



AMAZING AND LUXURY RIVER CRUISE ON THE CANAL DE GARONNE

The Saint Louis is one of the most luxurious and best appointed barges on the canal network in France today!

The team at Saint Louis spare no effort in bringing you in a very tolerant environment the ultimate in luxury cruising. Peter and Wendy came to France in early 2014 from Ireland and have operated the barge since then, updating and transforming the barge to create an oasis of calm and tranquillity that is enjoyed by the guests today. On board, 4 full time crew members looking after your comfort and safety.

Saint Louis Luxury Hotel Barge is primarily a charter barge ideally suited to small groups of family and friends wishing to relax, enjoy each other's company and experience this beautiful, unspoilt corner of South West France.

More than a barge, an other way to discover the yachting on the canal network in Southwest of France!

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GASCONY CRUISE (ROUTE 1)

LACOURT ST. PIERRE TO BOÉ PORT

Special points of interest

The Lily Gardens that inspired Monet, 12th century hill top town of Lauzerte, Moissac Abbey and Cloisters, the local weekly market at Valence d'Agen.

Our pick-up point for this cruise is either Toulouse or Agen train station. Our departure point is either Toulouse, Bordeaux or Agen train station. Other points may be possible with prior agreement. A Saint Louis crew member will meet guests at the agreed point of arrival and all transfers and tours are in our fully air-conditioned Mercedes V Series people carrier.

Pick-up times

Toulouse or Agen: 4.00pm. The journey time is approximately 1 hour.

Departure times

Latest departure time off the barge is 10.00am.

Approximate transfer times

Toulouse: 1hr 45mins

Bordeaux: 1hr 30mins

Agen: 20mins

Saturday

Transfer to the barge to arrive around 5.00pm. Champagne reception upon arrival, then time to settle in, get to know your crew, a short safety briefing and a general talk through the itinerary for the week.

Sunday

Tour: After breakfast we enjoy our first cruise through to a flight of 5 locks where we disembark and drive to the 12th century town of Lauzerte. A hill top castle-nau with a bloody past but now a way point for pilgrims on the Saint Jaques trail to Santiago de Compostella. We enjoy lunch together before returning to the barge at St. Porquier and our cruise continues through to our mooring at Castelsarassin for the evening.

Monday

After breakfast there is time to explore the local village before we cruise along the tree lined canal to our wild mooring for lunch. Tour: Afterwards we cross the aquaduct and enter Moissac port and then descend onto the mighty river Tarn for an afternoon river cruise followed by a visit to the Monastery and Cloisters at Moissac Abbey, a renowned world heritage site. We then return to the barge for dinner.

Tuesday

Tour: After breakfast it's off to Valence d'Agen and its bustling weekly market. See pictures. We enjoy a coffee in the local square and meander through the maze of stalls offering a staggering array of fresh local produce, fish, meats and cheeses amongst so much else! We return to the barge for lunch and our afternoon cruise through to our quiet evening mooring point at Pommevic.

Wednesday

Tour: This morning we explore visit the beautiful town of Auvillar, in the past a major trading town with a fascinating history. We see the grain exchange and learn about the mighty trading route along the river before the canal network opened up and overtook it. Afterwards we return to pick up the barge as cruise through to our wild mooring at La Magistere for the night.

Thursday

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast and then a beautiful drive through rich countryside to visit the Lily Gardens at Temple sur Lot that were founded in 1875 and inspired Monet. We arrive in time to enjoy a leisurely stroll around the ponds and gardens before lunch overlooking the lake. Afterwards we return to pick up the barge for the final cruise through to Boé port.

Friday

After breakfast depart the barge for transfer onwards.

BORDEAUX CRUISE (ROUTE 2)

SERIGNAC TO CASTETS EN DORTHE

A Saint Louis crew member will meet guests at the agreed point of arrival and all transfers and tours are in our fully air-conditioned Mercedes V Series people carrier.

Pick-up locations

Agen train station or alternatively Toulouse or Bordeaux (airports or city)

Departure locations

Bordeaux City or Airport (Merignac)

Cooking with the Chefs!

We can arrange for some cook's tips with Martin our chef and Peter.

