



AMERICAN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

SAILING THE FRENCH & ITALIAN RIVIERAS

Art, Gardens, Architecture, and Antiquity

MAY 7-15, 2026

FEATURING

the 47-Stateroom Luxury Sailing Yacht *Sea Cloud II*
and the Historic Carlton Cannes Hotel

Dear Friends,

I AM EXCITED TO INVITE YOU to embark on an AHS journey exploring the Mediterranean's sun-drenched coastlines, vibrant gardens, and rich history aboard the elegant *Sea Cloud II*. This unforgettable odyssey will take you from the French Riviera to Italy, with visits to Cannes, Monaco, Cinque Terre, and the Isle of Elba. The *Sea Cloud II* combines classic sailing charm with modern luxury for an unforgettable experience.

Begin with a three-night stay on the French Riviera, where we'll explore the botanical beauty of Villa Fort France's gardens in Grasse and the Domaine de Manon flower farm. You'll also visit the tropical gardens of Menton, including the Clos du Peyronnet and Serre de la Madone. Then, we set sail for Porto Venere and the Cinque Terre, known for their terraced vineyards and lush landscapes.

In Livorno, choose between visiting Florence or Lucca, both steeped in art, history, and stunning gardens. On the Isle of Elba, explore Napoleon's exile residence and local vineyards.

I am delighted that joining you on this program is AHS Board Member Panayoti Kelaidis, a renowned plant explorer, gardener, and Director of Outreach at Denver Botanic Gardens. With a remarkable legacy of over 40 years, he has shaped horticulture through his groundbreaking work in plant discovery, garden design, and global conservation efforts, earning international acclaim as a passionate educator and sustainability advocate.

This Mediterranean voyage, set in May's blooming season, offers a unique blend of culture, gardens, and natural beauty, all aboard one of the most elegant ships afloat. We hope you can join us for this unforgettable journey.

Warmly,



Suzanne B. Laporte
President & CEO



Mountaintop botanical garden
on the French Riviera.

Highlights

- Savor local flavors during **GOURMET MEALS ASHORE**—leisurely lunches along the French Riviera, a dinner ashore in Porto Venere, and a local lunch in Florence or Lucca.
- Luxuriate in a three-night stay including a private welcome reception and dinner 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.
- Enjoy private entrée to sites, such as the **LOVELY GARDEN AND BOTANICAL MASTERPIECE** of Villa Fort France, originally created in the 1930s by British writer Lady Fortescue and later lovingly restored by Valerie de Courcel.
- Most days feature **A CHOICE OF INCLUDED TOURS**, including several of great horticultural interest, allowing travelers to customize their experience according to their own interests.
- ◆ Discover the masterpieces of legendary artists Picasso and Chagall during **VISITS TO LANDMARK MUSEUMS** dedicated to each artist; both spent many prime working years in the Côte d'Azur and were inspired by the region's special light and landscapes.
- Experience the **HILLSIDE TOWNS** that dot the Italian Riviera's Cinque Terre and the pastoral Tuscan countryside en route to the **RENAISSANCE GEMS** of Lucca or Florence.



