

Athos
www.athosdumidi.com

Tennis ITINERARY
Argeliers to Marseillan
(or Marseillan - Argeliers)

Sunday MONTPELLIER - ARGELIERS

4pm pick up at designated point in Montpellier.

You will be met by ATHOS Captain and Manager. In the comfort of ATHOS' private air-conditioned Chrysler minivans, you will be chauffeured to where the ATHOS awaits you at her moorings.

You will be treated to a full-crew Welcome Aboard, whilst toasting with **Champagne and Mediteranean canapés**.

Once you are settled into your cabin, you will be invited to a 4-course dinner, prepared by our highly acclaimed onboard Chef.

Monday ARGELIERS - CAPESTANG

Enjoy your first coffee of the day sitting in a comfortable chair on the upper deck of ATHOS. While coffee is available at any time from the bar, continental-style breakfast is served, at your leisure, beginning at 8:30am.

The **Argeliers Tennis Courts** are a quick walk or bike-ride into the village from Argeliers port. Those who opt not to play may prefer a stroll around the village, or a cycle ride on this vineyard-surrounded part of the canal.

Returning to the boat post-match, Captain Julian gets ATHOS underway for an afternoon's cruise to Capestang. A good hard match has you worked up for lunch and a glass or two of rosé. The table is laid under the parasols on deck, and Chef is busy serving up local 3-course gourmet fare.

After a few relaxing hours going through the locks, and winding along the waterway, you arrive in Capestang. Dannielle suggests a drive to the **Oulibo** - the local olive oil pressoir. After tasting those organic and wholesome olives (accompanied, bien sûr, by a small glass of rosé!), a short drive up the **Gorge de la Cesse** and into the hilltop village of Minerve is in order. Dannielle will regale you with the harrowing tale of the **Cathar siege** launched at **Minerve** during the 13th C.

The minibuses arrive back in Argeliers in time for pre-dinner drinks while enjoying ATHOS' picturesque mooring beside the Argeliers bridge. Lovely smells waft from the galley to the deck, a sure sign that Chef will soon start serving up the next culinary delight!

Tuesday CAPESTANG – REGISMONT LE HAUT

After breakfast, the proposed morning visit is a drive to the famous **Medieval double-walled city of Carcassonne**. Your knowledgeable on-board guide, Dannielle, will offer the historical & guided visit -- making sure that you have time to browse those shops! A long lunch and an afternoon of relaxation await your return to the ATHOS.

We arrive early evening at Regismont le Haut. Only 5 minutes from this rural mooring is the village of Poihles. Tennis courts are booked and available for a pre-dinner match. Feeling that you've earned your dinner and wine, you particularly enjoy the gourmet delights presented by Chef.

Wednesday REGISMONT LE HAUT - FONSERANNES

Your guide suggests a morning visit to the quaint town of Pezenas. After a tour of the 14thC Hotel Particuliers (or medieval court mansions), you make your way back to the boat for lunch and cruising. As you make your way on board, the table is laid on deck and another scrumptious lunch awaits.

The afternoon promises spectacular views of the Pyrenees across the sunny, clear Plain, and Athos makes her way to the evening's mooring: the breath-taking view-point of the St. Nazaire Cathedral from the **Fonserannes**. A short drive into **Beziers Tennis Club Barthes**, and this afternoon's Tennis matches are under way.

Returning to the Athos for cocktails and relaxation on deck, the hostess asks if you would prefer to dine al fresco this evening to take advantage of the scenery? A long gourmet dinner and wine in the fresh air finishes a perfect day.

Thursday FONSERANNES - PORTIRAGNES

Why not take a side-trip to the weekly morning market in **Narbonne**? Even for non-shoppers, Narbonne offers much entertainment on a Thursday morning! Explore an excavated portion of the original Roman road, the **Via Domitia**, or, browse through the well-compiled Roman Museum, or, discover the beauty of **St. Juste Cathedral**, or, simply take a moment to blend into the scene: sit and relax in one of the many cafés.

As Chef and the hostess begin serving up today's luxury meal, Captain Julian and his deck hand are busy getting ATHOS underway. This 17thC feat of engineering, the "**Neuf Ecluses**" (or staircase locks), is sure to impress! ATHOS crew expertly tie her up in each lock, and wait for the gates to close safely behind her before the water levels empty out and allow her to pass one locks into the next. But it's not over yet! Coming up next is the **18thC Canal Bridge** that will carry the ATHOS over the Orb River.

The evening's mooring will be in the country, just outside the small village of Portiragnes. The Crew suggest a break from Tennis for today, in exchange for cycling, walking or jogging on the paved towpath that follows Athos' route this afternoon? You'll enjoy dinner on board in this private and tranquil setting.

Friday PORTIRAGNES - MARSEILLAN

After breakfast, Julian and his deckhand get the boat underway and cruise towards Marseillan. You pass by the "Petit Camargue", watching Pink Flamingos in the estuaries, and keeping your eye out for the famous African Rollers and other tropical birds. A spectacular (and appropriate!) seafood lunch awaits you, as you enter the open-waters of the **Etang de Thau**. The Etang hosts Europe's largest mussel and oyster park.

As ATHOS comes to moor in the port at Marseillan, you will notice the enclosure which makes up the **Noilly Prat Vermouth** distillery. End a perfect day with a fascinating tour of the Distillery and a taste of Noilly Prat vermouth! Tennis enthusiasts will have a last opportunity for an end-of-week match on the well-maintained clay courts at **Marseillan Tennis Club**.

Chef's efforts are sure to make this evening worth remembering! Captain Julian will join your party for your final dinner on board this evening. During the evening, he will also invite the crew to make a farewell toast with you.

Saturday MARSEILLAN

After breakfast, you wave goodbye to the Crew, who have looked after your every need throughout the week. The minivans will now depart to the appointed destination in Montpellier.