

Champagne The River Marne



Panache Cruising on the River Marne

Cruise Champagne Aboard Panache or La Nouvelle Etoile

The River Marne flows from Epernay to Paris, meandering through the beautiful region of Champagne. There is a plethora of vineyards spread across the undulating plains as far as the eye can see and there will be plenty of opportunity to sample the sparkling wine to which the region has given its name, including private tastings at renowned champagne houses.

This is also a part of France that is rich in both modern and ancient history and during our voyage we visit a number of significant landmarks, châteaux and one of the finest Gothic cathedrals in the country where the kings of France were crowned.

As well as champagne, the region is rich in other delicious products, particularly its wonderful creamy cheeses, with the towns of Meaux and Coulommiers at its heart.

You can cruise the Champagne region aboard the 12 passenger hotel barge Panache (see page 58), and the 8 passenger La Nouvelle Etoile (see page 54).

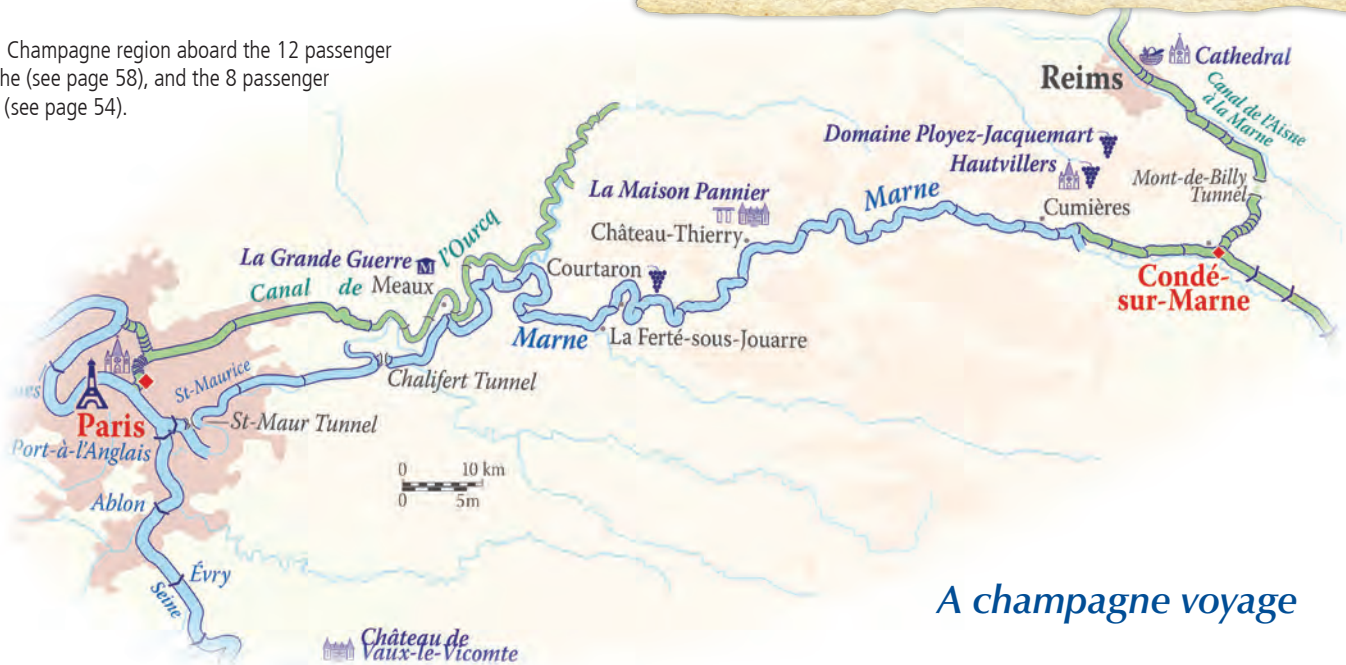
Typical Cuisine Aboard

Regional Specialities

Blanc de Volailles à la Crème de Maroilles; Filets de Saumon à la Sauce Champagne; Cassolette de Saint Jacques au Champagne; Escalope de Veau à la Crème et Girolles

