

Travel Buddies Travel Club presents...

## **Legendary Waterways of Europe**

**from Amsterdam to Budapest**

**Departure Date: May 16, 2008**

**16 Days • 41 Meals: 14 Buffet Breakfasts, 13 Lunches, 14 Dinners**

### *Highlights...*

Amsterdam • Cologne • Koblenz • Rudesheim

Wertheim • Wurzburg • Bamberg • Nuremberg • Regensburg • Passau • Linz  
Wachau Valley • Melk • Durnstein • Vienna • Bratislava • Budapest

*Cruise Only Rate...*

**Double \$4,329 pp**

*Cruise & Air Rates...*

*(Airfare from Vancouver)*

**Double \$5,769 pp**

**Upgrade to Strauss Deck**

**for \$585pp**

*Not Included...*

Departure Taxes and Travel Insurance

#### COLLETTE EXPERIENCES

Cruise four of Europe's most important waterways: the Rhine, Moselle, Main and Danube.

Unpack once for a relaxing 14-night cruise.

Visit five countries and experience the cultures and traditions of each, all in one trip.

Explore the famous Franconian wine region.

Discover the beautiful Wauchau Valley.

#### Day 1: Overnight Flight

Welcome as you join Collette Vacations cruising along the legendary waterways that define the true soul of Europe. Explore historic ports along the Rhine and Moselle rivers, delight in old world traditions, enjoy Rhineland vineyards and marvel at the varied landscapes and sights along the Danube River. Your adventure begins with an overnight flight to Europe.

#### Day 2: Amsterdam, Holland - Tour Begins - Board Cruise Ship

Your tour begins in Amsterdam, the delightful 700-year-old capital city of the Netherlands. **HBoard your ship and unpack once for a relaxing 14 night river cruise aboard the MS Amadeus Princess.** **H** This beautiful ship offers the newest technology, 81 cabins, panoramic deck, terrace café, panorama salon and bar, fitness centre, excellent cuisine and outstanding service. Meet your fellow travellers at the welcome cocktail reception followed by dinner. **(D)**

#### Day 3: Amsterdam

The morning is at leisure for you to explore Amsterdam or participate in an optional canal boat excursion. After lunch, join a local expert on a leisurely-paced walking tour of Amsterdam admiring Amsterdam's Golden Age architecture which includes over 500 bridges, an intricate canal system, beautiful 17<sup>th</sup>-century homes, charming churches and 16th-century merchant houses. **HTonight, you are invited to attend the Captain's Gala Welcome Dinner.** **H (B, L, D)**

#### Day 4: Cologne - Koblenz, Germany

**HLANGUAGE DISCOVERY:** Today, your Tour Manager will help you

**discover the origin and history of the language(s) you will experience on your tour along with key words and phrases that will help you communicate with the locals.**

**H**Cruise the scenic Rhine River to Cologne, the Rhineland's largest city and one of Germany's oldest and most distinguished cities. **H**Take a guided tour through the old part of the city and visit the massive, twin-steeped, 13th-century gothic cathedral. **H**At noon, continue to Koblenz, at the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle rivers. Tonight, enjoy an after dinner walk exploring this charming town which is surrounded by vine-covered hills.

**(B, L, D)**

#### **Day 5: Koblenz - Rudesheim**

Enjoy a morning cruise along one of the most beautiful stretches of the Rhine. Sail through the dramatic Rhine Gorge, where the landscape is dotted with magnificent hilltop castles! See the legendary Lorelei Rock before arriving in charming Rudesheim, the perfect example of a Rhine Valley wine town. **H**The "Winzerexpress" mini-train takes you to Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum for a fascinating guided tour. **H**Explore the pedestrian street, Drosselgasse, and sample some local wines before you bid farewell to the Rhine and enter the Main River. **(B, L, D)**

#### **Day 6: Miltenberg - Wertheim**

Arrive in Miltenberg for a guided morning walking tour along the town's narrow cobblestone streets and gabled, half-timbered houses. **H**Next, visit the beautiful city of Wertheim, situated at the meeting of the Main and Tauber rivers. Enjoy free time exploring the historic town square and its beautiful ancient castle ruins. **H**Later, your cruise continues through the picturesque valleys of the meandering Main River. **(B, L, D)**

