



La Nouvelle Etoile

The Ultimate European Barge
for Luxury and Innovation

Welcome



*Welcome to the
world of luxury
barging with
La Nouvelle Etoile.*

La Nouvelle Etoile is owned and operated by Captain Jan Meijer and his wife, Diana. They were both born into Dutch shipping families and have spent all of their lives in and around navigation and river cruise boats. Since 1988 they have been bringing passengers the utmost in luxury and comfort with the most successful barge line on Europe's majestic waterways.

La Nouvelle Etoile caters to only eight passengers, creating an unprecedented level of spaciousness and privacy on a barge. Innovative amenities such as an elevator and high-tech in-suite services also bring new standards of sophistication to European barge cruising.

In celebrating over 20 years on the European waterways, Jan, Diana and their crew hope to welcome you aboard as they have in the past with many guests who experienced the time of their lives.



La Nouvelle Etoile

Salon



Building on a tradition, La Nouvelle Etoile has revolutionized standards of excellence in barging with unprecedented levels of luxury and sophisticated technology.

An elevator whisks you from Suite level to Salon level, where you will feel welcomed as you enter the Salon with its warm well-appointed teak interior and elegant furnishings.

Choose from several elegant settings. Settle into the intimate conversation area for cocktails with companions or pull up the most comfortable barstool imaginable if you prefer being perched high for sightseeing through the large picture windows. Throughout, you are bathed with uplifting natural daylight and views of the surrounding scenery. At night, subtle interior lighting facilitates views of lights dancing across the water.



Dining



Imagine dining on exquisite gourmet cuisine, drinking fine wines of superior vintages at a table replete with elegant Wedgwood china, Christofle silver and the finest crystal.

On La Nouvelle Etoile, each meal is an event, carefully planned and prepared as an extraordinary culinary experience. Enjoy superior wines from top local vineyards. Our kitchen procures the finest local foodstuffs, and freshest produce, which are seasoned with herbs grown on board. Your chef is happy to personalize your meals to meet any special requirements or specific dietary needs.



Suites



The warm, restful teak interiors, subtle color schemes and elegant furnishings invite you to relax and enjoy.

Each of four spacious suites is over 200 square feet in size with large panoramic windows, and is lavishly equipped with all the comforts of a top hotel. The comfortable king size bed converts easily to two twins if you prefer. Beautifully tiled bathrooms dazzle with double sinks and oversized showers.

Your suite anticipates your practical and entertainment needs. Included are satellite television, DVD and internet access with flat-screened monitors, as well as basics such as hair dryers, safe deposit box, bathrobe and 110V US power outlets for American electrical appliances.



Services



*Your every need and wish have been anticipated.
Meticulous attention to detail is evident throughout –
from the selection of the linens to the fresh flowers and
fruit in each suite.*

- Pre-cruise documents with detailed information on ports of call
- Champagne welcome
- Three gourmet meals daily
- A selection of fine wines with lunches and dinners
- Open bar
- All museum and chateau entrance fees
- Land tours and transfers

All transfers to and from La Nouvelle Etoile are included as well as the wonderful daily tours. We have our own luxury 8 passenger air-conditioned van with driver/tour guide that can also be available for your personal use (within the cruise area) for shopping, hair appointments or any other requests.



Itineraries



In keeping with La Nouvelle Etoile's alternate name, "The Happy Wanderer," itineraries are planned and timed for peak season in each region so that you always experience the best of the area you are visiting.



Excursions to great vineyards, famous fromageries, ancient chateaux and villages in our deluxe land transportation, are complemented by the knowledge and flexibility of your tour guide, whose intent is to help you make the most of each day. Personalized tours are designed to let you do what interests you most. Go for a morning walk, bicycle along the towpath, jog in the countryside or simply luxuriate, sunbathing on deck as the barge slips down the lazy river. Pursue your interest in art at fine local museums or visit architectural marvels dating back to the Renaissance or Roman times. The possibilities, like the memories you return home with, are endless.



