



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Traveling Bulldogs™

Rivieras of France and Italy



October 21 – 30, 2026

Behold the legendary, sparkling coasts of France and Italy from a comfortable, intimate sailing ship on an amazing tour of the iconic Rivieras. This exclusive 10-day, 9-night itinerary aboard *Wind Spirit* immerses you in the heart of one of the most storied regions of Europe. Learn more about the history and culture of the towns that line the Mediterranean coast from ancient Bonifacio in Corsica to Elba Island and the Rock of Monaco. Enjoy a private boat cruise to the cliff-side villages of Italy's UNESCO World Heritage-inscribed Cinque Terre. Explore historic Genoa and glittering Monaco. Savor the art and light of Aix-en-Provence, and stroll among the watchtowers in Carcassonne, one of the best-preserved medieval cities in Europe. These sun-drenched landscapes and bijou coastal towns have been attracting nobility, writers, artists and celebrities for generations. Experience the allure for yourself as you cruise aboard *Wind Spirit*, a yacht-like vessel with ocean views from every suite or stateroom.

Exclusive Highlights

- Journey for 8 nights from Civitavecchia, Italy, to Barcelona, Spain, aboard *Wind Spirit*, an exclusively chartered sailing yacht.
- Specially arranged private cruise along the coast of the UNESCO-inscribed Cinque Terre.
- Four UNESCO World Heritage Sites — Porto Venere and Cinque Terre, Italy; Genoa: Le Strade Nuove and the system of the Palazzi dei Rolli, Italy; Nice, France; and Historic Fortified City of Carcassonne, France.



Above: Medieval city walls of Carcassonne **Photo Credits:** AdobeStock, Shutterstock, ©Windstar Cruises; all images are rights managed and cannot be used without permission.
Cover: Portofino, Italy



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Experience the allure of the legendary Côte d'Azur aboard the *Wind Spirit*, a warm and welcoming motorized sailing yacht with ocean views from every suite or stateroom. Immerse yourself in the best of the French and Italian Rivieras on our exclusive cruise itinerary, which takes you from Rome along the sparkling coastline to such iconic destinations as Cinque Terre, Portofino, Monaco and Nice.

Visit four UNESCO World Heritage sites: the picturesque villages of Cinque Terre and Palazzi dei Rolli of Genoa in Italy; the incomparable Riviera resort town of Nice and medieval fortified city of Carcassonne in France. Embark on unforgettable excursions, from visiting the Rock of Monaco to the fountain-filled streets of Aix-en-Provence. Savor delicious local foods and wines during this unparalleled journey. Enhance your stay with a Pre-Tour Extension in Rome and/or a Post-Tour Extension in Barcelona.

Book now before this immensely popular program sells out!

Sincerely,

Jeff Davis
Executive Director
MSU Alumni Association

Leanna Smith, '09, '16
Assistant Director
MSU Alumni Association

Travel Insurance: An application for trip cancellation, baggage and medical insurance will be sent to you by the MSU Alumni Association's travel program once you are registered for the tour. Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Contact Leanna Smith at 662-325-3360 or lsmith@alumni.msstate.edu for further information.



For reservations, call Gohagan & Company at **800-922-3088**
or visit misst.gohagantravel.com

**Day 1 | October 21**

Depart your home city for Rome, Italy.

Day 2 | October 22

D Civitavecchia, Italy | Embark
Arrive in Rome. Transfer to embark the *Wind Spirit*, settle in and unpack. Enjoy dinner on board this evening.

Day 3 | October 23 B-L-R-D

Bonifacio, Corsica, France
Bonifacio, on the French island of Corsica, has a truly dramatic natural setting, perched on high limestone cliffs. Begin your excursion with a tram ride from the harbor to Haute Ville (upper town) and around the plateau to enjoy the panoramic views.
On your walking tour to the Citadel and Old Town see St. Dominique church; Place Bir Hakeim, St. Jean Baptiste church and a viewpoint overlooking Le Grain de Sable — a limestone rock formation. Explore the Jardin des Vestiges and see where Napoleon stayed.

Day 4 | October 24

B-L-D Portoferraio on Elba Island, Italy
Stroll through the old town of Portoferraio, a vital trade center for Greeks and Romans in ancient times. Discover storied Medici fortresses; the Church of Misericordia; Forte Stella and Napoleon's former home of Villa dei Mulini, among other historic sites. Peer through a stone gate with a magnificent sea view. Finish up with a walk along the town's splendid promenade with its exclusive shops and boutiques.

