



SAIL AND SEE
A WEALTH OF

Culture

IN HOLLAND
AND BELGIUM



CULTURAL CRUISES EUROPE

EXPERIENCE THE WEALTH OF THE DUTCH AND
FLEMISH CULTURE WHILE SAILING THE WATERS OF
THE LOW COUNTRIES.

HOIST THE
anchor!



LOW COUNTRIES, RICH HISTORY

As small as the neighboring countries of The Netherlands and Belgium may be, they offer a delightful array of historical, cultural, and engineering sights. From Renaissance painting masterpieces to medieval monuments and ornate Baroque architecture. From lovingly-kept museums to the sober war fields of Flanders. Encompassing exceptional waterworks both centuries old and state-of-the-art. And, to tempt your taste buds, you have the choice from a tremendous variety of cheeses, chocolates, and beers to choose from.

This is just a snapshot of the many exciting and enlightening experiences that await you. Let us show you the best and most beautiful of them all, enhancing the journey with fascinating lectures and guided tours carried out by local experts. The Wealth of Culture tour takes you through the western region of the Netherlands (Holland) and Flanders, the northern part of Belgium. The Holland Culture tour concentrates completely on the Dutch provinces of North Holland, South Holland, and Utrecht.



On these unique trips, you will discover the 'low countries' (Netherlands and Belgium) via their most typical element: water. Rivers, canals and lakes abound. Your comfortable hotel barge will be both your main mode of transportation and your hotel for the entire trip; so no packing and unpacking of your luggage will be necessary!

The Wealth of Culture Tour and the Holland Culture Tour offer you, respectively, nine or eight days of cultural delights.

But even more than this, they promise a wonderful insight into the heart and soul of two cultures which were and still are shaped by the waters.



BETWEEN YOUR REFRESHING WELCOME DRINK ON EMBARKATION DAY AND YOUR LAST BREAKFAST AT THE END OF THE TOUR, YOU WILL BE IMMERSSED IN AN ABUNDANCE OF DIFFERENT LANDSCAPES, ARCHITECTURES, ART, MARVELS OF ENGINEERING, MUSEUMS, AND HISTORIC SITES.

Wherever you turn, you will see or hear something intriguing, and often very different from what you experience at home. You will be amazed at the many differences between two countries that are geographically so close together. You may even start to distinguish Dutch from Flemish! And you'll definitely get to taste a lot of delicious food.

This tour through these two countries will leave you feeling enriched by a wealth of natural and man-made beauty.



AMSTERDAM TO BRUGES - OR - BRUGES TO AMSTERDAM



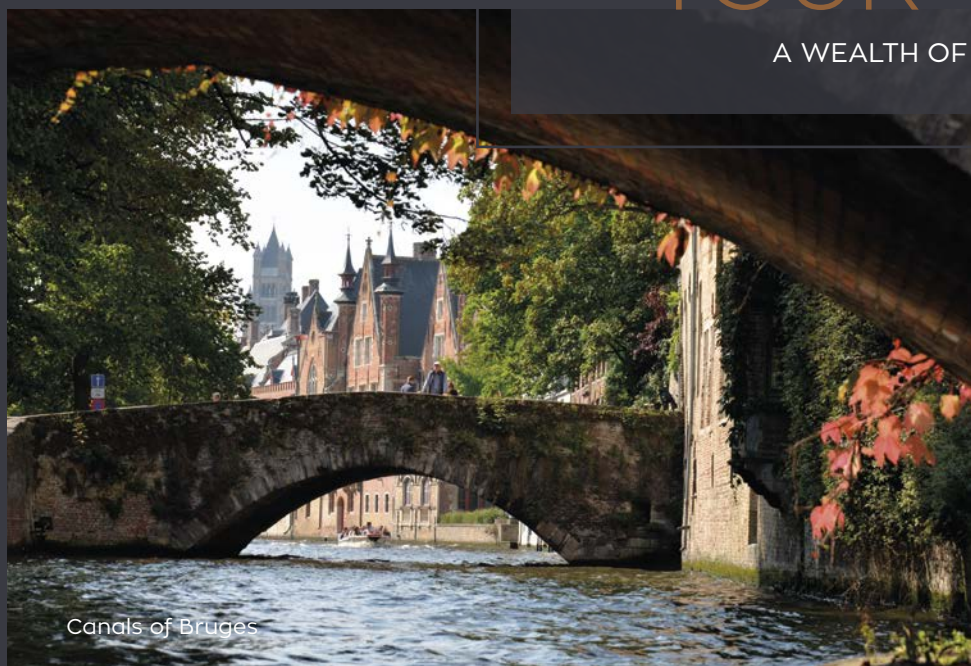
Westertoren in the background



Discover the culture of Antwerp

TOUR 1 AND 2.

