

Epicurean Travel



Epicurean tours, spotlighting regions known for their fruit of the vine, unique atmosphere, and today's rock star, The Chef, is the latest in trendy travel. Pairing food and wine has fast become an art form of culinary experts around the world, in turn, raising the bar when it comes to planning your next adventure. For instance, this cavernous sea grotto tucked away inside a cliff in Southern Italy is one of the Grotta Palazzese Hotel's finer cuisine restaurants. Open only during summer months, this romantic and exclusive restaurant is illuminated by dim glowing lights reflecting off the waters of Polignano a Mare. Feast your eyes on a few of the most exquisite destinations in this special Food & Wine Issue provided to us by StopTheClock.tv.



Satisfy Your Palate...

on an AmaWaterways Wine Cruise



Gone are the days where trips were planned primarily around seeing all of the sights in a particular destination. We are now in the age of experiential travel – where becoming one with the culture has become the “why” behind the adventures – and what better way to get acquainted with local life than by getting a taste of it?

The heart and soul of a culture can be discovered in many ways, one of the most exciting being its cuisine. You can learn so much about the land, local people and their customs by trying the foods and drinks that are enjoyed there and – as all foodies will agree – experiencing new flavor is so much fun. This is why AmaWaterways has created a variety of unique Wine Cruises on the Rhine, Danube, Mosel, Rhone, Seine, Douro and Garonne rivers that offer you the option to immerse yourself even deeper into the tastes of Europe. In addition to the amazing tours in grand capitals and charming towns, these cruises enhance already - spectacular itineraries with opportunities for you to uncork local traditions through wine and food-related activities both on board and during excursions – all at no additional cost.

Heidelberg With Heart



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Heidelberg, Germany is itself a resplendent romantic destination where castles and forests tell a wonderful story of times gone by, as though there were nothing evil in the world,” wrote the poet Joseph von Eichendorff at the start of the 19th century in his memoirs. And still today, the lively university town enchants visitors from all over the world with Germany’s oldest university, not least with the triad of river, landscape, and city. The river running along Neckar Valley is surrounded by a dense deciduous forest and steeply terraced vineyards offering sweeping views that are simply captivating.

A stroll through the picturesque alleys of the Old Town with the churches and beautiful town squares has an international flair. On an evening stroll, romanticists are drawn over the Friesenberg to the illuminated castle where they are rewarded with unique views of the sea of lights in the Old Town. And those that want to swear eternal love can visit the Heidelberg Love Stone located on the Nepomuk Terrace at the Old Bridge. Many couples have already attached their love locks here and thrown the key in the river, in keeping with the tradition. Just as romantic as the custom with the love locks is the story behind the Love Stone. It is not just any old stone that holds the lovers’ locks. It is



As soon as you step aboard your luxurious ship, the palate-pleasing adventure begins. During the Welcome Reception, you will meet your host – a qualified wine expert who brings premium, hand-selected bottles on the ship to be served during meals, tastings and discussions. The smorgasbord of mouth-watering delights served at the Welcome Dinner sets the stage for the rest of the trip. Every day, you can expect to be wined and dined with multi-course lunches and dinners featuring regionally-inspired, world-class cuisine and wine pairing suggestions prepared by award-winning chefs. There's even a specialty restaurant on board called The Chef's Table, where the chefs craft meals right in front of you. It will come as no surprise when you learn that AmaWaterways is the only river cruise line that has been inducted into the prestigious French culinary organization, La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs.

Each morning begins brilliantly with a splash of sparkling wine and familiar and foreign specialties from the breakfast buffet. Afterwards, you will be treated to a full plate of exclusive shore excursions where you can see famous sights while savoring local traditions. You'll dabble in fine wines when you visit Europe's illustrious vineyard-covered landscapes – like the Wachau Valley in Austria and Bordeaux, France – and indulge in tastings and conversations with the owners of private cellars. As a guest you will also visit a number of wineries, where vintners and growers will talk about the winemaking process, and give you a taste of some special varieties, too. Then during free time, you can explore local restaurants on your own and swirl glasses above delectable, authentic dishes.

If you have an appreciation for fine wines and foods, and wish to experience European culture in a unique way, then an AmaWaterways Wine Cruise is the trip you've been dreaming about. 



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Odenwald colored sandstone, which is frequently found in the cool ground surrounding Heidelberg. Here is where famous poet Joseph Freiherr von Eichendorff often met with his beloved Käthchen in secret. The center of the Love Stone is decorated with a poem by von Eichendorff called "The View", in which he expressed his great devotion to Käthchen in romantic verse.

The romantic travel package "Heidelberg with Heart" combines the unique amalgamation of river, city and countryside topped off with excellent food and wine tasting tours among the vineyards. A guided walking tour of the Old Town, a cruise on the Neckar River on a solar boat, a ticket for admission to the castle and overnight accommodations with breakfast are all packaged together beautifully for travelers from around the globe. 🌍

You can find additional information at:
www.heidelberger-marketing.com



Cycle, Sip & Truffle Hunt

In Italy



Ciclismo Classico, a leading outfitter of cycling vacations around the globe, is offering a gastronomically-focused Piedmont cycling tour this fall. Guests will stay in family-run 4-star hotels, dine at the best local restaurants, and pedal through the vineyards and villages of Piedmont. The historic food and wine regions of Gavi, Acqui Terme, Alba, and lower Monferrato will serve as the focal points of this seven-day tour scheduled for 09/30/15 - 10/06/15 and 10/10/15 - 10/16/15.


"This cycling tour of Piedmont unveils a region which has achieved the status of gastronomic and enological perfection," said Ciclismo Classico Founder Lauren Hefferon. "Guests will pedal quiet roads, sip local wines, relax at heavenly villas, and dine in some of Italy's finest restaurants."

Covering 165 total miles, this Piedmont holiday exemplifies the best of European biking tours. Guests will discover both world-famous and little-known local wines such as Barolo, Barbaresco and Barbera, explore the castles of Monferrato, soak in the famed thermal waters of Acqui, witness the hypnotic geometry of the Nizza hills, and much more. Local experts will discuss the tradition of wine-making and the nuances of the area's many micro-climates that give the wine its prized sophistication.





"We'll join a local truffle hunter and his dog for a hunt, ride some of the most beautiful routes in Italy, enjoy five-star meals, and conclude our tour at the elegant and romantic Relais San Maurizio spa in Santo Stefano Belbo," said Hefferon. "No bicycle tour brings you closer to the spirit, people, and treasures of Piedmont."

Ciclismo Classico has been a specialized "boutique" tour operator since 1988 and provides some of the most authentic, unique and exciting vacations in the adventure travel industry. Its well-crafted educational trips are active immersions into local art, language, music and, of course, cuisine. By combining legendary service and rare cultural experiences, the Ciclismo philosophy continues to energize and transform each and every guest. 



For more information on this Piedmont cycling tour or other Italy cycling tours, visit:
www.ciclismoclassico.com/find-your-trip/confirmed-tours/
or call 1.800.866.7314.