2027 - Colors of Provence

7-NIGHT CRUISE WITH 3 NIGHTS BARCELONA PRE-CRUISE AND 3 NIGHTS PARIS POST-CRUISE

From romantic cities to foodie havens and artistic epicenters, this itinerary enlivens all your senses. Embark in Arles and trace the steps of famous artists in Arles and onward to Avignon where you'll find yourself in a sprawling commune with an overwhelming array of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, intriguing art museums and historic charm. Savor the beauty of legendary vineyards and imbibe in local vintages like Beaujolais and Côtes du Rhône. You can even become an expert in all things culinary: go in search of the highly prized "Black Diamond" truffles and learn how to pair chocolate with wine.

OVERVIEW:

DAY	DESTINATION	ACTIVITIES
1	BARCELONA	Hotel check-in
2	BARCELONA	"The Best of Barcelona" tour
3	BARCELONA	"The Mountains and Abbey of Montserrat" excursion
4	BARCELONA	TGV to Nîmes
		Transfer to Arles
		EMBARKATION
5	ARLES	Arles Walking Tour
		OR Van Gogh walking tour
		OR Bike tour
		Les Baux de Provence
6	AVIGNON	Morning walking tour and Papal Palace
		OR Tastes of Avignon
		OR Avignon Bike Tour
		Pont du Gard
7	VIVIERS	Viviers Walking Tour
		OR Truffle Farm
		OR Viviers active walk
		OR Viviers Bike Tour
8	TOURNON	Steam train ride
		OR Red Wine & Chocolate
		OR Tain l'Hermitage Hike & Wine Tasting
9	VIENNE	Roman ruins walking tour
		OR Mount Pipet hike
10	LYON	Lyon City Tour
		OR Les Halles Market Tour
		OR Lyon Bike Tour
		Beaujolais Excursion and tasting
11	LYON	DISEMBARKATION
		Lyon Cooking Demonstration
		TVG high-speed train to Paris

		Hotel check-in
12	PARIS	“City of Light” tour
13	PARIS	Evening Montmartre and illumination tour
14	PARIS	Return flight home

ITINERARY DETAILS:

Day 1, BARCELONA. Check into your Barcelona hotel for the beginning of your *Colors of Provence* pre-cruise land package.

Day 2, BARCELONA. Barcelona, the bustling capital of Catalonia, is an artist’s, architect’s, foodie’s, historian’s and culturist’s dream. Tour the cobblestoned lanes of the Gothic Quarter in the medieval city center and Las Ramblas. See some imaginative architectural creations, highlights of the UNESCO World Heritage Site “Works of Antoni Gaudi,” including La Sagrada Familia. (B)

Day 3, BARCELONA. Join an excursion to the mountain Montserrat, which is home to the Benedictine monastery of Santa Maria de Montserrat, located about 30 miles from Barcelona. Once there, you’ll ride a scenic funicular to the top of the mountain and experience an indescribable view of the Catalonia landscape. The monastery, officially founded in 1025, soon began to receive pilgrims and visitors who contributed to the spread of stories of miracles and wonders performed by the Virgin Mary. The whole of Montserrat is built around facilitating the worship of the Black Madonna in the Basilica. While here, you’ll see the famous Black Madonna sculpture, which sits at the back of the church, above the altar area. The stairway leading to the statue, plus the room and altar in which the statue sits are ornate, golden and pay tribute to the wonder that is the Virgin herself. (B)

Day 4, BARCELONA - ARLES - EMBARKATION. Check out of the hotel and board the TGV high-speed train to Nimes. Then you will transfer via bus to Arles where you’ll board your luxury ship. (B,D)

Day 5, ARLES. Considered one of the most beautiful cities in France, Arles enchants all with its tantalizing history, formerly a Roman center of trade. Join a guided walking tour where you’ll visit the Roman ruins of Arles such as its Roman Amphitheater and the Church of Saint Trophime, famous for its Romanesque architecture. Alternatively, you can enjoy a bike ride along the Rhône, through town to the Langlois Bridge, a famous subject from several Vincent Van Gogh paintings. And for those who wish to delve further into Van Gogh’s Arles, join a special walking tour along with a visit to the Vincent van Gogh Foundation, showcasing his legacy. During the afternoon, venture to Les Baux de Provence, a hilltop village and ruined castle. Enjoy time in the “old village,” its shops, art galleries, and cafes interspersed among the historic ruins. (B,L,D)