Cruises

Spring

Holland

Haarlem to Haarlem Loop – 7 days

Springtime is tulip time in Holland, when the countryside is alive with color. During this tour we will:

- Cruise through the heart of Amsterdam where the petite canals and picturesque architecture will take you back to centuries gone by.
- Visit the famous Keukenhof Gardens. These gardens boast the largest display of flowers in the world. Here you will find hundreds of varieties of tulips, hyacinths and other brilliantly blooming bulbs.
- Cruise past 17th and 18th century castles and mansions built for the wealthy merchants of Amsterdam along the cozy canals.
- Visit a local family farm in Gouda whose owners have been making the famous cheese for generations.
- Revel in the splendor of the most magnificent stained glass windows in Holland. Tour a working windmill.
- Wander through the museum exhibiting works of the famous Dutch painter, Frans Hals.

*This was our 4th trip on La Nouvelle
Etoile, and I think each time it gets better!*

J & C L, Houston, TX (June, 2009)



Late Spring

Haarlem to Bruges – 7 days

Experience a quaint Dutch windmill, world-famous flowers, small European towns, historic cities, art history, Delft pottery and a distillery, all in one week!

- Arrive to a champagne welcome. Walk a short tour of Haarlem, visiting a restored Dutch windmill. Enjoy your first of many superbly prepared gourmet meals.
- Visit a colorful flower auction. Then at Lisse's Keukenhof Gardens, visit the largest display of flowers in the world. End the day at Delft Pottery Works.
- In Rotterdam, visit the ancient vodka distillery of Ketel One. Cruise across the Hollandsch Diep Dutch estuaries to the fortress at Willemstad.
- Cross the border from Holland to Belgium. Land at the Flemish city of Antwerp. Tour artist Paul Rubens' home and browse the old quarter of the city.
- Explore the town of Ghent and admire the amazing painting done by the Van Eck brothers, after winding up the "Sea Schelde" to get there.
- Cruise on to beautiful Bruges, known as the "Venice of the North." Visit museums, buy lace or take a boat trip. On your last night, enjoy the Captain's Dinner with Jan and Diana.

