

# france a float

*Quality boating holidays  
from the French Canal Specialists*



LINSSEN



YACHTS

*Quality and pleasure for everybody*

*France Afloat* is unique in being both a family business, and actually being based in France. We have all lived and worked on the inland waterways of France for many years and can offer the friendly, personal and informed advice that you need to choose the perfect boating holiday. No other company offers such a wealth of knowledge on the boats, the regions, sites and scenery and all this advice is only a phone call away.

### *The French Canal Specialists*

At France Afloat we are confident that our knowledge and service are second to none. Indeed our expertise extends beyond the selection here, so if you cannot find what you are looking for or have a specific request, do not hesitate to contact Steve, Zoë, Mike or Lesley for free well informed advice and unbeatable service.



Lesley, Mike, Zoë and Steve

# *franceafloat*

*...the civilised face of adventure!*



*Rediscover the real France cruising along her inland waterways. Stunning scenery, sleepy villages and country restaurants float by as your voyage of discovery unfolds.*



The variety of canals, rivers, countryside and cities in France the diversity of her wines, cuisine and regional produce. A France Afloat holiday offers an opportunity to meander through this unrivalled scenery and to indulge your senses in the vineyards, restaurants and markets. The simple pleasures of locking through and cycling along the traffic free towpaths punctuate your day, while the abundant wildlife enliven the ever-changing scenery with their energy and vitality. No previous experience is necessary as a full practical demonstration will be given prior to departure. However a certain level of agility is required when moving on and off the boat and helping with the locks.



# franceafloat

## Cruising areas



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From the UK phone us in France for the cost of a BT national rate call  
**08700 110 538**  
 Email: [boats@franceafloat.com](mailto:boats@franceafloat.com)  
[Linssen@orange.fr](mailto:Linssen@orange.fr)

# Burgundy

one of the best-loved and most beautiful regions of France. Burgundy offers some of the most attractive cruising to be found anywhere in the world. Add to this the regions reputation for fine wines, such as Chablis, and gastronomy and you have the perfect ingredients for a memorable holiday. This region with its unspoilt scenery, diverse wildlife and cultural heritage, make it our personal favourite.



## Regional Highlights and Gastronomy:

- ~ Stunning natural scenery
- ~ Historic towns and villages
- ~ Abundant wildlife, Otters, Kingfishers, Herons
- ~ Chablis, St Bris and Irancy wines
- ~ Boeuf Bourguignon, Escargots, Epoisses Cheese



# Burgundy



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## Vermenton (Nivernais)



The English owned base at Vermenton is ideally placed for you to enjoy the original charm and rustic grace of the Canal du Nivernais. The Nivernais is often described as the most beautiful canal in France, a reputation that is well deserved. The fine wines and excellent restaurants also merit a similar reputation and the regional cuisine is not to be missed. Vermenton being at the northern end of the canal offers excellent cruising and access via Auxerre to the river Yonne and Canal du Bourgogne.

# Relax



### Cruising suggestions with approx cruising times

#### One-way

**1 week** Vermenton – St Florentin, 26 hours

#### Return cruises

**1 week** Clamecy – Tannay/Auxerre – Joigny, 25 hours

**2 weeks** Clamecy – Marigny – Châtillon en Bazois/ Auxerre – Tonnerre, 60 hours

# Burgundy



## St-Florentin (Burgundy)



St Florentin is a bustling town with many shops and restaurants, and is the gateway to the green and undulating countryside that characterise the Canal du Bourgogne. Skirting the Chablis vineyards the Canal de Bourgogne meanders through green pastures and is studded with many historic towns and Chateaux. Opportunities abound to step ashore and to sample the excellent local food and wines.



