

## The Blue Danube

Sail along the Danube from Budapest to Passau  
onboard the *Amadeus Queen*  
October 14<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023



Prague, Czech Republic



Schönbrunn Palace, Vienna



Budapest, Hungary

## Highlights

### Budapest

Roam through Budapest, the “Queen of the Danube” and one of the world’s most beautiful cities. A city built in the ‘golden age,’ marvel at the remnants of the past found around each corner. From the Great Market Hall to the views from Castle Hill, and the exceptional evening cruise to see the Hungarian Parliament, discover the dramatic splendour of Buda and Pest.

### Vienna

Music floats through the streets of Vienna: from the Schönbrunn Palace where Mozart performed at the age of six to the Court Theatre and ornate opera house. During our guided tour, see the historical sights that shaped Viennese music culture, and take in an orchestral concert of polkas, waltzes, arias and duets where Johann Strauss himself once performed.

### Prague

Prague offers some of the richest architecture between its Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque buildings dating back to 920. It all comes to a head in Prague Castle, where we explore the Loreta, St. Vitus Cathedral and the Golden Lane. From our home base, the stylish Hotel Paris in Prague, we also visit the ancient spa town of Karlovy Vary to sip water from the healing springs.

### *Amadeus Queen*

The definition of sophistication and class, this elegant and modern riverboat offers the finest luxury as you sail along the spectacular Danube and Rhine rivers.

**Select Your Preferred Cabin today!**

## Your 14-Day Journey

### **Day 1**                      **Depart for Budapest, Hungary**

Start your Journey with us by enjoying a private car pick-up service from your home. Upon arrival at the airport, guests departing from the Toronto airport are assisted with their check-in. Meet your Journey Manager and fellow guests, and board your flights to Budapest, Hungary. Our Journey Manager travels with you to take care of all the details, allowing you to enjoy your Journey.

**Overnight:**              Flight

**Meals:**

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### **Day 2**                      **Budapest**

Known as the “Queen of the Danube”, Budapest will take your breath away with its marriage of old and contemporary architecture. Upon our arrival in Budapest, we check in to our hotel in the heart of the city’s downtown. The rest of the day is at your leisure to relax before a welcome meal at our hotel’s restaurant.

**Overnight:**              Budapest, Hotel Kempinski

**Meals:**                      Dinner

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### **Day 3**                      **Royal Palace of Gödöllő**

This morning we embark on a full day visit of the Royal Palace of Gödöllő and its neighbouring complex. On arrival, we will learn about the Palace’s historical traditions and visit its wonderfully restored and expansive surroundings, which make the Palace one of the most attractive and exciting buildings and institutions in Hungary.

Next stop is the Lazar's Equestrian Park, just a short drive from the Palace. You do not to be a horse-riding enthusiast to enjoy the park, with its beautiful landscape, gorgeous animals, as well as an informative museum about horse-riding. It is here we will enjoy lunch and take in an equestrian show before returning to our hotel.

**Overnight:**              Budapest, Hotel Kempinski

**Meals:**                      Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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## The Blue Danube

### Day 4 City Park & the Széchenyi Baths

This morning we check out of our hotel, and begin our day dedicated to the City Park, one of the two most beautiful public parks of Budapest. During our 2km walk through the park we will see the park's very own boating lake, its monument to George Washington and the House of Hungarian Music. This building is dedicated to celebrating the history of Hungarian music and was designed by Japanese star architect Sou Fujimoto. Our walk will end with a stop at the iconic Széchenyi Bath. Budapest's unique location along a geological fault line means that the city is home to many mineral-rich thermal baths across the city, including the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Széchenyi Bath. After our invigorating soak, we will enjoy lunch near the park's boating lake, before transferring to the MS Amadeus Queen, our home for the next 7 nights.

After embarkation, enjoy a special welcome cocktail and dinner before a romantic evening cruise through Budapest's illuminated skyline.

