

# *La Chouette*

CRUISING THE CHAMPAGNE REGION OF FRANCE

The Barge Connection  
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## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

# La Chouette

### SPECIFICATIONS

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|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Size:               | 100"X16'6"  |
| Capacity:           | 6   |
| Crew:               | 4   |
| Cabins:             | 3   |
| Accommodations:     | 3 Twin/Doubles  |
| Heat & Air:         | Central Heating & Air-Conditioning  |
| Cruising Region:    | River Seine & River Marne   |
| Cruising Routes:    | Belgium, Burgundy, Champagne & Normandy   |
| Length of Cruise:   | 6 Nights  |
| Departure Day:      | Thursday  |
| Engine:             | Gardner 6L3B  |
| Electricity:        | 220 volts AC  |
| Meals:              | All Included  |
| Beverages:          | All Included  |
| Entrance Fees:      | All Included  |
| Hairdryers:         | Supplied  |
| Laundry Facilities: | Not available   |
| Transportation:     | Transfers from a Paris hotel or closest rail station & Private motorcoach for excursions  |
| Pick-Up Location:   | Paris hotel of your choice or closest rail station  |
| Pick-Up Time:       | 2:00 PM   |
| Recreational Items: | 6 Bikes, Library of books & games, fax & email  |
| Cruising Season:    | May 15 & 22 / Belgium Cruises<br>May 29 to June 26 / France (Burgundy, Champagne or Normandy)<br>August 28 to September 25 / France (Burgundy, Champagne or Normandy) |
| Special Note:       | Short 3 & 4 Night B&B Cruises Available Upon Request (Charter Only)   |

### BOAT DIAGRAM

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## SAMPLE ITINERARY

# La Chouette

PARIS TO ÉPERNAY  
THE CHAMPAGNE CRUISE

This route combines the splendour of Paris, capital of France, with the sparkle of Reims and Epernay, the twin capitals of the Champagne region. The following is a suggested itinerary only. We may substitute new and interesting excursions, as they become available and according to guests' wishes.

### Thursday

Your captain will meet you at your Paris hôtel and escort you directly to La Chouette moored nearby. Marvel at the sights of Paris from the magnificent River Seine. We will show you Paris in an unforgettable way, "Under the Bridges of Paris..." on board La Chouette with a glass of champagne in your hand. We cruise upstream out of the city for just a few miles before we leave the hustle and bustle of the Seine for the peace and tranquillity of the River Marne. Our mooring for the night is in the quiet town of Le Perreux where we enjoy a barbecue on deck.

### Friday

Our morning cruise takes us into the narrow canal sections of this navigation which by-pass parts of the river, which are too shallow to cruise. On to the magnificent city of Meaux dominated by its impressive cathedral. After lunch on board we take a trip in our mini-bus to the Abbaye de Chaalis. Dating back to the twelfth century, this former Cistercian monastery now houses the Jacquemart-André museum of furniture and works of art of all kinds. We re-join La Chouette in plenty of time to enjoy an aperitif before taking dinner in one of the city's top restaurants, La Grignotière.

### Saturday

There is a fascinating market to visit, part of which is situated on the bridges over the river. Then we can visit the Salle d'Exposition de Brie de Meaux to hear all about the history and manufacture of this world famous cheese. You can take the opportunity of tasting the cheese with a fine red Givry wine. This is followed by a guided visit to Meaux Cathedral. After lunch on board we take a leisurely cruise to La Fert sous Jouarre and moor for the night right next to the excellent restaurant, Au Bec Fin, where we will enjoy our dinner.

### Sunday

Today's cruise is to Chateau Thierry through the most delightful Marne Valley countryside. We stop at Nanteuil-sur-Marne for lunch and a short walk around this typically French village. Our restaurant is the Auberge de Lion d'Or which gives us the golden opportunity to enjoy the traditional French family Sunday lunch. This is the first village in the Champagne region. From now on it's vines all the way. On arrival at our mooring we take a trip to Hill

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THE CHAMPAGNE CRUISE

204, and Belleau Wood, the scene of the last major engagement in World War 1 and where a massive American Monument stands and surveys the valley below. Supper on board.

