Cruise Details

Name:	Sensations of the Seine & Normandy with Chef Michael Bonacini & Wines of Lyon and Provence
Reference:	EMERALDESRF070827-1V
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Lumi
Regions:	Seine
Departs On:	07 Aug 27
Departs From:	Paris
Arrives On:	21 Aug 27
Arrives At:	Arles
Cruise Nights:	14
Total Vacation Days:	15

Itinerary

Day 1: Paris (France)

Welcome to Paris, the enchanting capital of France. Upon arrival, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your contemporary Emerald Star-Ship, Emerald Lumi.

A late departure gives you time to explore the City of Light after the sun goes down. Later, Emerald
Lumi will depart Paris and cruise to Vernon during the night.

Arrives On: 07 Aug 27

Day 2: Vernon (France)

Wake up in Vernon, a well-preserved medieval town that hugs the southern bank of the river. Most travellers see Vernon as simply the gateway to Giverny, home of the famed Impressionist painter Monet for more than 40 years. But it has many charms of its own, including several antique

and vintage stores, beautiful architecture and a striking Gothic church. This evening, join your fellow guests for a welcome dinner on board. Included Excursion
In the footsteps of Claude Monet
Take a tour of Giverny Gardens, Monet's home until his death in 1926. Walk through the rooms where he lived and worked, and the restored, elaborate gardens, which inspired some of his most iconic pieces, including the beloved Water Lilies series. You'll get a sense of the extraordinary play of colour and light on nature and how this translated to Monet's distinctive Impressionist art. Explore these tranquil spaces at your own pace and absorb the atmosphere that sparked his creativity. EmeraldACTIVE
Guided e-bike tour of Giverny
Active guests who wish to visit Giverny can hop on an e-bike for a self-guided bicycle ride from where the ship has docked in Vernon, approximately 5km (3 miles) each way. The flat, easy cycle path has picturesque views of the river and the surrounding countryside. Once in Giverny, join your fellow travellers to visit Monet's house and garden. The beautifully restored house reflects the artist's personal taste and creativity. Admire the famous Water Garden with its Japanese bridge and the water lily ponds that inspired some of Monet's most celebrated paintings. Included Celebrity Chef Reception
In the evening, join celebrity chefs Michael and Oscar Bonacini at a welcome cocktail reception on board.

Arrives On: 08 Aug 27

Day 3: Rouen (France)

Welcome to Rouen, a beautiful city set along the banks of the Seine and steeped in history and heritage, from Vikings and saints to renowned artists. It is forever linked with French national icon Joan of Arc – it was here, in 1431, that the young heroine was tried for heresy and burnt at the stake. Rouen is also famed for its Gothic Notre-Dame Cathedral, the tallest in France, whose stunning façade was immortalised multiple times in paintings by Monet. Included Excursion
Walking tour of Rouen
Join a guided walk through Rouen's medieval centre. Learn how this former Roman settlement emerged as a major stronghold of Viking invaders during the ninth century. Hear fascinating tales about Rollo, the Viking chieftain proclaimed the first Duke of Normandy, and how his legacy helped shape not only this region but the course of European history. Visit iconic sites like the bustling Old Marketplace, the majestic Cathedral district and the charming Saint Maclou Quarter. Included Celebrity Chef Culinary Experience
Join Chefs Michael and Oscar Bonacini for an exclusive lunch at La?Couronne, the oldest restaurant in France—and the very place where Julia Child enjoyed her first French meal in 1948. Her order, the classic sole meunière, became "the most exciting meal of my life" and sparked her lifelong passion for French cuisine. Savour the same flavours with the "Julia's Child" Menu, specially curated to honour the meal that launched a culinary legend. EmeraldPLUS
World War II lecture on board
Discover the complexity and colour of Normandy’s history with a captivating on board lecture about World War II. The region played a key role in the conflict as the site of the D-Day Landings, which turned the tide in 1944. Learn about the pivotal moments and key players who undertook these daring actions. The lecture sets the stage for your visit to the D-Day beaches the following day. EmeraldACTIVE
Active walk in Rouen
Active travellers can lace up their boots for a more active exploration through Rouen. Discover the ‘City of a Hundred Spires’, walking along its historic streets and picturesque cobbled laneways. Your expert guide will share fascinating tales of the city and its history.

