Cruise Details

Name:	Tastes of the South of France – A Wine Cruise
Reference:	SCENICFRAC300527-1V
Operator:	Scenic River Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Sapphire
Regions:	Saone
Departs On:	30 May 27
Departs From:	Lyon
Arrives On:	09 Jun 27
Arrives At:	Lyon
Cruise Nights:	10
Total Vacation Days:	11

Itinerary

Day 1: Lyon (France)

Fly from the UK for the start of your cruise.Welcome to France and the ancient city of Lyon, often called the ‘Food Capital of the World’. Lyon is surrounded by two iconic wine regions – Burgundy to the north and the Rhône Valley to the south. Upon arrival, transfer to Scenic Sapphire where your friendly crew await to welcome you on board.

Spend the afternoon exploring your Scenic Space-Ship. Relax in your luxurious suite or take a beverage to the Sun Deck and admire the magnificent views across Lyon. You will remain docked here overnight, so you can go onshore to explore some of the city’s culinary delights. Please book your flight to arrive into Lyon prior to 07:00 PM.

Arrives On: 30 May 27

Day 2: Lyon (France)

Your Scenic Space-Ship will arrive in Vienne today. Boasting a 2,000-year history, this city is brimming with Roman history, including a terraced theatre, first century temple, ancient baths and the Vienne Pyramid, which was the site of the Roman circus where chariot races would have been held. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore your way with a choice from these Scenic Freechoice experiences:

Walking tour of Vienne with Roman theatre: Uncover the fascinating history of this quaint riverside town, once conquered by Julius Caesar. You will visit one of the best-preserved Roman theatres, which was built against the steep slopes of a hill and could hold more than 10,000 spectators.

Cycling tour of Vienne: Discover the city's glory days on two wheels. Cycle past a marvellously preserved Roman temple, a monument to Emperor Augustus, and see the ruins of a once-thriving district complete with bath houses, villas and workshops. Nature lovers will enjoy the detour to the lush Ile Barlet River Island.

Arrives On: 31 May 27

Day 2: Vienne (France)

Arrives On: 31 May 27

Day 3: Châteauneuf-du-Pape (France)

Châteauneuf-du-Pape is an historic village in the southern Rhône Valley, famous for its full-bodied red wines made primarily from grenache, syrah and mourvèdre grapes. The name means 'new castle of the pope' as it was a papal summer residence in the 14th century. Today, it is a celebrated wine region with over 300 wineries offering tastings and tours, attracting wine lovers from around the world. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore the area on one of these Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Wines of the Popes – Wine tasting in Châteauneuf-du-Pape AOC: The fertile banks of the Rhône are peppered with Côte du Rhône vineyards, including at the village of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, where centuries of wine production make for a fascinating history. Take this opportunity to sample some of the region's most celebrated wines.

Chocolate workshop: Experience a delicious tour of Chocolaterie Castelain, featuring a live chocolate-making demonstration followed by a tasting session. Savour their signature artisanal chocolates infused with local Châteauneuf-du-Pape wine, paired perfectly with select regional wines and delicacies.

Bike tour along the Rhône: Follow the gentle paths of the ViaRhôna along the beautiful Rhône riverbanks on this gentle cycling tour. As you pedal through peaceful landscape filled with vineyards on both riverbanks, you'll reach the impressive Passerelle de l'Oiselay, a striking pedestrian and cycle bridge offering stunning panoramic views over the river.

Arrives On: 01 Jun 27

Day 3: Arles (France)

Arrives On: 01 Jun 27

Day 4: Arles (France)

The southern most point of your journey, Arles is just a few kilometres from the Mediterranean Sea. Founded by Julius Ceasar more than 2,000 years ago, the city is home to the largest number of Roman ruins outside of Rome itself. Vincent van Gogh lived here in 1888 and drew inspiration for many of his works from the surrounding landscape. Arles is also a gateway to the vines of Provence where historic wineries produce the region's famous rosé. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore the city with one of today's Scenic Freechoice:

Provence in Pink – Rosé wine tasting: Discover the renowned vineyards that produce Provence's signature rosé. Learn about unique terroir and popular grape varieties that produce the crisp, elegant pinks the region is famous for.

