River Cruising
Burgundy and Provence
May 14th to May 21st, 2017

The South of France beckons. The wines of Burgundy and the Rhone are the focus for French Rivers-part Deux. We’re chartering the entire vessel again for seven fun-filled days and nights.

Winemakers Chris Peterson (Avennia Winery), Todd Alexander (Force Majeure Vineyards) and Brian Carter (Brian Carter Cellars) complete our expert panel for this tour.

Your cruise includes accommodations on the luxurious SS Catherine, all meals, adult beverages, most shore excursions and gratuities. By chartering the entire vessel, we’re able to offer exclusive low rates to our guests.

- Sample vintages as we cruise the Saone and Rhone Rivers.
- Shore excursions in the villages on the river
- Dine with old and new friends
- Evening entertainment on board and ashore
- Wine discussion throughout the week
The itinerary

Day 1 – Lyon (embark)

Arrive at the Lyon-Saint Exupéry Airport, where you will be transferred to the ship. Tour options are offered to begin your Burgundy experience with a three night tour of the region using Dijon as your base. The ship departs the dock at 5:00 PM this evening. Guests can board the ship as early as 1:00 PM.

Day 2 – Macon (Beaune)

Learn about Burgundy’s celebrated wines on an excursion to the Hospices de Beaune, where monks have been making and selling wine to support their charitable work since the 15th century. In the evening, enjoy a Captain’s Welcome and Gala Dinner.

Day 3 – Lyon

Delve into France’s capital of gastronomy with a guided tour of Les Halles, Lyon’s world-famous food market, taking in a tantalizing array of elaborate food stalls, bars and restaurants.

As an alternative, you can choose a walking discovery tour of the city’s old Quartier St. Jean, where you’ll meet an artisan who will demonstrate the refined art of silk weaving. For something more active, you can opt to do your sightseeing by bicycle. This evening, enjoy a extra special “Illuminations” tour of the city.
Day 4 – Tournon, Tain l'Hermitage

You'll have an opportunity to experience this famous wine district in one of two ways today. Explore Tournon and its historic castle, then cross over the suspension bridge to Tain l’Hermitage to taste Côtes du Rhône wines. Or, you can choose a guided hike through the verdant Hermitage vineyards, followed by a tasting of distinctive local wines.

Day 5 – Viviers

Founded in the fifth century, Viviers retains much of its medieval character and charm, with narrow lanes and historic structures, such as the Maison des Chevaliers (House of Knights). See the sights on foot, then climb Rue du Château to take in the view from the 12th-century St. Vincent Cathedral. Afterwards, you can go inside the cathedral to hear a recital of music by Puccini, Bach and Handel.
Day 6 – Avignon

Enjoy a guided walking discovery tour of picturesque Avignon—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—before venturing inside the grand Palace of the Popes. Or, you can choose to explore a different side of the city on a guided tour that takes you “off the beaten path.” Yet another alternative is to “Go Active” with a guided kayak ride on the tranquil Gardon River. You'll glide under the Pont du Gard, a UNESCO-designated site that was built by the Romans 2,000 years ago.

Day 7 – Tarascon (Arles or Tarascon)

On today’s walking discovery tour of Arles, you’ll see a number of sites associated with Vincent van Gogh, as well as some fascinating ancient Roman monuments. You can also explore the city’s expansive open-air food market, where you’ll find plenty of local delicacies, including Burgundian and Jura cheeses, heirloom vegetables, honey, and sausages. Or, you can choose to explore the historic heart of Tarascon, with its medieval church, beautiful Renaissance palace and Souleiado Museum devoted to the region’s distinctive textiles. In the evening, enjoy a Captain’s Farewell Reception and Gala Dinner.
Day 8 – Avignon (disembark), transfer to Marseille (or other) Airports

Disembark the ship and transfer to Marseille International Airport for your flight home. Guests will have the option to spend additional time in Avignon with tours designed to see more of Provence. A separate tour option will provide for time in Nice and the Cote d’Azur.

Pricing (per person, based on double occupancy)

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Add $150 port taxes to these prices.

A few single cabins are available in category 5 at $3599, plus $150 port tax.

These prices apply for payment by visa or mastercard. A discount is available for payment by check of $200 per person.
To reserve your stateroom:

A deposit of $800 per person will confirm your reservation. A second deposit of $1000 is due August 31st, 2016. Balance of payment is due January 31st, 2017.

Please send passenger names as they appear on your passport and date of birth. Specific cabins will be assigned closer to departure. Confirmation will be emailed upon receipt of passenger data and payment.