Cheese Board

Brie de Meaux; Langres; Coulommiers; Chaource; Cendré de Champagne; Soumaintrain



A champagne voyage



Reims Cathedral



Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte

A Small Selection of the Wines Served Aboard

- Domaine Henri Bourgeois, Pouilly Fumé
- Domaine Bruno Clair, Marsannay
- Domaine Roger Lassarat, Saint Veran
- Domaine Jadot, Volnay Premier Cru
- Domaine Bouchard Père et Fils, Meursault
- Domaine William Févre, Chablis Grand Cru
- Domaine Chanson, Savigny les Beaune

Cruise Highlights

- Cruise through Paris past the floodlit Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame
- Visit elegant Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte and its gardens
- Tour the fascinating Musée de la Grande Guerre in Meaux
- Visit Château-Thierry, the scene of fierce battles in World War I
- Enjoy a private winery tour and tasting at renowned champagne houses
- Visit the village of Hautvillers where Don Perignon discovered the Méthode Champenoise
- Tour the majestic cathedral in Reims, where the Kings of France were once crowned



Champagne Cellars

River Marne Panache or La Nouvelle Etoile

ITINERARY*

Sunday, Day 1

Paris

Guests are met at the Hotel Westminster in Paris and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Panache. Enjoy a Champagne whilst your Captain introduces you to the crew. We then embark on a short evening cruise through Paris past some of its famous landmarks and under romantic, floodlit bridges. Dinner on board.

Monday, Day 2

Paris to Meaux

This morning we depart Paris and join the River Marne for some relaxed cruising to the town of Meaux. En route, we pass L'Île de Fanac with its 'guingettes', or small café-restaurants, immortalised in paintings by Impressionist artists such as Renoir. After lunch, we visit the Musée de la Grande Guerre in Meaux, a fascinating museum focussing on World War One. The museum's displays and films really convey the experiences of the various participants, both soldiers and civilians. Dinner on board.

Tuesday, Day 3

Meaux to Courtaron

After breakfast, we visit the magnificent baroque Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte with its pioneering architecture that inspired Versailles. We walk through the stunning apartments with their exquisite décor and period furniture, and explore the manicured formal gardens. After lunch back on board, we enjoy an afternoon cruise further upstream to Courtaron, near the little town of La Ferté-sous-Jouarre, built on the site of a 9th century fortress. Dinner on board.

Wednesday, Day 4

Courtaron to Château-Thierry

We are now in the Champagne region and this morning the hotel barge cruises along the meandering Marne to moor at Château-Thierry, an historic, strategically-situated town overlooking the river, surrounded by vineyards that produce some of the region's famous sparkling wine. In the afternoon, we visit La Maison Pannier, a select champagne house founded in 1899 with a labyrinth of medieval underground cellars that were formed from 12th century stone quarries, for a tour and private tasting. Dinner on board.

Thursday, Day 5

Château-Thierry to Cumières

Our cruise today on the River Marne winds its way through vine-covered hills dotted with small wine-growing communities to the delightful little village of Cumières, where there is the opportunity to explore on foot or bicycle. After lunch, we visit one of the most select champagne houses in the area south of Reims, Domaine Ployez-Jacquemart, which was established in 1930 by Marcel Ployez and his wife Yvonne Jacquemart. We are given a private tour and, of course, enjoy a tasting. Dinner on board.

