

 AMAWATERWAYS™

# Beyond

WINTER 2020

## THE RIVER BANKS

*An Exclusive Magazine for Guests*

### INSIDE:

2020: A YEAR OF  
MUSIC, MILESTONES  
& MORE

WHY  
CRUISE  
THE DANUBE

CELEBRATE  
YOUR LOVE ON  
BOARD





## Dear Loyal Guest,

Our AmaWaterways family would love nothing more than to make new memories with you this year. “Ama” means love — and we put love in everything we do, including the personalized experiences we offer our guests no matter where they cruise.

In the winter issue of *Beyond the River Banks*, we focus on the legendary Danube, one of the most popular rivers where we offer eight different itineraries. You'll enjoy reading how several guests with different cruising styles and backgrounds have personally experienced the Danube with AmaWaterways in their own unique ways, including a group of couples who renewed their vows on board the AmaMagna. This issue also features some fantastic photos and testimonials from our first-ever Loyalty Appreciation Cruises in 2019, which were so well-received that we are offering even more in 2020 and 2021.

Our hearts grow each time you share your beautiful photos and stories with our AmaWaterways family. Please continue to tell us how you've filled your heart with Ama by reaching out to [myamastory@amawaterways.com](mailto:myamastory@amawaterways.com).

We look forward to hearing from you — and, of course, to welcoming you back on board again soon.

Warm regards,

**RUDI SCHREINER**  
Co-Founder and President

**KRISTIN KARST**  
Co-Founder and EVP

**GARY MURPHY**  
Co-Owner and SVP, Sales



Rudi Schreiner



Kristin Karst and Captain Jan striking a heart pose



Gary Murphy





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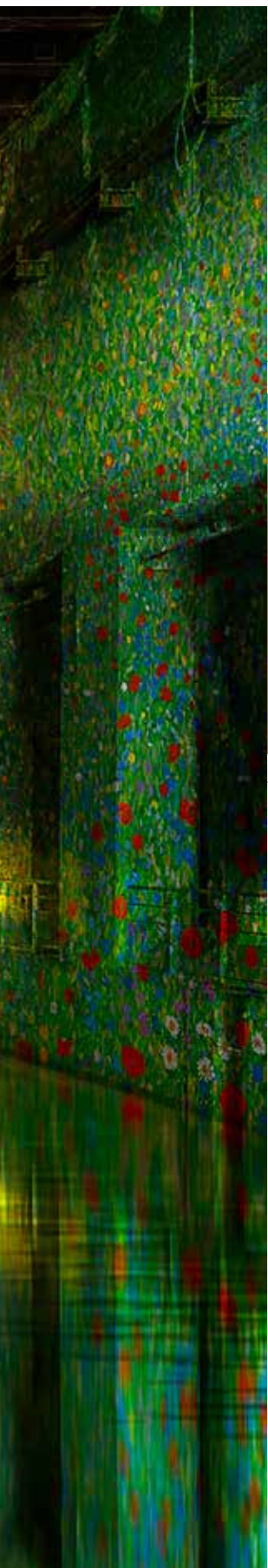
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Les Bassins de Lumières, Bordeaux, France



# 2020

## *A YEAR OF ANNIVERSARIES, CELEBRATIONS & FESTIVALS*

TWO ICONIC COMPOSERS SPARK MOVEMENTS IN THE MUSIC WORLD. A SMALL VILLAGE GOES BEYOND A TRADITIONAL THEATRICAL PIECE. A NEW IMMERSIVE ART EXHIBITION OPENS IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE. THIS YEAR, EUROPE RINGS IN A CRESCENDO OF ANNIVERSARIES. SEE WHAT'S GOING ON WITHIN AND AROUND THE CITIES WE VISIT.





Theater an der Wein, Austria



Oberammergau, Germany

**BORDEAUX, FRANCE**

**Les Bassins de Lumières**

Romantic Bordeaux is known to entice all with its rich wine culture, but the city will soon invite visitors to become submerged in a mesmerizing 360° art and music immersive experience. Beginning in southern France on April 17, 2020, Bordeaux’s former submarine base will transform into the digital art exhibition, “*Les Bassins de Lumières*” — with 100 projectors and countless digitized art masterpieces dancing in light on the walls. Larger in size compared to Paris’ “*Atelier des Lumières*” and Provence’s “*Carrières des Lumières*” exhibitions, this new exhibition in 2020 shines a light on the beautiful intersection of art and technology. Another

immersive experience with Arles’ “*Carrières des Lumières*” exhibition awaits you during our *Colors of Provence* cruise.

**OBERAMMERGAU, GERMANY**

**Passion Play**

A 380-year-old Bavarian tradition comes to life in the small, picturesque village of Oberammergau, Germany this year when its residents perform their 42nd Passion Play. Every decade, Oberammergau continues to reenact the story of the Passion of Christ in a theatrical masterpiece. The village’s very first performance was held in 1634. The tale of this intriguing tradition began with a vow of gratuity as the village was spared by a godly miracle from the Plague. Nearly every

resident of Oberammergau takes part in transforming the village into a magnificent venue — a true sight to behold.

You can experience other enriching Bavarian traditions, like an authentic Oktoberfest celebration, while cruising on many of our Danube River itineraries.

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

**Beethoven’s Second Home**

The year 2020 marks the 250th anniversary (*WienBeethoven2020*) of Ludwig van Beethoven’s birth and his impact on music. The musical genius’s most famous works continue to transcend time and culture. Defying the odds of his foreboding future of complete hearing loss, he





Salzburg, Austria

still managed to compose some of his greatest works, including his renowned Fifth Symphony.

For 35 years, Beethoven made his home in Vienna, Austria. Strolling Vienna's streets, you can see notes of Beethoven's past through various landmarks, from memorial plaques to museums. Imagine visiting *Theater an der Wien*, a cherished, historic theatre venue that hosted Beethoven's first opera performance of *Fidelio*. If you listen closely, you can almost hear the rich melodies of this classic opera piece. And on board many of our Danube and Rhine River itineraries, you can behold performances by local string trio *La Strada* as they play some of Beethoven's works in honor of his milestone anniversary.

#### SALZBURG, AUSTRIA

### “City of Mozart”

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart — one of the world's greatest composers — has captivated audiences for centuries with his transformative music. Stories say he spoke highly of Beethoven's talent and promising future in music; however, there is no official proof that these icons ever met. Pushing through musical boundaries at a young age in the small city-state of Salzburg, Austria, this young composer quickly rose to fame in 1784 by performing 22 concerts within a span of five weeks.

Salzburg honors Mozart's legacy and the future of music by transforming into one giant stage, captivating musicians and music lovers all around during its annual

Salzburg Festival each summer. This festival in the so-called “City of Mozart” will continue to recognize more talent and up-and-coming performers during its 100th anniversary beginning in July 2020. If you're lucky, you may even be able to hear musicians rehearsing in Salzburg during our *Romantic Danube*, *Melodies of the Danube* and *Magna on the Danube* itineraries.

This year rings in new anniversaries inspired by countless composers, performers and innovators. Celebrate the year of 2020 in Europe while sailing with AmaWaterways.



Passau, Germany





# THE LEGENDARY DANUBE

## **INSIDE:**

Ancient tribes called the Danube the “Great Water,” and with all there is to see and experience along its path, it’s easy to see why. Flowing through more countries than any other river in the world, there is no shortage of activities suitable for everyone to experience along the Danube, from active cruisers to foodies to mother-daughter duos, girlfriends and everyone in between.

*Something for Everyone  
on the Danube River:*

# GENTLE WALKERS

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER DUO JUANITA D. AND ERICKA C. SHARE HOW THEIR CRUISE BROUGHT THEM CLOSER TOGETHER AND GAVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES THAT SUITED EACH OF THEIR NEEDS. WITH DISTANCE SEPARATING THEM, TIME TOGETHER IS HARD TO FIND, BUT AN AMAWATERWAYS RIVER CRUISE GAVE THEM A CHANCE TO RELAX AND RECONNECT — THEIR WAY.



**Juanita and Ericka's  
Recommended Highlights  
on the Danube**

**BUDAPEST, HUNGARY (Ericka):**

We spent some time at the Great Market Hall during the “Queen of the Danube” tour and the food there was amazing. There were plenty of places to stop, sample some local delicacies and recharge. We also found some great souvenirs to take home to our family.