Guided tour of Arles: Set out from the ship on foot to visit the heart of Arles and its most impressive Roman ruins. Experience the vibrant colours and striking quality of light that has inspired many artists. Your local guide will provide fascinating insights about the city's history and modern culture.

Visit Les Baux with Carrières des Lumières: Marvel at the Carrières des Lumières, a former quarry that has been transformed into a 7,000 square metre immersive digital art space. Then explore the stunning medieval village of Les Baux.

Ancestry of the Kitchen with olive mill: Visit a local olive farm where you will learn the techniques of olive oil production. Later, the owner will share their experience of life in this region as well as traditional Provençal recipes.

Following Vincent – Van Gogh's Arles: Step into the vibrant world of Vincent van Gogh on a walking tour. Trace the artist's journey through the cobbled streets and historic sites that inspired some of his most famous works during his 15 months in this charming Provençal town, experiencing the colours and atmosphere that shaped his genius. Relax on board this afternoon as you cruise towards Avignon, where you will be docked overnight.

Arrives On: 02 Jun 27

Day 4: Avignon (France)

Arrives On: 02 Jun 27

Day 5: Avignon (France)

Wake in the ancient city of Avignon. Known as the 'City of the Popes', it is home to the World Heritage-listed Palais des Papes (Pope's Palace), the former papal residence in the 14th century when Rome was in turmoil. Avignon is surrounded by wine regions on all sides, with the Rhône Valley to the north and Provence to the south. It is also known for artisan products like olive

oil, lavender and chocolates. Scenic Freechoice:
Take your pick from this morning's Scenic Freechoice:

Guided walking tour: Learn the rich and fascinating history of Avignon on this guided tour, wandering the ancient cobblestone streets to reach the Pope's Palace, home to the Papacy and seat of Western Christianity in the 14th century. A moderate degree of fitness is required.

Excursion to Pont Du Gard: Visit the ancient Pont du Gard aqueduct, built by the Romans around 2,000 years ago. Afterwards, learn about this engineering marvel and how it carried water at the engaging museum.

Kayaking at Pont du Gard: Get a different perspective on the Pont du Gard from the tranquil waters of the Gardon River. Paddle a kayak beneath the World Heritage-listed aqueduct and marvel at its intricate stonework.

Shop with a chef & Scenic Culinaire: Join your on board chef to visit the local market where you will shop for and sample the best ingredients this region has to offer. Return to the ship for an interactive cooking demonstration at Scenic Culinaire. (Please note: Avignon Market is closed on a Monday). Guest limits apply.

Excursion to Luberon villages and Sénanque Abbey: Visit the village of Gordes, considered one of the most beautiful in France. Its stone buildings spiral around the rock on which it is perched, with the church and castle at the apex. Later, visit the picturesque Sénanque Abbey. This afternoon is at your leisure to further explore Avignon at your own pace. If you're feeling energetic, wander up Le Rocher des Doms. Set 30 metres above the river, it offers excellent views over the city as well as a pretty English-style garden with shady trees, fountains and ponds. Scenic Enrich
Classical concert at the Palais des Papes: Enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime private experience inside Palais des Papes. Sit down to an exclusive gala dinner inside the very banquet hall Popes used to host formal feasts in and be immersed in the beauty of famous classical pieces performed by a quartet of musicians.

Arrives On: 03 Jun 27

Day 6: Viviers (France)

Your Scenic Space-Ship will cruise north overnight, arriving in Viviers early this morning. Founded in the fifth century, the city is often described as an open-air museum. Wandering its narrow, zig-zagging lanes, you will feel as though little has changed in the past 1,600 years. Viviers also has a fascinating connection with the French Resistance and is bordered by the vineyards of the Côtes du Rhône. Scenic Freechoice:
This morning the choice is yours with Scenic Freechoice:

Walking tour of Viviers: Admire the many architectural treasures of Viviers on foot, including the Cathedral of St Vincent with its mix of medieval, Gothic and Renaissance styles. Afterwards, enjoy some free time to explore Viviers at your leisure.

