



GREAT ESTATES OF BORDEAUX, THE LOIRE, AND CHAMPAGNE

10 DAYS, 9 NIGHTS | PRIVATE TOUR
AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND

Get to know major appellations of Bordeaux as you taste 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 offers. Continue your journey to the Loire Valley, a favorite destination for **wine lovers visiting France**. It boasts a large variety of **wines**, and you'll taste the best of them at the finest producers of **Vouvray, Chinon, and Bourgueil**. Complete your adventure in **Champagne** for **VIP tastings at exclusive Champagne houses**, including a very special **private tour and tasting of the latest Dom Perignon vintage** at Moët and Chandon. Along the way enjoy **gourmet dining and first-class accommodations** in all 3 regions. An unforgettable wine and food vacation for the discriminating wine lover!

SUGGESTED PROGRAM:*

DAY 1 WELCOME TO PARIS-BORDEAUX

- We will arrange a **VIP Meet and Greet at the Paris CDG Airport** to assist you with passport control and transferring to the next terminal for your Bordeaux flight.
- Arrive on your own and check-in late afternoon to your luxury hotel: the centrally located 5* **Intercontinental Grand Hotel de Bordeaux and Spa**. *Opposite the magnificent eighteenth-century Grand Théâtre, the 150-room Intercontinental Grand Hotel de Bordeaux perfectly mirrors the aristocratic elegance of this lovely city, thanks to the exquisite interiors of designer Jacques Garcia. The signature restaurant, Le Pressoir d'Argent, is a stunner with rocaille decor (seashells set into elaborate plaster moldings) and a sublime seafood menu. There's also a lively wine bar, a brasserie that provides great people-watching from the sidewalk terrace. We will recommend the best way to arrive based on your travel schedule.*
- Enjoy a **Bordeaux Wine Tasting Class at Max Bordeaux**, located within walking distance to your hotel. Learn about the vineyard of Bordeaux, the different classifications, and finally **taste three amazing Grands Crus**.
- Enjoy dinner (not included) tonight at your hotel's fabulous restaurant, or in one of Bordeaux city's many fine restaurants, with our recommendations.

DAY 2 GRAVES AND SAUTERNES B, L

- After breakfast meet your **English-speaking, wine expert guide/driver**.
- 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. Possible tour and tasting at another Classified Cru chateau in the Graves region or if you prefer, a **Classified Grand Cru chateau in Sauternes such as Chateau Suduiraut or Chateau Giraud**, home of the most famous sweet wine appellation in the world.
- Return to your hotel in the late afternoon for the evening on your own.

DAY 3 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 Kirwan**. 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 the evening on your own.

DAY 4 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 has some of Bordeaux's oldest vineyards, producing 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 great Grand Cru estates** await you this morning, like **Chateau Beausejour Becot** with its ancient underground cellars, or the great 1st Growth **Clos Fourtet or Chateau Figeac**.
- Following lunch on your own, **explore the beautiful medieval village**, its monuments, and its many shops and galleries (including some of the region's best wine shops).
- We suggest your final dinner at the gourmet restaurant of the hotel, one of the most coveted tables of the area.

DAY 5 TRANSFER TO THE LOIRE B

- **Enjoy a free morning** to discover Bordeaux before **transferring by train to the Loire Valley**. First Class train tickets and transfers to and from the train stations included.
- Late afternoon your driver will meet you at the Loire train station of St. Pierre des Corps and **transfer you to your hotel, either the Manoir des Minimes or Au Charme Rabelaisian in the heart of Amboise**.
- Evening on own.

DAY 6 VOUVRAY AND ICONIC CHENONCEAU B,L

- Today, you will discover the vineyards of **Vouvray**. Top Vouvray, especially an older vintage, is one of the great wines of France. Made from Chenin Blanc, the style of Vouvray varies enormously from austere dry to richly sweet. Start with a **leading boutique**

Vouvray grower-producer.

- Following lunch (included), visit a larger estate such as **Domaine Huet in Vouvray** followed by a tasting of their wines. Since its founding in 1928, Domaine Huet has been the standard-bearer for great, age-worthy Chenin Blanc.
- Finally, we will visit **Chateau de Chenonceau**. The unique architecture of the chateau and bridge makes it one of the most original chateaux of the Loire Valley. Chenonceau is related to important French Renaissance women and was offered by King Henry II to his mistress Diane de Poitiers.
- Return to your hotel late afternoon, evening on your own.

