



# BORDEAUX WINE VACATIONS

SUMMER 2023

## SEVEN DAY ITINERARY FIVE-STAR EXPERIENCE



To speak with a guide, email us at: [bonjour@bordeauxwinevacations.com](mailto:bonjour@bordeauxwinevacations.com)

**Bordeaux, France,** is the most famous wine region in the world, with over 50 wine appellations and thousands of châteaux. In addition to being synonymous with exceptional wine, Bordeaux boasts stunning architecture, sprawling squares, and intricately sculpted fountains that will capture your heart and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Whether you are new to French wine or you've sipped it a hundred times, develop your wine knowledge as you discover the many different world-famous regions surrounding the city.

While on this trip of a lifetime, your private tour guide will lead you to some of the most prestigious wine estates, along with hidden gems and lesser-known domains. As our private guest, you'll be greeted with family-like hospitality and given exclusive access to unique locations other visitors will never have the chance to see. During daily wine tastings, you'll sample unique and highly sought-after wines, some straight from the barrel.

Taste the finest local cuisine at the most popular restaurants, some of which boast Michelin-Stars. Shop down the longest pedestrian shopping street in Europe, or sit and enjoy a drink in a cozy café. In the evenings, you'll be free to stroll the cobblestone streets, equipped with reservations and recommendations from your local guide.

Experience the *joie-de-vivre* that is so typically French.



The most famous wine region in the world will hold no secrets for you after you embark on a trip of unparalleled discovery, full of breathtaking vineyards, countless wine tastings, medieval chateaux visits, and memorable gourmet experiences.



## 7-DAY ITINERARY DETAILS

**Day 1:** Arrive in Bordeaux,

Sightseeing Tour, Wine Tasting Course with Dinner

**Day 2:** Day trip to Médoc with Gourmet Lunch,

**Day 3:** Day trip to Pessac, Sauternes & Graves with Gourmet Lunch,

**Day 4:** Free Day to Relax and Explore Bordeaux

Tickets to the Cité du Vin Wine Museum

**Day 5:** Day trip to Fronsac & Pomerol with Gourmet Lunch,

**Day 6:** Day trip to Saint-Émilion with Gourmet Lunch,

**Day 7:** Free Day to Relax and Shop Bordeaux,

Evening River Cruise Aperitif & Farewell Dinner

**Day 8:** Transportation to the Airport or Train Station

### What To Expect On A Day Trip?

Bordeaux Wine Vacation Day Trips start by picking you up from your hotel in a first-class touring van and driving through a sea of vineyards to the wine region of the day. You'll visit 2 to 3 different wine-producing estates with tasting and tours of each property. You'll enjoy a five-star gourmet meal that's typically French, and pair the experience by tasting a comparative selection of fine wines from the region. At the end of the day, your guide will shuttle you back to your hotel and give recommendations and make reservations for evening activities in Bordeaux.

#### Examples of Châteaux we visit:

Château Beychevelle, Château Léoville Poyferré, Château Smith Haut Lafitte, Château Pape Clément, Château De La Rivière, Château La Mission Haut Brion, Château Haut Bailly, Château L'Évangile, Château Cantenac-Brown, Château Pontet-Canet, Château Valandraud, Château Saint-Georges, Château Guiraud, Château D'Yquem, etc.

Château tours last between 1 and 2 hours, often including a presentation of the vineyard, the history of the château, and a guided tour of the vat room and cellars ending with a vintage tasting of the wine(s) Mis En Bouteille Au Château.



## DAY 1: Arrive in Bordeaux

Welcome to breathtaking Bordeaux! Upon arrival at Bordeaux International Airport (or the Bordeaux-Saint Jean Train Station), you will be greeted by your guide and driven to your accommodation where you'll be able to unpack and settle in for the duration of your trip.

After you've gotten comfortable with your accommodations, you'll meet back up with your guide in front of your hotel for a **Guided Walking Tour** of the historic city center.

During the tour, stroll through the cobblestone streets of Old Bordeaux, in front of *La Place de la Bourse* and down *Rue Sainte Catherine*, the longest pedestrian shopping street in Europe, past the *Cathedral of Saint-André* (where Eleanor of Aquitaine married King Louis VII of France), and many other historical sights that make Bordeaux a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



After the walking tour, your guide will take you to back to the hotel, where you'll enjoy an apéritif dinner of local cheeses and charcuterie during our **"Introduction to Bordeaux" wine tasting** using selected Bordeaux wines that highlight the importance of terroir and different soil structure around the region.

Bienvenue à Bordeaux!



## DAY 2: Experience the legendary Médoc

Meet your guide in front of your hotel after breakfast for a full day in the **Médoc**, arguably Bordeaux's most famous wine region and the birthplace of the Cabernet Sauvignon vine.

