

# *le boat*

## Who's on board?

### CANAL DU MIDI SPRINGS BACK FOR 2019

Le Boat in partnership with the Voies Navigables de France (VNF) are delighted to confirm that it's Canal du Midi services will be fully operational for the 2019 tourism season (which will begin mid-March). Le Boat, the leading provider of boating holidays on Europe and Canada's beautiful inland waterways, has worked tirelessly with its local partners to rehabilitate the area following autumn flooding.

With multiple start locations to choose from on the Canal du Midi, holidaymakers can traverse more than 150 miles of scenic waterways along an impressive Seventeenth Century network of canals that connect the Atlantic to the Mediterranean. Famed for its wine tasting and world-class gastronomy, the Canal du Midi is also rich in history and heritage, boasting impressive cathedrals, grand châteaux, ancient ruins and medieval cities.

Since the flooding in late October, the VNF invested over € 4 million to rehabilitate the area which accounts for 30% of French river tourist traffic. The organisation have rebuilt structures along the waterway, cleared and removed debris rehabilitating the UNESCO World Heritage Sites towpaths to ensure they are back to normal.

Le Boat's Canal du Midi holidays are amongst the operator's most popular, with the company passionately committed to the region. From 2019, Le Boat will be investing € 3 million into the region to improve the facilities for customers and staff, increase the technical support teams to ensure customers continue to receive excellent customer service, in addition to upgrades and refurbishments to the fleet to provide the best boating experience on the Canal du Midi.



Le Boat has released encouraging early 2019 sales figures for its Canal du Midi operations in the South of France. Initial numbers indicate a 3% increase in year on year holidays to the region from the UK, despite challenging trading conditions.

Cheryl Brown, Managing Director of Le Boat said "2019 is the perfect time to visit the Canal du Midi as Le Boat celebrates its 50 year anniversary. We have been boating in France since 1969 and today over 50% of our holidays are now sold for the 2019 boating season. We look forward to sharing memories with all our boaters, both old and new, over the coming season."

Le Boat's Canal du Midi fleet ranges from Budget boats, where a seven-night rental starts from a little over £100 pp, to Premier cruisers which features the Horizon – the newest model in the fleet offering an impressive top deck with barbeque hotplate and spacious saloon and kitchen areas.

For more information about Le Boat, visit [www.leboat.co.uk](http://www.leboat.co.uk) or call 023 9280 1630.

25<sup>th</sup> January 2019

**Media Contacts:**

**Tim Blostone**

Phone: +44 (0) 203 763 5170

Mobile: +44 (0)7966 707365

[tim@heavenpublicity.co.uk](mailto:tim@heavenpublicity.co.uk)

**About Le Boat:**

Le Boat is the No.1 provider of boating holidays on Europe and Canada's beautiful inland waterways bringing together 50 years of experience, expertise and memories. With the world's largest fleet of over 900 self-drive boats, including its newest premier Horizon cruisers, and the widest choice of fabulous boating destinations to choose from. Operating a network of more than 39 departure bases across 9 destinations, Le Boat's boating holidays can be whatever you want them to be from a full on action-packed adventure or a slow-paced, relaxing chance to unwind. With no previous experience necessary, boating holidays can be enjoyed by anyone!

If you enjoy boating more than once a year, Le Boat's Ownership Programme allows you to become the enviable owner of a brand new Horizon boat, or choose from a range of other boats also available under the scheme. At no extra cost to you, Le Boat insure your boat, maintain it and take care of the mooring fees so you can enjoy 8 weeks of cruising a year on your boat, or a sister boat, across Le Boat's network of destinations.

Visit [Leboat.co.uk](http://Leboat.co.uk) for more information or to book.