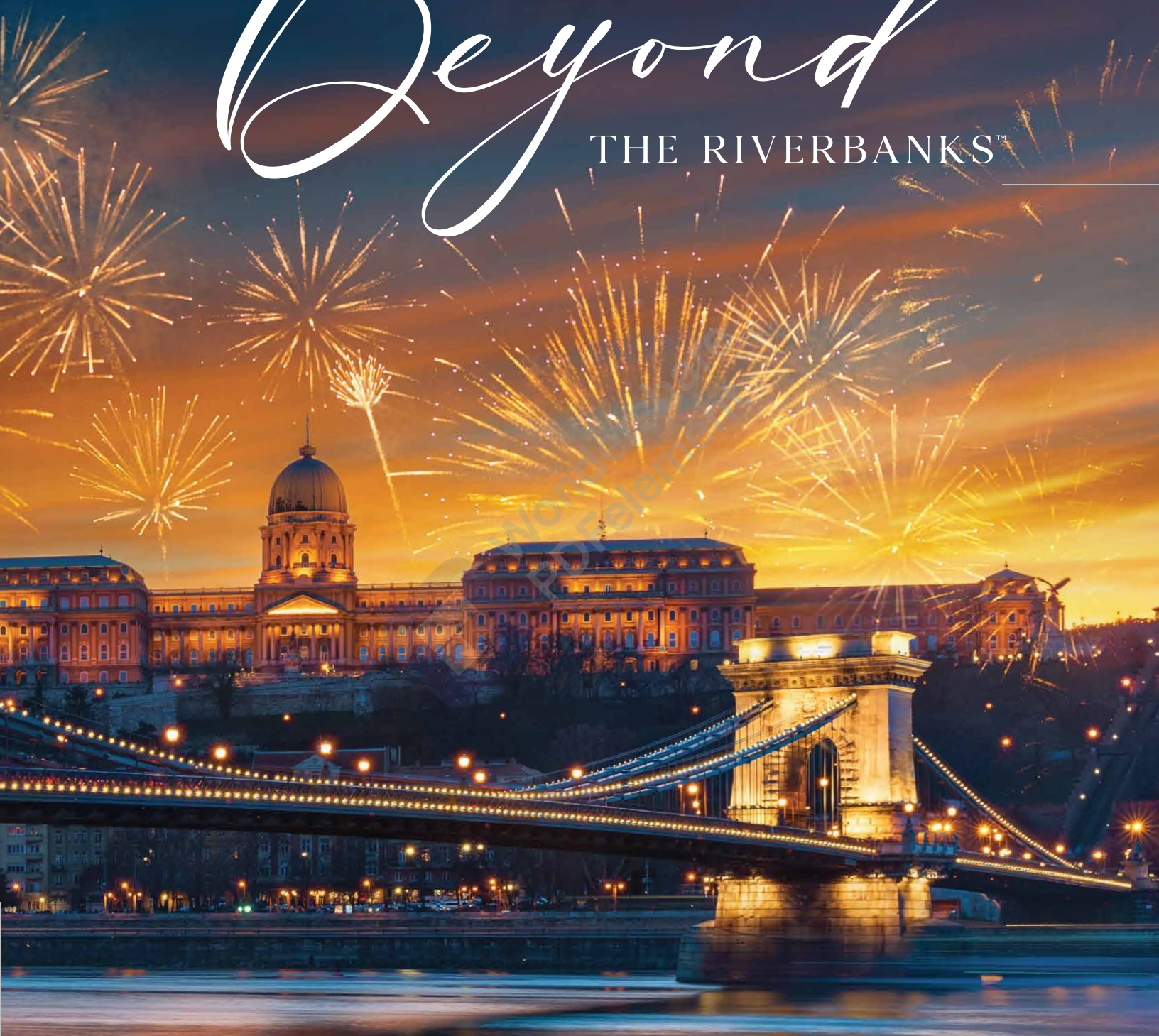




AMAWATERWAYS™
Celebrating 20 years

Beyond

THE RIVERBANKS™



INSIDE:

WELCOMING
OUR NEW
AMALUCIA

TOP FOOD
AND WINE
EXPERIENCES

DISCOVER
YOUR IDEAL
CHRISTMAS JOURNEY

HOLIDAY AND NEW YEAR'S 2022/2023

Heritage on the River



From left: Driver Tibor Geissler, French genealogist Valère Kaletka, guest Mike S., friend Keith P., church historian Heiko Betz

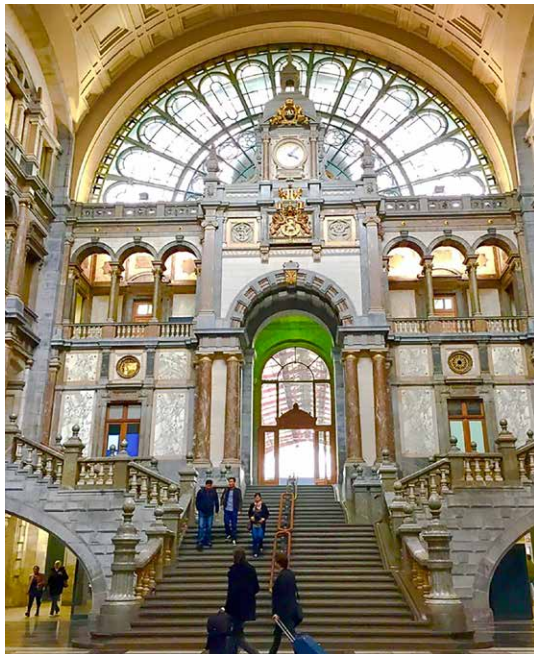
An Unforgettable Ancestry® Experience

This past July, 12 guests embarked upon AmaWaterways' first-ever *Heritage on the River* journey with great anticipation. Traveling alongside them on this enhanced *Captivating Rhine* itinerary, renowned AncestryProGenealogist® Laura House held the key to unlocking guests' personal family history—in some cases, more than they ever dreamed possible.

