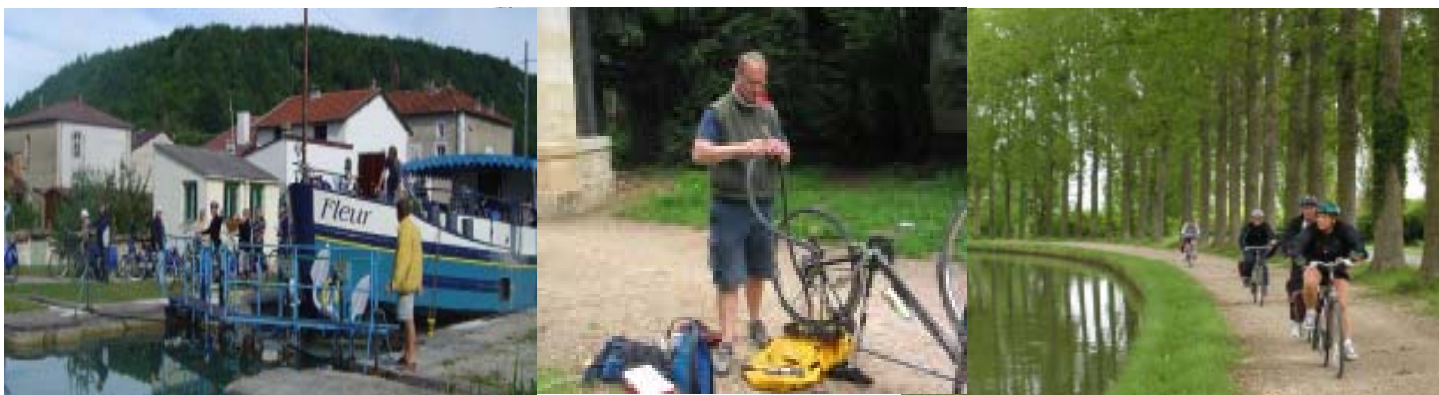


# *European barging and river cruises*



*2012 Casual Bike & Barge Brochure*



Seine valley

8 days

\$1790

### *Royal splendor in a wooded surrounding*

*During this tour, which starts at Paris, we follow the Seine in southern direction. This region has a rich, royal history and the castle of Fontainebleau is a magnificent example of this past. Just as impressive are the royal gardens, which the French kings had their royal architects lay out for them. The perfectly symmetrical gardens are a fine example. We cruise the woods of Fontainebleau heading for the artists village Barbizon. We follow the Seine up to Moret-sur-Loing, a cosy village on the banks of the Loing. From there we follow the canals Du Centre to our final destination Montargis, a picturesque town with beautiful little canals.*

#### **Sat DAY 1 Arrival in Paris.**

Embarkation at 4pm. After dinner, town walk along the banks of the river Seine.

#### **Sun DAY 2 Paris - Melun** (about 30 km).

You spent the morning on board to enjoy Paris from the river. After lunch, the bike tour starts from the lock of Evry. You stay along the banks of the river for a while. Final destination of your bike tour is Melun, a town which is known as 'le domaine des reines blanches', because in former years it used to be the domain of the widows of the French kings. After dinner, a walk of the town.

#### **Mon DAY 3 Melun – Moret-sur-Loing** (about 35 km).

Today we bike through the wonderful forests of Fontainebleau. First destination is the artistic village of Barbizon, where since the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century many painters have found inspiration. At the time, a group of landscape painters formed the 'school of Barbizon'. We visit the local museum. After this, we continue our tour to the palace of Fontainebleau, much in favor among the French kings, because of the extensive possibilities to hunt in the surrounding forests. In the castle itself there is a museum of Napoleon, among other things. Fontainebleau is also a pleasant town to walk around or to shop. We find the Fleur again in Moret-sur-Loing, a charming mediaeval fortified town, strategically situated on the banks of the Loing, where painter Sisley found inspiration for his beautiful impressionist paintings.

#### **Tues DAY 4 Moret-sur-Loing – Nemours** (45 km).

We follow the picturesque valleys of the Orvanne and Lunain with its old farmhouses and castle ruins. On our way we pass a fruit farm and a cheese farm. You might end up with home-

made jam in your pannier! Later on we find the rocks of Nemours on our way and we meet the Fleur again in Nemours. There we may visit the castle or the prehistoric museum of the Ile-de-France region.

#### **Wed DAY 5 Nemours - Neronville** (approx 40 km).

Today we bike through a wooded area with rugged rocks. After this we go west to Château-Landon, a beautifully situated town, where we visit the Abbey of St.-Severin which dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. A local guide will tell us all about the history of this beautiful town. Final destination of today is rural Neronville.

#### **Thur DAY 6 Neronville -Montargis** (about 35 km).

Today our bike tour goes to the mediaeval town of Ferrieres with its old town center, which has been preserved beautifully. And in the middle of the narrow streets we find a splendid monastery. Final destination of today is Montargis, with its 15.000 inhabitants the biggest town of the Loiret after Orléans. Unfortunately this former royal residence was destroyed by fire in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. But the canals are still there. They are decorated with lots of flowers and give the town a lot of charm.

#### **Fri DAY 7 Montargis** (40 km).

From Montargis we bike along the l'Ouanne by bike to Château-Renard, where we can visit the ruins of a castle from the 10<sup>th</sup> century. We will also visit a Apiculture's Living Museum. There you can see beekeepers and their bees at work, and you'll be able to sample their delicious honey.

