



**UHCL ALUMNI**  
ASSOCIATION

# Provence

FEATURING ART, CUISINE & WINE





# CRUISING THE RHÔNE AND SAÔNE RIVERS

In Provence, color and light combine in a magical way to create captivating, unforgettable vistas. Powder-blue skies stretch over swaying purple lavender fields. Ocher and sand-colored villages stand amid lush green olive groves and vineyards. On this 7-night journey, cruise France's storied Rhône and Saône Rivers aboard the exclusively chartered, deluxe **Viva Voyage**. At each port of call, you'll embark on enriching excursions that showcase this unique region. Experience the charm of Provence as you immerse yourself in Avignon's storied religious past; stroll the charming winemaking village of Châteauneuf du Pape; explore Lyon's fascinating traboules; and be captivated by the art and architecture of Beaune. Marvel at the grand architectural ruins of the Roman era in Arles, Pont du Gard and Orange. Along the way, relish exclusive guided tours of medieval fortresses, grand castles, ancient abbeys and churches. And of course, savor delicious food and fabulous wine. Enhance your experience with the Aix-en-Provence Pre-Tour Extension. Discover this breathtaking region of France on our unparalleled program!

Front cover: *Le Pont d'Avignon*



Lyon, France



University  
of Houston  
Clear Lake

## UHCL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Dear UHCL Alumni,

Join us for this exclusive 9-day French sojourn through Provence and the wine regions of Burgundy, Beaujolais and the Rhône Valley during fall harvest season. Cruise for seven nights from the ancient city of Arles to historic Lyon, along the fabled Rhône and Saône rivers, aboard the deluxe, exclusively chartered **Viva Voyage**.

During your intimate river cruise, dock in the heart of each port town and visit six UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the wonderfully preserved Roman Amphitheater in Arles; the medieval papal palace of Avignon; and the Pont du Gard aqueduct, a true masterpiece of ancient architecture.

Visit the Burgundy region for an exclusive tour and wine tasting at Château de Rully, a medieval fortress that has belonged to the family of your guide, Count de Ternay, since the 12th century. Outside Mâcon, travel to a local truffle farm to meet the owners—and their very important dog! Learn all about truffles and their harvest, and then join in a truffle hunt yourself.

Discover captivating Lyon, France's gastronomic gateway; tour the legendary 15th-century Hôtel-Dieu; explore charming Orange, where a wealth of antiquities attests to past glories; and find your muse in Van Gogh's Arles.

This program—a perennial favorite—is an excellent value featuring an unforgettable, comprehensive itinerary. We encourage you to book now while early booking savings are still available.

Hope to see you soon,

Kendra Hakanson  
Director of Alumni Relations

**To secure your spot, call Gohagan and Company at 800-922-3088  
or visit [gohagantravel.com/reserve](http://gohagantravel.com/reserve)**



# The Truffle Hunt

Truffles—precious subterranean mushrooms that grow in forests in only a few regions of the world—are highly prized and extremely expensive. Why are truffles so pricey? They are seasonal, require very specific conditions to grow—for example, near the roots of oak, hazel or chestnut trees—take a long time to cultivate, must be harvested by hand and have a very short shelf life.

In Provence and Burgundy, black truffles—known locally as black diamonds—are the predominant type. They are firm and black, ranging from the size of a walnut to a small peach, with a rough, bumpy surface. The flesh inside is light brown and emits an aroma variously described as earthy, woody or nutty. Their delicate flavor has a unique appeal that keeps the world enthralled.

