



 AMAWATERWAYS™

Beyond

HOLIDAY 2019

THE RIVER BANKS

An Exclusive Magazine for Guests

INSIDE:

CRUISE MANAGERS'
GUIDE TO THE
CHRISTMAS MARKETS

WHICH RIVER
BEST SUITS
YOUR STYLE?

OUR 2021
RIVER CRUISE
COLLECTION



Dear Loyal Guest,

As our extraordinary crew begin to decorate our ships and prepare for holiday feasts and festivities, we are delighted to focus much of this issue of *Beyond the River Banks* on how you can enhance your celebrations — both at home, with new wellness tips and delicious recipes, and on board with us in the coming years.

The holidays are such a joyous time, and nothing has given our family greater joy than seeing you on board. We were thrilled to welcome many of you on our first Loyalty Appreciation Cruises and look forward to continuing to show you our heartfelt appreciation during the 2020 Loyalty Cruises highlighted in this issue. New surprises and delights await our valued past guests aboard these sailings.

Many of our loyal guests have asked for more cruises in France. As a holiday gift to you, we are pleased to announce that AmaKristina is moving to France in 2021, giving you more opportunities to experience the best of French food, lifestyle and culture.

Whether you are planning to get together with family or friends for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Year's or simply a peaceful winter stroll, we wish you and yours a most wonderful time creating memories together this holiday season.

Warm regards,

RUDI SCHREINER
Co-Founder and President

KRISTIN KARST
Co-Founder and EVP

GARY MURPHY
Co-Owner and SVP, Sales



Kristin and Rudi, Owner's Suite on board AmaMagna



Gary and Daphne Murphy, Vienna Christmas Market, Austria

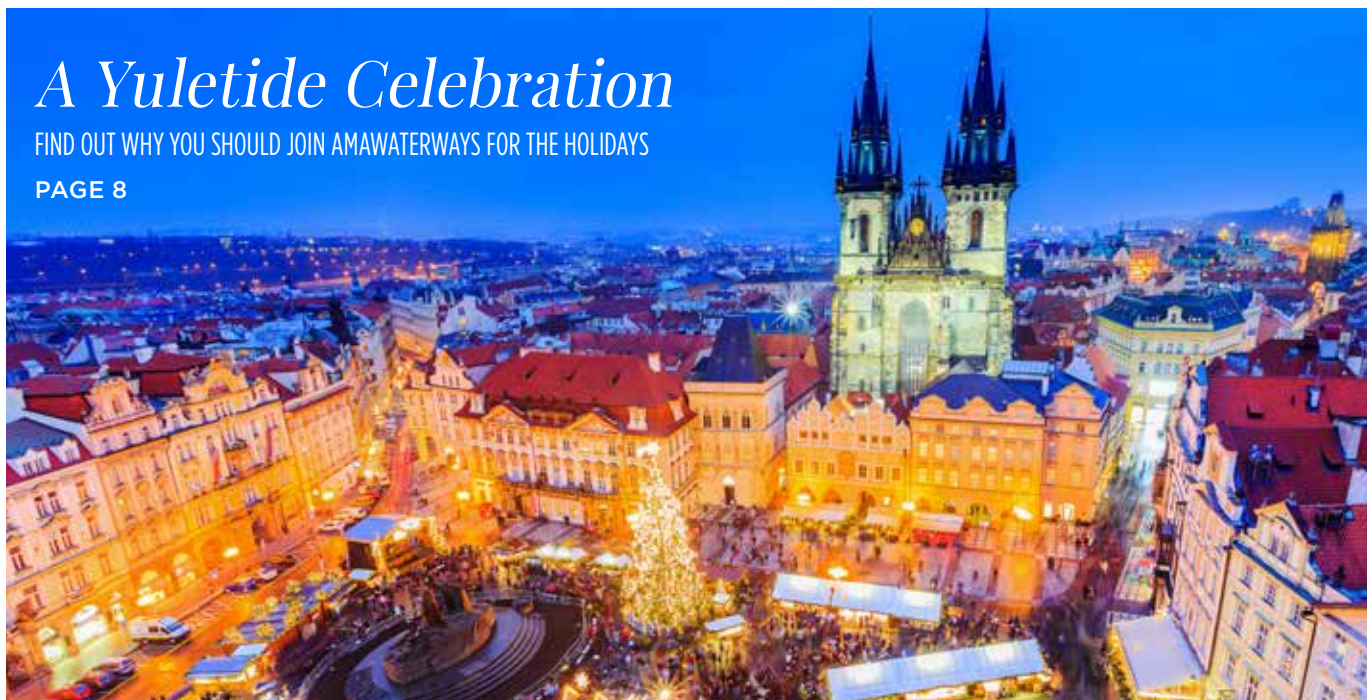


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PLANNING A DREAM GETAWAY

CYNDI CASHMAN
RAVES ABOUT
THE GIRLFRIEND
GETAWAYS
PLANNED BY HER
TRAVEL ADVISOR
DEBBIE — BUT
NONE HAVE BEEN
MORE MEMORABLE
THAN THEIR
AMAWATERWAYS
RIVER CRUISE!

What made you go on a “girlfriend getaway” the first time?

After I was diagnosed with cancer for the second time, I decided to make a bucket list. It was time to kick up my heels with a little less responsibility and a little adventure! My best friend lives in Salt Lake City and I wanted to meet her in New York, but my husband said he didn't want to go. I found some other women who wanted to join us, so I went to my travel advisor, Debbie, and asked her if she'd ever done group trips. She said she needed a ring leader — and that's how the whole thing started. Debbie does the work; I just have the big mouth! Now, each trip we make, I am

amazed at the new girlfriends who join us and the friendships we make.

Which river cruise was your group's first with AmaWaterways?

Christmas Markets on the Rhine. It was my favorite! I never dreamed I would go out of the country, but wow, what a trip it was! I felt so relaxed. It was the best thing. I felt catered to, like a queen aboard the ship, and I just loved it.

What did you enjoy the most about group river cruising with AmaWaterways?

We really got to know everyone on the ship. People gravitated to our group and everything felt smaller.



It was such a friendly getaway. We also loved our Cruise Manager, Betti. Some of us wanted to go out in Amsterdam and she got on the phone and arranged it for us. She was always there to help. We felt like we were among family.

What's the best thing about having your travel advisor cruise with you?

It's like having your mother hold your hand. When we were coming to the ship, we had a three-hour layover in Amsterdam — but we got delayed three hours in Minnesota. Debbie was on her phone most of our first flight and they held the next one 20 minutes until we got there. We made all of our connections.

Would you do another girlfriend getaway with AmaWaterways?

Words can't describe how blessed I have been because of Debbie and AmaWaterways. We loved the Rhine so much, we already have 19 signed up for a Danube cruise in April 2020!



Above: Cyndi (left) and Debbie celebrate their years of friendship. **Left:** Cyndi, Debbie and girlfriends capture the fun of their Christmas sweater contest.



AmaMagna, Passau, Germany



KRISTIN'S TOP 5 GIRLFRIEND OR GUYS' GETAWAYS

TREASURES OF THE MAIN & RHINE

(May-Sep 2020)

TIP: Be among the first to sail aboard our new AmaSiena.

Cruise Critic recently rated Bamberg, Würzburg and Cologne among its top five European river cruise destinations — this cruise takes you through all three, plus the Main-Danube Canal.

ROMANTIC DANUBE

(Mar-Dec 2020)

TIP: Enjoy beer? Add 2 nights pre-cruise in Munich to visit the world-famous Hofbräuhaus.

A great cruise for first-time river cruisers. Fans of *The Sound of Music* will enjoy a full-day excursion to Salzburg, Austria, while active guests will delight in castle hikes and bike rides.

CHARMS OF THE MEKONG

(Jan-Dec 2020; Jan-Apr 2021)

TIP: Cruise during Tet, Vietnam's Lunar New Year celebration (Feb 12, 2021 or Feb 1, 2022).

Fulfill your sense of adventure with your closest friends. Try exotic Vietnamese and Cambodian cuisine, ride a traditional oxcart, be inspired at a Buddhist blessing ceremony and much more!

MAGNA ON THE DANUBE GOLF CRUISE

(Apr-Oct 2020)

TIP: Leave your golf balls and shoe bag at home — your welcome gift includes both.

With AmaMagna's exclusive Concierge Golf Program, you can bring along fellow golfers to perfect your swing at up to five prestigious championship courses in five European countries as you sail a distinctive Danube River itinerary personally curated by AmaWaterways' Co-Founder & President, Rudi Schreiner. **Learn more at [AmaWaterways.com/golf](https://www.amawaterways.com/golf).**

TASTE OF BORDEAUX

(Mar-Nov 2020)

TIP: Make reservations to eat at one of San Sebastián's 16 Michelin Star restaurants by adding our 4-night Spanish Basque Country land program.

Sip wine in beautiful vineyards, discover architectural wonders and sample your way through a French country market.

Learn more about this incredible itinerary on the next page.



