



Emilie

Uniworld Boutique River Cruises

OVERVIEW: Named after Austrian fashion designer Emilie Flöge, who was both muse and lifelong companion to artist Gustav Klimt, *Emilie* is the first of three 'super ships' to join Uniworld's fleet by 2027. The artistic influence is clear from the moment you step on board the 154-passenger ship, with a copy of a painting of Flöge taking centre stage in the two-deck lobby, surrounded by warm gold and mahogany tones and white marble floors.

CABINS: *Emilie* has five accommodation categories: Classic, French Balcony, Deluxe French Balcony, Suite and Grand Suite. The two Grand Suites, measuring 38sq m, can be set up as an interconnecting room with neighbouring Deluxe French Balcony cabins to create a luxurious two-bedroom suite at the top of the ship. Each stateroom has a different piece of artwork drawn from Flöge's era, as well as a £12,000 handmade Savoir bed and a marble bathroom with a strip of patterned golden tiles in homage to Klimt's art. My French Balcony room was supremely comfortable, with a spacious bathroom including a rain shower and Asprey bath products.

FOOD & DRINK: Gustav's Restaurant is the main venue with a choice of à la carte or buffet dining at breakfast and lunch, followed by a more elaborate affair for dinner with a multicourse menu, often including regionally inspired dishes. A sommelier is on hand to explain the local wines on offer. Private dining spot The Gold Room has a bold red, white and black aesthetic with space

for 12 diners to enjoy a tasting menu with wine pairing (€145 per person; reserve in advance). There are two bars on board: the larger Belvedere Lounge and the smaller Brocade Bar, with cocktails, beer and wine and non-alcoholic drinks typically included in the fare.

FACILITIES: *Emilie* features a stylish fitness centre and spa at the top of the ship, rather than on the lower deck as is typical of other vessels. The line has also opted against a pool and barbecue area on the sun deck in favour of more outdoor seating to enjoy the views. There is also a guest laundry on the bottom deck that's available for all passengers to use.

USP: *Emilie* is as much an art gallery and a journey through time as it is a river ship, perfect for the culturally curious and sophisticated traveller. The decor has nods to the art nouveau movement, with works and pictures of Klimt and Flöge throughout. Also, the colours, textures and attention to detail are incredible, from the patterned fabrics covering walls and furniture to the quirky style of cabin numbers and even light switches.

BOOK IT: The 10-day Vineyards & Palaces Along the Danube with Prague itinerary starts from £3,419 per person, based on two sharing, including flights, for a sailing on October 22, 2027.
uniworld.com

Reviewed by Ella Sagar