Generally this would be based around preparation of say fish, oysters or a stuffed filet mignon. How to select the right cut of meat for a specific dish, how to cook different meats etc. We can also engage the guests with pairing of wine with food, what to look for and how to do it successfully without having an encyclopaedic knowledge of wines.

Please note

Cycling and walking is always available along our route on level, well maintained tow paths. Each evening we tell the guests about the next day's agenda, the cruise distances and times between locks. At the beginning of the week we leave the week's schedule day by day in the salon with a canal map for them to refer to.

Saturday

Collection from agreed pick-up point 15.30hrs to arrive at barge around 17.00hrs and champagne reception. On our way to the barge we stop to see the famous Aqueduct, the second largest aqueduct in France which opened in 1849. It carries the Canal de Garonne over the Garonne river and is an engineering marvel.

Sunday

Tour: The Lily Gardens at Temple sur Lot that were founded in 1875 and inspired Monet. We depart Boé Port at 9.00am and enjoy our first cruise through Agen and across the magnificent aqueduct. Leaving the barge we drive to the gardens in time for lunch overlooking the lake. After lunch, enjoy a leisurely stroll around the ponds and gardens before returning to the barge which will have moved on to our evening mooring at Serignac.

Monday

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast followed by our visit to a 4th generation Armagnac producer to learn about and taste this traditional local spirit. Armagnac pre-dates Cognac by approx. 200 years and is still produced in the time honoured way. During the visit guests have the opportunity if they wish to choose a year (perhaps of their wedding, birth of a child etc), select a bottle size and then watch the armagnac being drawn from their chosen barrel, corked and the wax seal applied.

A unique memento of their visit and it tastes great as well! Later guests will learn the secrets of our signature cocktail, the Saint Louis Sundowner from hostess Julia featuring Armagnac from their visit.

Time permitting (or if Armagnac is not a preferred visit) we may also visit the 11th Century town of Nérac; which includes the Château Henry IV (built around 15th Century) and home to the King and his wife Queen Margot between 1577 and 1582. There is also the Garenne royal park nearby. The visit is an opportunity to explore this ancient town and learn about the development of this region. We also visit the medieval Bastide town of Vianne. Bastide towns were built across southern France during the 13th and 14th centuries to provide security and safety and to develop trade.

In July and August, a visit to the night market at Damazan can be arranged. A very small local village, about 20 mins from our mooring by car, this is a taste of rural France in full swing. The night market is entirely geared to locals, it features live music, food stalls and is an interesting insight into local festivities. We usually go after the dinner main course on board and return for dessert!

Tuesday

Morning cruise through to Lafalotte and lunch on board. At our mooring point there is a privately owned semi-precious gem museum just a short stroll across their garden where we can visit the museum whilst lunch is being prepared. The owners give us a guided tour through their unique collection of fossils, minerals and semi-precious gems from around the world collected by them over 50 years of travels. A thought provoking visit for those who enjoy natural history.

After lunch we continue our cruise through to La Mas d'Agenais where we take a short walk from our mooring to visit the centre of this quaint and unspoilt 12th Century town and go inside its church where there is an original Rembrandt painting of Christ on the Cross.

We then continue our afternoon cruise to Forques where we moor for the evening.

Wednesday

Morning cruise followed by lunch on board. After lunch guests are driven to a private visit to Chateau d'Arche, one of the top Grand Crus Sauternes Chateaux. The visit includes a guided tour of the production process, their cave and tastings.

We return to the barge which will have moved on a little to our evening mooring at Meilhan. There should be time to go to the superb view point at the port which provides a fantastic vista out over the Garonne river and the canal below. About a 5 minute walk up steps from the mooring point.

Alternatively we can arrange a guided tour of Chateau d'Yquem, the number one Sauterne Chateaux with a global reputation. The tour lasts approx. 1hr 20mins and costs 100Euro per person and must be booked in advance by us.

Thursday

St Émilion. We leave the barge after breakfast for our day visit to this world heritage site, the heart of Bordeaux wines with private wine tastings with our negociant, Patrick, and a 1st Grand Crus Chateaux visit. Guests may also go on a guided tour of the 12th Century underground church.

We return to meet the barge if time permits for a further short cruise into Castets en Dorthe for the evening and dinner on board.