BORDEAUX, BASQUE COUNTRY AND THE LOIRE VALLEY

TASTE OF BORDEAUX

A Tantalizing Trio

A TRULY AUTHENTIC FRENCH EXPERIENCE

Where else but on the Garonne and Dordogne rivers will you see historic wine estates and châteaux, an interactive wine museum and timeless vineyards? These two rivers merge, dividing the Bordeaux region into its Left and Right banks, each offering distinctive wines and gastronomic delights. On our all-encompassing *Taste of Bordeaux* river cruise and land adventure, you will be captivated by the legendary Spanish Basque Country, the French wine capital and the “Land of Châteaux,” the Loire Valley, while being treated to the delicious flavors that can only be found in this region of the world. Whether you’re planning to travel solo, with your significant other or with a group of girlfriends, you’ll experience the perfect blend of exquisite wine and French culture and lifestyle — with a dash of Basque.

For the Wine Connoisseur or Foodie

Indulge in a variety of exciting epicurean excursions designed for those who relish the idea of refining their palate. During your pre-cruise land program in Spain, take a stroll and experience the alluring charm of the “City by the Bay of Biscay,” San Sebastián, undoubtedly one of the world’s favorite gastronomy cities. With a wealth of restaurants and a culinary heritage few places can match, San Sebastián is rife with the mouthwatering aromas of *pintxos*, tasty bite-size morsels akin to tapas that boast a variety of toppings, the perfect pairing with a crisp glass of wine. In San Sebastián alone, restaurants have earned a total of 16 prestigious Michelin Stars, and a total of 46 Michelin Stars are dotted around the entire Basque Country! In addition, during



Left: Château de Chambord, France. **From top:** Wine tasting in Bordeaux; San Sebastián, Spain.

your post-cruise land program in France’s Loire Valley, you can dine within the Michelin-starred gourmet restaurant, led by Chef Arnaud Philippon, at your luxury hotel, the historic Château de Pray.

While cruising the Dordogne, savor tantalizing French flavors and divine fragrances of fresh spices as you wander through open-air markets in Libourne, tasting regional specialties

from French cheese to *foie gras*. While sailing the Garonne, treat your taste buds to delicious wine tastings with the breathtaking backdrop of a timeless vineyard. Throughout your journey, visit famous wine estates — Château Latour, Château Mouton Rothschild and Château Léoville Poyferré — where you’ll be able to relish the bold flavors of Grand Cru Classé wines.



Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain

For Architecture and Design Enthusiasts

In Basque Country, art and architecture are often one in the same. Bilbao, Spain is renowned for its groundbreaking Guggenheim Museum, designed by famed Canadian-American architect Frank Gehry. A work of art itself, the museum's daring and innovative façade curves at random with silver panels that catch the light and a flower-like atrium. Inside, walls and pedestals are covered in contemporary paintings, sculptures and collages from artists that include Andy Warhol, German artist Anselm Kiefer, and Basque masters Eduardo Chillida and Jorge Oteiza. Bilbao is also home to the Zubizuri Bridge, a dazzling tied-arch footbridge connecting the banks of the Nervión River that is a sight to behold.

Of course, the Bordeaux region offers its own architectural wonders. Perched upon a hill in Cadillac, the iconic Castle of Roquetaillade, which translates to “carved out of rock,” overlooks the enchanting French countryside. It is indisputably the most famous medieval castle in the southwest of France. The intricate interior design influenced by Renaissance decor was restored in the 19th century by famed architect Viollet-le-Duc to make it inhabitable as it has been owned and lived in by the same family for the past 700 years.

While in the city of Bordeaux, visit one of the more contemporary architectural gems, La Cité du Vin, its wine museum. This unique building was designed to resemble the movement of wine swirling in a glass. Its bold curves, extraordinary shapes, and gold panels stand out

amid historic buildings on the banks of the Garonne River.

Also, explore UNESCO World Heritage Sites such as the idyllic medieval village of Saint-Émilion, home to world-famous wineries; and step inside the mighty 17th-century architectural wonder, the Blaye Citadel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site designed by famous military architect Vauban.

During your post-cruise land program in the Loire Valley, you'll enjoy a stay at the earlier mentioned Château de Pray, a 13th-century castle remodeled during the Renaissance and framed by two protective towers where you can admire traditional French gardens. You'll also travel to Château du Clos Luce — the last home of Leonardo da Vinci, where he completed some of his most famous works under the

patronage of the King of France; and the artist's final resting place, Château d'Amboise, the valley's first Renaissance château. The region's largest such structure, Château de Chambord, is located at the heart of Europe's largest enclosed wooded park. Though it was originally established as a hunting lodge, it now boasts 426 rooms, 77 staircases and 282 fireplaces, a few of which you may have a chance to admire.

For the Active Traveler

Active travelers and cyclists won't have to worry about missing a beat and can join along the city of Bordeaux's amazing network of more than 400 miles of bicycle paths. Imagine yourself taking in the spectacular views while pedaling along picturesque vineyards, scenic landscapes,

and fairytale-like châteaux. Wind your way through Blaye, crossing, at times, Santiago's Path, one of Europe's most famous pilgrimage routes since the Middle Ages. You can also choose to bike from Blaye to Bourg, where you will meet your ship later in the day. If you prefer exploring your new environments by foot, enjoy AmaWaterways' walking tours, or venture deeper into the commune of Libourne on an invigorating hike through one of its renowned vineyards.

One Itinerary Fits All

The legendary Spanish Basque Country, France's Bordeaux region and the Loire Valley highlight the best of the region's culture, lifestyle and cuisine, so contact your preferred travel advisor for this incredible *Taste of Bordeaux* river cruise and land adventure today!

Holiday Wine Pairings from Bordeaux

Wondering what to pour at your next Christmas dinner? Here are the wines you should keep on your radar while traveling through Bordeaux — and what they're best served alongside.

FOR YOUR HOLIDAY POT ROAST, choose Bordeaux's St. Émilion, Pomerol Merlot Cabernet.

IF YOU PREFER TASTY SEAFOOD, pair a crisp, dry yet refreshing bottle of Sauternes Sauvignon Blanc made from Sémillon grapes.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN EXQUISITE BOTTLE OF BUBBLY TO CELEBRATE THE OCCASION? Bordeaux's famed Barons de Rothschild champagne is the perfect pairing for your magical evening.

Join TV Host Samantha Brown as she Discovers the *Taste of Bordeaux*

Join Emmy® award-winning TV host, celebrated travel expert and our own Godmother of

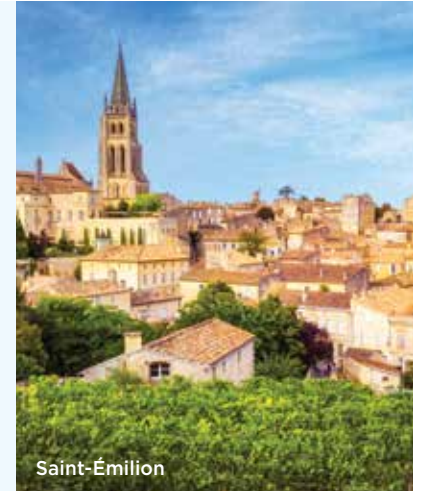
AmaMagna, Samantha Brown, on a very special *Taste of Bordeaux* cruise from August 6-13, 2020.

During this unique departure, Samantha will be hosting dinners in *The Chef's Table* specialty restaurant, as well as sharing insider tips and stories from her travels during two engaging onboard presentations.

Samantha's PBS show, *Places to Love*, launches its third season in

January 2020 and focuses on the authentic side of travel that brings the passion of the people and the soul of each destination to life. Having filmed on board AmaPrima on the Rhine and hosted a cruise on board AmaMagna on the Danube, Samantha is looking forward to exploring Bordeaux for the first time with AmaWaterways.

Whether you're a fan of *Places to Love*, are inspired by châteaux and idyllic scenery, or simply wish to taste the difference between Bordeaux's Right and Left bank wines, this sailing is sure to be unforgettable.



TASTE OF BORDEAUX

AmaDolce
7-night roundtrip
Bordeaux, France cruise
August 6-13, 2020

Ready to book? Contact your preferred travel advisor, call 1.888.626.6417 or visit [AmaWaterways.com](https://www.AmaWaterways.com) today.



Looking for unique treasures, Vienna Christmas Market, Austria

A hand wearing a red velvet glove holds a round, clear Christmas ornament with a red and white design. The background is a warm, bokeh-filled scene of various holiday decorations, including gold and silver ornaments, garlands, and a small white figurine on a shelf.

A YULETIDE CELEBRATION

INSIDE:

Co-Founder Rudi Schreiner looks back on Christmases past, our Cruise Managers' Guide to the Christmas Markets, a holiday spotlight on Prague, seasonal wellness tips and recipes, and why you should deck the halls with AmaWaterways in 2020.

FROM JAGERTEE TO HOLIDAY LIGHTS



FIND OUT WHY CO-FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT RUDI SCHREINER'S
BEST HOLIDAY MEMORIES ARE ON EUROPE'S RIVERS.

I love cruising on the ships at the holidays just as much as our guests do. In fact, Kristin and

I were on board for seven years in a row for Christmas. The journey was our gift.

Europe's Christmas Markets originally were open just for people to buy unique ornaments, holiday decorations, warm socks and sweaters. I grew up in Vienna, where there used to be one central market. Now there are about 40 throughout the city and each has a different theme.

I don't buy much at the markets myself, but I do snack. My favorite is Jagertee, a punch made with rum, black tea and spices. I also love *leberkäse*. It's a blend of corned beef, pork and bacon, prepared almost like a meatloaf and served on a fresh roll with pickles and mustard. You can sometimes find it at German Christmas Markets.