A WEALTH OF CULTURE TOURS.



Canals of Bruges



How about a Belgian beer?



UNESCO's Kinderdijk



A WEALTH OF CULTURE TOUR

What you'll see and experience



Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

You'll travel from Amsterdam to Bruges or from Bruges to Amsterdam on your luxury hotel barge. The ship docks at a colorful series of ports and some of the excursions from these will be carried out by bus. Some will also be by canal boat, on foot or, if you wish, by bike. Occasionally, your tour guide will take you on an after-dinner walk, to give you a feeling of what life in these medieval towns was like.

You enjoy many delicious breakfasts, lunches, and dinners while sailing to your next destination, but there will also be plenty of opportunity to try the specialties of local eateries! And lectures by local experts on fascinating topics will let you appreciate what you see (and taste) even more. Take Amsterdam, for example.

The best-known works of the Dutch masters of painting await you at the recently-renovated Rijksmuseum. On another occasion, your day will get off to a brilliant start in Schoonhoven, the heart of global gold and silver production and home of the Silver Museum. At Kinderdijk, you're treated to an evocative Dutch vista featuring nineteen beautiful windmills, constructed in the 18th century to pump water out of the surrounding lowlands. Dordrecht, a surprisingly unknown city, is brimming with history and has more than a thousand architectural monuments! Marvel at the architecture of the well-preserved fortified town of Willemstad. And be impressed by the ingenuity of the Dutch 'Deltaworks', an elaborate engineering project built to protect The Netherlands against flooding.



Onze Lieve Vrouwe Cathedral, Antwerp

The Rubens house in Antwerp, Belgium gives you an insight into how the painter lived and worked — before you visit some of his masterpieces in the Onze Lieve Vrouwe Cathedral. Later on, the village of Sint Amands awaits you for a tour of Brewery Bosteels. Of course, a tasting is included. You will find out why the huge Saint Baaf's Cathedral in Ghent takes special pride in



'The adoration of the mystic lamb' — twelve oak wood panels painted by the world-renowned Van Eyck brothers. Nearby, Ypres and the 'In Flanders Fields' museum tell the story of the First World War in the West Flanders Front region. And Westvleteren Abbey — with its brewery — will teach you about the life of the Sint-Sixtus monks. Taste their alcoholic work of art



Madonna with Child



in the only café on the globe that serves the famous Westvleteren Trappist beer.

Bruges, affectionately nicknamed 'The Pearl of Flanders', draws lovers of craftsmanship to Onze Lieve Vrouwekerk church and its extensive art collection. Michelangelo's world-famous marble statue 'Madonna with Child' is considered its absolute highlight. It wouldn't be Belgium without learning how to make your own bonbons during a chocolate workshop, and you can get a culture fix from the paintings of Flemish primitives by Jan van Eyck and Hans Memling at the Groeninge Museum.

THIS TOUR IS AS DUTCH AS IT GETS. THE DESTINATIONS WE'RE TRAVELING TO ARE ALL IN THE PROVINCES OF NORTH HOLLAND, SOUTH HOLLAND, AND UTRECHT. THESE ARE HOME TO A LARGE NUMBER OF THE ARCHITECTURAL, ARTISTIC, CULTURAL AND ENGINEERING SIGHTS THAT THE NETHERLANDS IS FAMOUS FOR.

The tour takes you to highlights located both in the big cities and hidden away in a couple of smaller, lesser-known Dutch locales in between. Lectures by local experts on various subjects will tremendously enrich your experience. On this tour, you will also travel from city to city on your comfortable hotel barge, with some of the excursions taking place by bus, and others by canal boat, on foot or even, if you wish, by bike or E-bike!



Amsterdam, The Netherlands



Saint Bavo church, Haarlem

HOLLAND CULTURE TOUR



Fresh mussels in South Holland



Dordrecht, The Netherlands

TOUR 3.

BE SURPRISED BY THE HOLLAND CULTURE TOUR.



