Cruising the Rivers of Provence and Burgundy

VILLAGES AND VINEYARDS OF THE RHÔNE AND SAÔNE

June 27 to July 8, 2011

a program of the stanford alumni association
Ochre-tinted villages perched above red-rock mountains. Valleys carpeted with purple fields of lavender. Warm Mediterranean air scented with aromatic wild thyme and mint. Southern France is a feast for the senses, and it’s no wonder that the great painters of light and color – Van Gogh, Cézanne and Matisse – came here for inspiration. We invite you to the south of France next summer with popular Stanford professor Linda Paulson, who will share her love of this land and its literature with you. Our trip combines the highlights of Provence with a cruise on the Rhône and Saône rivers, a visit to Burgundy’s famous wine country and a final overnight in Paris. Summer in the south of France…what could be better?

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

**Luxuriate** in the cozy atmosphere of the 78-passenger Rembrandt and enjoy private shore excursions to quaint villages.

**Retrace** impressionist artist Paul Cézanne’s steps in Aix-en-Provence and see the sights that were part of his daily life.

**Watch** horsemanship skills and Provençal bullfighting in the Camargue, France’s cowboy country, before eating a traditional meal with gypsy entertainment.

**Tour** the magnificent castle home near Avignon of a former curator of the Louvre and view her eclectic art collection.

ROUSSILLON
MONDAY & TUESDAY, JUNE 27 & 28
U.S. / MARSEILLE, FRANCE
AIX-EN-PROVENCE
Depart the U.S. on overnight flights to France. Upon arrival in Marseille on Tuesday, transfer to Aix-en-Provence in time for our welcome reception and dinner. HÔTEL DU ROI RENE (D)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29
AIX-EN-PROVENCE / LUBERON VALLEY / ROUSSILLON
Depart this morning for a tour of the Luberon Valley. Visit the 12th-century Cistercian Abbey of Sénanque, finally a tranquil monastic retreat after a turbulent history that extends from its founding in the 12th century to the French Revolution. After a look at the scenic village of Gordes, perched high on a rocky promontory, continue to Roussillon before returning to Aix-en-Provence. The rich supplies of ochre found in the Roussillon area were mined by the Romans and shipped throughout the Mediterranean. HÔTEL DU ROI RENE (B,L)

THURSDAY, JUNE 30
AIX-EN-PROVENCE / ARLES / EMBARKATION
Enjoy a morning walking tour of Aix-en-Provence, including a stroll through its bustling flower and produce markets. Our tour includes the most interesting of the hôtels particuliers (private mansions built by aristocrats in the 17th and 18th centuries), the Cathédrale St-Sauveur and the perfectly preserved home and studio of impressionist artist Paul Cézanne. After some leisure time and lunch on our own, head into the countryside for a tour of Montagne Sainte-Victoire, the mountain range that was one of Cézanne's favorite subjects. Continue by coach to embark our ship in Arles, where we dock overnight. REMBRANDT (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, JULY 1
ARLES
Take a walking tour of Arles, much beloved by Vincent van Gogh. View the Roman theatre and amphitheatre and the elegant 12th-century church of St. Trophime. After lunch, head west into the Camargue, a lesser-known area of Provence. In these remote marshes, a vast array of wildlife finds shelter, and local “cowboys” still lead a traditional rancher’s life. Visit a private mas (ranch) whose owners demonstrate their horsemanship and bullfighting skills in their private arena. A typical “Camarguais” supper follows, with entertainment by local gypsy musicians. REMBRANDT (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, JULY 2
AVIGNON / VILLENEUVE-LES-AVIGNON
Arrive this morning in Avignon, the center of Christendom in the 14th century. View the impressive Papal Palace and explore the old town before returning to our ship for lunch. In the afternoon, drive to Villeneuve-lès-Avignon to visit a former monastery, now the residence of a retired curator at the Louvre. During this private visit, see the beautifully restored interior, as well as the gardens and terraces overlooking Avignon. Conclude our day’s travels with a visit to the Pont du Gard, an impressive Roman aqueduct and one of the wonders of antiquity, built by Agrippa in 19 BC. REMBRANDT (B,L,D)
SUNDAY, JULY 3
RHÔNE VALLEY / TOURNON
During a morning of cruising, enter the longest canal of the Rhône, the Donzère Mondragon, then pass through the deepest lock in Europe, the Bollène, which raises the Rembrandt nearly 100 feet in only a few minutes. Dock at Tournon, located in the shadow of the world-famous vineyards of Tain l’Hermitage. Visit one of the best local wine cellars to sample some of the famous Rhône wines. REMBRANDT (B,L,D)