Aix-en-Provence, France

**Day 5 | October 25**

B-L-D Porto Venere for Cinque Terre | Portofino

Depart Porto Venere by private boat for an excursion to the UNESCO-inscribed Cinque Terre, a collection of five picturesque villages clinging to the cliffs over the Mediterranean Sea and connected by small footpaths. Visit the villages of Vernazza and Monterosso, and enjoy leisure time visiting the small shops tucked along the winding narrow streets.

Late this afternoon, we will dock in Portofino, where you can go ashore and spend free time exploring. From every



The village of Vernazza in Cinque Terre, Italy

vantage point, the views are unforgettable!

Day 6 | October 26 B-L-D

Genoa

Choose an included excursion today in Genoa. During a walking tour through the old town, immerse yourself in the city's medieval core with its range of architectural styles, shops, restaurants and cafes. Marvel at the incredible Palazzi dei Rolli. Or enjoy a scenic drive to see the historic buildings. Both excursions end with food demonstrations and tastings.

Day 7 | October 27 B-L-D

Monaco | Nice, France

With an expert local guide in Monaco, stroll through the

old town's charming, narrow streets, admire the historic buildings and beautiful architecture. Visit the Cathedral of Our Lady Immaculate, where many of the Grimaldis are buried, including Grace Kelly and Rainier III. Tour the Prince's Palace, built as an Italian fortress in A.D. 1191. Marvel at the sumptuous décor in the State Apartments, home to Monaco's royals. Savor a delicious lunch on board as the ship sails to Nice, France. On a private, electric mini train, see some of the city's iconic highlights, including the colorful flower market, the Palais de la Préfecture and beautiful Baroque churches. Wind down narrow, shaded

streets and into sunny squares, then climb Castle Hill for a panoramic view overlooking the city and the beautiful blue water that the Côte d'Azur is named for.

Day 8 | October 28 B-L-D

Marseille for Aix-en-Provence

Spend a leisurely day in Aix-en-Provence, birthplace of Paul Cezanne and known as "City of a Thousand Fountains." Stroll one of the most beautiful streets in France, the elegant Cours Mirabeau Avenue, lined with trees and 17th- and 18th-century mansions. Meander along winding alleys in the historic town center. Soak up lovely

Prince's Palace, Monaco



Cliff face of Bonifacio in Corsica





Portoferraio, Elba Island, Italy

architecture, parks, gardens — and of course, fountains — everywhere in this delightful city.

Day 9 | October 29 B-R-D

Port Vendres for Carcassonne
Drive to Carcassonne, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the best-preserved medieval cities in Europe.

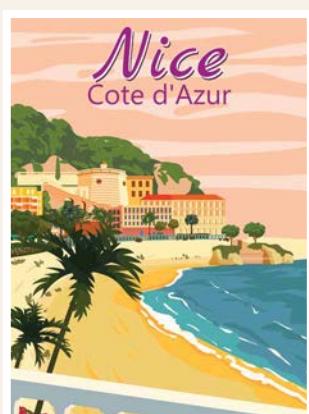
Visit La Porte Narbonnaise, the Castle of the Counts and the Basilica St. Nazaire. Climb the ramparts and spy the watchtowers (the fortress has 52!). There's even a moat, nowadays filled with a lovely garden. Enjoy lunch on your own at one of the charming cafes within the walled city, and spend time visiting the galleries and shops. Tonight, join your

fellow passengers for a Captain's Farewell Reception and dinner on board.

Day 10 | October 30 B

Barcelona, Spain | Disembark Ship | Return to Home City
After breakfast, disembark the ship and transfer to the airport for your return flight home.

Note: This itinerary is subject to change due to local conditions.



Legends of La Côte d'Azur

In 1887, French writer Stephen Liégeard attempted to define the allure of a strip of Mediterranean coast between Marseille and Italy — an emerging winter destination for Europe's wealthy and elite. His book was titled “La Côte d'Azur” and from that time forward, this “short but delicious” route along the Riviera coast of France and Italy would become known as such. English aristocracy began flocking to the area as early as the 18th century for a luxurious respite in what was often referred to as a coastal “garden of Eden.” The addition of a railway line in the mid- to late-19th century ensured access to a dazzling enclave

of grand hotels and casinos that are now known collectively as the “Rivieras.” Today, these sparkling coastlines famously epitomize a glamorous age that captured the popular imagination in everything from F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel “Tender is the Night” to the 1955 film set in Monaco, “To Catch a Thief” (starring American actress Grace Kelly, who became princess of Monaco!). Experience the best of this captivating region on our exclusive cruise itinerary, which takes you from Rome through Riviera ports — Cinque Terre, Portofino, Monaco and Nice — and lovely French towns, ending in Barcelona.

