

Creative Wine Concepts Inc

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Austrian Wines

AMA Waterways River Cruise Melodies of the Danube November 15th – 22nd

I. History

1. 750 to 12 BC, Celtic period. Grapes were grown in eastern Austria by the Celtic tribes. With the introduction of the Romans, extensive plantings developed in the Danube Valley and Styria (Steiermark in Austrian).

2. AD92, Emperor Domitian ordered existing vineyards to be pulled out for fear of over production through the Roman empire. Two hundred years later, Aurelius Probus reversed the decree.

3. 5th century Romans left Austria and the vineyards went into decline due to countless wars and destruction.

4. 803 AD, Charlemagne captures Austria and becomes a stabilizing force.

5. 1114 AD. Christian monastic orders (Cistercians and Benedictines) from Germany and France start setting up large estates bringing with them the knowledge of viticulture and winemaking. Today, Stift Klosterneuburg is the most famous vineyard holding monastery established just outside Vienna by the Augustines in 1114. It has been producing wine ever since.

6. 1282, Finally, the beginning of the Habsburg reign produces enough stability for the Austrian wine industry to develop into what it is today.

II. Modern History

1. 1500s, By the sixteenth century it is estimated that Austria had 150,000 hectares (one hectares = 2.8 acres) which is three times Austria's vineyard area today.

2. 1600's, Turkish armies ransacking Austria and a worsening economy caused the area under vine to diminish greatly.

3. 1860, Austria's first wine college and viticultural research center was established at Klosterneuburg on the outskirts of Vienna and has had a significant influence on the Austrian wine industry ever since.

4. 1870's, The dreaded Phylloxera (a root lice from the east coast of the US) makes its way to Austria and wipes out most of its vineyards as it did in the rest of Europe.

5. 1914, Gradually the vineyards were able to recover and by 1914 there were 50,000 hectares.

6. 1918, The breakup of the Austro-Hungarian empire after world war I created the loss of 18,000 hectares of vineyard.

7. 1922, Vineyard and winemaking research continues and in 1922 the head of the Klosterneuburg college, Fritz Zweigelt created a crossing of St. Laurent x Blaufrankish that bears his name. Zweigelt remains the most widely planted red variety in Austria.

8. 1950, Lenz Moser develops a method of high training that allows the white variety Gruner Veltliner to become commercially successful allowing it to go on to be Austria's most widely planted white variety.

9. 1985, Glycol scandal. The sweet wines of Burgenland were in such high demand that a few large greedy producers used diethylene glycol to sweeten their wines. (this is something that is often used in soft drinks and ice cream). When found out, it produced a huge scandal that not only destroyed the Austrian but

the German wine industry as well. It forced Austria to develop the strictest wine regulations of Europe. The integrity of Austria was gradually re-established over the years and has created the wonderful high quality wines we enjoy today.

III. Grape Varieties.

There are five main varieties.

1. **Gruner Veltliner**, (31% of total plantings) Austrian native and national grape variety (14,423 hectares). Produces a white wine with brisk acidity and high extract producing full body with rich aromatics. Typically, the wine is spicy, peppery with stone-fruit aromas. Grows best in lower areas along the River in heavier soils.

2. **Riesling**, (4% of total plantings) Riesling is considered to be the world's premier white wine grape. Its long growing cycle and late ripening allows for excellent complexity, richness and extract. The Austrian Rieslings tend to be grown high on the terraces above the rivers. Austria's wine regions are somewhat warmer than those in neighboring Germany. So, the resulting Austrian Riesling tend to be riper, more full bodied and drier than their German counterparts.

3. **Welschriesling** (7% of total plantings) grown mainly in Burgenland and Steiermark. Larger crop sizes of this thin skinned small berry variety produce both the botrytis sweet wines of Burgenland and an easy drinking dry white wine often served in the quaint Buschenschanks of the Steiermark. Welschriesling (Riesling Italico) is not related to Riesling.

4. **Blaufrankisch** (6% of total plantings) is Austria's second most planted red variety with 3,000 hectares under vine. This is a variety originally from central Europe and was a widely planted variety throughout the Habsburg monarchy. It is known as Limberger in Germany and the US as well as Kek-franckos in Hungary. Grows well in throughout Burgenland and Carnuntum. It is a late ripening variety characterized by deep aromas of blackberry, boysenberry, cherry, wild berries, herbal spice and forest floor. Tasters equate its taste Gamay and Nebbiolo. I recognize it by its dark purple juicy extractive fleshy character with a soft reductive finish.