MONDAY, JULY 4
VIENNE
Enjoy a morning of cruising along an idyllic winding stretch on the Rhône, bordered by vineyards. This afternoon, call at Vienne, an important Roman trading post, for a short walking tour. See the town’s lovely cathedral and the Cybele Garden, as well as the 1st-century Temple of Emperor Augustus and his wife, Livia. REMBRANDT (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, JULY 5
LYON
Arrive this morning in Lyon, France’s culinary capital and a 2,000-year-old World Heritage Site that has undergone a dramatic architectural renewal in recent years. Our walking tour centers on Old Lyon, including the beautifully restored Quartier St-Jean, filled with its famous traboules, the haunting street-level and underground passageways that connect the district’s 15th-century houses. The afternoon is at leisure for independent exploration of Lyon. REMBRANDT (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6
BEAUNE
Enjoy a morning of scenic cruising through lovely Beaujolais and Burgundy landscapes, passing lush vineyards, farms and quaint villages. After lunch onboard, spend the afternoon in the jewel town of Beaune, considered the wine capital of Burgundy. The Hôtel Dieu, or Hospices de Beaune, built in 1452 as a charity hospital, is a highlight of our visit. It houses an excellent collection of tapestries and paintings, including Rogier van der Weyden’s medieval masterpiece, The Last Judgment. Return to our ship late in the afternoon and gather for the Captain’s farewell reception and dinner. REMBRANDT (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, JULY 7
DIJON / PARIS
Disembark this morning and drive to Dijon, one of France’s most beautiful cities. Surrounded by magnificent vineyards, this former capital of the Dukes of Burgundy is famous for its many fine monuments that bear witness to a long and eventful history. See the Palace of the Dukes, Place de la Libération and the Fine Arts Museum. Then board a TGV bullet train for Paris, enjoying a gourmet box lunch en route. Check in to the Hôtel du Louvre, an elegant property located just steps from the Louvre Museum. Tonight celebrate in style at a farewell reception and dinner. HOTEL DU LOUVRE (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, JULY 8
PARIS / U.S.
Transfer to Paris’ Charles de Gaulle airport for return flights home. (B)
Rembrandt

Built in the Netherlands in 2003, this attractive four-star vessel carries a maximum of just 78 guests in 39 cabins. The décor combines beautiful woods with fabrics of soft colors to create an elegant setting perfect for river cruising. Both the main lounge and dining room feature large picture windows with marvelous views of the passing scenery. The Rembrandt’s chefs prepare quality international meals, incorporating regional specialties, served in a single open seating. Each cabin features a picture window, en-suite bathroom with shower, individually controlled heat/air conditioner, satellite television and telephone with international access. Cabins in Categories 1–3 measure 118 sq. ft. and feature twin beds that convert during the day to a comfortable sofa. Category 4 Suites (150 sq. ft.) feature a French balcony and a double bed.

The small capacity and comfortable, casual atmosphere allow participants to get to know each other easily and interact more readily, and the small size of the staterooms is offset by lovely, spacious public areas that provide ample space for people to gather for lectures and relax with friends.

Program Cost*

Rates are per person, based on double occupancy, unless otherwise noted.

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*Association nonmembers add $200 per person.
**Single accommodations are limited at this rate.
Information

DATES
June 27 to July 8, 2011 (12 days)

SIZE
Limited to 42 Stanford participants. We have secured block space on the Rembrandt. Although there will be other passengers onboard, Stanford will have exclusive shore excursions and events.