These rare gems can be difficult to find. Fortunately, when underground, truffles emit a distinctive aroma, apparently redolent of the scent of male pigs. For that reason, female pigs used to be the main instrument for sniffing out and unearthing these beloved tubers. However, many truffles were trampled or eaten during the process. Nowadays, dogs are trained to hunt down the precious comestibles and indicate where they are without damaging them. *Vive les chiens!*

# Immersive Provence



The legendary 15th-century Hôtel-Dieu



The elements of a quintessential Provençal experience—with wine, cuisine, art and architecture—come together during an unforgettable trip to southeastern France during the autumn harvest season. Vineyards, hilltop villages and lavender fields form the mesmerizing backdrop for a living canvas, where a quaint street-side café in Arles once served as van Gogh’s muse, an ancient castle has evolved into a renowned Beaujolais wine estate and fresh, seasonal local ingredients result in robust Provençal culinary delights. Experience southeastern France’s breathtaking landscapes and transcendent light which has inspired artists over the centuries. Taste your way through the wine regions of Burgundy, Beaujolais and the Rhône Valley. Hunt for truffles in the countryside. Gaze at Rogier van der Weyden's altarpiece painting “The Last Judgment.” And stand in awe before Romanesque, Gothic, Roman and medieval architecture in this magical place called Provence.

## INCLUDED FEATURES

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- ◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- ◆ Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D).



GOHAGAN & COMPANY



## 2025 | 9-DAY/8-NIGHT ITINERARY

### Depart Home City

#### Day 1 | September 6

Depart your home city.

### Marseille, France for Arles/Embark Boat

#### Day 2 | September 7

Arrive in Marseille and transfer to Arles to embark the **Viva Voyage**. Enjoy the Captain's Welcome Reception and Dinner this evening. (R,D)

### Arles/Avignon

#### Day 3 | September 8

Take a walking tour of the coastal city of Arles, brimming with Roman ruins, colorful pastel houses and artistic inspiration. Marvel at the colossal Roman Arles Amphitheatre as you step inside. Then, visit the former Cathedral of St. Trophîme, a Romanesque basilica constructed in the 12th century. Pass by Le Café La Nuit, which inspired Vincent van Gogh's

painting "Café Terrace at Night." (B,L,D)

### Avignon/Pont du Gard/Châteauneuf du Pape

#### Day 4 | September 9

The UNESCO-inscribed city of Avignon is well-known for its architectural beauty and rich cultural heritage. On a guided walking tour, at the river's edge, see the remaining four arches of Pont d'Avignon, the only bridge built across the Rhône during the Middle Ages. Visit the grand Papal Palace, the largest château built in Europe during the Gothic era and a testament to Avignon's golden age. Stroll past Gothic churches, beautiful townhouses and Cardinals' palaces, and the extensive city wall. Return to the river boat for lunch.

Disembark for a panoramic drive through the picturesque French countryside en route

to visit the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Pont du Gard, a 2,000-year-old Roman aqueduct that triumphs as one of Europe's most impressive archaeological sites. Head to the historic village of Châteauneuf du Pape, where the ship is docked. This evening, explore the village on your own, if you wish. This area produces some of the most renowned wines in Provence—perhaps enjoy a tasting. Return to the ship to dine on board, or remain in town and make your own plans for dinner. (B,L,D)

### Viviers for Orange

#### Day 5 | September 10

Travel to Orange to explore the Roman city's UNESCO World Heritage sites, including a visit to the ancient Roman Theater and a stop to see the Triumphal Arch, built in the late first century as a symbol

Pont du Gard, Provence, France





*Château de Rully, France*

of Roman imperial glory. Return to the river boat for another delicious lunch. Spend the afternoon at leisure on board as the boat departs Viviers and sails to Lyon. (B,L,D)

## Lyon

### **Day 6 | September 11**

On a panoramic city tour, stop at the top of Lyon's Fourvière Hill to appreciate the breathtaking views. Then, stroll the tree-lined streets of restored Old Lyon, where well-preserved Gothic and Renaissance mansions attest to the wealth of the city's long-standing silk industry. Walk through the ancient quarter of Saint-Jean and its narrow, covered pedestrian passageways, called traboules. Return to the ship for lunch and explore more of Lyon at leisure this afternoon. (B,L,D)

## Chalon-sur-Saône/ Beaune

### **Day 7 | September 12**

Visit enchanting Beaune, founded in the fifth century B.C. Tour the magnificent 15th-century Hôtel-Dieu, a former charitable almshouse established in 1443 as a hospital for the poor. Admire its imposing architecture and ornate, glazed tile roof, and view the polyptych altarpiece painting, "The Last Judgment," by Rogier van der Weyden. Enjoy free time and an included lunch in Beaune. Then, visit the 12th-century Château de Rully, a medieval fortress set among vineyards, for a private tour by owner Count Raoul de Ternay, followed by a wine tasting in the estate's kitchen or wine cellar. (B,L,D)