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

**(Ericka):** We really enjoyed the “Imperial Vienna” tour for gentle walkers. Mom needed something low-impact, but we still got to see the incredible Opera House and former Imperial Palace. And since the tour ended in the city center, we were able to

explore the city during our leisure time and do some shopping — our favorite activity together!

**PASSAU, GERMANY (Juanita):**

The “City of Three Rivers” walking tour in Passau was probably my favorite because we saw some really interesting Gothic and Italian Baroque architecture, which I’ve always followed and admired.



**Gentle Walkers Tours**

**(Juanita):** I thought the variety of included excursions was excellent, because you had active, regular and gentle walkers tours. That worked well for me because I was looking for something more low-impact that was easy to keep up with. While we were at each port, it was helpful to be able to choose

tours that aligned with my physical abilities. I really wanted to keep up with my daughter on the regular tours, but then I tried a gentle walkers tour halfway through and I was able to transition to that tour with no problem. This tour allowed me to take more frequent rest breaks but still see everything that I wanted to see.

**How This River Cruise Reinforced Their Bond**

**(Juanita):** We shared a spacious stateroom and did everything together, from watching beautiful views pass by to excursions and dinners. We enjoyed getting to know everyone on board. The crew and the guests were so friendly, but there were still opportunities for us to spend time together.





**Left:** Ericka and Juanita in Česky Krumlov, Czech Republic. **Top:** Hofburg Palace, Vienna, Austria. **Above:** Ericka in Bratislava, Slovakia.

**(Ericka):** We loved being able to strengthen our bond. Even though we are both at different ability levels, I didn't feel like Mom was being left

behind; I felt that she was being taken care of. Being docked right in the center of many cities meant that she was able to see everything and take it slowly when needed.

### Standout Features On Board

#### **FITNESS CENTER (Ericka):**

I really cherished this space. While I worked out, my mom stayed behind in the lounge to sip cucumber water and take in the stunning views.

#### **FINE DINING WITH FRESH LOCAL INGREDIENTS (Juanita):**

I've enjoyed cooking all my life, which can make me more accustomed and comfortable with my own recipes. The food on board was amazing. I really loved the high-quality ingredients used and everything was so fresh. It was really special being introduced to so many new spices and ingredients. Being able to get the recipes was an added bonus!

#### **CULTURAL PERFORMANCES**

**(Ericka):** I love that AmaWaterways brought cultural entertainment on board from the various cities we visited so we could experience them

“It’s incredible that there were all different walks of life on board, and we all came together with one love of travel.”

firsthand, all while still aboard the ship. I was never too tired to join in on the dancing fun.

**LIBRARY (Ericka):** The library on board was great because it gave us another place to go and have some quiet time to relax. We loved challenging each other to a game of Scrabble. I was really surprised when we came across the inclusive reading materials on board. There truly is something for everyone.

### In Conclusion

#### **WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THIS CRUISE TO PEOPLE WITH LIMITED MOBILITY?**

**(Ericka):** I always recommend AmaWaterways to my family and friends. Everybody should experience this at least once in their lifetime with the people they love and cherish. It’s incredible that there were all different walks of life on board, and we all came together with one love of travel.

**(Juanita):** Definitely! From the moment we stepped onto the ship, we felt like we were being welcomed into the Ama family. Individual differences aside, we all felt like one big family even while far from home. It’s a feeling that can’t be overstated.

Discover the destinations and excursions Juanita and Ericka enjoyed on a 2020 *Romantic Danube* or *Melodies of the Danube* cruise.



*Something for Everyone on the Danube River:*

# THE ACTIVE TRAVELER

DEVOTED TO FITNESS AND A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE, TRIATHLETE SCOTT A. AND HIS WIFE STEPHANIE MAKE IT A PRIORITY TO INCORPORATE THEIR ACTIVE LIFESTYLE INTO ANY VACATION. AMAWATERWAYS' ROMANTIC DANUBE RIVER CRUISE MADE IT EASY FOR THE COUPLE TO MAINTAIN THEIR ACTIVE LIFESTYLES WHILE CONNECTING TO THE REGION.

## Scott's Recommended Highlights on the Danube

**PASSAU, GERMANY:** On our hike to the Veste Oberhaus Fortress in the "City of Three Rivers," we hiked up to the castle above and found the most phenomenal views. From the castle viewpoint "Linde Battery," we could see the entire town and all three rivers — the Danube, the Inn and the Ilz.

**WEISENKIRCHEN, AUSTRIA:** We chose the Weissenkirchen to Melk bike tour along the Danube River where we met the ship in Melk, Austria near the beautiful abbey. We crossed a dam and caught a glimpse of the ship with

a castle behind it, then left it behind to pedal through both hills and lowlands. The scenery surrounding you really motivates you to keep pedaling.

**GREIN, AUSTRIA:** This was one of our favorite towns on the Danube River! Grein's town center was gorgeous and the beautiful storefronts on cobblestone streets were breathtaking. We loved seeing the Greinburg Castle lit up in the evening where we were treated to an exclusive show and wine.

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA:** The Vienna bike tour was invigorating. We never got tired as the incredible architecture we were seeing inspired us to keep





moving through the city. We were able to see the Habsburgs' Imperial Palace, the State Opera House and the city hall. It was amazing how much ground we covered in this lively city.

**BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA:** The most surprising excursion was our Bratislava Castle hike. I didn't know what to expect, but I was impressed with the city's rich history and architecture. The view from our hike was outstanding — like something right out of a storybook.

### **AmaMagna Wellness Highlights** **YOGA CLASS**

It was very relaxing doing yoga poses on the Sun Deck surrounded by gorgeous scenery. I also liked that our Wellness Host would make a point of greeting us whenever he saw us, not just during class. He also made sure to tailor the class depending on the activity level of the participants. If a class was too advanced, he generously provided beginner options, and if it was at a novice level, he happily provided alternatives.

### **ZEN WELLNESS STUDIO**

My wife spent a lot of time in the Zen Wellness Studio and really enjoyed the peaceful atmosphere after an active day exploring the city. She was especially grateful for the freshly squeezed juice and smoothies she could sample from the juice bar in the morning.

### **THE AL FRESCO RESTAURANT**

Stephanie and I enjoy lighter fare, and I thought the dining on board really catered to our typical diet. It was easy to find healthy choices. There was always an array of fresh fruits and salads in the Main Restaurant, and we genuinely appreciated the refreshing, vegetarian-friendly menu at the Al Fresco Restaurant while we enjoyed the scenic views.



**Left:** Biking along the Danube. **Top:** Sightseeing in Bratislava, Slovakia. **Above:** Dining at The Chef's Table.

## **In Conclusion**

### **WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THIS RIVER CRUISE TO OTHER ACTIVE TRAVELERS?**

Absolutely. We never thought a river cruise's excursions would meet our expectations, but we were delighted with AmaWaterways' more active lifestyle choice.

Explore the history and culture along the Danube River like Scott and Stephanie while on exhilarating excursions — either by bike or on foot — on our 2020 itineraries such as *Magna on the Danube*, *Romantic Danube* and *Melodies of the Danube*.

*Something for Everyone on the Danube River:*

# GIRLFRIENDS RELAX AND RECHARGE

MEGHAN F., BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL AND MOTHER OF THREE, DESCRIBES THE IMPACT THAT A GETAWAY ON THE AMACERTO WITH THREE FELLOW MOMS OF THREE HAD ON THEIR WELL-BEING, AND HOW THEY WERE ABLE TO DISCONNECT FOR THE WEEK.

## **Meghan's Recommended Highlights on the Danube**

**BUDAPEST, HUNGARY:** We had never been to Hungary or Eastern Europe before, so we really got to see something new and different while strolling through the city together. The monuments and museums in the Castle Hill district were standouts.

**BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA:** The "Tastes of Slovakia" Special Interest Tour gave us a chance to sample

some delicious local beer and cheese pairings at a pub. Toasting to our friendship and connecting with the locals was a real highlight for us.

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA:** We chose the "Imperial Vienna" tour and the architecture in Vienna was incredible. I was blown away by the ornate buildings. We also stopped along the way to taste some traditional apple strudel at a restaurant recommended by our Cruise Manager during our free time — sure enough, it was incredible!





**SALZBURG, AUSTRIA:** We loved stopping at Mondsee, which is where the wedding scene in *The Sound of Music* was filmed. Seeing it up close like that when we had grown up watching the movie was unreal. When we returned home, we all reconnected and watched the movie with our kids.



