardèche Gorge (morning): 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. Beautiful viewpoints such as the Pont d'Arc and Serre de Tourre offer the greatest views onto the canyon and the river Ardèche.

We return to the ship for lunch. Our ship is sailing this afternoon so enjoy the scenic views.

This evening is the Captain's Gala Dinner.

DAY 9 /THU, OCT 17, 2019
LYON – DISEMBARKATION – AUXERRE (B, D)

Enjoy one last buffet breakfast on board before disembarking. Meet your coach, local assistant and transfer to Beaune, capital of the wines of Burgundy. The old town contains some remarkable monuments and has some beautiful Renaissance mansions, as well as half-timbered houses and charming inner courtyards. Take the time to stroll around, to see Beaune's architectural treasures on your own. You might like to have lunch at the Hotel Dieu or visit the Musee du Vin de Bourgogne.

This afternoon we make one stop at the village of Chateaunef. Focal point of the village is the castle reflecting its medieval military architecture. You might like to do a bit of shopping as local artisans include ceramicists, sculptors and wood carvers.

Lunch on your own in Beaune.

Our destination is Auxerre, a town on the Yonne River. The town owes its importance to its position on the river, and also to the once important trade route between the Mediterranean and the North Sea.

Auxerre has received the classification of a protected "Historic Town in France" as well as being one of the French 'villes d'art et histoire' towns.

Dinner is included this evening at your hotel.

Accommodation: Mercure Auxerre Nord Appoigny hotel or similar (3 nights)

DAY 10 / FRI, OCT 18, 2019
NOYERS – CHABLIS – VEZELAY (B)

After breakfast we depart to Noyers, a medieval fortified town and one of "The Most Beautiful Villages of France". (We have chosen these small villages so you can explore them on your own. Maps and helpful instructions will be given for each centre) The village is still protected by ramparts studded with sixteen towers and three fortified gateways. In the centre of the village is the Gothic church of Notre- Dame. Free time to walk around the village.

Lunch on your own today is the small village of Chablis. You will like to sample the famous wines of the region before exploring this place with attractive medieval houses, some with ornate door and window openings, and other buildings of interest. We then depart for Vezelay. Vezelay sits on a steep hill surrounded by the basilica of Sainte-Madeleine. Built in the 12th century in honour of Mary Magdalen, whose relics are believed to lay there, the abbey was both a pilgrimage destination and a departure point to Compostela, Spain. Beautiful Romanesque and Renaissance residences survive from this thriving era, rubbing shoulders with charming winegrowers' houses all covered with the flat, brown tiles typical of Burgundy. Vezelay is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

We return to our hotel with dinner on your own this evening.

DAY 11 / SAT, OCT 19, 2019
AUXERRE – CLOS VOUGEOT (B)

Start the day with a visit to Dijon. Filled with elegant medieval and Renaissance buildings this lively centre is wonderful for strolling, especially if you like to heighten your cultural enrichment with excellent food, fine wine and shopping. The Owl's Trail (€3.50), available in 11 languages at the tourist office, details a self-guided city-centre walking tour; the route is marked on the pavement with bronze triangles.

Lunch is on your own in Dijon before departing to Clos Vougeot for a visit to its beautiful chateau. In the 12th century the monks of the Cistercian Abbey grew vines here and they built a wall around the land which still defines this prestigious location today. Transformed into a Renaissance chateau, this historic place has become a mecca for wine and conviviality.

We return to our hotel with option this evening for "Dine Around:" in Auxerre. We will offer everyone a choice of four restaurants. Reservations will be made and transportation to the restaurants will be provided by our coach. You will make your own way back to the hotel by taxi. The cost of this dinner is on your own.

DAY 12 / SUN, OCT 20, 2019
YEVRE LE CHATEL – PARIS (B, D)

We leave our hotel after breakfast, and then transfer to Paris, City of Lights. En-route stop in the village of Yevre Le Chatel for some free time to walk around the village.

Lunch on your own today.

We continue on to Paris, for an afternoon at leisure. Paris is home to the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame, some of the world's best museums and art galleries as well as parks and gardens.

We are spending the night at the Hotel Josephine, a unique hotel located in Montmartre. It is near the Moulin Rouge, the Opera Garnier and both Printemps and Galleries Lafayette department stores.

Farewell dinner at a local restaurant tonight.

Accommodation: Hotel Josephine or similar (1 night)

DAY 13 / MON, OCT 21, 2019
FLIGHT HOME (B)

Checkout after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your flight home.

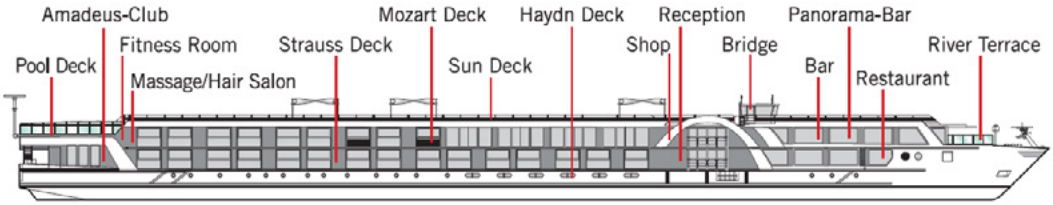
Transportation:
Air Canada

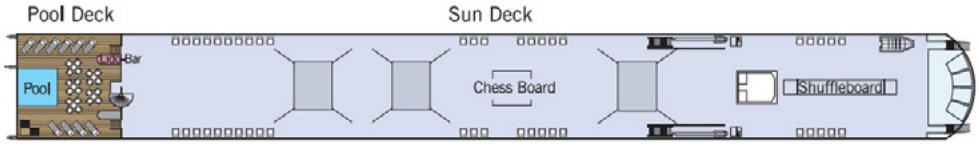
Tentative flight schedule: AC 881 / Paris – Toronto / depart 11:00am / arrive 1:05pm