Friday, Day 6

Cumières to Condé-sur-Marne

After breakfast, we visit the pretty hilltop village of Hautvillers. Known as the 'cradle of Champagne', it is here that the monk Dom Perignon discovered the 'méthode champenoise'. We will also enjoy a 'degustation' of champagnes at a delightful specialist boutique before rejoining Panache to cruise along the Canal Lateral à la Marne to our final mooring in Condé-sur-Marne. In the afternoon we visit the magnificent 800-year-old Reims cathedral, a Gothic masterpiece where the Kings of France were crowned. Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

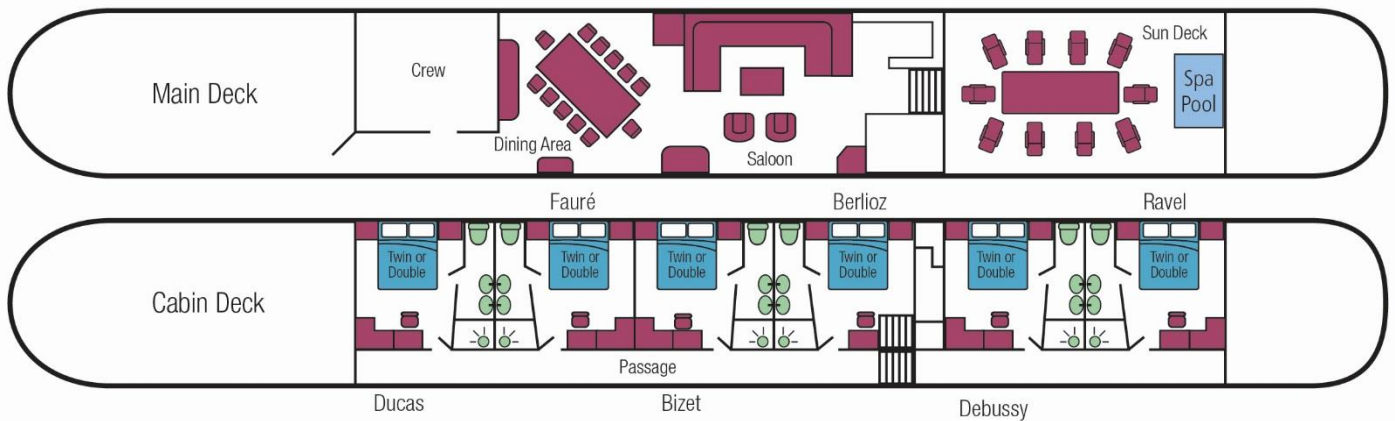
Saturday, Day 7

Condé-sur-Marne

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to the Hotel Westminster in Paris.

*This is a sample itinerary for Panache and is subject to change.

Panache - Fact Sheet



Barge Specifics



Former purpose:	Commercial freight barge
Year of construction:	1959
Dimensions:	129ft (39.3m) x 16ft (4.85m)
Year converted into a Hotel Barge:	1998
Generators:	1 x 30 kva and 1 x 40 kva
Main Engine:	1 x 350 CUMMINS
Maximum speed:	12 knots
Water capacity:	12,000 litres
Fuel capacity:	4,000 litres

Your crew on board

Crew of 6:	Captain, Tour Guide, Chef, Housekeeper, Hostess & Deckhand
Nationality of Crew:	European English-speaking & other languages

Accommodation on board

Maximum 12 passengers / 6 Junior Suites

All suites can be configured with twin beds or a double bed.

All cabin's have fitted wardrobes, 2 bedside tables with reading lamps, a writing desk & chair and a TV screen for playing DVD's mounted on the wall.

All Junior Suites have an en-suite bathroom which runs the length of the cabin and is accessed through a sliding door. Each has an extractor fan, WC, and the showers have massage jets and glass sliding doors. There are 2 wash basins with mirrors and cupboard storage below each sink with 6 shelves. All are supplied with washing gel, hand soap, shampoo, towels, hair dryer, bathrobes and slippers.

Cabin Sizes

Each junior suite** is similar in size measuring 12ft 6" (3.8m) x 11ft 6" (3.5m) equating to 150ft² (13.9m²).

**Berlioz suite is slightly larger extending to 9ft 5" (2.9m)

All the en-suite bathrooms are 11ft 6" (3.5m) x 3ft 2" (1m) and are included in the cabin sizes detailed above.