Advent in Vienna

In Austria, we celebrate Advent on the 5th and 6th of December. The 5th is Devil's Day and all the older kids dress up like the devil (known in Austria as the Krampus) to scare the little kids. The 6th is St. Nicholas Day, where children put their shoes

out at night, and if they were good, they get goodies and if they were bad, they get coal. We continue this same tradition on our ships. We encourage guests to put their shoes outside their stateroom at night, and the next morning they are surprised with something.

In Vienna, we put out our Advent wreath at the beginning of December. It would hang from the ceiling above our dining table. You light one candle the first Sunday before Christmas and so on until all candles have been lit.

In Austria, we have our big celebration on Christmas Eve. Children leave the house with other relatives while parents set up the tree and put the presents under the tree, so when you come back, it's like magic. It's that same magic we try to recreate for guests on our Christmas Markets cruises.

Best Christmas Memory

One year, we were traveling on our *Iconic Christmas Markets* cruise on

the Danube River. On Christmas Eve, we were in Budapest overnight, so we wandered off to a midnight mass at St. Stephen's Cathedral. Outside the church there was a massive group of people trying to get in. Kristin and I made our way through the crowd all the way up to the altar and there, the Cardinal of Budapest was performing mass. I received my communion from him. I will never forget that experience.

Why Join us for a Holiday Cruise

What's absolutely amazing in many cities are the incredible holiday light fixtures. Vienna has the most spectacular Christmas lighting on the Graben, the most famous street in the city center. It looks like monster chandeliers hanging down from the sky in an outdoor ballroom and every street has different lights. One has white lights, another has big red globes, and as you approach the Hofburg Palace, one has a wall of lights that looks like snow.

If you want to have fun, join us!

See if you can experience the wonder of Christmas Eve at St. Stephen's Cathedral like Rudi. Our December 18, 2020 **Christmas Markets on the Danube** departure aboard AmaSonata takes you to Budapest overnight. Or, see what's available to you in Rudi's hometown of Vienna during an overnight on our December 20, 2020 departure of **Iconic Christmas Markets** aboard AmaCerto.

“ I love cruising on the ships at the holidays just as much as our guests do. ”



Vienna, Austria



Danube River



Budapest, Hungary

CRUISE MANAGERS' GUIDE

TO THE

DANUBE

Christmas Markets

OUR OWN CRUISE MANAGERS DEJAN AND KRISS SHARE
WHAT TO EAT, DRINK AND HUNT FOR DURING OUR CHRISTMAS
MARKETS ITINERARIES ON THE DANUBE RIVER.



Old Town Christmas Market, Prague, Czech Republic



Dejan

Fluent in English, Spanish, Serbian and Croatian, Dejan currently lives in Barcelona, Spain.

Favorite Market: Vienna Christmas Markets are straight out of fairytales; Salzburg is another highlight and Budapest and Prague are stunning. It's hard to choose — each day is a new surprise and another adventure!

Best Souvenir:

Toys, glass-blown ornaments and **hand-carved wooden angels** ▶ are my favorites.

Favorite Ornament on My Tree:

Each year, I find something new, from glass-blown



ornaments to angels to dragons and Santa Claus. Krampus is something you can find in Austria — and it has a very interesting story behind it!

WHY ANGELS?: In

countries like Austria, Germany and Hungary,

it's not Santa who brings children presents.

Instead, it's the Christkind, a baby with golden locks and angelic wings meant to resemble the newborn Christ. Many so-called

“angel” figurines at the Christmas Markets are actually artist representations of Christkind.

THE KRAMPUS: In

Austria, many families celebrate St. Nicholas Day on December 6, when they wake up to find that St. Nicholas has put candy in the shoes of good kids and twigs in those of naughty ones. It is believed that St. Nicholas is often accompanied by the Krampus, a horned monster who punishes children who have misbehaved.



Kriss

An avid cyclist and resident of the Netherlands, Kriss has traveled to more than 44 countries.

Favorite Market: Vienna's at Schönbrunn Palace because the setting is lovely. Or the Art Advent at Karlsplatz, because it has children's activities and handmade items from local artisans.

Best Souvenir: The wooden ornaments like the “Christmas pyramid” from Germany. And treats like spiced mulled wine and gingerbread. You can even find gluten-free, which is a treat for everyone!

Favorite Ornament on My Tree: My

favorite ornaments are **hand-blown glass.** ▶



They look so elegant and it's so pretty to see the lights shine through them.

THE CHRISTMAS

PYRAMID: What many believe to be the precursor to the Christmas tree, the Christmas pyramid looks more like a carousel and was originally hung from the ceiling in German

homes. Evergreen boughs, small candles and paper ornaments were strung around it, and inside, figurines such as nativity scenes would be displayed.

Beautiful miniature versions of the Christmas

pyramid are often sold as ornaments in German markets.

HISTORY OF THE

NUTCRACKER: The oldest known nutcracker tool dates from the third or fourth century B.C. However, standing wooden nutcrackers painted like soldiers appeared in Germany by 1800. In 1830, the term “Nussknacker” was coined by the Brothers Grimm. Some forty years later in 1872, Wilhelm Fuchtnier, known as the “Father of the Nutcracker” was the first to commercially produce them. They were later made popular by the Nutcracker Ballet.

Ask your travel advisor about our **2020 HOLIDAY TRIPLE SAVINGS!** See page 21 to choose your itinerary. You can see Prague (pictured left) as part of our full **Christmas Markets on the Danube** or **Iconic Christmas Markets** cruise and land itinerary.

Learn more on page 14.

MAKE A LIST and CZECH IT TWICE



WHETHER YOU VISIT PRAGUE'S CHRISTMAS MARKETS OR VENTURE OFF TO ITS JEWISH QUARTER, THERE ARE TREASURES TO BEHOLD DURING THE HOLIDAYS AND ALL YEAR ROUND.

The capital of the Czech Republic and "City of a Hundred Spires," fascinating Prague can be discovered during one of our fully-guided pre- or post-cruise land programs on many Danube River itineraries. Of course, we recommend adding Prague to your 7-night *Christmas Markets on the Danube* or *Iconic Christmas Markets* cruise, both of which offer visits to Prague's Christmas Markets, as well as free time to explore more of Prague on your own.

Jolly Old Mikuláš

In the Czech Republic, St. Nick takes the vastly different form of Mikuláš. Forget the famous red

velvet coat and even Mrs. Claus. Mikuláš is single, prefers white robes and is lowered down to Earth from the heavens via a basket and golden rope. His traveling partners are his two assistants: an angel and the devil-like Krampus. On December 24th, however, it's not Mikuláš or the Krampus — but rather Baby Jesus (Jezisek) — who leaves gifts under the tree.

The Christmas Markets of Prague

Mikuláš and the Krampus appear occasionally as ornaments and toy trinkets within Prague's wondrous Christmas Markets. The city's two largest markets are held at the Old

Town Square and Wenceslas Square, centrally located and only about a five-minute walk apart. Open from approximately November 30 to January 6 — including on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day — both markets feature a daily tree lighting ceremony, wooden stables with nativity scenes and live entertainment.

Czech Holiday Delights

Of course, Prague's holiday market stalls do not disappoint. There you'll be tempted by local delicacies that include *medovina* (honey wine), bright red *pražká klobása* sausages, *trdelník* (long, cylindrical grilled pastries topped with sugar and walnuts) and *svažené víno* (the strong Czech version of hot mulled wine). As for souvenirs, hand-blown and hand-painted glass ornaments are a staple, as are marionettes, a nod to Prague serving as the home base for the Czech Republic's National Marionette Theatre. You'll also find hand-embroidered lace, a traditional local craft since medieval times; miniature versions of Prague's astronomical clock; and aromatic Christmas potpourri known as *purpura*.

Jewish Prague

You may also choose to venture beyond the Christmas Markets during your time in Prague, perhaps to the city's Jewish Quarter (Josefov). The birthplace of celebrated novelist Franz Kafka, it was once home to more than 90,000 Jewish residents — the largest number of any city in the world. However, as in many European cities, Prague's Jewish community fell victim to the tragic events of the Holocaust during World War II. Today, Prague is filled with Jewish culture and historic landmarks worth visiting.

Spectacular Houses of Worship

Prague's Jubilee Synagogue, also known as Jerusalem Synagogue, is the most colorful — and perhaps most photographed — in all of Prague. Built in 1906, it fuses together both Moorish and Art Nouveau architectural styles. Its façade graces the cobblestone with an almost Disney-esque fairytale presence, while its interior boasts beautiful stained glass, mosaic elements, marbled columns and a small museum.

For a deeply moving experience, visit Prague's second oldest surviving synagogue. Opened in 1535, Pinkas Synagogue holds the names of more than 77,000 Jews who perished during the Holocaust, as well as artwork from children imprisoned at Terezín Labor Camp. Another structure, the Old-New Synagogue, is the oldest active synagogue in Europe. Built in 1270, this house of worship conjures awe with its cave-like entrance and medieval atmosphere.

The Circle of Life

Witness the circle of life by visiting Prague's Old Jewish Cemetery, which, for more than 300 years, served as the city's sole Jewish burial site. With intended room for just 1,200 plots, there are an estimated 100,000 individuals who found their final resting place in this historic place, with nearly as many headstones still standing to match. After paying your respects, see Prague's vibrant Jewish culture very much alive on Old Cemetery Street. This narrow lane is lined with stands selling a variety of Jewish souvenirs. Later, pop over to the kitschy Golem Restaurant, themed around the fictitious Golem, a magical clay monster created by a rabbi in the early 1600s to "protect" the Jewish Quarter from anti-Semitic attacks.

