

GOURMET WINE GETAWAYS

4-day Pre-Cruise Land Tour of Provence

A perfect primer for our wine-lovers cruise

Gourmet Wine Getaways invites you to arrive in Provence a few days early to join us on an exclusive land tour through one of France's renowned wine regions led by our international wine expert, Peter D. Kerr.

Day 1 – Monday, March 10th: Welcome to Aix-en-Provence

All Day – 6:00 PM: Arrival

Arrive in Aix-en-Provence and check in to your luxurious accommodations at the Grand Hotel Roi René. Nestled in the heart of Aix, this hotel combines modern comfort with timeless elegance, offering a serene retreat just steps away from the city's vibrant cultural scene.



6:00 PM – 7:00 PM: Welcome reception

Kick off your tour evening with a welcome reception. Enjoy a glass of exquisite local wine and a delightful buffet of light appetizers at the hotel. This is the perfect opportunity to unwind, savor regional flavors, and mingle with fellow group members.

Day 2 – Tuesday, March 11th: Châteauneuf-du-Pape

7:00 AM – 9:30 AM: Breakfast

Enjoy a delicious breakfast at the hotel, featuring a selection of fresh, local products to start your day on a delightful note.

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM: Transfer to Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Board our luxurious mini-coach for a scenic 80-minute drive through the picturesque Provençal countryside to the renowned wine region of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, marveling at the rolling vineyards and charming villages along the way.



11:30 AM – 1:45 PM: Mas de Boislauzon

Experience an exceptional wine tasting and lunch with wine pairing at the esteemed Mas de Boislauzon Winery. This family-owned winery, established in 1860, is known for its rich history and award-winning wines. Their Châteauneuf-du-Pape wines have received high accolades, including prestigious ratings from Wine Spectator and Robert Parker's Wine Advocate.

1:45 PM – 2:00 PM: Transfer to Château de Nalys

Transfer to Château de Nalys, a prestigious estate with a legacy of producing some of the finest wines in the region.

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM: Château de Nalys

Embark on an insightful private tour and wine tasting at Château de Nalys which has a history dating back to the 17th century. This estate is known for its meticulous craftsmanship and exceptional wines, which have earned numerous awards and recognitions over the years. Enjoy their exquisite selections amidst the breathtaking scenery of the Rhône Valley.



4:00 PM – 5:30 PM: Transfer to Aix-en-Provence

Return to your hotel in Aix-en-Provence.

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM: Free Time

Enjoy free time to explore the charming streets of Aix-en-Provence at your leisure or relax at the hotel.

7:30 PM – 7:35 PM: Walk to Le Mirabeau Brasserie Aixoise

Take a short five-minute walk to Le Mirabeau Brasserie Aixoise in the Hotel Negrecoste, a historic hotel that exudes elegance and charm.



7:35 PM – 9:45 PM: Dinner at Le Mirabeau Brasserie Aixoise

Indulge in a three-course dinner with wine at Le Mirabeau Brasserie Aixoise. This delightful brasserie offers a menu focused on the rich culinary traditions of Provence, featuring locally sourced ingredients and expertly crafted dishes. Le Mirabeau has been recognized for its outstanding cuisine and service, receiving praise from both locals and visitors.

9:45 PM – 10:00 PM: Back to the hotel or more time in Aix on your own

Return to your hotel or take the opportunity to enjoy the vibrant nightlife of Aix-en-Provence, perhaps with a leisurely stroll through its historic streets.

Day 3 – Wednesday, March 12th: Wines of Provence

7:00 AM – 9:30 AM: Breakfast

Begin your day with a sumptuous breakfast at the hotel, energizing you for another day of exploration and indulgence.

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM: Transfer to Château La Coste

Transfer to Château La Coste, a unique winery where art, architecture and wine intertwine seamlessly in a stunning landscape.



10:00 AM – 11:30 AM: Château La Coste

Delight in a wine tasting at Château La Coste, renowned for its biodynamic vineyards and stunning art installations. This estate has garnered international acclaim not only for its exceptional wines but also for its dedication to art and architecture, featuring works by renowned artists and architects such as Tadao Ando and Louise Bourgeois.

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Transfer to Château de Beaupré

Transfer to the picturesque Château de Beaupré Winery, a French Bastide vineyard and winery.

12:00 PM – 3:00 PM: Château de Beaupré

The group will be treated to a bit of French history, a private wine tasting and lunch at Château de Beaupré, a hidden gem surrounded by lush vineyards and gardens. The original bastide (a town or village established for defensive purposes) dates to the late 18th century. The wine estate, founded in 1890, offers a truly memorable experience as you savor their fine wines paired with gourmet cuisine amidst its historical charm. The winery has been praised for its commitment to quality and tradition, with their wines regularly receiving accolades in international wine competitions.



3:00 PM – 3:30 PM: Return to Aix-en-Provence

Return to your hotel, with the afternoon open for you to relax or explore more of Aix-en-Provence on your own.

3:30 PM – 7:00 PM: Time at your hotel or to explore

Spend the afternoon at your leisure, whether relaxing at the hotel or exploring the vibrant local markets, artisan shops and historic sites of Aix-en-Provence.



7:00 PM – 7:15 PM: Walk to the Brasserie Les Artistes

The group will go on a short walk to the trendy Brasserie Les Artistes, known for its lively ambiance and contemporary Provençal cuisine.

7:15 PM – 9:45 PM: Dinner at Brasserie Les Artistes

Savor a dinner of local specialties at Brasserie Les Artistes featuring a lighter fare paired with excellent wines in a lively ambiance. This popular brasserie has been praised for its innovative menu and warm, inviting atmosphere.

9:45 PM – 10:00 PM: Return to your hotel

Return to your hotel or explore the vibrant local scene on your own, perhaps with a nightcap at a nearby café.

Day 4 – Thursday, March 13th: Your cruise ship is waiting

7:00 AM – 10:30 AM: Breakfast and check-out

Enjoy an extra hour of sleep, then enjoy breakfast at the hotel and checkout as we get ready to head to Arles.

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM: Picturesque drive to Mas de Valeriole

Board our coach for a picturesque drive to the Mas de Valeriole winery near Arles, traversing the amazing Camargue wetlands enroute. Enjoy stops along the way to capture the stunning landscapes and unique wildlife of this remarkable region.

12:30 PM – 3:00 PM: Mas de Valeriole

Tour, wine tasting and lunch at Mas de Valeriole, an estate celebrated for its commitment to organic farming and exceptional wines. This winery, established in the heart of the Camargue, offers a unique blend of tradition and innovation, with wines that have earned recognition for their quality and distinctive character. Enjoy a farm-to-table meal featuring fresh and local ingredients after our private tasting.



3:00 PM – 3:30 PM: Transfer to the AMACello

Transfer to your luxurious river cruise ship, the AMACello, now docked in Arles and awaiting your arrival. This elegant vessel will be your home for the next leg of your memorable journey with your new friend, Gourmet Wine Getaways' Peter D. Kerr, serving as your wine host.



3:30 PM: Welcome on board

Board the AMACello and let your unforgettable river cruise adventure begin, as you set sail through the picturesque waterways of southern France, ready for more exquisite experiences ahead.



\$1,995 per person based on double occupancy (single occupancy available on a limited basis). All meals and services as described in the itinerary are included. Minimum 16 participants, maximum 18. Offered exclusively by Gourmet Wine Getaways and operated by AMAWaterways. Terms and conditions apply.