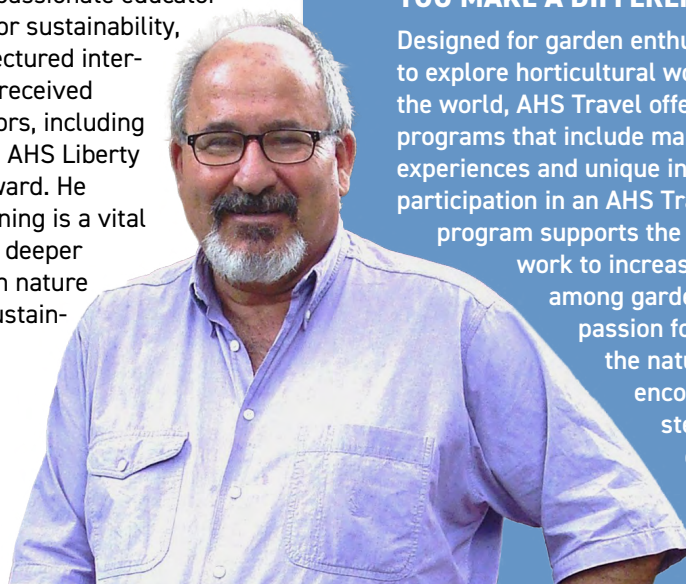
Hotel Carlton
in Cannes



AHS HOST

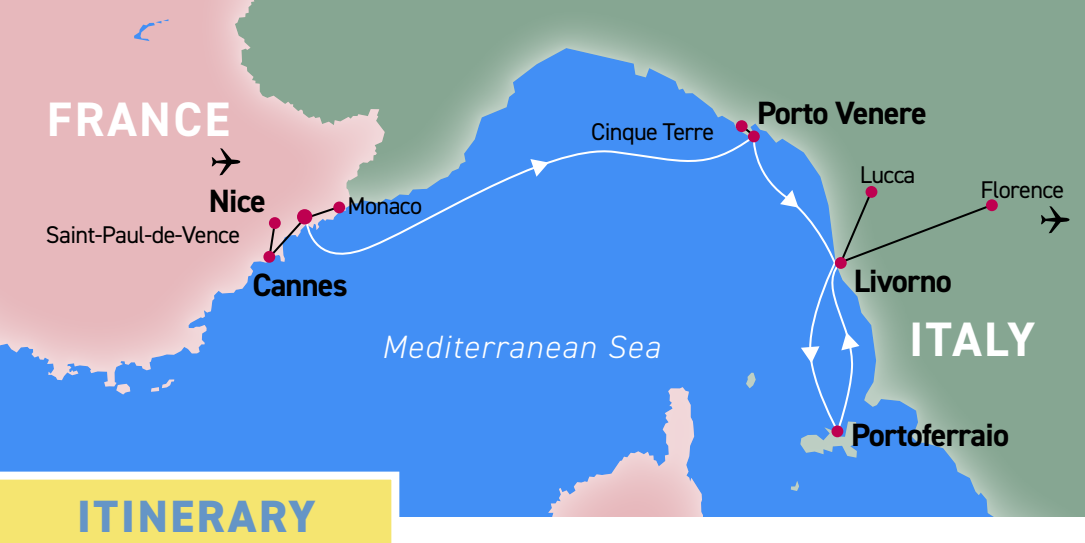
AHS Board Member **PANAYOTI KELAIDIS** is a distinguished plant explorer, gardener, and Director of Outreach at Denver Botanic Gardens, where he has played a pivotal role since 1980. Known for designing and curating the Rock Alpine Garden, ranked by *Garden Design Magazine* as North America's best public rock garden, he has introduced countless native and exotic plants, including hardy ice plants, to horticulture worldwide. With extensive fieldwork across continents, from the Andes to the Caucasus, he has discovered new plant species and contributed

to the preservation of Western native flora. A passionate educator and advocate for sustainability, Panayoti has lectured internationally and received numerous honors, including the prestigious AHS Liberty Hyde Bailey Award. He believes gardening is a vital way to foster a deeper connection with nature and create a sustainable future.



WHEN YOU TRAVEL WITH THE AHS, YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Designed for garden enthusiasts who love to explore horticultural wonders around the world, AHS Travel offers exceptional programs that include many exclusive experiences and unique insights. Your participation in an AHS Travel Study program supports the AHS's nonprofit work to increase knowledge among gardeners, inspire passion for plants and the natural world, and encourage responsible stewardship of the earth.



Serre de la Madone



Centifolia Roses

Thursday-Friday, May 7-8

HOME / NICE, FRANCE

Depart home on overnight flights to Nice, France, arriving on Friday, May 8. Transfer to nearby Cannes and check in to the glamorous Hotel Carlton, an icon of the French Riviera since 1913. Recently restored to its Belle Époque grandeur, the hotel blends iconic elegance with modern luxury. Settle into your refined accommodations before meeting your fellow travelers at a private welcome reception and dinner in the hotel's elegant dining room. CARLTON CANNES (R,D)

