

The Portland String Quartet performed brilliantly, arguing the composer's case with passion and precision. One couldn't have asked for more persuasive, more unified and more yearningly lyrical playing. — THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Portland String Quartet is proudly celebrating its 50th Anniversary with the 2018–19 concert season.

Throughout its history of national and international tours and more than two dozen recordings, the Portland String Quartet has garnered rave reviews from *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The Boston Globe*. These include “Best Chamber Music Recording” for their ground-breaking cycles of the chamber music of Ernest Bloch, George Chadwick and Walter Piston. The Quartet was honored in 2013 by Chamber Music America with its Acclaim Award “in recognition of outstanding service and cultural contributions to the community.”

The PSQ's teamwork skills have been studied by business schools throughout the United States beginning with a captivating video produced by the Harvard Business School. They were proclaimed “Maine treasures” by Colby College where they served as Artists in Residence. The quartet continues its dedication to education with annual workshops where they mentor students from childhood to adult amateur players. They have worked closely with Dr. José Antonio Abreu, the founder of Venezuela's El Sistema. Gifted students from Venezuela, Peru, Bolivia, The Dominican Republic and as far away as Japan have come to Maine to study with “the Portland.”

The Portland String Quartet has enjoyed many extraordinary sailings through AmaWaterways, bringing its interpretative skills and loyal supporters to the great rivers and ports of Europe. Recently, in 2017, they traveled with the *AmaLyra* on the Seine from Paris to the Normandy Coast, and in 2018 the *AmaCerto* sailed the Danube River from Budapest, Hungary, to Slovakia, Austria and Germany. Celebrating American music and the music of the great European composers, these wonderful trips bring masterpieces of the chamber music literature to their historic origins.

The Portland String Quartet responded to the work's inner tensions and structural fluidity with a thrilling performance.

— ALLAN KOZINN, THE PORTLAND PRESS HERALD



OCTOBER 24-31, 2019
FROM \$3,398¹ PER PERSON
SAVE \$700² PER PERSON!



BORDEAUX & THE SOUTHWEST OF FRANCE WITH THE PORTLAND STRING QUARTET





The Portland String Quartet: Dean Stein, Ronald Lantz, Julia Adams, Andrew Mark

The members of the Portland String Quartet – Dean, Ron, Julia and Andrew – invite you to come aboard and share beautiful masterpieces from the literature with our fans from near and far, old and new. The luxurious and intimate lounge aboard the *AmaDolce* provides a perfect setting for chamber music as we sail together through one of Europe’s most historic and beautiful regions.

INCLUDES:

- 7-night cruise on *AmaDolce* Bordeaux–Bordeaux
- \$700 per person savings²
- All meals on board ship including wine and beer at lunch and dinner
- Complimentary Sip and Sail cocktail hour each evening⁴
- Choice of included shore excursions in every port
- Three concerts by the Portland String Quartet!
- Port taxes

ITINERARY³

OCTOBER 24

EMBARK
*Bordeaux,
France*

Welcome to Bordeaux, where you’ll board your luxurious river cruise ship. (D)

OCTOBER 25

Cadillac

Visit the impressive Castle of Roquetaillade, an amazingly preserved masterpiece of medieval military architecture owned by the same noble family for 700 years. Afterwards, travel to the Sauternes wine region to either Château de Rayne Vigneau or Château Guiraud to taste the highly prized golden-hued sweet wines produced here. (B,L,D)

OCTOBER 26

Pauillac

Pauillac, a lovely village on the Left Bank of the Gironde Estuary, is gateway to the famed Médoc region, renowned for producing some of the world’s finest Bordeaux wines. You will see some of the most beautiful and famous wine estates, including Château Latour, Château Mouton Rothschild, Château Lafite Rothschild and Château Pichon Longueville. You’ll then visit either Château Gruaud Larose or Château Léoville Poyferré for a tasting of Grand Cru wines. (B,L,D)

OCTOBER 27

*Blaye –
Bourg*

Once in Blaye, you can join a tour of its 17th-century citadel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. For a more active excursion, take a bike ride from Blaye through the idyllic French countryside. During the afternoon, you can cruise to Bourg or join a bike tour along Santiago’s path—a famous pilgrimage route—to Bourg. While in the ancient village of Bourg, visit the Carriage Museum, which houses a wonderful collection of horse-drawn vehicles. Later in the day, experience the hospitality of this charming medieval village with an exclusive wine festival. Meet the local wine growers and taste the fruits of their labors as well as enjoy live French music and dancing. (B,L,D)

OCTOBER 28

Libourne

Libourne provides a gateway to one of Bordeaux’s most elite wine regions, Saint-Émilion, known for its celebrated vineyards. Join an excursion to historic Saint Émilion, and while here, explore the monolithic church carved out of one piece of limestone rock, and then go under the church to discover its catacombs and caves. Afterwards, enjoy a Grand Cru Classé wine tasting at either Château de Ferrand or Château de Pressac. If you prefer a more active adventure, pedal through the vineyard-rich countryside to Saint-Émilion and then to Château Soutard for a Grand Cru Classé wine tasting. (B,L,D)

OCTOBER 29

Libourne

Tour the magnificent Château Vayres, one of the most prestigious historic buildings of Aquitaine, or spend time discovering the Bastide town of Libourne and then stroll through its colorful open-air market, tasting some of the region’s specialties. For a more active exploration of the countryside, enjoy a hike followed by a wine tasting. Later in the day, you will have two options of excursions. Visit Château de Montaigne, a stunning 14th-century castle that was the family residence of philosopher Michel de Montaigne and enjoy a lovely wine tasting. Alternatively, visit Fronsac, where you can taste some of the regional wines at a grand wine cellar. (B,L,D)

OCTOBER 30

Bordeaux

The breathtaking capital of the wine world, Bordeaux is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and classified as a “City of Art and History.” You’ll have an opportunity to experience much of the rich culture and architecture on a city tour followed by a visit to the Bordeaux Wine Museum, housed in an awe-inspiring building. Bike enthusiasts will wish to join a tour along the city’s amazing network of bicycle paths. (B,L,D)

OCTOBER 31

Bordeaux

DISEMBARK

Your cruise comes to an end as you prepare for your homeward flight. (B)

Call your local AAA Northern New England office at 866-883-4985 or Dana at AAA Group Dept. 207-780-6957 for reservations & more information.

¹Rate is per person cruise only, based on double occupancy in category D on the October 24, 2019 *AmaDolce* departure. ²\$700 savings reflected in the price. Government taxes, port charges and fees are inclusive. Rate in this ad was effective February 20, 2019 and availability is limited. Airfare is not included in rate listed above. Contact your AAA Travel Agent at time of booking for best available airfare pricing. ³Itineraries are subject to change and may need to be altered or canceled specifically because of water levels or wind factors. ⁴Age restrictions may apply. Ship’s Registry: Switzerland. Airfare, taxes, surcharges, gratuities, transfers, and excursions are additional unless otherwise indicated. Fuel surcharges, government taxes, other surcharges and deposit, payment and cancellation terms/conditions are subject to change without notice at any time. Rates, terms, conditions, availability and itinerary are subject to change without notice. Cruise rates are capacity controlled. Certain restrictions may apply. AAA members must make advance reservations through AAA Travel to obtain Member Benefits and savings. Member Benefits may vary based on departure date. Certain restrictions may apply. Rate is accurate at time of printing and is subject to availability and change. No responsible for errors or omissions. AAA Northern New England acts only as an agent for the tour and cruise providers.

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