Luxe
France
Exceptional Cruising Experiences

French Waterways
Cruising Inspiration and Information
Elite canal cruising in France

6 STAR SUPREME & 5 STAR GRAND LUXE BARGES

It’s no surprise that France is the world’s most popular destination - renowned for its top cuisine and haute couture, fine wines and beautiful countryside - but you’ll discover your true joie de vivre whilst cruising aboard a luxury barge. This is the ultimate in slow travel, gliding serenely through picture-book scenery, pretty villages and iconic towns.

French Waterways’ Luxe France collection provides an overview of just the most prestigious cruise vessels, those that consistently deliver outstanding cuisine and wines combined with impeccable service. Some of these barges are purpose built and some are converted from original cargo vessels, but all are created with the devotion and attention to the tiniest detail as befits the cultural heritage of this fine country.

Hospitality is an art at which these barges excel and they come highly recommended by us, and by those who continue to provide stunning reviews about their cruise vacations on board, many returning time and again for another taste of fabulous France.

See pages 5 to 7 for the top barges in the fabulous Burgundy region; cruise the famous Canal du Midi aboard the top barges on pages 8 to 10; and you’ll find your luxury barges in Provence, Champagne and the Loire region on pages 11, 12 and 13.

Whichever luxury barge or region you choose, look forward to relaxing in luxurious suites, reclining on sunny decks and dining in sumptuous style.

Best wishes

Ruth
Luxury hotel barging combines the exclusive comforts of a boutique hotel with the tranquillity of inland cruising. Your suites are private, air-conditioned just as you like it, and you'll probably sleep better than you do at home upon top quality mattresses and high thread-count linens to sink into after a rewarding day in the fresh air.

Each hotel barge is individual in style and design and their professional crews offer superior qualities of hospitality and genuine care. To top it all, you'll be travelling through marvellous vistas and only have to unpack once...

Rich landscapes, lush vineyards, historic towns and the prettiest villages form the backdrop for exquisite personalised cruising itineraries.

These are simply the best luxury barge cruises in France.
Uniquely memorable

WHY CHOOSE ELITE LUXURY CRUISING?

Beloved home of fine wines, exceptional cuisine, protected ingredients and a rich and diverse cultural history, La Belle France also offers a unique waterways experience.

Cruising along its rivers and canals brings unexploited opportunities to see France as she should be seen, discovering its village artisans and spectacular vistas up close and personal. Hotel barges are brimful of private tastings, personally guided tours and plenty of down-time, too, to stroll through authentic markets, cycle into pretty hamlets, or simply recline on deck and let the world drift by.

Aboard, your comfort takes precedence. You’ll discover a wine collection that exemplifies France’s greatest export, a spacious saloon and peaceful deck for quality quiet time, and staterooms fit for royalty.

Ashore, discover France’s glorious architecture, celebrated eateries, finest cellars and fabled landscapes dotted with spectacular châteaux.

Reserved guest dining at Michelin restaurants:

⭐ L'Abbaye de la Bussière
⭐ L'Amaryllis
⭐ Le Royal Aux Terrasses
Burgundy

THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS BARGES

Charter these 8 guest luxury barges on the pretty Canal de Bourgogne to uncover the ‘best of Burgundy’s best’ in cuisine, wines, liqueurs, foodie epicenters, châteaux and half-timbered houses. They have four spacious suites

‘Could not have been any better! We loved every minute and were so very sad to leave.’

BELMOND LILAS - 6 star

GRAND CRU - 6 star
THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS BARGES

Belmond Amaryllis (8 guests) and Belmond Fleur de Lys (6 guests) also cruise the gorgeous Ouche Valley on the Canal de Bourgogne.

“I could not have asked for a better crew, more delicious food or a more beautiful boat. It was an absolute gem of a trip.”
THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS BARGES

Prospérité offers 8 guests classic design and comfort on the gorgeous Burgundy canal but choose Grand Victoria for 6 guests to cruise the enchanting Saône through the region’s heartland.

PROSPÉRITÉ - 6 star

‘The crew went out of their way to make our trip really special. We had amazing excursions, suitable for all the family and every single minute special - thank you!’

GRAND VICTORIA- 5 star

Grand Victoria
Length: 128 ft / 39 m
The Canal du Midi

The Most Prestigious Barges

One of the oldest canals in France is unique for its royal command, its ovoid-shaped locks, its climate and its famed Cité de Carcassonne, the stunning medieval castle. It’s also home to the up-coming wines of the Languedoc region and, at its eastern end, leads into the natural wonders of the Camargue and the sun-drenched Mediterranean. Luxury barge Roi Soleil offers 6 guests a sublime cruise along the Canal du Midi and through the Camargue to Provence.

'Every detail of the Barge was perfect, the meals outstanding, excursions great, and fellowship super fun. Thank you for helping us.'
THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS BARGES

Luxury barges Belmond Alouette accommodates 4 guests; the stunning Savannah 7 guests.

“Ruth – thank you so much for steering us to the Savannah. This was truly one of the most enjoyable vacations we’ve been on.”
ENCHANTÉ - 5 star

“We had the most amazing week with fabulous food and wine, gorgeous scenery, and the best comfort all round. The staff were exceptional...”

THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS BARGES

Choose Espérance for 6 guest charters and Enchanté for 8 guest charters or book-by-cabin.

ÉSPÉRANCE - 5 star
THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS BARGES

Discover historic treasures and the delights of Mediterranean cuisine aboard this magnificent charter or book-by-cabin hotel barge. She accommodates up to 12 guests in superb luxury.

BELMOND NAPOLEON
6 star

“The chef was amazing and the rest of the crew did everything they could to make our trip memorable. Thank you for making my 60th Birthday so fabulous!”
Champagne

THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS BARGES

The most effervescent region of all, brimming with delicious vintages pressed from miles of vineyarded hillsides; yours to experience aboard these superb 8-berth luxury charter barges.

BELMOND PIVOINE - 6 star

“The staff went beyond the call of duty tracking down a very special and specific anniversary wine for us - so very appreciated. I cannot think of a way to improve our experience!”

C'EST LA VIE - 5 star
Loire

THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS BARGES

Often called the 'garden of France' the scenery along the Loire valley is enchanting, beloved by painters as well as nobility. Cruise aboard the aptly named Renaissance, with your charter party for 8 guests or book-by-cabin cruising companions.

To claim that our six days on board far exceeded our expectations is a massive understatement. Each of us enjoyed the experience immensely.

Next steps

This elite collection of luxury hotel barges cruises from April to October along the most delightful and fascinating waterways of France. A typical day includes a morning cruise through charming villages and an afternoon excursion to an outstanding attraction, interspersed with delicious gourmet meals, on board, at a Michelin restaurant or perhaps even a countryside picnic. At the end of your week, replete, restored and truly relaxed, you’ll already be planning your next visit. Get in touch for advice and guidance, and let your adventure begin.
Find out more about cruising the waterways of France:
french-waterways.com/hotel-barge-cruises/barging-in-france/
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www.french-waterways.com

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