Saturday, May 9

CANNES / ANTIBES / SAINT-PAUL-DE-VENCE / GRASSE

Begin today with a welcome orientation before setting out with local guides on one of three excursion options: **1)** Picasso Museum and Walking Tour of Old Town Antibes. In 1946, Picasso worked for two months in a studio at the Grimaldi Castle, now home to the Picasso Museum, which features several of his works along with an extensive collection representing 20th and 21st-century art. You will also have free time to explore the Old Town of Antibes. **2)** Saint-Paul-de-Vence, Matisse Chapel, and Maeght Foundation. Start at the Matisse Chapel, where every detail was designed by Matisse, and continue to the fortified village of Saint-Paul-de-Vence, visiting the Maeght Foundation with its sculpture garden and collection of modern and contemporary art. **3)** The garden of Villa Fort France in Grasse. A botanical masterpiece, the garden was originally created in the 1930s by British writer Lady Fortescue and later lovingly restored by Valérie de Courcel. This "Remarkable Garden" offers a breathtaking blend of Mediterranean and exotic plants, carefully arranged across terraced

landscapes. Continue to the Domaine de Manon, a fourth-generation family-owned flower farm, renowned for cultivating exceptional fragrant flowers, primarily for the Christian Dior perfume house. During a visit to the estate, guests have the opportunity to explore the fields of Centifolia Roses (May Roses), Jasmine Grandiflorum, and Tuberose, with the blooming season taking place in spring and summer. The visit provides an immersive experience in the world of flower cultivation, focusing on the methods of growing and harvesting flowers for perfume production. Learn about the art of distillation and the creation of perfumes and enjoy a tasting of homemade jams made from the estate's flowers and fruits. The evening is yours to enjoy independently, with plenty of dining and entertainment options to choose from in Cannes. CARLTON CANNES (B,L)

Sunday, May 10

CÔTE D'AZUR / MENTON / SAINT HONORAT ISLAND

From the Carlton Cannes, venture out for a day of discovery, traveling through scenic landscapes on the way to one of three distinct guided experiences.

1) Biot and the Fernand Léger Museum. Visit the medieval hilltop village of Biot for a glassblowing demonstration at a local artist's workshop. After lunch, continue to the Fernand Léger Museum, dedicated to the modern art pioneer who lived and worked in the village.

2) The Clos du Peyronnet is a remarkable garden located in Menton, developed by William Waterfield, who was deeply passionate about horticulture and botanical diversity. Established in the late 19th century, it is known for its vast collection of tropical and subtropical plants, offering visitors a lush and

tranquil retreat. Continue to the Serre de la Madone, a beautiful garden created by British horticulturist Lawrence Johnston in the early 20th century. Known for its exceptional collection of Mediterranean and exotic plants, the garden features formal terraces, lush wooded areas, and a central greenhouse that houses tropical species. **3)** Travel by boat to the small Île Saint-Honorat, just off the coast from Cannes. Enjoy a wine tasting followed by lunch and time to explore the island by foot during a guided tour. The afternoon is at leisure to explore the area at your own pace, strolling along the Boulevard de la Croisette and taking in your last evening in Cannes. CARLTON CANNES (B,L)

Monday, May 11

NICE / MONACO / EMBARK

Leave the Carlton Cannes behind and set off on a day of discovery with three journeys to choose from. **1)** The Marc Chagall Museum: Visit the Marc Chagall National Museum in Nice, dedicated to the renowned Russian-French artist known for his vibrant, dreamlike works. Located in a tranquil park, the museum houses the largest public collection of Chagall's paintings, including his famous biblical series, as well as stained glass, ceramics,



Isle of Elba

and tapestries. The serene atmosphere and stunning natural surroundings offer the perfect backdrop to appreciate the depth and color of his artistic vision.

2) Monaco, including the Old Town. Witness the changing of the guard and visit the State Apartments of the Prince's Palace, where stunning Italian Renaissance frescoes await. **3)** Visit a garden featuring the award-winning designer James Basson's work, specializing in sustainable, ecological gardens. Late this afternoon, embark the *Sea Cloud II* in Nice and bid adieu to France as you sail toward Italy. Enjoy your first dinner aboard the elegant and iconic yacht.

SEA CLOUD II (B,L,D)

Tuesday, May 12

PORTO VENERE / CINQUE TERRE, ITALY

Start your morning on deck, watching sailors ascend the riggings to raise the sails. Enjoy the thrilling experience of cruising under sail (weather permitting) as we head to Italy, then anchor off Porto Venere and experience the Cinque Terre. 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. This afternoon, choose between three carefully curated afternoon excursion options. **1)** Enjoy a leisurely stroll through the alleys of the colorful fishermen's village of Portovenere. Visit the splendid Church of St. Peter, which towers from the promontory of the Bocche, and enjoy the breathtaking view from this evocative spot. Then, transfer to Manarola, the first of the five villages that make up the Cinque Terre, clinging to cliffs above the Mediterranean.