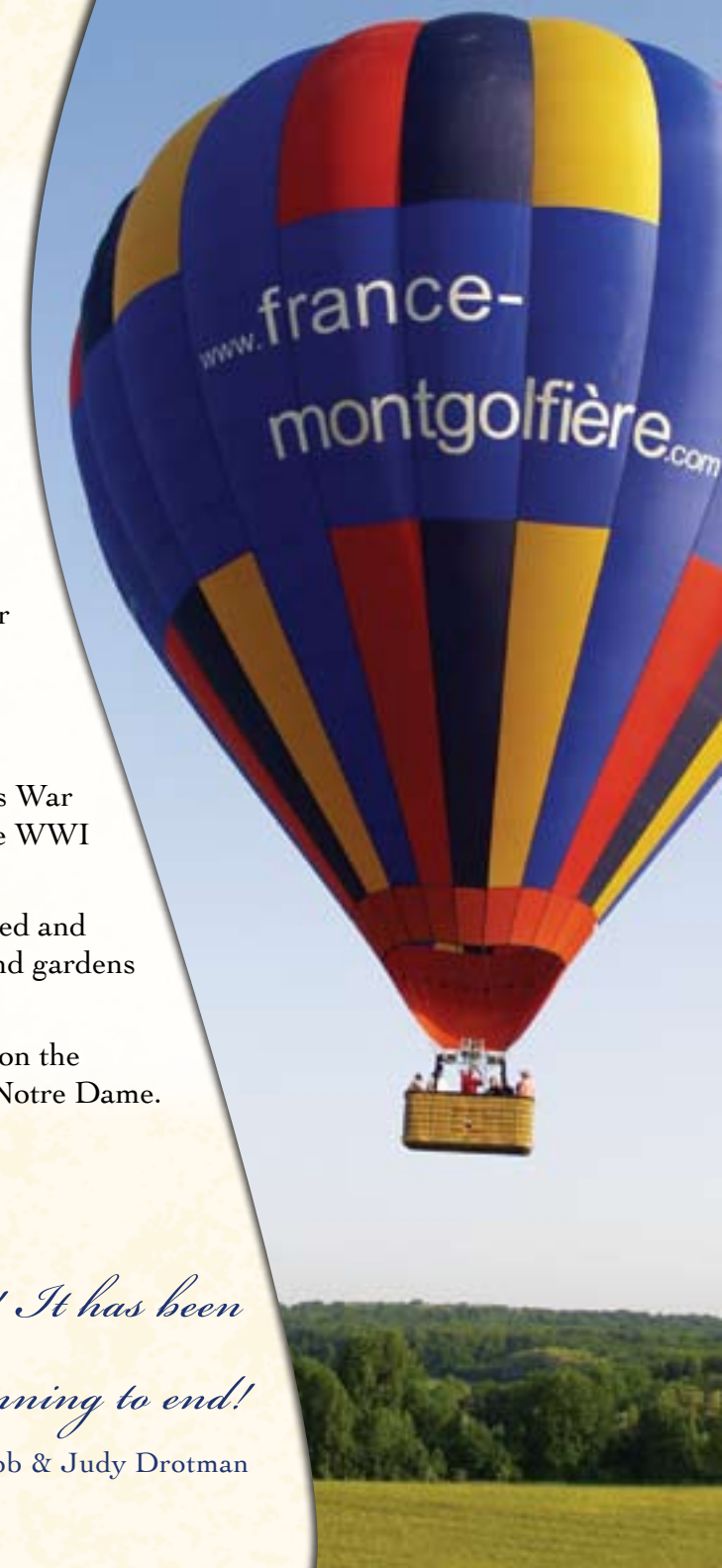
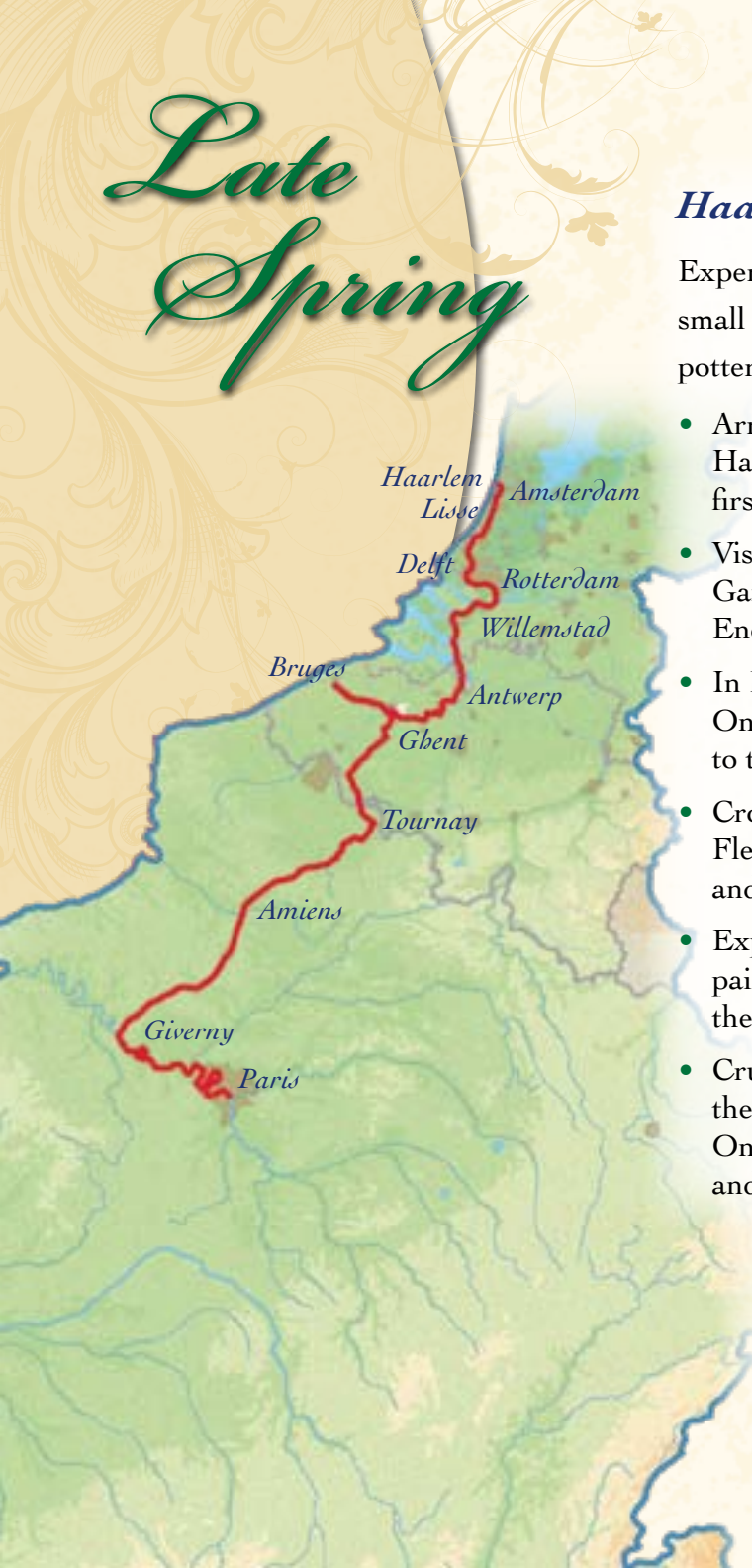
Bruges to Paris – 12 days