### Monday

After an early start, we cruise past mile after mile of champagne vineyards meticulously cultivated in their serried ranks up the hillsides. We choose a mooring convenient from where to take a van ride into Reims. Here we can visit the Cathedral, taste champagne in a cellar or two, see the Surrender Museum, where Eisenhower signed the treaty in 1944, go shopping and much more...Lunch is in a 1925 art-deco brasserie which is a favourite meeting place of the Rémois (citizens of Reims). Back to La Chouette in time to sit out on deck with something to sip before preparing for dinner at the Michelin starred Auberge le Relais just over the river.

### Tuesday

After breakfast we meander up the valley towards Epernay passing through Dormans, dominated by a towering national monument built by Marshal Foch to commemorate the Marne victories and Chatillon sur Marne with its impressive statue of Pope Urbane 11, born there in 1040 and instigator of the First Crusade. Next we see Hautvillers upon the hillside to our left. This is where Dom Perignon, reputed to have discovered the 'Mthode Champenoise', lived and worked as the cellar-master in the Benedictine Abbey for forty-seven years. Cumières is our mooring and from where we take a trip into Epernay, first 'capital' of Champagne. Here we enjoy a tour of the town and visit one of the prestigious champagne houses where we learn how champagne is made in a tour of the cellars and taste the end product, followed by a visit to the charming village of Hautvillers. Dinner tonight is at Epernay's La Cave Champagne (Michelin) with a different champagne for each course!

### Wednesday

After breakfast transfer to Epernay railway station where trains depart for Paris.

PLEASE NOTE: On alternate weeks the cruise will be in the opposite direction.

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T H E B A R G E

C O N N E C T I O N

2008 PRICES

# *La Chouette*

## 6 Night Cruises:

### Thursday Departures

Charter for 4 guests     \$17,700

Charter for 6 guests     \$21,000

Shorter Cruises Available upon requests

Guests enjoy one meal per day in specially selected restaurants  
(included in the charter price).

### Cruise Departures

May 15 & 22 / Belgium Cruise

May 29 to June 26 / France (Burgundy, Champagne or Normandy)

August 28 to September 25 / France (Burgundy, Champagne or Normandy)

**Prices for the Waterways of Paris Short Cruises - Available Upon Request**

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## CRUISE OPTIONS

# La Chouette

### 'Mainly Monet' highlights:

- . Champagne cruise through Paris
- . Visit to the Marmottan museum to see more than 100 Monet paintings
- . Impressionist multimedia spectacular at Château d' Auvers sur Oise
- . Monet's home and gardens at Giverny
- . Richard the Lionheart's 12th Century fortress at Les Andelys
- . Rouen Cathedral

### 'Champagne Experience' highlights:

- . Champagne cruise through Paris
- . Private tasting of the famous Brie de Meaux cheese with Givry red wine
- . Hautvillers, home of Dom Perignon, fabled creator of champagne
- . Visit to Moët & Chandon's sister champagne caves of Mercier, including tasting
- . Traditional French dinner at the table of a private champagne house
- . Reims Cathedral

### 'A Taste of burgundy' highlights:

- . Champagne Cruise through Paris.
- . Barbizon, famed village of the Pre-Impressionist in the Fontainebleau Forest.
- . Medieval town of Moret-sur-Loing.
- . Private wine tasting at Cote St Jacques and visit to 12th century wine press.
- . Magnificent spired city of Auxerre.
- . Irancy, a picturesque village which produces superb red wine.
- . More wine tasting. This time the world renowned dry white Chablis.

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## SAMPLE ITINERARY

# La Chouette

SHORT CRUISE OPTIONS

### The 'Waterways of Paris'

#### **B&B Weekend in Paris 3 Nights**

**Day 1:** Guests are collected from their Paris location - e.g. hotel, rail station, airport—and are transferred to La Chouette moored in central Paris. Guests are welcomed on board with a Champagne cocktail and introduced to the crew and to their accommodation.