## Top Reasons to Do a Girlfriend Getaway River Cruise

**QUALITY TIME:** Nowadays, spending quality time together with my friends is hard to come by. We all live in the same neighborhood and our kids are close, so we see each other regularly, but it's not always quality time. Our river cruise experience was amazing because it gave us a chance to have uninterrupted time together instead of just seeing each other on the fly.

**TAKE A BREAK:** With three kids each, my friends and I really needed some girl time to relax and catch up kid-free. This was a great opportunity for us to sit down, have a glass of wine, and nurture our relationships with each other where the focus was entirely on us.

**TIME TO RECHARGE:** With the luxury of space on board, it was never difficult for me to find a corner to myself, and then go back and have these great uninterrupted conversations with my close friends.

**ENHANCING OUR BEST SELVES:** The wellness activities gave us the opportunity to get our blood pumping and our Wellness Host was entertaining. Plus, a couple of my friends are true foodies, and we were all impressed by the quality of the food on board and how many options were available. You could have pretty much anything you wanted, and The Chef's Table was fun because we could see everything that went into preparing the food for us.



**Left:** Melissa, Olivia, Meghan and Erin in the Austrian Lake District. **Above:** Meghan and her girlfriends pose in front of Austria's Melk Abbey.

### In Conclusion

#### WOULD YOU RECOMMEND AN AMAWATERWAYS DANUBE RIVER CRUISE TO OTHER GIRLFRIENDS?

We've told so many people about how river cruising with AmaWaterways is the best-kept secret in travel, and we are already talking about what river we will experience next. We really enjoyed being able to relax while we traveled and waking up in a new place each day. It was so easy and low-stress. As heads of our households, it was great to have someone else coordinate our schedules and plans.

The flexibility and variety were very important to us. We've been talking so much about this experience that now our husbands want us to bring them along next time!

Discover the Danube in all of its splendor on our *Melodies of the Danube* cruise like Meghan and her girlfriends, or choose from one of our other Danube cruise options for the getaway of a lifetime.



Denisse and her family in Bratislava, Slovakia

*Something for Everyone on the Danube River:*

# *FAMILY TRAVELERS*

OCEAN CRUISER DENISSE M., ALONG WITH HER PARENTS, HUSBAND, AND TWO TEENAGED DAUGHTERS, CONTINUED HER FAMILY'S ANNUAL TRADITION OF TRAVEL BY TRYING OUT A DANUBE RIVER CRUISE ABOARD AMAMAGNA AND WAS DELIGHTED TO FIND A MYRIAD OF EXPERIENCES THAT CATERED TO EVERYONE IN HER FAMILY.

## **Denisse's Most Unforgettable Highlights**

**BUDAPEST, HUNGARY:** I was overjoyed that my parents could experience lovely cities, such as Budapest, with the entire family on the walking tour of the city. We captured such incredible photos that we will cherish forever. The city sights were even more captivating at night when the city was illuminated, giving us a whole new view. Right after dinner, we grabbed a glass of wine and went up to the Sun Deck to see the Chain Bridge lit up. The views while sailing from port to port were truly inspiring.



**VIENNA, AUSTRIA:** The whole city was so romantic, but we especially enjoyed the optional excursion to the opera house in the evening. Even though my daughters aren't fans of classical music, they felt so lucky to be there, and my parents appreciated having this experience with their grandchildren the most. Sharing their love for classical music in the city that had been on their bucket list for years made it well worth adding this excursion to our itinerary.

**DANUBE LOCKS:** One day, we stayed in and enjoyed lunch on the Sun Deck so we could experience going through the locks, which had



always been a dream of mine. It was a fascinating experience for me, my mom and my daughters to witness this unique process of the ship rising with the water.

## Best Experiences for the Entire Family

### EXCURSION ACTIVITY LEVELS

I was really impressed with the range of excursions available on the Danube. It was so nice that my parents could enjoy gentle walking tours while we did a hike or bike ride. We enjoyed reconnecting later in the day at dinner to share the stories of our experiences.

### VARIETY OF ONBOARD DINING

We experienced all four restaurants on board, and the food was like nothing we'd had on any other cruise before. One of my daughters can be somewhat picky but the crew were so accommodating that she felt like a queen whether we dined in the Main Restaurant, at the Al Fresco Restaurant, The Chef's Table, or my family's favorite, Jimmy's. There was so much variety on the menu that she could always find something — and she enjoyed sampling the locally-sourced cuisine and new menu items. But one night, they made a special pizza just for her and we really appreciated that.

### ZEN WELLNESS STUDIO

My husband and I, along with my brother and his wife, woke up every morning and worked out in the studio while my parents ate breakfast with their grandchildren. We loved the views from the spin bikes while we cruised through Austria's Wachau Valley. I can't believe we were able to experience something so unique.

### ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The ice cream party was our favorite. My parents really enjoyed this special time with the girls.

### ONBOARD CINEMA

We watched one of my favorite movies from childhood, *The Sound*



Mirabell Gardens, Salzburg, Austria

*of Music*, together in the onboard cinema. My teenaged girls loved the plush seating and how extravagant this room was. They enjoyed visiting the cinema often during the cruise. It was an endearing touch for AmaWaterways to play the movie before we got to see Mirabell Gardens, the Old Market, and even the wedding church from the movie!

### CREW RECOGNITION

The crew truly made all the difference for us. The level of service we received was like nothing I've seen on another cruise. By day two, they greeted me in the hallway by name. They were so attentive, and it felt like they were able to anticipate our needs before we even realized we had them. It was really something

Experience comfort and luxury all-in-one in our spacious suites and connecting staterooms on select ships — perfect for families!

special. The river cruise ultimately felt custom-made for us!

## In Conclusion

### WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THIS CRUISE TO OTHER FAMILIES?

A thousand percent. In fact, I've already done it! I wouldn't change a single thing about this vacation, as it was perfect from beginning to end. There was something every member of my family, including my daughters and my parents, could enjoy. We cannot wait to do it again.

Discover your perfect family vacation on our *Melodies of the Danube*, *Magna on the Danube*, and *Romantic Danube* river cruises. We also recommend spending the holidays with your loved ones on our *Christmas Markets on the Danube* and *Iconic Christmas Markets* river cruises.





*Something for Everyone  
on the Danube River:*  
**FOODIES**

FOOD AND WINE WRITER AND ENTHUSIAST HANA-LEE S. ENJOYS EXPERIENCING THE WORLD THROUGH HER TASTE BUDS. CHOOSING A DANUBE RIVER CRUISE ABOARD AMAMAGNA NOT ONLY GAVE HER THE CHANCE TO SAVOR UNIQUE CUISINES IN FOUR COUNTRIES (HUNGARY, SLOVAKIA, AUSTRIA AND GERMANY) BUT ALSO TO DINE IN FOUR DISTINCTIVE RESTAURANTS ON BOARD THE SHIP. FOCUSING ON AMAWATERWAYS' CULINARY-THEMED EXCURSIONS AND SEEKING OUT DINING HOTSPOTS IN HER FREE TIME, HANA-LEE SHARES HER TOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FOODIES.



## Hana-Lee's Recommended Highlights on the Danube

**VILSHOFEN, GERMANY:** The Oktoberfest celebration was a fun way to kick things off and get to know people on the ship. You can't go wrong with beer and pretzels!

**DÜRNSTEIN, AUSTRIA:** We did AmaWaterways' "Apricots and Sweets Tasting" Special Interest Tour. Dürnstein was so charming. The apricots were incredible and the jams and liqueur they made had the most delicious and flavorful apricot taste.

### Top Eats

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA:** We went to the famous Hotel Sacher for *sacher torte* and tea, which I'd highly recommend.