**Overnight:** MS Amadeus Queen

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 5 Budapest, Szentendre & Esztergom, Hungary

The Danube flows through the heart of the city, dividing it into two parts: Buda on the western banks and Pest on the eastern. First, explore Pest, including its Great Market Hall, the splendid Hungarian State Opera, and the famous Heroes' Square. Continue across into Buda, and take in the unforgettable view from Castle Hill before stopping at St. Matthew's Church and Fisherman's Bastion.

After lunch onboard we travel to the artists' village of Szentendre, home of many generations of Hungarian artists since the early 20th century. Various galleries and museums display the rich tapestry of visual arts through the years. We continue along the Danube to the imposing ruined fortress of Visegrad to take in a glorious view of the "knee" of the Danube.

From Visegrad we visit Esztergom, the former residence of the Hungarian kings and seat of the Archbishop. We visit the vast domed basilica, the largest cathedral in Hungary. Completed in the early 19th century, it includes a remarkable red marble chapel originally from a previous church.

**Overnight:** MS Amadeus Queen

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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## The Blue Danube

### Day 6 Bratislava, Slovakia & Schloss Hof Palace

In Bratislava, we admire the beauty of the capital of this recently formed Slovakian Republic. Through the years, the wonderful old town has maintained its Gothic-Baroque style as well as its charm. The tour passes St. Martin's Cathedral and the Grassalkovich Palace and continues up to the hill, where we have a stunning view of the city and surrounding areas.

In the afternoon, we dig deeper by taking part in a walking tour through the restored old town to admire sights such as the Primatial Palace and St. Martin's Cathedral, a former coronation cathedral for Hungarian kings.

From Bratislava, the coach takes us to the Schloss Hof Palace (Castle Hof) in Austria. The stately complex was built in the early 18th century by Field Marshall Prince Eugene and brilliant architect Lucas von Hildebrandt. What resulted was a virtuoso masterpiece. Under its subsequent owner, Empress Maria Theresa, an additional storey was added, and the Palace was remodelled in the style of French Classicism. After visiting the castle, enjoy free time at your leisure to see the beautiful garden and the Maierhof with its numerous animals.

**Overnight:** MS Amadeus Queen

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 7 Vienna, Schönbrunn Palace & Concert

Today is dedicated to all Vienna has to offer. First, we drive along the famous Ringstrasse, passing several magnificent buildings like the ornate opera house, the stunning parliament, the Court Theatre and Vienna's imposing city hall.

A guided walking tour follows the driving tour through the city center. It is here we will get to know Vienna more intimately, starting at the well-known Hofburg Imperial Palace and finishing at the iconic St. Stephen's Cathedral. Before we return to the ship, enjoy free time to stroll through the pedestrian area at your leisure.

In the afternoon, we tour one of the most beautiful sights of Vienna, Schönbrunn Palace. As one of Austria's most significant cultural heritage sites, Schönbrunn Palace and its gardens were declared a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. Maria Theresa received the estate as a wedding gift in 1750, beginning the most splendid and wealthy era for the palatial estate, which was expanded to 1,441 rooms.

No visit to Vienna would be complete without partaking in a concert, and this journey is no different. In the very place where Johann Strauss once directed the orchestra, Vienna's classical music can once again be heard daily. "Salonorchester Alt Wien," one of the best interpreters of classical Viennese music, supplies an evening full of charm by performing a lilting collection of polkas, waltzes, arias and duets, as well as operetta and piano concert melodies.

**Overnight:** MS Amadeus Queen

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 8 Melk Abbey Tour & Wachau Wine Tasting

This morning, we visit Dürnstein, one of the best-known wine villages in the Wachau. During our walking tour, we will discover this picturesque town with its traditional architecture and its baroque monastery, famous for the hard-to-miss blue spire. At the end of the tour, enjoy A highlight is the breathtaking view from the Danube terrace underneath the iconic blue tower visible from the Danube.