#### **Sat DAY 8 Montargis** Departure from barge.



Seine valley

8 days

\$1790

***Bike & Barge or Cruise***

Most of our tours are offered as bike-barge vacations. You will cover a daily distance of 30 – 50 kilometers by bike, accompanied by an experienced guide, and your floating hotel will be waiting for you at your destination. That doesn't mean you have to bike every day. You can always opt for a walk along the canal or for an easy chair on the sun deck. In the spring and in the autumn, you can also opt for a so-called 'cruise'. Then the barge is the means of transportation, combined with a coach or public transportation.

**Itinerary:**

Paris – Melun – Moret-sur-Loing – Nemours - Montargis

**Highlights:**

Paris – Fontainebleau - artists village Barbizon – Moret sur Loing - the rocks of Nemours – Chateau-Landon - medieval city Ferrières - Montargis

**Dates\*:****Paris - Montargis:**

July 7 - 14

**Montargis - Paris:**

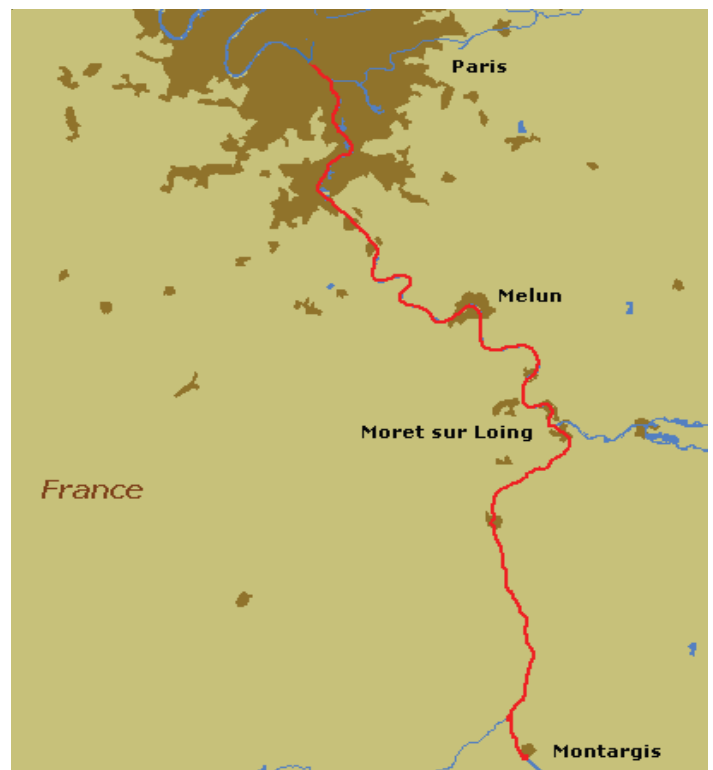
July 14 - 21

\*Additional dates to be added later

**Included** in the price: nights spent, breakfast, packed lunch, dinner (3 courses) bed linen, bike rental/helmet and tour guide.

**Not included** in the price are: entrance fees for museums and the like, drinks on board, personal insurances and transfers to and from the barge.

10 double cabins with portholes, have two low beds with en-suite facilities. All the common spaces are air-conditioned. **The cabins are air conditioned.**





Amsterdam - Bruges

8 days

\$1690

### *Flemish hospitality and history*

During this tour, the historical Flemish cities are central: Antwerp, Ghent and Bruges. But before we arrive there, you will get to know a very beautiful part of the Netherlands. You bike along the winding river Vecht with its impressive castles on its banks, you visit a real Dutch cheese farm, where cheese is still produced according to traditional methods and you visit the Dutch windmills in Kinderdijk. From the fortified town Willemstad, which is situated on the impressive wide Zeeland streams, we head for Belgium. There we spent the night in Antwerp, the city of Rubens, and of course we will visit the Rubens house. You bike from Antwerp to Ghent along the beautiful tidal river Nederschelde, in order to breathe in the atmosphere of the days of old in the town center, with its impressive Belfort and the St. Baafs-cathedral, where you can admire the famous triptych of painter Jan van Eyck. Final destination is Bruges, with its picturesque town center probably the most beautiful of the historical Flemish cities.

#### **Sat DAY 1 Amsterdam - Vianen** (about 15 km).

Embarkation at 1pm. Barge departs at 1:30pm We take off to Nichtevecht by barge. From there we make a short bike trip to Breukelen along the winding river Vecht. We visit a real Dutch cheese farm, where cheese is still produced according to traditional methods. By the end of the afternoon the barge takes us to Vianen, a small fortified town on the river Lek.

#### **Sun DAY 2 Vianen - Dordrecht** (about 50 km).

In the morning our bike ride leads to Schoonhoven, the Silvertown. From Schoonhoven we continue to Kinderdijk right across the Alblasserwaard. There an impressive row of large windmills appears, built to drain the Alblasserwaard. We can visit one of the mills. Then the barge takes us further to Dordrecht, one of the oldest towns in Holland, and an important junction for shipping traffic. Overnight in the historic port of Wolwevershaven. After dinner, a walk of the town.

#### **Mon DAY 3 Dordrecht - Tholen** (about 35 or 50 km).

During breakfast we cruise to Willemstad, an old fortified town on the Haringvliet. From there we bike along the impressive complex of locks 'de Volkerak' to Tholen. Tholen once was an island in the middle of the large Zeeland streams, where many people fished for their living. Nowadays Tholen is connected to the mainland in various ways. But it is still a picturesque village with many relics of an eventful past.

#### **Tues DAY 4 Tholen - Antwerp** (35 km).

We bike through a forest area, "the Wouwse Plantage", to the south. The barge waits for us at the end of the dam and from there we cruise the port of Antwerp to the center of the city. Antwerp is not only known as a diamond city, but also as native city of painter Rubens. In the Cathedral Of Our Lady we can admire his work. Around this church and the Market Square beautiful town houses from a rich past are situated. After dinner, a walk of the town.

