

CAPTIVATING RHINE

AMSTERDAM TO BASEL, SWITZERLAND



Contoured by vineyard-clad hills and castles from yesteryear, the legendary Rhine captivates. Experience the allure of France's Alsace region in its welcoming capital, Strasbourg, and its priceless gem, Riquewihr. Then there is Breisach, rising above the vineyards of the Rhine, and Freiburg, one of Germany's sunniest cities and gateway to Black Forest. Fabled towns lost in time present you with the chance to taste local flavors—Rüdesheimer coffee and Kölsch beer—and to touch history up close with guided hikes and bike rides. From Amsterdam's colorful canals to the majestic Swiss Alps, journey into the heart of the destinations you visit.



COUNTRIES VISITED: FRANCE, GERMANY,
NETHERLANDS, SWITZERLAND **RIVERS:** RHINE

DATES: 2018 -

AmaPrima: Nov 17 - **Wine Cruise - Free Air**
AmaStella: Oct 08 | Oct 22 | Nov 05 - **Wine Cruise** |
 Nov 19 - **Free Air**
AmaKristina: Oct 15 | Oct 29

2019 (Partial List – call or visit website)

AmaSerena: Mar 24 | April 7 - **Wine Cruise** | May 12 | May
 26 | June 09 | June 23 | July 07 | July 21 - **Wine Cruise** |
 Aug 04 | Aug 18 | Sep 01 | Sep 15 | Sep 29 | Oct 27 | Nov
 10 - **Wine Cruise**
AmaPrima: May 11 | May 25 | June 08 | July 13 - **Wine
 Cruise** | July 27 | Sep 14 | Sep 28 | Nov 02 | Nov 16
AmaKristina: April 29 | May 13 | May 27 | June 10 | June
 24 | July 08 | July 22 | Aug 05 | Aug 19 - **Wine Cruise** | Sep
 02 | Sep 16 | Sep 30 | Oct 28 | Nov 11 - **Wine Cruise**

DURATION: 8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS
EMBARK: AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS
DISEMBARK: BASEL, SWITZERLAND

FROM: \$2,249

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Amsterdam - EMBARKATION

Arrive in Amsterdam and board your luxurious river cruise ship. Join fellow guests for a special welcome aboard wine toast.

(D)

DAY 2 Amsterdam

Get acquainted with Amsterdam on a scenic canal cruise, where you will see the beautiful wooden Skinny Bridge and Anne Frank's House. Continue with a walk to the Begijnhof and be charmed by its Middle Age buildings followed by a city tour that includes the Royal Palace and Westerkerk. Later in the day, enjoy scenic cruising. (B,L,D)

DAY 3 Cologne

Enjoy cruising to Cologne, home to one of Germany's most revered Gothic masterpieces, the Cologne Cathedral. Join a guided tour through the Old Town and explore the UNESCO-designated cathedral. Continue to the Cologne Rathaus, Germany's oldest town hall, the Overstolzenhaus and the Festival Hall. For a different view of the city, visit a local tavern to taste its famous Kölsch beer, only made in Cologne, and Reibekuchen, potato pancakes typically served with apple sauce. Active adventurers will want to join a guided bike ride along the Rhine and through the historic Stadtgarten. (B,L,D)

DAY 4 Rudesheim - Rhine Gorge

Cruise through the captivating UNESCO-designated Rhine Gorge, the most stunningly beautiful stretch of the river before reaching the winemaking town of Rudesheim. Wine connoisseurs will want to go on a walking tour through the vineyards where you'll stop to sample wines at three different tasting stations. Or choose to drink up the stunning views by soaring high above the vineyards with a gondola ride to the Niederwalddenkmal Statue. For a more active adventure, join a guided bike tour along the scenic Rhine River. Later in the day, let Siegfried's

Mechanical Music Museum charm you with its remarkable collection of self-playing musical instruments; or taste one of the town's special delights, Rudesheimer Coffee, ceremoniously made with brandy, coffee and whipped cream. (B,L,D)