French Resistance walking tour: Hear tales of heroism from the French Resistance, who fought bravely against the Nazi Occupation of France during World War II. Learn about their most daring missions as you explore the historic town on foot.

WWII in Viviers: Uncover the layered history of Viviers, whose quiet charm belies a dramatic past. This guided walk reveals how the Rhône Valley became a pivotal stage in the Battle of Montélimar,

when Allied and German forces clashed in August 1944 during the final push to liberate southern France. Learn why this battle is still studied at West Point. Scenic Freechoice:
After lunch explore more of the surrounding region with Scenic Freechoice:

Côtes du Rhône villages tasting: Discover the rich flavours of the Rhône Valley on this guided tasting excursion. Experience the diverse terroir and time-honoured winemaking traditions of southern France in a glass.

Ardèche Nature Park with Caverne du Pont-d'Arc Museum: Explore the natural beauty and historic sites that come together in the Ardèche Nature Park. Then be immersed in the Caverne du Pont-d'Arc Museum, the largest decorated Palaeolithic cave replica in the world. The original site was deemed too fragile for public access, so this replica cave was built only a few kilometres from the actual cave.

Excursion to Grignan de Provence: Travel to the beautiful provincial town of Grignan. Your local guide will accompany you to the mighty castle that dominates the town as well as the Collegiate Church of the Holy Saviour, before enjoying some time at leisure.

Arrives On: 04 Jun 27

Day 7: Tournon-sur-Rhône (France)

Arrive in the charming town of Tournon early this morning. This hillside village is known for its terraced vineyards, enchanting castle dating back to the 10th century and quaint cobblestoned streets. Tournon is at the centre of the northern Rhône Valley wine region, famous for producing the best Syrah in the world. The surrounding vineyards also produce signature white varietals – Viognier, Marsanne and Roussanne. Scenic Freechoice:
Spend this morning at your preferred pace with one of the following Scenic Freechoice experiences:

Côtes du Rhône tasting: Enjoy a guided tasting of the famed Côtes du Rhône wines. A local wine expert will share their knowledge as you sip their renowned drops.

Hiking through the vineyards in Tournon: Get a first-hand look at the famous vines of the Rhône on a hike through the sloping vineyards that flank the town. Learn about the local wine production and taste some of the delicious varietals of the region.

Walking tour of Tournon: Explore this ancient town on foot, visiting the castle, built between the 10th and 16th centuries, and crossing France's oldest suspension bridge to the neighbouring town of Tain l'Hermitage, home to prestigious chocolatiers Valrhona.

Biking along the Rhône: Cycle a section of the famed ViaRhona bike route along the Rhône River between Tournon and Gun. Admire charming villages, lush orchards and historic bridges, seeing daily life of locals as you pass by. This afternoon you will have some free time to explore the town on your own. This evening, indulge in a dessert buffet on board Scenic Sapphire from a local pâtissier. Savour the authentic flavours of the region and conclude your night with delicious creations – delicate pastries, silky creams, and vibrant confections that delight the eyes as much as the palate.

Arrives On: 05 Jun 27

Day 8: Lyon (France)

Return to Lyon today. France’s culinary capital sits at the confluence of the Rhône and Saône rivers. The city is home to more than 4,000 restaurants – including 20 that hold Michelin stars. Learn more about its rich history, dating back to the days of the Romans, or discover one of the region’s surrounding villages Scenic Freechoice:
Explore Lyon with this morning’s range of Scenic Freechoice:

Guided tour of Lyon: Experience the essence of Lyon on this coach tour, taking you past Roman ruins and to its hidden traboules, secret passageways that date back to the fourth century. Then visit Notre Dame Basilica, offering a fabulous vantage point for views across the city.