#### **Wed DAY 5 Antwerp - Dendermonde** (30 - 55 km).

After breakfast we lock out of the port to the Zeeschelde. We follow this beautiful tidal river upstream to Dendermonde. There is a beautiful bike path along the river, and the landscape around the Schelde is magnificent. We can join the Iris again halfway in Temse or continue all the way to Dendermonde, a friendly little town along the river. In Dendermonde we will visit the beautiful town hall and have a little beertasting. After dinner, a walk of the town.

#### **Thur DAY 6 Dendermonde - Ghent** (approx 35 km).

The bike tour follows again the river Schelde in the direction of Ghent, a lively university city, again one with a rich past. In the afternoon you have the opportunity to discover the city some more, or to shop in the lively center. The city has its origins in Roman Times, at the place where the rivers Leie and Schelde converge. This favorable situation brought a great deal of prosperity over the years, which had its peak late 13<sup>th</sup>, early 14<sup>th</sup> century. Textile industry brought great wealth. In the city center many old patrician houses have been preserved. In the Clothmakers' Hall (1425) textile merchants used to meet. Major church is St. Baafs' Cathedral, raised in various ages and in various styles. In the cathedral you can admire a number of masterpieces of mediaeval painting, of which the 'Adoration of the Lamb' by Jan van Eyck is the most famous.

#### **Fri DAY 7 Ghent - Bruges** (45 km).

Our bike tour through the pleasant country side of Western Flanders to Bruges starts right out of town. Today our final destination is Bruges, also called the Venice of the North, maybe is the most beautiful of all Flemish cities. Its old center, which dates from the Middle Ages, is almost completely intact. At the time Bruges was a metropole, center of trade and art, which we can still fully enjoy.

#### **Sat DAY 8 Bruges** Departure from barge.



Holland and Belgium

8 days

\$1690

### Netherlands and Belgium

Of course the Netherlands and Belgium are perfect for a nice bike-berge vacation. The country is flat and there are separate bicycle paths almost everywhere. Many of the historic cities are situated on the water and the barges moored within walking distance of the city center. The country landscape is strongly varying and there are many sights, such as the famous Keukenhof, historical village "De Zaanse Schans" and National Park "De Hoge Veluwe".

### Itinerary:

Amsterdam - Vianen – Dordrecht – Tholen - Antwerp – Dendermonde - Ghent – Bruges

### Highlights:

Amsterdam - Cheese farm – windmills Kinderdijk – Rubens house in Antwerp – Belfort in Ghent – round trip of the canals of Bruges

### Dates\*:

#### Amsterdam – Bruges:

July 28 - August 4

August 25 - September 1

#### Bruges - Amsterdam:

August 4 - 11

September 1 - 8

\*Additional dates to be added later

**Included** in the price: nights spent, breakfast, packed lunch, dinner (3 courses) bed linen, bike rental/helmet and tour guide.

**Not included** in the price are: entrance fees for museums and the like, drinks on board, personal insurances and transfers to and from the barge.

12 double cabins with portholes, have two low beds with en-suite facilities. All the common spaces are air-conditioned. **The cabins are air conditioned.**





Moselle

8 days

\$1790

### *Fine German wines and rich history*

The tour starts in Metz, France, with her splendid cathedral. We bike through the charming French countryside with welcoming villages, where the inhabitants are proud of their sweet, smooth wines and golden "Mirabellen" liqueur (plum liqueur). We continue into Luxembourg where we spend the night in Remich. In Germany we will first follow the river Saar to charming Saarburg, with the stunning waterfalls in the city center. Then, of course, there is Trier, the oldest city of Germany with the Porta Nigra dating from the first century after Christ. After Trier we follow the Mosel downstreams along the endless vineyards and the enchanting old cities Bernkastel and Cochem. It goes without saying that we will taste the local wines whenever we can.

#### **Sat DAY 1 Metz**

This tour starts in Metz, strategically situated between Côtes de Moselle and the plateau Lorrain. These days, the rich mediaeval city is a traffic junction, an administrative center, a center of learning, but especially a lively center of trade. A visit to the St. Etienne Cathedral, one of the most beautiful gothic cathedrals in France, is a must. This cathedral sits in the middle of the old city center, where shopping is also good.

#### **Sun DAY 2 Metz - Konigsmacher** (about 30 - 50 km).

The barge leaves early today and we have breakfast during sailing. Our bike tour starts in Talange and leads us through the French countryside. There is long option to the fort Hackenberg, part of the Maginot line. The short option goes to Thionville.. We can visit a place where the French locals make eau de Vie in Petit Hettange. We meet the barge in Konigsmacher.

#### **Mon DAY 3 Konigsmacher - Remich** (about 50 km).

Today's tour leads us via the beautiful valley of the Mosel across the French border into Luxembourg. We may visit the castle of Sierck-les-Bains, beautifully situated on the banks of the Mosel river. On top of the hill there is a castle from the 11th century, which was at stake in the battle between the duke of Lorraine and the archbishop of Trier in the 12th century. We spend the night in Remich. Here the Mosel forms the border between Germany and Luxembourg and Remich is on Luxembourg ground. Close to Remich we may visit the small village of Nennung, where you can visit an old roman mansion. The nearly undamaged mosaic floor in the party hall is extremely beautiful.

#### **Tues DAY 4 Remich - Saarburg** (45 km).

Today we follow the valley of the Mosel and Saar to the north and we visit charming Saarburg. On the way we visit a winecellar in Wormeldange, where they make 'Cremant de Luxembourg', a sparkling wine where this region is famous for. Saarburg is an interesting old town situated in the most beautiful part of the Saar valley. The castle of Saarburg was built here in the middle

of the 10th century. In the middle of town we come across a waterfall of 20 meters high. At the foot of this waterfall there is an old mill, which is driven by the small river. In this part of town most of the old houses from the 17th and 18th century, which give Saarburg such a picturesque look, are still intact.