**Cruising suggestions**  
*with approx cruising times*

**One way**

- 1 week  
St-Florentin – Vermenton, 26 hours

**Return cruises**

- 1 week  
Tonnerre – Rougemont / Joigny – Sens – Pont sur Yonne, 26 hours
- 2 weeks  
Joigny – Sens – Moret sur Loing, 55 hours



*The Canal du Midi*, the most famous canal in the world, together with the medieval city of Carcassonne are now both UNESCO world heritage sites - a tribute to their historical and natural beauty. Linking the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, the canal runs through beautiful hills in the shadow of the Pyrenees. It then passes tantalizingly close to the Mediterranean in the Camargue and is surrounded by the greatest density of vineyards anywhere in the world.

### *Regional Highlights and Gastronomy:*

- ~ Tree lined canals and Mediterranean coast
- ~ Cathar Country and Bastides
- ~ Corbières, Minervois & Buzet wines
- ~ Bouillabaisse, Cassoulet, Magret de Canard



*Midi*



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# Capestang

## Capestang (Midi)



The famous Canal du Midi meanders along the foot of the black mountains in the shadow of the mighty plane trees. Along its course are charming small villages, canal side restaurants & of course the stunning fortress town of Carcassonne. Our base at Capestang is on the "Grand Bief" a 54km lock-free stretch of canal which follows the contours between Beziers and Le Somail.