5. **Zweigelt** (14% of total plantings) is Austria's most planted red variety. Created by Professor Zweigelt in 1922 of a cross between Blaufrankisch x St. Laurent. It was only after world war II that the grape Zweigelt became popular. Its frost and disease resistance with early ripening and ability to grow in many areas contribute its popularity with growers. It is grown throughout Austria with some of the best ones coming from Carnuntum and the eastern shore of the lake Neusiedl. Its opulent cherry fruit and soft tannins are attractive to customers. Austria's best rose wines are made from this variety.

IV. Wine designation terms.

1. DAC, Districtus Austriae Controllatus means district appellation control. First implemented in 2001 by the Austrian government to delineate the Austrian system from the German one.

2. Erste Lagen, (first Vineyard area) means a first growth vineyard much like a first growth of Bordeaux, France. Also, a term used in Germany as Erste Lage.

3. Heurigen, Inns in the Vienna area that traditionally serve wines grown and made by the owners with local fair. Vienna has some 180 of them.

4. Gemischter Satz, (field blend) means a vineyard planted to many different varieties that is made as one wine.

5. Buschenschank, Same as a Heurigen, but in Steiermark instead of Vienna.

V. Appellations and wine growing regions.

Four main Wine regions

1. Largest one is **Niederosterreich**. 28,145 hectares of Vineyard. Contains eight smaller regions of which the most famous are Wagram, Kamptal, Kremstal and Wachau which all lie along the Danube River. Three quarters of the vineyards are white with Gruner Veltliner being 60%.

A. Wachau (1,344 hectares) with DAC status lies in the lower Danube Valley with vineyards on both sides of the Danube. Soils are weathered granite, gneiss and quartz on the upper slopes where mainly Riesling grows. The lower slopes are deep loess soils (wind driven sand soils) where one finds mainly Gruner Veltliner.

B. Kremstal (2,368 hectares) lies along the intersection of the north side of the Danube and along the Krems river just east of Wachau. Region has DAC status (since 2007) along with a number of vineyards designated Estetagen. Known for great Rieslings on the higher terraced vineyards and Gruner Veltliner along the rivers. 10% of the vineyards are red producing Zweigelt.

C. Kamptal (4,000 hectares) is a parallel river valley to Krems with similar growing conditions to Kremstal, but a little drier. This allows Kamptal to produce more red wine than Kremstal. Still Gruner Veltliner is the main variety of the region. Has DAC status for both Riesling and Gruner Veltliner. Kamptal is one of the biggest tourist destinations on the Danube. Its Loos Museum in the principal city, Langenlois is unique in Austria and one of the best wine museums in the world.

D. Wagram (2,684 hectares) begins at the town of Klosterneuburg just west of Vienna and continues 30 kilometers along both sides of the Danube all the way to Vienna. Famous for Gruner Veltliner. Has DAC status. Also produces some good quality Zweigelt, Pinot Noir and St. Laurent.

2. Wien (Vienna)

This is a small (613 hectares) historic growing region dating back to the Roman times. For centuries monasteries farmed vineyards and made wine in the hills around Vienna. Vineyards lie on both sides of the Danube. This region is famous for its Heurigen wine estate inns and its field blend wines known as Gemischter Satz.

3. Burgenland

Austria's second largest wine region with a total of 13,000 hectares and Austria's most important red wine region with 56% red varieties. It is composed of five DAC quality sub appellations Neusiedlersee, Leithaberg, Rosalia, Mittelburgenland and Eisenberg. This region lies away from and south of the Danube Valley along the border of Hungary. Up until 1921 with the breakup of the Austro-Hungarian empire it was mostly settled by Hungarians and grew Hungarian varieties. In 1921 it became part of today's Austria. After world war II it was occupied by the Russians until 1956 when it became Austria again. Today there are few vestiges of Hungarian culture and viticulture left. To the north the large shallow lake (Neusiedlersee) produces micro climates conducive to botrytis style sweet wines. The rest of Burgenland is a great full bodied red wine producing region, using the Austrian varieties Zweigelt and Blaufrankisch as well as St. Laurent, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. You will also find Pinot Gris, Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay.

4. Steiermark

This large region (4,500 hectares) spans across the south western corner of Austria up against Slovenia. A picturesque region of rolling hills, volcanic slopes and winding roads. It consists of three DAC sub-regions being Vulkanland, Sudsteiermark and West-Steiermark. There is evidence the Celts grew grapes here 2,500 years ago. With micro climates effected by both the Alps and the Adriatic Sea there are a number of different growing conditions. The region famous for its rich full bodied white wines mainly from Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay (known as Morillon), Pinot Blanc (Weissburgunder), Pinot Gris (Grauburgunder) Gold Muscat, Traminer and the most widely planted variety Welschriesling. The wines are some of the most invigorating and refreshing of Austria's white wines.

