

France's Impressions Voyages

The ultimate travel experience in France

PROVENCE



ENCHANTE

Ultra Deluxe Barge, 8 passengers
Sunday to Saturday,



Unique to the South of France, **ENCHANTE** is a double deck barge which was completed in 2009 and which is the newest Hotel Barge to cruise the Canal du Midi. Built in Belgium under the supervision of Parisian architect Philippe Nineuil of Technicarene, Enchante's contemporary design was developed by barging veterans Roger & Louisa Gronow who combined their years of experience working on a variety of barges to create a state of the art floating hotel.

Highlights

- Excursion to **Narbonne's Archbishop's Palace** and to colorful market
- Visit and sample the famous **Luques Olive Oil**
- **Wine tasting of St Chinian**
- Excursion to **Lagrasse** and the VIII C. Abbey
- Cather hilltop town of **Minerve**
- Tour of the medieval city of **Carcassonne**, listed WHS by Unesco



Itinerary

Sunday

You will be met at 4pm at the designated hotel in Montpellier or Montpellier TGV station and escorted by minibus to the hotel barge ENCHANTE for a Champagne Welcome. Dinner on board.

Monday – Sallèles d'Aude - Somail

Morning cruise through the series of locks and narrow bridges of the **Robine Canal**, built after the Canal du Midi to link Narbonne and the Mediterranean, to the charming and historical village of the **Le Somail**, purpose built for the Canal du Midi. Take some time to explore the old bookstore of **Le Somail**. Afternoon excursion to a wine tasting in the **Saint Chinian**, the first village of the region to receive the much envied French mark of approval for wines known as A.O.C. (Appellation d'Origine Controlée), teamed with an excursion to "**Oulibo**", Occitan for olive. This cooperative olive oil press is a great opportunity to sample the famous Lucques olive. Dinner aboard.

Tuesday – Le Somail - Roubia

This morning's excursion is to **Narbonne**, a Roman Mediterranean capital where the Visigoth monarchs once lived. Enjoy a visit to the **Archbishop's Palace** and the indoor market at the hub of this bustling canal side town, where you will have time to shop or simply absorb the relaxed atmosphere. Afternoon cruise, through vineyards and pine trees along the "grand bief," another engineering prowess unique to the Canal du Midi, to **Roubia**, a picturesque mooring under the trees and a perfect opportunity to try your hand at pétanque the local sport of boules. Dinner aboard.

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Wednesday – Roubia - Homps

After breakfast, take the minibus to a **Benedictine Abbey** founded in the 8th century. Nestled in the village of **Lagrasse**, awarded the title of “Plus beaux villages de France” (most beautiful villages of France), now home to many artisan who have set up workshops in the medieval center, the restored Abbey was once one of the most prosperous thanks to Charlemagne’s chart. Enjoy some local cuisine with lunch ashore in a spectacular setting overlooking the **Corbières vinyards**. Afternoon cruise under the shade of the plane trees which line the canal, we gently circle the contours of the land to reach the lovely port of **Homps** once an important commandery for the **Knights Hospitaller**. Dinner aboard.

Thursday – Homps – La Redorte

Excursion to **Minerve**, the ancient capital of the Minervois, which boasts a 12th century Cathar fort surrounded by deep limestone gorges. Besieged by Simon de Montfort in 1215, its hilltop location affords spectacular views. Afternoon cruise along the 330 year old Midi canal ascending its trademark locks, walking from one to the next or perhaps cycling ahead to explore the village of **La Redorte** famous in the 11th century for its basket weaving. Dinner aboard.

Friday - La Redorte - Puichéric

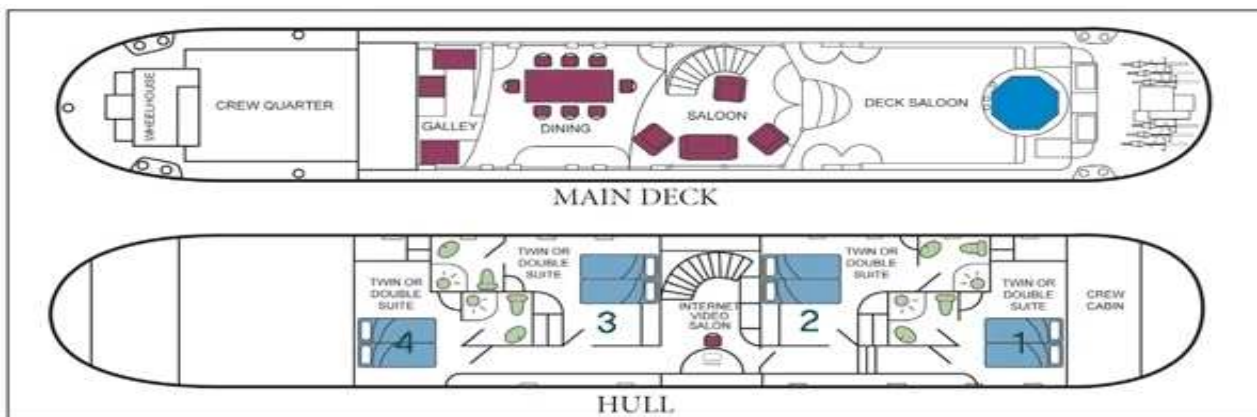
Fascinating morning tour of **Carcassonne**. Dating back to the Gallo-Roman era, this is the most complete mediaeval fortified city in existence today with its 52 watchtowers, portcullis and extraordinary repertoire of defenses, which resisted the many armies that tried to storm this glorious Camelot setting. We cruise in the afternoon to **Puichéric**, past “l’Epanchoir”, one of the canal bridges invented by Pierre Riquet for the Canal du Midi. Farewell Dinner aboard.

Saturday

After breakfast, disembark the barge and transfer by minibus to Narbonne by 11 am.

Note: This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change. It may run in reverse on alternate weeks

Floor Plan



Barge Features

- **Size of barge:** 100 by 16.5 feet
- **Number of Passengers:** 8
- **Number of Cabins (all with private bath):** 4
- **Crew:** 4
- **Air Conditioning and Central Heating:** Yes



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- **Salon:** Large spacious salon, demonstration kitchen, guest computer, and DVD/TV.
- **Bar:** Open bar
- **Deck:** Sun deck with hot tub, dining table, sun loungers
- **Spa Tub:** Yes
- **Cabin Features:** 4 equal twin/queen cabins (approx 200 sq ft), each with ensuite bathroom with shower.
- **Vehicle for Transfers/Excursions:** Air-conditioned 9-seater (including driver) mini-van
- **Accessibility:** Steps to salon and cabins
- **Bicycles:** 8 18-speed touring bikes: typically 4 Dawes AT Bikes, 2 ladies AT bikes and 2 larger AT bikes

ENCHANTE 2012 SEASON PRICES in US \$

Value Season is March 6 thru April 17, October 16 thru November 6

Regular Season is April 24, May 1st thru October 9.

Cabin (per person, double occupancy)	VS	\$ 5,300	/	RS	\$ 6,100
Single Occupancy Supplement	VS	\$ 2,000	/	RS	\$2,280

For further information please contact us.

Included in cruise price

- 7 days and 6 nights on the barge in a cabin with private bath
- Transfers from Montpellier to the barge and return for Canal du Midi cruises
- All meals beginning with dinner on Sunday through breakfast on Saturday
- All wines with lunches and dinners
- Open bar
- All escorted side-excursions (supplement for hot balloon, golf)
- Use of bicycles