Ride along the world-famous **Routes des Chateaux**, past historic vineyards and impressive properties, to your first estate tour of an exceptional Grand Cru Classé 1855 estate in **Margaux**. Located in the heart of France's most prestigious appellation, this beautiful château boasts to be the largest of its kind in the immediate area at 75 acres and with a rich history. Visit the property as if you were a winemaker, and discover what makes the *Médoc terroir* so exceptional.



After your first chateau tour, enjoy lunch at a warm and welcoming bistro that serves a simple, traditional and tasty market-inspired menu made from regional produce. Here you'll experience a popular lunch spot for winemakers and locals wanting to catch up over a hearty meal.

Following lunch, your guide will accompany you on an interesting tour of the a modern château and its historic grounds, located in the illustrious appellation of **Saint-Julien**. Discover the rich history of a prestigious property from the famous 1855 Classification as you tour the modern vat house and impressive barrel cellars. Learn about their winemaking techniques and enjoy the finesse and elegance of their wines.

Conclude your charming day in the Médoc with a private chocolate tasting at a local chocolatier before returning to your accommodations in Bordeaux for dinner at your leisure.

## DAY 3: Discover Sauternes, Pessac, & Graves

This morning, meet your guide in front of your hotel after breakfast for a short drive south of the city to the **Graves, Pessac,** and **Sauternes** appellations, where you'll unlock the secret to sweet and smooth wines.

Begin your third day of exploration with a special tasting at a world-renowned property. See the secret bottle rooms and learn about the previous owner, non other than Pope Clement V.

Take a short ride to one of our favorite regions, **Pessac-Léognan**, to a private visit of a local favorite. Following your customized tour of the grandiose property and their magnificent private cellar, you will taste the estate's first wine in both white and red, among others, and experience what makes Pessac-Léognan so special

Continue your discovery of the sweeter side of Bordeaux with a drive through Sauternes on our way to lunch at **La Chapelle**. Enjoy a five star restaurant with an elegantly crafted traditional French lunch made with seasonal ingredients surrounded by vines and history.



For the final tour this day you'll explore a very special place, the only chateau in Sauternes with the Premier Cru Superior status, and see why it is quite literally in a league of its own.

At the end of your day, return to your hotel for an evening to yourself.

## DAY 4: Free Day To Explore & Michelin Star Dinner

Take the day to explore Bordeaux. Bordeaux is the sixth largest city in France, but it still only has a population of 250,000. Most know Bordeaux for its wine, but this French gem has many amazing features! Unlike other European cities designed in the medieval ages, Bordeaux was built with very wide streets, making it a pedestrian paradise. In 2007, the entire historic city center of Bordeaux was given UNESCO World Heritage status, meaning there's something to see around every corner.

We recommend visiting a museum and taking time to wander around the old town. The **Cité du Vin Wine Museum** is a state-of-the-art museum that explores the history of winemaking around the world. Your entrance ticket includes a complimentary wine tasting on the top floor, where you'll have a beautiful panoramic view of Bordeaux! Alternatively, if you like history, the **Musée d'Aquitaine** houses an exciting range of exhibits from; Prehistory, the Iron Age, Antiquity, the Medieval period, the Modern Era, Bordeaux Port, and the 20th Century.

As for the old town, there are so many sights and experiences it's best to see them at your own pace. Here's a list of our favorite things to do;

- Have coffee at a café
- Sip wine at a wine bar
- Visit a wine merchant
- See the monuments
- Relax on the river waterfront
- Shop down Rue St-Catherine
- Wander the cobblestone back-streets
- Watch the match in a Pub
- Snack something fresh from a bakery
- Stroll the Jardin Public



After your day of exploration, join your guide and group for a fabulous dinner at the **Le Quatrième Mur**, a Michelin Star restaurant known for its famous French TV chef Philippe Etchebest and his culinary delicacies in a beautiful Bordeaux setting, the Grand Theater no less.



## DAY 5: Behold the Right-Bank in Fronsac & Pomerol

This morning, meet your guide in front of your hotel for a day on the right bank of the Garonne River. Ride through the **Entre-Deux-Mers** appellation to **Fronsac**, known as the “historical cradle of great Bordeaux wines”, where your guide will accompany you to a magnificent winery and defensive fortress. Explore this impressive château perched on the top of a hill, overlooking the **Dordogne** valley, and their immense 500 barrel cellar with secret passages and underground passageways.



Enjoy traditional French charcuteries and cheeses paired with old-vintage wines for lunch on the terrace of the château, quite literally under the vines.

After lunch, your guide will take you to a family run property in **Pomerol** and **Lalande-de-Pomerol** where you'll meet the owners and tour their estate. Thanks to their unique terroir, these rich regions produce Merlot grapes that age as impressively as the Cabernet Sauvignon, offering powerful, long-aging, and seductive wines.