The height in all cabins is 6ft 8" (2.03m)

Each cabin has 1 large window measuring 3ft 8" (1.1m) x 1ft 6" (45cm).

Bed sizes: As a double bed 5ft 5" (1.65m) x 6ft (1.85m).
As single beds, each measures 2ft 8" (80cm) x 6ft (1.85m).

All sizes are approximate.

Climate Control

Each cabin has individually controlled heating / cooling units.

Computer and Telephone

Complimentary Wi-Fi is available on board for guests bringing their own appliances. Connectivity can be limited in remote locations.

There is no passenger telephone on Panache.

Currency

The currency in Holland, Belgium & France is the Euro. We are unable to accept credit or debit cards on board.

Cycling & Walking

You are welcome to walk or cycle using the on board bicycles as often as you wish.

There are 12 all-terrain bikes and cycle helmets are provided. Children's bikes and child bike seats can be arranged if required. Please contact our Reservations team at least 8 weeks prior to your departure.

Dining Room & Saloon

The comfortable and spacious saloon is approximately 600ft² (55.7m²) and is entered from the outside deck through double wooden doors and 4 steps with hand-rails.

The room is bright & airy and has 6 large panoramic windows on each side. It is divided by a glass partition, giving separate lounge and dining areas.

The lounge is furnished with a large "U shaped" leather Chesterfield which seats 10 guests. There are also 2 armchairs and a large glass coffee table. There is a library of books, CDs and DVDs and an open bar area. There is also an electronic piano.

The dining area has a large table seating up to 12 guests at a single sitting.

From the saloon there are 6 steps to the cabin area where Ravel & Debussy are located. There are 4 additional steps down to the level of the 4 other Junior Suites.

Electricity

The barge is wired for 220 and 240 volts (not 110 volts). We recommend you bring an adapter for your particular appliance, which corresponds to the standard French 2-pin plugs. If you wish to use an electrical appliance on board, please speak to a crew member on arrival to ensure it is suitable for the barge's electrical system.

European Waterways cannot be held responsible for unforeseen voltage fluctuations which sometimes occur when swapping from one voltage system to another.

Excursions

Panache has 2 vehicles for excursions and transfers. A 9-seater long wheelbase Mercedes Sprinter and a 7-seater Mercedes Vito. Both vehicles are air-conditioned and the seating capacity detailed includes the driver in each.

For charter bookings, the itinerary can be adapted to suit your group's particular needs. If a destination or excursion is within a reasonable distance of the barge, we will do everything we can to arrange it. Please speak with our Reservations team in advance of your cruise and we can pre-arrange with the Captain.

Any guests not wishing to participate in an excursion are welcome to stay on the barge.

Facilities on board

- Spa Pool (hot tub) for 6 passengers on the sundeck
- Hi-fi Stereo system with integrated CD player, radio and iPod dock
- 12 Bikes (See Cycling & Walking)
- A small library of books & maps
- A collection of board games
- Electronic Piano
- Nordic walking sticks (on request)
- TV with built-in DVD in each Suite.

Food & Drink

All meals on board are prepared fresh by your chef and most meals are a set-menu (there is no choice available). International & regional cuisine is featured.

We are able to arrange special meals, e.g. vegetarian / no fish / vegan etc, and we are able to cater for any preferences or allergies. However it is most important that we are notified of any specific requirements at least 8 weeks prior to your departure date. Failure to notify European Waterways in advance of your cruise may result in disappointment on board.

There is no assigned seating for meals and the dining room on board Panache seats all guests at a single sitting.

Breakfast: Your day on Panache starts with a Continental breakfast with fresh breads & pastries, cereals, freshly-squeezed orange juice and hot beverages.

Lunch is usually buffet style with colourful salads, pates and cold meats accompanied by hot soup or entrée, delicious deserts and a selection of regional cheeses accompanied by quality wines selected by the chef.