During a fascinating two weeks, cruise the inland waterways from Bruges to Paris via canals, rivers, locks and tunnels, climbing over the Vermandois Hills of Picardie. Stroll the towpath. Visit masters of art like Monet and van Gogh. Learn war history at Peronne's War Museum and the site of WWI's armistice signing in Compiegne.

- Embark to a champagne welcome and a canal boat tour of Bruges. Visit Ghent and the van Eck painting, "The Mystic Lamb."
- Discover the site of Napoleon's battle at Waterloo.
- Visit a great Gothic cathedral in Amiens, and Peronne's War Museum in the Somme Valley. Visit the train where the WWI armistice was signed in Compiegne.
- Stroll the town of Auvers sur Oise where van Gogh lived and painted many important works. Tour Giverny, home and gardens of Claude Monet which will be at peak bloom.
- Visit Malmaison, home of Napoleon. Cruise into Paris on the floodlit Seine past the Eiffel Tower, Grand Palais and Notre Dame.

Thank you for a magical week! It has been wonderful from beginning to end!

Bob & Judy Drotman



Summer

Chablis Cruise

Paris to Auxerre – 7 days

Despite the many imitations, there is only one true Chablis – the fine, dry white wine from this small area of Burgundy where wine-making pre-dates Roman times.

- We'll take an intimate tour of a family owned and operated Chablis vineyard and cellar. Along with the wine, you can also enjoy the panoramic beauty of the French cities and countryside.
- Cruise through the center of Paris past the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame.
- Walk back in time and through France's history as you tour the Chateau of Fontainebleau where every royal French family has added its own architectural signature.
- Discover the village where the famous Impressionist Sisley found his inspirations.
- Visit the fortified medieval town of Provins which is listed on the World Heritage List of Unesco.
- The first great Gothic cathedral awaits you in France's oldest town, Sens.
- Auxerre is considered the most beautiful of all French river towns. Its skyline is punctuated by church spires and its streets are lined with 16th century homes.



A map showing the route of the Chablis Cruise from Paris to Auxerre. The route is marked with a red line along the Seine river. Key locations labeled include Paris, Evry, Fontainebleau, Sens, and Auxerre.

Champagne and Brie Cruise

Paris to Epernay – 7 days

Experience a glorious week of cheese and wine tasting while cruising along the Marne, one of the most beautiful rivers in France.