Day 6, AVIGNON. Avignon, aptly named the “City of Popes,” was the center of the Catholic Church in the 14th century when its “Palais des Papes” was the equivalent of today’s Vatican. Depending on your interests, you have three choices of excursions in the morning. Discover the history of Avignon on a guided walking tour that includes the Papal Palace and the well-preserved medieval walls surrounding the historic center of town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Or, you can visit three venues around Avignon to taste regional specialties including macarons, cheese and wine, and tapenades. Alternately, you can enjoy a bike tour through the city. During the afternoon, you can go to another UNESCO World Heritage Site, the impressive Pont du Gard, a Roman aqueduct that is a masterpiece of ancient engineering. (B,L,D)

Day 7, VIVIERS. Take in the quaint surroundings of Viviers, a charming commune that sidles up to the right bank of the Rhone. From Viviers, travel to a truffle farm and search for the highly prized “Black Diamond” truffles with a farmer and his trustworthy canine companion. You can also explore Viviers on a guided walking tour, where you’ll see iconic sights such as Saint-Vincent Cathedral. Alternatively, see the sights on an active walk through town and up towards a belvedere with a panoramic view of the Rhône Valley below. You can also set off on a guided bike tour, exploring the beauty of Southern France as you ride along the Rhône River. (B,L,D)

Day 8, TOURNON. Take a steam train ride past magnificent landscape carved along the Gorge du Doux, stopping at the charming little station of Colombier le Vieux-Saint Barthélemy le Plain, where the train maneuvers in preparation for its return journey. Alternatively, lovers of wine and chocolate will want to visit Le Château de Tournon for a presentation and tasting on the pairing of red wine and chocolate. For a more active adventure, take a hike through the vineyards of Tain l’Hermitage, followed by a visit to a local winery where you’ll sample some of the wines. (B,L,D)

Day 9, VIENNE. Situated between the wine regions of Beaujolais and Côtes du Rhône lies Vienne with a Roman past that can be seen in its marvelously preserved ruins. Follow the footsteps of the ancient Romans on a walking tour to see the amazingly well-preserved Augustus and Livia Temple, the Saint Maurice Cathedral, a Gothic church that took more than 500 years to build, and St. Pierre Abbey—one of the oldest surviving churches in France, and now an Archaeological Museum. For those wishing to be more active, you can either take a guided hike from the ship to the Monastery at Mount Pipet or a guided bike tour along a portion of the ViaRhôna bike route. (B,L,D)

Day 10, LYON. Take a walking tour that starts in Fourvière Hill, part of the city’s historic region that is now a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to the 19th-century basilica Notre-Dame de Fourvière. Continue on to the old town of Lyon, followed by a guided walk through the St. Jean district, where you will be introduced to the city’s unique covered walkways, known as “traboules.” You can also visit the famous indoor market hall Les Halles de Lyon – Paul Bocuse, named after the late chef renowned for his Michelin-starred l’Auberge du Pont de Collonges restaurant. There you’ll have a chance to sample of the delicacies offered by butchers, bakers, chocolatiers and cheesemongers while taking in the colorful sights and enticing aromas around you. Alternately, join a guided bike tour through the city designed with cyclists in mind. Later in the day, visit a traditional Beaujolais winery and learn the history and techniques of their vineyard. Plus, enjoy a tasting of their

specialty. (B,L,D)

Day 11, LYON - PARIS - DISEMBARKATION. Disembark the ship and enjoy some free time for lunch on your own before witnessing an included cooking demonstration of regional cuisine and culinary techniques. Afterwards, you will board the TGV high-speed train to Paris. Once you arrive in the famous "City of Lights," check into your hotel. (B)

Day 12, PARIS. Enjoy taking in the signature sites of Paris in your guided city tour, including the awe-inspiring Arc de Triomphe and iconic Eiffel Tower. You'll see Champs Élysées with its cinemas, sidewalk cafes and luxury specialty shops. (B)

Day 13, PARIS. Enjoy a full day at your leisure to discover more of this romantic city, such as the world-renowned Louvre Museum or Musée d'Orsay. Perhaps go shopping in the Faubourg Saint-Honoré district or simply relax and spend the day like a local – by scoping out a local café for a *café au lait*, toasted baguette or croissant. In the evening, visit Montmartre, long known as the city's premier artist's enclave. During the mid to late 1800s, artists also began calling Montmartre home. Pissarro and Jongkind were two of the first to live there, followed by other notable artists, including Edgar Degas, Henri Matisse, Toulouse-Lautrec, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Pablo Picasso. You'll be taken on an evening illumination tour, discovering why Paris is renowned as the "City of Light." (B)

Day 14, DEPART PARIS. Bid farewell to Paris and prepare for your flight home. (B)

B,L,D – Indicates Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner is included on this day.