

RIVER CRUISING

PROVENCE & BURGUNDY

The Rhône River



Classic
JOURNEYS



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

River Cruising, Reimagined

Classic Journeys takes river cruising to a whole new level when you join us on France's legendary Rhone River. Aboard your Swiss-built 5-star cruise ship, you unpack just once—and embark on cultural and walking experiences handcrafted exclusively for our guests only. Your expert, well-connected guide travels with you and whisks you away from the crowded riverside attractions to which the other passengers are limited. In Burgundy, wander the wine capital of Beaune and have a private tasting at Corton-Charlemagne vineyard. In Provence, bespoke cultural experiences include the chance to cook with a Michelin-starred chef and a visit to a friend's award-winning olive mill. Throughout, enjoy scenic country walks and village visits the ship's other passengers can only imagine. Of course, you have unfettered use of all onboard amenities from observation lounge to wellness center and rooftop deck. Your luxurious stateroom has a wall of floor-to-ceiling windows and the ship's own crew is hospitable to the Nth degree. To take your cruise another step beyond the usual, Classic Journeys treats you to a delicious variety of on-shore dining experiences in some of the regions' finest cafes and restaurants.

DAY 1

AVIGNON

- Settle in aboard the MS Lord Byron
- Join your Classic Journeys guide for a festive welcome dinner in Avignon

Welcome aboard your luxury cruise ship moored in the heart of Avignon. You'll be greeted by your Classic Journeys guide – your new friend and local expert who will be with you all week to host you on immersive small-group explorations handcrafted exclusively for you. While your cultural and walking activities will be far above and beyond those available to the other passengers, you'll all share the 5-star attention of the ship's hospitable crew. After you settle into your stateroom, strike out to discover all of the facilities from the expansive topside deck to the fine restaurants and wellness center.

Tonight, your Classic Journeys guide will arrange a festive private dinner on shore in one of Avignon's exceptional Provençal restaurants.

OVERNIGHT: AVIGNON
MEALS: D

DAY 2

AVIGNON

- Visit Sénanque Abbey
- Explore the enigmatic stone hut bories
- Enjoy a guided walk of Avignon
- See the Palais des Papes, where the Popes lived in the 14th and 15th centuries

After breakfast, you'll wave good-bye to your fellow passengers as you head for the village of Roussillon. It's a startling sight, constructed as it was from 17 different shades of red sandstone. You'll take a short, enjoyable walk through the ochre quarries, then depart for Senanque Abbey, set in an isolated valley surrounded by a field of lavender and oaks. One of only three Cistercian monasteries in Provence, it is still occupied by the monks.

After lunch and a visit, it's an easy stroll to Gordes. Your trail winds past a borie, one of the trademark structures of Provence. Bories are amazing corbelled vaults of flagstones, stacked high with no mortar to secure them. Similar to Neolithic examples found elsewhere in Europe, these are believed to be from the 18th or 19th century. They're remotely located and some experts speculate that they were built to escape the plague. If you'd prefer to skip this walk, you can ride ahead in the van and arrive in Gordes early, with time to go people-watching and shopping.

Back in Avignon, your guide leads you on a walk through the streets. Dominating it all is the Palais des Papes, home of the breakaway papacy from 1316 until the 15th century. Today, its sweeping forecourt is sprinkled with lovely cafes and it's a stage for street performers who vie for your attention.

OVERNIGHT: ARLES
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 3

LES BAUX / ST. RÉMY

- Taste the olive oil at our friend's mill
- Stroll in the market village of Saint-Rémy
- Visit a 12th-century cloister once inhabited by van Gogh

That's Arles you see through your floor-to-ceiling windows this morning. Once again today, you'll put the river behind you and head into the scenic heart of Provence. The region is called the Luberon, which you may recognize from Peter Mayle's book "A Year in Provence". You'll stop at Moulin Barbentane, a traditional olive mill that's a labor of love for our friends Isabelle and Jean. Their pressings have won international awards, and they tell you about the art of raising and selecting olives before treating you to a tasting of their oils.

Next, you'll visit Saint-Remy-de-Provence, a picture-perfect market village that gives you a wonderful look at the quiet, quaint culture of the south of France. From Saint Remy, the path to Les Baux reveals this gorgeous medieval village perched on a rocky crest jutting up abruptly from the plains below. It is the perfect view to accompany the authentic pique-nique arranged for you by your guide

In a scenic rock quarry, you'll take in the town's monumental sound and light show, Carrieres de Lumieres. Here, projected images of famous artwork are dramatically cast upon vast stretches of natural rock. Inspired by the art, continue on near St. Remy, to St. Paul de Mausole, the 12th-century cloister where van Gogh spent the last year of his life. Using reproductions, the caretakers make it easy to see how much of the local landscape appeared in his paintings.