First-time guest Jane R. had a river cruise on her bucket list for several years. But she didn't act until she

saw a tweet on social media from the "Barefoot Genealogist," Crista Cowan, sharing that Ancestry would be cooperating on an experience with AmaWaterways. Jane's German ancestry was the catalyst. "That very day I started making my arrangements," she said.

The 12 guests, mere strangers at embarkation, had all reserved our special *Heritage on the River* package that included several hours of personalized genealogical research apiece. As they sailed



Top left: Antwerp Train Station; **Bottom left:** Hours of genealogist research and a private consultation are included in our *Heritage on the River* package; **Above:** Mike in front of church

through the Netherlands, France, Germany and Switzerland, each guest was treated to a private consultation with Laura House as well as two captivating presentations about genealogy on board. In addition, they were welcomed on an exclusive excursion to Antwerp's historic train station and Red Star Line Museum, adding a fifth country, Belgium, to their itinerary—not offered on our traditional Rhine River cruises.

The *Heritage on the River* journey "brings your ancestry alive," said

guest Neil with a glint in his eye. Enthralled by the entire experience, he shared, "My father was in World War II near the Black Forest. He mentioned it several times during my childhood, and we drove through [the region] today. Now I want to go back and walk where my father walked." He and his wife now plan to continue visiting destinations inspired by their family history.

Making deeper connections to their past was expected by guests; unanticipated was the bond formed

among them. "You have a group of really passionate people who love family history and love learning," shared Jon Lambert, Ancestry's Senior Director of Global Client Relations, Sales and Marketing, who was also on this sailing. "Everyone tells their own stories and a lot of times they intermingle. It's been nice having family history enthusiasts on board talking together."

Guest Keith P. shared Jon's sentiment: "We have made friendships that are going to last."



Freiburg, Black Forest Region

“I was not only completely satisfied by the experience, I was overwhelmed by it.”

Heritage on the River guests also had the opportunity to add an optional Ancestral Home Visit to the journey if their family's roots were traced within a designated range of the river cruise itinerary. Part-time travel advisor Mike S. was fortunate enough to walk the path of his ancestors in the village of Hüffenhardt, Germany, where he was warmly welcomed into the church they once attended.

Mike was brought to tears numerous times during his visit, reflecting on the importance of family, the values and faith his family passed down through the generations, and the sight of a church altar hand-built by one of his relatives during the 16th century. There, a plaque marked his ancestor's name, bearing a

variation on his own surname. It was a moment Mike will never forget. “There are three things in my life that I will always remember,” Mike recalled, his heart on his sleeve. “The first was my wedding 52 years ago...the second was the day I graduated with my two masters' degrees...the third one was this trip, to be there where my family grew up and came from. It exceeded all my expectations.”

Mike went on to share that he had, in fact, researched visiting his ancestral hometown independently prior to this cruise, but that many of his phone calls to tour guides went unanswered, and the complications of how to arrange private transportation, a guide who spoke English and more were far too great



Above left: Cornerstone from second church built on site in Hüffenhardt;
Above right: Mike having fun on AmaStella; **Above:** Altar with inscription of Mike's ancestor's name, Johannes

for him to handle alone. "It was well worth the price for me to let AmaWaterways and Ancestry take care of the details," he admitted. "They were very professional and organized, much more so than I could have been, and I was not worried that something wouldn't be taken care of correctly."

Mike was also amazed that Ancestry was able to trace his

family back another 150 years to 1523, as well as all the personal documents and photos provided to him, including a relative's handwritten baptismal records and a multi-page booklet received directly from a representative at the church. "I was not only completely satisfied by the experience," he confessed. "I was overwhelmed by it."

 **ancestry**
ProGenealogists®



Embark on Your Own Journey with Ancestry®

June 17, 2023

Legendary Danube (Nuremberg, Germany to Budapest, Hungary)

Featuring special guest Crista Cowan, the "Barefoot Genealogist"!

Explore the heart of Germany, Austria and Hungary, sail through the iconic Main-Danube Canal where modern-day river cruising began and learn about the historic migration experience in Vienna and Budapest alongside your genealogist.

November 2, 2023

Captivating Rhine (Amsterdam, Netherlands to Basel, Switzerland)

Visit four countries, see more than 40 castles in Germany's UNESCO-designated Rhine Gorge and enjoy an exclusive excursion to the Antwerp Train Station and Red Star Line Museum with your genealogist—just for Ancestry® guests.

Contact your preferred travel advisor to reserve your family history journey today!