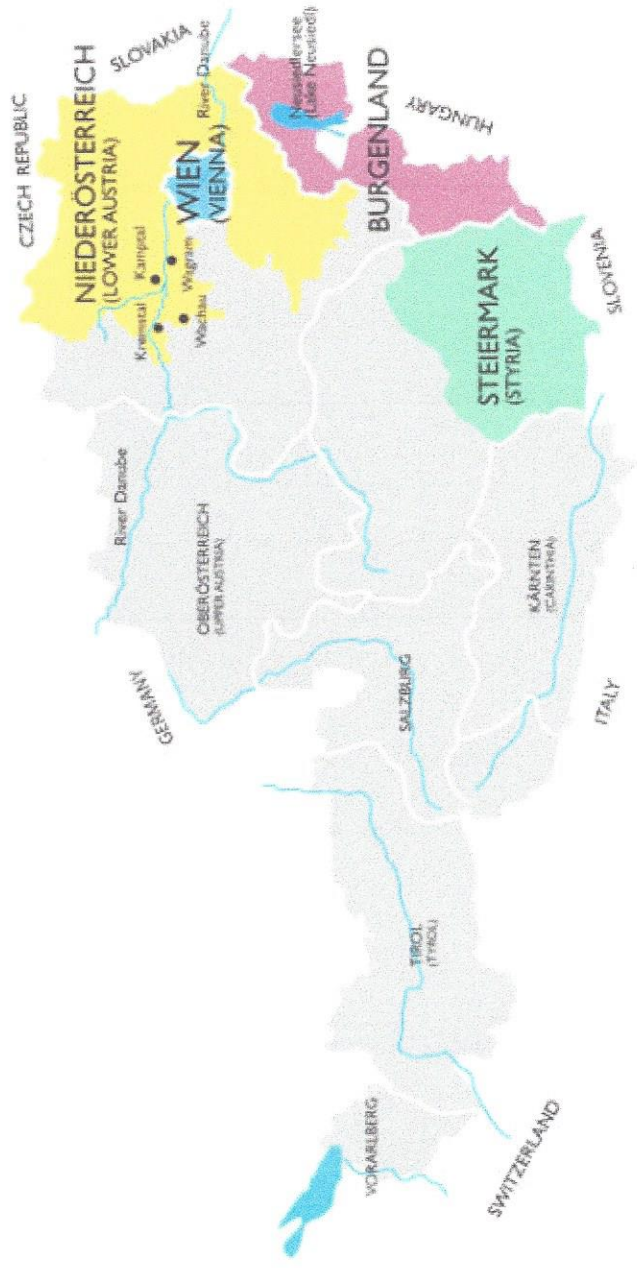
VI. Sources and reading list;

Besides personal knowledge gained by the personal enjoyment of the Austrian wines much of this information is from the following sources;

1. The Wines Of Austria by Stephen Brook from the Classic Wine Library published in 2016 by Infinite Ideas Limited.
2. The Wines of Austria by Philipp Blom from the Classic Wine Library published by the Octopus Publishing Group.
3. The International Wine Review (iwinereview.com) October 2018 Issue. Austrian Wine

VII. Wines we are tasting.

1. *2017 Federspiel Domane Wachau Gruner Veltliner Trocken/dry*
2. *2017 Schlosskellerei Gobelsburg, Kamptal Riesling Trocken/Dry*
3. *2012 Weingut Proidl, Senftenberger Ramelin, Kremstal Riesling Trocken/dry*
4. *2016 Weingut Berger, Niederosterreich/lower Austria, Zweigelt*
5. *2015 Weingut Esterhazy, Leithaberg, Burgenland, Blaufrankisch*
6. *2015 Heinrich, Burgenland, field blend, 80% Zweigelt, 15% Blaufrankisch, 5% Sankt Laurent*



