

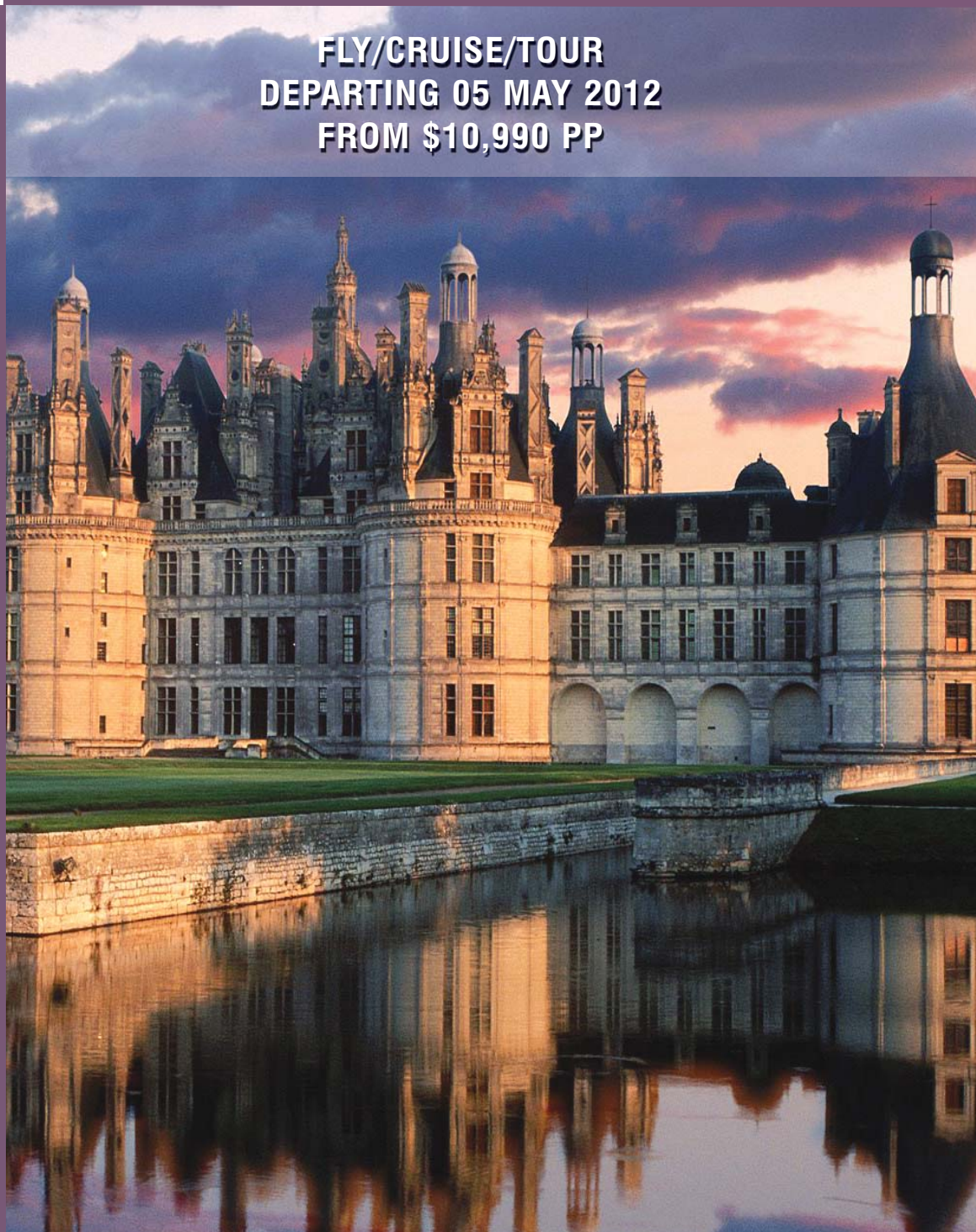
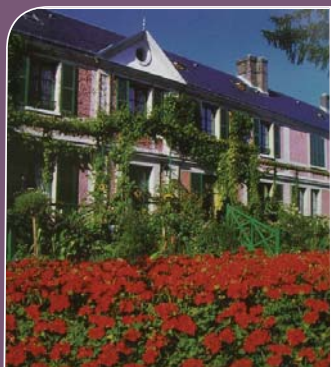