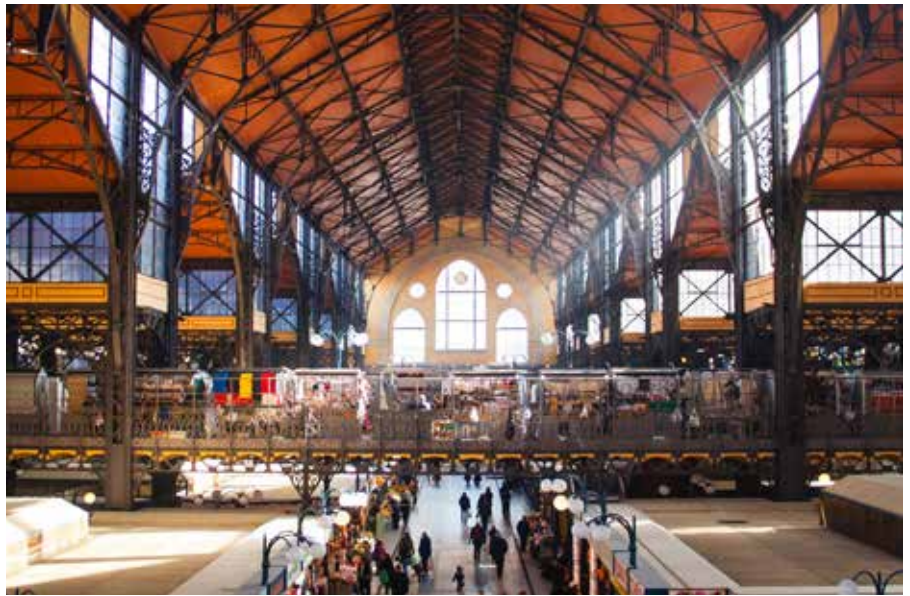
**BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA:** The Konditorei Kormuth bakery that we stopped into had an antique setting that was neat, plus the most incredible layer cakes made in-house daily.

**BUDAPEST, HUNGARY:** At the Great Market Hall, we tried a flat bread called *langos* with meat and cheese piled a mile high and it was really tasty. Our awesome Cruise Manager Reka also recommended we go to the "Ruin Bar" — aka Szimpla Kert — which is an indoor/outdoor bar with different rooms and levels. There are stickers and writing all over the walls and even bathtubs you can sit in with a drink. It was unique and fun, and something we probably wouldn't have found without her insight.

### AmaMagna Restaurant Raves

#### THE AL FRESCO RESTAURANT

We had a great dinner at the Al Fresco Restaurant — it was one of our favorite meals. Two things that stood out were the fig salad with pistachios and pesto and a simple tomato tart that was very flavorful.



**Left:** Hana-Lee and husband Nick enjoying tea and cake at Konditorei Kormuth bakery in Bratislava, Slovakia. **Above:** Great Market Hall in Budapest, Hungary.

#### JIMMY'S

We also really enjoyed our dinner here. I liked how cozy it felt in there with fun wines, family-style dining and a slightly more casual vibe.

#### THE CHEF'S TABLE

We loved how the chef came around to each table and talked to us and answered questions.

#### THE MAIN RESTAURANT

It was nice to be able to order a fresh omelet every morning or experience different flavors at the lunch buffet, which featured a locally-inspired dish each day.

#### WINE SELECTION

The sommeliers changed the wine options every day, depending on where we were, and they always had a local red and white to taste, which was great. Often, these were wines that are not imported to the U.S., so we enjoyed being able to try wines

not easily accessible to us. I noticed that some people were a little hesitant to try the obscure varieties, but once they did, they realized they really liked them and sought out places to taste more. I loved seeing other guests get excited about a new wine.

### In Conclusion

#### WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THIS CRUISE TO OTHER FOOD AND WINE ENTHUSIASTS?

Absolutely. It goes through one of the major wine regions in the world — the Wachau Valley in Austria. If you're interested in this wine region, there's no better vantage point than being on the river to see the vineyards cascading above these tiny towns. It's absolutely stunning. Local food and wine — it's like a playground for a foodie or oenophile!



Experience the same dining hotspots and excursions as Hana-Lee on our *Romantic Danube*, *Melodies of the Danube* or *Magna on the Danube* cruises in 2020 and beyond! You can also try AmaMagna's four restaurants for yourself on our *Magna on the Danube*, *Gems of Southeast Europe* or *Christmas Markets on the Danube* cruises.

# What Kind of CRUISER Are You?

THERE IS NO WRONG WAY TO RIVER CRUISE, BUT THERE IS A WAY THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU. TAKE OUR QUIZ TO DETERMINE YOUR TRAVEL PERSONALITY AND HELP YOU PLAN YOUR NEXT AMAWATERWAYS ADVENTURE.

## 1. What did you do last weekend?

- A** Movie night with the family.
- B** Four-course dinner at your favorite bistro.
- C** Hiking/biking/kayaking, or any combination thereof.
- D** Netflix and a glass of wine at home.
- E** Drinks out on the town with old friends.

## 2. What's your ideal rainy day activity?

- A** Board games around the coffee table.
- B** Finally trying to make that amazing recipe you saw online.
- C** Stuck inside? No problem. Good thing you bought that elliptical machine.
- D** Sofa. Book. Blanket. Mug full of a hot beverage. Need we say more?
- E** Using it as an excuse to call an old friend and catch up.

## 3. It's a perfect night to go out to dinner. Where do you go?

- A** That wonderful spot you went with the kids for your last birthday.
- B** The new place in town that's getting raves for its cutting-edge techniques.
- C** Pack a picnic and trek up to Inspiration Point to watch the sunset.
- D** Why go out when you can order delivery and enjoy it on the couch?
- E** Somewhere they won't mind if you sit for hours and chat over drinks.

## 4. When visiting a foreign country, what is the most important phrase to know how to say?

- A** "Are children allowed?"
- B** "Where should we eat?"
- C** "Where can I rent a bicycle?"
- D** "Room service."
- E** "Taxi!"

## 5. It's 7:00 AM. What are you doing?

- A** Making breakfast for the whole house.
- B** Setting up the French press for the perfect cup of coffee.
- C** Getting back from my morning run.
- D** Still fast asleep, thank you very much.
- E** Browsing on my iPad for the perfect birthday gift for my bestie.

## 6. You're stranded on a deserted island. What's the one thing you would pick to have with you?

- A** A family photo album to remind you of the people you love.
- B** One really good bottle of wine. Or two.
- C** Binoculars—that island's not going to explore itself.
- D** Sunscreen—you don't want to get burned while you're laying on the beach.
- E** A good friend—as long as you have someone to share the experience with, you're happy.

## 7. If time and money were no object, you would:

- A** Buy a big house on the beach and fly your whole extended family there to spend the winter.
- B** Travel the globe, eating at all the Michelin-starred restaurants on Earth.
- C** Climb the highest mountains and dive in the deepest oceans.
- D** Make sure you enjoy every single sunset from the comfort of a heated infinity pool.
- E** Take your best friends on a jetsetting around-the-world extravaganza.

## 8. If someone scrolled through the photos on your phone, the most common thing they'd see would be:

- A** Your beautiful kids.
- B** Your incredible meals.
- C** The views from your favorite hikes.
- D** Your pet napping on your feet.
- E** Group shots of you and your friends.

## 9. What is your favorite souvenir to bring home when you travel?

- A** A family photo taken in front of a famous landmark.
- B** A copy of the menu from your favorite meal.
- C** A collection of stones and shells you find on your adventures.
- D** Honestly, you just grab something at the airport. You're too relaxed to hunt for souvenirs.
- E** Matching shirts for you and your friends.

## 10. Finally, what was the best gift you ever received?

- A** A canvas print of a photo taken on a family vacation.
- B** A dinner out at a restaurant you'd only dreamed of.
- C** A high-end walking stick that has become your de facto traveling companion.
- D** A ridiculously cozy nap blanket.
- E** Tickets for you and your friends to see a band that you all love.

Check the next page to see what kind of river cruiser you are! →





IF YOU CHOSE MOSTLY

A's

YOU'RE A  
**Family  
Traveler**

As a family-owned and operated cruise line, we know that the best trips are the ones you take with the people you love. Explore AmaWaterways' **Danube and Rhine** itineraries, where the fantastic variety of excursions encourage each member of your family to indulge their own interests during the day, then come together to swap stories and share a delicious meal together in the evening.

Make unforgettable holiday memories with one of our **Christmas Markets** itineraries.

And with their combination of culture, history, and cuisine, our **Paris & Normandy** cruises are the perfect way for your family to share history among the generations.



IF YOU CHOSE MOSTLY

B's

YOU'RE A  
**Food & Wine  
Enthusiast**

Whether it's a unique local dish or a rare vintage, you travel the globe in pursuit of flavors that can't be found anywhere else. Try our **Taste of Bordeaux** itinerary to sample some of the most celebrated wines in the world. Add on our **Spanish Basque Country** land program to enjoy the rightfully celebrated pintxos and see how much flavor can be packed into a small bite.

Visit outstanding wineries and taste local specialties on our **Flavors of Portugal and Spain** itinerary, and add the land program for extended stays in the culinary paradises of Lisbon and Madrid.

Oenophiles love our ever-expanding array of **Wine Cruises**, while foodies salivate over the "Tastes of Franconia" and "Tastes of Bavaria" Special Interest Tours on our **Legendary Danube** itinerary.