After the quintessential Provençal day, you'll return to the ship for a relaxing evening. Perhaps you'll opt for a glass of the local wines in the panoramic observation lounge or choose to take a sauna or use the steam room before dinner.

OVERNIGHT: CRUISE TO VIVIERS
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 4

ORANGE / CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

- Explore the Roman Theater in Orange
- Savor a Châteauneuf-du-Pape wine tasting
- Cook with a Michelin-starred chef

Today, while the ship sails ahead for a series of brief stops along the Rhône, your Classic Journeys guide will lead you on an immersive, unforgettable day in the real world of Provence. First, you'll enjoy a leisurely amble through the region's vineyards, before arriving at the Roman theater of Orange, another of the best-preserved structures dating back to ancient times.

After a morning spent among the vineyards, it wouldn't be right not to visit one of the finest! Even if you're not a certified wine-lover, you'll recognize Chateauneuf-du-Pape as one of France's premier wine regions. Because your group is small, you'll be able to enter the cellars for a tasting. You'll also see the ruins of Chateau des Papes, the summer retreat of the Popes. From the remaining walls, the view across the Rhone valley is breathtaking.

Your afternoon is the culinary pinnacle of the week as you join Michelin-starred Chef Alain for an amazing cooking instruction. He shares the secrets of cuisine a la Provençale, the complex and savory flavors built on fresh herbs,

DAILY ITINERARY
PROVENCE & BURGUNDY | THE RHÔNE RIVER | RIVER CRUISING

peppery olive oil, garlic, and tomatoes. With the kitchen full of fresh Mediterranean produce, you'll roll up your sleeves, fire up the stove, and get a memorable hands-on lesson from a true master. Appetites stoked by the aromas of Chef Alain's kitchen, you sit down to the spectacular dinner you helped prepare.

OVERNIGHT: Tournon

MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 5

PONT-DU-GARD / UZÈS

- Follow a countryside path to the Pont-du-Gard aqueduct
- Walk past old watermills in the Alzon River Valley

Treat yourself to a hearty breakfast. From the dock in Vienne, you're off on a beautiful countryside walk. At the end: the Pont-du-Gard, one of the surviving Roman wonders of the world. An aqueduct system built over 2,000 years ago, the arched structure soars over the Gardon River. It's a classical treasure...and a monumental lesson in the vivid history of the region.

Later, your Classic Journeys guide will make sure you arrive in the charming village of Uzès in time for lunch at a cafe. You'll have the option of staying on a little longer to explore and shop, or you can choose from two walks into the Alzon River valley to see the old watermill houses. Afterward, you'll meet back up with the MS Lord Byron in Tournon for a fun evening aboard.

OVERNIGHT: CRUISE TO CHALON-SUR-SAONE

MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 6

VINEYARD WALK / BEAUNE

- Taste the wines of Corton-Charlemagne
- Explore the wine capital of Beaune

Open your eyes this morning in Chalon-sur-Saone, in the scenic south of Burgundy. With your fellow Classic Journeys guests, you'll leave the ship behind to wander in the medieval town of Beaune, the wine capital of Burgundy. Here, even the simplest lunch is a culinary treat that you won't forget. Afternoon offers an amazing walk in the countryside where vineyards stretch as far as you can see in every direction. The path leads to a classic vineyard where you enjoy an intimate tasting of the Grand Cru white wines known as Corton-Charlemagne.

The balance of the afternoon is back aboard as you bask in the particular pleasure of a river cruise, watching the scenic landscape glide by from the panoramic observation lounge or topside. (Try not to make your fellow passengers feel too jealous as you tell them about your day's Classic Journeys experiences.) Enjoy dinner tonight in one of the ship's fine restaurants.

OVERNIGHT: CRUISE TO LYON

MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 7

LYON

- Discover historic Lyon on a guided walk
- Enjoy a relaxing afternoon on board or explore on your own

After this day, you just may agree with the citizens of Lyon that their home is the equal of Paris. It's one enormous UNESCO World Heritage Site with wonderful Renaissance buildings, Roman ruins, and lively street life. On a walk with your Classic Journeys guide, explore Vieux Lyon, the center of the silk industry for three centuries. You enter the renaissance passageways known as *traboules*, many of which are part of private homes today. And amidst it all, there's Parc de la Tête d'Or, a magnificent urban park with France's finest botanical garden.