Guests are free to visit places of interest in Paris with any help and suggestions we can give.

**Day 2:** Breakfast is served on board La Chouette at a time to suit our guests after which they are free to continue their Paris sightseeing.

**Day 3:** After breakfast on board, and at a time to suit, the guests are escorted to their Paris place of choice.

**N.B.:** On one of the days, to suit the party, La Chouette will cruise "Under the Bridges of Paris" to show the city in an unforgettable way. Cruise lasts approximately two hours.

### The 'Waterways of Paris' Cruise

#### **B&B 4 Nights in Paris**

**Day 1:** Guests are collected from their Paris location—e.g. hotel, rail station, airport—and are transferred in our air-conditioned mini-bus to La Chouette moored in the countryside an hour's ride from Paris. Guests are welcomed on board with a Champagne cocktail and introduced to the crew and to their accommodation.

We cruise on the beautiful river Marne to the magnificent city of Meaux dominated by its impressive cathedral and famous for Brie de Meaux cheese.

After an aperitif on board guests are escorted to one of Meaux's top restaurants for dinner.

**Day 2:** We cruise into Paris stopping on the way to explore Lagny a riverside town with a twice-weekly market and where we have lunch on board. Our entry to Paris "Under the Bridges of Paris" will thrill all sitting out on our deck and has never failed to impress.

Dinner at the restaurant Altitude 95 part way up the Eiffel Tower with the sun setting over the city skyline.

**Day 3:** Our morning's cruise takes us deeper into the Town of Paris along the Canal St. Martin with its double locks and outstanding iron swing bridges. Passing through the Basin de la Villette we head for the giant lock which will take us onto the Canal St. Denis. Passing the

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SHORT CRUISE OPTIONS

space age-like sports stadium, the Stade de France, we head down to rejoin the river Seine then head downstream for Chatou.

Chatou is where Monet and Renoir, among many other Impressionist painters, congregated and painted life on the river. We will dine tonight at the very restaurant they frequented, Maison Fournaise, and feel their very presence on the balcony where Renoir painted his famous “Le Déjeuner des Canotiers”, the luncheon party of the boatmen.

**Day 4:** Cruising further downstream on the Seine we reach Conflans Ste. Honorine where we find hundreds of barges moored up to seven deep. This is one of France’s barge capitals. This is also where we turn off the river Seine and onto the river Oise. This takes us to a charming little town called Auvers-sur-Oise where Van Gogh lived the last few weeks of his short life and where in that time he painted sixty pictures. We dine at the very inn where he lived and choose from a menu with many of the dishes of his time. There is an interesting exhibition at the inn as well as a comprehensive audio-visual exhibition on Impressionism at the nearby Chateau d’Auvers.

**Day 5:** After breakfast on board we will transfer guests to the Paris location of their choice.

*These are just sample itineraries that can be offered. We would adjust to each groups interests to customize the cruise.*

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## MENU TYPES

# *La Chouette*

Roasted Red Peppers with Olive Tapenade and Tomato

Leg of Lamb with a red Wine Sauce Minted New Potatoes Seasonal Vegetables

Selection of French Cheeses

Baked Peaches with Vanilla Ice Cream

Coffee and Chocolates

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## TERMS & CONDITIONS

# La Chouette

### INDIVIDUAL & CHARTER BOOKINGS:

- 30% deposit due upon booking to confirm booking
- Balance due 90 days prior to departure

### CANCELLATIONS:

- Both deposits and final payments are non-refundable, unless space is resold
- In that case, 90% of the monies deposited would be refunded

La Chouette reserves the right to cancel any cruise prior to or during the cruise if in their reasonable opinion they consider the cruise may constitute a danger due to unforeseen events such as flooding, drought, riots, war and the like or events which make it impracticable or impossible to continue the cruise, including but not limited to any illness, health or personal matters. In such cases any sums received from the client will be refunded based on the cost of the unfinished portion of the cruise and the guests will forfeit any further claim on La Chouette cruises for any reason whatsoever.

All cancellations must be made in writing and sent to the Barge Connection  
Cancellation Insurance is highly recommended

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