

French Wine

EXPLORERS



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

Get to know the major appellations of Bordeaux as you taste at some of the most prestigious estates of the **Médoc, Graves, and Saint Emilion and Pomerol**. From Grand Crus to Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnels and exclusive "boutique" wineries, this tour offers a fantastic overview of the best that Bordeaux has to offer. Between tastings, you'll experience the **history and charm of the medieval village of Saint Emilion**, and enjoy the luxury of **Bordeaux's premier hotels and Michelin-starred restaurants**. A true first-class experience for the wine lover!

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DAY 1 WELCOME TO BORDEAUX

- Arrive on 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 a 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.*
- **New this year!** 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 evening on your own.

DAY 3 THE MIGHTY MEDOC: MARGAUX AND PAUILLAC

B

- Today we explore the **Médoc**, world-renowned for its Classified Growth chateaux, following the "**Route des Chateaux**" through the famous villages of **Margaux and Pauillac**.
- Your first tour and tasting will be at a Grand Cru chateaux as their VIP guests in Margaux: such as **Chateau Palmer or Kirwan**.
- Enjoy a lovely lunch (not included) at one of the finest restaurants in the area, a favorite of local winemakers.

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- This afternoon, you'll enjoy 1-2 tours and tastings at a Grand Cru property as VIP guests at estates such as **Chateau Pichon Baron or Chateau Haut Batailley**.
- We will provide an itinerary for the day that allows for variety in estates visited in different appellations to help uncover the nuances of each appellation. Typically we focus this day around Margaux and Pauillac. Return to your hotel in the late afternoon for evening on your own.

DAY 4 THE MIGHTY MEDOC: ST. ESTEPHE & ST. JULIEN B,L

- Today we return to the **Médoc**, to discover **St. Julien** and **St. Estephe**. **Saint-Julien** is considered by some the right balance between Pauillac and Margaux. **Saint-Estèphe** wines are very colored, earthy, robust and tannic. They reach their maturity slower than other Médoc wines.
- Our explorations in the Médoc start in **St. Julien** with a tasting at a classified growth such as **Chateau Lagrange or Chateau Leoville-Poyferre**.
- Then a special treat awaits you in **St. Estephe**; indulge in a **private wine tasting lunch** specially prepared for you at a wine chateau estate of a classified growth or cru bourgeois. This is a perfect opportunity to sample library wines perfectly paired with specialties of the region, in the private kitchen or dining room of the estate.
- Return to your hotel in the late afternoon for evening on your own.

DAY 5 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 two great Grand Cru estates** await you this morning, like **Chateau Beausejour Becot** with its ancient underground cellars, or the great 1st Growths **Clos Fourtet or Chateau Figeac**.
- Following lunch on own, **explore the beautiful medieval village**, its monuments and its many shops and galleries on your own (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 6 POMEROL AND TRANSFER B,L

- This morning discover the other prestigious appellation of this area, **Pomerol**. This tiny appellation is considered the world's **preeminent terroir for Merlot**, producing wines of great character and complexity.
- Although it seems much understated, this appellation is home to some of the most famous cult wines, including **Petrus and Le Pin**.
- **Two tours and tastings await you today in Pomerol** as you round out your week of wine discovery in the Bordeaux region. Enjoy tours and tastings at some of the best estates of the region including estates such as **Chateau Petit Village or Chateau Gazin**.
- End your day with a **farewell lunch and a transfer to the Libourne or Bordeaux St. Jean Train Station or Bordeaux Merignac Airport**. Continue your journeys with fond memories of Bordeaux and its 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.*

It's been a few months since my honeymoon, but I wanted to let you know that we had a great time. All the reservations went smoothly. We loved both our hotels! Our tour guide was a joy to spend time with and learn from. Bordeaux was our favorite leg of our honeymoon. We left with lots of wine and memories. Thanks for helping us plan such a memorable trip. We loved the chateaus we were able to visit. We hoped to leave with a deeper understanding of Bordeaux appellations and we definitely got that! T. Louer

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YOUR LUXURY TOUR IN BORDEAUX INCLUDES:

- A customized tour featuring the best hotel and touring elements tailored to your preferences
- The services of an English-speaking wine expert guide throughout the tour
- Deluxe, air-conditioned transportation throughout
- 5 nights' accommodations at the 5* Intercontinental Grand Hotel & Spa de Bordeaux, Executive Opera Room
- A traditional welcome and farewell lunch with coffee, tea and mineral water included
- VIP Tours and tastings at some of the finest chateaux of the region
- A special private wine tasting lunch at a wine chateau estate
- 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 \$4590.00 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.

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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