2) Enjoy an exclusive visit with the owner

of the Caneva Gardens, a picturesque and serene green space located in the town of Sarzana. These gardens, which are rich in history and charm, are known for their lush landscapes, scenic walking paths, and beautiful ornamental plants. They feature a variety of Mediterranean plants, trees, and flowers, creating a peaceful environment ideal for leisurely strolls or moments of relaxation. Continue to the Villa Marigola, a historic villa offering stunning views of the Gulf of Poets, overlooking the sparkling waters of the Ligurian Sea. The villa is surrounded by lush, well-maintained gardens filled with Mediterranean plants, offering a peaceful retreat. The building itself boasts a blend of classic Italian architectural style with elements that reflect the region's unique history. This evening, delight in dinner at a trattoria in Porto Venere to savor local dishes and wines. *SEA CLOUD II* (B,L,D)

Wednesday, May 13

LIVORNO / FLORENCE OR LUCCA

After docking in Livorno, embark on a full day of exploration, with three exceptional touring options to choose from, each offering delightful trattoria gourmet lunch experiences. **1)** Drive to Florence and take a guided walking tour of the historic center. In Piazza della Repubblica, discover the city's origins as a Roman

settlement. Wander through narrow streets, pass the fortified houses and towers that marked the medieval town, and emerge onto the open Piazza della Signoria, the political heart of Florence since the Middle Ages. Continue to see the Duomo and the iconic Ponte Vecchio. After lunch at a traditional trattoria, drive up to Piazzale Michelangelo for a photo stop with stunning views of the historic center. On the way back to Livorno, stop at the Florence American Cemetery, a memorial site for the WWII soldiers who died liberating Italy. **2)** Explore Lucca, the birthplace of composer Giacomo Puccini and a treasure chest of Tuscany's ancient silk trade. Stroll around the elliptical central piazza, made up of medieval buildings outlining the ruins of a Roman amphitheater, as well as the Cathedral of San Martino, which houses extraordinary artwork, including the Holy Face, the funeral monument to Ilaria del Carretto by Jacopo della Quercia, and the Madonna Enthroned and Saints altarpiece by Domenico Ghirlandaio. Visit a textile workshop where artisans use traditional tools to create intricate fabrics. **3)** Visit Villa Reale di Marlia, a magnificent historic villa located near Lucca. This grand estate, dating back to the 16th century, is renowned for its exquisite architecture, lush gardens, and rich history.



Church of St. Peter
in Porto Venere

The villa features elegant rooms, decorated with beautiful frescoes and antique furnishings, reflecting the aristocratic lifestyle of its past owners. The surrounding gardens are a highlight of the property, consisting of several beautifully landscaped areas, including Italianate gardens, terraced landscapes, and expansive green lawns. One of the most famous features is the "Grotto of Diana," a stunning architectural element resembling a cave, set in the park's serene setting. The gardens also include fountains, sculptures, and charming pathways, creating a peaceful and picturesque environment. *SEA CLOUD II* (B,L,D)

Thursday, May 14

PORTOFERRAIO, ELBA

Spend the morning following in the footsteps of the Argonauts and Napoleon, call at the tropical Isle of Elba. Take a panoramic drive with superb views of the coastline, visit Napoleon's summer residence during 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 a leisurely afternoon of cruising and a final opportunity to experience the ship under sail. Gather this evening for one final celebration at the captain's farewell reception and dinner. *SEA CLOUD II* (B,L,D)

Friday, May 15

LIVORNO / HOME

After breakfast, depart for the Florence airport for flights home or begin the optional extension in Tuscany. (B)

May 15-19, 2026

OPTIONAL POST-TOUR EXTENSION IN TUSCANY

Extend your stay in Tuscany with four luxurious nights at the Castello di Spaltenna, a 5-star enchanting oasis that stands out in a breathtaking panorama of lush vineyards. 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 Siena's cultural traditions and learn about the art of crystal engraving in Colle Val d'Elsa.

Further details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.