Czech Holiday Greetings

Veselé Vánoce
(Merry Christmas)

Šťastnou Chanuku
(Happy Hanukkah)

Šťastný Nový Rok
(Happy New Year)

Šťastné Svátky
(Happy Holidays)



Left: Prague's Jubilee Synagogue. From top: *trdelník* Czech pastries; marionette souvenirs.

To learn more about our **HOLIDAY TRIPLE SAVINGS**, visit [AmaWaterways.com/Christmas](https://www.amawaterways.com/Christmas). Discover Prague for yourself as part of your **Christmas Markets on the Danube** or **Iconic Christmas Markets** pre- or post-cruise land program in 2020.

TIPS FOR A HAPPY, HEALTHY HOLIDAY

AMAWATERWAYS' SPORTS SCIENTIST AND CORPORATE WELLNESS HOST SELINA WANK OFFERS TIPS FOR HOW TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH YOUR OVERALL WELLNESS IN MIND.



Selina Wank, Corporate Wellness Host

Many people indulge in warm beverages during colder winter months. What is your favorite healthy warm drink and why?

I like to take a cup of hot water and squeeze lemon into it, add a spoonful of honey and a few ginger slices. It's the perfect immune booster during cold days and the taste can be adjusted to everyone's preferences by adapting the amount of honey, ginger and lemon added.

What are your best tips for making healthy choices during the holidays while still indulging in seasonal favorites?

The most important tip is to carry on with your usual exercise routine — or start while on vacation with AmaWaterways. This way, indulging in good food will be more guilt-free. Drinking two glasses of water before a meal will help to control portion sizes. Just be aware of your daily caloric intake and enjoy everything in moderation.

Colder temperatures often dissuade people from engaging in physical activities outdoors. What are some relatively easy

low-impact exercises that can be done indoors without the need for expensive equipment?

All you need are some resistance bands, a yoga mat, maybe a medicine ball and some good music to get going. In general, body weight exercises such as squats, planks, sit-ups, leg lifts and gluteal kicks are the easiest to do at home without the need of additional equipment. The most important thing is to set a goal before starting your home routine. For example, doing 30 repetitions of each exercise or aiming for a full 20- to 30-minute workout.



Biking along the Seine River, France



Yoga on the Sun Deck

Are there any fitness implements that should be on our guests' holiday wish lists?

Having a resistance band with you while traveling is the most convenient way to carry on with low-impact stretching and core-strengthening exercise routines on the road or while on vacation. Of course, AmaWaterways' Wellness Hosts also have a supply of resistance bands for you to use while on board!

This is the time of year that cold and flu tend to strike. What are your best tips for keeping these illnesses at bay?

Avoid a lot of cold to warm to cold temperature changes. Get enough sleep at night and, most importantly, listen to your body. If you feel tired or exhausted, allow yourself some down time. Nutrition-wise, ensure that you are eating plenty of fresh vitamin-rich vegetables and fruits. Adding ginger and garlic to your favorite recipes is also a flavorful way to boost your immune system.

Selina Wank oversees AmaWaterways' fleetwide wellness activities. Some of her past experience has included working with both high-performance and disabled track athletes, and participating in Iron Man competitions.

For more information about AmaWaterways' wellness activities, visit [AmaWaterways.com/explore/wellness](https://www.amawaterways.com/explore/wellness).

Always consult your physician before making any changes to your diet or exercise program.



NEW!

MEKONG Wellness Activities

AmaWaterways' professionally trained Wellness Hosts lead a variety of invigorating activities designed to enhance your wellness while sailing the Mekong River aboard the distinctive AmaDara. In addition to morning stretching, core strengthening, resistance band classes and active wellness walks, you may be able to participate in the following, depending on your Wellness Host's expertise:

Tea Ceremony

Let our Wellness Host introduce you to the traditional way of making 100% organic teas for the purposes of detoxifying, healing and reenergizing.

Yoga

An easy 30- to 45-minute introduction to yoga, perfect for all skill levels, including beginners.

Tai Chi

An art that embraces the mind, body and spirit.

Meditation

A 30-minute focus on breathing techniques, centering one's thoughts and the use of a healing bowl.

Get a glimpse of our Mekong River itineraries at [AmaWaterways.com/Mekong](https://www.amawaterways.com/Mekong).

HOT MULLED WINE

AN ESSENTIAL PART OF WINTER IN EUROPE

Brighten up the long winter nights the way Europeans have for centuries with an intensely warming and fragrant drink of hot mulled wine fortified with spices, herbs, fruit and fruit juices, hard alcohol and a sweetener like honey or sugar, or any combination of those ingredients. This favorite traditional beverage can be found throughout many of Europe's Christmas Markets with different variations of mulled wine recipes, depending on the region. For example, in Hungary, it is *forralt*; in France, it's *vin chaud*; and in Germany and Austria, it is called *glühwein*. Even though there are countless varieties, three ingredients remain common across traditions — red or white wine, baking spices such as cloves, and citrus.

Travel on one of our Danube or Rhine Christmas Markets cruises on a multi-country tour, and you'll be able to sample mulled wine as it is prepared by different cultures. No matter what the ingredients are between the heated wine and the spices, it's the perfect way to warm up, both inside and out.

You can also try this festive Franconian *glühwein* made with Silvaner or Müller-Thurgau wine, apple juice from the region, fresh citrus fruits and Franconian plum brandy for your holiday party.



Enjoying some *glühwein*



Glühwein

INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups of white wine (Silvaner or Müller-Thurgau)
- 1 cup apple juice
- 1/4 cup Franconian plum brandy (optional but recommended, as a little of the alcohol cooks out of the wine)
- 4 slices of orange
- 2 slices of lemon
- 1 stick of cinnamon
- 1 star anise
- 5 allspice seeds
- 3 whole cloves
- 1 pinch of aniseed
- 1 tsp. honey (if you like it sweeter, add a bit more)
- Extra slices of fruit for garnish, if desired

PREPARATION

- In a medium-sized stock pot with a tight-fitting lid, combine all of the ingredients, except for the honey. Stir to combine.
- Cover and bring the mixture to a boil, then simmer, keeping the lid on, for 10 minutes. Be careful not to let it come to a boil again; if it boils too long all of the alcohol will be cooked out.
- After 10 minutes, immediately remove from the heat. Strain the mixture with a fine mesh sieve; discard the aromatics. Return the mixture to the pot and taste-test. Stir in honey, tasting as you go until you reach your desired sweetness.
- Ladle into desired serving glasses. Garnish with sliced fruit, cinnamon sticks, cloves, or star anise pods, if desired. Serve immediately.

Healthy Holiday Haute Cuisine

RECIPES TO SPICE UP YOUR CELEBRATION — WITHOUT REGRET!



Beetroot Salad

Beets have gained popularity in recent years due to their natural health benefits. Low in calories with anti-inflammatory betalains, beets also boast a beautiful burgundy color that makes any meal a festive one at this special time of year. Mix up your regular holiday menu by tossing our very own beetroot salad for a pop of color!

INGREDIENTS

- 3-4 medium beetroot
- 2 cooked apples
- 2 oz. walnuts
- 2-3 cloves of garlic
- 3-4 tbsp mayonnaise

Options to add:

- Sliced prunes
- Sliced dried apricots
- Herbs
- Raisins

PREPARATION

Place the beetroot into a saucepan with enough water to cover by 1 inch; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low, cover and simmer until the beets are easily pierced with a fork, about 20 minutes. Peel and core the apples. Grate the beetroot and the apples. Add chopped walnuts and crushed garlic and dress with mayonnaise.

Makes 4 servings



Chocolate Mousse

(Low-Carb and Sugar-Free)

We understand and appreciate that many of our guests have unique dietary needs. That's why we are pleased to share one of our guests' favorite low-carb and sugar-free desserts. Easy to make and prepared with fiber-rich avocados, which are also naturally sodium- and cholesterol-free, this AmaWaterways recipe may just become one of your go-to indulgences!

INGREDIENTS

- 2 Hass avocados
- 2 Tbsp coconut oil
- 1/2 cup premium cocoa powder
- 1 tsp Stevia sweetener
- 3 Tbsp sugar-free chocolate-flavored syrup
- 4 Tbsp heavy cream

PREPARATION

For the pudding: Combine all ingredients in a blender or Magic Bullet and puree until smooth. Taste and adjust sweetness as necessary. If too thick, add a splash of heavy cream until you get the consistency you want for the pudding.

For the mousse: Whip one cup of heavy whipping cream with 1 tsp Stevia until stiff.

Using a rubber spatula, gently fold 1/3 of the whipped cream into the pudding. Then, gently fold the pudding mixture into the rest of the whipped cream until blended and smooth.

Makes 4 servings

Is there an onboard recipe that you'd like to see in a future issue? Email us at myamastory@AmaWaterways.com.



Regensburg, Germany



Viennese pastries



Apple strudel

Guest Testimonial:

ICONIC CHRISTMAS MARKETS

When corporate travel manager Donna Bibbo and her husband Ken decided to embark on our *Iconic Christmas Markets* itinerary from Nuremberg, Germany to Budapest, Hungary, they described their premier river cruise experience as “first class all the way.”

