

French Wine

EXPLORERS



GREAT ESTATES OF BURGUNDY AND BORDEAUX 6 DAYS, 5 NIGHTS | PRIVATE TOUR AVAILABLE YEAR ROUND

Discover the beautiful “golden slopes” of Burgundy’s famed Côte d’Or with tastings at the best estates of legendary appellations like Meursault, Gevrey Chambertin, Puligny Montrachet or Vosne Romanée. From the impressive 13th century wine presses of the Clos de Vougeot to the stunning renaissance architecture of the Hospices de Beaune, you’ll discover the rich cultural heritage and history of this region so exalted by wine lovers. Get to know major appellations of Bordeaux as you taste at some of the most prestigious estates of the Graves, Médoc, Sauternes and St. Emilion region. From Classified Growths to Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnels, this tour offers a fantastic overview of the best that Bordeaux has to offer. But it doesn’t stop there! You’ll also enjoy **gourmet dining and first-class accommodations** in both regions. This is a fantastic overview of the best that these two magnificent regions have to offer.

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DAY 1 WELCOME TO BURGUNDY~CÔTE DE NUITS L

- Arrival at the Dijon train station, about 1.5 hours from Paris, where you'll be greeted by your **English-speaking, wine expert guide/driver**. (We suggest arriving around 10am and we can assist you with rail suggestions once you book your tour).
- Your first tour and tasting will be at a **local estate in the Côte de Nuits**. The Côte de Nuits region is best known for its Grand Cru red wines made from 100% Pinot Noir grapes. The finest reds produced here are powerful, medium-bodied, with a subtle but good tannic structure.
- Enjoy a **lovely welcome lunch** at a charming country inn featuring specialties of the region. Depart for the historic **Clos de Vougeot**. This beautiful 13th century monastery is now owned by the Confrérie du Tastevin, the famous wine brotherhood of Burgundy. During a fascinating guided tour of the Clos, learn how wine was made in the Middle Ages and see their massive 13th century wine presses that still work to this day!
- Afterward, you'll taste **Premier and Grand Cru wines** at one of the best producers of Grand Cru appellation Clos de Vougeot, Gevrey Chambertin or Vosne Romanée, followed by a walk along the renowned vineyards of **Domaine de la Romanée Conti**.
- Check in late afternoon to your luxury **5-star hotel conveniently located in the historic city of Beaune**.
- Take the evening to enjoy the charming town of Beaune and discover its great restaurants, with our suggestions.

DAY 2 CÔTE DE BEAUNE B,L

- Meet your guide and tour one of the great négociant (wine merchant) houses of Burgundy, like **Louis Jadot or Bouchard Père et Fils (in the magnificent, totally private, 15th century Chateau de Beaune)**. A tasting of some of their great wines will complete your visit.
- Explore the **Côte de Beaune** today, home to the greatest Grand Cru white wine vineyards like the legendary **Montrachet**, as well as the famous appellations of **Meursault, Puligny-Montrachet and Volnay**.
- The Côte de Beaune is best known for its great **white wines made from 100% Chardonnay** grapes, perfectly suited to the limestone soils. The whites of the Côte de Beaune are **full-bodied, with tremendous elegance, complexity and minerality**. The reds are generally more **feminine and lighter-bodied** than in the Côte de Nuits, with softer tannins.
- You'll taste at one of this area's **top estates that best exemplify the terroir** of the region.
- Enjoy a **fun and informative wine tasting lunch** of delicious local specialties at a local domaine, with up to 12 wines beautifully paired with your meal, including Grand Cru wines.
- Weather permitting; spend time in the vineyards discovering the **golden slopes of the Côte de Beaune**, and the iconic parcels that make these vineyards legendary.
- Return to your hotel for an evening on your own.

DAY 3 BEAUNE~TRANSFER TO BORDEAUX B

- Enjoy a **free morning in the charming city of Beaune**. Tour the fascinating Hotel Dieu (**Hospices de Beaune**), with its beautiful 15th century architecture; check out the Athenaeum, France's best wine accessory and gift shop; or just wander the streets and enjoy Beaune's many shops and galleries.
- Meet your driver and **transfer to Lyon, and connect to Bordeaux by plane**.

