

EXCLUSIVE NOBLE CALEDONIA CHARTER

SPECIAL  
OFFER – SAVE  
**£500**  
PER PERSON

# ROSES OF THE RHINE

A PASSAGE ALONG THE RHINE CELEBRATING THE  
REGION'S SPLENDID GARDENS ABOARD THE MS RIVER CROWN  
WITH GUEST SPEAKER ROSEMARY LEGRAND

1<sup>ST</sup> TO 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2026

NOBLE CALEDONIA





Japanese gardens, Leverkusen

The long summer days of July are perfect for exploring the beauty of Germany and the Netherlands' spectacular gardens which will be in full bloom. Join us aboard the elegant 100-passenger MS River Crown as we journey along the Rhine visiting the region's most enchanting horticultural wonders with a plethora of historical, cultural and scenic delights to be enjoyed along the way.

Our journey begins in Basle where we visit the delightful Ettenbuehl Castle and Garden including the rose garden which features over 10,000 flowers. Horticultural highlights continue in Mainz where we visit the beautiful rose gardens and Steinfurth, the oldest rose village in Germany. Here you can relax beneath the elegant rose arches and learn about the art and cultural history of the rose in the Rose Museum. Another horticultural delight will be our visit to the Japanese Gardens of Leverkusen, with their 15,000 square metres of rare plants from many different parts of East Asia. Arriving in the Netherlands we will visit the magnificent, moated house of De Wiersse in Arnhem and the rose garden in Westbroek Park which was created during the 1920s and features more than 300 varieties of roses.

In addition to our garden visits, there will be guided tours to some of the region's most charming towns and cities including fascinating Strasbourg and picturesque Heidelberg. We will sample some of the local food and wines of the area including the traditional Black Forest gâteau, wines from Alsace and the sparkling wine of Eltville. There will also be ample time to relax on board to observe everyday life on the banks of the Rhine, delight in the panoramic views of the passing scenery and attend the talks by our Guest Speaker.



## Guest Speaker - Rosemary Legrand



Rosemary is a former nursery owner and daughter of the late George Hyde, who was a hybridist of azaleas and rhododendrons. Many of his award-winning hybrid plants can be seen at the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley, Surrey, the de Rothschild rhododendron gardens at Exbury, Hampshire, and the National Trust Gardens at Kingston Lacy in Dorset. Rosemary had the honour of presenting the late Queen Elizabeth II with a collection of her father's azaleas named after the Queen's former Head Gardener, Fred Nutbeam, at the Chelsea Flower Show in 1996. She has travelled extensively to gardens in many parts of the world and is an experienced public speaker. She is on the RHS Speakers Register and also speaks for NAFAS; she wrote a number of contributions for the book, *1001 Gardens you must see before you die* and articles for Royal Horticultural Society publications.





Heidelberg



Titisee-Neustadt



Basle

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Basle, Switzerland.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown. Moor overnight.

**Day 2 Basle.** This morning's excursion will take us to the old market square, with its brightly painted Town Hall, and along Minster Hill past many handsome 18th century houses to the Minster with its slender twin spires. The oldest part of the building dates from between the 9th and 13th centuries, although much was rebuilt in the Gothic style after the 1356 earthquake. Return to the MS River Crown for lunch and this afternoon enjoy a visit to the Landhuis Ettenbuehl Garden. The Seidel family first considered their garden to be a hobby but soon their interest in roses became so keen that they began to collect roses on a large scale. Now there are several themed gardens in a delightful historically English style but the most important is the rose garden with over 10,000 flowers. This evening join your fellow travellers for welcome drinks and dinner on board.

**Day 3 Breisach, Germany.** Early this morning we arrive in Breisach, gateway to the Black Forest. After breakfast we will travel to Freiburg for a walking tour of this vibrant city. Explore the cobblestone streets, the spectacular Munster with its 116-metre tall tower and see its 'Bächle', or miniature canals, which were once used to supply water for drinking. After our tour, we make our way through the lovely Höllen Valley to the famous resort of Titisee-Neustadt, where we will enjoy delicious Black Forest gâteau before returning to the ship for lunch. This afternoon relax on board whilst we sail through the countryside of Alsace.