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION



Rome, Italy

October 19 to 22, 2026 (Program Begins: October 20)

Capital of the Roman Empire and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the “Eternal City” of Rome boasts spectacular landmarks. Visit the lovely Borghese Park and Gallery. On a walking tour, see the Piazza Trinita, the Spanish Steps and the Trevi Fountain. Bring a coin to toss in, to ensure your return to Rome! There will also be time to explore some sites on your own. Accommodations for two nights at the *Westin Excelsior Rome*.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$1,395

Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$2,095

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

POST-TOUR EXTENSION



Barcelona, Spain

October 30 to November 1, 2026 (Program Ends: November 1)

Explore this lively Catalonian capital city, once an ancient Roman trading port now known for art and architecture. Stroll the labyrinthine streets of the Gothic Quarter and immerse yourself in the Picasso Museum. There will also be time to explore some sites on your own. Accommodations for two nights in the deluxe *Majestic Hotel & Spa*.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$1,145

Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$1,595

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

INCLUDED FEATURES

- 8 nights aboard *Wind Spirit*, an exclusively chartered sailing yacht.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
- Included Meals | 8 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 8 dinners.
- Complimentary non-premium liquor, house wine, beer and nonalcoholic beverages and minibar service throughout the cruise.
- Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Director accompanies you throughout the program.
- During included excursions, our experienced, English-speaking local guides will teach you about the history, culture and natural splendor of the destination.
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Complimentary water is available in your room and on excursions.
- Our extensive pre-departure materials better prepare you for your travel experience.
- Complimentary travel mementos.



GOHAGAN & COMPANY AIR | Your Air, Your Way

Advantages of booking your air with Gohagan include:

- Our experts know the best flight itineraries that work with your travel program's start and end times, and they will work to find the best rates comparable to those available to the public.
- Free group transfers and luggage handling for arrivals and departures during the designated transfer window.
- 24-hour emergency support throughout the program to handle any schedule changes and unexpected delays.
- Flexibility to change or cancel reservations up to 60 days prior to departure with minimal penalties on applicable tickets.

TERMS *The Special Savings Rate is valid if booked by 5/7/26 and paid in full at booking.

These Special Savings consist of \$500 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full Savings.

- Single supplements apply in select categories at 160% of the per person cabin fare, plus taxes, with limited availability. Single rates for all other categories are at 200%. Special Savings still apply. (Cabin fare is the standard rate less taxes.)
- Deposit amount is \$1,500 per person. Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure.
- Full ship information and deck plans are available on our website at gohagantravel.com.
- Gohagan & Company reserves the right to correct errors or omissions and to change any and all fares, fees, promotions and surcharges at any time. Terms & Conditions are available at gohagantravel.com/terms/



WIND SPIRIT



The comfortable, intimate *Wind Spirit* offers a unique sailing experience. This small ship is designed to sail from deep seas into ports inaccessible to larger vessels. The *Wind Spirit's* gourmet dining and wide teak deck with unobscured views make this voyage one to remember.

2026 DEPARTURE DATE | October 21 to 30 | Tour Begins: October 22

Category	Description	Standard Rate	Special Savings Rate*
B	Stateroom with ocean view via two side-by-side portholes; shower. Some rooms have fixed queen beds. 188 sq ft Deck 1, aft.	\$8,695	\$7,695
BX	Stateroom with ocean view via two side-by-side portholes; shower. 188 sq ft Deck 1, mid.	\$9,295	\$8,295
A	Stateroom with ocean view via two side-by-side portholes; shower. 188 sq ft Deck 2, aft.	\$9,795	\$8,795
AX	Stateroom with ocean view via two side-by-side portholes; shower. 188 sq ft Deck 2, mid.	\$10,395	\$9,395
OS	Suite with ocean view via four portholes; fixed queen bed; sitting/dining area; shower. 220 sq ft Deck 1, aft.	\$12,895	\$11,895

All suites and staterooms are ocean-view and feature: two twin beds or one queen bed (a few have a fixed queen bed, see above); granite-finished private bathroom with L'Occitane products and a magnifying mirror; flat-screen TV; robes and slippers; luxurious linens; private climate control; personal safe and hair dryer.

All rates are in U.S. dollars, per person, based on double occupancy, including taxes

The Gohagan Difference – An Inclusive Luxury Experience

For your comfort and convenience, our fares are comprehensive. We offer incredible inclusions not typical of all providers.

Included in your Rate:

- Shore Excursions
- Wi-Fi/Internet
- Beverage Package
- Port Charges & Gratuities
- Travel Director(s)

A VALUE
of up to
\$1,350

For reservations, call Gohagan & Company at **800-922-3088** or visit misst.gohagantravel.com

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Mississippi State University Alumni Association

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**SPECIAL SAVINGS* AVAILABLE
SAVE \$2,000 PER COUPLE!**

Locally produced food and wine