Our trademark: wind mills



Sit back and relax on deck

What you'll see and experience

HOLLAND CULTURE TOUR



Savoring the beauty of Amsterdam is best done on foot with an excellent tour guide. We will embark on a city walk to the stunning Dutch art and history of the Rijksmuseum, where you'll see exceptional artworks by the Dutch masters. You'll also walk to the Anne Frank house. Afterwards, it's time to return to your Magnifique floating hotel by canal boat! In Haarlem (sometimes lovingly called 'Little Amsterdam') the awe-inspiring Saint Bavo's

Cathedral awaits you, ready to show off its artistic splendors and give a demonstration of its famous 30-meter-tall organ. A guided visit to the Frans Hals Museum rounds off your day.

On several days, a comfortable bus brings you to a number of sights all located close to one another. During one of these trips, you'll learn first-hand the compelling story behind the Cruquius



Water Management Museum, visit Rembrandt's birthplace, Leiden, and traverse the 'green heart' of Holland. The ship awaits you in the fortified town of Vianen.

On another day trip, the bus takes you to The Hague. In the beautiful Mauritshuis Museum Villa you can see,

among others, Vermeer's 'Girl with a Pearl Earring'. Next stop is the city of Delft with its towering 'Old and New' churches. The latter's crypt is the final resting place of many Dutch royals.

At De Candelaer company, you'll see how the typical 'Delft Blue' ceramics are made.



Nearby Rotterdam offers you also the thrill of a thirty-minute harbor tour in a fast water taxi.

Sailing into Kinderdijk is a great way of seeing its nineteen beautiful windmills, constructed in the 18th century to pump water out of the surrounding lowlands. In the pretty town of Gouda, whose name has become synonymous with cheese, you will do a walking tour and, of course, a cheese tasting. You might be pleasantly surprised if you partake in the optional bike tour (about 20 km). On Thursdays, you can visit Gouda's Market Square, where farmers from the area still trade their cheeses

during the weekly market from April through to August. Next to the market square is the majestic, 123-meter-long Saint Jan's church, with 72 stained glass windows which depict many biblical and historical scenes.

Finally, a special treat awaits you with a visit to the flower auctions in Aalsmeer. From here, millions of flowers find their way to vases around the world. Back in Amsterdam and using the latest technology, 'THIS IS HOLLAND' lets you experience what it's like — to fly across the country — including the feeling of wind in your hair, moist fog, and typical Dutch smells along the way!

