

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 luxury vessels on pages 8 to 11; and explore Provence, Champagne and the Loire region aboard the gorgeous barges on pages 12 to 15.



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

Exclusive comfort

EXCEPTIONAL INLAND CRUISING

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.



PROSPÉRITÉ - 6 star



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



GRAND CRU - 6 star



THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS BARGES

Belmond Amaryllis (8 guests) and Belmond Fleur de Lys (6 guests) cruise the delightfully peaceful Saône.



BELMOND FLEUR DE LYS
6 star



"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."

BELMOND AMARYLLIS
6 star



THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS BARGES

Both Belmond Lilas, cruising with 8 guests in superlative contemporary design, and Grand Victoria, welcoming 6 guests, cruise the enchanting Saône through Burgundy's heartland.

LILAS - 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**



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.

ROI SOLEIL

5 star



"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.



SAVANNAH - 5 star

"Ruth - thank you so much for steering us to the Savannah. This was truly one of the most enjoyable vacations we've been on."

BELMOND ALOUETTE

5 star



THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS BARGES

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

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...."

**ÉSPÉRANCE
5 star**



THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS BARGES

Choose Elegance for opulent 6 guest charters amidst her deeply soothing mahogany interiors, stunning staterooms, and exquisite on board dining and exclusive excursion choices.

ELEGANCE - 5 star



Rhone | Provence

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

5 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!"

THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS BARGES

Choose Belmond Pivoine for 8 guest charters and the pinnacle of hotel barge hospitality. It truly is the most sublime way to see the Camargue.

BELMOND PIVOINE

6 star



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

Champagne

THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS BARGES

The most effervescent region of all, brimming with delicious vintages pressed from miles of vineyarded hillsides; yours to experience when you charter these superb luxury 6- & 8-berth barges.



C'EST LA VIE - 5 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!!!"

**BELMOND COQUELICOT
6 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 a charter party of 8 or book-by-cabin to enjoy meeting cruising companions.

RENAISSANCE - 5 star



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

DISCOVER FRANCE IN STYLE ON THE FRENCH WATERWAYS

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:

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