Romantic Chateaux & **GRAND FRANCE**



CRUISE EXPRESS
Escorted Voyages

FLY/CRUISE/TOUR
DEPARTING 05 MAY 2012
FROM \$10,990 PP



GRAND FRANCE



Grand France

26 DAY PACKAGE DEPARTING 05 MAY 2012

Provence, Burgundy & Romantic Chateaux

19 DAY PACKAGE DEPARTING 05 MAY 2012

Our hosted river tours through France in 2010 and 2011 drew first-rate reviews from our customers so if you like the thought of staying in grand, moated castles and floating past dreamy French scenery that inspired Monet and Van Gogh, then this is the indulgent sojourn you have been looking for. Our full, 26-day tour includes two seven-night Avalon cruises and a week-long tour through the most romantic countryside you could imagine. Cruise first through the south of France on the Rhone River to Vincent Van Gogh's town of Arles and through fabled Provence and Burgundy before we tour the heart of France's wine region with visits to and stays in enchanting chateaux and a tour of the walled medieval town of Carcassonne. Then in Paris we cruise along the Seine River to visit Rouen, the beaches of Normandy and Claude Monet's idyllic gardens at Giverny that he immortalised on canvas.

MAY 2012

Grand France AND Provence, Burgundy & Romantic Chateaux

Sat 05 – DEPART AUSTRALIA

Sun 06 – PARIS

Arrive Paris, France's capital on the River Seine. Transfer to our hotel and enjoy the "City of Light"

Overnight: Franklin Roosevelt Hotel or similar

Mon 07 – PARIS

Paris' famous sights are living history. Your included morning sightseeing will show you magnificent Notre Dame Cathedral, the unique Louvre Museum, Arc de Triomphe, 2nd level of the Eiffel Tower and many other famous sights. Afternoon at leisure before an evening Illuminations Tour and Welcome Dinner.

Overnight: Franklin Roosevelt Hotel or similar. (B,D)

Tue 08 – PARIS – BEAUNE – CHALON-SUR-SAONE

After breakfast, drive south past the Forest of Fontainebleau, favourite hunting grounds of the French kings and into Burgundy. Beaune is the unofficial capital of the Cote d'Or area which produces the region's finest vintages. A highlight is a visit to the historical Hotel Dieu charity hospital. Enjoy wine tasting in Burgundy before we embark on **Avalon Scenery** in Chalon Sur Saone. (B,D)

Wed 09 – CHALON-SUR-SAONE – TOURNUS – MACON

A guided walk will show you the highlights of this quaint French town. Sail to Tournus and Macon, a city rich in history and of great importance to the wine trade. (B,L,D)

Thu 10 – BEAUJOLAIS REGION – LYON

Enjoy a leisurely morning cruising on the Rhone. Lyon is France's second-largest city and its gastronomic capital. Founded by the Romans in 43BC, the city prospered in the 16th century. Explore the Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and visit beautiful Place Bellecour. (B,L,D)

Fri 11 – LYON

A free day to explore Lyon. Drawcards include the historic Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourviere overlooking the city on Fourviere Hill and the nearby Roman ruins. Enjoy lunch in a bouchon – a typical French restaurant serving regional dishes and wine, including

local Beaujolais wine. A favourite local dish is saucisson de Lyon (sausage) and salade lyonnaise (lettuce with bacon, croutons and poached egg). (B,L,D)

Sat 12 – TOURNON – TAIN L'HERMITAGE – LYON

Among the famous vineyards, the twin cities of Tournon/Tain L'Hermitage provide the perfect setting for those who are true connoisseurs of chocolate and wine. Celebrate the region by indulging in some Côte du Rhone wines. (B,L,D)

Sun 13 – AVIGNON

Nestled in the lush hills of the Rhône Valley lies the medieval walled city of Avignon. Named the "City of the Popes," it was the centre of the Catholic Church in the 14th century when the Palace of the Popes was the equivalent of today's Vatican. (B,L,D)

Mon 14 – ARLES

During your walking tour discover Vincent Van Gogh's Arles as well as the fascinating wealth of Romanesque monuments such as the Roman Amphitheatre and Constantine's Roman Baths. (B,L,D)

Tue 15 – ARLES – AIX EN PROVENCE

Disembark **Avalon Scenery** and enjoy a scenic drive through Provence including a visit to Pont Du Gard, the incredible Roman aqueduct. Drive by Saint Remy before arriving in Aix en Provence. The thriving old town of Aix is one of the most appealing in France. Art enthusiasts can follow in the footsteps of the artist Paul Cezanne.

