CRUISING THE FRENCH AND ITALIAN RIVIERAS
ART, ARCHITECTURE & ANTIQUITY ON SEA CLOUD II
APRIL 30–MAY 8, 2024
ITINERARY

Nice... Monte Carlo... Cannes... Cinque Terre... Lucca... Florence. These are names that conjure up images of glamorous seaports, sun-drenched beaches, rich masterpieces of art and architecture, picturesque villages, and medieval history—in short, the quintessential Mediterranean journey.

Early May is the perfect time of year to visit, with verdant gardens and landscapes awash with blossoms, and moderate temperatures. Join fellow travelers for this exploration along the French & Italian Rivieras, combining a three-night stay at a landmark luxury resort in an iconic location with a relaxed four-night cruise aboard the Sea Cloud II from Nice to Rome, with port calls in the Cinque Terre, Livorno (for a day trip to Florence or Lucca), and the Isle of Elba. Most days feature differing excursions to choose from catering to your interests or style of travel.

A journey aboard the 47-cabin Sea Cloud II is an intimate and memorable experience on one of the most elegant and luxurious vessels afloat, combining the seafaring elegance of a bygone era with the highest modern standards of luxury. Guests can experience this marvelous ship completely under sail after the skilled crew hand-sets over 30,000 square feet of canvas. The ship’s small size also allows us to moor centrally in the most scenic harbors, and anchor offshore of Porto Venere for a visit to the Cinque Terre.

Highlights

- **Savor local flavors** during gourmet meals ashore, including three lunches and one dinner in the French Riviera, a dinner ashore in Porto Venere, a local lunch in Florence or Lucca, and a **wine tasting at a vineyard estate** surrounded by olive trees in Portoferraio.

- Luxuriate in a three-night stay at the **Hotel Carlton** in Cannes, a historic French Riviera property boasting a central waterfront location along the glamorous Croisette, surrounded by restaurants, bars, and shopping.

- Discover the masterpieces of **legendary artists Picasso, Matisse, and Chagall** during visits to landmark museums dedicated to each artist; all spent many prime working years in the Côte d’Azur and were inspired by the region’s special light and landscapes.

- Enjoy **private entrée to sites**, such as the lovely garden and architectural masterpiece of Villa Ephrussi in Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat.
SCHEDULE BY DAY

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner

TUESDAY—WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30–MAY 1
HOME / NICE, FRANCE

Depart home on overnight flights to Nice, France. Arriving Wednesday, transfer to Cannes and check in to the seafront hotel. Enjoy a restful afternoon at leisure, then meet your fellow travelers at a private welcome reception and dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Hotel Carlton (R, D)

THURSDAY, MAY 2
ANTIBES / SAINT-PAUL-DE-VENCE

This morning, choose between two guided excursions: 1) The nearby Picasso Museum and a walking tour of Old Town Antibes, including its ramparts along the sea; 2) The fortified village and artists’ mecca of Saint-Paul-de-Vence, followed by the the Maeght Foundation and its impressive sculpture garden and collection of modern and contemporary art. Following lunch at the hotel, enjoy a welcome orientation and introductory lecture. The afternoon is at leisure to explore the area around the hotel or the rest of the Côte d’Azur on your own.

Overnight: Hotel Carlton (B, L)

FRIDAY, MAY 3
CÔTE D’AZUR / MONACO

This morning, choose between two excursions: 1) Scenic Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, a picture-perfect village jutting into the sea atop a small peninsula highlighted by the lovely garden and architectural masterpiece of Villa Ephrussi, followed by the quaint village of Èze, perched on a rocky peak overlooking the Mediterranean and an afternoon at leisure; 2) Monaco, including the Old Town with the State Apartments of the Prince’s Palace and the Opera Gallery, followed by free time in Monte Carlo.

Overnight: Hotel Carlton (B, L)

SATURDAY, MAY 4
NICE / EMBARK

After a morning at leisure, drive to Nice and choose between two excursions: 1) see the Marc Chagall Museum, which curiously opened during his lifetime, and 2) the Matisse Museum, housing a large number of his works as well as pieces from his private collection that inspired some of his most famous paintings and sculptures. Late this afternoon, embark the Sea Cloud II in Nice and bid adieu to France as you sail toward Italy.

Overnight: Sea Cloud II (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, MAY 5
PORTO VENERE / CINQUE TERRE, ITALY

Enjoy the thrilling experience of cruising under sail (weather permitting), then anchor off Porto Venere and experience the Cinque Terre by foot, walking between iconic seaside villages. Perched between steeply terraced vineyards and the Ligurian Sea, this UNESCO World Heritage Site and protected marine area is characterized by tiny villages and hidden coves. Stop in Manarola for a wine tasting and dinner.

Overnight: Sea Cloud II (B, L, D)

MONDAY, MAY 6
LIVORNO / FLORENCE OR LUCCA

Dock in Livorno for a choice of full-day tours, each featuring a gourmet local lunch: 1) Florence, with a guided city walk to see the iconic landmarks of the historic center as well as the masterpieces of the Uffizi Gallery 2) Lucca, birthplace of composer Giacomo Puccini and treasure chest of Tuscany’s ancient trade in silk, with a stroll around the elliptical central piazza made up of medieval buildings outlining the ruins of a Roman amphitheater, as well as time to stroll around sections of the ancient city walls, now a park-like promenade. Return to the Sea Cloud II in the evening for dinner on board.

Overnight: Sea Cloud II (B, L, D)
TUESDAY, MAY 7
PORTOFERRAIO, ELBA

This morning, following in the footsteps of the Argonauts and Napoleon, call at the tropical-esque Isle of Elba. Take a panoramic drive with superb views over the coastline, visit Napoleon’s summer residence during the years of his exile on the island from 1814 to 1815, and stop for a wine tasting at a 17th-century country wine estate, with vineyards nestled among ancient olive trees. Return to the ship for lunch, with a leisurely afternoon of cruising and final opportunity to experience the ship under sail. Gather this evening for the captain’s farewell reception and dinner.

Overnight: Sea Cloud II (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8
ROME / HOME

Disembark in Civitavecchia and transfer to the Rome airport for flights home or begin the optional extension in Tuscany.

(B)

OPTIONAL POST-TOUR EXTENSION IN TUSCANY
MAY 8–12, 2024

Extend your stay with five days at Belmond Castello di Casole, a 10th-century estate spread across 4,200 acres in the Tuscan countryside near Siena. Excursions include a visit to the exclusive Marchesi di Antinori Estate, with a private visit of the cellars. Enjoy a truffle hunting experience followed by a cooking class, and explore Torre Campatelli in San Gimignano during a private, after-hours visit.

Further details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.