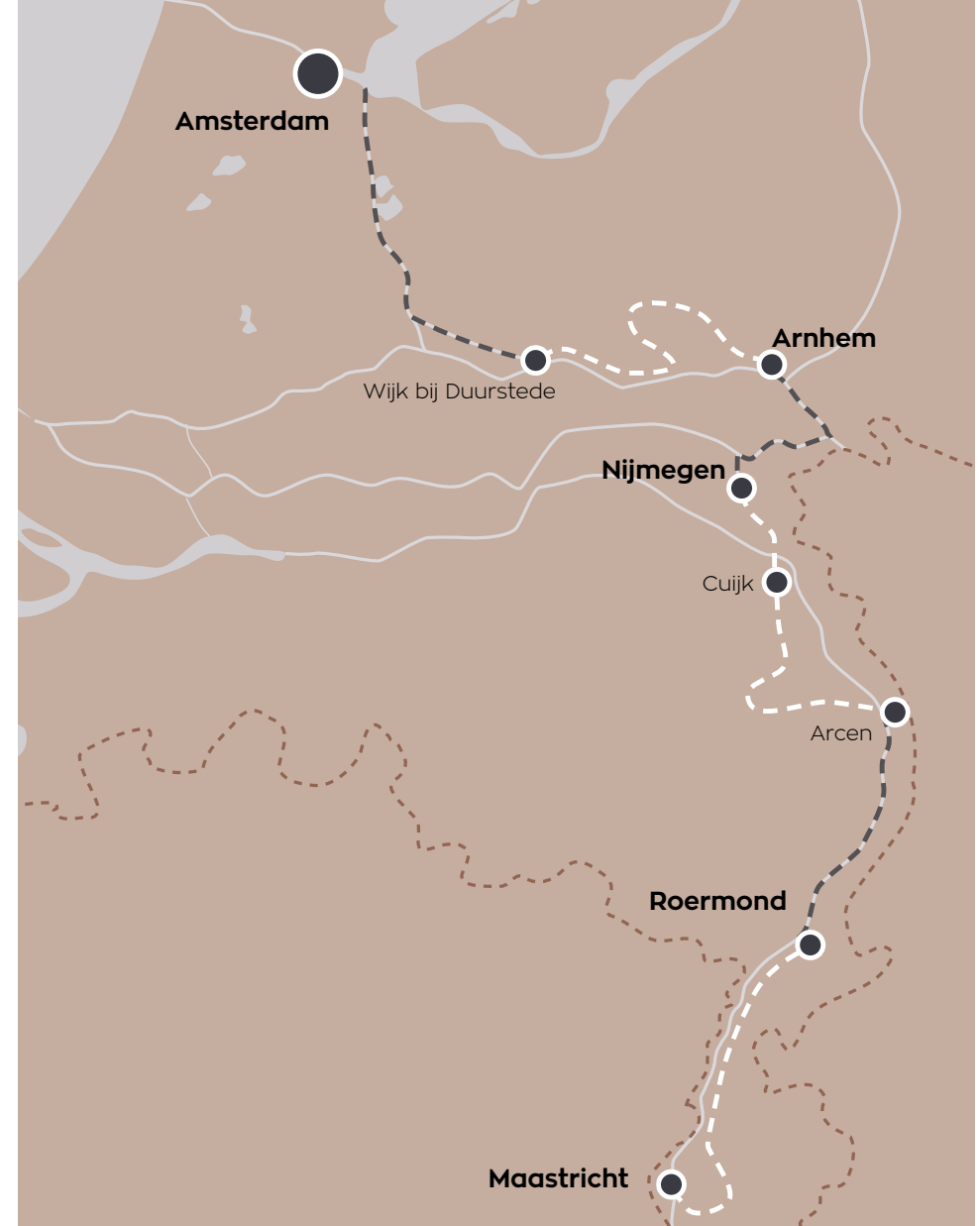


**BATTLEFIELDS CRUISE WW II;
FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE ALLIED FORCES
ON THE NETHERLANDS' ROAD TO LIBERATION.**

**THE NETHERLANDS' ROAD TO LIBERATION, FROM GERMAN OCCU-
PATION IN 1940 TO THE TOTAL SURRENDER OF GERMAN FORCES
IN 1945, IS A STORY OF HOPE, COURAGE AND THE TRIUMPH OF THE
HUMAN SPIRIT IN THE FACE OF NEAR IMPOSSIBLE ODDS.**

Our 8-day cruise aboard the beautiful *Magnifique IV* takes you through some of The Netherlands' most historically significant sites where you'll learn about the period leading up to the war and occupation, the battles, the dark years of the occupation, the liberation and the long-lasting consequences of World War II.

The *Magnifique IV*, will follow the beautiful Rhine, Waal and Maas rivers, en route to many important historical sites that played a key role during the Second World War. One of our tour leaders will accompany you for the entire week and there will be a series of lectures by local experts that will give you rare insight into the stories that shaped World War II.



BATTLEFIELDS CRUISE WW II



Waal bridge, Nijmegen

TOUR 4 & 5.

75 YEARS OF PEACE AND FREEDOM.



One of so many brave Allied soldiers



War cemetery, Margraten

What you'll see and experience

BATTLEFIELDS CRUISE WW II



St. Servaas bridge, Maastricht



Time to enjoy the local gastronomy

The Liberation Cruise can be taken either from Amsterdam to Maastricht or vice versa aboard the brand new Magnifique IV, your premium floating hotel and home away from home for the duration of the tour.

The ship will dock in well-known ports such as Arnhem and Roermond and your tour will continue either by bus, via canals or on foot. On board you will enjoy many delicious breakfasts, lunches and dinners, sometimes while sailing to the next destination, but there will