Overnight: Chateau Le Pigeonnet (B,D)

Wed 16 – AIX EN PROVENCE – CARCASSONNE

We explore the Camargue region and the walled city of Aigues Mortes. The medieval citadel of Carcassonne is truly spectacular, its fortified walls and turrets visible for miles before actually reaching it. Walt Disney was said to have taken inspiration for Sleeping Beauty's castle from it. Stay in the spectacular "Hotel de la Cite" – a truly luxurious property in a unique setting in the old citadel.

Overnight: Hotel de la Cite (B,D)

Thu 17 – CARCASSONNE – MONESTIER

Today we continue to the famous Bordeaux region, where the surrounding vineyards produce full bodied, deep coloured red wine. Visit Bergerac, a charming town in the Dordogne region, made famous by the play about Cyrano de Bergerac.

Overnight: Chateau des Vigiers (B,D)

Fri 18 – BORDEAUX REGION

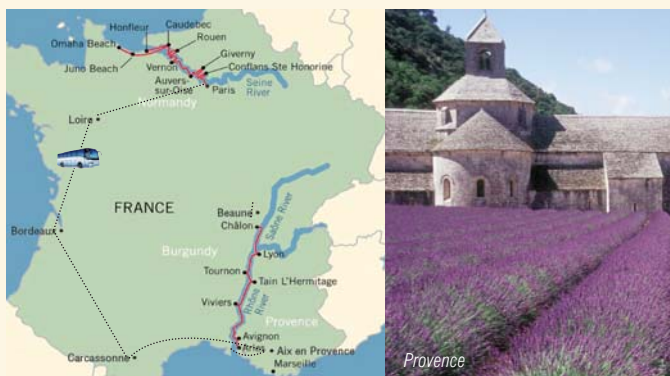
Visit the city of Bordeaux – built on the bridging point on the Garonne River. Over the centuries, Bordeaux has developed to become famous for the full bodied red wine of the same name produced in the surrounding countryside. Visit Saint Emilion in the afternoon to enjoy a wine tasting.

Overnight: Chateau des Vigiers (B,D)

Sat 19 – MONESTIER – VEIGNE, LOIRE VALLEY

Travel to the Loire Valley. The region, named a UNESCO World Heritage site, served rich princes, kings and dukes as a playground from the 15th to 18th centuries. Lavish country houses and chateaux dot the landscape.

Overnight: Chateau Tortiniere (B,D)



FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN TO NORMANDY



Sun 20 – VEIGNE, LOIRE VALLEY

After breakfast we explore the delights the valley has to offer and visit the spectacular castle of Chenonceau – an impressive sight with turrets, drawbridge and stylized moat from the 16th century. Our next stop will be the charming town of Tours. The wide 18th century avenues and formal public parks invite for a stroll or perhaps enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to our chateau. Overnight: Chateau Tortiniere (B,D)

Mon 21 – LOIRE VALLEY – SAINT SYMPHORIEN LE CHATEAU

Visit Chambord – the amazing castle of King Louis XVI. Leaving the Loire region this morning we head for Chateau d'Esclimont, a Renaissance-style chateau hotel, set in the heart of a 60-hectare wooded parkland. Overnight: Chateau d' Esclimont (B,D)

Tue 22 – PARIS

Today's journey will take us to Chartres, where we visit the incredible cathedral. Enjoy a stroll through this charming town before we transfer to Paris to embark on **Avalon Creativity**. (B,D)

Provence, Burgundy & Romantic Chateaux

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Australia

Wed 23 – Arrive Australia

Grand France

Wed 23 – PARIS

Enjoy a comprehensive city sightseeing tour or perhaps a day exploring this city on your own. Visit the Eiffel Tower or explore the Louvre. (B,L,D)

Thu 24 – PARIS – CONFLANS

This morning relax on the ship's Sky Deck. We gently glide down the River Seine, passing through suburban Paris. This afternoon we dock in Conflans – where the choice is yours – either join our guided excursion to Auvers-Sur-Oise, the quaint town where Vincent Van Gogh lived and died or visit Chateau de Malmaison, where Josephine Bonaparte aimed at creating the most beautiful garden in Europe. (B,L,D)

Fri 25 – VERNON (GIVERNY)

Visit Bizy Castle with its magnificent courtyard or Monet's home in his beloved village of Giverny. Explore Monet's house and stroll through the gardens where you will see the familiar Japanese bridge and water garden, shaded by weeping willows. (B,L,D)

Sat 26 – ROUEN

Visit the stunning gothic cathedral of Rouen, the haunting medieval quarter and the Gros Horloge, a renaissance clock tower that arches overhead. End at Vieux Marche, where Joan of Arc was punished for her defiance. (B,L,D)

