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Après tout – Canal de Bourgogne



Après Tout is the talking point of the Burgundy canal as owners Rory and Caroline McCrae have, after more than 20 years of work in the luxury hotel barge industry, finally made it their own. This stylish 38 metre, six passenger and newly refurbished luxury barge, cruises through the heart of Burgundy uncovering wine and gourmet delights around every corner. Whether it's sipping an aperitif marvelling at the breathtaking French countryside, taking a leisurely stroll or bike ride along the specially designed tow paths, wine tasting, discovering the quaint markets and small towns or merely relaxing in the top deck Jacuzzi, Après Tout has got it all – 'après tout' (after all)!



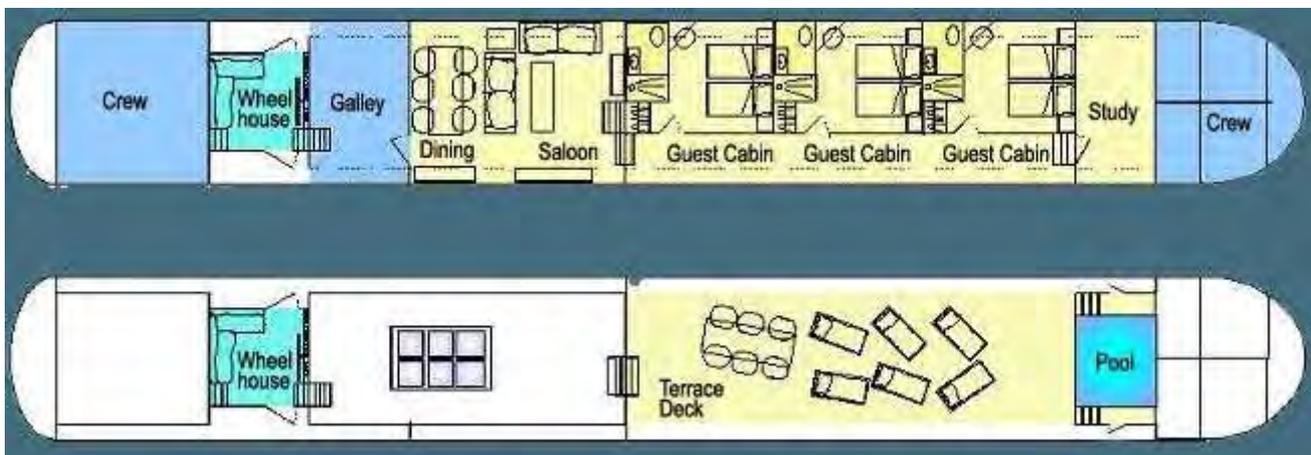


Caroline and Sonia - your barge specialist



Owners Rory and Caroline

Après Tout is 'la crème de la crème' of barging. From the bright and lively salon, the fully extended deck with spa and swimming pool, to the king size state rooms with pale oak floors and sky lights. Each room is fully equipped with a king bed or the option of a twin-split, safety box, satellite TV and DVD, spacious ensuite with walk in shower and heated towel racks. There is also a library and computer station entirely for guest use and Ipod dock so you can match a melody and create the perfect cruise ambience.



Sample Itinerary – Paris to Dijon

Sunday, day 1

Depart Paris in our luxury private transfer service direct to the barge moored in St Jean de Losne, where you board the Après Tout for your canal cruise through Burgundy on the Canal du Bourgogne. A champagne reception gives you a chance to meet the crew. Once you have settled into your cabin, it will be time to return to the deck for a cocktail cruise on the river Saône. A delicious four course dinner will be served with wonderful wines to match, followed by after dinner drinks – weather permitting all served on the magnificent teak deck.

Monday, day 2

– **Cruise to Longecourt. Visit Clos de Vougeot with Jeep drive through the vines.**

Leaving the River Saône behind, we now enter onto the Canal de Bourgogne through the first of many locks! Spend the morning enjoying your first cruising day on the flat plain from the river toward Dijon. After lunch, your guide takes you to the area of the 'Côte d'Or' (in French meaning Gold Coast) planted with vines that produce some of the world's most famous wines. Here we visit the "Clos de Vougeot", a medieval château surrounded by vineyards. This is truly a magnificent Chateau and the headquarters of the Chevaliers du Tastevin, whose special label is awarded annually to the finest Côte d'Or vintages. We have arranged some fantastic World War II jeeps to take you through the vines to explore some of the small tracks that wind through this famous land for some exhilarating fun!