Category 7



Category 6

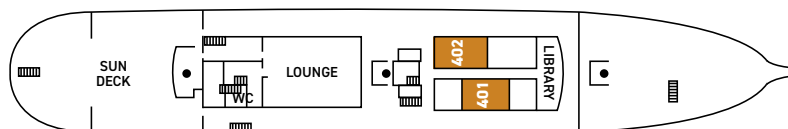


Category 3

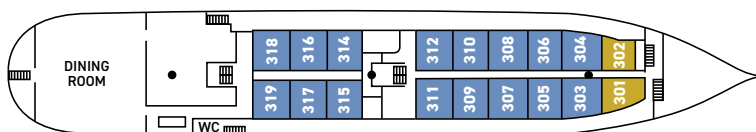
SEA CLOUD II

The iconic *Sea Cloud II* is perhaps the most luxurious three-masted sailing yacht on the seas today. Like Marjorie Merriweather Post's legendary *Sea Cloud*, she combines the seafaring elegance of a bygone era with the highest modern standards of luxury. In the grand tradition of the world's finest sailing vessels, guests can experience this marvelous ship under sail as the skilled crew hand-sets over 30,000 square feet of canvas. The *Sea Cloud II* offers an intimate setting with just 47 beautifully appointed cabins, gracious common areas, world-class service, and five-star dining. Four spacious outdoor decks and al fresco dining on the Lido Deck provide ample space for relaxation. Indoors, enjoy inviting spaces such as the sizable lounge and dining room, as well as a library, gym, and spa featuring a sauna and massage therapy.

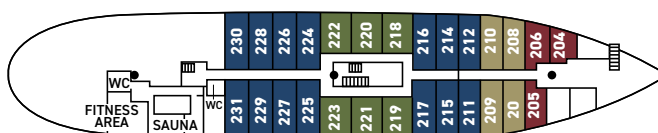
PROGRAM FEES (per person):		DOUBLE	SINGLE
1	CABIN DECK 150 sq ft upper & lower single beds, two portholes, shower	\$6,990	\$10,990
2	CABIN DECK 204 sq ft twins or queen bed, two portholes, shower	\$8,990	\$13,990
3	CABIN DECK 215 sq ft twins or queen bed, two portholes, shower	\$9,990	\$14,990
4	CABIN DECK 226 sq ft queen bed, three portholes, shower	\$10,900	—
5	PROMENADE DECK 215 sq ft queen bed, panorama windows, shower	\$12,490	—
6	PROMENADE DECK 247 sq ft twins or queen bed, panorama windows, tub/shower	\$13,990	—
7	LIDO DECK 290 sq ft king bed, panorama windows, bathtub & shower	\$15,990	—



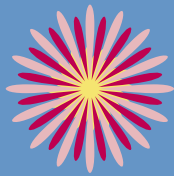
LIDO DECK
Category 7



PROMENADE DECK
Categories 5 & 6



CABIN DECK
Categories 1-4



GENERAL INFORMATION

AHS SOJOURNS

AHS TRAVEL

This custom trip is offered in collaboration with Criterion Travel and is part of the AHS Sojourns travel program collection. For more information, visit ahsgardening.org/travel.

AHS Travel programs are designed to offer immersive experiences and often involve long days filled with exploration and extensive walking on uneven terrain. To participate in a program, it is recommended to be in good physical condition and prepared to walk up to three miles each day.

GROUP SIZE

This program can accommodate 78 participants, including travelers from American Horticultural Society, National Trust Tours, Carlton Alumni Adventures, and Dartmouth Alumni Travel.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

To reserve space, please email Criterion Travel at res@critteriontravel.com or return the completed reservation form with your \$1,000 per person deposit to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005, or fax to (650) 560-6400. Balance of payment is due **January 7, 2026**. After January 7, 2026, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment may be made by check, wire transfer or credit card (credit card payments will incur a processing fee of 2%).

FLIGHTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Participants are responsible for their own air arrangements. Please do not purchase airline tickets until the operation of the tour is confirmed by Criterion Travel. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants. When it is time to make flight arrangements, the AHS's flight and travel services provider, Cranky Concierge, provides optional flight and travel arrangement services for a seamless travel experience, including proactive flight monitoring and travel disruption assistance: www.crankyconciierge.com/ahsgardening. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice.

PASSENGER CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of a deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by Criterion Travel. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person admin fee) if written notice of

cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable.