Excursion to Pérouges: Travel to the medieval walled village of Pérouges, perched atop a hill overlooking the Ain River. Enjoy a walking tour of through its vine-covered stone buildings, cobbled laneways and market square centred around a centuries-old lime tree. Please note: Due to uneven surfaces and a lot of walking both up and down hill, this tour is recommended only for guests with a high degree of fitness.

Silk painting workshop: Fine silk has been produced in Lyon since the 15th century and the city still has a proud tradition of textile production. Join this immersive workshop to learn about this rich heritage and create your own masterpiece. Scenic Enrich
Choral concert at Chapelle de la Trinite: Step inside the grand Trinity Chapel, a Baroque beauty with an interior decadently covered in Carrera marble. Scenic guests will be treated to an exclusive acapella choir performance, made even more breathtaking by the sublime acoustics of the chapel.

Arrives On: 06 Jun 27

Day 9: Mâcon (France)

Dock in the town of Mâcon, which will be your base for exploring the surrounding south Burgundy region. Mâcon sits right on the edge of the river, with picturesque pastel-hued buildings, ancient churches and picturesque quays. It is close to the Burgundy wine region, one of the most famous in France, which produces exceptional Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Gamay and Sparkling wines. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose from this morning’s Scenic Freechoice activities:

Excursion to Cluny and Cluny Abbey: Step back in time to the medieval town of Cluny, which is famous for its Benedictine Abbey, once the largest Christian buildings in the world. Tour the impressive town, learn about its history and soak up its charm during some free time.

Truffle tasting: Meet a local truffle farmer and his dog to learn the tricks and techniques of truffle farming. Afterwards, enjoy tasting of truffle butter plus chocolate mousse with truffles.

Georges Blanc cooking demonstration: Learn the story of the village of Vonnas, a gourmet destination created by legendary Michelin-star chef George Blanc. Visit one of his famed restaurants for an interactive cooking demonstration featuring classic French dishes.

Hameau Dubœuf – the first wine theme park in Europe: Step into the world of wine, where over 30,000 square meters of engaging exhibits, immersive rides and interactive shows take you through 2,000 years of wine and vineyard history. Explore historic

cellars, take hands-on olfactory walks in aromatic gardens, experience a panoramic flight over the Beaujolais and Mâconnais landscapes, and finish with a guided wine tasting only available on this departure. This afternoon, enjoy a cooperage demonstration. A skilled artisan will shows you the secret of this ancient art and learn how it still plays a crucial role in wine and spirit making.

Tonight, sit down to an exclusive dinner on board prepared by Michelin-starred Chef Didier Goiffon. This intimate dining experience in Crystal Dining allows you to experience authentic flavours in exquisite regional dishes that showcase the best of French gastronomy.

Arrives On: 07 Jun 27

Day 10: Mâcon (France)

Stay in Mâcon this morning to discover more of the region’s gourmet delights and dramatic architecture. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose from today’s Scenic Freechoice activities:

Beaujolais wine region: Drive through the rolling hills of the world-famous Beaujolais wine region and meet a local vintner. Discover how this wine is produced and sample some of the region’s best drops.

Excursion to Château de Cormatin: Transfer by coach to the historic Château de Cormatin, built in 1606. The castle boasts a fascinating history and has been lovingly restored back to its original glory. Admire the castle’s gilded rooms, moat, water features and more than 10 hectares of manicured gardens on a guided tour.

Monastère Royal de Brou and Bourg-en-Bresse: Discover the cultural treasures of Bourg-en-Bresse with a guided tour featuring the stunning Monastère Royal de Brou. This 16th century masterpiece commissioned by Margaret of Austria combines flamboyant Gothic architecture with refined Renaissance artistry. Today, it serves as a museum showcasing centuries of Flemish and Netherlandish art.

Arrives On: 08 Jun 27

Day 11: Lyon (France)

Your journey concludes this morning. Farewell your fellow guests and Scenic crew, taking with you vivid memories of France’s most famous wine regions. Transfer to the airport for your return flight to the UK. This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons such as high and low water. Please refer to our terms and conditions.

Arrives On: 09 Jun 27

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