DAY 5 Ludwigshafen

Ludwigshafen is your gateway to a choice of three excursions. Visit Heidelberg, the perfectly preserved medieval city nestled in the Neckar River Valley along Germany's Castle Road. Discover the iconic red sandstone Heidelberg Castle and Great Vat, an 18th-century 49,000-gallon wine cask. For a more active adventure while in Heidelberg, join a guided hike up the Philosopher's Path, aptly named during the Romantic Period, and be rewarded with panoramic views of the city. Alternatively, you can visit one of Germany's oldest cities, Speyer, known for the largest Romanesque cathedral in Europe—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—and the medieval Altpörtel, Old Gate. (B,L,D)

DAY 6 Strasbourg

Strasbourg, the capital city of Alsace, has flavors of both France and Germany because of its borderline location, which you'll get to discover. Enjoy a panoramic bus tour past the stunning Parc de l'Orangerie, the European Parliament and the Place de la République followed by a walking tour through its iconic "La Petite France" district, which appears to have been lifted straight from the pages of a fairytale. You'll also see the Cathédrale de Notre Dame with its

famous astronomical clock. The active adventurer can join a guided bike tour, which also takes you through the Parc de l'Orangerie. Later in the afternoon, be treated to a special Alsatian wine tasting of some of the region's most delicious and notable wine. Discover how the Vosges Mountains provide the Alsace with ideal wine making conditions, and as such, Alsatian wines are not only delightful on the palate, but they're also highly praised for their fragrant aromas, ranging from bright and fruity to crisp and spicy. (B,L,D)

DAY 7 Breisach

Step back in time with a visit to the enchanting Alsatian town of Riquewihr. Having survived WWII without being badly damaged, this charming medieval hamlet looks much like it did in the 16th century. On your walking tour, admire historic architecture and surrounding vineyards as well as famous sights, such as the Dolder Gate; afterwards, take part in a wine tasting of some of the regions' famous Alsatian wines. Alternatively, you may wish to visit Freiburg, founded in 1120 and home to the Freiburg Münster, a Gothic cathedral said to have

“the most beautiful spire on earth.” Those wishing a more active excursion can cycle through the countryside. New for 2019; Tour the Black Forest, a magical land full of cultural traditions, as well as home to elaborate cuckoo clocks, striking half-timber houses, ruined castles and quaint towns. (B,L,D)

DAY 8 Basel, Switzerland - DISEMBARKATION

Bid Farewell to Basel as you prepare for your flight home or your continued journey(B)



Your Wine Hosts for 2018 & 2019

Nov 5, 2018 - Matthieu Finot, Winemaker of King Family Vineyards in Crozet, Virginia, is passionate to lead discussions and wine tastings on board the AmaStella. Learn how Matthieu came from a family of viticulturists and wine lovers and how he continued his family's pursuit of making and enjoying wine.

Nov 17, 2018 - Join Matt Wengel, Winemaker of Lemelson Vineyards in Carlton, OR, as he shares how he traveled all over the world and ended up in Oregon, where he always wanted to go! Matt is excited to lead insightful discussions about food and wine along the Rhine River.

April 7, 2019 - Join Dr. Douglas Garman, PhD, Wine Expert for Europa Village Winery in Temecula, CA, on board as they lead insightful discussions and share their passion and vision for making premium handcrafted wines.

July 13, 2019 - Join Tony & Christine Lombardi, Owners, Lombardi Wines, Petaluma, CA and Cabell Coursey, Co-owner, Coursey Graves Winery, Santa Rosa CA, on board as they lead insightful discussions and share their passion and vision for making premium handcrafted wines.

July 21, 2019 - Join Scott Scheid, President & CEO of Scheid Winery, Greenfield, CA, on board as they lead insightful discussions and share their passion and vision for making premium handcrafted wines.



FOR MORE INFORMATION-

CALL 1-855-397-5671

EMAIL-

INFO@EXPLORCRUISES.COM



Violin Deck



Cello Deck



Piano Deck



2018 DATES	Oct 08	Oct 15	Oct 22	Oct 29	Nov 05	Nov 17, 19 <i>Free Air</i>
BASE RATE – CAT E	\$3,499	\$3,299	\$3,199	\$3,099	\$2,899	\$2,799
Plus Port Charges - \$168 per person						

2019 DATES	March 24-November 18
BASE RATE – CAT E	\$2,249 to \$3,899 Depending on season, ship and Specials
Plus Port Charges - \$182 per person	