At Castets en Dorthe we can visit The end of the canal before it joins the mighty Garonne river on its way to Bordeaux. Guests may walk with me (or can be driven) to see the huge double lock that was the gateway to the river and the trade route to the Mediterranean via the Canal de Midi in one direction and to the Atlantic ocean in the other. The river is spanned at this point by a bridge designed by Eiffel (of Eiffel Tower fame!).

For wine lovers we can also organise a full wine experience day with Patrick. He takes the guests from 10.30 to 17.00 and gives the guests a complete run through the region, the classification of St Émilion wines, how to taste wine, pairing wine with food, tasting of fine old wines, a private Chateaux visit, a tour of the 1st Grand Crus estates by car and a Michelin Star lunch.

The price is 450Euro per person, minimum of 4 people, to be paid to us upon arrival as we shall have booked and paid for the day in advance.

Friday

Guests will be transferred to agreed drop off locations leaving the barge around 10:00AM.

BORDEAUX CRUISE (ROUTE 3)

CASTETS EN DORTHE TO SERIGNAC SUR GARONNE

Pick-up locations

Bordeaux city or airport (Merignac)

Departure locations

Agen train station or alternatively Toulouse or Bordeaux (airports or city)

Cooking with the Chefs!

We can arrange for some cook's tips with Martin our chef and Peter.

Generally this would be based around preparation of say fish, oysters or a stuffed filet mignon. How to select the right cut of meat for a specific dish, how to cook different meats etc. We can also engage the guests with pairing of wine with food, what to look for and how to do it successfully without having an encyclopaedic knowledge of wines.

Please note

Cycling and walking is always available along our route on level, well maintained tow paths. Each evening we tell the guests about the next day's agenda, the cruise distances and times between locks. At the beginning of the week we leave the week's schedule day by day in the salon with a canal map for them to refer to.

Saturday

Collection from agreed pick-up point 15.30hrs to arrive at barge around 16.30hrs and champagne reception. At Castets en Dorthe we can visit "The end of the canal" before it joins the mighty Garonne river on its way to Bordeaux. Guests may walk with me (or can be driven) to see the huge double lock that was the gateway to the river and the trade route to the Mediterranean via the Canal de Midi in one direction and to the Atlantic ocean in the other. The river is spanned at this point by a bridge designed by Eiffel (of Eiffel Tower fame!).

Sunday

Cruise and then visit St Émilion; A day visit to this world heritage site, the heart of Bordeaux wines with private wine tastings with our negociant, Patrick, and a 1st Grand Crus Chateaux visit.

Return to meet the barge and a further cruise into Meilhan Port for the evening and dinner on board. There should be time to go to the superb view point at the port which provides a fantastic vista out over the Garonne river and the canal below. About a 5 minute walk up steps from the mooring point.

For wine lovers we can also organise a full wine experience day with Patrick. He takes the guests from 10.30 to 17.00 and gives the guests a complete run through the region, the classification of St Emilion wines, how to taste wine, pairing wine with food, tasting of fine old wines, a private Chateaux visit, a tour of the 1st Grand Crus estates by car and a Michelin Star lunch.

The price is 450Euro per person, minimum of 4 people, to be paid to us upon arrival as we shall have booked and paid for the day in advance.

Monday

Morning cruise followed by lunch on board. After lunch guests are driven to a private visit to Chateau d'Arche, one of the top Grand Crus Sauternes Chateaux. The visit includes a guided tour of the production process, their cave and tastings.

We return to the barge which will have moved on a little to our evening mooring near Forques.

Alternatively we can arrange a guided tour of Chateau d'Yquem, the number one Sauterne Chateaux with a global reputation. The tour lasts approx. 1hr 20mins and costs 100Euro per person and must be booked in advance by us.

Tuesday

Morning cruise through to La Mas d'Agenais and lunch on board. Whilst lunch is being prepared we take a short walk from our mooring to visit the centre of this quaint and unspoilt 12th Century town and go inside its church where there is an original Rembrandt painting of Christ on the Cross.

After lunch we continue our cruise through to our mooring at Lafalotte where there is a privately owned semi-precious gem museum just a short stroll across their garden where we can visit the museum and the owners give us a guided tour through their unique collection of fossils, minerals and semi-precious gems from around the world collected by them over 50 years of travels. A thought provoking visit for those who enjoy natural history.