IF YOU CHOSE MOSTLY

C's

YOU'RE AN  
**Active  
Traveler**

You love to move, and you find the best part of any trip is getting a new place under your feet. Our **Danube, Rhine and Moselle** itineraries offer endless opportunities for stunning hikes and bike rides that will take you to mighty fortresses, historic castles or alongside scenic rivers.

For a different experience, explore Vietnam and Cambodia with one of our **Mekong River** itineraries, where you can partake in regionally-inspired wellness activities like tai chi, meditation and yoga.

Or spot the "Big Five" and revel in the jaw-dropping scenery as you travel along Africa's Chobe River on our **Wildlife & the Falls** itinerary.



IF YOU CHOSE MOSTLY

D's

YOU'RE A  
**"Maximum  
Relaxation"  
Traveler**

You like to kick back, unwind and let the world come to you. Life is good aboard any of AmaWaterways' ships, all with heated sun-deck pools or whirlpools (many with swim-up bars) and world-class cuisine. Pamper yourself with a massage in the spa or watch the scenery gently drift by. And what scenery it is!

Our **Captivating Rhine** cruise takes you through the UNESCO-designated Rhine Gorge, which features over 40 hilltop castles and fortresses.

Slow things down with a glass of Port and a leisurely stroll through the "City of Bridges" on our **Enticing Douro** cruise.

Or enjoy a taste of the good life amid idyllic backdrops on our **Vineyards of the Rhine & Moselle** and **Colors of Provence** cruises.



IF YOU CHOSE MOSTLY

E's

YOU'RE A  
**Girlfriend or  
Guys' Getaway  
Traveler**

Traveling is great, but traveling with someone who really "gets" you is even better. AmaWaterways offers plenty of itineraries that are perfect for friends looking to share the trip of a lifetime.

Catch up over glasses of Grand Cru Classé and French pastries on our **Taste of Bordeaux** cruise.

Laugh and learn together on tours of the world's finest wine regions on one of more than 15 different **Wine Cruises**.

Or explore the **Christmas Markets** along the Danube or Rhine, where you and your friends can make lasting memories together over gingerbread and mugs of mulled wine while shopping in iconic locales straight out of a storybook.

# FAMILY, WINE and RIVERS

*All the Ingredients for a Memorable Experience*

**S**ituated in California's Alexander Valley Wine Country, Robert Young Estate Winery hosted their first AmaWaterways *Romantic Danube* Wine Cruise in March 2019. We interviewed fourth-generation family member Susan Young Sheehy and general manager Karen Maley on what fills this itinerary with flavor and why you should book one of our Danube River Wine Cruises this year.

## HOW LONG HAS YOUR FAMILY BEEN IN THE WINE INDUSTRY?

**Susan:** Our family ranch has been here since the Gold Rush in the 1850s. In those first three generations, there was grain, cattle and a prune ranch. When I was in high school, my dad, Robert Young, planted the first Cabernet Sauvignon

grapes. The wine turned out great, so about 20 years ago my family decided to build a winery. My three siblings and I now have over 317 acres dedicated to grapes.

## DID AMAWATERWAYS MEET YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR WARM, WELCOMING SERVICE ON BOARD?

**Susan:** As a family-owned and -operated business, we recognize when other family companies such as AmaWaterways share the same values. The crew was so warm and welcoming, and they paid attention to every detail, so we didn't have to worry about a thing. I've been on a large cruise ship as a Wine Host and we were lost in the crowd. As soon as we stepped aboard AmaSonata, everyone knew who we were.

**Karen:** We were so impressed by how incredibly professional the crew were, and at the same time so nice, caring, gracious, kind and supportive of one another.

## WHAT WERE YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES FROM YOUR DANUBE RIVER WINE CRUISE?

**Karen:** We were entranced by the small, beautiful, historic hamlets we visited along our route, as well as the grandeur of Vienna. One of the most special excursions was visiting a family-owned vineyard and winery in Dürnstein, Austria. We loved that the tasting and tour were given by the family themselves. The itinerary gave us a chance to visit three or four very small personal winemakers and taste their wines.



**Susan:** I loved visiting the town of Český Krumlov in the Czech Republic. To me it was like a fairytale.

#### HOW DOES WINE FROM AUSTRIA'S WACHAU VALLEY COMPARE/CONTRAST TO ROBERT YOUNG WINES?

**Karen:** The Wachau Valley and Alexander Valley growing regions are very different. Along the Danube, the wines come from colder climates, and the focus is on cooler white wines such as bright, crisp Rieslings and Grüner Veltliner. The Alexander Valley is much warmer and produces rich, deep red wines such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and bold Chardonnays.

#### TELL US ABOUT YOUR FOOD AND WINE PAIRING DINNER ON BOARD.

**Karen:** The day we arrived on board we met the chef, his kitchen staff and the sommelier to finetune the pairing with our tasting notes. It was a highlight of our guests' onboard experience. They loved experiencing the local wines, but also tasting our wines with the regional cuisine and the exquisite menu the chef created.

#### WHAT DISHES SHOULD OUR GUESTS PAIR WITH WINES THEY PURCHASE FROM THE WACHAU?

**Karen:** The wines from this region are generally higher in acidity, with a bright, crisp profile. I would pair these wines with anything I would put lemon on — salads, seafood and light pastas. Delicious!

#### WHAT DID YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT BEING A WINE HOST WITH AMAWATERWAYS?

**Karen:** Something magical happens



**Left:** Robert Young Estate Winery. **Above:** The Young Family.

when people come together over a glass of wine and a shared meal. Layer in the ability to share our knowledge about growing and making wine, and you have all the ingredients for a memorable experience, and an enjoyable adventure.

#### WHY SHOULD OUR GUESTS CONSIDER A WINE CRUISE?

**Susan:** It's easy to connect over a glass of wine and a beautiful view. And it's very convenient being together in one place as you cruise down the river and feel so much at home. We have very warm feelings about our time with AmaWaterways.

**Karen:** We are very much looking forward to our upcoming river cruise through the Bordeaux wine region and hope to share this beautiful experience with you!

## Firefighters Save Robert Young

In October 2019, one small spark from a local power plant caused a fire that roared into the hills and down into California's Alexander Valley, surrounding Robert Young Winery. Though 34 oak trees on the estate were lost, firefighters tirelessly fought to protect the vineyard. After 30 hours, the brave first responders extinguished the flames threatening the vineyard, and finally took their first break, laying down on the lawn in front of the winery.

Find your perfect Wine Cruise at [AmaWaterways.com](https://www.amawaterways.com) or ask your travel advisor if staterooms are available on our April 2, 2020 *Taste of Bordeaux Wine Cruise* hosted by the Young Family.



# STRUDEL

## *Peeling Back the Layers of a Danube Delicacy*

A collaboration of different cultures originated this special pastry. In German, *strudel* translates to “whirlpool,” in reference to its swirly interior. The iconic thin layers of the traditional Viennese apple strudel attribute their origin to the Turkish baklava pastry — using a technique that crossed from the Silk Road, a famous ancient trade route, to the Danube River. While both the strudel and baklava pastries are prepared similarly, their only differences appear to be the final look and filling. Strudels are typically filled with a region’s ingredients, hence the apples, raisins and pine nuts from the Austrian region. Austria led the surge in popularity for this pastry in the Danube region, and variations — sweet and savory — from other European countries came along afterwards. Vienna’s



AmaLea Pastry Chef Zornitsa demonstrates how to make strudel on board.

City Library holds the first known handwritten recipe from the 17th century.

Crisp apple strudels are just one of AmaWaterways’ many “favorite things.” Our expert chefs have lovingly prepared a recipe for this classic Austrian dessert that is well worth your while. Taste one of the region’s most popular delicacies on our Danube River cruises or make this crowd-pleaser for yourself at home!



# Strudel

## INGREDIENTS

### For the Strudel Dough\*

- 1/3 cup lukewarm water
- 1 tablespoon, plus 1/2 teaspoon neutral tasting vegetable oil
- 1/2 teaspoon vinegar (or lemon juice)
- 1/8 teaspoon table salt or fine sea salt
- 1 cup bread flour or substitute with all-purpose flour (145 g)
- 1/2 teaspoon vegetable oil for brushing the dough
- flour for dusting

\* For the dough, we recommend measuring the flour by weight in grams if you are able, since it is more accurate than measuring by volume.

