

Three of the best

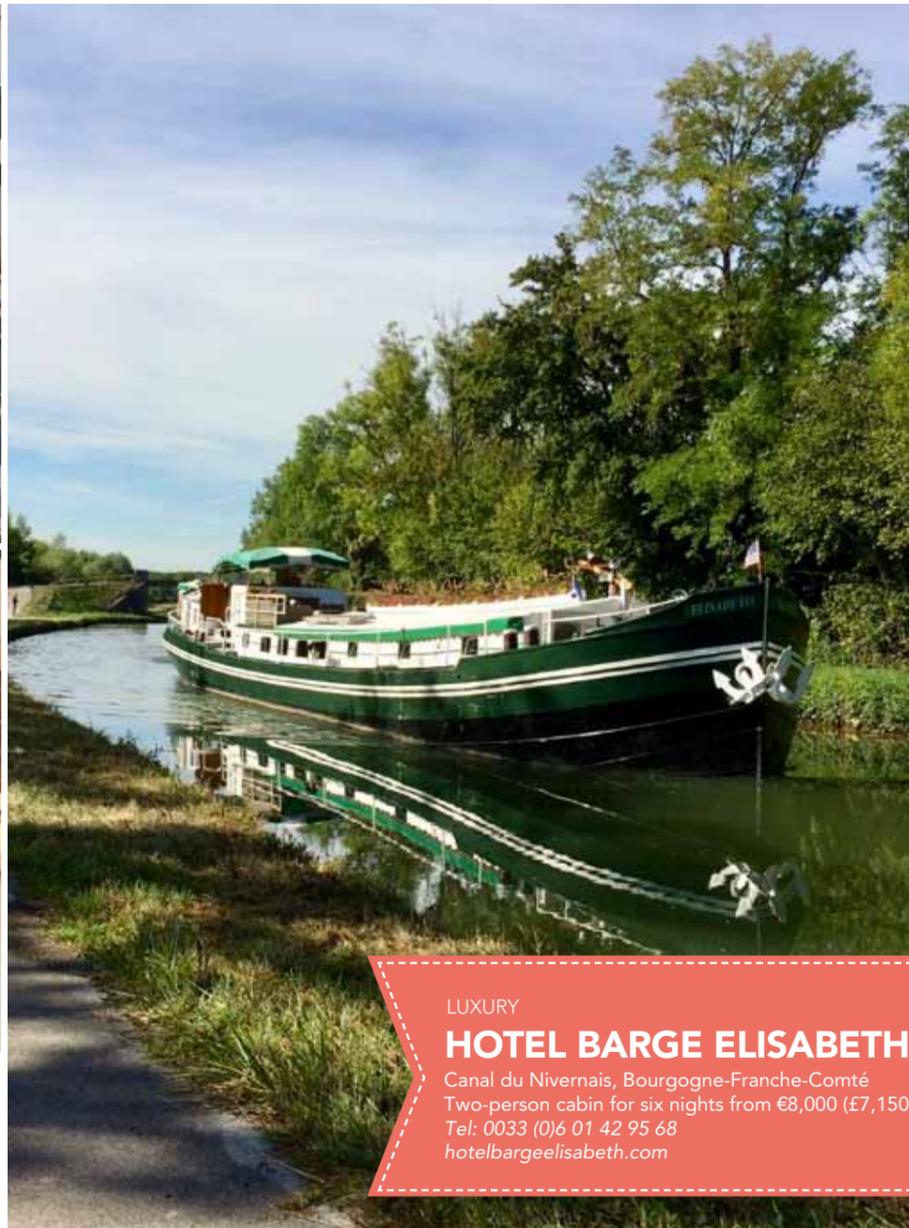
Breaks for all budgets

From luxury cruises to hands-on sailing holidays, France's waterways have something for everyone



A week of luxury with a champagne welcome

Step aboard the Hotel Barge Elisabeth in Vermenton and begin a week of luxury with a champagne welcome from your captain and crew. A week's all-inclusive cruise on the Nivernais



LUXURY

HOTEL BARGE ELISABETH

Canal du Nivernais, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté
Two-person cabin for six nights from €8,000 (£7,150)
Tel: 0033 (0)6 01 42 95 68
hotelbargeelisabeth.com

