

L'Art de Vivre

CRUISING THE NIVERNAIS CANAL IN THE BURGUNDY REGION

The Barge Connection
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08/06/08



T H E B A R G E

C O N N E C T I O N

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

L'Art de Vivre

SPECIFICATIONS

Size:	100X16'6"
Capacity:	8
Crew:	4
Cabins:	4
Accommodations:	3 Twins, 1 Double
Heat & Air:	Central Heat & Air Conditioning
Cruising Region:	Burgundy
Length of Cruise:	6 Nights
Departure Day:	Sunday
Electricity:	2 X 220 volt generators (silent night running)
Engine:	150 HP BAUDOIN, maximum speed 10 knots
Water:	9 tons of water and 3 tons of fuel
Meals:	All Included
Beverages:	All Included
Entrance Fees:	All Included
Hairdryers:	Supplied
Laundry Facilities:	Not available
Transportation:	Transfers to and from Paris & Private Motorcoach for excursions
Pick-Up Location:	Ampere Villiers Hotel, 102 Avenue de Villiers, 75017 Paris
Pick-Up Time:	1:30 PM
Recreational Items:	8 Mountain bikes, Library and sound system with CD player, Jacuzzi
Theme Cruises:	Family, Walking, Wine and Tandem Cruises
Cruising Season:	April until November

BOAT DIAGRAM



08/06/08

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SAMPLE ITINERARY

L'Art de Vivre

STANDARD NIVERNAIS CRUISE

Sunday

Guests are met at the hotel at 1.30 pm and transferred to L'Art de Vivre. After a Champagne Welcome, wander the logging capital and raison d'être of the Nivernais canal, enjoying the 13th century cathedral, old winding streets and views of the River Yonne. Dinner aboard.

Monday

Morning cruise from Clamecy, with a stop at Chevroches for a visit to the 18th century model farm of Misery with the owner Mme Dhuick as our guide. Here we taste farm produce from jam to the famed Foie Gras, all of this accompanied by a fragrant Chablis. We continue our first day's cruise to the charming hamlet of Villiers sur Yonne. Dinner aboard.

Tuesday

Enjoy an early cruise and a fascinating stop in Asnois to visit "Le Bouc qui Fume" or the "Smoking Billy Goat", a chapel based antique/curiosity shop. After passing the impressive double lock at Tannay, we moor in the old logging port and visit the Château of Bazoches, home of Marechal Vauban, whose illustrious visitors included Richard the Lionheart. Dinner aboard.

Wednesday

Morning visit to one of Burgundy's most picturesque hill-top settings - Vézelay. Discover the treasured Roman Basilica of St Mary Magdalene, lace and craft shops, superb views over the surrounding countryside and a delightful drive back to the barge before cruising to Chitry, passing through Dirol and its two Van Gogh style hand-operated lift bridges. Dinner ashore.

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STANDARD NIVERNAIS CRUISE

Thursday

After a morning stroll around the village of Chitry we visit Elise Villiers, a viticulteur from Precy le Moulto to taste some of the regions finest Chardonnays and the famed wine made from the "Melon" grape. Return to the barge and cruise to Sardy. Dinner aboard.

Friday

SARDY TO BAYE Today we begin our day making our passage through the 16 lock flight leading to the summit of the Nivernais canal. These locks are sometimes less than 200 yards

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SAMPLE ITINERARY

L'Art de Vivre

CYCLING CRUISE

Sunday

Guests are met at Hotel Ampere in Paris and transferred by private motor-coach to L'Art de Vivre, moored on the River Yonne in the bucolic village of Vincelles. Champagne welcome dinner on board.

Monday

Our itinerary today takes cyclists up through the narrow streets of Irancy, the latest wine village to be awarded its own appellation-controlée, We then take a narrow track straight up through the vineyards and plunge down to St Bris where a short break is spent in the 12th C. cellars of Mr.Bersan. Cross country on the Grande Randonnée track 13 followed with buffet lunch/barbecue in the grounds of a 17th C watermill. An afternoon cycle circuit takes in Accolay, and Fontenay sous Fouronnes before rejoining the barge at Bazarnes for a short evening cruise to Vermenton. Dinner on board.

Tuesday

As the barge leaves Vermenton, cyclists disembark at the first lock and follow the GR 13 along the banks of the River Cure through Bessy and Arcy sur Cure. An old Roman road leads back over the hill down to Pregilbert where L'Art de Vivre is mooring up - lunch on board. Afternoon cycling to Mailly le Chateau and The Rochers du Saussois, with perhaps a stop at the 14th C tower, studio of local artist M.Rose, before rejoining the barge at Merry sur Yonne. Dinner ashore at Auberge La Beursaudiere, once a Benedictine priory.