Arrives On: 09 Aug 27

Day 4: Honfleur (France)

Your ship, Emerald Lumi, will cruise right into the centre of Honfleur, docking in the heart of this charming port city that sits on the southern coast of the English Channel. The harbour is lined with colourful half-timbered houses, and its rugged charm captures the essence of traditional Normandy. It’s also a popular starting point for tours of the nearby D-Day Landings beaches, which turned the tide of World War II. You will remain docked in Honfleur overnight, allowing you to explore the town after dark at your leisure. Included Excursion
Historic Normandy: Allied Landing Sites
Join a remarkable full-day experience and war-themed tour, focused on a highly significant time in World War II. The pivotal D-Day Landings in 1944 opened a crucial Western Front and accelerated the defeat of Nazi Germany. Normandy’s role in this extraordinary military operation makes it one of the most important regions in World War II history. Experience first-hand the Normandy beaches where the Allied vessels landed, as well as the memorials and museum, which honour the bravery of those involved and their ultimate sacrifice. DiscoverMORE
Normandy’s Maritime Past: From Vikings to La Mora (extra expense)
Explore the rich maritime heritage of Normandy on a tour that delves into the region’s fascinating naval history, culminating with a captivating visit to La Mora, a historic replica of William the Conqueror’s flagship. It will immerse you in Normandy’s maritime history, craftsmanship and Viking roots through detailed reconstructions, storytelling, and live demonstrations. A floating hull is set to launch in 2027 for the 1,000th anniversary of William’s birth.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 2 hours

Arrives On: 10 Aug 27

Day 5: Honfleur (France)

Enjoy a more leisurely day discovering Honfleur. The harbour town is a popular day trip destination for Parisians, who love exploring its medieval laneways, historic buildings, unique churches and interesting museums. Stroll around the bustling quay, enjoying the delightful views of colourful fishing boats, scenes that inspired many Impressionist

artists. Included Excursion
Walking tour of Honfleur with oyster tasting
Your walking tour presents a fascinating snapshot of Honfleur’s unique character and Normandy’s seaside charm. Explore the town’s quaint streets and admire the striking St. Catherine Church, the largest wooden church in France, rebuilt entirely of wood from the nearby forest. Honfleur is also renowned for its premium fresh seafood and produces some of the best oysters in France. Your tour includes a fresh oyster tasting, savouring authentic local flavours. EmeraldACTIVE
Guided e-bike tour of Honfleur
Active guests wanting to explore at a faster pace can join a guided e-bike tour of Honfleur. Cycle past the city’s main sights, along the waterfront and into charming cobblestone squares. Your guide will share stories about the city, its history and the daily life of local people. Included Celebrity Chef Culinary Dinner
Chefs Michael and Oscar Bonacini will host an exclusive French-inspired dinner on board, showcasing flavours from Northern France. Enjoy a specially curated menu, crafted just for this sailing, and experience a special evening with two of Canada’s most celebrated culinary talents.

Arrives On: 11 Aug 27

Day 6: Les Andelys (France)

Set in a picturesque bend of the Seine, Les Andelys is bursting with medieval charm. Admire the Norman homes, Saint Jacques hospital and the hilltop Château Gaillard, a medieval fortress built by Richard the Lionheart. The old town is compact and easy to explore on foot from where your Emerald Star-Ship is docked, with cobbled streets and traditional architecture that will take you back through the centuries. EmeraldPLUS
Exclusive local cider farm visit with tasting
Travel to the heart of Normandy’s countryside to visit a traditional cider farm. Here, you’ll learn how the region’s crisp, refreshing cider is crafted from locally-grown apples using age-old methods. Afterwards, enjoy a tasting of authentic local products that celebrate the renowned flavours of Normandy. EmeraldACTIVE
Hike to Château Gaillard
For those seeking a more energetic pace, join a guided hike up to Château Gaillard, the storied remnants of a medieval fortress. It was built by Richard the Lionheart in the 12th century to protect his Norman lands. From the clifftops, you’ll be rewarded with breathtaking views across the River Seine and an area of outstanding beauty. EmeraldPLUS
Experience the tastes of Northern France with a tasting of exceptional local cheeses and Calvados, the famed apple brandy of Normandy while onboard the cruise

Arrives On: 12 Aug 27

Day 6: La Roche-Guyon (France)

Arrives On: 12 Aug 27

Day 7: La Roche-Guyon (France)

Your Emerald Star-Ship will have been docked in La Roche Guyon overnight, so you can wake up early to explore this fairytale village on the edge of the Seine. It is nestled inside the Vexin National Park, and many of its buildings are carved directly into the cliff face. The imposing silhouette of the Château de La Roche-Guyon looks over the town and has breathtaking 360-degree views over the river and countryside. Included Excursion
Visit to Château Guyon & Gardens
It’s just a short walk to Château de La Roche-Guyon, a beautifully preserved estate steeped in centuries of history. Built as a fortified castle in the 14th century, the Château majestically stands as a testament to French architectural heritage. Wander along tranquil pathways through the meticulously maintained gardens and discover elegant period rooms adorned with antique furnishings and artwork, offering a rare glimpse of the refined lifestyle of past centuries. EmeraldACTIVE
Kayak on the Seine
Get a different perspective on the beauty of La Roche Guyon with an active kayaking tour along the Seine. The calm waters are ideal for paddling, and you’ll pass close to the town, beside lush greenery and beneath the towering limestone cliffs that lead up to the chateau. DiscoverMORE
In the footsteps of Van Gogh (extra expense)
Art enthusiasts can follow in the footsteps of Vincent Van Gogh, exploring the landscapes that inspired his iconic artworks and final masterpiece. Join a walking tour through the charming village of Auvers-sur-Oise, visiting the last residence and resting place of the Dutch artist.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 3 hours