From festive holiday decorations to fun traditions, they were filled with holiday spirit on board. Discovering cities and towns like Vienna, Passau and Regensburg adorned with garlands and dazzling lights, the Bibbos were well prepared to shop with an extra suitcase and roll of bubble wrap in tow. Two of the most cherished keepsakes they returned home with were a hand-painted nutcracker from Nuremberg and a rolling pin with a stenciled pattern,



a unique gift for their son who graduated culinary school as a baker.

Of course, the tempting local delights were a highlight of their Christmas Markets itinerary. “Each market had its own flavor and food specialties,” said Donna. “A bakery was recommended to us near Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna with the best apple strudel I’ve ever tasted. It was swimming in vanilla sauce — just superb. And at every market we had to have gingerbread. It was my husband’s daily fix!”

As for the onboard cuisine, Donna emphasized the dishes she and her husband have had aboard ocean cruises don’t hold a candle to those prepared during their river cruise. “AmaWaterways’ food blew theirs away,” she said. “In fact, on the breakfast buffet, I wanted to

steal the cinnamon bread, pack it and take it home with me!”

Aside from palate-pleasing delicacies, the Bibbos’ favorite memories of their Christmas Markets cruise were of the beautiful snow that blanketed the city of Budapest, and the waiter who disembarked the ship in Passau, Germany, just to locate a spicy condiment requested the night before by Ken. “The chef had whipped something up so Ken could use it, but when our waiter came ashore just to buy us hot sauce the next day, that really was going above and beyond,” recalled Donna.

Though the Bibbos are already booked on a *Tulip Time* cruise for next spring, Donna isn’t ruling out another Christmas Markets sailing in the future. “I thought my husband would get tired of them, but he said we could do the Rhine itinerary too. Yay!”

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS

with AmaWaterways

2020 CHRISTMAS MARKETS AND NEW YEAR'S CRUISE ITINERARIES

ICONIC CHRISTMAS MARKETS



*2 nights Budapest, Hungary,
7-night Budapest to Nuremberg,
Germany cruise & 3 nights
Prague, Czech Republic
(or reverse)*

Marvel at the giant sparkling tree dominating Vienna's Schönbrunn Palace, taste Nuremberg's famous bratwurst and lebkuchen gingerbread and experience the magic of Bavaria's most romantic Christmas Market at Regensburg's Thurn and Taxis Palace.

AmaCerto, AmaLea,
AmaPrima, AmaViola

CHRISTMAS MARKETS ON THE DANUBE



*2 nights Budapest, Hungary,
7-night Budapest to Vilshofen,
Germany cruise & 3 nights
Prague, Czech Republic
(or reverse)*

Witness the majesty of Melk's Benedictine abbey, savor Wachau Valley Grüner Veltliner and Riesling wines as well as Vienna's famous apple strudel and be awed by the more than 700 illuminated trees that line Salzburg's Hellbrunn Palace.

AmaCerto, AmaMagna,
AmaPrima, AmaSerena,
AmaSonata

CHRISTMAS MARKETS ON THE RHINE



*2 nights Amsterdam, Netherlands,
7-night Amsterdam to Basel,
Switzerland cruise & 2 nights
Lucerne + 2 nights Zurich
(or reverse)*

Gaze up at Cologne's impressive Gothic cathedral from its colorful Christmas Market, try pan-fried *reibekuchen* (potato pancakes) and Rudesheimer coffee, and witness the whimsical lighting of Gengenbach, Germany's artistic town hall Advent calendar.

AmaKristina, AmaMora,
AmaSiena, AmaStella

NEW YEAR'S CRUISES

Join us for a luxurious gala dinner celebration as we ring in the new year with Champagne, music and dancing, as well as opportunities to see spectacular fireworks along the Danube and Rhine rivers.



CHRISTMAS MARKETS ON THE RHINE

AmaMora - December 27, 2020
AmaKristina - December 28, 2020

MAGNA ON THE DANUBE

AmaMagna - December 27, 2020

ROMANTIC DANUBE

AmaSerena - December 25, 2020

MELODIES OF THE DANUBE

AmaSonata - December 25, 2020
AmaLea - December 26, 2020
AmaCerto - December 27, 2020
AmaPrima - December 27, 2020
AmaViola - December 28, 2020

LIMITED-TIME OFFER: HOLIDAY TRIPLE SAVINGS

SAVE \$1,000
PER PERSON

+

RECEIVE
A COMPLIMENTARY
STATEROOM UPGRADE

+

\$50 PER PERSON
ONBOARD CREDIT

For offer details and terms or more information on our [Christmas Markets and New Year's Cruises](https://www.amawaterways.com/Christmas), visit [AmaWaterways.com/Christmas](https://www.amawaterways.com/Christmas).



Tales and Tips from a *SOLO TRAVELER*

SOLO TRAVELER JUDY NUTTER SHARES HER EXPERIENCE AND WISDOM

What inspired you to take an AmaWaterways river cruise as a solo traveler?

I've been a solo traveler for some time because I'm single and have no kids or grandkids. I can't always travel with friends because we have differing schedules and priorities. Many people's reaction to hearing that I travel by myself is, "Are you afraid?" And I answer, "Of what? What am I supposed to be afraid of?" We're not guaranteed anything. Do the things you want to do and enjoy them while you can. That's the overall mindset you need to have to be a successful solo traveler. Also, part of the appeal of traveling solo is that I'm not responsible for anyone else. There's a freedom that comes with that and you can enjoy the solitude of your stateroom or sitting up on deck in peace.



Where did you sail on your first river cruise?

The first river cruise I took with AmaWaterways was a *Christmas Markets* cruise. I felt like I was losing the Christmas spirit. I also live in Dallas where it's not even very cold at Christmastime. It's hard to think of Santa when you're wearing flip flops and shorts! During my cruise I met a local man who looked exactly like Santa, with the white beard and warm clothes. It was magical!

Did you find it easy to meet other guests at dinner and during excursions?

You're thrown together with fellow cruisers from the very beginning. And there's always someone there to greet you at the hotel or on the ship. I never felt like I was by myself. I also met friends on the van from the airport and I'm still in touch with people I met

three years ago on my first river cruise. In fact, I recently spent a great weekend in Florida with a lovely couple I met on my Mekong River trip at 6:00 am at the Hanoi Airport. Keep your eyes and mind open because you never know when or where a friendship will begin — even at baggage claim after flying all night.

Did any of AmaWaterways' crew go above and beyond for you?

They all did. Everyone was so welcoming I started to wonder at what point will they get tired of being pleasant? The crew was so grateful to see us, so happy all the time, so thrilled to see me on board. Also, I'm not a coffee drinker and I don't like hot tea, but the first morning I asked for a Diet Coke for breakfast. My waiter remembered and put a Diet Coke in front of me every single day.

What advice can you give potential first-time solo cruisers?

If you have a question, ask! Your travel advisor or a crew member on board has the answer. Don't be afraid to introduce yourself to people, even if it's a couple or an entire group. If there's an empty seat, ask to sit there and talk to them. Doing this, I met six wonderful people during my Christmas Markets cruise and it was instant friendship — we were joined at the hip for the rest of the trip and would love to do another cruise together.

For more information on our **Solo Traveler Program** and special offers, please visit AmaWaterways.com/solo.

Perks of Traveling Solo with AmaWaterways

Solo travelers cruising with AmaWaterways always enjoy the following:

- Service of attentive crew who recognize your individual preferences
- Assistance with planning your ideal shore excursion program
- An invitation to an exclusive Welcome Cocktail Reception where you can meet fellow travelers
- Small-group guided excursions that immerse you in culture, like wine and beer tastings, cooking demonstrations and more
- A welcoming dining environment with open seating, encouraging guests to mingle and connect
- Inviting wellness activities led by a professionally trained Wellness Host who will help you meet your goals
- An invitation to dine at the Captain's Table
- And more!



**NEW 2020****LOYALTY APPRECIATION CRUISES***News & Updates***MORE DEPARTURES, MORE VARIETY, NEW ITINERARIES AND NEW SHIPS!**

We absolutely loved spending time with many of you aboard our first-ever exclusive Loyalty Appreciation Cruises last

month. Your devotion, passion and energy were inspiring, and the feedback we received from those of you who participated in our onboard focus groups was enlightening. In fact, based on what was shared, we decided to expand our Loyalty Cruise offerings in 2020, giving you more variety in when and where you sail, and offering you a chance to experience one of our newest itineraries and our newest ship!

2020 LOYALTY APPRECIATION DEPARTURES**TREASURES OF THE MAIN & RHINE**

AmaDante

May 14, 2020

Nuremberg, Germany to Amsterdam, Netherlands

Discover the storybook atmosphere of Germany's top-rated destinations on this unforgettable departure that combines two rivers into one incredible journey. Würzburg, with its UNESCO-designated Residenz Palace, Bamberg with its famous smoked beer and Cologne's awe-inspiring cathedral are among the treasures you'll experience on the Main and Rhine rivers.

**GEMS OF SOUTHEAST EUROPE**

AmaPrima

August 2, 2020

Giurgiu, Romania to Budapest, Hungary

Touch history in five culture-rich countries — Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria — as you sail along the fascinating lower Danube through Eastern Europe. Let the blending of nature, art and architecture inspire you at sites like Bulgaria's ethereal Belogradchik Fortress, the historic Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo and the surreal sculpture of Dacian King Decebalus as you cruise through the Iron Gates, forever becoming part of this distinctive region's story.