After lunch onboard, high above the town of Melk, we visit the Melk Abbey. Built from 1702 to 1736, the abbey's church and the unique library with countless medieval manuscripts and frescos are extraordinary. A guided tour takes you through the abbot's chambers, along the emperor's walk, through the marble hall, the balconies and the library.

**Overnight:** MS Amadeus Queen

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 9 Salzburg, Austria & The Sound of Music

Our coach brings us to Salzburg, "the city of music." The old town with its world-famous Baroque architecture is one of the best-preserved city centers north of the Alps. It was adopted by UNESCO in 1997 and is included on its list of World Cultural Heritage Sites. During the guided tour through the old town, we will see Mozart's birth house from the outside and other well-known attractions such as the 'Getreidegasse' shopping street, the gorgeous cathedral of the town, and the area of the Salzburg Festival.

After enjoying lunch, we head to the picturesque village of Mondsee, best known as a film location for the famous movie "The Sound of Music."

**Overnight:** MS Amadeus Queen

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 10 Regensburg & Weltenburg Abbey

Regensburg is one of the best-preserved medieval cities in Germany. Among the architectural treasures are churches, monasteries, the town hall and one of Europe's oldest bridges that has spanned the Danube since the 12th century. This morning, during a walking tour, feel the former power and wealth of this city, which once controlled the trade route to the Orient.

During a visit to the Regensburg Cathedral, dedicated to St. Peter, you can admire this masterpiece of Gothic architecture. This visit is dependent on if the cathedral is hosting a mass or celebration.

This afternoon a coach brings us to the "Hall of Liberation" which is an impressive marble building fashioned after the Parthenon in Athens. It towers high above the Danube and can be seen from afar. Afterwards, board a boat that will take us past the former city of the

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Wittelsbacher Dynasty and through the “Weltenburger Enge” nature reserve to the Benedictine abbey of Weltenburg. The monastery, founded by Irish or Scottish monks in 620 AD, is the oldest in Bavaria. After a short tour of the abbey church, taste the famous dark beer of Weltenburg, which is brewed here in the oldest monastery brewery in the world.

**Overnight:** MS Amadeus Queen

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 11 Journey to Prague, Czech Republic

Morning disembarkation followed by a scenic drive takes us from Passau to Prague, “the City of a Hundred Spires.” We stop for lunch before arriving at our hotel this afternoon. Built in 1904 by the Brandejs family, the Hotel Paris offers unequalled style, beauty and excellent service in the city’s heart. Situated in the historic district of Prague, the hotel provides you with the best location for experiencing this one-of-a-kind city. Only minutes separate you from the architectural and historical gems that await exploration. This evening, enjoy a delicious dinner at our hotel.

**Overnight:** Prague, Hotel Paris

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 12 Exploring Prague Castle

Today we visit Prague Castle to discover this important cultural and historical monument. Here we experience the Loreta pilgrimage destination, St. Vitus Cathedral (the burial site of patron saints, sovereigns, noblemen and archbishops), and the Golden Lane. The Crown Jewels are housed here, as are the relics of Bohemian kings, precious Christian relics, art treasures and historical documents. A delicious lunch awaits before your afternoon stroll across the glorious Charles Bridge on our way to the Old Town Square.

**Overnight:** Prague, Hotel Paris

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 13 Karlovy Vary

This morning a private tour takes us on a relaxing and scenic adventure through the Bohemian countryside to Karlovy Vary. This ancient spa treatment resort was founded in 1350 by Charles IV, Czech King and Roman Emperor. Free time allows you to drink from the healing springs or amble about shops seeking famous local cut glass, a great gift to bring back home to remember this incredible trip...just be sure to pack it safely!

**Overnight:** Prague, Hotel Paris

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **Day 14**                      **Home**

Today we bid “Ahoj” to our new Czech friends and make our way to the airport for our flight home. Enjoy a private car to your home upon arrival.

