

2008
Season

The Barge Company

Relax, Unwind and Let the World Float by...™



Itinerary

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Deck Plan

'Le Premier' Cruising in Burgundy

Between Dijon and Escommes, and various other Burgundy and Côte d'Or routes, on the Burgundy Canal, River Saône, Canal du Centre, Canal du Rhone au Rhin

- 128 FEET LONG
- 6 GUESTS
- 4 CREW
- 3 TWIN OR DOUBLE STATEROOMS (ALL WITH PRIVATE BATHROOMS AND BATHROBES)
- 6 GOOD QUALITY BICYCLES
- AIR CONDITIONING
- CENTRAL HEATING
- ON DECK HOT TUB
- AIR CONDITIONED MINIBUS
- SATELLITE TV, CD, DVD AND TELEPHONE IN ALL CABINS



Le Premier was originally built to navigate the canals and rivers of Europe but in 2004 was completely refurbished to the highest standard by her English owner-operators Richard and Kathy. Now, she provides luxurious accommodation for up to 6 guests in 3 equal en-suite twin or double staterooms, each with superbly appointed bathrooms with double showers, large white china sinks, huge fluffy bathrobes and an array of luxurious bath products. The boat is tastefully furnished with light oak furniture throughout, creating a luxurious but bright and airy atmosphere. The saloon and dining room area has a beautiful, solid French oak floor and the attention to detail is noticeable. Temperature control is easy in winter or summer as she is centrally heated and fully air conditioned. All cabins have direct dial telephone and flat screen satellite TV with CD and DVD player for those (rare) rainy days. There is even a separate library/study room which has an internet connection for guests. This room can also be used as a private therapy studio for massage and well-being treatments (at extra cost and on request) which can even be the theme of your cruise if liked (please e-mail us for details). With her spacious sun deck, glorious navy and cream livery, gorgeous hot tub and high quality teak on-deck furniture Le Premier really is the cream of luxury cruising in Burgundy.

2008 Prices (USD)

Per person (based on two people sharing a double or twin cabin) when available	\$5,500
Single supplement	on request
Charter for 4 guests	\$26,250
Charter for 5 guests	\$28,875
Charter for 6 guests	\$31,500

Prices are based on whole boat charter for 1 week (except when a cabin booking is made) and include:
Six nights on board, all meals and drinks (wines served with lunches and dinners, and open bar), excursions and entrance fees, first class TGV (train) return travel from Paris to Dijon, transfers to and from meeting point.

PICK-UP: central Paris on Sunday afternoon.

DROP-OFF: After breakfast guests are returned to Paris on Saturday morning after breakfast

Southern Burgundy Cruise highlights may include:

- Dijon – dating back to Roman times and the home of the Dukes of Burgundy
- Beaune – the heart of the Côte d'Or wine region; the Hospice de Beaune
- Puligny Montrachet -Wine tasting at some of the most famous domains in the world
- Route de Grand Vins – Clos de Vougeout, Nuits St George, Aloxe Corton
- Chateauneuf – the hill top fortified market town and fortress
- Abbaye de Citeau – birthplace of the Cistercian Monk order

PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF ARE IN CENTRAL PARIS. Exact details will be provided at the time of booking.

THE CRUISE PRICE INCLUDES FIRST CLASS TRAIN TRANSFERS TO BURGUNDY AND BACK. CLIENTS ARE PERSONALLY MET IN PARIS AND ESCORTED TO THEIR TRAIN, AND ARE THEN MET BY THE BARGE CREW UPON ARRIVAL AT THE OTHER END.

CRUISES START ON A SUNDAY AND END ON THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY.

TO CONTACT US...

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'Le Premier' Sample Itinerary

Dijon to Escommes, cruising on the Burgundy Canal

At the heart of the natural beauty of this fascinating cruising area are the golden slopes of the Cote d'Or. Burgundy has always been a wealthy and important region fought over by empires and kingdoms since Roman times. As the Cistercian order was founded here, there are many abbeys and churches and the vast empire of the Ducs de Bourgogne produced the chateaux and palaces. This route passes through the valley of the river Ouche as the Burgundy Canal winds its way to its' summit through 54 locks. This is an interesting cruise with many twists and turns through the scenic countryside as we pass medieval chateaux and picturesque villages along the way.