DAY 7

CHINON AND BOURGUEIL

B

- Enjoy the **morning to relax and to discover Amboise on your own**. We recommend the **Clos Luce**, a few yards away from the Royal Castle of Amboise. Leonardo da Vinci spent the last years of his life there until he died in 1519. After you tour his bedroom, office, reception room, and kitchen, you will go to the invention room where the most spectacular machines Leonardo invented are on display.
- After lunch on own, start with a visit and tasting of **Chinon wines** at **Domaine Pierre Sourdais at Cravant Les Coteaux**. Pierre Sourdais has built a reputation based on the consistently high quality of the **Chinon wines** he produces. In Chinon, **Cabernet Franc is dominant** and, although up to 10% of Cabernet Sauvignon is authorized, it is rarely used.
- Then taste **Bourgueil wines** at another prestigious estate in the region.
- **Transfer by train to Reims, the “capital” of the Champagne region**, home of the spectacular Reims Cathedral, where the Kings of France were crowned for 800 years. Your first-class train tickets and train transfers are included.
- Check-in late afternoon to your **luxury Relais and Chateau member hotel, Chateau Hotel Les Crayères** conveniently located in Reims. We suggest a delicious dinner at your hotel’s excellent casual restaurant, Le Jardin.

DAY 8

LARGES HOUSES OF REIMS

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- Start your day with a visit one of the best major Champagne houses in Reims: **Veuve Clicquot, Pommery or Mumm**. Discover their majestic cellars, most dating back to Roman times with huge chalk pits and miles of galleries; then enjoy a tasting of their fine champagnes and some time for shopping in their boutique.
- Enjoy a lovely lunch at a casual local bistro in the heart of Reims (lunch additional).
- This afternoon, you’ll travel into the beautiful **champagne vineyards** to visit one of the top boutique Champagne houses, like **Billecart Salmon, or Vilmart**.

DAY 9

GRAND CRUS: THE CÔTES DES BLANCS

B,L

- Experience the finest (and loveliest) wine-growing region of **Champagne, the Côte des Blancs** (“hillsides of the whites”), which are covered with Chardonnay grapes.
- Visit and taste at one of the finest boutique producers of the **Côtes des Blancs**, like **Champagne Agrapart et Fils, Gimmonet or Varnier-Fanniere**.
- Pause at a boutique Grand Cru estate for a **champagne tasting lunch** and then travel to the charming hilltop village of **Hautvillers**. Visit the abbey and tomb of **Dom Perignon**, the famous monk known for his contributions to the development of champagne as we know it today. Continue to Epernay with a tour of the legendary Champagne house of **Moët et Chandon**. Here, you’ll have a **private tour devoted to the cuvée Dom Perignon**, which is only made in the best vintage years from 100% Grand Cru grapes. **A tasting of one of the finest vintages of Dom Perignon** will close your visit, **in a private salon with one of Moët’s distinguished sommeliers**.
- We suggest dinner at your hotel’s excellent gourmet **Michelin 2* restaurant, Le Parc**.

DAY 10

AU REVOIR

B

- Enjoy a **private transfer to the Paris CDG Airport**, about 45 minutes away. Continue your journeys with fond memories of Bordeaux, the Loire Valley and Champagne, and their entire splendor.

LEGEND FOR MEALS INCLUDED IN YOUR TOUR: B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

**Itinerary subject to change: every effort will be made to keep the itinerary as close as possible to what appears here; however, the final itinerary may vary due to wine producer schedules, availability, and factors beyond our control.*

Had some of the best meals of our lives . . . the wine tastings were superb, all the grand crus – wonderful. The (tour) hosts were wonderful: extremely knowledgeable, very accommodating, and friendly, delightful. Mark and Marilyn H.



YOUR PRIVATE LUXURY TOUR INCLUDES:

- A customized itinerary featuring the best hotel, estate, and touring elements tailored to your preferences
- The services of a professional English-speaking local wine expert guide on touring days
- A deluxe minivan such as a Mercedes Sprinter during your transfers and touring
- 4 nights at 5-Star Luxury Hotel Intercontinental Grand Hotel and Spa de Bordeaux, Executive Opera Room
- 2 nights at 4* Deluxe Hotel Manoir des Minimes or Au Charme Rabelaisian in Amboise, Highest Category Room
- 3 nights at 5-Star Luxury Relais & Chateau member Les Crayères in Reims, in Premium Room
- Buffet breakfast each day
- 4 lunches, including 2 private tasting lunches with premium wines
- All VIP tours and tastings at the best estates of each region
- A full packet of information on the region and wine tasting, all local taxes

Price based on 2 guests, double occupancy: US \$10,990.00 per person

Price based on 4 guests, double occupancy: US \$8990.00 per person

Price based on 6 guests, double occupancy: US \$8590.00 per person

Not included: any personal expenses, or any services not specifically mentioned above as included in the price of your tour.

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 or Tel.: 1-410-745-5406

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