**Overnight:**                      Home

**Meals:**                              Breakfast

*All information contained in this itinerary is correct at time of printing and is subject to the terms and conditions as listed on our web site at [www.jerryvandyke.com](http://www.jerryvandyke.com) or available from our office on request. We must reserve the ability to make improvements.*



## The Blue Danube

### Your Journey Includes

#### First Class Accommodation

<b>Budapest</b>	Kempinski Hotel Corvinus Budapest	2 nights
<b>Cruise</b>	MS Amadeus Queen	7 nights
<b>Prague</b>	Hotel Paris	3 nights

#### Included Flights

<b>Airline:</b>	Lufthansa
<b>Outbound:</b>	Toronto (YYZ) - Budapest (BUD)
<b>Inbound:</b>	Prague (PRG) – Toronto (YYZ)
<b>Class of Service:</b>	Economy <i>Premium Economy and Business are available on request</i>
<b>Note:</b>	Fly from select Canadian gateways for only \$100 <i>For additional gateways and further information, contact us for details.</i>

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### Journeys by Van Dyke Inclusions

<b>Journey Manager</b>	Services of a professional Journey Manager throughout the journey
<b>Home-Pickup Service</b>	Private car home pick up & return service (where available) or a credit or
<b>Hotel Overnight</b>	Hotel overnight near Toronto Pearson International Airport
<b>Gratuities</b>	Tips included for all intermediaries: all ship staff, Journey Managers, local sightseeing guides, coach drivers, porters, etc.
<b>Porterage</b>	Porterage for one piece of baggage
<b>Visas &amp; Fees</b>	All fees, visas, port & service charges
<b>Gift with Every Journey</b>	Branded overnight carry-on bag or backpack
<b>Taxes</b>	All taxes incl. HST, PST, VAT



## The Blue Danube

### Journey Specific Inclusions & Experiences

- Complete pre-trip information & assistance
- 12 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 12 dinners
- Wine and beer included with all lunches & dinner on board the Amadeus Queen
- All sightseeing & entrance fees as listed
- Budapest City Tour
- Bratislava City Tour with visit to Imperial Schloss Hof Palace
- Concert 'Sound of Vienna'
- Panoramic Tour of Vienna with visit to Schönbrunn Palace
- Visit to Melk Abbey & Wine Tasting
- Salzburg tour with Salzkammergut lunch
- Regensburg & Weltenburg Walking Tour
- Prague City Tour including Prague Castle & Jewish Quarter
- Karlovy Vary

### Fares

Cabin	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
<b>C4 – Haydn Deck</b>	\$11,390 CAD	\$13,990 CAD
<b>C1 – Haydn Deck</b>	\$11,990 CAD	\$14,590 CAD
<b>B4 – Strauss Deck</b>	\$12,990 CAD	\$15,690 CAD
<b>B1- Strauss Deck</b>	\$13,290 CAD	\$16,990 CAD
<b>A1 – Mozart Deck</b>	\$13,990 CAD	\$18,090 CAD
<b>Mozart Suite</b>	\$14,990 CAD	<b>ON REQUEST</b>

*Fuel Surcharges - These journey fares include the current known fuel surcharges. Additional supplier fuel charges and or government fees may apply at final payment date.*

## *MS Amadeus Queen*



Christened in 2018, the Amadeus Queen sails along the Danube, Rhine and Main rivers as well as the Dutch and Belgian Waterways. Like its prominent predecessors, this boat continues orientation to high quality river cruises in Europe.

This vessel follows the award-winning model of the Amadeus Silver class but offers even further innovative developments. An emphasis has been placed on comfortable spaciousness throughout this vessel. This includes not only generous public areas but also spacious cabins. Each of the 12 large suites impresses with an outdoor balcony and a cozy reading corner. 69 standard cabins offer luxurious bathrooms as well as panoramic window fronts. The windows on the Strauss and Mozart deck can be automatically lowered.