Wednesday

As the L'Art de Vivre slips its mooring, this mornings ride traverses the Bois d'Arcy and climbs to one of Burgundy's most picturesque hilltop settings - Vezelay. After discovering the world famous Romanesque Basilica of St.Mary Magdelene, a swoop downhill takes us through St.Père sous Vezelay to meet our chef, setting up a buffet luncheon on the banks of the River Cure, alongside the mediaeval bridge at Pierre Perthuis. Our afternoon ride is through Fontenay and the forest of Chauffour-Ferrières to the village of Lucy sur Yonne where the barge is moored for the night. Dinner on board.

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SAMPLE ITINERARY

L'Art de Vivre

CYCLING CRUISE

Thursday

This morning a short ride uphill brings us to the 18th C Ferme de Miserey, where traditional farming methods are explained and an introduction to the art of Foie Gras making is accompanied by a tasting. Then cycle to Dornecy through the Fôret de Champôrnot, buffet lunch somewhere in the greenery and then back to the barge moored at Clamecy alongside the towpath. Dinner on board.

Friday

Small lanes lead out of the mediaeval town of Clamecy through the hamlets of Creux and Saligny to Tannay, where a refreshing winetasting can be had chez Jean-Loup Moreau. We cross the canal and climb to the Romanesque church of Metz le Comte with its commanding views over the Morvan National Park. Here we meet our chef, setting up lunch in the shade. In the afternoon Morvan lanes take us to the Chateau of Bazoches where a short visit can be made to the home of Marechal Vauban, France's foremost military architect, then back along the edge of the Foret de Maulay to meet the barge in Villiers sur Yonne. Captains Farewell dinner on board.

Saturday

Return to Paris by motorcoach after breakfast arriving at approximately 1pm
Itinerary is subject to change and on alternative weeks is in the reverse direction.

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SAMPLE ITINERARY

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WALKING CRUISE

Sunday

You will be met at Ampere Villiers Hotel in Paris at 1.30pm and transferred by coach to hotel Barge L'Art de Vivre docked in Baye. The crew are onboard to meet you and join you for a Champagne Welcome. Dinner on board.

Monday

Leaving the Etang de Baye, aboard the L'Art de Vivre we pass through the 'Les Voutes de la Collancelle' marking the highest point on the Nivernais Canal. At either side of the Etang de Baye, flights of locks were engineered 250 years ago to enable the barges carrying the wood to cross the peak of this wild countryside and to enable the Haute Nivernais Canal to be fed with water. These tunnels mark an important period in the history of the 'flotteurs' and the neighboring villages of today, showing feats of engineering skill and tragic suffering.

Disembarking after at the end of the tunnel on for a hike that takes us along the towpath to base of the flight of the sixteen locks at Sardy les Epiry, where the barge will be moored in the evening. At this point we leave the canal and head off in a North Westerly direction towards Mondain and in to the woods. The path will bring us to the Etang de Vaux past a farm and back to the Etang de Baye. Crossing a bridge that separates the Etangs, we briefly go back in to the woods of Vaux before rejoining the Etang de Baye's western woody banks. We end the walk at the southern end of the Etang where a little café is a welcome sight. Here you will be met by the minibus and taken back to the barge to freshen up for cocktails and aperitifs served on deck. Dinner aboard. Walk: Round circuit 13 1/4 miles (21 km). Yellow route

Tuesday

The 8 mile walk of the day takes us through the villages and countryside that inspired the literary minds of the day, who wrote of the lifestyles and experiences of the inhabitants of the Morvan. Lunch onboard. Continuing our literary theme, we leave for the 12th Century Chateau de Bazoches. This was the demure of Marechal Vauban and has remained in his family for 400 years. Though best known for his military feats and engineering prowess, he was a man ahead of his time and a writer too; whose love his Morvan roots can be seen in his writing. Leaving the Chateau on foot we depart on the Roman Road which leads to Alesia, the birth place of 'France as a nation, for a 6 mile walk through the surrounding hills, where your knowledgeable Burgundian guide will point out historical landmarks and interesting features in the landscape as we retrace paths taken by Richard the Lion Heart and other great

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L'Art de Vivre

WALKING CRUISE

historical figures.

Wednesday

This morning we take a walk through the neighboring villages, admiring the local Chateaux that date from 12th Century Gothic through to the build-up to the 18th Century Revolution. Our walk finishes in Tannay where your thirst will be quenched at a wine tasting. Here you can sample wines, which are truly unique. Tannay produces some fantastic wines, employing growing techniques from times gone by to complement the now very rare yet traditional grape of the area, the Pinot-Droit. We return to the barge for lunch aboard in the afternoon we cruise through the Dirol to a picturesque region of the Morvan, where there are enchanting canal side villages and two Van Gogh style swing bridges; which are energetically wound by members of the crew to enable the barge to pass. Dinner ashore in a local auberge.