#### **Wed DAY 5 Saarburg - Trier** (35 km).

Today we bike on to Trier, an interesting and lively city, the oldest city in Germany. According to the Romans, Trier was founded around 15 before Christ by Caesar Augustus under the name of Augusta Treverum. As a trading town and administrative center, Trier flourished during the late imperial age. This Roman golden age has left us with a respectable number of monuments. Most authentic is the city gate Porta Nigra, which was built around 18 after Christ.

#### **Thur DAY 6 Trier - Bernkastel Kues** (approx 50 km).

Today we start sailing early and we start cycling in Schweich. From there lovely vineyards stretch out in many places. We cycle past Trittenheim and Piesport, both big names. Piesport produces a number of beautiful white wines. Especially the 'Piesporter Goldtröpfchen' enjoys great fame. Trittenheim lies in a sharp hairpin turn in the Mosel. It is surrounded by mountains covered with extensive vineyards.

#### **Fri DAY 7 Bernkastel Kues - Cochem** (45 km).

Again we join the barge in the morning for a while. Later we cycle along the Mosel downstreams past Traben-Trarbach and Zell. Traben-Trarbach is surrounded by woods and extensive vineyards and it is the major center of wine trade in the Mosel region. Zell is beautifully situated on the Mosel, where the river meanders through the hills in many loops. Our final destination is Cochem, a cosy and characteristic Mosel town, with steep wine mountains, wooded hills, mediaeval fortresses and a picturesque center with beautiful timber-framed houses.

**Sat DAY 8 Cochem** Departure from barge.

# Sailing Home



## Moselle

## 8 days

## \$1790

### Moselle Germany

*Fine German wines and rich history.*

*The countryside on both banks of the Mosel are splendid, the cool wines taste deliciously, the picturesque little towns have rich histories and the conditions for cycling are excellent indeed. Here you find the perfect mix of ingredients for a fine bike and barge vacation. This tour takes us through a wonderful, varying region.*

*We follow the river Mosel, partly in France, partly in Luxembourg, and partly in Germany.*

### Itinerary:

Metz –Konigsmacher – Remich - Saarburg –Trier – Bernkastel - Cochem

### Highlights:

Cathedral of Metz – Maginot line - Saarburg - Porta Nigra in Trier-marketplace Bernkastel - fine white wines

### Dates:

**Metz - Cochem:**

August 11 - 18

### Amsterdam / Bruges itineraries: (see Iris itineraries)

**Amsterdam – Bruges:**

April 7 - 14

June 2 - 9

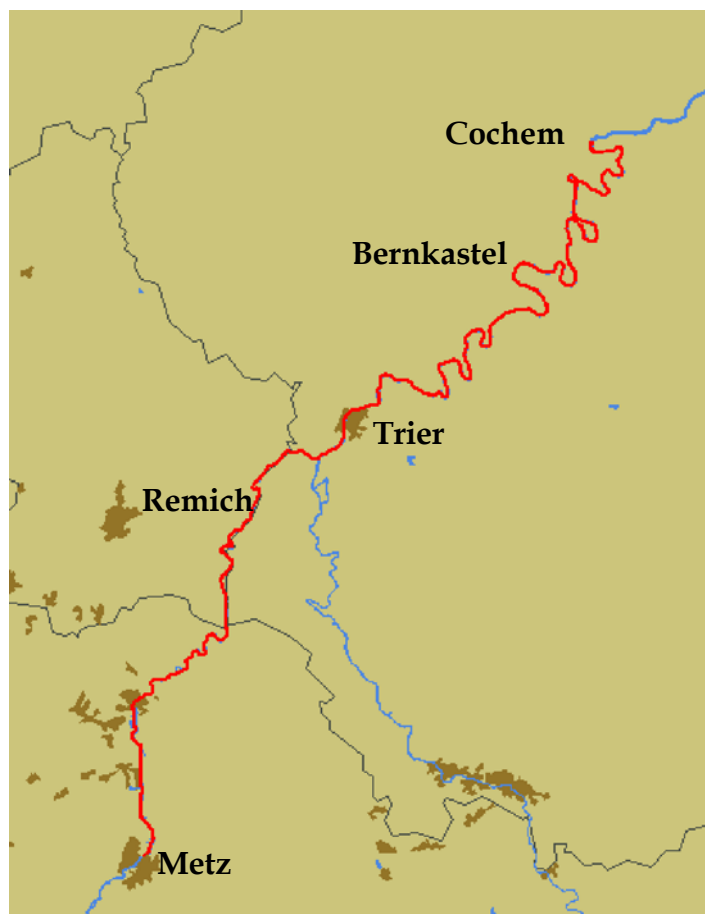
**Bruges - Amsterdam:**

June 9 - 16

**Included** in the price: nights spent, breakfast, packed lunch, dinner (3 courses) bed linen, bike rental/helmet and tour guide.

**Not included** in the price are: entrance fees for museums and the like, drinks on board, personal insurances and transfers to and from the barge.

12 double cabins with portholes, have two low beds with en-suite facilities. All the common spaces are air-conditioned. **The cabins are air conditioned.**



# L'Estello



Provence-Camargue

8 days

\$1590

## *History, Culture, gastronomy, wine*

*A wonderful tour through the wild Camargue nature with its bulls and horses: from the medieval fortress of Aigues Mortes to Saintes Maries de la Mer and then gradually by boat towards Arles. After that you visit the most typical Provence landscape, including the Rhone Valley, Van Gogh's Provence, the Roman France of Pont du Gard and finally toast with the precious wines of Chateauneuf du Pape.*

### **DAY 1 Aigues Mortes.**

Individual arrival and boarding after 6 p.m. in Aigues Mortes, medieval town, ancient military and commercial rampart on the Mediterranean.