### For the Filling

- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2/3 cups fine breadcrumbs
- 5 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 4 tablespoons raisins
- 3 tablespoons rum or lukewarm water for soaking the raisins
- 2 lbs. sweet-tart apples (e.g. McIntosh)
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons melted butter for brushing the dough (divided)
- confectioner's sugar for dusting
- whipped cream for serving (optional)

## PREPARATION METHOD

### To Make Dough

- Preheat oven to 375° F. Mix water, oil, vinegar and salt in a bowl. Stir in half the flour with a spoon until well combined. Gradually add remaining flour until it comes together.
- Knead dough for about 10 minutes until smooth and moist. If too sticky to knead, add a little flour. Slam the dough onto the work surface a few times until elastic dough forms.
- Shape dough into a smooth ball. Brush a clean bowl with oil, place dough into bowl and brush it with oil. Cover bowl with a lid or plastic wrap and let sit for 1 hour at room temperature.

### To Make Filling

- Melt butter in a pan over medium heat and add the breadcrumbs. Toast and stir until golden. Remove from heat and let cool. Mix sugar and cinnamon together, then add to the buttered breadcrumbs. Stir well and set aside. Next, soak the raisins in rum (traditional) or water for about 10 minutes to soften. Peel, cut and core apples into thin slices and cover with lemon juice. Add the raisins (without the remaining rum or water) and mix well.

### Stretching Dough

- Roll out dough with a rolling pin on a lightly floured surface. Flour the surface and dough occasionally while rolling. When at 13-15 inches in diameter, pick the dough up and use the back of your hands to stretch it out like a pizza. When dough is bigger and thinner (or difficult to handle), place it on a lightly floured tablecloth. Smooth any wrinkles on both the tablecloth and dough.
- Gently stretch the dough paper-thin, working your way around the sheet of dough on the tablecloth. Ultimately, it should look translucent and be stretched into a rectangular shape, with the shorter edge fitting the baking sheet lengthwise. Thick edges should be cut off.

### Filling the Dough

- Brush half the dough with half of the melted butter. Spread the breadcrumb-mixture over the other half of the dough and pat down evenly. One side is brushed with butter now, the other side is covered with breadcrumbs. Leave 1 to 1-1/2 inch margin of space along edges. Spread the apples over the breadcrumbs. Fold in the side-ends of the dough. Using the towel and starting at the apple-topped end, roll dough all the way. Then, gently roll the strudel onto a sheet of parchment paper, seam-side down. Place dough onto baking sheet and brush it with the remaining melted butter.

### Baking the Strudel

- Place baking sheet on the middle rack of the preheated oven and bake for 30-45 minutes at 375°F until crust is golden. Remove from oven and let cool slightly. Then, cut into pieces and serve dusted with confectioner's sugar. Your apple strudel is ready!

Serves 6 to 8

# A DANUBE ENSEMBLE

## of Tracht and Tradition



SAILING ALONG THE DANUBE RIVER, YOU WILL DISCOVER TRADITIONAL GARMENTS, OR *TRACHT* IN GERMAN-SPEAKING REGIONS, COMMON AND UNIQUE, THAT TELL THEIR OWN STORY THROUGH THE DETAILS IN THE NEEDLEWORK. TAKE A LOOK AT THE TALE OF EACH GARMENT WHILE CONNECTING TO THE CHARM OF EACH CULTURE.

### A Slavic Tale of Style

Two aprons, multi-colored embroidery and decorative textiles — all distinct characteristics of the *soukman* dress. As a common garment in the Danubian Plain, the *saya* is a tunic-like dress with one apron. The detailed embroidery is the focal point for the traditional costumes of Bulgaria. Symbols and motifs can be found through the needlework of the ornamental designs. A common ancient symbol is the double cross known as “*Elbetitsa*.” Resembling the sun, the Elbetitsa design shows eight directions of the world along with the four seasons which connect at the center — all to show the union of life.

### The Universal Garment

French *culottes*, or historical knee-length breeches, from the 16th century inspired many countries, particularly Germany. Germans designed the classic *lederhosen* — essentially culottes made of leather. Originally intended for the working class, lederhosen eventually rose to be a universal garment for just about any societal class during the 18th century. Thriving as one of the most popular traditional garments in Bavarian regions, these embroidered leather trousers are often accompanied with suspenders, woven shirts and alpine hats — a perfect ensemble for our Oktoberfest celebration in Vilshofen, Germany.





Bulgarian traditional dress



### From Casual Blouse to Haute-Couture

Romania made its own national fashion statement with a single blouse, the *ie* (pronounced ee-eh). Dating to the Antiquity era, the *ie* offers more than its adorned floral embroidery and rich colors. It inspired two prominent figures to promote Romanian folklore to the world. French artist Henri Matisse dedicated an entire painting series to the blouse. Fashion icon Yves Saint-Laurent designed a haute couture collection, which led to the revival of the Romanian blouse in the fashion industry and the development of a Romanian national identity.

### A Loden that Lasts a Lifetime

First introduced in the Middle Ages in Austria, the loden cloth became known as one of the thickest and most water-resistant wool materials that can face extreme weather conditions. From the



early 19th century, Habsburg Archduke Johann, brother of Emperor Franz II, established the Alpine fashion trend by bringing the loden clothing style to Vienna. Made by the wool from mountain sheep in the Alpine region, this fabric effortlessly captivated royalty, who set a trend that's lasted for centuries.

### The Dirndl Culture

This Bavarian and Austrian pride of traditional garments emerged from the 18th century. The iconic features of the dirndl are its full, wide skirt and apron. The final touch of the apron knot symbolizes a woman's relationship status. Tied to the right, it shows a woman is married, while tied to the left, it hints that a woman is single. From simple to extravagant, there's a dirndl fit for every personality and occasion.

© AUSTRIAN NATIONAL TOURIST OFFICE



**Insets:** Romanian blouse (top), loden coat (bottom). **Above:** Traditional Bavarian clothing.





AmaMagna's onboard boutique

## WHERE TO BUY

### GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

#### Dirndls, lederhosen and loden cloth

Buy them at AmaMagna's boutique while sailing the Danube, as well as in many shops throughout Germany and Austria. Here are some of our crew's favorites:

#### **Munich, Germany:**

Stindl Trachten  
Neuhauserstrasse 15 80331 Munich

#### **Passau, Germany:**

Spieth & Wensky  
Spieth & Wensky Tracht and Mode GmbH

#### **Regensburg, Germany:**

Wirkes Dirndl Trachten & Ledermoden  
Im Gewerbepark C 40, 93059 Regensburg

#### **Vilshofen, Germany:**

Gudrun Zitzelsperger Trachtenmoden  
Ortenburger Str. 7  
94474, Vilshofen an der Donau

Dirndls, lederhosen and loden prices can vary, from approximately 80 to 800 euros (US\$90 to \$900).

### BULGARIA

#### Soukman and Saya

Buy them during our *Gems of Southeast Europe* itinerary.

#### **Ruse, Bulgaria:**

Ruschuk  
Rajko Daskalov Street 22

#### **Vidin, Bulgaria:**

Art Shop  
Dunavska Street 2

Soukman prices are approximately 300 leva (US\$170).

Saya prices are approximately 700 leva (US\$400).

### ROMANIA

#### "Ie" Blouse

Buy them during our *Gems of Southeast Europe* itinerary.

#### **Bucharest, Romania:**

Artizanat Bucuresti  
Bulevardul Magheru,  
nr. 8-10 (near Hotel  
Ambassador)

#### Romartizana

Calea Victoriei, nr. 16-20,  
Sector 3, 030027

Average price for a quality blouse is around 100 to 150 euro (US\$110 to \$170), but less expensive versions are also available.



# LOVE, MULTIPLIED

A VERY SPECIAL VOW RENEWAL

**Y**ou only celebrate your 50th anniversary once, and travel advisor Myra E. knew she could trust AmaWaterways to deliver something truly special for her and her husband aboard the AmaMagna. But then the wheels started turning. Her friends, the Mitchells, would be celebrating their 49th. Donna and Tommy would be celebrating their 50th. So was her old college suitemate. And then there were the newlyweds and the newly engaged. At that point the idea was unstoppable. Myra got in touch with AmaWaterways and began organizing the ultimate Vow Renewal group.

AmaWaterways' Vow Renewal Packages not only include a symbolic Renewal of Vows

ceremony led by a designated official, they also offer ways to relax and look one's best for the big day, with a certificate for two 1-hour massages plus one manicure/pedicure or hair salon service.

