

**ITINERARY: French Food and Wine
French Barge Trip Rhone Valley**

Burnt Pine -safari

(B): Breakfast; (BB): Bed & Breakfast; (L): Lunch;
(D): Dinner; (b): Bed only

Day 1

Depart Atlanta on (TBD). **Overnight flight**

Day 2,

Arrive Paris France at? (They are six hours ahead of us). You will pass through French Immigration and Customs. After Customs take a cab to a hotel to be determined but it will be located just off of the Champs Elysees somewhere. Lunch is on your own, but a good suggestion would be Jules Vern. This gourmet restaurant is located atop the Eiffel Tower. The cuisine is outstanding, and it is only matched by the magnificent views of the city below. The afternoon is free, maybe a short visit to the Rodin Museum. This evening we suggest something close and casual for dinner. (We will provide a recommended list)

TBD (BB)

Day 3,

You depart this afternoon for the Gare de Lyon (train station). We will have arranged a van to take you to the station. You will be booked in the first class section on the TGV for your trip to Valence. There you will be met by Afloat in France personnel for your transfer to the Napoleon at Tain l'Hermitage or Tournon. On aboard the barge you will start the festivities with a champagne reception, and have a chance to meet the crew. The evening meal will set the tone for the week with your first wine tastings.

Napoleon (BBLD)

Days 4-8,

The barges are floating fantasies of wine tasting, exploration and candlelight dinners. The week will be spent cruising, sipping and playing in the French countryside in the Rhone Valley of France. Vans and bicycles will be available daily for excursions and explorations of the quaint countryside.

Napoleon (BBLD) Wine & bar are inclusive

Day 4,

Relax on the top deck and watch the beautiful scenery of the Rhône Valley glide by as the barge cruises to Viviers. Mid-afternoon, our guide will take you on a walking tour of this charming medieval town before returning to the boat.

Napoleon (BBLD)

Day 5,

Today you are going to visit Nyons, a typical Provençal village, a working lavender distillery, and then an 18th century

olive mill. Lunch is taken at a local restaurant in scenic Grignan. On the way back to the barge you can plan to stop at a truffle farm to learn all about the *black diamond variety* and taste this expensive mushroom. Back on board, you will continue the cruise to St. Etienne des Sorts.

Napoleon (BBLD)

Day 6,

This morning's excursion is to Châteauneuf du Pape for a wine-tasting. Afterwards you will return to the barge for lunch. You will be cruising to Avignon, in the afternoon, past Le Pont St. Bénézet (the famous *Pont d'Avignon*) before mooring-up at the quay opposite the gate to the walled city. In the afternoon your excursion is to the Pont du Gard, part of the Roman aqueduct that transported spring water from Uzès to Nîmes.

Napoleon (BBLD)

Day 7,

You will explore Avignon today, it was home of the Popes between 1309 and 1377 and it is magnificent. Enjoy a walking tour of the walled city, including a guided tour of the Palace of the Popes. Return to the boat where lunch awaits. During the afternoon, the barge cruises to Arles, while your guide takes you to the village of Les Baux for you to discover at your own pace.

Napoleon (BBLD)

Day 8,

After breakfast, our guide will take us on a walking tour of Arles, best known because Van Gogh painted here between 1888 and 1890. Lunch will be served while cruising to Vallabrègues. Later that afternoon we visit the lovely town of St Rémy also synonymous with Van Gogh and the birthplace of Nostradamus. On our way back to the boat, we will enjoy an olive oil tasting in a traditional 18th century "*Provençal Bastide*" where 15,000 olive trees are growing. Farewell gala dinner on board tonight.

Napoleon (BBLD)

Day 9,

The time will have passed all too quickly. After breakfast you will take the train back to Paris for your final night in France. Maybe you could do the dinner and show at the Lido for your farewell France Party.

TBD (BB)

Day 10,

Unless you are extending your will depart for the Charles De Gaulle Airport by using a hired van for your transport. Flights arrive in the late afternoon back in the US, where you will clear US Customs & Immigration.