

# Hirondelle

Burgundy Canal



## Cruise Highlights

- ❖ Chateau d'Apremont and gardens
- ❖ Private visit to faïence workshop in Nevers
- ❖ Pouilly Fumé and Sancerre wine tastings
- ❖ Jardin du Parfumeur in Mezilles
- ❖ Crossing of the largest canal bridge in Europe
- ❖ Great walking and bicycling

## A Small Selection of the Wines Served Aboard

Meursault  
St. Romaine  
Pouilly Fuissé  
Chorey les Beaune  
Pommard  
Volnay

## Daily Itinerary Aboard - Seven Days/Six Nights

### Sunday, Day 1

#### NEVERS TO LE GUÉTIN

Guests will be met at the designated meeting point in the local town of Nevers and transferred to the Hirondelle, moored at Le Guétin on the Canal Latéral à la Loire. A champagne reception is followed by an evening cruise on the canal. Enjoy your first dining experience aboard.

### Monday, Day 2

#### LE GUÉTIN TO LA CHARITE-SUR-LOIRE

This morning, we take a short drive to Apremont, one of the most beautiful villages in France, to visit the private Château and gardens. In the afternoon we take a walking tour of Nevers, the capital of the Nivernais, with a private visit to the workshop of Mr Bernard to see the master ceramic maker at work and a chance to buy some of the distinctive blue and gold faïence. Dinner aboard.

### Tuesday, Day 3

#### LA CHARITE-SUR-LOIRE TO MENETREOL

A morning visit to La Charité-sur-Loire, an important site of Burgundian Romanesque art and a renowned resting place for pilgrims on the road to Santiago de Compostela. In the afternoon, take a short trip to Tharenay to taste the famous Pouilly Fumé wine. Dinner aboard.

### Wednesday, Day 4

#### MENETREOL TO LÉRÉ

After a relaxing morning's cruise and lunch, we take a short drive to Sancerre, situated on an impressive hilltop. Visit the goat farm of Francois Blain to see how the famous 'crottin' cheese is made. Enjoy a private

wine tasting at the fabulous 15th century Chateau Tracy, one of the most prestigious producers in the Loire. Dinner aboard.

### Thursday, Day 5

#### LÉRÉ TO CHATILLON-SUR-LOIRE

After breakfast, we visit Guédelon where for the last six years a team of engineers have been constructing a fortified château using 13th century techniques, fascinating viewing for all. This afternoon, there is a visit to a faïence factory in the beautiful town of Gien. Dinner aboard.

### Friday, Day 6

#### CHATILLON-SUR-LOIRE TO ROGNY LES SEPT ECLUSES

Today, the barge traverses the river Loire via the longest canal bridge in Europe connecting the Canal Latéral à la Loire to the Canal de Briare, built by the famous engineer Eiffel. We then enjoy the lovely village of Mezilles and the Jardin du Parfumeur where they still make perfume in the traditional way. Nearby is the beautiful Château de Saint Fargeau with a history spanning a thousand years. Farewell gala dinner aboard.

### Saturday, Day 7

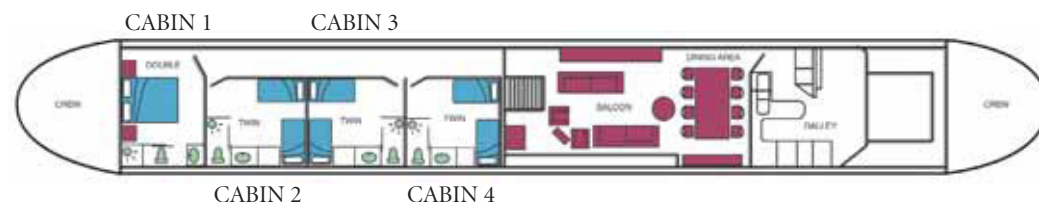
#### ROGNY LES SEPT ECLUSES

After breakfast, guests disembark and are transferred to the local town or train station for approximately 9.30am.

This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change. On alternate weeks the cruise is in the reverse direction.

## Cruise Burgundy & Upper Loire - Aboard the 8 passenger Hirondelle

Hirondelle was constructed as a 27-metre cargo barge at Hoogerand in the Netherlands in 1928 and was originally named Vios. She was later lengthened to over 38 metres, in order to increase her tonnage and hence her cargo capacity. This, combined with her 5 metre beam, now makes her the largest size of barge able to pass through the canal locks. She was brought to France and converted to welcome passengers in 1992 - 1993, when her name was changed to Hirondelle. With her large picture windows well above the waterline and the sundeck on the top level, it is perfect for guests to enjoy the wonderful countryside en route. She has very comfortable staterooms, all with ensuite facilities, as well as a beautifully appointed saloon and dining area. Hirondelle is owned by Orient-Express.



- 128 FT LONG
- 8 PASSENGERS
- 4 CREW
- 1 DOUBLE STATEROOM
- 3 TWIN STATEROOMS
- AIR - CONDITIONED
- BIKES
- AIR - CONDITIONED MINIBUS