CHARMS OF THE MEKONG

AmaDara

October 26, 2020

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam to Kampong Cham, Cambodia

Glide peacefully through Vietnam and Cambodia aboard the distinctive AmaDara, visiting rural villages, historic pagodas, local markets and a Buddhist monastery. Ride aboard an oxcart and a tuk tuk, witness craftsmanship passed down through generations at local workshops and meet inspiring and gracious people who have overcome great challenges to show you the beauty of their homeland. For more of what you can experience on this itinerary, turn to page 34.



RHINE & MOSELLE SPLENDORS

AmaSiena

November 4, 2020

Luxembourg to Basel, Switzerland

Expand your imagination in fairytale villages — Cochem, Bernkastel, Rudesheim and Riquewihr — where folklore and history come alive and half-timbered houses line medieval lanes. Let the many flavors of the region tantalize your taste buds, including the famous wines from Germany's Rheingau and Moselle valleys, and France's Alsatian Valley. From the breathtaking river less traveled, the Moselle, to the legendary Rhine, this journey is rich with unique blends of cultural heritage and memorable sites

LOYALTY PERKS

Just as on our 2019 Loyalty Cruises, every unforgettable Loyalty Cruise departure in 2020 will offer exclusive events, unique experiences in multiple ports, commemorative gifts and many more surprises and delights for our valued past guests who have sailed with us throughout the years. More to come soon.

2020 LOYALTY APPRECIATION OFFERS

Book one of our Loyalty Appreciation Cruises to take advantage of the following exclusive savings, extended to your friends and family as well.

CHOOSE YOUR OFFER:

FREE Economy Air or 2-for-1 Business Class

OR

\$1,000 per person cruise savings for past guests

OR

Reduced Single Supplement of 10% available for solo travelers

Best of all, these incredible offers are combinable with your \$100 past guest savings.

Terms apply; visit **AmaWaterways.com/LoyaltyEvent** for details.

Come aboard to see some familiar faces and make new friends on the river while being recognized for your loyalty to AmaWaterways.

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK



Keep track of the latest updates on our Loyalty Appreciation Cruises at Facebook.com/groups/AmaWaterwaysLoyaltyCruises.

Why Cruise through EUROPE IN SPRING?

Soar to New Heights

Spring is the ideal time for our guided hikes that allow you to venture further into destinations while enveloping yourself in the season of rebirth and renewal. Hike to the ruined fortress in Dürnstein, Austria, where Richard the Lionheart was once held, trek among the spectacular rock formations at Belogradchik — one of Bulgaria's natural wonders — or ascend the steep Ravenna Gorge in Germany's storybook Black Forest.

Feel the Wind in Your Hair

Sunshine and gentle breezes perfectly set the scene for our guided biking tours as well. Pedal to the idyllic village of Kinderdijk, Netherlands, with its historic

UNESCO-designated windmills; cycle past Roman relics in Trier along Germany's Moselle River; or bike through Strasbourg, France's romantic Parc de l'Orangerie and watch as the sunlight flickers through the leafy arches of the pergola.

Admire Fresh Blooms

The Netherlands' famous rows of tulips are at their most brilliant in April, while Austria, France and Germany are pretty in pink with jubilant spring cherry blossoms adorning local trees. Portuguese trees also bloom with white and pink almond blossoms during spring.

Spargel and Strawberry Fever

Fresh white asparagus, known as *spargel* throughout Germany,

creates a craze throughout many European countries from April through June, including Austria, France and the Netherlands. In addition to creating exquisite dishes like asparagus risotto, our expert chefs will prepare delights made with fresh seasonal strawberries while sailing through Austria, France and Portugal during spring.

Engage in Local Traditions

Shop for beautifully painted Easter eggs and other homemade crafts at Europe's Festive Easter Markets:

- **Salzburg, Austria**

(April 4-April 13, 2020)

- **Prague, Czech Republic**

(March 28-April 19, 2020)

What to Pack for Europe in Spring

YOUR
AMAWATERWAYS
RIVER CRUISE
CHECKLIST

ALL GUESTS

→ Comfortable closed-toe walking shoes. Pro Tip:

Make sure your shoes are comfortably broken in without being too worn.

→ Layers. In early spring, temperatures in Europe may still be in the 50s and could drop into the 30s at night. Bring a jacket or fleece as well as a hat, scarf and gloves for any



evening excursions through mid to late April. Have both short-sleeve

and long-sleeve shirts with you, as well as long pants and socks, especially for evenings. By May, you can likely leave your colder-weather

accessories at home, throw in a pair of shorter pants or shorts for warmer days, and carry a lighter jacket.



→ Hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. Even when it is overcast, you can get a sunburn!

→ Cross-body purse, shoulder bag, backpack or daypack, for snacks, medication, identification and the unexpected souvenir. Use the safe in your stateroom for any valuables.
→ European 2-prong power adapter.



- **Vienna, Austria**
(March 27-April 13, 2020)
- **Nuremberg, Germany**
(April 2020 — check with local tourist office for exact dates)

Celebrate the Season

Or plan your trip around local spring festivals:

- **Budapest, Hungary** Spring Festival (March 30-April 22, 2020)
- **Munich, Germany** Spring Festival (April 24-May 10, 2020)
- **Taste of Paris** at the Grand Palais (May 14-May 17, 2020) — The world's greatest gastronomy festival

Visit event websites for more information.

GET FREE AIR WHEN YOU BOOK SELECT 2020 SPRING EUROPE DEPARTURES.

Limited gateways.
Visit AmaWaterways.com
for details.



Prague, Czech Republic

ACTIVE GUESTS

If you plan on participating in our hiking and biking excursions, give the below items some thought:
➔ Yoga pants, cargo-style shorts/pants or track pants. Pro Tip: Moisture-wicking socks will keep your feet clean and dry, even after a 15-mile bike ride!



➔ Small towel or face wipes to stay refreshed.
➔ Bandages or braces (if you regularly use them), so you continue to feel your very best.
➔ Swimsuit and coverup. Depending on your ship, you'll have access to our heated sun-deck pool or whirlpool



— or both aboard AmaMagna!

PAST GUESTS HAVE ALSO RECOMMENDED:

- ➔ An extra duffel bag and/or bubble wrap for souvenirs.
- ➔ An extra sim card if you take a lot of photos.
- ➔ Wet Wipes in case you indulge in a local treat while on the go.
- ➔ Travel-size stain stick like a Tide Pen in case



that drop of red wine threatens to stain your favorite khakis.
➔ Portable phone charger. If you are using your phone on the go as a camera and for maps, you may wear down the battery.
➔ Travel-size umbrella. While AmaWaterways does provide umbrellas on rainy days, some travelers like to keep the small foldable kind in their bag for unexpected showers.

Which European River Best Suits YOUR CRUISE STYLE?



Strasbourg, France

The Rhine

Why go? The Rhine probably represents, along with the Danube, the most classic river voyage and it's a popular first choice for those who are new to river cruising. Why? Because you'll see castles along the Romantic or Middle Rhine (as the section between Koblenz and Rüdesheim, Germany is called), along with riverside wine-growing villages with half-timbered houses and some of Europe's loveliest cities along the way, among them Strasbourg, Heidelberg and Amsterdam.

Souvenirs: Asbach brandy from Rüdesheim; cheese from Amsterdam; *eiswein* (a coveted and expensive dessert wine); a cuckoo clock (expect to pay upward of 200 euros for a good one.)



Budapest, Hungary

The Danube, Part 1: Nuremberg to Budapest

Why go? The Danube is one long river: 1,780 miles from its source in Germany to its delta on the Black Sea. This section, though, from Nuremberg or Vilshofen in Bavaria to Budapest, is the "classic" Danube; the stretch that takes in the UNESCO-designated Wachau Valley with its picturesque riverside towns, as well as three capital cities: Vienna, Austria; Bratislava, Slovakia and Budapest, Hungary.

Highlights: Sailing from Vilshofen or Nuremberg, Germany, you'll cruise through the lush Wachau Valley, famed for its Riesling and Grüner Veltliner wines as well as two of Austria's iconic sights: Dürnstein, for its blue pepper-pot church tower and ruined hilltop castle where Richard the Lionheart was held captive, and the ornate Melk Abbey.



Amsterdam, Netherlands

The Dutch Waterways

Why go? A springtime cruise along the waterways of the Netherlands and Belgium is the perfect way to see one of the world's most famous flower cultivation areas in glorious bloom. But the dazzling floral displays of the legendary Keukenhof Gardens are only one attraction, as you'll also explore medieval Bruges, Antwerp and Amsterdam, where cruises start and finish.

Top tips: The best time for the flowers in Keukenhof depends on what kind of winter the Netherlands has had; if it's been cold, the gardens won't be in full bloom if you visit in March. If you want to go inside the Anne Frank House, book online beforehand. And don't forget to sample Belgium's culinary wares: beer, *moules et frites* (mussels with fries) and cream-filled pralines.

WRITTEN BY SUE BRYANT,
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
CRUISE CRITIC'S CRUISE
CONTENT STUDIO

cruisecritic

THE DANUBE, THE MAIN, THE RHÔNE
OR THE MOSELLE? READ ON TO DECIDE
WHICH RIVER YOU'LL CRUISE NEXT.



Miltenberg, Germany

Germany's Main

Why go? Some of Germany's most spectacular medieval cities lie along the Main's marshy banks and are the principal reasons to come here: Miltenberg is straight out of a Grimm's Fairy Tale, while Bamberg's wobbly half-timbered town hall perches on an island.