DIGITAL EDITION - FREE TO SHARE - ENJOY

AUSTRIA

WINE REGIONS

CZECH REPUBLIC

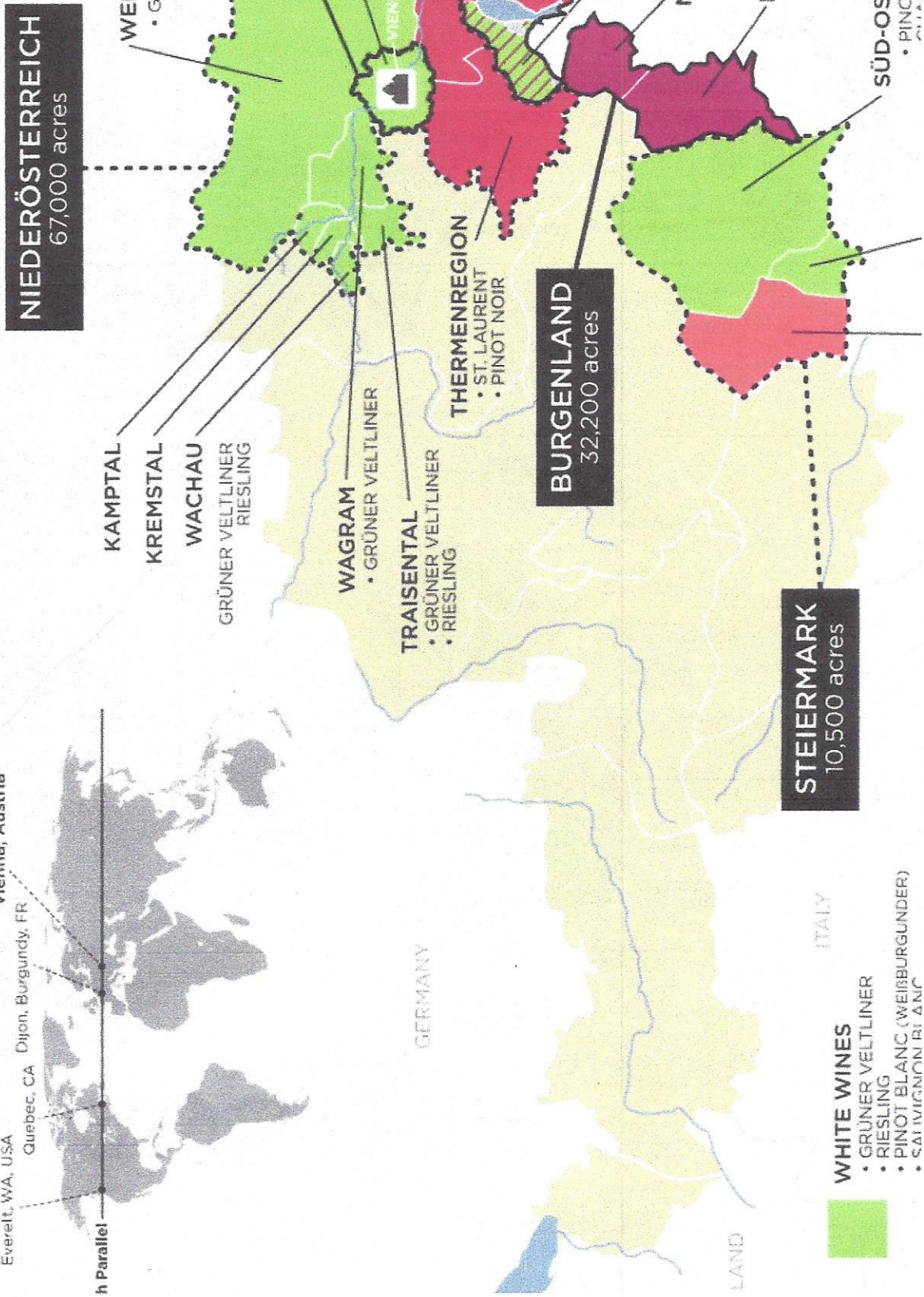
Vienna, Austria

Everett, WA, USA

Quebec, CA

Dijon, Burgundy, FR

48th Parallel



WHITE WINES

- GRÜNER VELTLINER
- RIESLING
- PINOT BLANC (WEISBURGUNDER)
- SAUVIGNON BLANC

LAND

ITALY

GERMANY

RIVER CRUISE FOR WINE LOVERS

Uncork local traditions, savor intense flavors and enjoy palate-pleasing adventures during an *AmaWaterways Wine Cruise*

Wachau Valley, Austria

MELODIES OF THE DANUBE

7-night cruise | November 15-22, 2019 | aboard AmaSonata

Cities & Sights:

Budapest ▶ Vienna ▶ Krems ▶ Weissenkirchen ▶ Dürnstein ▶ Melk ▶ Ybbs
▶ Grein ▶ Linz ▶ Salzburg ▶ Český Krumlov ▶ Passau ▶ Vilshofen

Your Journey Along the Danube River

Board the ship in magnificent Budapest, with its storybook architecture and tales to match. Visit Salzburg, the setting for the beloved film classic, *The Sound of Music*. Indulge in the delicate, apricot-scented wines of Austria's Wachau Valley and the hearty Bavarian beer at a traditional Bavarian Oktoberfest in Vilshofen. Each bend and twist in the river affords new surprises just waiting for you to discover.

