Cruise Details

Name:	Savoring France: Paris, Lyon & Provence
Reference:	TAUCKRO202717052027
Operator:	Tauck
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	ms Lumière
Regions:	Rhone and Saone
Departs On:	17 May 27
Departs From:	Paris
Arrives On:	26 May 27
Arrives At:	Lyon
Cruise Nights:	9
Total Vacation Days:	10

Itinerary

Day 1: Paris (France)

Tour begins: 6:30 PM, Riverboat. A transfer is included from Lyon–Saint Exupéry Airport to your riverboat, comfortably docked in this historic city at the meeting of the Rhône and Saône Rivers. Settle in and get acquainted with your home afloat before joining us this evening for a special welcome cocktail reception and dinner, as your journey through the heart of France begins.

Arrives On: 17 May 27

Day 2: Lyon (France)

Lyon is considered the "culinary capital of France," which is quite a compliment in a country famed for its cuisine and fine vintages. But Lyon is also a city with a venerable history and considerable charm, as you'll discover when you do some sightseeing that includes a visit Vieux Lyon, the old Renaissance part of the city that is both a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the first protected historic district in France, and the Basilica of Notre-Dame-de-Fourvière, built atop the ruins of an

ancient Roman forum. This afternoon, it's off to the celebrated wine-growing region of Beaujolais for a tasting in the countryside before continuing your Rhône River cruise to Viviers. Return to the riverboat late afternoon for the evening.

Arrives On: 18 May 27

Day 3: Viviers (France)

Cruise this morning to Viviers, a walled city with origins in the 5th century on the right bank of the Rhône. If medieval history and authentic period architecture are your thing, Viviers is your kind of place... because it's one of the best-preserved medieval towns that you're likely to see in all of France. Its narrow streets and lanes reveal what life might have been like here in the Middle Ages. Your choices today include a walking tour of Viviers with your local guide including views of the 12th-century Cathedral of Notre Dame de Rhône and the richly detailed façade of the Maison des Chevaliers, followed by a lively game of petanque with the locals; or a drive to Grignan for a walking tour of town and a truffle farm tour and tasting. Join us for dinner in The Compass Rose this evening as we sail for Arles in Provence.

Arrives On: 19 May 27

Day 4: Arles (France)

It may seem that the Romans were everywhere along the Rhône, and Arles is no exception, as is witnessed by the triumphal arch, circus and baths they left behind as you explore the city on a walking tour (or a bicycle tour) and time on your own. Do take time to look beyond the city walls at the incredible quality of the light here that so enraptured Vincent van Gogh – and the landscapes of yellow rocks, red soil and lilac mountains that inspired in the Dutch artist a newfound creativity, and led to his creating hundreds of paintings while a patient at a nearby asylum, one of the most productive periods of his short life. 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. As you continue your Rhône River cruise to Avignon this evening, try your hand at painting a chocolate art piece during an onboard demonstration before dinner aboard the riverboat.

Arrives On: 20 May 27

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 bicycle excursion in Avignon, a visit to the fortress-like home that the pontiffs built for themselves, the Palais des Papes, a tour of the city by

mini-train, or 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. Join us this evening ashore for a Tauck Exclusive event – a special evening including a tour, reception and dinner at the restored château and grounds of the medieval Duchy of Uzès.

Arrives On: 21 May 27

Day 6: Châteauneuf-du-Pape (France)

You have a choice of sightseeing this morning. Venture deeper into Provence today on a visit to the yellow-and-brown town of Roussillon, in the Luberon region. This place is all about color, from the ochre cliffs surrounding the town to the purple of the lavender during its blooming season and the lush, green pine forests, as you'll discover for yourself on a walking tour. Alternatively, from Avignon, journey to Pont du Gard, an ancient Roman aqueduct bridging history and nature. Explore the impressive tiers, then visit the on-site museum to discover its engineering marvels and the daily life of those who built it. Walk shaded trails, enjoy panoramic views, and gain insight into Roman innovation through immersive exhibits and interactive displays. This UNESCO World Heritage Site offers a vivid connection to the past, surrounded by the scenic beauty of the Gardon River valley. Everyone returns to the riverboat to have lunch as you cruise to Châteauneuf-du-Pape; over 200 days of sunshine per year and rain-bearing mistral winds enable the soil to store water for the long summer, meaning that vineyards thrive here. Since medieval times, the life of this hillside village has centered around growing and producing wine of the same appellation; its residents have benefitted from the proceeds of flourishing vineyards as early as the 13th century, when the village was adjacent to a summer palace for the popes of Avignon. You will get an opportunity this afternoon to taste some of the area's acclaimed wines before returning to the riverboat for dinner and onboard relaxation as your cruise continues.

Arrives On: 22 May 27

Day 7: Tain-l'Hermitage (France)

The riverboat docks in Tain l'Hermitage for the final day of your Rhône River cruise. From here you're off on a choice of excursions; a wine & cheese tasting at a local co-op, recognized for its prestigious "cru" of wines; a visit to world renowned chocolate producer, Valrhona, where you'll learn about the history of the chocolate maker, taste the difference between a few different types of chocolate and take part in a chocolate truffle making class with one of Valrhona's top pastry chefs; or, embark on an active hike through the vineyards of Tain l'Hermitage, learning about the region's rich wine history and indulging in a jaw-dropping view at the top of the hill, one that warranted a visit from future president Thomas Jefferson back in 1788. Join us aboard the ship for tonight's farewell reception followed by dinner as your riverboat returns to Lyon.

Arrives On: 23 May 27

Day 8: Paris (France)

Disembark your riverboat in Lyon this morning and board the high-speed train to Paris, watching the landscapes of Burgundy and northern France unfold along the way. Upon arrival, get acquainted with the city on an orientation tour introducing its grand avenues, distinct neighborhoods, and unmistakable energy. The remainder of the day and evening are yours to enjoy as you wish – perhaps a stroll through a café-lined street, a quiet moment along the Seine, or dinner at a neighborhood bistro. Overnight at your hotel in Paris.

Arrives On: 24 May 27

Day 9: Paris (France)

Enjoy a moveable feast and an introduction to the delights of Parisian cuisine today as you take a pastry class at Le Cordon Bleu Paris, where you'll learn firsthand the tips of the pâtisserie trade – including how to make an original pastry followed by a food walking tour. A Paris orientation tour by coach familiarizes you with many iconic landmarks before you embark on a walking and tasting tour that inspires with the fragrances and flavors of French food. The French capital is home to the masters of the pastry universe, dating back to Marie-Antoine Carême, who in the early 1800's popularized elaborate confections including the millefeuille, the croquembouche, strawberries Romanov and many more. Discover the history behind some of France's beloved specialties as you "taste" your way through a local neighborhood. Tonight, join us for a farewell reception and dinner.

Arrives On: 25 May 27

Day 10: Lyon (France)

Tour ends: Paris. Fly home anytime. A transfer is included from InterContinental Paris Le Grand Hotel to Charles de Gaulle airport or the Charles de Gaulle, Gare du Lyon, or Gare du Nord train stations for your journey home. Allow a minimum of three hours for flight check-in at the airport.

Arrives On: 26 May 27

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

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