For those who have a little more energy, we can stop at a truffle producer and learn how the black diamonds grow and then how to find them. We return to the Après Tout for a well deserved refreshing cocktail!

Tuesday, day 3

– Cruise to Dijon. Visit Dijon.

This morning we visit Dijon, a wonderful town with a long and interesting history. As it is market day, the centre is thriving with traders selling their produce and shoppers meandering and taking in the atmospheric feel of this magnificent city. There is plenty of time to shop in the city's many chic boutiques or sit in a pavement café and watch the world go by. Later, we will visit the Grey Poupon mustard shop for a tasting of this famous product and then take a walk through the historic area of the town which will captivate you with its historical past, including the Ducal Palace. We return to the barge for lunch and an afternoon cruise into Dijon, where we moor for the evening. Tonight, you must try a 'Kir Royale' made with local Cassis, a liqueur invented here in Dijon made from blackcurrants and mixed with the Burgundy Champagne equivalent named Crémant.



Wednesday, day 4

– Cruise to Fleurey. Lunch Gevrey Chambertin at 'Chez Mr. Vigneron'. Route de Grand Cru

Leaving Dijon behind, we continue our canal cruise to the Valley d' Ouche. Enjoy a relaxing morning on board; there are many locks for disembarking to cycle or to walk. Late morning you transfer over the hillside and down through the vines to the charming village of Gevrey Chambertin. We are greeted by the owner of the prestigious Grand Cru, and here we have a splendid lunch on their terrace overlooking their vines! During lunch Madame Drouhin Laroze (the owner) will present her wines. This is truly a unique experience. After lunch, we are given a very informative private tour of the cellars. We then take a scenic drive along the famous 'Route du Grand Cru', passing through many of the famous wine villages.

Thursday, day 5

– Cruise to Gisse. Visit Beaune. Dinner at the Abbaye de la Bussiere

The morning is spent cruising through the lovely Valley d'Ouche, this is a truly spectacular part of the canal, small villages pass by, cows wander in the fields, and there is nature all around. There is a feeling of peace and tranquillity as we slowly cruise this magnificent canal. After another wonderful lunch, you are transferred to the delightful town of Beaune, the capital of the wine region of Burgundy. Enjoy a visit to the famous Hôtel-Dieu, Hospice de Beaune with its compelling history and magnificent tiled roof. After some free time for shopping or strolling in the pedestrian streets we have an optional appointment for a private wine tasting at the famous cellars of Joseph Drouhin - this tour is by invitation only. Later, we return to the barge for a refreshing cocktail and freshen up before one of the highlights of the week, a gourmet dinner at the stunning Abbaye de la Bussiere. This Relais & Chateaux property has been beautifully transformed from a Cistercian abbey into a fabulous hotel, set in architectural grounds where you will dine in style tonight.



Friday, day 6

– Cruise to Pont d’Ouche. Visit Châteauneuf-en-Auxois.

Today enjoy the final stretch of this beautiful canal cruise. We pass through several more locks until reaching our destination of the port at Pont D’Ouche. This afternoon we make a special private visit to world renowned English artist’s gallery and workshop, which is set up in a converted barn. His work is world class, and he has been recently commissioned to create a piece of art in celebration of the London Olympics. We are shown through the workshop, and able to see the process of creating his bronze sculptures, many of which have been produced for the Queen of England, and as a result, found at the war memorial in London. We then drive up to Châteauneuf-en-Auxois, a medieval hill-top village steeped in History. This is a charming place with stunning views from all angles of the surrounding countryside. Return to the Après Tout for a gala dinner with wonderful wines to match and a fond farewell.

Saturday, day 7

–Au Revoir, return to Paris.

After breakfast disembark and transfer to Paris with our private luxury transfer service.



APRES TOUT