Arrives On: 13 Aug 27

Day 8: Paris (France)

Today, after breakfast, it’s time to bid farewell to your fellow guests and your luxury Star-Ship, leaving with memories of Normandy’s timeless landscapes, authentic flavours and compelling historical sites. From here, you’ll be transferred by train to Lyon to join your 8 Day Sensations of Lyon & Provence river cruise, where your friendly captain and crew will be waiting to greet you for your continued journey.

This evening, join your fellow guests for dinner on board.

Arrives On: 14 Aug 27

Day 8: Lyon (France)

Arrives On: 14 Aug 27

Day 9: Lyon (France)

France’s third-largest city and a flourishing trading city since Roman times, Lyon is steeped in history. With its superbly preserved historic quarters, a significant section of Lyon has been designated a World Heritage Site. Lyon is arguably most famous for its outstanding cuisine and culinary heritage, considered the heart of gastronomy in France and one of the world’s premier food capitals. Home to traditional Lyonnaise cuisine, you’ll enjoy sampling an array of exceptional culinary delights, accompanied by some of Europe’s finest wines. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Lyon
Today, a guided city tour of Lyon awaits. Stroll through the city and soak up the vividly illustrated history, admiring the striking buildings spanning the eras along narrow cobblestone streets. One of your highlights is a visit to the World Heritage-listed Basilica Notre-Dame de Fourvière, part of the inscribed historic site of Lyon. EmeraldACTIVE
Guided e-bike tour of Lyon
Alternatively, those feeling more active can explore the highlights of Lyon on two wheels, as part of a guided e-bike tour through the city. DiscoverMORE
Excursion to Pérouges (extra expense)
Located on a hill overlooking the Ain River Valley north of Lyon, this small medieval walled town thrives on its local wine and weaving industries. Considered one of the most beautiful villages in France, several fascinating buildings, including a fortified church and the house of the Princes of Savoy, await along the cobblestone streets. Explore from the upper gate to the 15th-century church, the main street ‘Rue des Rondes’ and the Maison du Sergent de Justice. This picturesque location has provided the backdrop for numerous films, including ‘The Three Musketeers.’

Arrives On: 15 Aug 27

Day 10: Mâcon (France)

Nestled in the heart of Burgundy, the Beaujolais region is well known for its distinctive wines produced here, particularly the world-famous Beaujolais Nouveau. The Beaujolais wine region is renowned for its vibrant, fruity wines produced with the Gamay grape variety. The extensive planting of Gamay grapes makes Beaujolais, one of several regions across the world that focus solely on a single grape variety. Red wine accounts for 99 percent of the total wine production in the Beaujolais wine region. Included Excursion
Beaujolais wine tasting
Experience the signature flavours of the renowned Beaujolais region with a guided wine tasting. You’ll visit a local vineyard, learn about the wine-making process, and sample a selection of wines that capture the essence of this picturesque region. Whether you're a seasoned wine connoisseur or a casual enthusiast, this tasting offers a marvellous first-hand introduction to the world of Beaujolais.

Arrives On: 16 Aug 27

Day 11: Tournon-sur-Rhône (France)

Today, you'll arrive in Tournon, a charming village that borders the gently meandering Rhône. Picturesque Tournon is dominated by a 16th-century castle that overlooks the village and several iconic landmarks, including a set of ancient watchtowers and impressive Roman relics. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Tournon with wine tasting
Led by an expert local guide, enjoy a walking tour that highlights the village's intangible cultural heritage. You'll also learn about the area's rich history of viticulture and enjoy a special tasting of the local wines. EmeraldACTIVE
Guided hike through the vineyards
Alternatively, for those feeling more active, join a guided hike through the verdant local vineyards. As you take in the bucolic splendour that surrounds you, marvel at the rows upon rows of grapes that are selected to produce some of the finest wines in Europe.

Arrives On: 17 Aug 27

Day 12: Viviers (France)

Welcome to Viviers, a small walled village in southern France that dates back to Roman times. This delightful village is best known for its medieval cathedral – one of the oldest in France – as well as romantic views across the Rhône River. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Viviers
Today, your included walking tour with a local guide through charming Viviers will highlight many of the village's striking monuments, distinctive for their ornate windows and
lavish façades. DiscoverMORE
Visit to Chauvet Pont D'Arc (extra expense)
Embark on a transformative journey as you delve into the fascinating Caverne du Pont-d'Arc Museum, an awe-inspiring testament to the indomitable spirit of human creativity. Let the luminosity of knowledge guide your steps as you traverse this cavernous expanse. You'll be accompanied by a local guide who breathes life into the ancient canvases that adorn the largest decorated cave replica in the world.

