

WINE TOURS

ULTIMATE

*Your trip of a lifetime
doesn't need hours of planning.*

BY RISA WYATT

A wine vacation should be 100 percent fun, so skip the logistics hassles, and take a wine tour organized by top professionals. True insiders in their regions, these operators arrange warm welcomes for you at famous wineries not generally open to the public. Itineraries include visits to new cult favorites as well as renowned grand castles. Owners and winemakers bring out "the good stuff": older vintages, limited-production bottlings and rare vertical tastings. But wait, there's more: Tour operators arrange to have guests pampered with private guides and luxury hotels, as well as dining at top-rated restaurants and cozy, authentic eateries serving regional specialties. The world's greatest wines, and some of wine's most fascinating people and places, are waiting for you.

Bordeaux, France

Taste your way through the region

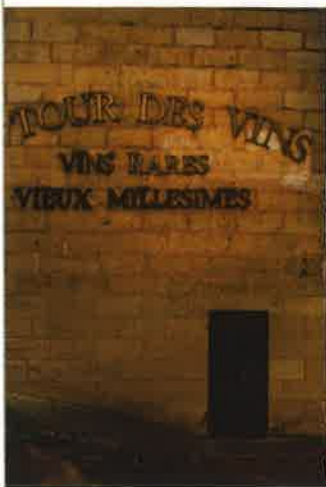
Legendary châteaux open their gates for this six-day/five-night tour. Highlights include tasting an older vintage of Pétrus, private meals at Classified Growth estates, a visit to the Museum of Wine in Art at First Growth Château Mouton Rothschild as well as a tour and tasting at Château d'Yquem. Guests stay at one of the oldest Grands Crus de Bordeaux (first harvested in 1252), Château Pape Clément, named after its founder and most famous owner, Pope Clement V. Dining opportunities feature Michelin-starred restaurants as well as small-gem local favorites. Guides, which may include a Master of Wine or a James Beard award-winning author, share insider knowledge about the futures market, where to purchase Bordeaux wines and importance of provenance. "We help wine lovers become connoisseurs," says Pascale Bernasse, president of French Wine Explorers.

Add-On:

The company also arranges custom tours and small group visits to Bordeaux during harvest.

Contact:

French Wine Explorers,
wine-tours-france.com;
Bordeaux Prestige Tour
(November 12–17, 2018):
Six days/five nights
from \$6,900 per person.



Château Mouton Rothschild

Château d'Yquem

