



Moonee Valley Leader

Wednesday 7/09/2016

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TRAVEL

LIFE IS JUST A CRUISE

Boat trip through European waters is full of delights

Dimity Barber

I TOOK a cruise around Polynesia about 10 years ago, with 3000 other people all hell bent on having a damn good time.

There were long stretches at sea with nothing much to do but eat my way through the buffet and stare longingly at the horizon in hopes of land. I think it was around day three, when the sea got choppy, that I decided cruising was not for me.

So you could say taking a river boat from Amsterdam to Vienna was a risky choice on my part.

Luckily, it paid off. A boutique river cruise is worlds away from a big, bad ocean liner.

For one thing, there's no danger of cabin fever aboard any of the ships operating on the Rhine and Danube.

There's a port every day where you can wander the cobblestone streets of quaint villages from Rudesheim to Regensburg.

Expect to be impressed by a great spread, including full breakfasts, buffet lunches and four-course fine-dining dinners showcasing local produce and cuisines – all included in the ticket price.

River cruising is a bit like going to bed in a four-star hotel room and waking to a new destination each morning.

All you have to do is lie back and let the real star of the show shine through the floor-to-ceiling windows of your beautifully appointed state room – the scenery.

Lush forests? Check. Quaint, Germanic villages? Check. Castles? Check, check and check.

I think I sprained my finger taking photos on the first day ...



The reporter travelled at her own expense.

ROCK MUSIC

The Australian Chamber Orchestra will return to the spiritual heart of Australia, Uluru, to perform a series of intimate concerts in June next year. **Details: ayersrockresort.com.au/itineraries/specials/aco-uluru-festival-itineraries**



SCHOOL HOLIDAY TREAT

Special school holiday treat for family of four to stay in a Park Avenue Accommodation Group apartment in the Waverley area and take the kids to either Healesville Sanctuary or the Melbourne Zoo. **Details: serviced-apartments.com.au**



FOR ART LOVERS

Spend a night in enjoying the creature comforts at The Olsen in South Yarra before heading to the Ian Potter Centre for the John Olsen: The You Beaut Country exhibition. Dr John Olsen, one of Australia's greatest living artists, is also the Art Series hotel's namesake. The exhibition is on until February 12 next year. **Details: artserieshotels.com.au/package/john-olsen-you-beaut/**





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