On the way back to the hotel, stop off for an exclusive tasting of a spectacular wine in Pomerol.

## DAY 6: Explore the Medieval Village of Saint-Émilion

This morning, meet your guide in front of your hotel for a day that you'll never forget, exploring the illustrious and historic village of **Saint-Émilion**.

Take a short drive over the river and onto the limestone plateau that has been covered in grapevines since the Romans planted them 2,000 years ago. Head straight into the heart of the world-famous wine village for what feels like a trip back to medieval France.

To begin, your guide will walk you through the streets of this fairytale village and delve into its history. Learn about the monk after whom the city was named, Saint-Émilion, before discovering the unique underground architecture, constructed over centuries, on a **Private Walking Tour**.



After learning all about the village and cellars, the group will head to a delicious lunch at one of the most popular restaurants in the area, owned and operated by a Master Chef and his delightful wife. This power couple of restaurateurs create a culinary experience that you'll never forget.





Continue your tour with a private visit to a breathtaking 600-year-old convent. From the Jacobin Friars of the Middle Ages to the Jean and Joinaud families of today, this convent has survived untouched for seven centuries, celebrating winemaking, an exceptional terroir, and the great tradition of the Classified Growth wine estates of Saint-Émilion.

Take some time to explore the village, and visit the many shops and historical locations. See for yourself why many call this town the “Disney World of Wine.”



Meet back up with your guide for a quick stop at a local caveats to taste the difference in Saint-Émilion wines with a horizontal wine tasting of local blends and special vintages.

Finish your day with a spectacular view from a place that made history as the site of the surrender of the English to the French after the Battle of Castillon, ending the Hundred Years War.



Your guide will provide you with dinner recommendations and nightlife suggestions for your last free evening in Bordeaux.



## DAY 7: Evening River Cruise and Gourmet Dinner

Take your last day to enjoy beautiful Bordeaux. Visit the shops and museums that you might have missed during the week. Stroll down the banks of the Garonne and pick up any last-minute souvenirs.

Meet the group in front of your hotel for a quick stroll with your guide down to the dock to a private **River Cruise**. Experience another side of Bordeaux in a unique way while savoring delicious wines and aperitifs.

Disembark across the river for a farewell dinner at **Café du Port**, a restaurant loved by locals for its regional menu of French classics and the amazing view of the **Pont de Pierre** crossing the Garonne River.



After dinner, your guide will take you back across the river to your hotel for your last night in Bordeaux.

## DAY 8: Departure

After breakfast and checking out this morning, you will be met at your hotel by your guide and transferred to **Bordeaux International Airport** to catch your departing flight or the **Saint-Jean Train Station** to get on your train.

*For more information and reservations email, [bonjour@bordeauxwinevacations.com](mailto:bonjour@bordeauxwinevacations.com)*



## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Embark on a truly French immersion of discovery in one of the most beautiful cities in the world.
- Relax at a first-class hotel with 19th-century decor.
- Learn about historic French architecture on a walking tour of the UNESCO World Heritage City.
- Ride along the *Route des Châteaux*, and enjoy leisurely scenic drives through the French countryside.
- See for yourself the sea of vineyards stretching across rolling hills and limestone plateaus.
- Tour many world-famous Châteaux, wine estates, and unique winemaking facilities.
- Discover the world-renowned wine appellations of the surrounding region, such as the *Médoc*, *Pomerol*, *Graves*, *Sauternes*, *Fronsac*, *Saint-Émilion*, and many more.
- Enjoy gourmet meals and 5-Star dining experiences.
- Stroll the medieval streets of *Saint-Émilion* for a step back in time.
- Shop the many store-fronts along *Rue Saint-Catherine*, and the luxury boutiques of Bordeaux's *Triangle d'Or*.
- Explore ancient underground wine cellars stocked with priceless collections and hidden treasures.
- Taste over 50 different wines, many on location and some straight from the barrel or vat.
- Compare notable vintages and historic winemaking methods.
- Uncover the vibrant nightlife of the city center.
- Capture breathtaking pictures and memories that will last a lifetime.