After the **January 7, 2026** final payment deadline: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. **NOTE:** Criterion Travel does not accept liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms and Conditions including a Statement of Responsibility will be made available at the time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

TOUR PRICE INCLUSIONS

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including seven breakfasts, six lunches, five dinners, three hotel nights and four nights aboard *Sea Cloud II* ■ Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations ■ Transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates ■ Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers and shipboard personnel for all group activities ■ Entrance fees and port charges ■ Welcome and farewell wine receptions ■ House wine, beer, and soft drinks with all group lunches and dinners ■ Filtered water on motorcoaches ■ Complete packet of pre-departure information ■ Professional tour manager throughout the program.

TOUR PRICE EXCLUSIONS

U.S. domestic and international airfare ■ Pass-port/visa expenses ■ Medical expenses and immunizations ■ Travel and trip cancellation insurance ■ Private transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days ■ Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options ■ Airline baggage charges ■ Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted ■ Laundry or dry cleaning ■ Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges ■ Room service ■ Other items of a personal nature.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel Insurance is not included in the tour cost, but participants are strongly encouraged to purchase a travel protection plan in conjunction with this tour, including coverage of trip cancellation, trip interruption, emergency evacuation/

repatriation, medical expenses, lost or damaged baggage, and other expenses and/or losses incurred due to unexpected situations. One travel insurance provider to consider is USI Affinity Travel Insurance Services. For more information on the plan for AHS travelers, visit www.ahsgardening.org/travel. Information is also available at this link regarding optional flight and travel arrangement services.

HEALTH

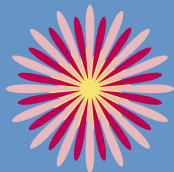
At AHS Travel, ensuring the health and safety of our guests is our top priority. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by Criterion Travel, local staff, and host country laws. All participants should be in good health and able to keep up with an active group of travelers without assistance from tour staff. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the passenger certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, Criterion Travel reserves the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

AHS PROGRAM CONTENT

The AHS and its travel partners reserve the right to take photographs, videos, and audio ("Program Content") during the travel program for editorial, promotional, and commercial use by the AHS or authorized third parties. By making a reservation on an AHS Travel program, the participant agrees to allow his/her likeness to be used by AHS or AHS-authorized third parties without compensation to the participant. AHS reserves the right to crop, alter, or combine the Program Content with other images, text, or media at its sole discretion and to use the Program Content in any medium or format, including but not limited to print, digital, or online media. This authorization grants AHS and/or authorized third parties the right to use the photographs, videos, and audio worldwide and in perpetuity, without further consent or compensation. Participants who prefer that their voice and/or image not be used must notify AHS in writing prior to the beginning of the program.



RESERVATION FORM

NAME **Participant 1**

NAME **Participant 2**

PREFERRED NAME (FOR NAME TAG) **Participant 1**

PREFERRED NAME (FOR NAME TAG) **Participant 2**

ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

HOME PHONE

CELL PHONE

E-MAIL ADDRESS **Participant 1**

E-MAIL ADDRESS **Participant 2**

ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed):

Please indicate your cabin category preferences: ☐ 1st Choice _____ ☐ 2nd Choice _____

Bed Preference: ☐ One Bed ☐ Two Beds

☐ **Double Occupancy.** I will share a room with _____

☐ **Single Occupancy.** ☐ I would like a roommate but will pay the single supplement if one cannot be found

TOUR DOCUMENTS:

Criterion Travel will send all documents pertaining to the tour by email to the email address listed above.

☐ *If you wish to receive hardcopy versions of the tour documents by post as well, please check this box.*

Paper documents will not be sent to your home address unless box is checked.

DEPOSIT (\$1,000 per person): _____ #of persons _____ Amount Enclosed

☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ CHECK (make payable to Criterion Travel)

CARD #

EXP. DATE

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD

CVV SECURITY CODE

EACH PARTICIPANT MUST SIGN. *By registering and paying the deposit for this tour, registrant acknowledges he/she has carefully read and understands all information contained in the tour brochure, recognizes and accepts any risks therein, agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions above.*

SIGNATURE / DATE **Participant 1**

SIGNATURE / DATE **Participant 2**

COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO:

Criterion Travel
4250 SW Hall Blvd.
Beaverton, OR 97005

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AHS TRAVEL PROGRAM

Please contact **(703) 768-8801**
Information is also available at

www.ahsgardening.org/travel

TO REGISTER BY EMAIL:

res@criteriontravel.com



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HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

SAILING THE FRENCH & ITALIAN RIVIERAS

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FEATURING

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and the Historic Carlton Cannes Hotel