Sun 27 – ROUEN (NORMANDY BEACHES)

Spend the day at the beaches at Normandy – site of the D-Day Invasion by the Allied forces during World War II. Visit the American Cemetery at Colleville, the allied landing sites at Omaha beach, the battlefield of Pointe du Hoc and Mulberry Harbor at Arromanches. (B,L,D)

Mon 28 – LES ANDELYS

This strategically important town prompted Richard the Lionheart to build a fortified castle. Walk to the English King's stronghold and admire the remains of the impressive Chateau Gaillard. (B L,D)

Tue 29 – PARIS

Disembark **Avalon Creativity** after breakfast and transfer to the airport. (B)

Wed 30 – ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

(B) Breakfast (L) Lunch (D) Dinner

INCLUSIONS

Grand France

- Return Economy class flights incl. airport taxes ex Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne or Perth
- 2 nights accommodation in Paris including breakfasts and sightseeing
- 7 nights on **Avalon Scenery** in a Riverview stateroom including all meals, wine with dinner and onboard gratuities
- 7 night Romantic Chateaux tour incl. breakfast & dinner with wine daily
- 7 nights on **Avalon Creativity** in a Riverview stateroom including all meals, wine with dinner and onboard gratuities
- Comprehensive sightseeing & group transfers throughout
- The services of a professional Cruise Express escort
- Pre departure gathering (Syd only) & welcome aboard cocktail party
- Cruise Express souvenir backpack and cap or visor

Provence, Burgundy & Romantic Chateaux

All inclusions outlined above EXCEPT 7 night **Avalon Creativity** cruise

Spoil yourself! Upgrade to Business Class from just \$3990*

Our French chateaux are handpicked, historic hotels and country houses dating back to the 15th century and are often members of the Small Luxury Hotels or Orient Express hotel chain. Most rooms are located within the old walls inside the main building or converted annex buildings. Each chateau offers a small number of rooms and each room will be unique and charming. The properties are of 3-4 star rating, with the focus on their charm, uniqueness and ambience. Due to space restrictions, room allocations are subject to change but Cruise Express will aim to deliver the best accommodation available at these properties.



YOUR HOLIDAY FARES

	Cabin Type	Twin*	Single*	
Provence, Burgundy & Romantic Chateaux	Cat B	Sapphire Deck	\$10,990	\$14,490
	Cat A	Sapphire Deck	\$11,390	\$14,890
	Cat P	Royal Deck	\$11,490	\$14,990
Grand France	Cat B	Sapphire Deck	\$13,990	\$18,990
	Cat A	Sapphire Deck	\$14,690	\$19,990
	Cat P	Royal Deck	\$14,990	\$20,390

*Fares include Earlybird Discounts, valid for all bookings paid in full by 13 January 2012.



BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

for Travelations Pty Ltd t/a Cruise Express International (ABN 31 095 788 177. Lic # 2TA5206)

Please read all booking terms and conditions carefully. By payment of your deposit we understand you have read, understood and accepted these conditions.

Travelations Pty Ltd t/a Cruise Express International (herein referred to as the Facilitator) is a member of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) and the International Cruise Council of Australasia (ICCA). We are a licensed travel agent giving you the consumer protection offered by the Travel Compensation Fund (TCF). We are committed to the provision of excellent service and quality travel products.

PRICING & ITINERARIES

All prices are in Australian dollars and are based on operator prices correct at the time of publication and on currency exchange rates as at 01 August 2010. In the event that operators, service providers or currency fluctuations alter prices, the Facilitator reserves the right to adjust pricing at any time up to and including the day of departure. When circumstances beyond the control of the Facilitator occur, the Facilitator also reserves the right to alter itineraries accordingly.

BOOKINGS

All bookings must be made directly with the Facilitator and are subject to availability of the appropriate services (eg. airline seats, cabins and hotel accommodation) at the time of booking.

CONFIRMATION & PAYMENT OF DEPOSITS

The Facilitator will prepare and forward a written confirmation. A non-refundable deposit payment of \$1500.00 per person, per cruise will be required within 7 days of confirmation in order to secure the booking. If a deposit is not received within this period, the booking will automatically lapse. An administration fee of \$500.00 per person is retained by the Facilitator in the event of cancellation. Credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Diners Card) payments are accepted. Amex and Diners payments attract a 3% administration fee. A relevant booking form must be completed, signed and returned to the Facilitator with all deposit payments.