When Myra's group embarked, a crew member immediately booked their spa treatments to ensure they were all able to experience these services when they wished.

"It was more than I had expected," Myra said of the package. "They gave everyone two spa treatments and then we had Champagne in our rooms and were given cute little custom-made cakes at dinner. It was unbelievable how wonderful the crew all were to us and how they remembered our names immediately. We couldn't have asked for a better experience!"





**Top:** Renewal of vows ceremony. **Above:** Certificates were presented to couples during the ceremony; Cheryl and Barry White with First Captain Wijnand (center) and Cruise Manager Mariana (right).

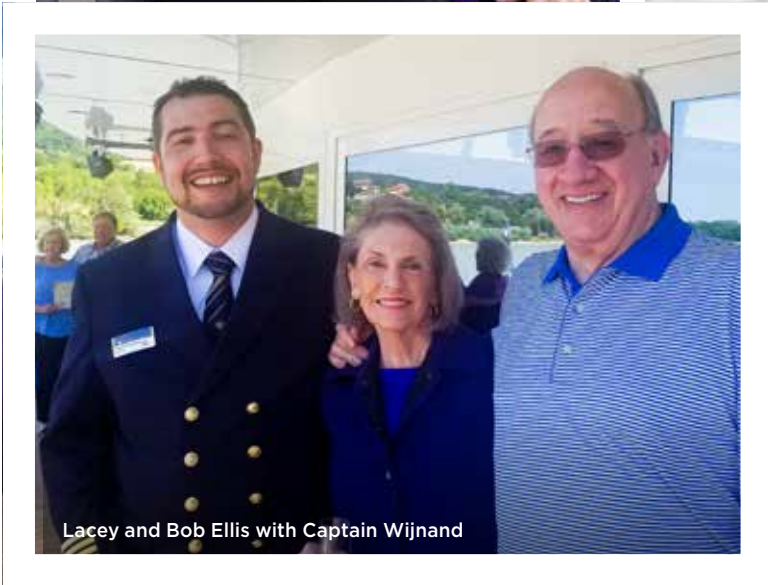




Donna and Tommy Dowling



Marion and Jack Mitchell



Lacey and Bob Ellis with Captain Wijnand



Jackie and Wiley Johnson



Myra and Jerry Eskew



Judy and Wayne King



The Hotel Manager even booked all members of the group at the Al Fresco Restaurant and Jimmy's so the entire group would have a chance to try every restaurant on board. "At The Chef's Table, they brought our four tables together. At Jimmy's, we were at two long tables," Myra recalled. "Our Hotel Manager had reserved the spaces for us so we could all be together. They went overboard for us — it was just fabulous."

Myra also raved about a surprise guest on board. "There was a man standing next to us with his tea and breakfast plate and he asked to join us. Turns out it was the Co-Founder and President of AmaWaterways, Rudi Schreiner! He was very sweet to sit down with us. We felt really honored and pleased and can't think of enough good things to say about him."

### **A Beautiful Experience All Around**

#### ***Donna and Tommy Dowling***

AmaWaterways rose to the top. The ceremony was made so special and unforgettable by the sincerity of the Captain, whose words were so carefully prepared and heartfelt. And sharing the experience with our friends, who had also reached this milestone, certainly enhanced our pride and happiness. Special menus prepared in perfect detail, individual cakes decorated beautifully, rose petals on our bed, Champagne in our room, loveliness all around us! AmaMagna was sparkling in cleanliness, efficiency, friendliness, meal preparation, and service. It was a beautiful experience all around.

### **The Royal Treatment**

#### ***Marion and Jack Mitchell***

Marion Mitchell and husband Jack were celebrating their 49th anniversary on board. Although they were not part of the renewal of vows, Marion said, "Our captain was very kind to take time to prepare such thoughtful remarks — really a little sermon — for the newlyweds in our group as well as the couples who were celebrating their 50+ years. Jack and I got the royal treatment, too. We enjoyed the towel swan and rose petals on our bed the first night. We had a wonderful time on the AmaMagna cruise."

### **A Dream Vacation**

#### ***Lacey and Bob Ellis***

We have been on many cruises, but none as warm, friendly and accommodating as AmaWaterways. The design of the ship was outstanding, as was the staff. They really enjoyed their work and were always smiling and very friendly and helpful. This was a dream vacation we will always remember.

### **A Magical Setting**

#### ***Jackie and Wiley Johnson***

Our favorite thing about the experience, besides the beauty of the ship and Danube River, was the sincerity and dignity of the Captain as he conducted the ceremony. It was clear that he wanted this to be a meaningful occasion for us and he made it special. Additionally, the planners and crew did a great job of creating a setting on board to enhance the ceremony...even

“ It was unbelievable how wonderful the crew all were to us and how they remembered our names immediately. We couldn't have asked for a better experience! ”

positioning the ship to view a riverside castle in the background! Thanks to AmaWaterways and the AmaMagna crew for making our 50th anniversary a special experience!

### **The Icing on the Cake**

#### ***Judy and Wayne King***

The Captain presented a very special message to us during the renewal celebration. It was above and beyond our expectations. The swans, rose petals, Champagne and fruit left for us in our suite was icing on the cake. The AmaMagna is a beautiful ship — spacious and extremely comfortable, but the "go the extra mile" attitude of the entire crew topped off this wonderful cruise. We have taken several ocean liner cruises, but after this experience, the AmaMagna will be our choice in the future.

Contact your preferred travel advisor to start planning your vow renewal on AmaMagna today.



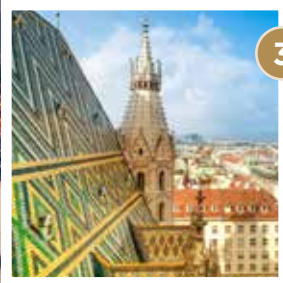
UPPER DANUBE



**1 FOUR COUNTRIES, ONE JOURNEY**  
 The Upper Danube begins in the Black Forest and travels through Germany, Austria, Slovakia, and Hungary, passing through the three regal capitals of Vienna, Bratislava, and Budapest along the way. AmaWaterways' itineraries also offer the opportunity to see a fifth capital with an optional land extension to Prague, Czech Republic.



**2 A PRISON WITH A VIEW**  
 An exhausted Richard the Lionheart was on his way home from the Third Crusade when he became shipwrecked in the Adriatic Sea. Forced to make his way home by land, he had to cross through Austria, home of one of his chief rivals, and was imprisoned in Dürnstein Fortress from 1192-1193.



**3 A STORIED CATHEDRAL**  
 A masterpiece of Romanesque and Gothic architecture, St. Stephen's Cathedral is a must-see for any visitor to Vienna. It is such an important landmark in Austria that it is featured on their 10-cent euro coin. Joseph Haydn and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart were both married inside, and the latter's funeral was held there as well.

Hike to Dürnstein Fortress and admire the timeless beauty of St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna on our *Magna on the Danube*, *Romantic Danube*, *Melodies of the Danube*, *Blue Danube Discovery*, *Magnificent Europe* or *Grand Danube* cruises.





# Exploring the Upper and Lower DANUBE

## LOWER DANUBE

### 5 Iron Gates

ROMANIA

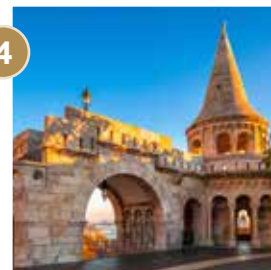
### 6 Belogradchik Rocks

BULGARIA

#### THE RIVER LESS TRAVELED

Cruises on the Lower Danube start in Budapest, Hungary and travel from Hungary through Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania. Much of the Lower Danube was closed off to tourists until the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1991, and the Balkans conflict rendered the region inaccessible for another decade.

4



#### THE KING IN IRON

Pass through the Iron Gates, a spectacular gorge along the border between Serbia and Romania with cliffs that reach up to 130 feet high. See the massive stone visage of Decebalus, the last king of Dacia (modern day Romania), who fought against the Roman Empire to preserve the independence of his kingdom.

5



#### THE STONE PEOPLE

Formed as a result of geologic compression and comprised mainly of limestone and sandstone, The Belogradchik Rocks are an awe-inspiring sight to behold. Reddish in color with ethereal shapes that protrude from the earth as high as 1,000 feet, the rock formations are the source of dozens of legends.

6



Marvel at King Decebalus in the Iron Gates and walk among the Belogradchik Rocks on our **Gems of Southeast Europe** cruise along the Lower Danube River, now available as a Loyalty Cruise departing August 2, 2020.