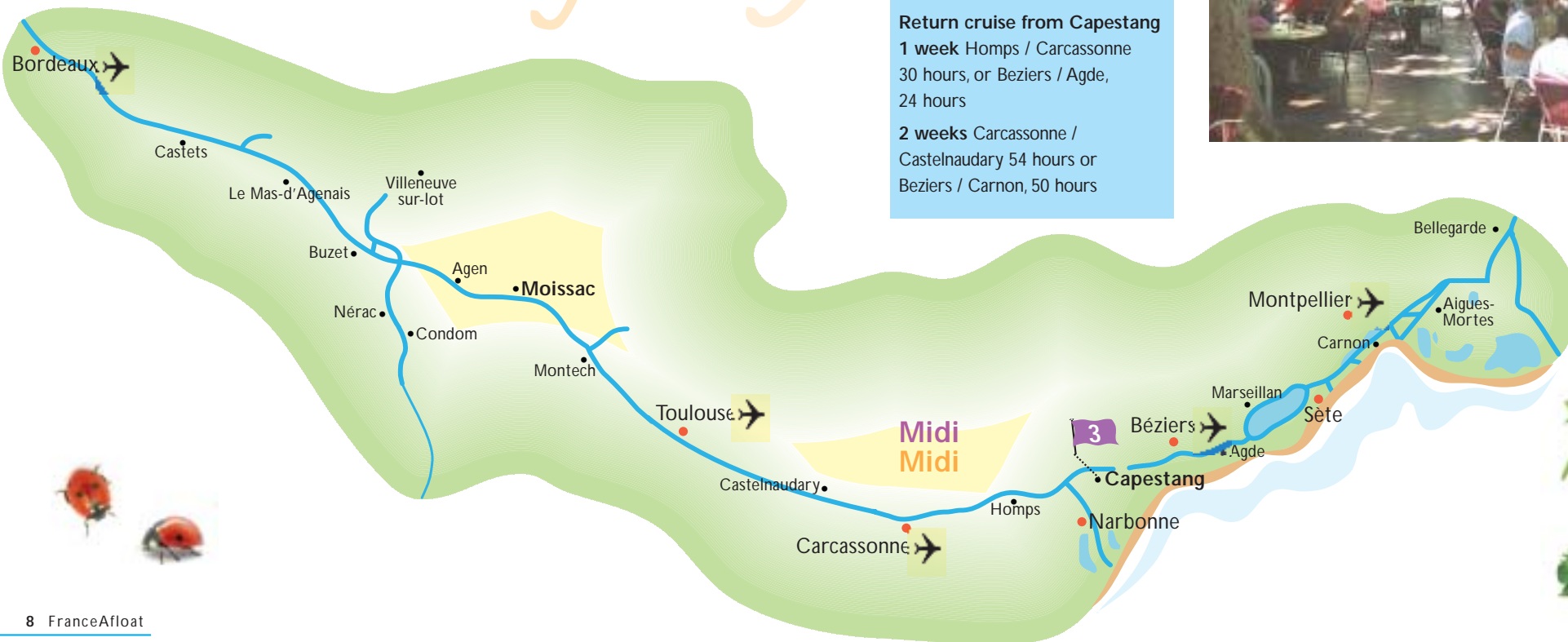


# Enjoy

**Cruising suggestions**  
with approx cruising times

**One-way**  
2 week cruises between Capestang and Moissac available by special arrangement only

**Return cruise from Capestang**  
1 week Homps / Carcassonne 30 hours, or Beziers / Agde, 24 hours  
2 weeks Carcassonne / Castelnaudary 54 hours or Beziers / Carnon, 50 hours



## Linssen Luxury Charter

Linssen Yachts are builders of quality gentlemen's motor yachts. Their reputation for design and build quality have made them highly sought after in the private owners market and have led to them being considered the crème de la crème of steel motor yachts. Now for the first time the Linssen family are making available, in association with France Fluviale, a range of boats for luxury private charter on the French inland waterways.

It is their intention that their attention to detail and their quality of service will characterise this new venture and their trademark "we take your pleasure seriously" will apply equally to their luxury charter boats. Linssen luxury charter is not a mass market product but is designed to appeal to the discerning few, those who enjoy the finer things in life and enjoy the exclusivity of a quality product.



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Linssen 29.9 AC



Salon 29.9 AC

- 1
- 2
- 3

**Linssen 29.9 AC** 9.35m x 3.35m  
 (Sleeps 6 comfort 4 extra comfort 2) 2 Double cabins. 1 shower and 2 toilets. Saloon / Galley with convertible dinette. Large aft deck with exterior helm, table and chairs. 220v shore supply, inverter. Bow Thruster.

*A 10% couple discount is available for two persons only.*



- 1
- 2
- 3

**Linssen 29.9 Sedan** 9.35m x 3.35m  
 (Sleeps 4 extra comfort 2) 1 Double Cabin, 1 shower and toilet. Saloon/Galley with convertible dinette, large sun roof and interior helm. Double doors to large aft cockpit with seating. 220v shore supply, inverter. Bow Thruster



- 1 Vermenton (Nivernais)
- 2 St Florentin (Burgundy)
- 3 Capestang (Midi)

**The flags indicate the base where each boat is available.**

The boat layouts, pictures and descriptions are for general guidance only. Some boats may have minor variations e.g. bed positions, appliance positions, trim colours etc.



Linssen 29.9 Sedan



1 2 3

### Linssen 33.9 AC 10.35x3.40m

(Sleeps 6 Comfort 4) 2 Double Cabins,  
1 shower & 2 toilets. Spacious saloon/galley  
with convertible dinette and writing desk. Large aft deck  
with exterior helm, table and chairs. 220v shore supply,  
inverter and bow thruster.



*A 10% couple discount is available for two persons only.*



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- 1
- 2
- 3

**Linssen 34.9 AC** 10.70m x 3.40m

Sleeps 6 extra comfort for 4  
2 double cabins. 2 showers and 2 toilets. Large saloon /Galley with convertible dinette and writing desk. Large teak aft deck with exterior helm, table and chairs. 220v shore supply and Generator/invertor, bow thruster and optional air conditioning.  
Air conditioning is an additional 50 euros. If required please confirm when booking.

*A 10% couple discount is available for two persons only.*

# The Franceafloat fleet

The boats in the France Afloat fleet are all designed for safe and comfortable cruising, and are regularly inspected by the relevant French authorities. They are well maintained and thoroughly cleaned and prepared prior to your arrival.

All the boats have heating, a 220v circuit, hot and cold water and at least one bathroom with a shower and toilet. The galleys are well equipped with cookers, fridges, sinks, utensils, cutlery, crockery and glassware. A kit of cleaning materials (washing up liquid, cream cleaner) is also on board. Fresh clean linen is provided together with quilts and blankets. All boats with a Fly bridge are also provided with table and chairs.