### **DAY 2 Aigues Mortes, round**

**tour** (42 km). First round stage to discover the Camargue, where nature still prevails over civilization.

### **DAY 3 Aigues Mortes–Gallician**

(65 km). You will cycle among cane and rice fields and salt lakes, accompanied by horses, flamingos and bulls, and arrive to Saintes Maries de la Mer with its cathedral, loved by the gypsies. You will spend the night moored in the village of Gallician.

### **DAY 4 Gallician–Arles** (20 km).

You will sail for a few hours up to Saint Gilles and then cycle to today's destination: Arles, known for the richness of its antique and roman patrimony. The city fascinates you with its hidden treasures. Getting lost among its small alleys will be like entering a picture by Van Gogh. By bike you will reach the wooden bridge masterfully portrayed by the great painter.

### **DAY 5 Arles–Vallabreguès** (60

km). Breathtaking stage, which brings you to the Alpilles, with the perched village of Le Baux de Provence and then to Saint Rémy de Provence. A landscape of limestone cliffs, lavender and olive trees will accompany the trip. In the evening you will moor in Vallabreguès, pretty Provencal village on the banks of the Rhone.

### **DAY 6 Vallabreguès–Avignon**

(65 km). The stage today will bring you to the best preserved Roman aqueduct in Europe: Pont du Gard, a very spectacular work. In the afternoon you will arrive in Avignon, the city of the Popes. You will be moored in Villeneuve lès Avignons on the

opposite bank of the Rhone.

### **DAY 7 Avignon, round tour** (40

km). Navigation up to Avignon, and then cycle in the direction of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, following low traffic roads surrounded by vineyards. In Châteauneuf-du-Pape you can enjoy a tasting of the very famous provencal wine. After that you will cross the Rhone at the height of Roquemaure and return to Villeneuve following the course of the river.

### **DAY 8 Avignon.**

After breakfast, end of services.





**Provence-Camargue**

**8 days**

**\$1590**

### *History, Culture, gastronomy, wine*

*A wonderful tour through the wild Camargue nature with its bulls and horses: from the medieval fortress of Aigues Mortes to Saintes Maries de la Mer and then gradually by boat towards Arles. After that you visit the most typical Provence landscape, including the Rhone Valley, Van Gogh's Provence, the Roman France of Pont du Gard and finally toast with the precious wines of Chateauneuf du Pape.*

### **Itinerary:**

Aigues Mortes–Gallician– Arles– Les Baux - Vallabreguès – Pont du Gard - Avignon

### **Highlights:**

Avignon Bridge – Pont du Gard - Open-air market and Roman Ruins-  
Aigues-Mortes 13th-Century Walled Town - Hilltop Village of Les Baux - Châteauneuf- du-Pape

\* As the L'Estello & Soleo are cruising in tandem, your barge will be confirmed with cabin confirmation from owner.

### **Dates:**

#### **Villeneuve-les-Avignon - Aigues Mortes:**

April 7, 21; May 19; June 2, 16, 30; July 14, 28;  
August 11, 25; September 8, 22; October 6

#### **Aigues Mortes - Villeneuve-les-Avignon:**

April 14, 28; May 12, 26; June 9, 23; July 7, 21;  
August 4, 18; September 1, 15, 29

**Included** in the price: nights spent, breakfast, packed lunch, dinner (3 courses) bed linen, bike rental/helmet, harbor taxes, tea and coffee onboard, wine tasting in Chateauneuf-du-Pape and tour guide.

**Not included** in the price are: entrance fees for museums and the like, drinks on board, personal insurances and transfers to and from the barge.

10 double cabins (one with a double bed and nine with twin beds). Each cabin is air conditioned and has got ensuite facilities. All the common spaces are air-conditioned. **The cabins are air conditioned.**



# Soleo



Provence-Camargue

8 days

\$1490

## *History, Culture, gastronomy, wine*

*A wonderful tour through the wild Camargue nature with its bulls and horses: from the medieval fortress of Aigues Mortes to Saintes Maries de la Mer and then gradually by boat towards Arles. After that you visit the most typical Provence landscape, including the Rhone Valley, Van Gogh's Provence, the Roman France of Pont du Gard and finally toast with the precious wines of Chateauneuf du Pape.*

### **DAY 1 Villeneuve-lès-Avignon.**

Individual arrival at 6 p.m. and boarding in Villeneuve-lès-Avignon.

### **DAY 2 Villeneuve-lès-Avignon (40 km).**

Navigate up to Avignon, the city of popes, and then cycle in the direction of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, following roads with low levels of traffic surrounded by vineyards. In Châteauneuf-du-Pape you can enjoy a tasting of the very famous provençal wine. After that you will cross the Rhone. You will cross the Rhone through Roquemaure and return to Villeneuve by following the course of the river.

### **DAY 3 Villeneuve-lès-Avignon–Vallabrègues (65 km).**

Today's stage brings you to the best preserved Roman aqueduct in Europe: Pont du Gard, a truly spectacular work of architecture. In the evening you will moor in Vallabrègues, a pretty Provençal village on the banks of the Rhone.

### **DAY 4 Vallabreguès–Arles (60km).**

This stage brings you to Saint Remy de Provence, birthplace of Nostradamus. This village is also famous for having hosted Van Gogh in the days of his mental illness. Then, you move onto the Alpilles, with Les Baux de Provence, a village lodged in the rock itself. A landscape of limestone cliffs, lavender and olive trees accompanies your journey.

