

# FRENCH FÊTE ON THE RHÔNE & SAÔNE

AVIGNON TO LYON – 11 DAYS / 10 NIGHTS



AVIGNON WITH SAINT BENEZET BRIDGE

This grand journey includes two of France's greatest rivers—as well as Burgundy, Provence, and the Camargue wetlands. Embark in the dramatic walled city of Avignon and end in the foodie paradise of Lyon, where the Saône and Rhône majestically converge. Along the way are Arles with its 1st-century AD Roman amphitheater; Viviers for truffle and prehistoric cave art encounters; the fine wines and chocolates of Tain-l'Hermitage; unforgettable Mâcon; and other ports. You also have plenty of ways to personalize your cruise through RIVERSIDE CHOICE—food tastings, instruction on local activities, even active tours by kayak or e-bike. The ultimate treat is scenic cruising through the Rhône Delta—très magnifique!

## ITINERARY

Day 1 – Avignon	Day 6 – Tain-l'Hermitage
Day 2 – Avignon	Day 7 – Lyon
Day 3 – Arles/ Rhône Delta	Day 8 – Lyon
Day 4 – Tarascon/ Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Day 9 – Mâcon
Day 5 – Viviers	Day 10 – Chalon-sur-Saône
	Day 11 – Lyon



## DATES IN 2027

23 May, 9 Jun, 26 Jun\*, 13 Jul\*, 30 Jul,  
16 Aug, 2 Sep, 19 Sep, 6 Oct

\* departure during lavender season



## RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE EVENT

Immerse yourself in the legendary aromas and flavors of Châteauneuf-du-Pape wines during an exclusive visit to a celebrated wine estate. Travel into the heart of the Rhône Valley for a VIP wine tasting. Hear about the stony terroir that produces the wines' distinct characteristics; and join a sommelier for a tasting, expertly paired with an assortment of traditional French breads and cheeses.



TARASCON CASTLE

### DAY 1 – AVIGNON

Welcome to the spectacular walled city of Avignon, whose UNESCO World Heritage ramparts were built in the 14th century to protect the city from mercenaries. Embark the Riverside Ravel and at your first onboard dinner, meet fellow guests and raise a glass to toast your exciting river journey.

### DAY 2 – AVIGNON

Today you can fully engage Avignon's Provençal charm and see just what inspired Europe's powerful 14th-century pontiffs, Florentine poet Petrarch, and countless merrymakers beneath a certain bridge in the Middle Ages! With a RIVERSIDE CHOICE selection of excursions, explore the awe-inspiring Palace of the Popes, the world's most important Gothic palace; kayak below the 1st-century Pont du Gard Roman aqueduct; and other fantastic options. For a complete list of offerings, see the Riverside website. Your ship departs Avignon before dinner.

### DAY 3 – ARLES / RHÔNE DELTA SCENIC CRUISING

Spend today in the magnetic city of Arles, where artist Vincent van Gogh spent more than a year capturing the beauty of the area on canvas. Morning and afternoon RIVERSIDE CHOICE options include a Taste of Aix-en-Provence with a curated selection of local specialties; a rugged 4x4 safari in the Camargue, western Europe's largest river delta; and more. This evening, dinner is prepared and served al fresco-style on the Vista Deck as your ship passes through the mesmerizing Rhône Delta.

### DAY 4 – TARASCON / CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

Rise and shine! Begin the day with a delicious breakfast before heading into the Provençal town of Tarascon. How about a guided tour through St. Rémy that follows in the footsteps of Nostradamus and Van Gogh—or wine tasting the Roman way? After lunch on the ship enjoy time and admire the passing scenery, arrive in Château-neuf-du-Pape for a RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE EVENT at a featured wine estate. Surrounded by an unforgettable atmosphere, you'll be treated to an exclusive wine tasting to learn how the aromas of berries, plums, and earthy spices are achieved. Sample free-flowing Châteauneuf-du-Pape wines and hear how historical popes were associated with the famous appellation.

### DAY 5 – VIVIERS

Viviers greets you with a friendly "Bonjour" and a lot to see! With RIVERSIDE CHOICE, learn the fine art of truffle hunting at an authentic French truffle farm; trek or kayak through the lovely Ardèche Gorge, Europe's Grand Canyon; and other tempting activities. Crowning the day is a lovely after-dinner stroll. See Old Town Viviers in its prettiest light as the sun dips down over the horizon, accented by a performance by a brilliant local artist.

### DAY 6 – TAIN-L'HERMITAGE

Your time today in Tain-l'Hermitage is an absolute treat. You might enjoy a tour focusing on the wine and wonders of medieval Tournon Castle. Or, for a more sensory experience, learn how to pair wine and chocolate during a wonderful tasting at Valrhona's City of Chocolate. The afternoon is ideal for socializing in the Atelier with a big bowl of decadent ice cream as your ship makes its way to Lyon.



CAMARGUE CATTLE, RHÔNE DELTA

## DAY 7 – LYON

The options are endless today in Lyon, so what's your pleasure? You could investigate the city's highlights with its Old Town traboules (secret passageways), exquisite central Presqu'île district sandwiched between the Rhône and Saône Rivers, and an ascent up Fourvière Hill. Or maybe taste and sample your way through the renowned Les Halles de Lyon Paul Bocuse market with the guidance of a culinary expert.

## DAY 8 – LYON

Another day in Lyon gives you the chance to really get to know this amazing city. RIVERSIDE CHOICE excursions include private wine tasting in Beaujolais or a unique tour focused on the colorful street art of Lyon! Alternatively, you can head out on your own to shop or maybe try the city's many unique flavors and dishes. The ship departs late and cruises through the night.

## DAY 9 – MÂCON

A delicious hot-or-not breakfast starts your day the way you like best—with endless cups of piping-hot coffee or tea. Once you're sufficiently fueled up, step off the ship for a memorable day in Mâcon. Morning and afternoon excursion options abound, like an invigorating e-bike tour through Chardonnay with wine tasting, and an



E-BIKE THROUGH CHARDONNAY



HÔTEL-DIEU, LYON

authentic French truffle-hunting (and tasting) experience. Back on your ship this evening, your day concludes with a delectable al fresco barbecue dinner, prepared and served up on the Vista Deck with the scenery and ambiance of Mâcon as the backdrop!

## DAY 10 – CHALON-SUR-SAÔNE

A thrilling day is on tap in Chalon-sur-Saône, birthplace of photography. With RIVERSIDE CHOICE, consider an excursion focusing on the rich culinary heritage of Chalon, with tastings of regional specialties that may include Crème de Cassis, French baked goods, artisanal chocolate, wine, or other temptations. Your ship departs in the afternoon, with free time for a pampering on-board massage or spa treatment—your personal Butler can assist with scheduling one.

## DAY 11 – LYON

After breakfast, disembark your ship. For Riverside transfer details, see page 46 or our website.



CHALON-SUR-SAÔNE