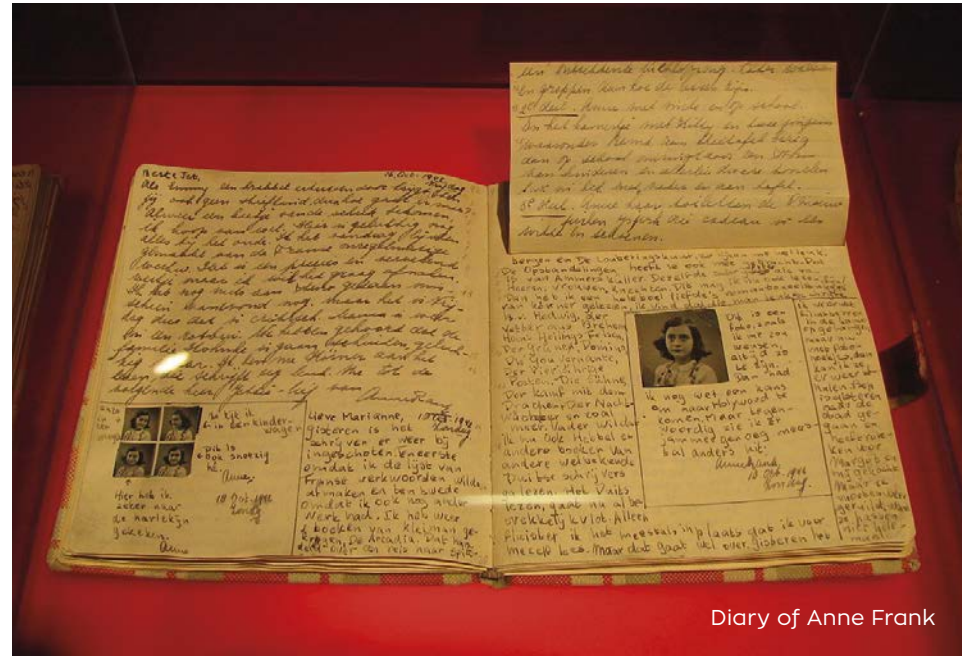
also be plenty of opportunities to have meals in the charming towns and bustling cities we'll be visiting, so you'll have plenty of opportunity to try local specialties.

Not only will one of our tour leaders will accompany you for the entire week, but you'll also go on a number of guided walks with local experts, which will further enrich the experience. The tour starts or ends in Amsterdam where you will discover how the inhabitants of

the city lived through the war and coped with occupation of Nazi Germany forces. During a visit to the Anne Frank House you will discover the iconic story of how a little girl experienced this horrendous time.

You'll visit Arnhem, where a local guide will show you around and tell you all about the famous, yet tragic operation Market garden where, in September 1944, the Allies planned to land thousands of paratroopers inside enemy lines, take control of a series of bridges, and have the war wrapped up by Christmas 1944.

A guided visit of the National Liberation Museum in Groesbeek is also on the program. The museum is located on the site where on September 17th 1944, the Operation Market Garden paratroopers landed.



Diary of Anne Frank

Then there is the National War and Resistance Museum Overloon. Here, you will see how it came to be that, over a period of just five years, more than fifty million people lost their lives.

But this cruise is not only about the history of World War II. Your excursions also include free time to enjoy a little culture and leisure. In Arcen for example you may visit the enchanting castle



gardens, in Roermond you'll spend some time in the beautiful city center, and in Maastricht, the capital of the province of Limburg, you'll experience the vibrant energy of its lively center and the warmth of its hospitality.

At the end of it all, you will have heard both the harrowing, and the heart-warming, stories of the people whose lives were forever changed by this significant chapter of human history and will hopefully walk away from the experience with a new-found respect for the triumph of the human spirit.





WELCOME ON BOARD

**MAGNIFIQUE IS THE FRENCH WORD FOR MAGNIFICENT,
AND THAT'S THE VISION THE SHIPBUILDERS HAD IN MIND
WHEN DESIGNING AND BUILDING THESE HOTEL BARGES.**

Our crew members will help you wherever they can. The captain and his crew keep the ship on course and sailing smoothly. The hostesses serve your meals and drinks, and ensure the cleanliness and tidiness of your Magnifique. Your multilingual tour manager accompanies you on day trips and is a fountain of information about the areas you're traveling in.



They paid attention to every possible detail in order to craft beautiful, comfortable ships that are geared to small-scale tourism, and accommodate a maximum of only 32-40 guests.

Every Magnifique has stylish cabins that you will love coming back to after a day on land. You'll be delighted with the delectable meals our chefs prepare for you every day. They take real pride in their profession and are at their happiest when they see guests enjoying the delicacies coming from their galley.