### **DAY 5 Arles–Gallician (20 km).**

Today, the whole morning is dedicated to visit Arles, the ancient capital of Gaul with beautiful Roman ruins. You will arrive by bike at the wooden bridge, which was masterfully portrayed by the great painter Van Gogh. Then on up to Saint Gilles from there you will sail to Gallician, where you will spend the night.

### **DAY 6 Gallician–Aigues Mortes (65 km).**

You will cycle among cane fields, rice fields and salt lakes, accompanied by horses, flamingos and bulls, and arrive at Saintes Maries de la Mer and then Aigues Mortes.

### **DAY 7 Aigues Mortes, round tour (42 km).**

Following the daily route, you will discover Camargue, where nature still prevails with defiance over the invasion of civilization.

### **DAY 8 Aigues Mortes.**

After breakfast, end of services.





Provence-Camargue

8 days

\$2250 - Single cabin

### *History, Culture, gastronomy, wine*

*A wonderful tour through the wild Camargue nature with its bulls and horses: from the medieval fortress of Aigues Mortes to Saintes Maries de la Mer and then gradually by boat towards Arles. After that you visit the most typical Provence landscape, including the Rhone Valley, Van Gogh's Provence, the Roman France of Pont du Gard and finally toast with the precious wines of Chateauneuf du Pape.*

### **Itinerary:**

Villeneuve les Avignon – Avignon – Vallabrègues Pont du Gard - Arles –Les Baux – Aigues-Mortes

### **Highlights:**

Avignon Bridge – Pont du Gard - Open-air market and Roman Ruins-  
Aigues-Mortes 13th-Century Walled Town - Hilltop Village of Les Baux

\* As the L'Estello & Soleo are cruising in tandem, your barge will be confirmed with cabin confirmation from owner.

### **Dates:**

#### **Villeneuve-les-Avignon - Aigues Mortes:**

April 7, 21; May 19; June 2, 16, 30; July 14, 28;  
August 11, 25; September 8, 22; October 6

#### **Aigues Mortes - Villeneuve-les-Avignon:**

April 14, 28; May 12, 26; June 9, 23; July 7, 21;  
August 4, 18; September 1, 15, 29

**Included** in the price: nights spent, breakfast, packed lunch, dinner (3 courses) bed linen, bike rental/helmet, harbor taxes, tea and coffee onboard, wine tasting in Chateauneuf-du-Pape and tour guide.

**Not included** in the price are: entrance fees for museums and the like, drinks on board, personal insurances and transfers to and from the barge.

12 cabins (4 doubles, 6 twins and 2 singles). Each cabin has three portholes (one is in the bathroom), is air conditioned and has got en-suite facilities. Each of them has also ample closet space, a hair dryer, a plug, wooden hangers, paper tissues, shower gel/shampoo, towels and full length mirror.

**The cabins are air conditioned.**



**Ave Maria****11 days****See Page 14  
for rates**

## **Bolzano–Venice Bike / Hotel / Barge**

*This variation of the classic tour Bolzano–Venice combines the tour “bike & hotel” with the new “bike & boat” one, on board the Ave Maria. Independent, three nights in hotels and seven nights on board the Ave Maria create a spectacular mix, from the mountains to the sea, along the Lake Garda. The first 3 nights are independent of a group - you travel by your self and meet the group on the barge.*

### **DAY 1 Arrival in Bolzano.**

The capital city of the South Tyrol is a renowned commercial and tourist centre which looks back on a rich history. The historical centre of Bolzano boasts an enchanting beauty.

### **DAY 2 Bolzano–Trento (68 km).**

Cycling along the lane you follow the Adige beside apple orchards, vineyards and through the villages of Ora, Egna and Salorno. Along the river banks you ride towards Trento. This city hides itself in front of the hasty tourist, so take your time to have a look behind the splendid walls of its painted buildings.

### **DAY 3 Trento –Peschiera del G. (50 km + ferry).**

Still cycling along the Adige you reach Rovereto and Mori. From here you continue up on a gently rising slope westwards in direction of Lake Garda. Before leaving for Riva you must absolutely enjoy the sight of the lake from above! On the ferry boat you travel as far as Peschiera del Garda along the southern shore of the lake.

### **DAY 4 Peschiera del Garda – Mantova (45 km).**

Today you will cycle following one of the most famous Italian cycle paths, which runs parallel to the River Mincio. You will pass through the village of Borghetto, with its mills and Valeggio sul Mincio, famous for the huge botanic park “Sigurtà”. The trip ends in Mantova, where you board the Ave Maria.

### **DAY 5 Mantova–Zelo (approx 50 km).**

The boat takes us to Governolo, stronghold of the Mincio Pirates: here, you take our bikes and start our ride. We cycle towards San Benedetto Po, home of an ancient monastery. We continue following the Po as far as Revere, summer residence of the Gonzaga dynasty. The last stretch of road brings us to the harbour of Ostiglia on the Fissero/Bianco canal, where you board the boat. A short stretch of navigation brings us to Zelo or Castelguglielmo, where you will moor for the night (overnight in Revere if the level of the Po is suitable).

### **DAY 6 Zelo –Ferrara –Adria (approx 50 km).**

Departure for Ferrara: the historic centre is still surrounded by the old city walls. The great number of cycle paths and the widespread use of bikes have earned Ferrara the name of “the city of bicycles”. At the end of the day, on board Ave Maria, you reach Adria: the pearl of the Polesine, an ancient Greek port, famous for trading amber coming from the Baltic, which gave its name to the sea it faced (overnight in Ferrara if the level of the Po is suitable).