Unique to the Amadeus Queen is the indoor pool, the roof of which can be opened bridging the gap between boat and destination. In the evenings, this area may also be used for informative talks, functions and cinema showings. The boat's exclusive "River Terrace" open-air lounge is in the bow and its specially designed glazing provides an incomparable view of the passing riverside scenery while simultaneously providing protection against wind and rain. The AMADEUS Club is the perfect place in which to share the pleasures of the day with a glass of wine in the evening and relax to the gentle sounds of jazz or classics.

Year Built:	2018	Length:	443 feet
Passenger Capacity:	162	Beam:	38 feet
Crew Members:	46	Gross Tonnage:	1,767
Number of Decks:	4	Maximum Speed:	14 knots

## The Blue Danube

### C-4 Cabin (16 m<sup>2</sup> / 172 sq.ft.) with panoramic window

Spacious bathroom, small panoramic window (cannot be opened), spacious wardrobe, choice of bed configuration (double or twin bed), flat-screen television, individual climate control, en-suite bathroom with shower/WC, hair dryer, direct dial telephone, and in-room safe.



### C-1 Cabin (16 m<sup>2</sup> / 172 sq.ft.) with panoramic window

Spacious bathroom, small panoramic window (cannot be opened), spacious wardrobe, choice of bed configuration (double or twin bed), flat-screen television, individual climate control, en-suite bathroom with shower/WC, hair dryer, direct dial telephone, and in-room safe.



### B-4 Cabin (17.5 m<sup>2</sup> / 188 sq.ft.) with drop-down panoramic window

Spacious bathroom, drop-down panoramic window, mini-bar, walk-in wardrobe, choice of bed configuration (double or twin bed), flat-screen television, individual climate control, en-suite bathroom with shower/WC, hair dryer, direct dial telephone, and in-room safe.



## The Blue Danube

### **B-1 Cabin (17.5 m<sup>2</sup> / 188 sq.ft.) with drop-down panoramic window**

Spacious bathroom, drop-down panoramic window, mini-bar, walk-in wardrobe, choice of bed configuration (double or twin bed), flat-screen television, individual climate control, en-suite bathroom with shower/WC, hair dryer, direct dial telephone, and in-room safe.



### **A-1 Cabin (17.5 m<sup>2</sup> / 188 sq.ft.) with drop-down panoramic window**

Spacious bathroom, drop-down panoramic window, mini-bar, walk-in wardrobe, choice of bed configuration (double or twin bed), flat-screen television, individual climate control, en-suite bathroom with shower/WC, hair dryer, direct dial telephone, and in-room safe.