You'll return to the ship in time for lunch. The afternoon is yours for more exploring, a massage in the spa, or to catch some rays on the Sun Deck with the city's skyline as your backdrop.

OVERNIGHT: LYON

MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 8

LYON

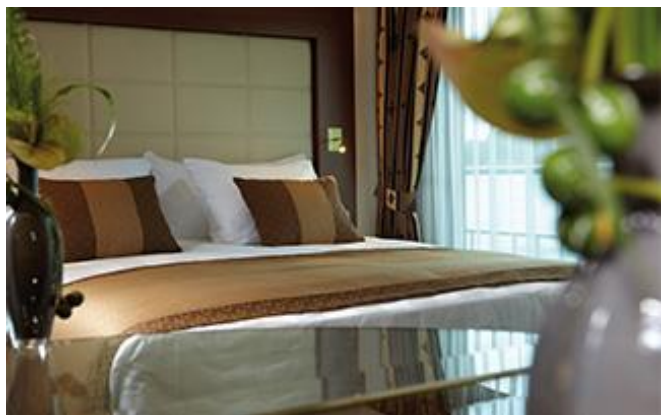
- Bid a fond farewell to the ship and your guide
- Continue your travels or begin your homeward journey

After breakfast, you disembark for your flight home or to continue your travels.

MEALS: B



Tour Hotels



MS Lord Byron

On your Swiss-built 5-star vessel, a crew of 36 serves a maximum of just 140 guests. Your stateroom offers a French balcony and floor-to-ceiling windows. Amenities include fine dining, panoramic observation lounge, spa, fitness room, plunge pool and wifi.

OVERNIGHT: FAIRFIELD | NIGHTS: 7

Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
May 5-12, 2020	\$5,995	\$8,490
July 14-21, 2020	\$5,995	\$8,490
October 15-22, 2020	\$5,995	\$8,490
May 10-17, 2021	\$6,095	\$8,590
July 17-24, 2021	\$6,095	\$8,590
October 11-18, 2021	\$6,095	\$8,590

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE to learn more about private journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH: 8 Days, 7 Nights

START: 4:30 PM On board the MS Lord Byron, Avignon, France

END: 9:00 AM Port of Lyon, Lyon, France

TERRAIN: Easy to moderate on good trails.

What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 7 nights
- All meals are included
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for cruise, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- Invisible Check-In
- Wine on Us
- Perfect Pairings Dinners
- Privileged Access Events

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-833-387-1210

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

moreinfo@classicjourneys.com



TRAVEL WORRY-FREE!

It's easy with insurance from Travel Guard. Your policy can cover trip cancellation, travel delays, lost luggage, medical emergencies, and more. If you are traveling with kids, add them to your policy at no extra cost. [Click here](#) or call 800-826-4919 for details.

AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to a [whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference



HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.

At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Burgundy and Provence...

- Unpacking once on your 5-star river cruise boat
- Wine-tastings at fine vineyards in Burgundy and Provence
- Exclusive walks in the iconic Provençal countryside and villages
- A chance to cook with a Michelin-starred chef in his kitchen
- Dining extravagantly at onshore dinners for Classic Journeys guests only

"I've wanted to go to Provence for 30 years and have collected many books. This tour made all of the pictures come alive. I am so happy that I went—your tour made everything so easy to enjoy each day."

—Frances F., Orange Park FL

Let's Go!

TO RESERVE: 833.493.5038 | [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/RESERVATIONS](https://www.classicjourneys.com/reservations)

You might also enjoy...



The Danube River

Cultures of Central Europe

River Cruising

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Exploring on privately guided walks in Vienna, Budapest and Bratislava
- Leaving the crowds behind on countryside and vineyard walks
- Stepping back in time in the Czech village of Cesky Krumlov

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/danube-river-cruise/>.



The Douro River

Porto to Salamanca

River Cruising

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Wandering in white-washed rural villages
- Tasting the sparkling wines in a vineyard's blue granite cave
- Going for privately guided walks in Porto and Salamanca

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/douro-luxury-river-cruise/>.