- 1 Vermenton (Nivernais)
- 2 St Florentin (Burgundy)
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The flags indicate where each boat is available

The boat layouts and descriptions are for general guidance only some boats may have minor variations e.g. bed positions appliance positions st and trim colours.



- 1
- 2
- 3

## Viking 1000 8.6m x 3.6m

(Extra comfort for 2 only) 1 x double 1 x twin cabin; or 2 x double 2 x shower and toilet; 2 steering positions; saloon with galley, internal steering and convertible dinette; rear sun deck with external steering. 220v shore supply.



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1 2

**Burgundy 900** 9m x 3.25m  
 (Sleeps 4 comfort 2) 1 twin or double cabin; separate shower and toilet compartments; saloon with sunroof, galley, steering position and convertible dinette; rear sun deck.



1 2  
3

**Burgundy 1200** 12m x 3.25m  
 (Sleeps 8 comfort 4) 2 x double cabins 1 with extra single berth; 2 x shower and toilet; 2 x steering positions; 220v shore supply; galley; saloon with internal steering and convertible dinette plus possibility of using single "Z bed"; large rear sun deck with external steering.



1 2

**Burgundy 1500** 14.9m x 4.14m  
 (Sleeps up to 11 comfort 8) 4 x twin cabins; 3 x shower and toilets; steering positions; generator and/or shore supply providing 220v; saloon with split galley, stereo radio/cd player; internal steering; large rear sun deck with external steering.





**Venus 34** 10.50m x 3.77m

(Sleeps 6 comfort 4) 2 x double cabins each of which can be either 2 x single berths or 1 x double; 2 x shower and toilets; 2 x steering positions; galley; saloon with internal steering position and convertible dinette and steps to rear sundeck with external steering.



**Venus 38** 11.74m x 3.96m

(Sleeps 8 comfort 6) 3 x double cabins each of which can be either 2 x single berths or 1 x double; 3 x shower and toilets; 2 x steering positions; galley; saloon with internal steering position and convertible dinette and steps to rear sundeck with external steering.



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# EuroClassic

1

Vermenton (Nivernais)

2

St Florentin (Bourgogne)

3

Capestang(Midi)

The EuroClassic barge is unique to France Afloat and is designed for spacious and comfortable cruising. We have used our extensive knowledge of both the French inland waterways and the requirements of most discerning clients to design and fit out these barges to an excellent standard.

Their large and spacious saloons are the focal point for onboard entertaining and are finished in exotic woods and feature stereo radio/cd players. Open plan from the saloon, is the well appointed galley with microwave and two fridges on the larger models, allowing the preparation of both aperitifs and gourmet meals.

Cutlery, crockery and linen are of a higher standard and towels are provided. Their large aft decks come with table, chairs, parasol and second exterior steering position and are perfect for al-fresco eating.

To complete the comfort each boat has electric flush toilets, central heating and its own 220v supply, which runs the air conditioning, immersion heater and any domestic appliance you may wish to bring.

Being barges they are designed for slow and comfortable cruising, their stately progress and stability allows you to enjoy the passing scenery.



## EuroClassic 129 12m x 3.25m

(Sleeps 4 comfort 4) 1 x double & 1 x twin/double both with ensuite shower and electric flush toilets; 2 x steering position; generator and/or shore supply providing 220v; saloon with air conditioning and internal steering, galley with microwave, central heating; sun deck with external steering position.



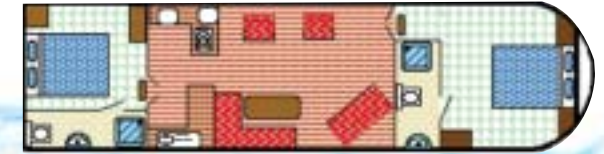
1

2

3

### EuroClassic 139 Grand Cru 13.9m x 4.1m

(Sleeps 4 comfort 4) 2 x double cabins both with ensuite shower and electric flush toilets; 2 x steering positions; generator and / or shore supply providing 220v; large saloon/ dining area with table and free standing chairs, fully equipped split galley and 2 fridges, microwave, air conditioning and internal steering position; aft sundeck with deck furniture and second steering position.



