# SOUTH OF FRANCE SOIRÉE WITH PONT DU GARD & RHÔNE DELTA AVIGNON TO LYON - 8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS



CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

The South of France – the embodiment of style and sophistication. This luxury Rhône River cruise features stately Avignon, Van Gogh's beloved Arles, Tarascon, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Viviers, and the foodie paradise of Lyon. Highlights include the Palace of the Popes, a medie-val château tour, chocolate tasting, and al fresco dining on the Vista Deck. You can also select excursions meaningful to you with RIVERSIDE CHOICE, like Pont du Gard, Aix-en-Provence, the Camargue, or Ardèche Gorge (Europe's Grand Canyon) – or stay active with kayaking, cycling, or hiking. Scenic cruising through the Rhône Delta is the crowning glory of a perfect week!

# ITINERARY



## DATES IN 2025

8 Jun, 22 Jun\*, 6 Jul, 20 Jul, 3 Aug, 17 Aug, 31 Aug, 14 Sep, 28 Sep \*departure during lavender season



## RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE EVENT

Escape into an unrivaled world of flavors and South-of-France ambiance at Domaine de Panéry winery. As atmospheric music welcomes you, tour the estate's wine cave to learn about the process behind its award-winning organic reds, whites, and rosés. Then, enjoy a tasting surrounded by the delightful gardens, vineyards, and olive groves, followed by a multi course Dinner.

### DAY 1 – AVIGNON

Welcome to Avignon, one-time home to Europe's powerful 14th-century pontiffs. Embark the luxurious Riverside Ravel and relax as you settle in – or, if you arrive early, join us for a short orientation of this fascinating city. The ship departs this evening – be sure to watch for the medieval arches of Saint-Bénézet Bridge, inspiration for the 16th-century song "Sur le pont d'Avignon". Tonight, meet your crew and fellow traveling companions during your first onboard dinner.

## DAY 2 – ARLES / RHÔNE DELTA Scenic Cruising

Today is dedicated to Arles' warm embrace - the very place where Vincent van Gogh spent more than a year capturing the beauty of the area on canvas. Your RIVERSIDE CHOICE selection of excursions includes a guided walk that follows in the artist's footsteps, a tasting of the area's amazing wines, or a spectacular sound and light show. Outings are also available to Aix-en-Provence or the Camargue with its pink flamingos and wild horses. This evening, head up to the Vista Deck for unhindered views of the scenic Rhône Delta and a delicious al fresco dinner aboard one of the only river vessels that prepares and serves an UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE Al Fresco Dinner on the top deck while cruising. Ship cruises overnight.

#### DAY 3 - TARASCON / AVIGNON

The pleasant Provençal town of Tarascon greets you early this morning. How about a guided tour of its medieval castle, whose dungeons once held prisoners doomed during the French Revolution? Or, maybe a walking tour with wine tasting or eBiking to Avignon with a picnic en route! After lunch on the ship, return to Avignon for more wonderful RIVERSIDE CHOICE options at the 1st-century Roman aqueduct, Pont du Gard, including kayaking along the Gardon River below the monument. You can also remain in Avignon for an enjoyable eBiking tour - or head out on your own for some shopping. Tonight, your ship remains in port for a RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE cellar tour and tasting event followed by a multi course dinner at the beautiful Domaine de Panéry winery.

## DAY 4 – AVIGNON / Châteauneuf-du-pape

Enjoy more time to explore Avignon on your own, or join another enriching RIVERSIDE CHOICE excursion. The ship departs this afternoon for evening arrival in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, the perfect setting for a memorable dinner up on the Vista Deck. Ship cruises overnight.

#### DAY 5 – VIVIERS

Viviers greets you with a friendly "Bonjour" and a lot to see! RIVERSIDE CHOICE has an incredible lineup of options: visit an authentic French truffle farm and Château de Grignan; hike through the lovely Ardéche Gorge, Europe's Grand Canyon; encounter prehistoric Europe through an exceptional collection of cave art at Chauvet Cave 2; or take a relaxing guided stroll through Viviers with music and an introduction to Pétanque (lawn bowling). Crowning the day are dinner up on the Vista Deck and the UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE evening stroll. See Old Town Viviers in its prettiest light as the sun dips down over the horizon, accented by an outstanding performance by a brilliant local artist. Ship departs late and cruises overnight.

### DAY 6 – TAIN L'HERMITAGE

Get to know charming Tain l'Hermitage today with RIVERSIDE CHOICE. How about a tasting of local wines or decadent Valrhona chocolate? You might also enjoy a walk through neighboring Tournon to see its photogenic hilltop castle, or a visit to whimsical Cheval Palace, the 19th-century creation of a simple postman who stumbled on a stone. Back on board, enjoy a relaxing afternoon and evening of socializing, dining, and scenic cruising.

#### DAY 7 – LYON

The options are endless today, so what's your pleasure? RIVERSIDE CHOICE offers a guided walk through the Old Town and visit to the Roman amphitheater; time to investigate Lyon's traboules (secret passageways), followed by a funicular ride up Fourvière Hill; wine tastings in the Beaujolais or Chardonnay regions; a trip back in time in medieval Pérouges; or even guided eBiking through Lyon. Your ship remains in port this evening, so you're free to check out Lyon's dazzling nightlife!

#### DAY 8 - LYON

After breakfast, disembark the Riverside Ravel and enjoy complimentary transfers to the airport, train station, or central hotel.