Dinner is a candlelit four-course gourmet experience where our chef showcases his repertoire of dining delights. Harmonizing food and wine is essential to the dining experience and locally produced wines are served to compliment the chef's cuisine.

Captain's farewell dinner is held on the last night of your cruise. Guests may choose to dress slightly formal.

Drinks included in the cruise price: Non-alcoholic beverages and regular or decaffeinated tea and coffee, whole or low fat milk, are offered with all meals. The well-stocked bar is open 24 hours, which includes wines, spirits, beers & soft drinks. All wines are provided with meals and there is a Champagne welcome on arrival.

Drinks not included in the cruise price: Some brands of Champagne (with the exception of the Captain's reception) and special vintage wines, however these can be purchased in advance of your cruise at cost price, please speak to our reservation team. We do not recommend specific beverage orders unless you are chartering the whole barge.

Hot Air Ballooning

Hot Air Ballooning is usually available when cruising in Holland, Belgium and the French Champagne region and some areas of Alsace.

Once on board, the Captain can arrange this directly with the hot air balloon company. Flights usually last for approximately 1 hour and are weather dependent. The cost is approximately 230 Euros per person and this should be paid directly to the balloon company on the day of the flight (they do accept credit cards).

Laundry

We recommend you bring sufficient clean clothing for your cruise. There are no laundry facilities on board and we generally cruise through rural areas where laundrettes are few and far between.

Luggage / What to pack

Please try and fit everything for your cruise into one reasonably sized suitcase per person. Soft bags are preferable. There is only enough space on the barge and minibuses for up to 12 suitcases and 12 pieces of hand luggage.

Practical comfort and relaxed is the norm aboard Panache and for most excursions. The dress code for dinner is relaxed and informal, however for the Captain's Dinner on the last evening, guests tend to dress up a little.

The weather is hottest in June, July, and August when temperatures often reach the mid 30's°C / top 80's°F.

Suggested things to pack:

- Light clothing including shorts and T-shirts. A sweater or lightweight jacket is recommended for evenings and the air-conditioned interiors.
- During spring and autumn, you may need medium weight clothing. A lightweight raincoat for showery times would be advisable.

- In summer, a sun hat can be useful.
- Comfortable walking shoes with textured non-slip soles are recommended.
- Panache has a spa pool so don't forget your swim wear. Towels are provided.

Medical

Please let us know in advance of your cruise if you require frequent or ongoing medical attention.

The crew are unable to administer medicines but can accompany you to a chemist for you to purchase any necessary medicines. Due to your cruise often being in a rural location, we recommend you bring all necessary medication with you.

Doctors are usually not far away for an urgent consultation and the Emergency Services can be called if required.

Problem during your Cruise

If you have a problem during your holiday, please give us the immediate opportunity to make things right. Please bring any concern to the private attention of your Captain who will often be able to solve any issue immediately.

Restricted Mobility

Please let us know in advance of your cruise if you have a physical disability and require any assistance.

Panache has a gangplank with handrail to access the barge and there are 4 steps between the deck and the Saloon.

From the Saloon to the cabin area (Ravel and Debussy) there are 6 steps. We recommend these 2 cabins for passengers with any mobility issues, however they are not wheelchair friendly.

There are 4 additional steps down to the level of the remaining 4 Junior Suites. (A total of 10 steps between the Saloon and cabins).

There are adequate handrails throughout.

Wheelchairs cannot be used on-board and can only be used to assist on excursions where there are often cobbled streets. Sometimes rough ground may hinder a wheelchair.

If you would like us to provide a wheelchair for your arrival, please notify our Reservations team at least 8 weeks before arrival. There is a small hire charge of approximately €120 which should be paid directly to the barge Captain on arrival.

Safety and Security

Once on board your Captain will talk you through the Cruise Safety Procedures. Safety Instructions are detailed on the last page of this document.

Please note that European Waterways cannot be responsible for any valuables that you bring on board. We strongly recommend that you do not bring valuables with you unless required and that you ensure that all valuables are covered by your travel insurance.