### **DAY 7 Adria–Porto Viro – Albarella (35/55 km).**

We go deep into the maze of the Delta, an uncontaminated paradise between the marshes and lagoons of the Po, pedalling in the heart of nature. The destination today is Porto Levante, a small marine village of ancient traditions.

### **DAY 8 Albarella–Chioggia (approx 40 km).**

Vita Pugna leaves us on the other bank of the Po di Levante. We are approaching Albarella, suspended between water and land, as you pedal between the Delta and the mouth of the River Adige. From Cavanella d’Adige, the farthest border between the provinces of Rovigo and Venice, you then follow the Po-Brondolo Waterway, which links the river to the Venetian lagoon. We will stay overnight in “Little Venice”.

### **DAY 9 Chioggia –Venice (approx 30 km).**

Vita Pugna brings us to the Oasis of Ca’ Roman, a sandy islet surrounded by pine-woods. Pedalling along the lagoon, you reach Pellestrina: from here, you ride as far as the ferry landingstage. A short boat ride takes us back up the Lido, along the ‘Murazzi’, with a stop in Malamocco, the ancient harbour. Overnight in the Venetian lagoon.

### **DAY 10 Venice Free day.**

At your disposal you have a free ticket allowing you to use the boat transportation network and some suggested itineraries.

### **DAY 11 Venice. Departure.**

**Dates:** Mar 28; Apr 11, 25; May 9, 23; June 6, 20; Jul 4, 18; Aug 1, 15, 29; Sep 12, 26; Oct 10, 24

# Ave Marie



## Ave Maria

## 8 days

## \$1750\*

### Mantova to Ferrara and Venice

The itinerary winds its way along the Mincio and the Po, penetrating into rural areas of the Italian countryside that are still uncontaminated, and ends in the warm embrace of the Venetian Lagoon. This territory has been reclaimed from the marshes for many centuries now and is framed by green pine-woods, which offer protection for numerous species of animals. The work of man overlaps nature in a constant game of roles: reclaimed land alternates with natural canals, fishermen's huts are camouflaged in the reeds, and bridges formed of boats reduce the distances between strips of sand.

### Itinerary:

Mantova – Mantova – Zelo – Castelguglielmo – Ferrara – Adria – Porto Levante – Chioggia - Venice

### Highlights:

maze of the Delta - marshes and lagoons of the Po / Ferrera - old walled city / Venice - romantic city - Brenta canal - beautiful old Venetian villas

### Dates:

#### Saturday Departures from Venice:

Mar 24; Apr 7, 21; May 5, 19; Jun 2, 16, 30  
Jul 14, 28; Aug 11, 25; Sep 8, 22; Oct 6, 20

#### Saturday Departures from Mantova:

Mar 31; Apr 14, 28; May 12, 26; June 9, 23;  
Jul 7, 21; Aug 4, 18; Sep 1, 15, 29; Oct 13, 27

double standard with 2 lower beds - \$1750

double superior with 2 lower beds - \$1970

Triple reduction for 3rd person - \$150

single cabin below deck - \$2350

**Included** in the price: nights spent, breakfast, packed lunch, dinner (3 courses), coffee and tea, bed linen, bike rental/helmet, tour guide, harbor taxes and bus transfer Ferrara - Zelo/Ferrara - Adria.

**Not included** in the price are: entrance fees for museums and the like, drinks on board, personal insurances and transfers to and from the barge.

8 double cabins with portholes, have two low beds with en-suite facilities, 3 double superior cabins, 6 triple cabins. **The cabins ARE air conditioned.**





Vita Pugna

8 days

\$1490\*

### Mantova to Ferrara and Venice

The itinerary winds its way along the Mincio and the Po, penetrating into rural areas of the Italian countryside that are still uncontaminated, and ends in the warm embrace of the Venetian Lagoon. This territory has been reclaimed from the marshes for many centuries now and is framed by green pine-woods, which offer protection for numerous species of animals. The work of man overlaps nature in a constant game of roles: reclaimed land alternates with natural canals, fishermen's huts are camouflaged in the reeds, and bridges formed of boats reduce the distances between strips of sand.

#### DAY 1 Arrival in Bolzano.

Individual arrival in Mantova, where you board the Vita Pugna.

#### DAY 2 Mantova–Zelo (approx 50 km).

The boat takes us to Governolo, stronghold of the Mincio Pirates: here, you take our bikes and start our ride. We cycle towards San Benedetto Po, home of an ancient monastery. We continue following the Po as far as Revere, summer residence of the Gonzaga dynasty. The last stretch of road brings us to the harbour of Ostiglia on the Fissero/Bianco canal, where you board the boat. A short stretch of navigation brings us to Zelo or Castelguglielmo, where you will moor for the night (overnight in Revere if the level of the Po is suitable).

#### DAY 3 Zelo –Ferrara –Adria (approx 50 km).

Departure for Ferrara: the historic centre is still surrounded by the old city walls. The great number of cycle paths and the widespread use of bikes have earned Ferrara the name of “the city of bicycles”. At the end of the day, on board Vita Pugna, you reach Adria: the pearl of the Polesine, an ancient Greek port, famous for trading amber coming from the Baltic, which gave its name to the sea it faced (overnight in Ferrara if the level of the Po is suitable).

#### DAY 4 Adria–Porto Viro – Albarella (35/55 km).

We go deep into the maze of the Delta, an uncontaminated

paradise between the marshes and lagoons of the Po, pedalling in the heart of nature. The destination today is Porto Levante, a small marine village of ancient traditions.

#### DAY 5 Albarella–Chioggia (approx 40 km).

Vita Pugna leaves us on the other bank of the Po di Levante. We are approaching Albarella, suspended between water and land, as you pedal between the Delta and the mouth of the River Adige. From Cavanella d'Adige, the farthest border between the provinces of Rovigo and Venice, you then follow the Po-Brondolo Waterway, which links the river to the Venetian lagoon. We will stay overnight in “Little Venice”.