The upper decks of the Magnifique hotel barges feature tastefully-furnished salons, each with a restaurant area and a bar. The lounge area offers panoramic views, a wide-screen TV, and unlimited use of Wi-Fi.



Guests who feel like relaxing outside can enjoy two partially-roofed sun decks, complete with comfortable chairs and tables, and a whirlpool/Jacuzzi on the top deck. Bikes (or E-bikes) are at your disposal if needed.





The interiors of the spacious twin cabins, twin premium cabins, and upper deck suites are tastefully decorated. Each has its own bathroom with shower, sink, and toilet. The premium cabins and upper deck suites also come with a small sitting area. The airconditioning and ventilation can be regulated per cabin.

In every cabin, you'll find two excellent single beds with high-quality box spring mattresses. According to your preference, the beds can be set apart from each other or pushed together. The sheets are crisp, the towels soft, and the storage space easily sufficient for your clothes and luggage.

All cabins have portholes (set shut for safety reasons) or French balconies for the upper deck suites, a flat-screen satellite TV, a small safe, and a hairdryer.

On request, an additional fold-down bed is available in some twin cabins.



AIRCONDITIONING



PRIVATE BATHROOM



TWO SINGLE BEDS



WIFI INTERNET



Our staff checks your cabins and bathrooms daily to keep everything in top shape.

YOUR FLOATING HOTEL ROOM

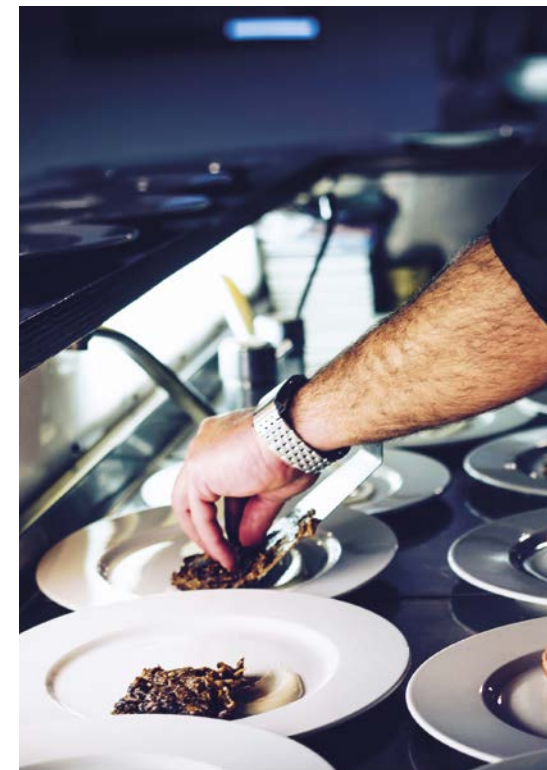
FOR EPICUREAN TASTES

EVERY DAY OF THE TOUR STARTS FESTIVELY WITH A VARIED AND TASTY BREAKFAST BUFFET. TAKE YOUR PICK FROM FRESHLY-BAKED ROLLS, CRUSTY LOAVES OF BREAD, TASTY CHEESES AND COLD CUTS, CEREALS AND YOGURT, FRESH FRUIT SALAD, JUICES, TEAS, AND EXCELLENT COFFEE.

For lunches and dinners when you're not out exploring, our chefs will work their magic in the ship's galley. Vegetarian meals are available on request, but other options like vegan,

gluten-free or lactose-free meals can be ordered.

Please inform the crew ahead of time, so that they can take your specific wishes into account.



"Cooking in the galleys of the Magnifiques is wonderful. They are professional restaurant kitchens, giving us the opportunity to prepare meals of a high standard.

Most of the time, we cook with local and seasonal products. When we sail in Holland, we may prepare a refined version of 'stamppot' — Dutch mashed potatoes with vegetables. When the ship is in Belgium, we make a Flemish meat and beer stew. We always come out of the galley to tell guests about these specialties, and along with the story give advice on the best wines or beers to pair them with.

Alv Lindholm, - Chef -

Classic French cuisine is a favorite too, but we also love to surprise our guests with Asian dishes or an elaborate barbecue on the deck, with the ship's captain working the grill.

We have excellent suppliers that deliver our orders to the ship. And along the road, we can't resist shopping for regional specialties or buying at local markets. To get the best Belgian cheeses, for example, or fresh fish.

The biggest compliment guests can give us?
When they ask for a second helping."





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