Thursday

This morning we leave Tannay through the double lock and cruise on to Asnois where we briefly stop for a browse around 'Le Bouc qui Fume' or 'The Smoking Billy Goat'; a chapel based antique-curiosity shop. Rejoining the barge we continue on to the enchanting port of Villiers sur Yonne where you can really step in to the shoes of the French and enjoy a game of 'boules' or 'petanque' before lunch. Today's walk plunges us in to history taking us back to Pagan Times on the banks of the lively River Cure, passing through St Pere sous Vezlay, the original ground of the church that became a Basilica. As we climb the great 'Colline Eternelle' or the 'Eternal Hill' we tread the footsteps of pilgrims and Crusaders alike. The road to the top has many shops of interest and classic French cafes; which are best resisted until after the tour of the Basilica. At the summit, standing proud, is the Mary Magdalene Roman Basilica of Vezlay, whose crypt dates back to the 800's and is an architectural celebration of life, folklore, astrology and all things pertaining to life in the 11th and 12th Centuries. Dinner aboard.

Friday

The morning's cruise takes us gently past a canal side chateau and pastoral land to the village of Chevroches, which climbs majestically to its peak that holds a commanding view over the valley at the foot of the Morvan hills; well worth the climb. We leave the banks of the canal to walk through woods and valleys of the Morvan Forest, which has supplied Paris and most of France with timber for the building of the, L'Hotel de Ville, the Sorbonne and the

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WALKING CRUISE

Pantheon to mention but three. The history of the Yonne is deeply tied up with the logging trade, which came to an end at the beginning of last century. The Morvan is sparsely populated with 300-year-old sleepy villages creeping in to view every now and again. The combination of barging and walking enables you to gain a deep understanding and thorough knowledge of the Morvan. The 20th Century passed the villages and villagers by in the sleepy hamlets you explore along your path. Many villagers are descendants of those who built the houses when the logging trade was in its infancy. The villages along the River Yonne were built by the 'flotteurs' who floated the wood down the river to Paris, a dangerous and thankless task. This stubborn love for a land, which does not lend itself to being populated, has created the characters of its inhabitants, these past events are still important today. The hardy and proud yet

Saturday

After breakfast you will be returned by coach to Ampere Villiers Hotel in Paris at approximately 1pm.

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FAMILY CRUISE

Sunday - Family cruise Day 1 - PARIS TO CLAMECY

Guests are met at the hotel at 1.30 pm and transferred to L'Art de Vivre. After a Champagne Welcome, there is time for a cycle ride into the logging capital and raison d'être of the Nivernais canal, enjoying the 13th century cathedral, old winding streets and views of the River Yonne. Dinner aboard.

Monday - Family cruise Day 2 - CLAMECY TO VILLIERS SUR YONNE

This morning we transfer to a wonderful natural adventure park where adults and children alike can enjoy kayaking, tree climbing and other outdoor activities. Return to the barge to continue our first day's cruise to the charming hamlet of Villiers sur Yonne. Time for a game of boules on the canal path before dinner aboard.

Tuesday - Family cruise Day 3 - VILLIERS SUR YONNE TO TANNAY

This morning we visit Cardoland, which is a vast wooded park about 7km from Vezelay. The sculptor, Cardo, created this wonderful prehistoric world of life size dinosaurs. It has a museum, caves, exhibition and prehistoric play area. Cardoland is a wonderful visit for families with younger children but there is also an option to visit the Château of Bazoches instead, home of Marechal Vauban, whose illustrious visitors included Richard the Lionheart. Cruise this afternoon towards Tannay passing the impressive double lock at Tannay before mooring in the old logging port. During the cruise there is an opportunity for the children to join the Chef in the galley for hand on cooking time. Dinner ashore tonight at a local auberge.

Wednesday - Family cruise Day 4 - TANNAY TO CHITRY LES MINES

The family can choose this morning's visit. All ages will love a canoeing trip on the River Cure near Vezelay. The canoeing really is a fantastic excursion, which we feel, should not be missed but for those families who prefer something a little less adventurous we can visit one of Burgundy's most picturesque hilltop settings – Vezelay instead. Discover the treasured Roman Basilica of St Mary Magdalene, lace and craft shops and superb views over the

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FAMILY CRUISE

surrounding countryside. Return to the barge and cruise to Chitry, passing through Dirol and its two Van Gogh style hand-operated lift bridges. Dinner aboard

Thursday - Family cruise Day 5 - CHITRY LES MINES TO SARDY

After breakfast we again have a choice of a morning of sailing at the local natural adventure park or a morning stroll around the village of Chitry. In Chitry we visit Elise Villiers, a wine maker from Precy le Moul and sample some of the regions finest Chardonnay and the famed wine made from the 'Melon'grape. In the afternoon we cruise through beautiful countryside to Sardy. There is also an opportunity for indoor swimming at the pool at Chatillon en Bazois. Dinner aboard.