**Day 4 Strasbourg, France.** After breakfast our guided tour will introduce us to the delights of Strasbourg. Start with a cruise through the fascinating old quarter of Petite France where the River Ill splits into a number of canals. We will see the Ponts Couverts, a series of wooden bridges dating back to the 13th century, the Place Gutenberg and the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the tallest Medieval building in Europe. Return to the MS River Crown for lunch and this afternoon join the tour to Alsace which will include a tasting of some of the region's splendid wines.

**Day 5 Baden-Baden, Germany.** After breakfast this morning, we will drive inland to the beautiful spa town of Baden-Baden. This elegant Belle-Epoque resort is one of Germany's best kept secrets. The spa assembly rooms and famous casino form the focal point of the town, both architecturally and socially. The old quarter is full of charming houses, exclusive boutiques and

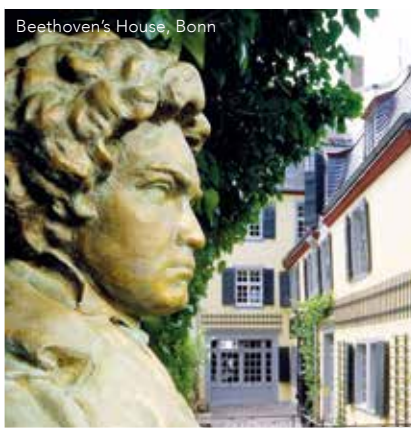
cafés and is fully pedestrianised. After a guided tour there will be some free time to wander around this remarkable town which somehow manages to retain its old-world charm and yet be very much of the 21st century. Return to the ship for lunch and spend a relaxing afternoon on board sailing towards Speyer.

**Day 6 Speyer & Heidelberg.** This morning join a walking tour of Speyer which will include the mighty cathedral; the Romanesque basilica was founded by Emperor Conrad II in 1030 and is one of the largest and most impressive edifices in Germany. After lunch, we visit nearby Heidelberg where we have the afternoon to enjoy this most picturesque and romantic of German cities which is home to Germany's oldest university, dating back to 1386. Our tour will include the castle, a dramatically sited red sandstone ruin that dominates the city, the old town with its famous marketplace and the city gates.

**Day 7 Mainz.** This morning we visit the charming village of Steinfurth for the famous rose garden and museum. Steinfurth is the oldest rose village in Germany; in the district of Bad Nauheim roses have been cultivated for more than 150 years and shipped all over the world. The permanent exhibition "Rosy Times" tells of this tradition and of the art and cultural history of the rose in the Rose Museum. This afternoon we visit the rose garden in Mainz. The garden was founded in 1825 as part of a rose exhibition and was extended considerably in 1935 for another important rose exhibition. Now there are more than 100 different types of roses to be seen. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon enjoy a guided walking tour of atmospheric Mainz which will include the Hoefchen ("Little Court"), residence of the city's archbishops until the 15th century, the Kirschgarten with its romantic half-timbered houses and Marian-Fountain. Our tour will end with a visit to the Johannes Gutenberg Museum. This evening there will be a concert by a string quartet on board before dinner.

**Day 8 Eltville & Rudesheim.** After breakfast, join a tour to the rose garden in Eltville Castle. The gardens were founded in 1979 and boast over 350 different types of roses including climbing roses which grow up to 35 feet high. We will also see the delightful display of Japanese roses. At the height of the summer more than 10,000 roses bloom in the gardens and in 1988 the town of Eltville was nominated a "Rose Town" by the Association of German Friends of Roses. However, Eltville is famous not just for its roses but also for its Sekt (high class sparkling wine). We will enjoy a tasting before returning to





the ship for lunch during which we will sail on to Rudesheim. On arrival join the Winzerexpress mini-train to visit Siegfried's Musical Instrument Museum, home to one of Germany's most fascinating collections of automated musical instruments. This evening perhaps enjoy the holiday atmosphere of Rudesheim's quaint little streets and alleys and taste the excellent Rieslings as we moor overnight in Rudesheim.