### EuroClassic 139 13.9m x 4.1m

(Sleeps 6 comfort 6) 1 x double cabin, 2 x twin (some models offer 2 x double cabins) all with ensuite shower and electric flush toilets; 2 x steering positions; generator and/or shore supply providing 220v; saloon with split galley with 2 fridges, microwave, air conditioning and internal steering; aft sun deck with second steering position.



### EuroClassic 149 14.9m x 4.14m

(Sleeps 8 comfort 8) 4 x twin/double cabins with ensuite shower and electric flush toilets; generator and/or shore supply providing 220v; saloon with split galley and microwave; air conditioning; internal steering; large rear sun deck with external steering.



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# Practical information

We hope the following facts will answer some of your questions and help you to have a more enjoyable holiday.

## Boat Introduction and handling:

You do not need to have a licence to charter one of our boats. On your arrival you will be given full instruction on the operation of your boat. We will then take you on an introductory cruise and ensure that you can happily control the boat. During this cruise we will also provide detailed information on passing through a lock. Once this demonstration is complete you will be issued with a "permis de plaisance" which is valid for the duration of your cruise.

Please remember that a basic level of agility and physical ability is required on a boating holiday. It is not always easy to get on and off the boat and all the boats have steps. There is also a certain amount of rope work in the locks, and whilst the engine can be used, a little strength is required when using the ropes to control the boat.



## Locks & Lock Keepers

During your cruise you will have to "lock through"! But do not worry, this is a simple process which can also be a lot of fun. The locks in France are either automatic or operated by a lock keeper. You do not have to operate the locks yourself, but you do have to control your boat and use the ropes. (This will all be explained during the demonstration). Passing through a lock will take around 15mins, and this is a chance to chat to the lock keeper, meet other boat crews and to even purchase some local produce. The lock charges are covered in your "navigation forfait" and you do not have to pay the lock keepers.

Lock opening hours are typically 09.00-12.00 & 13.00-19.00, although this does vary from region to region. The locks are usually shut on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May and the 14<sup>th</sup> of July.

## Navigation:

The canals pass through peaceful and picturesque countryside. This is reflected in the pace of the boats. In general, the maximum speed on the canal is 8km/h and you should expect to average around 6km/h. A canal cruise is an opportunity to slow down, enjoy the countryside, and respect the nature.

Each day, a few hours cruising is sufficient to give you a change of scenery, and the choice of mooring the boat either in the towns or villages, or in the middle of the countryside against the tow-path, wherever the mood takes you.

## Technical Assistance

During your cruise, should a problem arise, there is no need to worry. We provide a "call out" service and our trained mechanics will soon be there to solve any problems. This service is provided 7 days a week during working hours. We are also happy to answer any other questions you may have, book restaurants and organise taxis etc., indeed anything to make your holiday more enjoyable.

## Fuel, Gas and Water

When you arrive your boat will be full of fuel, gas and water. Unless you are cruising for three weeks or more it will not be necessary to top up with fuel, or to replace the gas bottles. Both of these items are included together with the lock fees in your navigation forfait. Water however, will be required, the boats usually have autonomy of 2-3 days, but it is wise to top up the tank when the opportunity presents itself, or at least every other day.



Water is usually available in towns and villages and in ports along the canal. It is often free in towns and villages, but you should expect to pay a few Euros to fill up in the ports.

### Electricity:

The boats operate on 12v and have a battery bank to provide the power to the lights, fridges, pumps etc. These batteries are re-charged by the engine whilst the boat is underway. The boats also have a 220v circuit and this is powered either by a shore supply cable or, on the luxury boats, by onboard generators/invertors. The 220v shore supply is available in ports and in some towns and villages, and, like the water, it is often free in towns and villages, but is charged for in ports. The 220v is not a necessity, but powers luxury items such as air conditioning, and any personal items you may wish to bring (e.g. hair dryers).

