Cruise Details

Name:	French Escapade: The Riviera to Paris - Northbound
Reference:	TAUCKRPN202718082027
Operator:	Tauck
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	ms Lumière
Regions:	Seine
Departs On:	18 Aug 27
Departs From:	Aix-en-Provence
Arrives On:	31 Aug 27
Arrives At:	Paris
Cruise Nights:	13
Total Vacation Days:	14

Itinerary

Day 1: Aix-en-Provence (France)

Tour begins: 6:30 PM, Fairmont Monte Carlo. A transfer is included from Nice Côte d'Azur International Airport to the Fairmont Monte Carlo, ideally set between the Mediterranean Sea and the legendary Casino de Monte-Carlo. This evening, join us for a welcome cocktail reception and dinner, celebrating the start of your journey in one of the Riviera's most glamorous settings, where sea breezes, sparkling lights, and effortless sophistication capture the spirit of the Côte d'Azur.

Arrives On: 18 Aug 27

Day 2: Cannes (France)

Wake this morning in Monte-Carlo, where the deep blue of the Mediterranean meets the elegance of the Côte d'Azur. Today unfolds along the Riviera, with sightseeing that reveals the region's celebrated beauty, from sunlit coastal towns to panoramic sea views and gardens overlooking the water. Discover the charm, style, and effortless glamour that have drawn travelers here for

generations, where every turn of the coastline offers another view to remember – surrounded by the glow and sophistication of the Riviera.

Arrives On: 19 Aug 27

Day 3: Aix-en-Provence (France)

Travel today into lovely Provence, where light and color seem to take on a life of their own. It's easy to imagine artists like Vincent van Gogh and Paul Cézanne at work here, inspired by the golden fields, lavender tones, and luminous skies that define the region. Late afternoon brings you to Arles, where you'll board your riverboat to begin one of Tauck's most popular journeys along the Rhône and Saône Rivers. This evening, meet the crew at a welcome reception followed by dinner aboard ship.

Arrives On: 20 Aug 27

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: 21 Aug 27

Day 5: Avignon (France)

The fortified city of Avignon was probably a much more peaceful place before Rome became "inconvenient" for the popes who moved the papacy here about 700 years ago. Although they stayed for less than a century, they kept busy during those years... as you'll see on your visit to the impressive Palais des Papes that they built for themselves during this morning's sightseeing in this key medieval city. 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: 22 Aug 27

Day 6: Châteauneuf-du-Pape (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: 23 Aug 27

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: 24 Aug 27

Day 8: Chalon-sur-Saône (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: 25 Aug 27

Day 9: Chalon-sur-Saône (France)

Chalon-sur-Sâone on the River Saône lies in the heart of southernBurgundy. Although its history dates back to the time of Charlemagne, ithas another significant claim to fame – this is considered thebirthplace of photography. So you have local inventor Nicéphore Niépce, who started it all with several photographic firsts right here in the 1820s, to thankfor the great photos of the town's Romanesque churches and othermonuments. 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: 26 Aug 27

Day 10: Tournus (France)

After cruising the Saône overnight, call on Tournus this morning and 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: 27 Aug 27

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 Fouvière; 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 a cocktail hour followed by dinner.

Arrives On: 28 Aug 27

Day 12: Paris (France)

As all river cruises in France must, the cruise portion of your vacation ends today as you disembark in Lyon. Board the TGV (a high-speed train) for two nights in the capital city of Paris. Whether you explore on- or off-the-beaten-path, you'll find yourself navigating the city's arrondissements (districts), beginning with the geographical center and spiraling outwards in a clockwise direction. The remainder of the day and evening are free to spend as you please in one of the world's favorite

cities; there are boulevards to stroll, pastries to sample, sidewalk cafés to enjoy, wines to savor and French fare to try that tempts every palate.

Arrives On: 29 Aug 27

Day 13: Paris (France)

Ernest Hemingway called Paris a "moveable feast" – and even if you've been here many times, today might be the day you discover something about the city that you didn't know before. The day begins with an orientation tour, offering a scenic drive past some of Paris' most celebrated landmarks, weaving together the city's storied past and stunning architecture. The remainder of your day is free to enjoy as you please; this evening, we invite you to join us for a memorable farewell dinner at your hotel.

Arrives On: 30 Aug 27

Day 14: Paris (France)

Tour ends: 8:00 AM Paris. Fly home anytime. A transfer from InterContinental Paris Le Grand Hotel to Charles de Gaulle Airport, Gare de Lyon Station, Charles de Gaulle Station and Gare du Nord is included. Please allow a minimum of three hours for flight check-in. We wish you a safe and pleasant journey home.

Arrives On: 31 Aug 27

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

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