Canal incorporates tours of Accolay, Auxerre, Noyers, the Grottes d'Arcy-sur-Cure and Vézelay. The chef will treat you to a two-course lunch and five-course dinner, made each day with fresh local ingredients

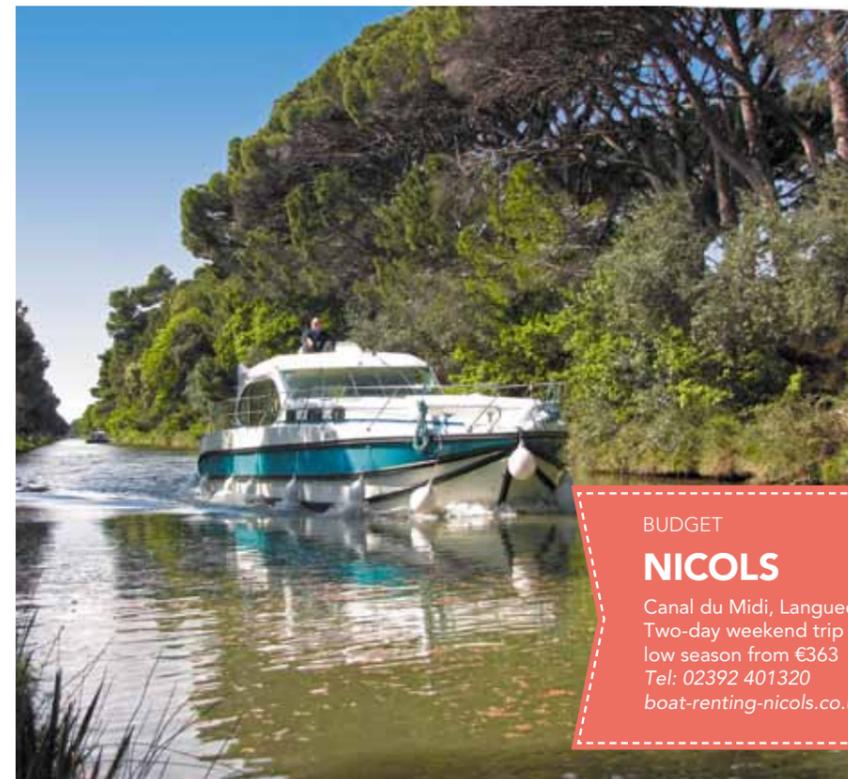
and paired with magnificent Burgundy wines. Guest rooms are air-conditioned and have ensuite facilities. *Mention FRANCE Magazine and receive a 20% discount on advertised prices when booking directly.*

Hire the self-drive Pegasus for a relaxing break sailing on the Nantes-Brest Canal. You would embark at the base at Rohan and could travel down to visit some of Brittany's *Petites Cités de Caractère*, such as Josselin, with its striking medieval castle and the charming and historic Malestroit with its carved granite mansions and pretty half-timbered houses. Away from the towns, walk or cycle the riverside paths or have fun with stand-up paddleboarding. Unwind in the sun on the decks of the river cruiser, which also has heating inside for chilly evenings, plus a kitchen area and cabins for two to six people. The boat is easily handled and can be hired without a licence. Holidays usually run from Saturday to Saturday.

MID-RANGE

BRITTANY BOATING

Nantes-Brest Canal, Brittany
Weekly hire from €1,244
Tel: 0033 (0)2 97 27 71 81
brittanyboating.com



BUDGET

NICOLS

Canal du Midi, Languedoc
Two-day weekend trip in low season from €363
Tel: 02392 401320
boat-renting-nicols.co.uk

For a short but unforgettable break, hire a boat with Nicols and explore the beautiful Canal du Midi. Starting and ending at the base in Le Somail, between Carcassonne and Béziers, an 82km/11-hour trip over a weekend to Fonserannes, with its nine-lock staircase, and back would give you plenty of time and opportunity to discover the 12th-century Château d'Aguilar, the Malpas tunnel and the charming port at Colombiers. As you are at the helm, you'd be free to visit whichever spots will bring you the most joy. All Nicols' boats are easy to drive using a steering wheel and forward and reverse lever and do not require a licence. There is a range of comfortable boats for two to 12 people to suit your needs and budget.