



Cruise Details

Name:	La Belle Vie: The Rhone, Geneva & the Riviera - Northbound
Reference:	TAUCKQGN202407102024
Operator:	Tauck
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	MS Emerald
Regions:	Rhone
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Departs On:	07 Oct 24
Departs From:	Aix-en-Provence
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Arrives On:	20 Oct 24
Arrives At:	Paris
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Cruise Nights:	13
Total Vacation Days:	14

Itinerary

Day 1: Aix-en-Provence (France)

Tour begins: 6:30 PM, Hôtel Martinez. A transfer is included from the Nice Cote d'Azur International Airport, and Cannes Train Station to Hôtel Martinez. Join us for a cocktail reception and dinner in the Mediterranean playground of Cannes.

Arrives On: 07 Oct 24

Day 2: Monte-Carlo (Monaco)

Explore the south of France on a choice of sightseeing excursions today. Your first choice is an excursion that includes walking tours of Nice and Monte-Carlo plus a famed drive... mega-yachts from around the world bobbing in the bay... the rich, the famous, the jet setters... a casino world-renowned for its glamour... a real-life royal fairy-tale romance... it's all part of Nice and Monte-Carlo's magic spell... Alternatively, journey to the hills above Cannes for a visit to Grasse, one of the world's premiere centers for the perfume industry, and a visit to the picturesque walled town of

Saint Paul de Vence, a Provençal hilltop town that was built in the 13th century, for a walking tour – you'll be taken with its medieval look and easily understand why it became an artists' enclave. Return to Cannes late afternoon for the evening.

Arrives On: 08 Oct 24

Day 3: Aix-en-Provence (France)

Travel to lovely Aix-en-Provence; it's not hard to imagine great artists like Vincent van Gogh or Paul Cézanne at work amidst the spectrum of colors found in Provence as you view Mont Ste-Victoire and join your local guide for a walking tour among the fountains, squares and medieval center. Early afternoon, travel to Arles, where you'll board ms Emerald and begin one of Tauck's most popular river cruises in France along the Rhône and the Saône. The crew welcomes you aboard with a reception followed by dinner this evening.

Arrives On: 09 Oct 24

Day 4: Arles (France)

It may seem strange to encounter Roman ruins in Provence but Arles was, after all, once a Roman city; while the gladiators are gone, the arena they left behind – just one of the town's many Roman remnants. You have a choice today of exploring Arles' medieval streets and city walls on a walking tour, or embarking on a challenging, 2-hour bicycling excursion across the countryside surrounding Arles (which van Gogh found so enchanting). Lunch today is a real treat, as you visit a private ranch in La Camargue for a private banquet of farm-grown Provençal specialties, a musical serenade, and a chance to see the region's iconic white horses, fleet-footed gardians (cowboys) and famous black bulls.

Arrives On: 10 Oct 24

Day 5: Avignon (France)

Although the fortified city of Avignon was undoubtedly a pleasant place before they arrived, the 14th-century popes, who spent less than a century here when Rome became "tedious" for them, really put it on the map, and cultivated the local wine industry (Châteauneuf-du-Pape) and an appreciation for good food. This morning, choose a visit to the fortress-like home that the pontiffs built for themselves, the Palais des Papes, a guided tour that brings you along the streets of Avignon for an exploration of the city's history and Jewish heritage dating back to the 13th century or an exploration of Avignon via mini train. After a free afternoon aboard ship, travel to the Duchy d'Uzès – a medieval city dating back to the 11th century, often called the "First Duchy of France," that forms the heart of the town of Uzès – for a guided visit followed by a cocktail reception and a Tauck Exclusive gala dinner at the recently restored Chateau.

Arrives On: 11 Oct 24

Day 6: Avignon (France)

With your riverboat docked in Avignon for the morning, you can spend more time exploring the medieval city or take a morning excursion to Saint-Remy-de-Provence – home to the ruins of the Roman city of Glanum, as well as the Saint-Paul Asylum where Vincent van Gogh was a patient. After returning to the ship for lunch onboard, head out again for an afternoon wine tasting at one of the select vineyards permitted to produce Châteauneuf-du-Pape – literally "the New Castle of the Pope" – the most famous of the Côtes du Rhône wines; your host reveals secrets of the terroir as you sample estate-crafted red and white wines from a region that's been producing wine for more than 2,500 years! Catch up with the riverboat in Châteauneuf-du-Pape and spend the evening onboard.

Arrives On: 12 Oct 24

Day 7: Tain-l'Hermitage (France)

Arrive this morning in Tain L'Hermitage, deep in the heart of Cote du Rhône wine country, where you'll have a choice of two sightseeing excursions this morning. Visit a local orchard (with tastings), take a mini-train through the Tain L'Hermitage heritage vineyards. Or, go on a fascinating 2.5 mile hike through the heritage vineyards of Tain L'Hermitage where you'll learn about the history of the region's wine. Reboard the riverboat midday and spend the remainder of the day cruising to Macon.