Booking Early has its benefits

Booking early will guarantee:

- Best choice of stateroom selection
- Priority for pre- and post-cruise tours
- Priority for limited-capacity shore tours

SS Catherine Accommodations

To get a better sense of the cabin amenities and layout, visit this page at the Uniworld site. http://uniworld.com/cruises/europe/burgundy-and-provence/2016/deck-plans

ROYAL SUITE

- Lavishly appointed riverview royal suite (401 sq ft - 38 sq m) with an open-air balcony
- Handcrafted Savoir® of England beds, generous built-in closets, hair dryer, individual climate-control thermostat, direct-dial telephone, flatscreen TV with infotainment center, safe, separate spacious living room and a bathroom with a separate rain shower and tub, and a secluded toilet and bidet area
- Triple accommodation option available. The sofa converts into a comfortable bed to accommodate a third person
- Marble bathroom includes L’Occitane en Provence and Hermes bath and body products, plush towels, special towel warmers, backlit magnifying mirror, heated mirrors, cozy bathrobes and slippers
- Additional amenities and services include: in-suite butler service; packing and unpacking assistance; in-room breakfast; daily fruit and cookie plate, and an elegant evening snack; Nespresso coffee machine and fine teas; fully stocked mini bar; bottle of wine upon arrival; shoe shine; free laundry service; and a special dinner in Bar du Leopard
SUITE

- Lavishly appointed riverview suite (305 sq ft - 28.3 sq m) with an open-air balcony
- Handcrafted Savoir® of England beds, generous built-in closets, hair dryer, individual climate-control thermostat, direct-dial telephone, flatscreen TV with infotainment center, and safe
- Triple accommodation option available. The sofa converts into a comfortable bed to accommodate a third person
- Marble bathroom includes L’Occitane en Provence and Hermes bath and body products, plush towels, special towel warmers, backlit magnifying mirror, heated mirrors, cozy bathrobes and slippers
- Uniquely decorated and additional amenities and services, including: in-suite butler service; packing and unpacking assistance; in-room breakfast; daily fruit and cookie plate, and an elegant evening snack; Nespresso coffee machine and fine teas; fully stocked mini bar; bottle of wine upon arrival; shoe shine; free laundry service; and a special dinner in Bar du Leopard

CATEGORY 1

- Lavishly appointed riverview stateroom (194 sq ft - 18 sq m) with open-air balcony
- Handcrafted Savoir® of England beds, generous built-in closets, hair dryer, individual climate-control thermostat, direct-dial telephone, flatscreen TV with infotainment center, and safe
- Marble bathroom includes: L’Occitane en Provence bath and body products, plush towels, special towel warmers, backlit magnifying mirror, heated mirrors, cozy bathrobes and slippers

CATEGORY 2-3

- Lavishly appointed riverview stateroom (194 sq ft - 18 sq m) with a French balcony
- Handcrafted Savoir® of England beds, generous built-in closets, hair dryer, individual climate-control thermostat, direct-dial telephone, flatscreen TV with infotainment center, and safe
- Marble bathroom includes: L’Occitane en Provence bath and body products, plush towels, special towel warmers, backlit magnifying mirror, heated mirrors, cozy bathrobes and slippers
Lavishly appointed riverview stateroom (162 sq ft - 15 sq m)
Handcrafted Savoir® of England beds, generous built-in closets, hair dryer, individual climate-control thermostat, direct-dial telephone, flatscreen TV with infotainment center, and safe
Marble bathroom includes: L’Occitane en Provence bath and body products, plush towels, special towel warmers, backlit magnifying mirror, heated mirrors, cozy bathrobes and slippers

FAQ for 2017 in France

Uniworld Experience

In July 2015, Northwest Travel chartered the River Royale for seven nights in Bordeaux. My previous river cruising experience up to that time had all been with Viking River Cruises. I could not have been more pleased with my personal experience as coordinator and with the comments and reviews provided by my guests during and after the cruise. It was an easy decision to choose Uniworld for this 2017 event.

If you have enjoyed other river cruise companies, I guarantee you will love what Uniworld has elevated the experience to.

Air Transportation

Flight details for arrivals and departures:

The ship departs from the port of Lyon late in the afternoon on the 14th. It’s suggested that you plan to arrive early to take full advantage of your time aboard. You’re able to board the ship as early as 1:00 PM. Lyon is well worth a few days on its own. Think about arriving a few days early. Discount rates at select Lyon hotels will be available soon.