### Children, Pets, Bikes BBQ's etc.:

Children enjoy the canals, and there are many activities for them along the canal side. Swimming, play grounds, fishing, cycling etc. They can also enjoy locking through, and for the older children this is an opportunity to help and thereby improve their French. The boats are equipped with life jackets and these come in a range of sizes to suit all ages.

Pets are welcome on the boats, but you must ensure they have the appropriate documentation for travel to France. We can also

help organise the vet's visit prior to your return home if necessary. We do not however have any pet's life jackets.

Bikes are the perfect accompaniment to a canal cruise. They provide some exercise off of the boat and are ideal for visiting villages a little way from the canal, collecting the baguette and croissants, and for checking out the local restaurants. Many of the canal-side tow-paths have been turned into long distance cycle routes. These are usually metalled and are perfect for cycling in a safe & car-free zone.



BBQ's are available for hire with charcoal & firelighters to be used off of the boat. The tow-path

is an integral part of the canal and you may use it for your overnight stops. If you are looking for the peace and quiet of the countryside, why not enjoy it with wildlife for your neighbours, and a rural BBQ?

### Navigation forfait:

This is the only compulsory extra charge payable at the base, the deposits are refundable. This is based on the engine hours cruised, at the appropriate rate for each boat. The navigation forfait covers, fuel, gas, lock charges and other consumables. On those boats with a separate generator there is a lower hourly generator rate, just to cover the cost of the fuel used.

Note: Most people cruise between 25 and 30 hours a week.

### Start and Finishing Times:

Most bases offer Friday, Saturday and Monday start days. Pick up time is 15.00 and return is 09.00 on the final day.

### Parking:

All bases offer secure parking for cars plus a limited amount of garaged parking which is best to reserve in advance.



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# Boat sales

## Boat Sales

France Afloat is the French Agent for Linssen Yachts and is also the only Linssen approved charterer of these fine vessels in France.

We are very proud to be associated with Linssen, as they are considered to be the best steel yacht builder in Europe.

Linssen Yachts are known for the quality of their manufacture from start to finish. Their design, materials and build are all first class and this leads to a finished boat that is head and shoulders above the competition. Everything about a Linssen is excellent, the finish, the handling, the use of space, mechanical detail and comfort.

Quality does come at a price, but a Linssen is most definitely an investment. With so much inbuilt value, they are highly sought after in the second hand market. So whilst your initial cost may be slightly higher, you will more than recuperate this when you finally come to part with the boat.

The Linssen range is suitable for canals, rivers and coastal and comes in sizes from 8-15m. There are a large range of designs to suit all tastes, and these include both Sedan and Aft Cabin (AC) models, there is even a hybrid powered boat.

If you would like further information about owning the world's finest steel motor yacht, please contact Steve on [Linssen@orange.fr](mailto:Linssen@orange.fr)

## Charter Management

France Afloat accepts privately owned Linssens into its charter fleet. This offers you an income from your boat, whilst we take on the day to day responsibility for your boat, ensuring it is well maintained, taxed, insured and promoted. We then undertake to



pay you a good rate of return on your investment and offer you up to 6 weeks holiday into the bargain, and at the end of the contract you can renew, sell, or sail off into the sunset!

## Marina Services

France Afloat is unique on the French Inland Waterways; we are not only a charterer and boat sales agent, we also operate Marinas. This means that we can provide an unrivalled range of services to those looking to get Afloat in France. Firstly we can advise you on

the French inland waterways rules and regulations and boats suitable for the canals & rivers. You can then 'try before you buy' by chartering the boat of your dreams. Finally we can sell you the boat and provide you with all the necessary back up required. At our various ports on the French inland waterways, we can provide moorings, servicing, maps and cruising information and a friendly French home from home port!

For further information on getting afloat in France please contact [Mike on Boats@FranceAfloat.com](mailto:Mike on Boats@FranceAfloat.com)

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