## TOUR COST PER PERSON:

**TOUR + 5-Star Premium Hotel : \$5990** | Single Supplement: \$990

**TOUR + 4-Star Deluxe Hotel : \$4990** | Single Supplement: \$690

*\*Early-Bird Discount available for bookings before March 1st*

*\*Percentage Discounts available for group reservations of 4 to 6 Guests*

*\*Maximum of six total guests per tour date to ensure a private experience.*

## THE 7-DAY PROGRAM INCLUDES

- Personal native English-speaking tour guide and host
- 7 nights accommodations in a first-class hotel, breakfasts included
- 4 Gourmet Lunches, including wine
- 2 Gourmet Dinners, including wine
- 9 Châteaux / Wine Estate Tours
- 17 Unique Wine tastings
- Over 50 Wines tasted
- Transfers from/to Bordeaux Airport or Train Station
- Entrance fees to Estate Visits and Châteaux Tours

## THE PROGRAM DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Flights
- Travel insurance
- Anything not mentioned in the program

*For more information and reservations, email us at  
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# 2023 TOUR DATE SCHEDULE

Tour dates available in 2023 for small groups of 4 to 6 guests

**April:** 16th to 23rd, 2023

**May:** 7th to 14th, 2023

~~**May:** 21th to 28th, 2023 (FULL TOUR)~~

**June:** 4th to 11th, 2023

~~**June:** 18th to 25th, 2023 (FULL TOUR)~~

**July:** 9th to 16th, 2023 (*Bastille Day Tour*)

**July:** 23th to 30th, 2023

**August:** 6th to 13th, 2023

**August:** 27th to **September** 3rd, 2023

**September:** 10th to 17th, 2023 (*Harvest Tour 1*)

**September:** 24th to **October** 1st, 2023 (*Harvest Tour 2*)

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## ALSO AVAILABLE : CUSTOM 3-DAY / 5-DAY / 7-DAY TOUR OPTIONS

Enjoy a private wine vacation with your personal guide.

For more information, reservations, and to speak with a guide, email us at;

[bonjour@bordeauxwinevacations.com](mailto:bonjour@bordeauxwinevacations.com)

## Notes

All day trips include a gourmet lunch served with wines adapted to the tours of the day. All dinners are classic French gourmet cuisine and always served with wines adapted to the day's tours.

On the free afternoon and evenings, your local guide can suggest many things to see and do in Bordeaux, including shopping, sightseeing, restaurants, museums, and nightlife. We will gladly make any reservations on your behalf.

## Deposits

A \$900 per person non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your place on the tour, payable within seven days of reservation confirmation. **The balance is due no later than 90 days prior to the tour start date.** For tours booked less than 120 days in advance, full payment is required at the time of reservation.

## Cancellations and Refunds

When we receive written notice of your cancellation 61 days or more from the start of the tour week you booked, your fees will be refunded less the \$900 deposit. There will be no refund for cancellations made 60 days or less from the start of the tour. Exceptions to this cancellation policy cannot be made for any reason, including personal emergencies.

We reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to its start, in which case all monies received will be refunded, including the deposit.

Once you have booked this tour, we strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance (including trip delay, trip interruption, trip cancellation, and baggage coverage), as well as accident, medical, and emergency evacuation insurance. It is essential to purchase this insurance soon after booking our tour as insurance companies require purchasing the insurance within a limited time of your first payment for the tour.

## Itinerary

**A Bordeaux Wine Vacations Guide has the right to make changes to the stated itinerary if needed.** Even in France, plans might change. Restaurants can close unexpectedly, a château might be short-staffed during harvest season. We might have to make a last minute change to the itinerary, but it will be for the best, and will keep changes to a minimum.

## Photo Release

We will photograph group activities for use in brochures/publicity. Please notify us if we are not free to use photographs of you.

## Pre-Tour Arrivals & Post-Tour Extensions

To avoid missing the beginning of the tour and to help recover from jet lag from the long flights, we recommend that you make arrangements to arrive in Europe one or two days before the beginning of the tour. We are happy to make recommendations for attractive layover destinations with good flight connections. If you wish to extend your European vacation, we are delighted to make additional recommendations of attractive layover destinations with good flight connections. Unfortunately, we cannot help book travel

arrangements or make reservations outside of Bordeaux, France. We can however help translate or communicate in French.

### **Responsibility and Release of Liability**

*There are always risks associated with travel. We strongly recommend that you purchase trip and medical/evacuation insurance. Exclusive Bordeaux LLC., assumes no responsibility for any claim of damages, expenses or liability for any claims, injury, delay, inconvenience, irregularity, loss or damage to person or property or additional costs resulting directly or indirectly from causes that include, but are not limited to, theft, acts of government, delays, cancellations, weather, vehicle problems or accidents, strikes, illness, quarantine, acts of terrorism or "acts of God" incurred during the tour including during transportation by car, van, boat or other conveyance.*

*Participants agree Exclusive Bordeaux LLC. shall not be liable, directly or indirectly, for any injury, death, or damage for any reason whatsoever. Exclusive Bordeaux LLC reserves the right to alter an itinerary or accommodations. The company also reserves the right to cancel a tour. Should that occur, Exclusive Bordeaux LLC's liability would be limited to a full refund of the reservation deposit and/or fees paid or to offer an alternate tour date. Exclusive Bordeaux LLC reserves the right to decline to accept any person at any time should that person's health, physical infirmity, or mental condition impede the health, welfare, or enjoyment of other participants.*

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