2020

# LOYALTY APPRECIATION CRUISES

## News & Updates

**ADDITIONAL SAILING ADDED!** In our last issue of *Beyond the River Banks*, we shared four exciting Loyalty Cruises departing in 2020 — and now, as one of our valued past guests, you have even more exclusive Loyalty Cruises to choose from, as we’ve added a spectacular summer sailing on our *Vineyards of the Rhine & Moselle* itinerary. See photos and testimonials from our 2019 departures on the next page and make your own memories later this year.

## 2020 LOYALTY APPRECIATION DEPARTURES



### TREASURES OF THE MAIN & RHINE

AmaDante  
 May 14, 2020  
*Nuremberg, Germany to Amsterdam, Netherlands*

Combine two rivers into one phenomenal journey while exploring Germany’s top-rated destinations. Taste Kölsch beer in view of the imposing Cologne Cathedral, wander through Würzburg’s UNESCO-designated Residenz Palace and so much more.



### GEMS OF SOUTHEAST EUROPE

AmaPrima  
 August 2, 2020  
*Giurgiu, Romania to Budapest, Hungary*

Delight in the distinctive culture, flavors and natural wonders of five countries on the Lower Danube and marvel in awe as you cruise through the stunning Iron Gates. Encompassing visits to Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia and Hungary, this cruise is sure to inspire you.



### VINEYARDS OF THE RHINE & MOSELLE

AmaSiena  
 August 12, 2020  
*Amsterdam, Netherlands to Luxembourg*

Embrace the beauty, history and flavor of the Rhine and Moselle river valleys with their castles and iconic Riesling vineyards. Sail past the famed Lorelei Rock and forever cherish the stories and flavors that will transform you during your journey.





## CHARMS OF THE MEKONG

AmaDara

October 26, 2020

*Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam to Kampong Cham, Cambodia*

Enjoy a whole new kind of adventure with a once-in-a-lifetime river cruise through Vietnam and Cambodia. Whether you're riding aboard an oxcart or in the presence of skilled artisans weaving colorful silk, you'll be treated to a truly authentic experience.



## RHINE & MOSELLE SPLENDORS

AmaSiena

November 4, 2020

*Luxembourg to Basel, Switzerland*

Open the pages of your very own fairytale in charming villages where timeless tales were spun with grapevines. Breathtaking scenery awaits from Germany's Moselle and Rheingau valleys to France's Alsatian Valley as you taste tradition throughout the region.

## 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 — and stay tuned for information about our 2021 Loyalty Cruises!

## 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](https://www.facebook.com/groups/AmaWaterwaysLoyaltyCruises).



## 2019 LOYALTY APPRECIATION CRUISES RECAP

We loved having you on board our Rhine and Danube Loyalty Cruises last year. Here are a few memories we made together. More to come in future issues of *Beyond the River Banks* or on your 2020 Loyalty Appreciation Cruise.



Fritzi C. and Paulene P. celebrate Oktoberfest in Vilshofen



AmaLea's attentive bar staff

The Loyalty Cruise on the Rhine sailing on the AmaMora was spectacular. It was the extra little things that made the difference. It was great to connect with people who had done other cruises and could share their experiences and make suggestions on what to take and do.  
— *Laurel B.*



Lynne S. at the Captain's Welcome

Good job, AmaWaterways!  
Your mini Oktoberfest was amazing!  
Cheers! — *Chi C.*



Stacia K. checks in at the Reception Desk



Karen K. enjoys visiting Vienna's Spanish Riding School



We loved the opportunity to visit parts of Europe that were new to us on a ship that made everything about traveling easy, comfortable and very pleasant. It is great to be pampered! We were surprised to discover that this cruise, our 4th with Ama, meant that we hold the record on this trip. Thank you for the plaque for 'Distinguished Cruisers!' – Gillian and Ian S.



Pam and Robert J. pose with crew and their Distinguished Cruisers Award



Local musicians play for guests during an exclusive evening wine experience in Spitz, Austria



Butler Winda strikes her heart pose



Cruise Manager Pete with Distinguished Cruisers Vivian G. and Ashok H.

Words cannot describe how the crew gave us their superb and best service. They interacted with us so well and exchanged jokes. They made our stay super fun. The food selections were the world's best.  
— Emma P.

# { the inside scoop }

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



Tracy Shaughnessy and Gary Murphy

## Thankful for Our Community

We are proud to support the Boys and Girls Club of Moorpark and Simi Valley in our community. Pictured at left is Co-Owner and Senior Vice President of Sales, Gary Murphy, with the organization’s Resource Development Director, Tracy Shaughnessy, accepting what Gary describes as “AmaWaterways’ most meaningful award in 2019.”

## A Lifetime of Achievement

Congratulations to AmaWaterways Co-Founders Rudi Schreiner and Kristin Karst, who both received *Travel Weekly’s* Lifetime Achievement Awards this past December. Along with our late Co-Founder Jimmy Murphy and Co-Owner Gary Murphy, their dedicated efforts have greatly contributed to the travel industry with personalized guest service, active excursions for river cruising and authentic experiences.



## Cruise Critic Editors’ Awards of 2019

This December, AmaWaterways was awarded three outstanding 2019 Cruise Critic Editors’ Picks Awards: “Best River Cruise Line,” “Best River Cruise Line for Active Cruisers” and “Best New River Cruise Ship” for AmaMagna. We are very honored to be recognized for continuing to transform the river cruise industry and introduce innovative ship designs.



**AmaWaterways**  
Best River Cruise Line

**AmaWaterways**  
Best River Cruise Line for Active Cruisers

**AmaMagna**  
Best New River Cruise Ship

## USA Today 10Best Awards

Thank you for voting AmaMagna “Best River Cruise Ship” in *USA Today’s* 10Best Readers’ Choice Awards. Your continued support means the world to us and we hope to exceed your expectations aboard a future AmaMagna cruise.







The Murphy Clan, with Jimmy's wife Sheila in front row, third from left.

## In Tribute to Our Beloved Co-Founder, Three Generations of the Murphy Family Create Loving Memories Aboard

One of AmaMagna's new restaurants, *Jimmy's*, named for AmaWaterways' late Co-Founder Jimmy Murphy, has received rave reviews from guests — and now 21 members of the Murphy family can be added to that list. Together with her loved ones, Jimmy's wife Sheila enjoyed a journey of a lifetime and created new memories to cherish.

Said Jimmy's daughter of their extended family meal at Jimmy's, "Everyone had loving memories to share and we all knew that Dad and Uncle Kevin were looking down, very pleased. Mom was delighted, and a bit teary, seeing the photographs on the wall."

The warmth of our AmaWaterways family shines through in this beloved new restaurant, and we look forward to welcoming you for a family-style meal at *Jimmy's* aboard AmaMagna soon.





# *Your Travel Advisors, Our Family*

We'd like you to meet some of our many incredible travel advisors, whom we have always considered an extension of our own family. We are continually inspired by their passion for exploring the world and for providing you with the best possible river cruise experience.

These world travelers have experienced various destinations, properties and vacation providers, often as guests just like you, ensuring you will always get an honest and heartfelt opinion as well as their invaluable advice and expertise.

For the most seamless travel experience in 2020, we encourage you to begin your planning process by connecting with your preferred travel advisor. Allow them to take care of the details as you sit back, relax and fill your heart with Ama.





## FEATURED PHOTOS AND STORIES



**Top:** Captain's Table on the Danube — so special! (submitted by Ross M.)

**Left:** Monique D. and Cruise Manager Clarissa celebrate New Year's Eve

on AmaSerena. **Right:** First-time guest Mashelle K. proudly shows off her lime risotto – made from an AmaWaterways recipe requested on board!

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](mailto: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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Calabasas, CA 91302

## SEE INSIDE:

Danube Fashion —  
And Where to Buy It

2019 Loyalty Cruise  
Recap

What's Your  
Cruise Personality?

## TRIPLE SAVINGS

ON SELECT EUROPE AND SOUTHEAST ASIA CRUISES!



BOOK SELECT 2020 EUROPE AND MEKONG RIVER CRUISES  
BY MARCH 31, 2020 TO RECEIVE  
OUR LIMITED-TIME TRIPLE SAVINGS OFFER\*

*\*Visit [AmaWaterways.com/love](https://www.amawaterways.com/love) for full details and terms.*

Contact your preferred Travel Advisor, call 1.888.626.6417 or visit [AmaWaterways.com](https://www.amawaterways.com) to book today.