

VINEYARDS OF THE PROVENCE

RHONE RIVER CRUISE 2012

THREE NIGHTS IN PARIS & CRUISE FROM LYON TO ARLES



Join us this fall on an exclusive Wine Cruises aboard AMA-Waterways' deluxe MS AMADAGIO, sailing from Paris to Arles (fly back home from Marseille). The cruises will be hosted by wine celebrity **Christopher Silva** – president of *St Francis Winery & Vineyards in Sonoma, California* and **Kristine Karst** – executive VP of AMA-Waterways. This special program concentrates on the unique wine growing areas along the Rhone river and the Provence. Onboard lectures, wine tasting of such famous wines as Beaujolais and Cote du Rhone, special wine pairings at meals plus wine-themed unique shore excursions make this cruise an unforgettable experience.

Day 01, Nov 11: DEPART USA **[in-flight meals]**

Board your overnight flight to Holland.

Day 02, Nov 12: ARRIVE IN PARIS, FRANCE

Arrive in Paris and transfer to your hotel. The balance of the day is yours to start exploring this beautiful city.

Day 03, Nov 13: PARIS **[B]**

Enjoy Paris' famous sights during this morning's guided tour where you will see the Champs Élysées, Place de la Concorde, and the Eiffel Tower. Conclude your visit at the famous Notre Dame Cathedral. The afternoon is free for you to explore the "City of Light." This evening, an optional Parisian Cabaret dinner theater excursion is available.

Day 04, Nov 14: PARIS **[B]**

Your last day in Paris is free for you to enjoy at your leisure. Or, you may decide to join the optional Seine Cruise & Eiffel Tower excursion this morning or the optional Montmartre & Illuminations tour this evening.

Day 05, Nov 15: PARIS – LYON – EMBARKATION **[B,D]**

After checking out of your hotel, you will board the TGV high-speed train that will whisk you through the French countryside to Lyon. Nestled between the Saone and Rhone rivers, Lyon is one of France's most important cities and gastronomic capitals. Upon arrival, enjoy some free time for lunch on your own before your included Lyon Cooking Demonstration. Transfer to your luxurious ship. Gather this evening on board for a Welcome Dinner.

Day 06, Nov 16: LYON – TREVOUX **[B,L,D]**

Today your panoramic tour of Lyon will take you to the "Place Bellecour" with its equestrian statue of Louis XIV, the "Place des Terreaux," with Bartholdi's Fountain and the Town Hall. Afterwards, visit Fourvière, part of the historic region designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Known as the "Hill of Prayers," Fourvière is famous for its iconic white Basilica of Notre-Dame; ruins of a Roman theater, and majestic views of the city below. Later, your ship will depart for the historic village of Trévoux. Upon arrival, you will take a walking tour of this former capital of the ancient principality of Dombes. The town's landmarks include a Parliament building, medieval ramparts and a hillside Chateau. You will also enjoy a traditional game of boules, otherwise known as pétanque.

Day 07, Nov 17: TREVOUX - VIENNE **[B,L,D]**

This morning's tour will take you through the chateaux, fields and vineyards of the Beaujolais wine region, the Pays d'Or or "land of the golden stones," named for the ochre limestone of its homes and castles. You will visit the medieval hilltop village of Oingt. You will also visit the winery and home of a local vintner, which will include wine tasting, a vineyard tour and explanation of the history of wine production in the region. Return to the ship in the early afternoon and continue cruising towards Vienne.

Day 08, Nov 18: VIENNE - TOURNON **[B,L,D]**

Situated between the wine regions of Burgundy and Beaujolais, Vienne has a significant Roman history, which is highlighted by its marvelously preserved ruins and remains. This morning, you will take a mini train tour and see the 1st-century Roman Temple of Augustus and Livia, the ruins of a Roman theater and the medieval

churches of St. Andre-Le-Bas and Abbey St. Pierre. As an alternative, you may choose to visit the castle (when available). Your ship will depart at midday for Tournon. This evening, explore the town on your own.

Day 09, Nov 19: TOURNON - VIVIERS [B,L,D]

This morning, visit Tain L'Hermitage, Tournon's "twin" town located across the Rhone River and linked by a 19th-century suspension bridge. The fertile soil and ideal climate of the region has made Tain L'Hermitage the premier producer of the Côtes du Rhone wines. Enjoy a wine tasting and then free time this afternoon to visit the 16th-century castle which is now a town hall. Return to the ship for lunch as we cruise to Viviers. Arriving this evening, you will enjoy a unique view of the town's history and legends. Participate in an onboard nougat demonstration or follow along on a "ghost walk" through this once-thriving medieval town, as fascinating and poignant stories of its past are brought to life by the town's current residents.

Day 10, Nov 20: VIVIERS – AVIGNON [B,L,D]

After breakfast, enjoy an excursion to Grignan, a magnificent village perched upon a hill surrounded by lavender fields, topped by a Renaissance castle. From the castle, enjoy a commanding view of the surrounding countryside. Return to the ship and cruise to Avignon. As your ship docks, look for the Avignon Bridge, made famous by the French children's song "Sur le pont d'Avignon" ("On the Bridge of Avignon"). Seven popes resided in the magnificent Gothic Papal Palace, which you will visit during your walking tour. You will also see the well-preserved medieval walls surrounding the historic center of town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the alternative, you can take an excursion to the Pont du Gard, a Roman aqueduct that is a masterpiece of engineering and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Your tour will also visit Uzès, a lovely Provencal small town known for its Castle of the Duke of Uzès (still occupied by the Duke and his family), medieval streets and a picturesque town square framed by archways. Enjoy free time for shopping in Uzès before returning to your ship.

Day 11, Nov 21: AVIGNON – LES BAUX – ARLES [B,L,D]

This morning, you will arrive in Arles and board a motor coach for an excursion to the village of Les Baux de Provence. This hilltop village and fortress was a Protestant stronghold during the French Wars of Religion until destroyed by Louis XIII and Cardinal Richelieu in 1633. At the castle, you will see examples of medieval siege weaponry. In the alternative, choose to take the "Van Gogh" tour which will take you to the Saint Paul de Mausole Asylum. Here, Van Gogh painted some of his most well-known paintings such as The Irises and Starry Night. Later, visit an olive farm to learn about this age-old Provencal farming tradition. Late this afternoon, your city tour of Arles takes you to the Romanesque cathedral and the Roman Amphitheater. The ship moors overnight in Arles.

Day 12, Nov. 22: ARLES – DISEMBAK [B]

Disembark your ship in Arles and transfer to Marseille Airport for your flight home. An optional 3 days program extension to Barcelona can be added on.

Cost per person

3 nights in Paris followed by a 7-nights Lyon to Arles all inclusive luxury cruise aboard the Ms Amadagio from USD 3330 (price includes Paris hotel accommodation & transfer to Lyon, all port taxes and transfer from Arles to Marseille airport). 3 nights Barcelona extension program is available for USD 780.

Prices are per person in Category E in a deluxe outside stateroom with window.

To upgrade to a higher Category, add the following amount per person:

Cat.	Deck	STATEROOM	Price
D	Piano	Window	\$ 199
C	Violin/Cello	French Balcony	\$ 579
B	Violin/Cello	French Balcony	\$ 779
A	Violin	French Balcony	\$ 889
S	Violin	French Balcony	\$ 1899