## Mâcon/Lyon

### **Day 8 | September 13**

Tour the 12th-century Romanesque Cluny Abbey, a former Benedictine monastery and one of the most significant abbeys of the Christian Middle Ages. This afternoon, travel to a local truffle farm to meet the owners—and their very important dog! Learn all about truffles and their harvest, and join in a truffle hunt yourself. This evening, bid adieu to your newfound friends during the Captain's Farewell Reception and Dinner. (B,L,R,D)

## Lyon/Disembark/ Return to Home City

### **Day 9 | September 14**

Following breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B)





## MS Viva Voyage

The **MS Viva Voyage** was totally renovated in 2023. Guests are welcomed on board by friendly, multilingual and international crew members who take care of guests' well-being and comfort from morning til night. The ship's appointments are luxurious, yet the feeling is relaxed and easygoing. All staterooms and suites are equipped with flat screen TV, included minibar, beauty products from RITUALS®, hair dryer, safe, air conditioning and en-suite bathrooms. The upper and middle deck staterooms and suites all have French balconies.



### 2025 DEPARTURE DATE

**September 6 to 14**

(Embarkation: September 7)

Category-Description	Standard Rate	Early Booking \$1,000 Savings*
<b>Emerald</b> Quarter-height window that cannot be opened. 150 sq. ft. Lower Deck.	\$5,644	\$4,644
<b>Ruby</b> Floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door and <b>French balcony</b> . 160 sq. ft. Middle Deck.	\$6,544	\$5,544
<b>Diamond</b> Floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door and <b>French balcony</b> . 160 sq. ft. Upper Deck.	\$6,944	\$5,944
<b>Junior Suite</b> Luxury accommodations including sitting area. Large floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door and <b>French balcony</b> . 260 sq. ft. Lower Deck. (Limited Availability.)	\$7,444	\$6,444
<b>Suite</b> Luxury accommodations including sitting area. Large floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door and <b>French balcony</b> . 260 sq. ft. Middle and Upper Decks. (Limited Availability.)	\$7,944	\$6,944

**\*Early Booking Savings of \$1,000 are available when you book by 3/26/25 and pay in full at time of booking. If you pay only your deposit by early booking date, you still save \$500 per person.**

All rates are in U.S. dollars, per person, based on double occupancy, including taxes. Single supplements apply to category Emerald for an additional \$1,000 and are subject to availability. All other categories are at 200%. Early Booking Savings still apply.

Port taxes in the amount of \$149 per person are included in the above prices. Deck plans available upon request.

Gohagan & Company reserves the right to correct errors or omissions and to change any and all fares, fees, promotions and surcharges at any time. Terms & Conditions are available at [gohagantravel.com/terms/](http://gohagantravel.com/terms/)

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## PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

### Aix-en-Provence

**September 4 to 7, 2025** (Tour Begins: September 5)

Spend two days on our pre-tour extension exploring the beautiful medieval city of Aix-en-Provence—called the “City of a Thousand Fountains.” On a walking tour, visit the Mazarin district and Old Aix with its mansions on Cours Mirabeau. During free time, stroll the lovely streets, savor cuisine at local cafes and engage in the exceptional people-watching! See Atelier Cézanne, the painter’s studio just outside Aix, and drive along the colorful “Route Cézanne” to the foot of Saint-Victoire Mountain, the artist’s muse for many of his paintings. Throughout, soak in the marvelous scenery, delightful food and drink, and essence of the Provençal region.

*Price per person, based on double occupancy:*     **\$1,195**

*Price per person, based on single occupancy:*     **\$1,495**

*Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.*

**Early Booking Savings\* available | Save \$2,000 per couple!**

UHCL Alumni Association  
2700 Bay Area Blvd, B2508  
Houston, TX 77058

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