



French Wine EXPLORERS



3-Day Private AVIGNON SOJOURN

The Southern Rhône Valley offers wine lovers the unique combination of beautiful scenery, delicious Provençal cuisine, and rich, expressive wines. Join us for a few days of in-depth explorations of the Southern Rhône, with extensive tastings at the best estates of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Gigondas, Tavel, and a gourmet cooking class to round out your experience.

DAY 1

- Arrival in Avignon (approximately 2.5 hours from Paris by high speed train)
- Transfer to your lovely **4* centrally located hotel** near the Popes' Palace. This eighteenth-century mansion has interiors that reflect the period, with painted woodwork and antique-tile floors. Rooms are "classy and sophisticated but with a touch of whimsy."
- Take time to the city center before a **private tour of the Popes' Palace**, followed by an introduction to the wines of the Southern Rhone, paired with artisanal cheeses .
- Enjoy **dinner** (not included) tonight with our suggestions. Avignon boasts many wonderful restaurants, from bistros to Michelin-starred, we will recommend the best based on your preferences.

DAY 2

B

- You'll be greeted by your English-speaking, wine expert guide/driver for a visit to **three leading wine estates** in **Châteauneuf-du-Pape** and **Gigondas**.
- The morning commences in vineyards high up in the Gigondas hills where your guide explains how "**terroir**" influences the wines that you will taste at the cellar of a leading producer.
- After lunch (on own) at an excellent local restaurant, you will travel to **Châteauneuf-du-Pape**. The 14th century Papal chateau - a monument to this village's rich wine history - towers of the village. As you tour the scenic vineyards and the cellars of two of its leading estates your guide will explain how the diverse terroir, grape varieties and winemaking methods define the characteristics and quality of the wines that you taste.
- Return to your hotel in the late afternoon. Enjoy evening on own.

*(Monday through Friday tour dates are preferable,
as more wine estates are open. Saturday is also possible if necessary.)*

LEGEND FOR MEALS INCLUDED IN YOUR TOUR:

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

DAY 3**B,L**

- This morning savor life “**a la Provencale**” by enjoying a private cooking class with a renowned chef of the region. Here, you will source the freshest ingredients at the local outdoor market and meet your chef’s favorite local suppliers.
- Next, you will enjoy a **hands on cooking class**, followed by lunch, savoring the fruits of your labor!
- Following lunch, meet your wine expert/guide driver and head for Tavel. **The Tavel Appellation** has given its name to a rosé “La rose de Tavel” which is a true Ambassador for the “1st rosé of France”. Two tastings await you at the foremost producers in the appellation of **Tavel**. If you prefer, we may substitute the afternoon wine tastings for visits to some of the most beautiful villages of the area, including Les Baux, St. Remy, etc.
- Transfer to the train station or back to Avignon at the end of the afternoon, with fond memories of the Southern Rhone/Provence and all its glory.

Your 3 day, 2 night private AVIGNON SOJOURN includes:

- A customized itinerary featuring the best hotel, estate and touring elements tailored to your preferences
- The services of an English-speaking wine expert guide per itinerary
- Deluxe, air-conditioned transportation throughout
- 2 nights in a Deluxe Room at a 4-star luxury hotel as described above, double occupancy
- 2 buffet breakfasts
- Private Cooking class followed by lunch paired with wines with local chef
- 5-6 tours and tastings at some of the finest chateaux of the region
- A list of suggested restaurants and reservations made for you in advance
- Information on the region and its wines sent to you in advance of your tour

Price based on 2 guests, double occupancy: US \$ 2500 per person**Price based on 4 guests, double occupancy: US \$ 1900 per person****Price based on 6 guests, double occupancy: US \$ 1700 per person***Subject to availability Single supplement: please inquire**** For groups of 7 or more guests: please contact us for a price quote. ****Not included: any personal expenses, or any service not specifically mentioned above as included in the price of your tour.***TO BOOK YOUR TOUR**Contact us at info@wine-tours-france.com or **1-877-261-1500**.

We accept VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover Card or checks or money orders in US Dollars.

WINE CHATEAUX AND ESTATES

We include only top-quality wine chateaux and estates in our programs. Chateau visits are scheduled by special arrangement, and some chateaux or estates, including any mentioned in the Itinerary, may not be available on your dates. Once you book your program with us, we will contact the estates to determine which are available. If there are specific chateaux or estates you would like to visit, please let us know, and we will contact your preferences first when arranging visits and tastings for you.