DAILY ITINERARY

Provence & Burgundy | The Rhône River | River Cruising

MS LORD BYRON

RATING: 5 stars

GUESTS: 140

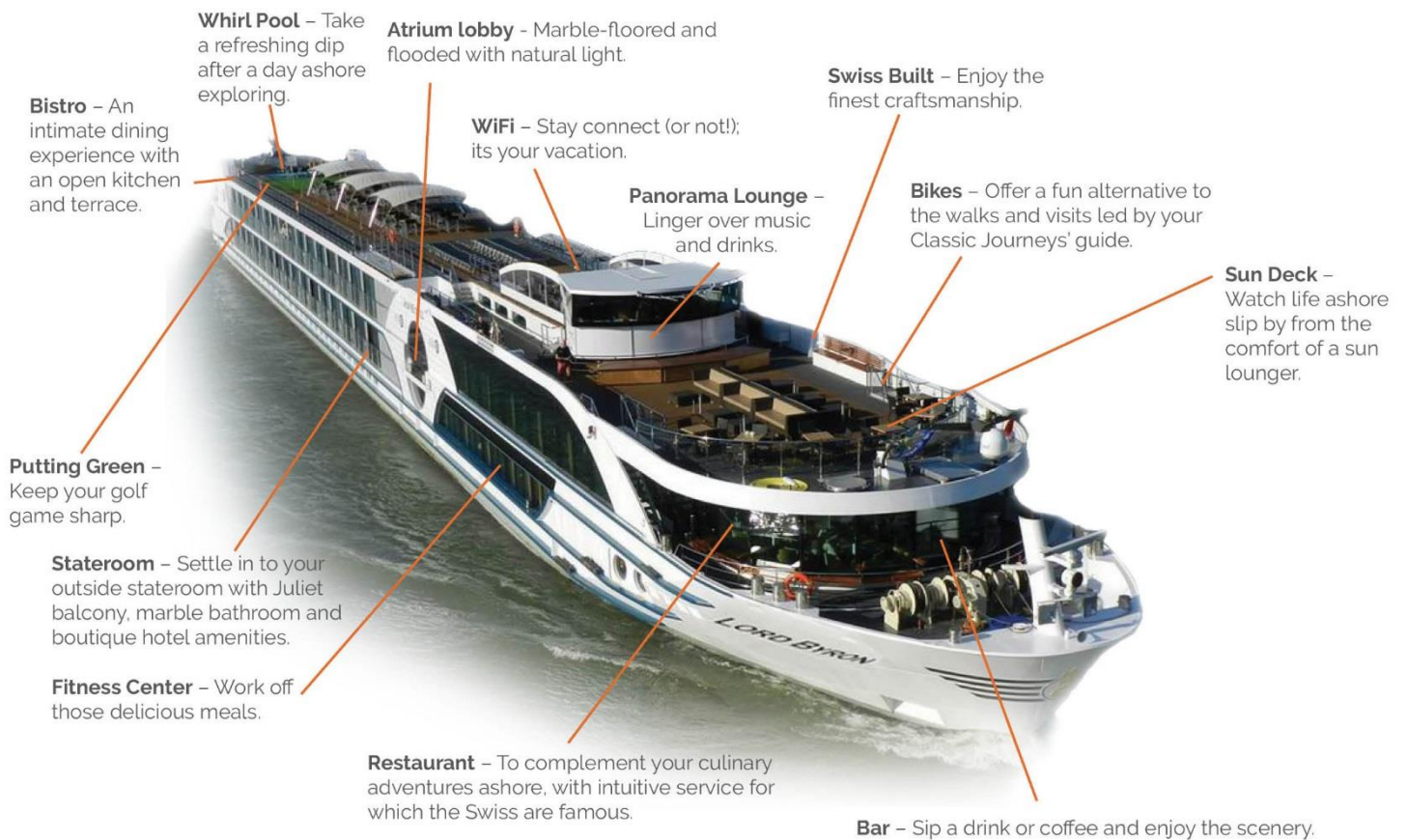
LENGTH: 360 feet

DECKS: 3

STATEROOMS: 74

STATEROOM SIZE: 161 square feet

When you plan a river cruising vacation, one easy way to compare your options is to look at the amenities, facilities and layouts of the ships. With Classic Journeys, you win that contest time and again. Your ship will be equal or superior to the vessels on other tour operators' cruise-based trips, but at a cost that's as much as 20-40% less.



STATEROOM FEATURES

- Outside stateroom with riverview
- Juliet balcony
- Floor to ceiling sliding glassdoors
- Hotel style bed with optional twin bed configuration
- Private marble bathroom
- Bath products by 'Crabtree and Evelyn'
- Free Wi-Fi throughout ship
- Flat screen TV
- Voltage 220V, UK + European outlets
- Telephone, safe, refrigerator, hair dryer, individual climate control
- Bottled water replenished daily

“Enthusiasm is Contagious”

AS TRAVEL + LEISURE NAMES CLASSIC JOURNEYS THE WORLD'S BEST TOUR OPERATOR FOR 2019, FOUNDER EDWARD PIEGZA REVEALS HOW IT FEELS. ENTHUSIASTICALLY.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Just before publication of this issue, Travel + Leisure magazine announced that its readers have voted Classic Journeys the World's Best Tour Operator for 2019. It's the second time Classic Journeys has won that recognition and the 14th consecutive year the company has been in the Top 10.