Arrives On: 13 Oct 24

Day 8: Mâcon (France)

Your riverboat arrives in Mâcon on the Saône River this morning, for exploration in Cluny. During the reign of Charlemagne (742 - 814), monastic influences inspired a great revival in art, education and culture; today you'll visit one of the great monasteries of the period when you tour the great Benedictine Abbey of Cluny. Founded in 910, it was at the center of this major monastic reform movement and was also the largest Christian building in the world until the construction of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. After some free time to explore Cluny on your own, reboard your riverboat and cruise to Chalon-sur-Saône.

Arrives On: 14 Oct 24

Day 9: Chalon-sur-Saône (France)

Chalon-sur-Saône on the River Saône lies in the heart of southern Burgundy. Although its history dates back to the time of Charlemagne, it has another significant claim to fame – this is considered the birthplace of photography. So you have local inventor Nicéphore Niépce, who started it all with several photographic firsts right here in the 1820s, to thank for the great photos of the town's Romanesque churches and other monuments. Visit the walled city of Beaune – the "wine capital" of

the famous Burgundy wine-producing region, and one of France's most important wine centers. A walking tour includes a visit to Hospices de Beaune or Hôtel-Dieu de Beaune, considered one of the best-preserved examples of 15th-century French architecture; you may also see the old market (les Halles), the Beffroi (clock tower), parts of the medieval walls and ramparts, and more. This afternoon you have a choice of wine tasting in Burgundy or a walking tour (and tasting tour) of Chalon-sur-Saône.

Arrives On: 15 Oct 24

Day 10: Tournus (France)

After cruising the Saône overnight, ms Emerald calls on Tournus this morning, from which you'll head out to explore the beautiful wine producing region of southern Burgundy, where history lies around every corner (this was a major crossroads during Roman times), and vineyards are everywhere. Picture in your mind what a typical French vineyard looks like... and then view the most amazing landscape that surrounds you for miles and miles. Vineyards, gently rolling hills, orchards, red-tiled farmhouses, medieval cathedrals, the occasional village to stop in... and historic country estates like the 17th-century Château de Cormatin, which you'll explore on a visit today. With its moat, drawbridge, turrets, gilded rooms and parklike grounds – including the mazes and fountains of its completely restored "pleasure garden" that's now among the finest in France – this classic Burgundy château takes you back through the centuries. Return to the riverboat in Tournus for lunch, and continue your cruise this afternoon and evening to France's culinary capital, Lyon.

Arrives On: 16 Oct 24

Day 11: Lyon (France)

Ahh, Lyon. If you're a serious foodie, Lyon is the place for you! But of course there is more to this 2,000 year-old city, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, than food. Your day includes getting a panoramic view of Lyon from the hilltop district of Fourvière; a visit to the stunning Basilica of Notre-Dame-de-Fourvière – built in the 1870s on "the hill that prays," it features exquisite marble work, stained glass windows, colorful mosaics and gilt galore; a tour of medieval Vieux Lyon; and a free afternoon to explore more of the city as you please. As your riverboat spends the night docked in Lyon, join us aboard ship for our farewell reception followed by dinner and onboard entertainment.

Arrives On: 17 Oct 24

Day 12: Lyon (France)

Bid your riverboat au revoirs this morning as your travels to Geneva begin. Arrive in the alpine town of Annecy, known for its lake and its mountains – its setting is where Lake Annecy feeds into the Thiou River. The town itself is amazing, like something out of a storybook; the word "picturesque"

doesn't do it justice. Join a local guide for a walking tour along its cobblestone streets, viewing the Old Town set beside flower-bordered canals and boasting colorful houses; 2,000 years of history unfold. Mid-afternoon, following some free time to explore, travel to Geneva for a two-night stay.

Arrives On: 18 Oct 24

Day 13: Geneva (Switzerland)

Today is a day of choice as to how you'll explore. You can join us for a visit to the lovely medieval village of Yvoire followed by a walking tour of Geneva that includes a visit to the Old Town. Alternatively, travel to the world-renowned resort town of Chamonix-Mont-Blanc; travel by cable car from Chamonix town (3,396 feet / 1,035m) to the top of Aiguille du Midi at 12,605 feet for breath taking views of the Alps and Chamonix below, followed by time at leisure in Chamonix. Your third option is to travel to Chamonix and enjoy a scenic 3.2 mile (5km) long cog train ride up the forested slopes of the Mont Blanc massif to the viewing point of the famous glacier called Mer de Glace ("Sea of Ice"). Featuring a beautiful refuge hotel built in 1880 to welcome the first mountaineers and travelers who came to visit the Mer de Glace (and renovated in 2017), Mer de Glace offers stunning views of a glacier, the dramatic valley that it carved out, and the jagged snow covered mountain tops that feed the glaciers – the Mer de Glace valley is regarded as the longest and largest glacier in France, and the second longest in the Alps. Everyone returns to Geneva late afternoon; we invite you to join us for a farewell reception and dinner at your hotel.

Arrives On: 19 Oct 24

Day 14: Paris (France)

Tour ends: 8:00 AM Geneva. Fly home anytime. A transfer from InterContinental Genève to Geneva Airport or Gare de Genève is included. Please allow a minimum of three hours for flight check-in.

Arrives On: 20 Oct 24

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

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