Sunday, Day 1:

Arrive late afternoon in Dijon and transfer to LE PREMIER for a champagne welcome and your first dinner on board. Dijon, the capital of Burgundy, is renowned for its' stunning architecture. The home of the Dukes of Burgundy, the influences of its' long and varied history make it an interesting city. The centre is only a short walk from the canal.

Monday, Day 2: Dijon to Fleurey-sur-Ouche

A full days cruising with 13 locks to navigate. During the trip guests can visit the famous wine making village of Nuits St George in the centre of the Côte de Nuits and the neighbouring Clos de Vougeout, the site where the Cistercian monks originally started the wine making of Burgundy. We moor for the night at Fleurey-sur-Ouche, under the trees on the village quay.

Tuesday, Day 3: Fleurey-sur-Ouche to Gisse

Continuing along the Ouche valley, today we navigate 9 locks passing through a mixture of forests and canal side villages. Guests may visit one of the domains of the Côte d'Or for lunch and a degustation of some of Frances' best Premier and Grand Cru wines. We moor for the night in the tiny but beautiful village of Gisse, overlooking the ancient bridge over the river.

Wednesday, Day 4: Gisse to Pont d'Ouche

This is a particularly attractive section of the canal, again, with 13 locks. Around lunch time, we are very close to La Bussiere, an ancient abbey, founded by the Cistercians, within beautiful landscaped grounds. Guests who enjoy a little exercise can easily cycle to the abbey and rejoin LE PREMIER along the canal tow path. Alternatively, simply enjoy the cruise and visit the abbey by car later. We arrive in Pont d'Ouche in the late afternoon, here the canal crosses a small aqueduct as the river heads towards Bligny and the canal makes it's way slowly upwards towards the summit.

Thursday, Day 5: Pont d'Ouche to Vandenesse

After Pont d'Ouche, the canal passes through the stunning scenery of a very narrow gorge, which in previous times was clearly worked as a quarry. This morning, guests may visit the ancient town of Beaune. We meet the boat again at Crugy in time for lunch and continue towards Vandenesse. During the afternoon we catch glimpses of the fortified village of Chateauneuf perched high above, as the canal winds its' way through the valley towards Vandenesse. The floodlit chateau stands guard over our mooring and is a spectacular setting for dinner on board.

Friday, Day 6: Vandenesse to Escommes

This morning LE PREMIER climbs the final eight lock flight to the summit of the Burgundy Canal through forests and fields. We pass an unusual section of canal populated by mannequins fishing from boats, climbing trees and doing the garden. The eclusiers, the French lock keepers, are colourful characters, creating beautiful and ornately decorated houses and gardens. Some exhibit art or a small museum or sell their fresh produce such as eggs and honey. After lunch a visit to the chateau at Commarin and watching the sunset from Chateauneuf are the ideal finale to your cruise of Burgundy. Time to enjoy cocktails and a farewell dinner on board LE PREMIER.

Saturday, Day 7: - Transfer to Dijon after breakfast.

The suggested excursions are intended to give you an idea of the trips available. The timing, variety, number and duration of excursions are up to you. In general all excursions are possible from any point of the cruise. It is also possible to enjoy lunch or dinner ashore should you wish.

NOTE: This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change.

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'Le Premier'

More Pictures...
(Click on an image to enlarge)

Cabin



Salon



Wheel house



En-suite Bathroom



Exterior



Sun Deck



Study



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Here are just a few of the wonderful things that past clients have had to say about their holidays on Le Premier...

What a wonderful week! Thank you for fulfilling a life-long dream- barging in France. The food, the boat, the laughter, the friendly atmosphere all beyond expectation. We will miss this. Best holiday ever! Thanks for great memories. Ged 2005

What a magnificent week a week to treasure and remember! We loved every moment. The barge is truly a labour of love; the food terrific; and the entire crew are a delight. Thank you Janie 2005

Thank you so much, a wonderful cruise, amazing food, each meal seemed to get more delicious than the last, wonderful wine, beautiful part of the world to cruise. The service was first class. All in all, a wonderful experience. The massage by Simon was fantastic and certainly added to the relaxing time. Rachel 2005

Many thanks for the unrivalled experience. The food, wine, accommodation, hospitality and scenery are all superb. Thank you. Caroline 2005