- Cruise through the center of Paris past Notre Dame and discover the magnificent Chateau of Vaux-le-Vicomte.
- Enjoy wines and taste various Bries of a master cheese maker in Coulommiers, known as one of the centers of Brie cheese making.
- Visit a family operated vineyard and the vast cellars of Moet et Chandon for a private tasting.
- Imagine the scenes of American battles of World War I at Belleau Wood near Chateau Thierry.
- Explore the Abbey of Hautvilliers where monk Dom Perignon first made champagne.
- Visit Reims, where Joan of Arc escorted Charles VII to the cathedral to be crowned King of France.



A map showing the route of the Champagne and Brie Cruise from Paris to Epernay. The route is marked with a red line along the Marne river. Key locations labeled include Paris, Chateau-Thierry, and Epernay.

*Another wonderful voyage—our 5th,
all different, over the last 10 years.*

Doug & Robin Shore, Atlanta, (August 2008)

Summer

Sancerre Cruise (Upper Loire)

Moret to Briare – 7 days

From the Seine to France's Canal du Briare (its oldest canal), cruise along waterways steeped in history, past beautiful scenery and small country villages. We'll cross the Loire River by the famous canal bridge designed by Gustav Eiffel, and enter into the Sancerre region.

- Walk back in time and through France's history as you tour the Chateau of Fontainebleau where every royal French family has added its own architectural signature.
- Because of its numerous canals and bridges, Montargis is also called Little Venice of the Gatinais.
- Visit Gien, built on the banks of the Loire River and famous for its Faience earthenware.
- Cross the Loire on the famous pont-canal de Briare designed by Gustav Eiffel.
- Taste the region's Chavignol cheese and sample some of the delicious Sancerre wines.

A map of France showing the route of the Sancerre Cruise. The route is marked with a red line starting from Paris, passing through Fontainebleau, Moret, Montargis, and ending at Briare. The map shows the Loire River and the Canal du Briare.

Paris
Fontainebleau
Moret
Montargis
Briare



Late Summer

Alsace Lorraine Cruise

Strasbourg to Nancy – 7 days

Eleventh century Gothic cathedrals, Fourteenth century Renaissance residences, a unique lock that allows the barge to glide effortlessly up or down the mountainside using a sophisticated system of weights and balances: all these are yours to discover!

- In this region, hilltops are dotted with the ruins of feudal castles, and a village where fine crystal is still blown by hand beckons you to visit.
- Wind through the heart of Saverne.
- Sample some of the best Alsatian wines in the region right at the vineyards. Drink in the beauty, color and splendor of this magical region during the change of the seasons.
- Walk around the charming 16th century quarters of Petite France in Strasbourg.



A map of the Alsace Lorraine region in France. A red line indicates the cruise route from Strasbourg in the south to Nancy in the north, passing through Saverne. The city of Paris is marked to the west. The map shows the Rhine river and surrounding terrain.

Paris Nancy Saverne Strasbourg

*The ultimate barge cruise—and we
should know! Thanks to all of you.*

We will return!

Nick & Ellen Sack, Chicago (August 2008)



Fall

Mosel River Cruise

Remich (Luxembourg) to Koblenz – 7 days

This trip takes you down the picturesque Mosel River in Germany. It's a wine lover's dream!

- Visit the capital of Luxembourg and the nearby American cemetery where General Patton is buried.
- Trier is the oldest town in Germany. In fact, the town's gate pre-dates the Christian era and even old Roman times.
- In Piesport, taste the famous wine, Piesporter Goldtropfchen, at the cellars of Dr. Theo Haart.
- At Bernkastel in a private cellar, sample the "crème de la crème" of Mosel wines.
- Zell is also famous for its wines and its scenic beauty.
- Discover the 12th century queen of German castles, Burg Eltz, one of very few castles that survived the wrath of King Louis XVI.
- In Koblenz, stroll through the quaint streets where shopping is the main attraction!