Arrives On: 18 Aug 27

Day 13: Avignon (France)

Set along the banks of the Rhône River in the celebrated region of Provence, the fortified city of Avignon bears a rich and illustrious history – from Celtic beginnings to the residence of seven successive Popes between 1309 and 1377. This legacy is evident today in the massive Palais des Papes (Popes' Palace), which is surrounded by medieval stone ramparts and an assortment of grand palaces and courtyards. Avignon also played a major role in the nation-defining French Revolution during the late 18th century. Included Excursion
Visit to Chateauneuf du Pape with wine tasting
Experience the charm of Châteauneuf-du-Pape with a guided visit and exceptional wine tasting. Delve into the region's distinctive terroirs and age-old winemaking traditions, then savour expertly curated

tastings that highlight the depth, elegance, and character that make Châteauneuf-du-Pape one of the Rhône Valley’s true treasures. EmeraldPLUS
Provençal dinner & wine pairing hosted by local chef Fabien Morreale
This evening, you’ll enjoy an exclusive Provençal dining experience on board your Emerald Star-Ship, expertly prepared by France's Top Chef finalist, Fabien Morreale. This celebrated French chef will prepare a special Provençal dinner menu for you to enjoy and savour the authentic flavours of the gastronomic region of Provence, highlighted with fine wine pairings. EmeraldPLUS
Classical concert in Avignon
Enjoy a classical concert set within a historic chapel where centuries-old stone walls create exceptional acoustics and a truly atmospheric setting. As the gentle light glows and music fills the space, a talented local trio performs timeless works, offering a moment of elegance, reflection, and cultural immersion. This exclusive experience blends Provence’s rich heritage with the beauty of live classical music for an unforgettable evening. DiscoverMORE
Guided tour of the Pont du Gard (extra expense)
At the heart of Provence, the World Heritage-listed Pont du Gard Aqueduct presents one of humankind’s great masterpieces. Technically and architecturally impressive, this three-level Roman aqueduct served as an aqueduct until the 6th century, transporting thousands of gallons of water per day. Later, it was used as a toll gate before transforming into a road bridge. On this fascinating guided tour, you’ll also visit the small Roman town of Uzès. Explore the circular streets that once protected the medieval castle and sample some of the region’s exceptional cuisine in the local restaurants.

Arrives On: 19 Aug 27

Day 14: Arles (France)

The glorious past is yours to uncover in Arles, a once-important Phoenician trading port that was captured by the Romans, who liberally peppered the city with iconic monuments that are still clearly evident today. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Arles with arena visit
Today, your included tour of Arles will showcase some of the World Heritage-listed Roman and Romanesque monuments, which illustrate how this ancient city has evolved over the centuries. Visit the 2,000-year-old Arles Amphitheatre and follow in the footsteps of world-renowned artist, Vincent van Gogh. DiscoverMORE
In the footsteps of Van Gogh with a painting workshop (extra expense)
Follow in the footsteps of celebrated artist Vincent van Gogh as you explore the beautiful landscapes that inspired his iconic works. Afterwards, take part in a painting workshop, where you can try your hand at recreating the vibrant scenes that captured the artist’s imagination. You’ll get to keep your own masterpiece inspired by Van Gogh’s legacy and then take it home with you as a unique souvenir. DiscoverMORE
Excursion to Les Baux de Provence (extra expense)
Set at the heart of the Alpilles regional country park, the World

Heritage-listed Les Baux de Provence is recognised as one of the most beautiful villages in France. Situated at a fortified rocky site between Arles and St. Remy-de-Provence, explore the Old Village with its narrow cobblestone streets and medieval stone buildings. Compact and brimming with shops and restaurants, the village retains a traditional lifestyle, while being regarded as an outstanding attraction. The high, rocky pinnacle of Château-Fortress des Baux extends to the southwest of the village and reveals incredible views from the hilltop.

Arrives On: 20 Aug 27

Day 15: Arles (France)

This morning, after breakfast, it’s time to bid farewell to your fellow guests and disembark your Emerald Star-Ship for your transfer to the airport. Leave with cherished memories of the idyllic countryside and the exceptional wines and gastronomy of Southern France. Please book your flight to depart out of Nice after 01:00 PM. This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons such as high and low water. As such, the cruise may operate altered from that stated above. Please refer to our terms and conditions for further information.

Arrives On: 21 Aug 27

Day 15: Nice (France)

Arrives On: 21 Aug 27

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.
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