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- Meet your driver as you exit baggage claim and **transfer to your hotel in Bordeaux**: the 5* completely renovated **Grand Hotel and Spa de Bordeaux**, conveniently located in the heart of the historic district of Bordeaux.
- Evening on own.

DAY 4 GRAVES AND SAUTERNES B,L

- Travel south to the vineyards of the **Graves Region**. The Romans planted some of the first vineyards in the Bordeaux area here, just outside what is now the city limits. Here you will be the guests of a **Classified Grand Cru chateau**, such as **Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte** or **Chateau La Louviere** where a great tour and tasting awaits you.
- Enjoy a **welcome lunch** at a local restaurant in the area, wines included.
- Continue on to **Sauternes**, the most famous sweet dessert wine appellation in the world. Learn how these delectable wines are made using grapes that have developed the “Noble Rot” during a fascinating tour at one of the best chateaux in the area (like **Guiraud**, or **Suduiraut**), followed by a tasting. If you prefer not to discover the sweet wine region of Bordeaux, we will explore more estates in the Graves region.
- Return to your hotel in the late afternoon for evening on your own.

DAY 5 THE MIGHTY MEDOC B,L

- Today we explore the **Médoc**, world-renowned for its Classified Growth chateaux, following the “Route des Chateaux” through the famous villages of **Margaux, Pauillac and Saint Julien**.
- Your first tour and tasting will be at a **Grand Cru chateaux as their VIP guests** at a classified estate in Margaux such as **Chateau Palmer**. The 1,470 or so lucky people who live there reside in one of the most famous wine making regions on earth.
- We continue towards Pauillac and St. Julien. **Pauillac** is maybe the best-known appellation of Bordeaux with three first great growths out of five: Chateau Lafite, Chateau Latour and Chateau Mouton-Rothschild.
- Slightly less powerful than Pauillac yet not as rustic as Saint-Estèphe, **Saint-Julien** wines are harmonious and well balanced red wines.
- A special treat awaits you today: a **private wine tasting lunch** at one of the best estates in the region. Your meal will be served in the kitchen or dining room of the chateau, prepared especially for you by the **private chef of the estate, and paired beautifully with library wines of the estate**.
- Return to your hotel in the late afternoon for evening on your own.

DAY 6 SAINT EMILION B

- Known since Roman times for the quality of its wines, the village and vineyards of Saint Emilion are designated today as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Saint Emilion produces well-structured wines with great character that comes from a judicious **blending of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot** grapes.
- **VIP tours and tastings at two great Grand Cru estates** await you this morning, like **Chateau Beausejour Becot** with its ancient underground cellars, or the great Classified Growths such as **Chateau Figecac** or **Chateau Angelus**.
- Following lunch on own, **explore the beautiful medieval village** on your own, its monuments and its many shops and galleries (including some of the region’s best wine shops).
- End your day with a **transfer to the train station or Bordeaux Merignac airport**.
- Continue your journeys with fond memories of Burgundy and Bordeaux, and their entire splendor.

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YOUR LUXURY TOUR OF BURGUNDY AND BORDEAUX 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/driver throughout
- Transportation throughout, including transfers, by deluxe, air conditioned vehicle
- 2 nights at a 5-star luxury hotel in Beaune, Junior Suite Accommodations
- Transfer from Burgundy to Bordeaux
- 3 nights at the 5* Grand Hotel and Spa de Bordeaux, Deluxe Accommodations
- 4 lunches, all with premium wine, mineral water, coffee and tea, including 1 private wine tasting lunch
- Daily buffet breakfasts
- All tours and tastings at the region's finest wine estates
- Information on the region and its wines sent to you in advance of your tour

Price based on 2 guests, double occupancy: US \$ 5990.00 per person

Price based on 4 guests, double occupancy: US \$ 4990.00 per person

Price based on 6 guests, double occupancy: US \$ 4790.00 per person

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

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 services not specifically mentioned above as included in the price of your tour.

Legend for meals included in your tour:

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

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.

To reserve this program: contact us at info@wine-tours-france.com

Tel.: 1-877-261-1500 or 410-745-5406 (outside the USA)

We look forward to meeting you!

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