

Make Mother's Day magic



WINE AND DINE: La Belle Epoque allows you to stop and sample the delights of some of Burgundy's top vineyards

Chocolates and flowers are all very well but if you really want to make April 3 special this year, take your Mum on a cruise to remember, says **ANNA SELBY**

FLAVOURS OF BURGUNDY

If money is no object, a cruise on La Belle Epoque is a real treat. This six-night trip includes a visit to Flavigny-sur-Ozerain, the picture-postcard village in Burgundy where the movie *Chocolat* was filmed.

This delectable location is just one of many featured on the itinerary of the elegant river-cruiser that wends its way past a series of glorious fairytale chateaux and medieval villages, food markets and charming countryside. The 12-passenger barge, with its blue and white livery, offers spacious cabins all with en-suite facilities. There is also a sun-deck and spa pool and passengers can hire bikes to explore cycle paths ashore.

Enjoy the gourmet cuisine which is a mixture of regional specialities supplemented by lots of wine tastings at vineyards en route.

● *Go Barging* (01784 482439/www.gobarging.com) offers a six-night cruise from £2,690pp (two sharing), full board. Price includes all excursions and local transfers. Departs Venerey Les Laumes, April 3.

BLOOMING MARVELLOUS

If Mum loves the garden and the joys of spring, make all her wishes come true with a visit to the bulb fields of Amsterdam.

AMA Waterways is offering a Tulip Time cruise on board river-cruiser MS AmaDolce which takes in the sights of the world-famous gardens of Keukenhof with its magnificent floral displays.

During this week-long cruise of Holland and Belgium experience Amsterdam's enchanting canals as well as a visit to the village of Edam, famous for its cheese.

An overnight sailing heads to Arnhem, the site of the Second World War battle, and onward to Belgium to the ancient seaport of Antwerp. Final ports

of call are the exquisite medieval cities of Ghent and Bruges.

On board MS AmaDolce there are plenty of facilities, including a fitness room and beauty salon, while the Adagio Lounge with its modern wicker furniture and French doors to the deck is a great place to sit with a glass of bubbly.

● *AMA Waterways* (0808 223 5009/www.amawaterways.co.uk) offers a seven-night cruise from £1,290pp (two sharing), full board. KLM (0871 231 0000/www.klm.com) offers return flights from Heathrow to Amsterdam from £117. Departs Amsterdam, March 28.

DISCOVER BRITAIN & FRANCE

Give Mum some wonderful memories with a British Isles Discovery break on Cruise & Maritime's Marco Polo. It's a voyage that takes in the magic of the Scottish Highlands, including Loch Ness and scenic Tobermory on the Isle of Mull.

Other charming highlights include St Mary's in the Isles of Scilly with an optional excursion to visit Tresco's famous Abbey Gardens and Guernsey's tax-free haven of St Peter Port.

There are calls in Dublin with its vibrant nightlife and Honfleur in Normandy. Known as the "city of painters" Honfleur attracted famous Impressionists

such as Eugène Boudin and Claude Monet and is still a popular destination for artists.

● *Cruise & Maritime Voyages* (0845 430 0274/www.cruiseandmaritime.com) offers a nine-night cruise from £499pp (two sharing), full board. Departs Tilbury, April 6.

RIVIERA HIGHLIGHTS

This week-long Mediterranean voyage on Costa Magica begins in Savona on the west coast of Italy within reach of the seaside resorts of Alassio, Loano and Varazze.

Other stops include Civitavecchia, the port for the wonders of Rome, and Palermo for a taste of sizzling Sicily.

The itinerary also includes a day on the island of Mallorca and stops in Barcelona, bustling Marseille and the north African town of Tunis.

Costa Magica's decor is inspired by the charm of Italy's most beautiful locations.

Various wall murals are displayed throughout the ship in the lounges and restaurants, while you can also enjoy a show in the Urbino Theatre.

● *Costa Cruises* (0845 351 0552/www.costacruises.co.uk) offers a seven-night cruise from £799pp (two sharing), full board. Price includes return flights from Heathrow. Departs Savona, April 1.



SWEET TREAT: The movie *Chocolat* was filmed at the hilltop village of Flavigny-sur-Ozerain

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CAFÉ CULTURE: Explore Barcelona on a week-long Costa Cruises voyage