*We knew the trip would be good. We
didn't know how great it would be!*

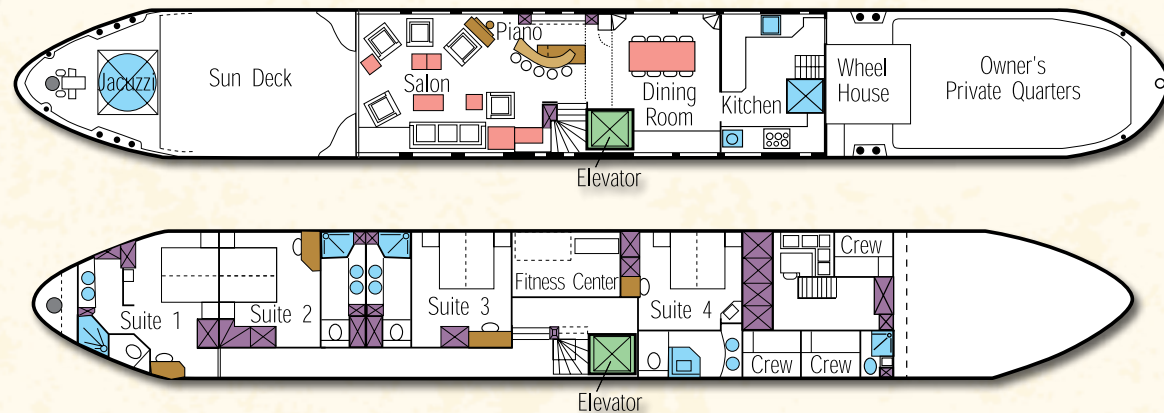
Al Jaffee, New York (Oct. 2007)



Features and Amenities

La Nouvelle Etoile is designed for the ultimate in comfort and convenience and offers the following features and amenities.

Built on one of the largest hulls afloat that can navigate the small canals, La Nouvelle Etoile offers a fitness center, Jacuzzi hot tub, elevator, internet access, independently controlled air conditioning in each suite and self-service laundry. Gourmet meals are served on beautiful china, silver and fine crystal in our spacious dining room. You can sunbathe on the ample sun deck with retractable electric canopy or ride a bike along the towpaths or in ports of call.



General Information

Communications: *La Nouvelle Etoile* offers a telephone and internet access in each suite as well as Wi-Fi throughout the whole vessel.

Electricity: The voltage on board is 220 volt A/C and 110 volt (for electric shavers). Hair dryers are provided in each cabin.

No Smoking Policy: For the safety and comfort of all of our guests, smoking is permitted only on the outside decks.

Route Changes: Very rarely it may be necessary to change the route due to maintenance work on the locks. Although this does not happen often, it is unwise to book hotel or car rental facilities at the termination point, other than Paris.

How to Book

There are two ways to join a cruise on *La Nouvelle Etoile* — join one of the cruises reserved for individual bookings, or charter the entire vessel for a group of family or friends. A telephone call will reserve the space if it is available, but a deposit should be received within two weeks to confirm your booking. VISA, MasterCard and American Express are accepted.

Responsibility

La Nouvelle Etoile and all cooperating agents act only in the capacity of agents in arranging hotels, transportation, sight-seeing and any other services listed in itineraries and, as such, shall not be held liable for any injury, damage,

inconvenience or expense due to the act of default of or action of any hotel, carrier, restaurant or person providing or rendering any of the services associated with the cruise. *La Nouvelle Etoile* and its agents cannot be held responsible for any injury, death, expense, damage to personal property which may be sustained on account of or by reason of any defect in any vehicle, bicycle, boat, or common carrier, or of any persons or company providing such services. Any losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passengers.

La Nouvelle Etoile reserves the right to withdraw or cancel any cruise prior to departure and to change the itinerary or cruise route should circumstances require it. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a passenger should such person's health or general deportment impede the normal operation of the cruise. In such cases refunds will be based on the cost of the unfinished portion of the cruise.

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