FINAL PAYMENT

Full payment is due and must be received no later than 100 days prior to your departure date (unless otherwise specified). Documentation will be distributed at a Group Pre-Departure gathering approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

CANCELLATIONS

In the event of cancellation after a deposit payment is made, the cancellation must be made IN WRITING to the Facilitator. Cancellation charges apply and will be dependent upon the time at which notice of your cancellation is received and on the individual cancellation policies of the operators (eg. cruise line) involved. Cancellation fees for air tickets issued will be determined by Airline Tariff Regulations. No refund is payable for flight coupons issued but not flown. Additional cancellation fees

may be applied by airlines where special conditions apply to early ticketing time limits accepted by the passenger.

AMENDMENTS

After deposits are paid, the first amendment will be free. Should you wish to make further alterations, an amendment fee of \$100.00 will apply for each alteration.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

Economy class air flights inc. airline taxes & government charges, cruise accommodation in selected cabin grade inc. onboard gratuities, port & handling charges, group transfers, coach transportation, hotels and sightseeing where indicated, meals as specified and the services of a Tour Escort or independent Tour Guide(s) throughout the itinerary (see Tour Escort). Accommodation is on a twin-share basis unless otherwise requested and confirmed. All hotels are subject to change.

NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COSTS

All items not specifically referred to as Tour Inclusions above including excess baggage, portage other than for one piece of baggage per person, meals, gratuities and tips except where indicated, passports, visas, travel insurance, laundry, drinks and items of a personal nature.

TOUR ESCORT

It is intended that these departures will each be accompanied by at least one Tour Escort nominated by the Facilitator. However, should minimum group numbers not be reached, the Facilitator reserves the right to operate the itineraries as unescorted group departures utilising local independent Tour Guides and/or Escorts. Please note due to operational requirements your Escorts may not accompany you on the group flights.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of travelling with the Facilitator that each passenger MUST HAVE a current travel insurance policy. Because of the cancellation policies outlined above, we strongly recommend that insurance is purchased at the time of paying initial deposits, to cover cancellation due to unforeseen circumstances.

HEALTH, FITNESS AND PARTICIPATION

Passengers may NOT rely on the Tour Escort for personal physical assistance and warrant that they ARE in good health and/or fit to travel on tour. While our tours do not require a special level of fitness, for the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tours of 2-3 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark/disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

All passengers are permitted to check-in luggage restricted to 20kg per person for Economy class and 30kg per person for Business class. In addition to this, passengers are also allowed one piece of carry on luggage restricted to 7kgs per person. Any additional luggage may only be carried on the understanding that passengers are personally responsible for additional portage costs and/or excess luggage charges imposed by the airline(s) and other carriers.

TRAVEL WARNINGS

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade issues regular updates for overseas travel. Please refer to the DFAT website www.smarttraveller.gov.au for the most up-to-date travel advice. If you do not have website access please contact the Facilitator for a print-out of the latest advice relating to your travel destination(s).

NOTICE OF RESPONSIBILITY

Travelations Pty Ltd t/a Cruise Express International (herein referred to as the Facilitator) is not itself a carrier or hotelier, nor does it own cruise ships, aircraft, hotels or coaches. The services that the Facilitator supplies consist of arranging and coordinating cruises, flights, accommodation, transfers and tours, making bookings and issuing documents to be redeemed by suppliers. The Facilitator exercises every care in the selection of reputable cruise lines, airlines, hotels and transfer and tour operators. However, it is important to note that all bookings with the Facilitator are subject to the terms, conditions and limitations of liability imposed by the shipping and cruise companies, airlines, hoteliers and transfer and tour operators whose services we utilize, some of which limit or exclude liability in respect of death, personal injury, delay and loss or damage of baggage.

The Facilitator does not accept any liability of whatever nature for the acts, omissions or default, whether negligent or otherwise, of those shipping and cruise companies, airlines, hoteliers, coach operators, concert organisers or other persons providing services in connection with your travel arrangements pursuant to a contract between themselves and yourself (which may be evidenced in writing by the issue of a ticket, voucher, coupon or the like) and over which the Facilitator has no direct and exclusive control. The Facilitator does not accept responsibility in contract or in tort for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expenses or inconvenience caused directly or indirectly by force majeure or other events which are beyond its control or which are not preventable by reasonable diligence on the part of the Facilitator, including but not limited to war, civil disturbance, fire, flood, unusually severe weather, acts of God, acts of Government or any other authorities, accidents to or failure of machinery or equipment or industrial action (whether or not involving our employees).



CRUISE EXPRESS

Winner of the ICCA National Cruise Agency of the Year - 2004

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