Wednesday

Enjoy a morning cruise through to Buzet Port and lunch on board. Afterwards we visit a 4th generation Armagnac producer to learn about and taste this traditional local spirit. Armagnac pre-dates Cognac by approx. 200 years and is still produced in the time honoured way. During the visit guests have the opportunity if they wish to choose a year (perhaps of their wedding, birth of a child etc), select a bottle size and then watch the armagnac being drawn from their chosen barrel, corked and the wax seal applied.

A unique memento of their visit and it tastes great as well!

Back at the barge guests will learn the secrets of the Saint Louis Sundowner from hostess Julia, a cocktail featuring Armagnac from their visit.

Time permitting (or if Armagnac is not a preferred visit) we may also visit the 11th Century town of Nérac; which includes the Château Henry IV (built around 15th Century) and home to the King and his wife Queen Margot between 1577 and 1582. There is also the Garenne royal park nearby. The visit is an opportunity to explore this ancient town and learn about the development of this region. We also visit the medieval Bastide town of Vianne. Bastide towns were built across southern France during the 13th and 14th centuries to provide security and safety and to develop trade.

In July and August, a visit to the night market at Damazan can be arranged. A very small local village, about 25 mins from our mooring by car, this is a taste of rural France in full swing. The night market is entirely geared to locals, it features live music, food stalls and is an interesting insight into local festivities. We usually go after the dinner main course on board and return for dessert!

Thursday

Morning cruise followed by lunch and afterwards our visit to The Latour-Marliac Lily Gardens at Temple Sur Lot and the Agen aqueduct. The garden is the original one that inspired and provided Monet with his lilies for his paintings and his own gardens at Giverny. Dating from 1875 the Latour-Marliac gardens are a delight to visit and explore.

On our return to the barge from the Lily gardens we stop to see the Aqueduct, the second largest aqueduct in France which opened in 1849. It carries the Canal de Garonne over the Garonne river and is an engineering marvel.

We return to the barge which will now be moored for the evening at Serignac for dinner.

Friday

Guests will be transferred to agreed drop-off locations leaving the barge around 10.00am.

GASCONY CRUISE (ROUTE 4)

BOÉ PORT TO LACOURT ST. PIERRE

Special points of interest

The Lily Gardens that inspired Monet, 12th century hill top town of Lauzerte, Moissac Abbey and Cloisters, the local weekly market at Valence d'Agen.

Our pick-up point for this cruise is either Toulouse, Bordeaux or Agen train station. Our departure point is either Toulouse or Agen train station. Other points may be possible with prior agreement. A Saint Louis crew member will meet guests at the agreed point of arrival and all transfers and tours are in our fully air-conditioned Mercedes V Series people carrier.

Pick-up times

Toulouse or Bordeaux: 3.30pm. Transfer time is approximately 1hr 30mins

Agen: 4.30pm. Agen is close to Boé and the journey time is around 20mins.

Departure times

Latest departure time off the barge is 10.00am.

Approximate transfer times

Toulouse or Agen: Approximately 1hr

Saturday

Transfer to the barge to arrive around 5.00pm. Champagne reception upon arrival, then time to settle in, get to know your crew, a short safety briefing and a general talk through the itinerary for the week.

Sunday

Tour: Enjoy a leisurely breakfast and then a beautiful drive through rich countryside to visit the Lily Gardens at Temple sur Lot that were founded in 1875 and inspired Monet. We arrive in time to enjoy a leisurely stroll around the ponds and gardens before lunch overlooking the lake.

Afterwards we return to pick up the barge for our cruise through to our wild evening mooring at La Magistere, one of the most glorious, tree lined settings along our route.

Monday

After breakfast we explore the local village and the hill top town of Claremont Subiran and Auvillar. This town was in the past a major trading port and has a fascinating history. We see the grain exchange and learn about the mighty trading route along the river before the canal network opened up and overtook it.

Returning to the barge for lunch we then enjoy our cruise along the tree lined canal to our mooring at Pommevic.

Tuesday

Tour: After breakfast it's off to Valence d'Agen and its bustling weekly market. We enjoy a coffee in the local square and meander through the maze of stalls offering a staggering array of fresh local produce, fish, meats and cheeses amongst so much else!