#### **Day 7: Würzburg**

Arrive in Würzburg, known as "The Pearl of the Romantic Road", a charming town surrounded by sloping hills and vineyards. Nearly destroyed during WW II, Würzburg has been rebuilt into a beautiful Franconian town boasting well-preserved baroque architecture. **H**During your morning tour, visit the major sights including the magnificent Bishops' Residence, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. **H**Later, continue cruising through the Franconian wine region. Tonight, after dinner, you are treated to traditional music and dances performed by local artists. **(B, L, D)**

#### **Day 8: Bamberg**

**H**Today the ship enters the Main-Danube Canal at enchanting Bamberg, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. **H**Disembark for a guided tour of this medieval gem. Founded in 902, Bamberg maintains quaint baroque patrician houses along its winding cobbled streets. You'll marvel at the breathtaking 11<sup>th</sup> century cathedral, the Old Town Hall straddling the river, and serpentine streets crowded with 18<sup>th</sup> century mansions. Later, cruise to medieval Nuremberg. **(B, L, D)**

#### **Day 9: Nuremberg - Regensburg**

Begin your day with a leisurely-paced guided tour of Nuremberg, Bavaria's second largest city. View the storybook 900-year-old ramparts, the Imperial Castle, and the Justice Palace where the WW II War Crimes Tribunal took place in 1946. Later, you arrive at the highest point of your cruise - 1,332 feet above sea level - before descending again through stair-step locks. **H**Tonight, enjoy a traditional Bavarian evening on board, complete with local foods, music and dancing. **H** **(B, L, D)**

#### **Day 10: Regensburg - Passau**

This morning you cruise through the final stretch of the fascinating Main-Danube Canal. Later, your ship

arrives in magnificent Regensburg. Founded 2,000 years ago, Regensburg escaped major WW II damage and today stands as Germany's best-preserved medieval city. **HA guided tour of Regensburg features the Old Town Hall, 12<sup>th</sup> century Stone Bridge, towering St. Peter's Cathedral and the Porta Pretoria.H (B, L, D)**

#### **Day 11: Passau - Linz, Austria**

After breakfast, arrive in Passau, where the rivers Inn and Ilz join the Danube. Enjoy a walking tour of this beautiful town with cobblestone streets and graceful arcades. Passau is home to St. Stephan's Cathedral, known to have the world's largest church organ with more than 17,000 pipes. Later, sail to Linz, Austria, a favourite city of Mozart, who dedicated his Linz Symphony to the town. Take time to explore the large town square with the 66 foot high Trinity Column and surrounded by patrician houses. **(B, L, D)**

#### **Day 12: Melk - Dürnstein**

Cruise through the narrow Strudengau and reach the picturesque Wachau Valley and the charming town of Melk. A guided tour takes you to Melk's magnificent 900-year-old Benedictine Abbey, one of Europe's largest baroque monasteries. Your next stop is

medieval Dürnstein, known to be the loveliest town on the Wachau Valley. Above the town, you'll spot the ruins of the castle where Richard the Lionhearted, the King of England, was imprisoned in 1192. Enjoy a walking tour exploring the town's many hidden treasures. **HA wonderful evening of food, music and entertainment awaits you at the Captain's Dinner.H** Your cruise continues to Austria's capital city, beautiful Vienna. **(B, L, D)**

#### **Day 13: Vienna**

**HJoin a local expert exploring Vienna's Imperial architecture including the lavish Hofburg Palace, the impressive Vienna Opera House, the majestic Ringstrasse and awe-inspiring St. Stephen's Cathedral.H** The remainder of the day is at leisure. If you wish, you may join an optional excursion to the opulent Schoenbrunn Palace, the summer retreat of the Habsburg dynasty. At midnight, the ship cruises to nearby Slovakia. **(B, L, D)**

#### **Day 14: Bratislava, Slovakia**

A morning tour of Slovakia's capital, Bratislava, includes the enormous 13th-century castle that towers 300 feet above the Danube; the old town; St. Martin's Cathedral; Michael's Gate; and the Archbishop's

palace. The afternoon is yours to shop or explore the city on your own. Tonight, your senses will be delighted with a musical performance by a Slovakian ensemble on board. This evening, the ship departs for Hungary. **(B, L, D)**