Congratulations! How did you get the news?

I received a top-secret email and phone call from the editor of *Travel + Leisure* a few weeks ago with orders not to tell ANYONE. Friends and neighbors must have wondered why my smile has been so extra big lately. Now they know.

And how does it feel to be the World's Best Tour Operator again?

Awesome. Humbling. So, so satisfying. Deeply gratifying to learn that we have achieved what we set out to do which is to handcraft trips of a lifetime for every guest who travels with us. I'm known as long-winded, so I could probably come up with 10 or 15 more ways to describe it if you want me to keep going.

Why do you think *Travel + Leisure* gave you this recognition?

Actually, it isn't the *T+L* editors who make the decision. That's the best part. Their readers cast the votes. So the people who do the traveling, the guests who explore the world with us and our competitors — they are the ones who raised their hands to tell *T+L* that Classic Journeys is the World's Best Tour Operator based on their own experiences. Let me say it right here: "To all of you who voted for us, you are the World's Best Guests!"

What do you think makes your guests the World's Best Guests?

That's easy. They are curious. They care about connecting with people of different cultures and immersing themselves in the world. They treasure experiences more than things. Like the old ad slogan went, they go for the gusto and crave the chance to have one-of-a-kind moments. They are incredibly interesting and interested people, and all of us at Classic Journeys count it as a real privilege to share in their passion for travel. And we feel that way on the

other 364 days of the year when we're not celebrating recognition like this.

I guess this is what you meant when you told me that "Enthusiasm is contagious."

Absolutely. That's not our official motto, but it could be. We love what we do. We enjoy helping guests figure out how to invest their precious time and budget. I can honestly say that all of us feel that way — the Guest Services folks who interact with you while you're planning your trip, the Tour Operations team members who plan all of the logistics, the local guides who lead each one of our trips full time. There's just a huge amount of positive energy in what we do, and I think it truly is hard to resist. We'd climb into every one of our guest's suitcases and go along with them if we could. Because we can't, we call each guest while they're on tour just to be sure they are having a trip of a lifetime.

Has anyone ever called Classic Journeys obsessive?

I hope so, because we are. Everything is in the details. For instance, we've created a special tour for the total eclipse of the sun which is going to pass over parts of South America in 2020. We've already analyzed likely traffic patterns in the most remote areas and figured out how to structure our itinerary so that our guests will be in place in the path of totality while the people who don't plan ahead will be stuck in jams on remote dirt roads. We enjoy obsessing about details like that so that our guests never have to.



How can you top this?

Oh, we never let ourselves think of it that way. We just continue to approach every single guest on each and every departure like the most important guest we've ever had. It seems to be working! Of course, we keep looking for new ways to win more converts. For 2019, we've launched a new series of Classic Journeys that are based from

"I voted for you!"

We've heard that expression so many times lately from guests who registered their votes with *Travel + Leisure*. Given the results, we know it's true ... and you know that your votes really count!

STAFF AND GUIDES

"I always feel like I'm traveling with a best friend. I prefer your local guides to the ones that other companies fly in."

ITINERARIES AND DESTINATIONS

"If it's on my bucket list, you always seem to go there. Of course, with so many options you always seem to make my list longer and longer!"

ACTIVITIES

"On your trips, I've cooked with Michelin chefs, sung songs with Quechua schoolchildren, and walked on glaciers with the descendants of Vikings. Fun doesn't begin to describe it."

ACCOMMODATIONS

"How you manage so many 5-star properties on these trips shocks me. But please, please, please keep it up!"

FOOD

"I have never eaten so well so often so happily. When you people claim that you are foodies, you aren't kidding."

OVERALL VALUE

"We have never had a better vacation at any price."

river cruise boats. On a different note, seeing how many travelers can't always find as much vacation time as they really want, we have developed a series of 6-day or shorter quick trips that go as far afield as Iceland, the Galápagos and Morocco.

Final thoughts?

It's always an honor to win recognition. But, for all of us at Classic Journeys, the biggest privilege is to share the dreams of our guests and make those dreams come true. That connection is the best feeling of all.