**Day 9 The Rhine Gorge & Koblenz.** Our morning of cruising takes us along the romantic Rhine. Enjoy the magnificent scenery from the Rhine Gorge with the striking hilltop castles and the legendary Lorelei Rock. This afternoon we arrive in Koblenz for a walking tour of this historic commercial centre.

**Day 10 Bonn & Cologne.** Our morning walking tour of Bonn will include a visit to Beethoven's House and will finish with a concert by pianist Martin Ivanov in the adjacent hall. Return to the MS River Crown for lunch and sail to Cologne. This afternoon we depart for a tour to see the city's famous cathedral which is the largest Gothic church in northern Europe with the second tallest spire and largest façade in the world.

**Day 11 Cologne.** After breakfast there will be a choice of excursions. Depart on a tour to visit the Botanic Gardens which were established in the 19th century and are an extensive complex of gardens home to more than 10,000 species of plants. Alternatively, visit the Japanese Gardens in Leverkusen. These stunning gardens have 15,000 square metres of rare plants from many different parts of East Asia along with enchanting sculptures, ornate lanterns and arched gates. Return to the ship for lunch and sail towards Arnhem.

**Day 12 Arnhem, the Netherlands.** After breakfast join a morning tour to the De Wiersse Castle which is surrounded by 38 acres of garden and 74 acres of landscape park and has been lived in and managed by the family since 1678. This beautiful historic garden features avenues and pergolas, fountains and statues, meadows and bridges over a gently flowing stream. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a leisurely afternoon sailing towards Rotterdam.

**Day 13 Rotterdam.** This morning we depart to The Hague for a visit to the rose garden in Westbroek Park. The park was created during the 1920s according to a design by Pieter Westbroek. The rose garden contains approximately 20,000 rose bushes and more than 300 varieties of roses.

Afterwards continue on to Delft, birthplace of Vermeer. We will have lunch in a local restaurant on arrival followed by a walking tour of this pretty town and a visit to see the Delft Blue Pottery.

**Day 14 Coenhaven for Amsterdam.** After breakfast, we will drive into Amsterdam for a canal cruise to admire the city from a glass-top boat as you glide past 17th century homes, churches and 16th century merchant houses. Afterwards, we visit the Rijksmuseum, arguably Amsterdam's most important art venue. Housing some of the greatest examples of Western European painting and decorative arts, it boasts works by Vermeer, Goya, and Rubens. Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. This evening join your fellow travellers for a special concert of music by a string quartet followed by farewell drinks and dinner on board.

**Day 15 Amsterdam to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

CATEGORY	DECK	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
Premium with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£7295	£6795
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£7495	£6995
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£8195	£7695
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£8495	£7995
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£9495	£8995
Standard Single with porthole	Main Deck	£7295	£6795
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£8495	£7995

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 14 nights aboard the MS River Crown on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Port & airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.



# MS RIVER CROWN

We are delighted to have chartered the elegant 100-passenger MS River Crown, a spacious and well-designed vessel which was built in 2008 and is undergoing a comprehensive upgrade in 2025. The atmosphere on board is friendly and informal and within days you will have made new friends in the open-seating restaurant, on the shore excursions or whilst relaxing in the comfortable public areas. You will find yourself amongst like-minded people in an English-speaking environment and for those who seek peace and quiet, there will always be the opportunity to find a secluded spot on the Sun Deck, in one of the relaxing public areas or to simply rest in your well-appointed cabin. Guest Speakers will provide a series of interesting talks and our Cruise Director will host informative port briefings. After a day exploring ashore, you will return to the comfort and peace of a well-run and exceedingly comfortable vessel.

