



Have you ever imagined getting away from the hustle and bustle of modern life and taking a step back in time to when life moved at a much slower pace, but are reluctant to give up all the modern conveniences and luxuries to which you have become accustomed? Well, now you can have the best of both worlds on a canal barge holiday.

A warm welcome awaits you aboard the beautiful “Emma” from Liz and René Jacquot the Irish/French owners for your cruise in the biggest wine region in the world – The Languedoc Roussillon along the tree lined 16th Century marvel “The Canal du Midi”

Aboard the inviting 6 passenger “Emma”

- You will glide through some of the most beautiful countryside in France.
- You will feast on local delicacies lovingly prepared by your own personal chef
- You will sample the wonderful wines and cheeses, French style
- You will be spoiled and pampered by your 4, dedicated English/French speaking crew members
- You will have the comfort of luxury accommodation in your beautiful air conditioned cabin with its en suite bathroom

Emma is privately owned and operated by Liz & René Jacquot which means that if fully chartered the cruise can be tailor made to suit your needs and interests.



*Owned and Operated by René and Liz Jacquot*

## **Itinerary Carcassonne to Beziers (or reverse)**

Saturday - Welcome Aboard!

After your pick up on Saturday about 5pm you will be taken to where Emma is moored to meet the crew and to enjoy a champagne reception. We shall let you get settled in and unpacked, which is the most strenuous task of the week, and then sit back and relax while we take a short cruise so that you feel you really are on a boat. During this time the first of your gourmet dinners will be prepared.

Sunday - Medieval city of Carcassonne

After a leisurely breakfast of fresh fruit, croissants, homemade jams, cereal, and coffee you will be taken off in the minivan to explore the wonderful medieval city of Carcassonne. A stroll through the cobbled streets with an array of boutiques, a visit to the Feudal Castle, a foray into the Inquisition Museum or a walk along the ramparts, Carcassonne has something for everyone to enjoy. Back to the boat for a lunch of tasty homemade pates, quiches, and salads followed by a selection of the 365 cheeses that France has to offer and washed down with some of the finest wines of the Languedoc Roussillon region. After lunch we shall cruise off to our next mooring spot along the canal, going down several locks -- some double, some triple -- as we start our descent towards the Mediterranean. Emma will stop at another lovely setting where your evening dinner will be served.

Monday - Abbey and Day of Art

After breakfast today you will be whisked off again to discover another delight of the region. We could go to Lagrasse, a little village in the heart of the Corbieres with a magnificent Benedictine Abbey perched on the banks of the river Orbiel and where the little cobbled streets house a multitude of potters, artists, wood carvers, etc. Or we could go and visit the giant underground cave at Cabrespine or, alternatively, visit the ruins of the old Cathar stronghold Chateau Lastours. Steeped in history, every visit is organized around the things which interest you most. Another delicious lunch will be ready for you when you get back and you will be able to relax while we cruise on to our next stop.

Tuesday - Open Air Market

France is famous for its open-air markets and today you will have the chance to experience this for yourself when we visit the market at Olonzac. The smells of the olives and herbs and the roasting chickens will make your mouth water and the arrays of fresh fruit and vegetables are a picture to behold. We will then go up into the heart of the Minervois region to Minerve a spectacular village set on a rocky outcrop in the gorges formed by the rivers Cesse and Brian. There are lovely walks here, just the thing to build up your appetite for lunch. If you have plenty of energy after lunch while Emma is cruising to her next stop maybe you would like to take a bicycle ride or a stroll. The towpath follows the canal all the way so any time you want this option is available.

Wednesday - Roman History and Shopping in lovely Narbonne

Narbonne is our tour for today. The ancient capital of Roman Gaul still retains a lot of its history. You will see the Via Domitia, a road 2000 years old with its chariot ruts still visible. Here you may visit the old Roman storehouses, the Archbishop's palace and the Cathedral St. Just with its cloister, high altar, and splendid organ. For those of you who enjoy food and markets, the indoor market at Narbonne is one of the best. You will see the finest display of fish, shellfish, fruit, vegetables, meats, herbs, spices, olives, cheese, and the list goes on. Perhaps you would like to dip your feet in the blue water of the Mediterranean, or visit the little fishing port of Gruissan. Such wonderful choices.

#### Thursday - Wine Tasting and Abbey

Today we continue our lazy cruise which takes us under the smallest bridge in France - if you can get under this you can go anywhere on the canal system. A choice of visits awaits you. A wine tasting at Guery or at St. Chinian, a visit to the Abbey at Fontcaud, a trip up to the prehistoric site of Enserune with its panoramic views, there is so much to see, you will be spoiled with choices! Your final Gala Dinner awaits you tonight.

#### Friday - Breakfast and Farewell

All too soon your week is over. After your breakfast you will be taken to your next destination to continue your onward journey, taking with you lasting memories of this most beautiful countryside.



*The air conditioned salon and dining room were designed for conviviality. You will find a fully equipped bar, a well-stocked library, a selection of DVD's and CD's, a station for your IPod and also a connection Internet for keeping in touch. Large picture windows make it very bright and airy.*



*The outside deck is where you will spend the most of your time, just watching the beautiful countryside float by. Emma has one of the biggest decks on the canal. There is ample room for dining, a covered area for shade on those hot sunny days, and an area for enjoying your aperitifs while dinner is being prepared. There is a canopy which covers the deck when Emma is moored up to give shade during your meal times on deck.*



There are 3 air conditioned cabins, two of which (the green and the blue) can be either a queen bed or 2 single beds and the third (the yellow) which is a fixed double. Each cabin has a fully equipped bathroom with full sized shower. Beautiful French linens and handmade Irish quilts add to the luxury of your cabin.