EXTRA Included Features *Only on Wine Cruises*

- Special tours and tastings at local wineries and private cellars
- Learn about winemaking in renowned vineyards
- Onboard wine pairings with award-winning cuisine
- Your wine expert, Scott Harvey, will lead tastings and discussions



Hosted by:

**SCOTT & JANA
HARVEY**

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To learn more about our hosts,
please see bio on reverse.

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MELODIES OF THE DANUBE

7-night cruise | November 15-22, 2019 | AmaSonata



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Was ~~\$2,999~~

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Pre-cruise 2 nights in Budapest from \$520 per person
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Included With Your Fare:

- 7 nights deluxe accommodation in river view stateroom
- Unlimited wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner
- Fine dining at The Chef's Table and Main Restaurant
- Sip & Sail Cocktail Hour
- Captain's Gala Dinner and Cocktail Reception
- Exclusive Wine Cruise features including tastings, discussions and tours
- Complimentary Wi-Fi access on board
- A variety of guided shore excursions in every port
- Complimentary bicycles and helmets

AmaSonata Built: 2014 • Length: 443 ft. • Width: 38 ft.
Staterooms: 81 • Passengers: 162 • Crew: 51



Daily Program Features

Date	Destination	Activities/Shore Excursions
Nov 15	Budapest	EMBARKATION Welcome Aboard Wine Toast Illuminations cruise
Nov 16	Budapest	"Queen of the Danube" tour OR Castle Hill hike
Nov 17	Vienna	"Imperial Vienna" tour OR Klosterneuburg Abbey bike tour Viennese Heuriger
Nov 18	Vienna	"Vienna's Royal Treasures" tour OR Alte Donau bike tour
	Krems	Burg Clam tour and Krems wine tasting
Nov 19	Weissenkirchen	Dürnstein walking tour, wine tasting and apricots and sweets tasting OR Dürnstein Fortress hike OR Melk Abbey tour OR Bike tour
	Grein	Exclusive castle visit with private reception
Nov 20	Linz	"UNESCO City of Media Arts" walking tour OR Full-day Salzburg excursion OR "Cultural Mile" bike tour Half-day Salzburg excursion OR Český Krumlov excursion OR Austrian Lake District excursion
Nov 21	Passau	"City of Three Rivers" walking tour OR Passau bike tour OR Passau Castle hike
	Vilshofen	Exclusive Oktoberfest celebration
Nov 22	Vilshofen	DISEMBARKATION

Itinerary subject to change



Parliament Building—Budapest, Hungary

Wine Hosts Bio:
Scott & Jana Harvey, Owner and Winemaker of Scott Harvey Wines

Scott being both born in Germany and having gone to Winemaking School there has developed a keen interest and expertise in European wines. He has brought this European style of wine making to California's Napa Valley and Amador County having now produced world class wines for over 45 years. He created the California wine Ménage a Trois based on his knowledge of west bank Rhine wines from both Alsace and the Palatinate of Germany. This is Winemaker Scott Harvey's third cruise with AMA Waterways. As you travel along the beautiful Danube, Scott and Jana will be giving lectures and doing wine tastings to teach you about the Wine Regions, Vineyards and Wines of Hungary, Austria and Germany. Throughout the trip and excursions, Scott will be available to answer questions and translate if need be. "Jana and I love to do wine cruises on AMA Waterways. Getting to know our fellow passengers and enjoying and experiencing these wonderful wine regions, their local wines, history, culture and cuisine makes for a wonderful experience."

Terms & Conditions: All rates are per person in USD for cruise only, based on double occupancy in a Category E stateroom unless stated otherwise. To upgrade to a higher category, please ask for details. Rate reflects \$750 savings off cruise fare per person on new bookings made by March 31, 2019 and is not combinable with group discount which will apply after promotion expires. Unless explicitly stated that single supplement is waived, solo travelers in a double occupancy stateroom must pay an additional single supplement amount before receiving any discounts. Offer is not combinable with any other promotions/discounts, limited to availability, capacity controlled and subject to change or termination without notice. Port charges of \$182 per person, optional land programs, airfares, and gratuities are additional. Other restrictions apply. AmaWaterways reserves the right to revise any errors on the flyer; itinerary subject to change. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. CST#2065452-40. V19FEB08SI