You can fly into Lyon with connecting flights. You may also consider flying into Paris and using the high speed train from CDG Airport to the center of Lyon. More details on flights and ground transportation will be posted by summer 2016.

Vancouver continues to be an excellent alternative to Seattle for discount travel to Europe. Comparisons made in early February for May travel show Seattle departures in the $1200-$1400 range with Vancouver flights under $800.
**Tour Extensions**
A three-night pre-cruise tour option will be available to Nice, Monaco, and the Cote d’Azur. This tour, based in Nice, will include a day at the Monaco Classic Grand Prix, as well as a visit to the Picasso Museum in Antibes.

A three-night post-cruise tour to the Champagne region will be offered, limited to 22 guests. This tour will feature visits and tastings at many of the Champagne producers as well as historic sites from Roman times to the battlefields of WW I.

A post-cruise extension to Avignon will be offered with the ability to participate in more wine tasting in the Châteauneuf-du-Pape region and non-wine sightseeing in this part of Provence. I expect that we will offer a visit to Les Baux, Pont du Gard, and a tour of a local truffle farm.

More detail will be available for all these options before Summer 2016 at www.nwtravel.com.

**Aboard Ship**
The order of the day is casual. There is no reason to pack any formal wear for your time aboard. The cruise line asks that you dress appropriately for dinner and evening time. There will be evening events scheduled both on and off ship. Our winemakers will discuss the regions at associated wines as we progress on our route.

You need not be concerned with motion during the cruise. River cruise ships are not subject to the same type of side to side motion common to ocean-going vessels.

There are three scheduled meals per day with table sizes ranging from two to ten guests. Seating is not assigned. Dine with a group of friends each evening or mix it up to enjoy your meal with friends met along the way.

Wine, beer, and liquor are included with your cruise.

**Documentation**
You’ll need a valid passport, which must have at least 6 months validity from the date of entry in France. No additional visa is needed for US or Canadian citizens.

**Your stateroom**
The SS Catherine was launched in 2014. She holds 159 guests in a variety of stateroom configurations and sizes. Some cabins offer picture windows, while others provide French
or full-sized balconies. Determine what’s right for you by looking over the cabin descriptions above or visiting the webpage at: http://uniworld.com/cruises/europe/burgundy-and-provence/2016/deck-plans.

**Dining**
The ship provides three meals a day, beginning with a breakfast buffet, plated lunch and dinner. Tables are not assigned. You’re free to dine with different group of friends each evening. The ship is able to accommodate a wide range of dietary restrictions and allergies.

**Sightseeing**
All shore tours offered by the cruise line are included in the cost of your tour. There will be additional wine touring options arranged by Northwest Travel at additional cost. I anticipate that additional wine visits will cost approximately $30-$45 each, mostly to cover transportation costs. Early booking guests will earn priority in selecting these tour options.

**Early booking incentive**
Guests who book early will have priority in stateroom selection. In additional, early booking will secure priority in selecting optional wine touring throughout the week and well as pre-cruise and post-cruise tour extensions, which will be limited to 22 guests for each tour. In addition, guests who book early will earn more chances to win an upgrade to a suite level stateroom, with a drawing to be held at the end of March 2017. Each week you’re confirmed, you earn another entry in the drawing.

**Weather**
May is an excellent time to visit the region. Summer tourists have not yet arrived, and the weather is fairly moderate with average temperatures ranging from 50°-72° in Lyon to 54°-73° in Avignon. Both locations average about 1.5 inches of rain for the month. We’ll have over 14 daylight hours for touring in May.

**Deposit and payment schedule**
Payments made to Northwest Travel Service are non-refundable. If you need to cancel, I will do everything possible to find someone to take your place. Cancellation insurance is an option to protect your deposit. Trip cancellation will cost between 6% and 10% of the total cost of your tour. Please request details about insurance when you make your reservation. An initial deposit of $800 per person is required to hold your reservation. An additional deposit of $1000 is due by August 31st with the balance due by January 31st, 2017.

To Book your accommodation for this cruise/tour program, send the following details to Brad Cilley at Northwest Travel Service. Email address is brad@nwtravel.com. The physical mailing address is printed below.
To Book your tour, provide the following information:

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If you have additional questions, please contact me at the number below or email me at [brad@nwtravel.com](mailto:brad@nwtravel.com). For updated information, visit us at [www.nwtravel.com](http://www.nwtravel.com)

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Northwest Travel Service  
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brad@nwtravel.com