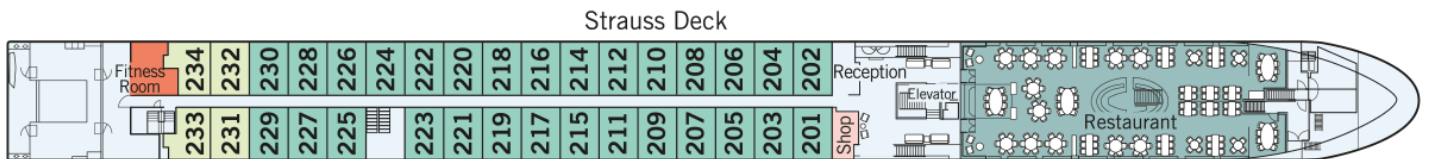
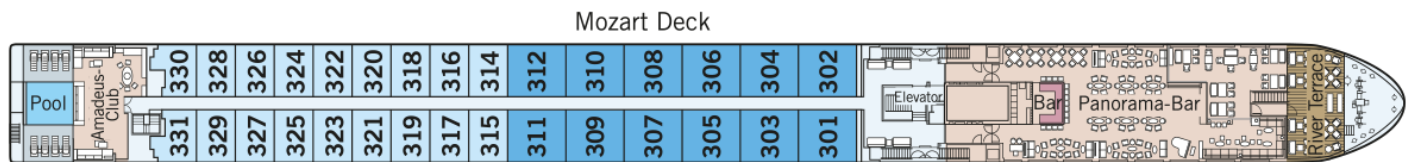
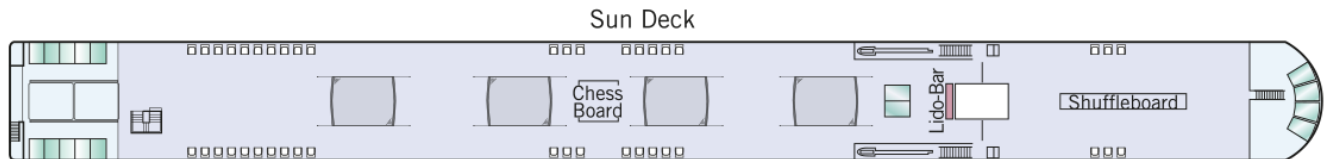
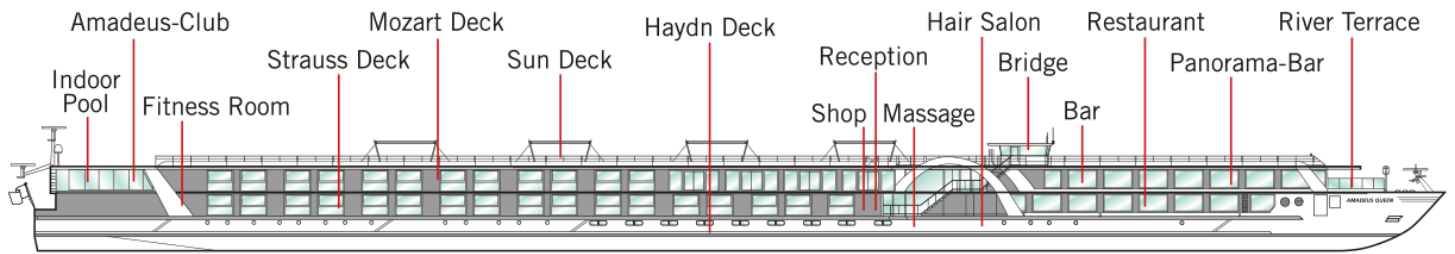
### **Suite (26.4 m<sup>2</sup> / 284 sq.ft.) with walk-out exterior balcony**

Comfortable corner sofa, luxurious bathroom, walk-out exterior balcony, mini-bar, walk-in wardrobe, choice of bed configuration (double or twin bed), flat-screen television, individual climate control, en-suite bathroom with shower/WC, bathrobe, hair dryer, direct dial telephone, and in-room safe.





# The Blue Danube



Amadeus Suite

Stateroom A-1

Stateroom B-1

Stateroom B-4

Stateroom C-1

Stateroom C-4

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Suite 1004  
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## The Blue Danube

### Outstanding Accommodation

#### **Budapest** **2 nights** **Kempinski Hotel Corvinus Budapest**

For more than 125 years, Kempinski has been welcoming guests to spectacular destinations in the most stunning style. Located in the heart of Budapest, the five-star luxury Kempinski Hotel Corvinus is a luxurious fusion of modern art and gastronomy, and is the ideal place in downtown to stay and make the most of Budapest.



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#### **Prague** **3 nights** **Hotel Paris**

The elegant 5-star Art Nouveau Hotel Paris Prague was built in 1904 and it has been owned by the Brandejs family for three generations. This Neo-Gothic building situated in the heart of Prague's Old Town was declared a historical monument, and as part of Prague's historic district was added to the UNESCO world heritage list. This family-run hotel offers the highest quality facilities, including 86 luxury rooms and suites with charming views, decor in the Art Nouveau style, and signature "Paris" cake and homemade pralines.



# The Blue Danube

## Personal Notes & Questions