Friday - Family cruise Day 6 - SARDY TO BAYE

Today we begin the day making our voyage through the 16-lock flight leading to the summit of the Nivernais canal. These locks are sometimes less than 200 yards apart! Alongside each lock is a pretty waterfall, maintaining the level of the canal, and some of the lock houses are now craft shops, which can be visited. Many consider this canal reach to be one of the most beautiful in France. During the cruise the Captain has arranged a fabulous treasure hunt to entertain children and adults alike and also plenty of time for the children to have fun in the jacuzzi and also play Magnetic Fishing either in the Canal for the older children or in the jacuzzi for the younger children. We moor for lunch at the last lock before our final cruise through the three tunnels of La Collancelle, set in the deep cut, to Baye before the lake, which marks the summit. Captain's Farewell Dinner aboard.

Saturday - Family cruise Day 7 - BAYE TO PARIS

Saturday, Day 7 BAYE TO PARIS After breakfast return to Paris to the meeting point, Hotel Ampère, for an arrival time of 1pm

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2009 PRICES

L'Art de Vivre

	VALUE	REGULAR
Stateroom	\$3,950	\$4,390
Single Supplement	\$1,450	\$1,650
Charter for 6 guests	\$26,800	\$30,600
Charter for 7 guests	\$27,800	\$31,800
Charter for 8 guests	\$28,800	\$33,000

VALUE SEASON DATES: March 29, April 05, 12, 19, 26; May 3, 10; July 26, August 2, 9, 16, 23; October 18, 25; November 01, 08

REGULAR SEASON DATES: May 17, 24, 31; June 07, 14, 17, 21, 28; July 05, 12, 19; Sept 06, 13, 20, 27; October 04, 11

2 Passengers required on all departures to guarantee the cruise except March and November when a minimum of 4 is required

THEME CRUISES AVAILABLE FOR CHARTERS:

Cycling Cruise: \$3,000 supplement per charter - available for charter groups only (supplement includes an upgrade of bicycles for the week and the services of a professional cycling tour guide)

Walking Charter - \$2,500 per charter supplement - available for charter groups only (the supplement includes the services of a Professional Walking Guide)

Wine Charter - \$3,000 per charter supplement - available for charter groups only (The supplement includes the services of a Professional Wine Guide and an upgrade to the wine list on board, to include some Premier and Grand Cru Wines)

Family Charter - for charter groups only and \$300 discount offered to children aged 0-17

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MENU TYPES

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Terrine de Pêcheur façon Maison
Tourte Chaude d'Escargots à la Ciboulette
Filet de Rouget au Safran

Cheeses
Brie
Maroilles
Pont l'Eveque
St. Marcellin

Wines
Sancerre
Chablis
Côte de Nuits
Hautes Côtes de Beaune

Sample Captains Dinner
ASSORTED HORS D'OEUVRES

SAUTEED CHICKEN LIVERS WITH PARSLEY MOUSSE
VEAL FILLET IN WHOLE GRAIN MUSTARD SAUCE,
SAFFRON TAGLIATELLI, SAUTEED LEEKS
TOSSED SALAD

CHEESES
EPOISSES
MOUTON DE CHARONTAIS

CHOCOLATE AND ALMOND CAKE IN COINTREAU
SAUCE WITH COINTREAU ICE CREAM

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MENU TYPES

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Sample Lunch Menu

GREEN PEA AND OLIVE SALAD WITH GINGER AND GARLIC
CHILLED BEAN SPROUTS WITH RED PEPPERS AND SOY
SAUCE

CURRIED SHRIMP AND RICE SALAD
GRILLED TURKEY SALAD WITH HEARTS OF PALM AND
TOASTED PINE NUTS

Sample Dinner Menu

FEUILLETE AUX CHAMPIGNON SAUVAGE (WILD MUSHROOMS
IN PUFF PASTRY)

DUCK BREAST IN A CASSIS SAUCE WITH CARROT PUREE
AND BRAISED ENDIVE
MIXED GREENS

CHEESES
GAPARON
BUCHONS DE CHEVRE

ICED HAZEL NUT MOUSSE WITH RASPBERRY COULIS

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