

TASTING wine tours

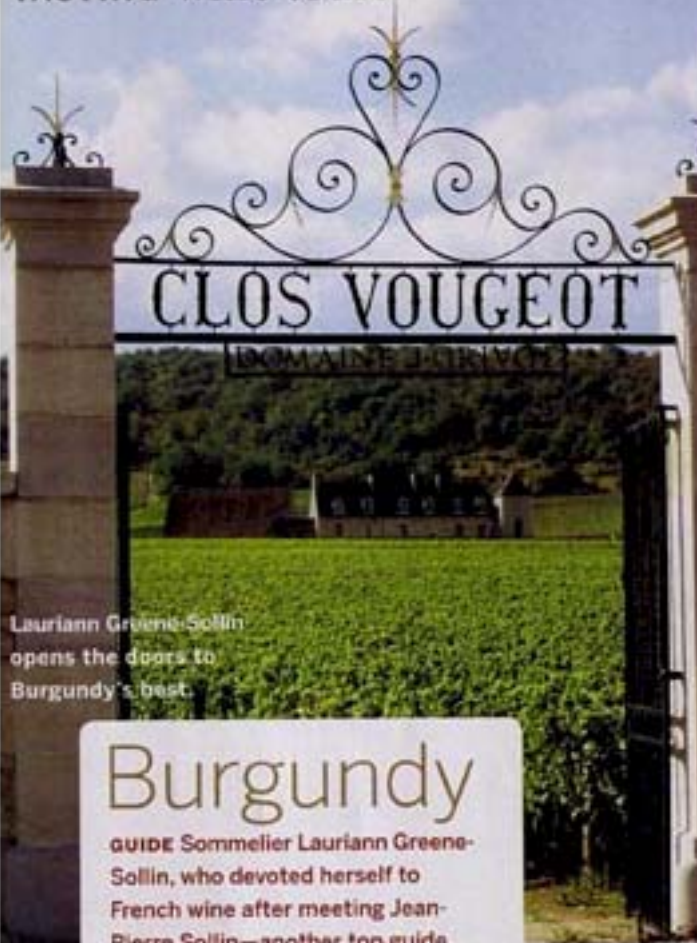
World's Great Wine Tours

Want to taste wines at an elite Bordeaux château or a tiny Australian cult producer? Fat chance—unless you get an assist from one of these guides.

BY ROBERT JOSEPH

A BRIEF GLANCE AT HACHETTE'S FRENCH WINE GUIDE REVEALS THAT, with rare exceptions, the vigneron of Bordeaux and Burgundy receive visitors only *sur rendez-vous*—by appointment. Even if you're lucky enough to secure a 15-minute slot, the way you'll be treated and the wines you'll taste can vary widely. The surest way to have a great experience is to employ a well-connected local guide. That's true in wine regions around the world, where the best guides open doors that might otherwise be closed. Here, six guides who hold the keys.

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Lauriann Greene-Sollin opens the doors to Burgundy's best.

Burgundy

GUIDE Sommelier Lauriann Greene-Sollin, who devoted herself to French wine after meeting Jean-Pierre Sollin—another top guide, now her husband.

COMPANY French Wine Explorers, based in Coconut Creek, Florida.

TOURS Visits to producers in the Côte d'Or, including *grand cru* estates in the Côte de Beaune.

WINERY HIGHLIGHTS Domaine Bertagna, a small estate in the medieval walled vineyard of Clos de Vougeot; Clos de Tart, the 18-acre *grand cru* in Morey-Saint-Denis.

UNFORGETTABLE MOMENT Stopping at the Beaune merchant Camille Giroud, co-owned by Ann Colgin of the cult California vineyard Colgin, for an illuminating tasting comparing young Pommard and Gevrey-Chambertin to much older vintages.

HOTEL HIGHLIGHT Hôtel Le Cep, in Beaune, a luxuriously restored 14th-century inn with antique-filled rooms.

DETAILS \$4,395 per person for five days includes tastings, most meals and accommodations. 877-261-1500 or wine-tours-france.com.



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(the eponymous) as Pulpit Rock in UNFORGETTABLE southernmost wi HOTEL HIGHLIGHT rooms have view DETAILS \$130 pe meals or accomt