Tours we love: Bamberg is a gem of an old town, with crooked half-timbered buildings and ancient cobbled squares. Join a walking tour, but duck into a pub at the end to sample the local specialty, smoked beer. Many consider this an acquired taste, but when in Bamberg do as the locals do. Miltenberg is another medieval town and a good guide will give you all the lurid details of day-to-day life in the Middle Ages.



Cochem, Germany

Germany's Moselle

Why go? The Moselle is one of Europe's most beautiful rivers and also one of the biggest surprises. It's not all that well known, and itineraries are more typically part of other routes, like the Rhine, but wow oh wow. It's amazing. Your ship will pass a patchwork of vineyards clinging to impossibly sheer-sided hills, interspersed with dense forest, while exquisite little towns sit along the banks, overlooked by towering castles.

One cool thing: Cochem isn't just known for its wine — the town enjoys the unusual distinction of having the world's oldest mustard mill, now a museum, although still churning out the mustard, which you'll see in shops all over town.



Lyon, France

France's Rhône

Why go? The Rhône flows through the loveliest areas of Southern France. In a week, a voyage visits Lyon, an elegant city famed for its culinary culture; Avignon, the setting of the iconic Popes' Palace; and Arles, the scenery which inspired Vincent van Gogh.

Top tips: Lavender season is between June and early August. If you like cycling, there are flat trails with beautiful views along the Rhône, passing sleepy villages and water meadows. Take the steam train from Tournon; the forested limestone cliffs and gorges are magnificent and at the top, where the train turns around, locals sell the most delicious peaches and plums from little stalls.

To learn more about these rivers and others AmaWaterways sails, including the Seine, Douro and rivers in Bordeaux, read the full article at [AmaWaterways.com/cruise-critic/rivers](https://www.amawaterways.com/cruise-critic/rivers).

WHAT'S NEW in 2021

GIVE YOURSELF
THE GIFT OF TRAVEL

This holiday season, unwrap the gift that keeps on giving: another AmaWaterways river cruise! From the excitement and anticipation before you depart to the relaxation of being in the moment to the memories that linger for a lifetime, there's truly no better gift than traveling with your AmaWaterways family.

Ready to book?
Here's where you can look forward to cruising in 2021:

Four All-Encompassing New Itineraries



De Haar Castle, Netherlands

BEST OF HOLLAND & BELGIUM

2 nights Amsterdam, Netherlands & 7-night roundtrip Amsterdam cruise

NEW EXPERIENCES INCLUDE:

- Holland's immense De Haar Castle in Utrecht — one of the most luxurious in all of Europe
- The Netherlands' Museum Speelklok, with its wonderful world of self-playing musical instruments
- A Battle of the Bulge excursion, which ruined the German army, and in essence, brought about the end of World War II
- Delfshaven's Pilgrim Fathers' Church where the pilgrims gathered in 1620 before leaving Holland on the Speedwell on their way to America



Mont St. Michel, France

IMPRESSIONS OF THE SEINE & PARIS

2 nights Paris, France, 7-night Paris to Le Havre cruise & 3 nights St. Malo + 1 night Paris (or reverse)

NEW EXPERIENCES INCLUDE:

- The Château & Gardens d'Acquigny with large and small waterfalls, bridges and canals
- Château de Harcourt Arboretum, one of the richest tree gardens in Europe
- The 17th-century Champ de Bataille
- Brittany and its splendid treasures, including the high-walled city of St. Malo and its beautiful Emerald Coast; Dinan, a charming medieval city embraced by stone ramparts; Dinard, a seaside village with Belle Époque villas; and the magical island monastery of Mont St. Michel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site



Annecy, France

ESSENCE OF BURGUNDY & PROVENCE

3 nights Geneva, Switzerland, 7-night Chalon-sur-Saône, France to Arles cruise & 3 nights Barcelona, Spain

NEW EXPERIENCES INCLUDE:

- Chillon Castle, Geneva's lakeside medieval fortress
- Annecy, known as the "Pearl of the French Alps"
- Dijon, the capital city of the Burgundy region
- The 17th-century moated Cormatin Château
- The beautiful medieval hilltop village of Brancion
- A culinary school in the charming city of Valence



Basel, Switzerland

RHINE CASTLES & SWISS ALPS

2 nights Amsterdam, Netherlands, 7-night Amsterdam to Basel, Switzerland cruise & 3 nights Lake Como, Italy

NEW EXPERIENCES INCLUDE:

- 5 countries: The Netherlands, Germany, France, Switzerland and Italy
- The opportunity to discover Lake Como, one of Italy's most breathtaking regions and its pearl, Bellagio
- The majestic Swiss Alps and glistening Lake Lucerne

New Ship and New Deployments

Launching in 2021, AmaLucia will join our award-winning Rhine River fleet, sailing our new *Rhine Castles & Swiss Alps* itinerary. In addition, due to the popularity of our French itineraries, we're also adding more ships in France, welcoming twin-balcony ship AmaKristina as well as the beautiful AmaDante to our French river fleet.

New In-Demand Land Program

CHAMPAGNE, FRANCE

Discover the celebrated Champagne region of France. Visit Reims, your gateway to Champagne's central wine-growing region and home to the grand Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Reims, renowned for its stained-glass windows and Gothic design. Trace the history of World War I in Reims and World War II in Luxembourg. Plus, taste France's acclaimed Veuve Clicquot and Moët et Chandon.

Add two nights in Champagne, France, plus 1 night in Paris to the following river cruise itineraries:

- 7-night *Europe's Rivers and Castles* between Luxembourg and Nuremberg, Germany
- 7-night *Rhine & Moselle Splendors* from Luxembourg to Basel, Switzerland
- 7-night *Vineyards of the Rhine & Moselle* from Amsterdam, Netherlands to Luxembourg

EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT

Save up to 5% on balcony staterooms and suites, plus save up to \$1,500 per stateroom on select 2021 departures — combinable with your \$100 per person past guest savings — when you book your 2021 cruise by April 30, 2020. Contact your preferred travel advisor today.



Repairing fishing nets, Vietnam



EXOTIC SENSATIONS, UNBRIDLED WONDER

INSIDE:

Awaken your sense of adventure in Southeast Asia or Africa and indulge your curiosity in a sensory wonderland you'll hold in your heart for many years to come.

MEKONG

DISCOVER THE BEAUTY of A DISTANT LAND

SEE

What many consider the Eighth Natural Wonder of the World, Ha Long Bay, with more than 2,000 small islands rising from its emerald green waters like a dragon's back.

HEAR

Enriching and authentic musical sounds of xylophones, drums, oboes and gongs as you are treated to a traditional, graceful and sophisticated Cambodian performance of Apsara dance.

TASTE

A palate-pleasing blend of herbs, spices and unique textures of delicious traditional Vietnamese *pho bo* noodle soup.

BUY

One-of-a-kind, handcrafted popular souvenirs such as woven rattan mats, slippers and silk scarves from skilled artisans made right in front of your eyes.

FEEL

Like Indiana Jones as you explore the awe-inspiring ancient UNESCO-designated Angkor Wat temple complex—the largest religious temple complex in the world.

TIP: Travel to the mighty Mekong River between fall and spring for warm days and cool evenings, perfect for connecting with nature and exploring the region's local markets.

Book It: Choose from two distinctive Vietnam and Cambodia cruises: *Riches of the Mekong* and *Charms of the Mekong*. Contact your preferred travel advisor or visit AmaWaterways.com/landingpages/mekongriver.



Ha Long Bay, Vietnam

VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA RIVER CRUISES 2021

Plan your departure around Tet, the Lunar New Year celebration. Recognized as the first day of spring and one of Vietnam's most important national holidays, Tet will be greeted by locals on February 12, 2021 and February 1, 2022 with firecrackers and the banging of gongs to ward off evil spirits, as well as through graceful and colorful dragon and lion dances. You could be in Ho Chi Minh City for a chance to experience the revelry during a post-cruise land extension on our January 24, 2021

Riches of the Mekong or
January 31, 2022 ***Charms of the Mekong*** departures.