INCLUDED
3 nights of 4-star hotel accommodations • 7-night cruise aboard the Rembrandt • 10 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 9 dinners • Welcome and farewell receptions • House wine, beer or soft drinks with all group lunches and dinners • Bottled water on excursions • Gratuities to porters, guides, drivers and ship crew for all group activities • All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary • Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days • Port fees and embarkation taxes • Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance • Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information • Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
International and U.S. domestic airfare • Passport and visa fees • Immunization costs • Meals and beverages other than those specified as included • Independent and private transfers • Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance • Excess-baggage charges • Personal items such as email, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare from San Francisco to Marseille with return from Paris is approximately $1,355 as of August 2010 and is subject to change without notice.

FUEL COSTS
In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult to predict fuel costs over the long term and, more specifically, at the time of operation of this voyage. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of brochure printing. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

WHAT TO EXPECT
We consider this to be a mildly active program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Daily programs involve one to two miles of walking in museums and on city tours and may involve extended periods of standing in museums and churches. Participants will encounter uneven terrain, including some dirt and cobblestone paths, and must be able to walk up and down hills. In many instances, tours will begin on foot directly from the ship in order to explore historic city centers where coaches are not permitted. Participants must be physically fit and in active good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000 deposit is required to hold space for Cruising the Rivers of Provence and Burgundy. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are fully refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply. We recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. We strongly recommend that you subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be mailed with your confirmation about one week after we receive your deposit. The product offered in this brochure includes a special Waiver of Pre-Existing Conditions and coverage for Financial Insolvency and Terrorist Acts if you postmark your insurance payment within 15 days of the date listed on the confirmation letter.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $200 more than the members’ price. Stanford alumni may become Annual ($75) or Life ($495) Members. Stanford parents, faculty, staff, interns, residents and fellows may become Installment Members ($90 down, $115/year for four years) or Life Members ($495). Nonalumni may become Life Affiliates (one-time fee, $650). Parents and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit www.stanfordalumni.org/member- ship or call (650) 725-0692.

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Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and ship arrangements and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. It is understood that the ship’s ticket, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the cruise company. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in August 2010 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.
Stanford Faculty Leader

DR. LINDA PAULSON has been interested in France since she began visiting family friends in Paris as a teenager. She majored in French, English and art history as an undergraduate; taught for a few years at an international orphanage in Switzerland after her graduation; then returned to the U.S., where she got her PhD in comparative literature at UCLA. “Graduate work in comparative literature encourages you to range across the disciplines,” says Dr. Paulson. “I was lucky: I was able to pursue my fascination with literature in English, French and German – and continue to study history and art as well.” Through the years, she has traveled extensively, spending a portion of each year in Europe. She describes her recent time in France as having been “given form and focus by the artists – Monet in Giverny, Van Gogh in Arles and Auvers-sur-Oise, Cézanne in Provence, Degas and other impressionists in Paris; by the literature, especially the 19th- and 20th-century Parisian writers; by the deep history of place; and by the food and wine.”

AT STANFORD:
- Associate dean and director, Master of Liberal Arts program
- Lecturer, English department
- Resident fellow, Donner House since 1986
- Recipient, Stanford’s Dinkelspiel Award for distinguished teaching and service to the University

“Professor Paulson’s lectures substantially enriched our enjoyment and understanding of the trip.”

LAURA LA SHELLE,
SEINE RIVER COLLEGE, 2010

Reservation Form
Cruising the Rivers of Provence & Burgundy

June 27 to July 8, 2011

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them. Signature _________________________________________________

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:
☐ I wish to have single accommodations.
OR ☐ I plan to share accommodations with __________________________
OR ☐ I’d like to know about possible roommates.

Category Preference:
1st choice: __________________________
☐ Twin Beds ☐ Double Bed
2nd choice: __________________________
☐ Twin Beds ☐ Double Bed

Here is my deposit of $________ ($1,000 per person) for ___ space(s) on the program.

☐ Enclosed is my check (make payable to Stanford Alumni Association) OR
☐ Charge my deposit to my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

CARD # _________          EXPIRES _________
AUTHORIZED CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE ______________________ DATE _______

Mail completed form to address on mail panel or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at www.stanfordalumni.org/trip?rivers2011. Please submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.

SIGN UP ONLINE!
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RUTH PARCHEN, PROVENCE COLLEGE, 2007

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