We return to the barge for lunch and our afternoon cruise through to Moissac port and then descend onto the mighty river Tarn where we moor for the evening on the river.

Before dinner there will be time to visit to the Monastery and Cloisters at Moissac Abbey, a renowned world heritage site and if lucky enough enjoy listening to the nuns chanting at Vespers. We then return to the barge for dinner.

Wednesday

Tour: Moissac is a busy town and guests often enjoy an hour or so to discover its delights before we cruise on the river where we stop mid-stream for lunch. A truly magnificent setting for lunch as the barge holds position overlooking a frothing river weir.

We return to the canal network after lunch and proceed with our afternoon cruise to Castelsarassin where we moor for the night.

Thursday

Tour: We disembark and drive to the 12th century town of Lauzerte. A hill top castle-nau with a bloody past but now a way point for pilgrims on the Saint Jaques trail to Santiago de Compostella. We enjoy lunch together and a magnificent view from the view point there before returning to the barge at a flight of five locks that will lead us into our final cruise through to our home base at Lacourt st Pierre

Friday

After breakfast depart the barge for transfer onwards.

PRICING:

Full Boat Charter	Price USD	Each
Six Person	31,500	5,250
Five Person	31,500	6,300
Four Person	27,000	6,750
Three Person	27,000	9,000
Two Person*	23,000	11,500

*Single cabin bookings for one or two people at 13,000 USD per cabin may become available later in the booking season and usually within 90 days of the cruise date – please contact us for such availability.

Included:

Four full time crew members: Pilot, Chef and Hostess. More about the crew. Transfers to and from the barge from an agreed point of arrival/departure in our fully air-conditioned Mercedes V Series people carrier. Please see our detailed 2017 schedule for recommended arrival/departure points and suggested itineraries. All meals, wines, spirits & other drinks during your cruise whether on-board or ashore during tours. All tours including any entrance costs. Use of on-board bicycles. On-board Wi-Fi, 10G per week. Our Wi-Fi is the best that can be provided but please note signal strength may vary as we cruise along the canal. Agency fees.

Not included:

Flights or other transportation costs to or from your arrival/departure point. Holiday/Cancellation insurance or personal health insurance. See our terms and conditions. Discretionary crew gratuities.

The reservation can be firm and definitive only after payment of the total amount.
Subject to availability at the time of booking.

2018 Schedule

Dates	Cruise	From/To
5-11 May	Gascony Route 1	Lacourt St Pierre - Boé Port
12-18 May	Bordeaux Route 2	Serignac - Castets
19-25 May	Bordeaux Route 3	Castets - Serignac
26 May - 1 June	Bordeaux Route 2	Serignac - Castets
2-8 June	Bordeaux Route 3	Castets - Serignac
9-15 June	Bordeaux Route 2	Serignac - Castets
16-22 June	Bordeaux Route 3	Castets - Serignac
23-29 June	Gascony Route 4	Boé Port - Lacourt St Pierre
30 June - 6 July	Gascony Route 1	Lacourt St Pierre - Boé Port
7-13 July	Gascony Route 4	Boé Port - Lacourt St Pierre
14-20 July	Gascony Route 1	Lacourt St Pierre - Boé Port
21-27 July	Bordeaux Route 2	Serignac - Castets
28 July - 3 August	Bordeaux Route 3	Castets - Serignac
4-10 August	Bordeaux Route 2	Serignac - Castets
9-17 August	Bordeaux Route 3	Castets - Serignac
18-24 August	Bordeaux Route 2	Serignac - Castets
25-31 August	Bordeaux Route 3	Castets - Serignac
1-7 Sept	Bordeaux Route 2	Serignac - Castets
8-14 Sept	Bordeaux Route 3	Castets - Serignac
15-21 Sept	Bordeaux Route 2	Serignac - Castets
22-28 Sept	Bordeaux Route 3	Castets - Serignac
29 Sept - 5 Oct	Gascony Route 4	Boé Port - Lacourt St Pierre
6-12 Oct	Gascony Route 1	Lacourt St Pierre - Boé Port
13-19 Oct	Gascony Route 4	Boé Port - Lacourt St Pierre