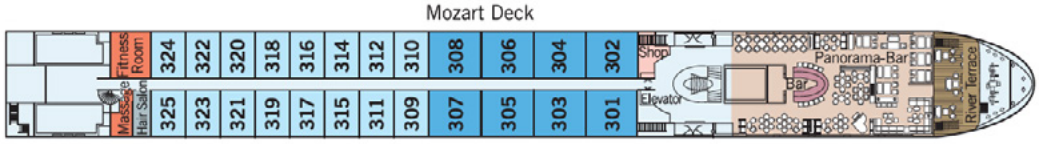
END OF TOUR
B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner

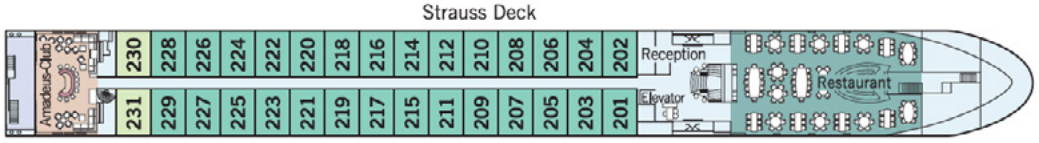
THE SHIP – MS AMADEUS PROVENCE

DECK PLAN









Suite | A-1 | B-1 | B-4 | C-1 | C-4

TECHNICAL DATA

- Built:
  2017
- Registry:
  Germany
- Length:
  110 m | 361 feet
- Width:
  11 m | 36,5 feet
- Draft:
  1,45 m | 5 feet
- Height above water:
  6 m |19,8 feet
- Speed:
  25 km/h | 15,5 mph
- Decks:
  4
- Staterooms/Suites:
  62/8
- Max. passengers:
  140
- Crew members:
  approx. 40

PRICING & TERMS

CABIN CATEGORY	DECK	TWIN OCCUPANCY	SINGLE OCCUPANCY
Cat. C-4	Haydn Deck	$5,190 per person	$6,560 per person
Cat. C-1	Haydn Deck	$5,590 per person	$6,960 per person
Cat. B-1	Strauss Deck	$6,590 per person	$8,860 per person
Cat. A-1	Mozart Deck	$7,290 per person	$10,260 per person

Further upgraded cabins are available on request.

Early Booking Discount of CAD$200 pp applies to booking made/payment received before Oct 31, 2018.

INCLUSIONS

- Roundtrip flights from Toronto to Lyon and Paris to Toronto

CRUISE PORTION

- 7 nights river cruise in an outside river-view stateroom
- Shore excursions as per itinerary (except optional tours), with usage of complimentary state-of-the-art audio headsets
- Gourmet dining with all meals included (buffet breakfast, lunch, dinner and midnight snack) in the elegant Panorama-Restaurant, which accommodates all guests in one seating
- Free-flowing quality red & white wines from local wine regions with every dinner on board
- Coffee and tea after lunch and dinner
- 24-hour complimentary coffee, tea, hot chocolate and water
- Cocktail Reception, Welcome Dinner and Captain's Gala Dinner
- Special onboard entertainment including lectures, cooking demonstration, onboard music performances and nightly music by the Amadeus Duo in the Panorama Bar
- Complimentary use of onboard bicycles
- Non-smoking environment (smoking permitted on the Sun Deck)
- All port taxes and local taxes
- All gratuities for cruise director and ship crew, and for local guides and drivers for included shore excursions

LAND PORTION

- 3 nights accommodation in Auxerre with daily breakfast
- 1 night accommodation in Paris with breakfast
- 1 dinner in Auxerre and 1 dinner in Paris including water and coffee/tea
- Transfers and excursions as per itinerary with private coach and local assistant
- Entrance/activities fees for Hotel-Dieu, Musee du Vin de Bourgogne, wine tasting at Chablis wine cellar, and Chateau du Clos Vougeot
- Porterage at hotel (1 piece per person)
- All gratuities for local assistant and driver

EXCLUSIONS

- Airport departure taxes. Currently $720 per person
- Meals not included in the itinerary
- Optional travel insurance

AIR CREDIT

If you wish to arrange your own air from Toronto to Lyon and Paris to Toronto, an air credit of CAD$350 per person will be deducted from the tour cost, and air taxes will not be applicable. Please contact us for air deviation, premium economy or business class upgrade surcharges.

SPECIAL NOTE

- Names provided at time of booking must match exactly your passport.
- Your passport should be valid for at least 6 months after your return date.
- Optional travel insurance has to be purchased prior to final payment date. Please contact us for a quotation.

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT

At time of booking: $750 per person

Second deposit: $750 per person due April 05, 2019

Final payment: remaining balance due July 05, 2019

CANCELLATION TERMS

Between time of booking & Apr 04, 2019: $750 per person

Between Apr 05, 2019 & Jul 04, 2019: $1,500 per person

Between Jul 05, 2019 & date of departure: 100% of total cost

Program designed in conjunction with

ANNE TAYLOR
Travel Coordinator for Probus Club of Milton,
Call: 519-766-4834 / Email: taylor10526@gmail.com

To book this program, please complete the Booking Form and email, mail or fax to Tour Design.

TOUR DESIGN
1211 Denison Street, Unit 26,
Markham, ON. Canada L3R 4B3

Toll Free: 1-888-923-9183
Fax: (905) 258 7779
Email: nliu@glpworldwide.com
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