Thank you so much for sharing your barge with us. It is fantastic. I really appreciated the extra effort that you took to make my vegetarian meals as exciting as everyone else's meals. Helen was so enjoyable as a guide. Jan 2005

Thank you all for such a wonderful adventure, everything was simply wonderful and completely relaxing. Food was exquisite, wines wonderful, company even better. Best barge I have ever spent time on. Hope to travel with you again in the future. Marjie & Dennis 2005

Thanks so much for steering us, on our first barging experience, towards Kathy, Richard, Hannah & Simon. The craft was top notch. But the cream on top, & the significant factor in reality, was the Le Premier Team. It was the most relaxing holiday I've had. Only one complaint; this experience has ruined us for any future barging expedition, unless on Le Premier!!! Very attentive. Team aboard were as friendly or invisible as we required. A perfect balance. Quality of food and wine was excellent, as was the commentary behind each serving. Team aboard very knowledgeable, yet not in a boring "expert" way. Food was actually "designed" for us & our tastes. We trust Kathy & Richard will go on from strength-to-strength with this operation, but hope they will leave some room in their cruising schedule for us upon our already planned return!! Wallace family 2005

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The menus are based on seasonal fresh produce. Preference lists advised in advance assist Kathy to prepare menus for you and to cater for special diets. All meals and drinks on board are inclusive.

Breakfast

Fresh fruit juice, cereals, fruit, yoghurt,
fresh bread and croissants,
selection of egg dishes,
preserves, honey,
coffee and tea

Lunch

Olive and herb foccacia
Tomato consommé with tiny pesto ravioli
Seafood tartlets with lemon saffron sauce
Tomato tart tatin
Aubergine and feta lasagne with
spinach pistachio pesto
Piedmont roast peppers
Courgette Roulade with Roquefort dressing



Dinner

Chilled melon and lobster soup
Cappucino of roasted langoustine and lentils
Watercress soup with poached oysters

Fillets of John Dory with fresh tomato and balsamic concassé
Freshly made prawn ravioli
with crab sauce
Tuna with tomato and green pepper sauce

Lemon Sorbet

Bresse chicken poché-grille with
sauce foie gras

Seared lamb with orange and
ginger dressing

Roast fillet of beef bordelaise

Dessert

Three chocolate terrine
Baked peaches with Marsala and marscapone
Cointreau mousse in chocolate cups
with orange sabayon
Pears poached in wine with hot chocolate sauce
Banana soufflé with caramel sauce
Glazed summer fruits with champagne sabayon

Coffee, tea and liqueurs

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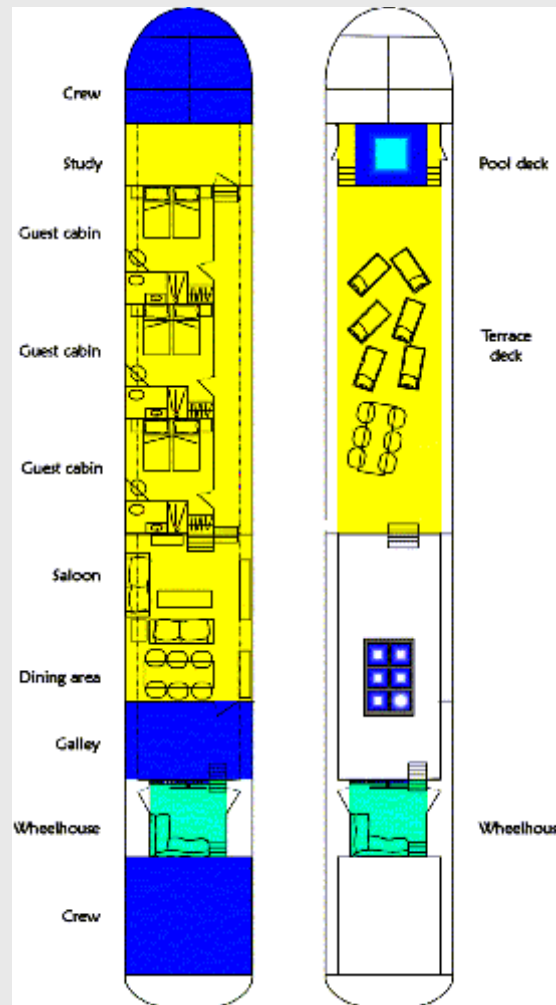
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