



*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** regions. From **Classified Growths** to **Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnels**, this tour provides a fantastic overview of Bordeaux's best.

Continue your journey to the Loire Valley, a favorite destination for **wine lovers visiting France**. It boasts many 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 **tours and tastings at iconic and boutique estates**.

Along the way enjoy **gourmet dining and first-class accommodations** in all 3 regions.

This is an unforgettable wine and food experience for discriminating wine lovers!

# SUGGESTED PROGRAM

## DAY 1 WELCOME TO BORDEAUX

- Arrive on your own and check in late afternoon to your centrally located 5\* hotel in the heart of the Bordeaux historic district. We will recommend the best way to arrive based on your travel schedule.
- 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.
- Next discover 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. (This visit can be replaced with another tour in Graves if you prefer.)
- Return to your hotel in the late afternoon for the evening on your own. We will provide you with an extensive list of suggested restaurants for all three regions.)

## DAY 3 THE MIGHTY MEDOC

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- 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 home to 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

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- 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**.
- 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

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- **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 are included. *Upgrade to private driver service with a stop in Cognac is available.*
- 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 Amboise**. **Amboise** is a scenic historic village in the Loire Valley, complete with a **castle, the house of Leonardo da Vinci and a Renaissance garden**.
- Evening on own. We will provide you with a curated list of vetted restaurants that are easy to access from your hotel.

## 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**.
- 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.
- Then following lunch (included), 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

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- 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.
- Return to your hotel late afternoon, evening on your own.

## DAY 8

### LARGES HOUSES OF REIMS

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- **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. *Upgrade to private driver transfer with a stop for lunch is an option as well.*
- Start your afternoon with a visit one of the best major Champagne houses in Reims: **Ruinart, 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.
- This afternoon, you’ll travel into the beautiful **champagne vineyards** to visit one of the top boutique Champagne houses, like **Champagne Vilmart**.
- Check in late afternoon to your **luxury Relais and Chateau member hotel, Chateau Hotel Les Crayères or 5\* Hotel La Caserne de Chanzy** conveniently located in Reims. Evening on own. We will provide you with a curated list of restaurants that are easy to access from your hotel.

## 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**.
- 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 (group tour) or a mid-size boutique producer**.
- Return to your hotel late afternoon, evening on your own.

## 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 sedan or minivan during your transfers and touring
- 4 nights at 5-Star Luxury Hotel Intercontinental Grand Hotel and Spa de Bordeaux
- 3 nights at 4\* Deluxe Hotel Manoir des Minimes or Au Charme Rabelaisian in Amboise
- 2 nights at 5-Star Luxury Relais & Chateau member Les Crayères or 5\* La Caserne de Chanzy in Reims
- Buffet breakfast each day
- 4 lunches, including 2 wine estate 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 4-6 guests, double occupancy: US \$8990.00 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 availability. 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 your tour: contact us at [info@wine-tours-france.com](mailto:info@wine-tours-france.com) or Tel.: +1-410-745-5406 (USA EST)**

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