## YOUR CABIN

The spacious cabins are arranged over three decks and are well planned and smartly furnished. Premium cabins on the Middle and Upper Deck measure 15.5 square metres and beds in these cabins can be configured as twin or double. Premium cabins feature floor to ceiling panoramic windows which can be opened to a French Balcony providing wonderful views and access to fresh air. Also on the Middle and Upper decks are the Deluxe cabins with French Balcony which measure 22 square metres and feature fixed double beds along with a seating area comprising of a sofa, armchair and table. The four spacious, two room Queen Suites on the Upper Deck measure 30 square metres and feature both a French Balcony and separate balcony with chairs and a table, living room area with separable sliding door, a double bed and spacious bathroom. Finally, there are five Standard single cabins on the Main Deck which measure 12 square metres and feature portholes. All cabins feature ample storage space, a writing/dressing table, television, safety deposit box, hairdryer, small refrigerator and individually controlled air-conditioning.

## YOUR DINING

While the most beautiful river scenery passes by, enjoy delicacies created by the Executive Chef and his team. The restaurant has open seating, allowing you to sit where and with whom you like at each meal. In the morning for early risers, tea, coffee and pastries are available. Breakfast is served buffet style, lunch is a combination of a delightful buffet and hot dishes served to order and dinner is a served four course meal. In addition, house wine, beer and soft drinks are included at both lunch and dinner. Afternoon tea is also provided with a choice of cakes and to finish the day, snacks are available in the lounge in the late evening.

## YOUR SPACE

A well designed feature of the MS River Crown is the positioning of the Restaurant and the Lounge and Bar on the Upper Deck. These public areas have floor to ceiling windows, affording excellent views as you dine, relax or listen to the onboard lectures. There is also an Atrium Lobby with seating where you can access tea and coffee 24-hours a day, whilst the Club area on board comprises of two small lounges, a perfect place if you are seeking somewhere to relax with a good book and a tea or coffee. The huge Sun Deck covers almost the entire length of the vessel, interrupted only by the bridge and is the ideal location to watch the changing scenery. There is also a putting green and a large chess board on the Sun Deck for your enjoyment. For some time out, you can relax in the wellness centre which includes a sauna with shower facilities, and a fitness room.



Illustration of Restaurant post-refurbishment





Queen Suite



Illustration of Deluxe Cabin with French Balcony post-refurbishment



Lounge & Bar (prior to refurbishment)



The Club (prior to refurbishment)

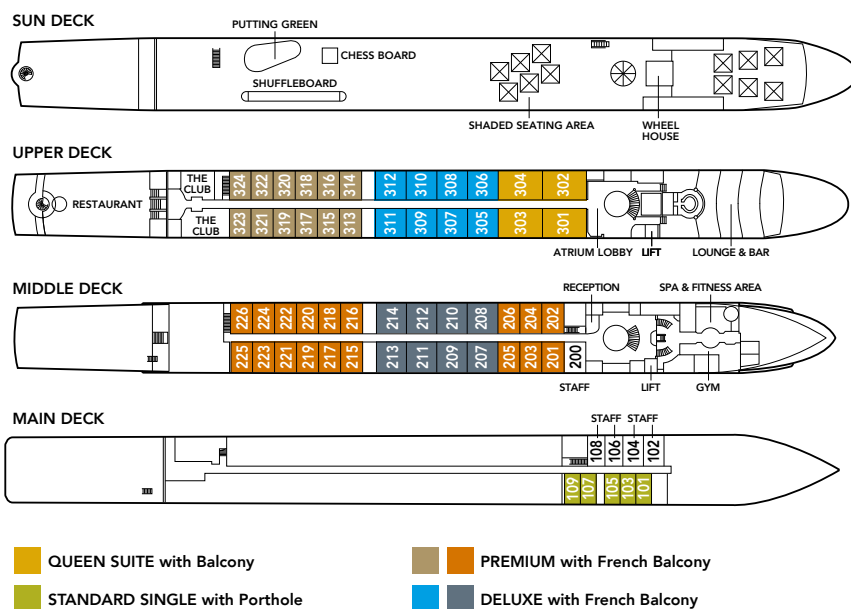


Premium Cabin with French Balcony (prior to refurbishment)



Atrium Lobby (prior to refurbishment)

## DECK PLAN



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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.  
 Cover image: Rose garden, Germany.