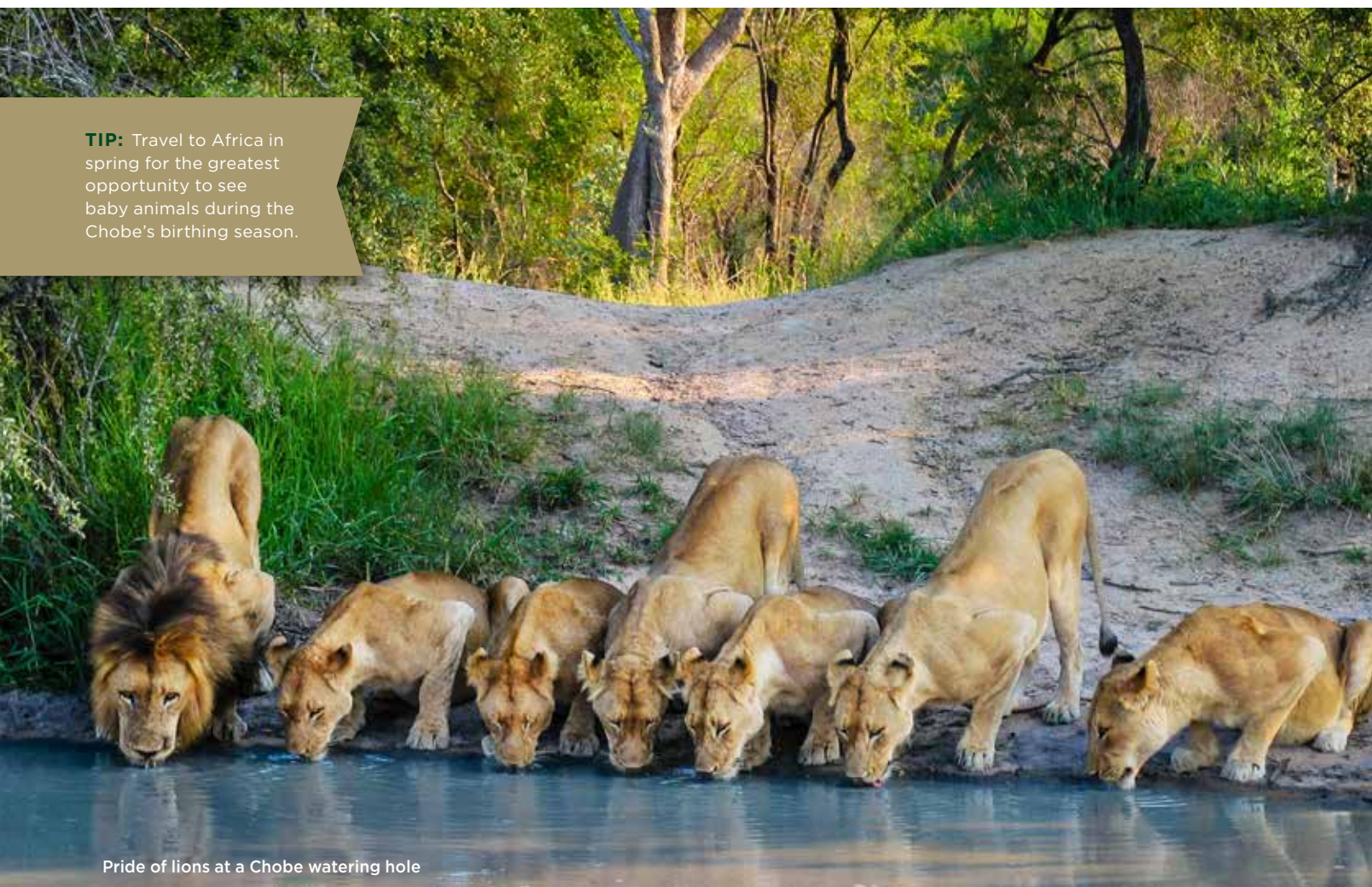


Co-Founder Kristin Karst, rice paper workshop



Angkor Wat, Cambodia

TIP: Travel to Africa in spring for the greatest opportunity to see baby animals during the Chobe's birthing season.



Pride of lions at a Chobe watering hole



Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe



Elephant mother and baby

AFRICA

ROAM FAR

— and —

WANDER WIDE

SEE

Prides of lions roaming through the savannah — or perhaps an equally staggering herd of leopards or black-backed jackals.

HEAR

The thunderous roar of the majestic Victoria Falls, one of the “Seven Natural Wonders of the World,” at its most brilliant.

TASTE

The sweet dessert of South African origin, *malva* pudding and custard. Relish in the spongy caramelized texture and sugary notes of apricot, topped off with a delicious cream sauce.

BUY

A traditional, handcrafted Zulu shield decorated with intricate beadwork or a beautifully colored authentic Shweshwe fabric with vibrant patterns, traditionally worn as a skirt or head wrap.

FEEL

An indescribable sense of wonder and awe; shivers as hairs raise on your arms at the sighting of an elephant or hippo cooling off in the Chobe River.

Book It: Choose from five unique Africa Safaris and Wildlife Cruises:

***Discover Africa, Rivers & Rails of Africa, Wildlife & the Falls, Stars of South Africa* and *Golden Trails of East Africa*.**

2020 SPACE AVAILABLE: Limited space is available on our 2020 Africa itineraries on the following dates:

October 30, 2020 (start in Cape Town); November 1, 2020 (start in Johannesburg);

November 6, 2020 (start in Cape Town); November 8, 2020 (start in Johannesburg); November 13, 2020 (start in Cape Town);

November 15, 2020 (start in Johannesburg). **2021 and 2022 departures are also now available for bookings.**

Contact your preferred travel advisor or visit [AmaWaterways.com/Africa](https://www.AmaWaterways.com/Africa).

{ the inside scoop }

As part of our AmaWaterways family, we want you to be among the first to hear “insider” news and product updates.

Visionary Leadership

Each year *AFAR Magazine* recognizes individuals who are enhancing the lives of travelers through deeper, richer and more meaningful experiences. This year, we are proud to share that both our Co-Founders Rudi Schreiner and Kristin Karst were honored with *AFAR Magazine's* 2019 Travel Vanguard Award for their extraordinary efforts to make travel a force for good in the world.



Kristin and Rudi

Godmother Announcement

Debbie Fiorino, Senior Vice President and COO of Owned Brands for World Travel Holdings, will infuse joy and festivity into the christening of AmaSiena in July 2020 as the ship's esteemed Godmother. As part of the event that will include live music and speeches from AmaWaterways executives, Debbie will bestow a blessing upon the ship and ceremoniously break a bottle of Champagne against AmaSiena's hull. Debbie has sailed numerous times with AmaWaterways and we look forward to welcoming her to our forever story!



Oh Captain, Our Captain

Congratulations to our Co-Founder and President Rudi Schreiner, who was awarded Seatrade's "Outstanding Contributor" Award for his remarkable impact on the river cruise industry.



From Left: Brian Mait, *1st Look* Senior Producer; Maria Sansone, *1st Look* guest host; Co-Founder & EVP Kristin Karst; Co-Founder & President Rudi Schreiner.



Kristin and Rudi speak at the screening.



Michal Maguire, Director of Customer Marketing, enjoys the event.

1st LOOK

On October 22, AmaWaterways hosted an exclusive preview screening party at NBCUniversal's studio for a special episode of NBC's *1st Look* that featured our new AmaMagna sailing along the Danube River. The episode later aired in select cities on October 26.

As one of our loyal guests, we invite you to get an inside look by watching the episode now at AmaWaterways.com/1st-Look. Enjoy and please share with your family and friends — or anyone you hope will join you on a future sailing with AmaWaterways.

WHY TRAVEL WITH A GROUP?

TRAVEL PROFESSIONAL,
DEBBIE N. BREAKS
DOWN THE MERITS
OF GROUP TRAVEL —
AND PARTICULARLY
GIRLFRIEND GETAWAYS —
WITH AMAWATERWAYS.

Group Cruising with Your Travel Advisor is Worry-Free

As a travel advisor, the logistics are with me. You don't have to worry about how to check in at the airport or on the cruise ship. Plus, if anything comes up, I'm right there to take care of it.

Great Group Benefits

During our *Christmas Markets on the Rhine* cruise, there were 19 of us. Besides receiving a nice group discount, AmaWaterways gave everyone in our group a shipboard credit. Many women used it in the gift shop, one had her hair done at the salon and a few used their credit toward massage treatments. They felt so pampered!

The Luxury of Quality Time

We've traveled on girlfriend getaways with sisters, mothers and daughters, friends, aunts and nieces. To have this quality time together for an extended period of time is really fun. I love watching women sit next to their best friends and experience something new together.

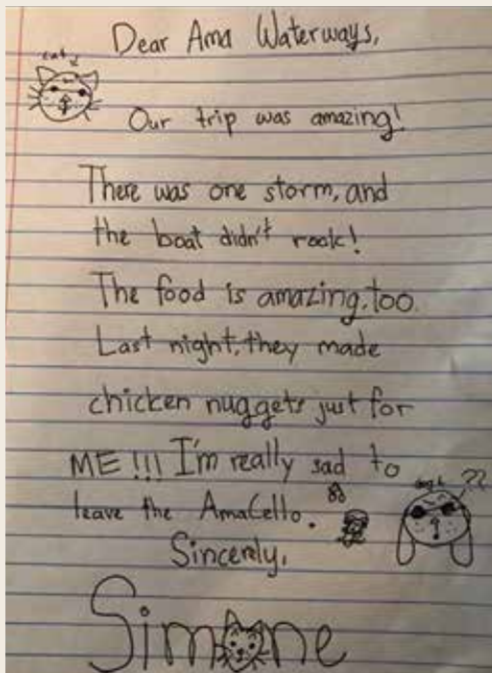


Debbie N.



See page 2 for more information on Debbie's memorable *Christmas Markets on the Rhine* girlfriend getaway cruise. Contact your preferred travel advisor to ask about river cruising with a group today.

FEATURED PHOTOS AND STORIES



Top: Karin and Jatindar Singh Mac enjoy time with friends in the Main Lounge. **Left:** A handwritten letter sent to AmaWaterways from a young satisfied guest. **Right:** A painting created by guest Harvey Sklar of the Ho Chi Minh City post office during his Mekong River cruise.

HAVE A GREAT AMAWATERWAYS PHOTO OR STORY
THAT FILLS YOUR HEART WITH LOVE? WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Submit photos and stories to myamastory@amawaterways.com for a chance to be featured in the next issue of *Beyond the River Banks* or #AmaWaterways on social media.

Connect with us on





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