#### DAY 6 Chioggia –Venice (approx 30 km).

Vita Pugna brings us to the Oasis of Ca' Roman, a sandy islet surrounded by pine-woods. Pedalling along the lagoon, you reach Pellestrina: from here, you ride as far as the ferry landingstage. A short boat ride takes us back up the Lido, along the ‘Murazzi’, with a stop in Malamocco, the ancient harbour. Overnight in the Venetian lagoon.

#### DAY 7 Venice Free day.

At your disposal you have a free ticket allowing you to use the boat transportation network and some suggested itineraries.

#### DAY 8 Venice. Departure.

### RATES FOR 11 DAY AVE MARIA HOTEL/BARGE PROGRAM

3 nights with BB in 3/4\*\*\* hotels + 7 nights in double standard with 2 lower beds - \$2150

3 nights with BB in 3/4\*\*\* hotels + 7 nights in double superior with 2 lower beds - \$2370

Triple reduction for 3rd person - \$150



## Vita Pugna

## 8 days

## \$1490\*

### *Mantova to Ferrara and Venice*

The itinerary winds its way along the Mincio and the Po, penetrating into rural areas of the Italian countryside that are still uncontaminated, and ends in the warm embrace of the Venetian Lagoon. This territory has been reclaimed from the marshes for many centuries now and is framed by green pine-woods, which offer protection for numerous species of animals. The work of man overlaps nature in a constant game of roles: reclaimed land alternates with natural canals, fishermen's huts are camouflaged in the reeds, and bridges formed of boats reduce the distances between strips of sand.

### Itinerary:

Mantova – Mantova – Zelo – Castelguglielmo – Ferrara – Adria – Porto Levante – Chioggia - Venice

### Highlights:

maze of the Delta - marshes and lagoons of the Po / Ferrara - old walled city / Venice - romantic city - Brenta canal - beautiful old Venetian villas

### Dates:

#### Sunday Departures from Venice:

May 6, 20; Jun 3, 17; Jul 1, 15, 29  
Aug 12, 26; Sep 9, 23; Oct 7, 21

#### Sunday Departures from Mantova:

Apr 29; May 12, 27; Jun 10, 24; Jul 8, 22  
Aug 5, 19; Sep 2, 16, 30; Oct 14

**Included** in the price: nights spent, breakfast, packed lunch, dinner (3 courses), coffee and tea, bed linen, bike rental/helmet, tour guide, harbor taxes and bus transfer Ferrara - Zelo/Ferrara - Adria.

**Not included** in the price are: entrance fees for museums and the like, drinks on board, personal insurances and transfers to and from the barge.

10 double cabins with portholes, have two low beds with en-suite facilities. All the common spaces are air-conditioned. **The cabins ARE NOT air conditioned.**



# TERMS & CONDITIONS

Please read carefully the General Information and Conditions that follow. They limit our liability and that of the associate companies providing services purchased. In addition, they outline the terms and conditions under which Europeanbarging will operate. Payment of deposit by the passenger represents acceptance by the purchaser of the terms and conditions as follows:

**FARES AND RATES** - Determined as of September 2011 and subject to change without notice. Subject to currency fluctuation, change in air fare, and/or other rate changes by suppliers. Rates are guaranteed upon receipt of full payment, except in seasonality rate change.

**RESERVATIONS/CONFIRMATIONS** - Subject to availability. After a reservation has been made, Europeanbarging will provide confirmation within 24 - 72 hours. Deposit of 25 - 30% per person is due within 7 days of confirmation on barge cruises. Full payment due for airlines. Final payment for barges due 90 days before departure. For bookings made with 90 days of departure, full payment is due with booking.

## CANCELLATIONS

For barges, there is no refund of any monies paid TRAVEL INSURANCE IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

**AIRLINES** - Amount varies, if allowed by airline once ticketed. Many airline tickets are fully non-refundable once the tickets have been issued.

**TRAVEL DOCUMENTS** - A valid passport is required for each passenger, with an expiration date of at least 6 months after scheduled departure date for Europe.

**TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE** - is strongly recommended for your protection. Ask at time of reservations for details.

**RESPONSIBILITY** - A decision to engage in cycling during the cruise constitute the travellers assumption of all risks associated and an agreement not to make a claim against the barge owners or Europeanbarging for any personal injury, death or property damage that arises out of such activity. Europeanbarging and/or its agent representatives, and suppliers of service assume no responsibility for injury, death, damage, loss or delay incurred by any person in connection with the cruise/tour, by reason of any event beyond the control of Europeanbarging or loss occasioned by neglect default, strikes, wars, hostilities, civil disturbances or resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God. Europeanbarging reserves the right to withdraw any and all cruise/tour at any time should conditions warrant, to refuse to accept or retain any person(s) as tour participants(s), to alter or cancel the itinerary whenever Europeanbarging deems it necessary for the comfort, convenience or safety of the passengers of the tour(s). All cruise/tour itineraries and prices may be affected by alterations in river/canal, air or railroad services of the various countries, or by other causes. The right is reserved to cancel the cruise/tour prior to departure. In such case, full refund of all payments will constitute full settlement with the passenger. The airlines concerned are not held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passengers are not on board their airplanes or conveyance. The passenger contracts, in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchaser or these cruise/tour and/or passenger. Any and/or all transportation companies herein mentioned shall have or incur no responsibility or liability to any traveler aside from their liability as common carriers.

California Seller of Travel 2088940-50

Florida Seller of Travel FT35872



Europeanbarging.com  
25132 Oakhurst Dr #130  
Spring TX 77386  
713-240-6753 888-869-7907