Safes are provided in each cabin on board Panache. The cabin doors are not usually locked for safety reasons.

Smoking

We have a strict non-smoking policy for safety reasons and for the comfort of your fellow passengers.

If you would like to smoke we request that you smoke outside or on the deck away from other guests.

Sundeck

The Sundeck on Panache is 375ft² (34.8m²) and for al-fresco dining and relaxing there is a large table and 12 chairs. There are large parasols providing shade. The heated hot tub seats 4 guests and measures 5ft x 7ft (1.5m x 2.1m).

Themed Cruises

Biking, Family, Golf, Walking & Wine Appreciation cruise itineraries are available for charter groups, please ask our Reservations team for more details.

Special interest cruises often have a supplement, details can be found at

Tipping

Gratuities are not included in the cruise fare. Tipping is entirely discretionary but is greatly appreciated by the crew if you are fully satisfied with the level of service on board.

As a guidance our passengers on average tip approximately 5% of the full cruise fare. All tips should be given to the Captain and are shared between the whole crew on board.

Please note gratuities can only be made on board by cash payment.

Transfers

For details of the Panache vehicles, please see "Excursions". The transfer duration on Panache cruises is approximately 1hour, with the exception of the WW1 cruise between Bethencourt sur Somme and Paris which takes 2 hours.

Water

The tap water on board Panache is potable and bottled water is available

Safety Instructions on Panache

On arrival the Captain will talk you through the Cruise Safety Procedures on board.

In addition, it is important that all passengers are familiar with the safety instructions detailed below.

- Please follow the instructions of the Captain and crew at all times.
- Remember that decks can be slippery. Please wear non-slip shoes and do not run or jump whilst on board.
- Do not walk on the side or rear decks or outside the guard rails.
- Passengers are not permitted in the engine rooms, technical areas or crew accommodation at any time, or in the galley or wheelhouse unless accompanied by a crew member.
- Do not embark or disembark the barge unless the gangplank and handrail are in place or the crew have advised that it is safe to do so. Never do so when the barge is moving.
- Be careful when the vessel is being moored up with the barge ropes. In particular do not step into a loop in the rope or try to release the mooring rope from a bollard.
- Keep clear of any overhead obstructions and remain seated if on deck whilst the barge passes under bridges with restricted headroom.
- Do not attempt to touch the sides of any lock or bridge.
- Do not open lower deck portholes whilst the barge is moving.
- Life jacket preservers are located in designated lockers in your cabin or in designated deck lockers. Once on board, please take the time to identify their location and read the instructions.
- For fire safety reasons, smoking is not permitted anywhere inside the barge.
- The barge's equipment such as the hot-tub and bicycles must only be used following preparation by the crew. Use of the bicycles and the hot tub is at your own risk. Breakable glasses are not permitted in the hot tub and alcohol consumption is not advised.
- There is an open bar policy on board. However, excessive alcohol consumption can be dangerous, particularly in a warm climate and in proximity to deep water and the Captain has the discretion to withhold alcohol if safety to passengers or crew is at risk.

In an emergency

- Keep calm. Do not return to your cabin to recover your possessions.
- If you discover a fire on board, sound the fire alarm and notify a crew member immediately. If possible, close doors behind you to confine the fire. Please take the time to identify the location of fire alarms and fire extinguishers.
- If the alarm sounds or you hear repeated continuous blasts on the barge horn, you must, if possible, assemble on the sundeck for further instructions.
- If you discover water below deck, notify a crew member immediately and go to the sundeck to await further instructions.
- If you are in your cabin and the way to the sundeck is obstructed, follow the signs to the alternative fire exit. Please take the time to identify all fire exits.
- There is a defibrillator in case of cardiac arrest. Instructions are in English and located by the machine.
- The emergency number for fire, police or medical assistance on all public phone networks is 112.

Please ask a member of the crew on board if you require any further safety advice