#### **Day 15: Budapest, Hungary**

Welcome to Budapest, Hungary's famous capital city. Your sightseeing tour of this lovely capital features the historic Buda Castle-area with its turreted Fisherman's Bastion and 500-year-old St. Matthias Church. From this vantage point, you have splendid views of Chain Bridge and the twin cities of Buda and Pest, spread over both banks of the river. The afternoon is at leisure to explore Budapest on your own or shop for last minute shopping opportunities. **HTonight, gather on board with your fellow travellers for a memorable farewell gala dinner accompanied by Gypsy music.H (B, L, D)**

#### **Day 16: Budapest - Disembark Ship - Tour Ends**

**(B)**

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For more information contact

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*Your Itinerary at a Glance*

**Day 1** Overnight flight  
**Day 2 - 15** MS Amadeus Princess

On some dates alternate hotels may be used

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**Please Note:**

**Single accommodations and triple accommodations are not available.**

Ports of call are subject to change based on pier availability and weather conditions.

Embarkation on day 2 is after 4:00pm; on day 16, disembarkation is normally at 9:00am. Return flights should not be booked prior to 12 noon on the last day of your tour.

Coffee or tea is included at all meals. Wine is included in the Welcome Dinner and the Captain's Gala Dinner.

Smart casual wear is recommended throughout the trip. For the welcome and farewell dinners, an evening dress for the ladies and jacket & tie for the gentlemen is recommended. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended throughout the trip.

Gratuities for cabin stewards, bus boys and waiters on board the ship are not included.

Cabins are available on lower deck and middle deck. Lower deck cabins have smaller windows than middle deck. Please see pricing for cost of lower deck and any upgrade fees for middle deck. There is limited lower deck availability.

At Collette, we pride ourselves on bringing travellers the very best experiences a destination offers. Our itineraries include many activities and may consist of walking on uneven terrain or significant walking at times. Some of the most unique sightseeing can mean accessing locations that restrict motorcoaches, especially in historic areas. For your comfort, we recommend bringing walking shoes.

## *Important Reservation Information*

If you have not purchased air through Collette and wish to purchase transfers, you must transfer at our pre-scheduled times.

**Passports** are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require a minimum of 6 months passport validity from date of return home. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for details.

When travelling outside of Canada, health insurance is required. Contact your booking agent for more information.

**Responsibilities:** Neither Collette Travel Services, Inc., its affiliated entities and its and their employees, shareholders, officers, directors, successors, agents, and assigns (collectively "Collette"), own or operate any person or entity which is to or does provide goods or services for these trips. Because neither maintains any control over the personnel, equipment, or operations of these suppliers, Collette assumes no responsibility for and cannot be held liable for any personal injury, death, property damage or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience, or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of (1) any wrongful, negligent, willful or unauthorized acts or omissions on the part of any of the suppliers or other employees or agents, (2) any defect in or failure of any vehicle, equipment, or instrument owned, operated or otherwise used by any of these suppliers, or (3) any wrongful, willful or negligent act or omission on the part of any other party not under the supervision and control of Collette. Additionally, responsibility is not accepted for losses or expenses due to sickness, lack of appropriate medical facilities or practitioners, weather, strikes, theft or other criminal acts, war, terrorism, computer problems, or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. Collette reserves the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour. They reserve the right to withdraw any tour announced. Collette reserves the right to decline to accept any person as a member of the tour, or to require any participant to withdraw from the tour at any time, when such action is determined by the tour manager to be in the best interests of the health, safety, and general welfare of the tour group or of the individual participant. Neither does Collette accept liability for any carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline or other ticket to the tour departure city and return or otherwise. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owner at all times. Participants may be photographed for the promotional purposes of Collette. Payment of the deposit to Collette constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions.

### **TRAVEL BUDDIES CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY:**

Deposits are non-refundable. Once final payment has been received, it too will be totally non-refundable.

Minimum number required for group travel. If numbers should fall below the minimum, Travel Buddies reserves the right to cancel the trip. If Travel Buddies cancels a trip, it would be prior to your final payment and your deposit would be completely refunded.

**Consumer Protection Plans:** Collette Tours Canada Ltd holds membership in the following highly reputable industry organizations: the Association of Canadian Travel Agents and the United States Tour Operators Association. Each association operates a consumer protection plan to cover deposits made by travellers. Full details are available from the organizations or Collette Tours Canada Ltd. Collette is pleased to give this additional protection to our clients. Travel Industry Council of Ontario #3206405. BCReg#23337