



## THE WINES OF BORDEAUX

**BORDEAUX: LA BELLE ENDORMIE**  
**SEPTEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> - OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup> 2017**

Bordeaux; the name itself conjures up a myriad of complex wine expectations. As France's largest wine producing region, and home to famous appellations, the region of Bordeaux has much to offer both the wine connoisseur and the novice alike. The city of Bordeaux, once nicknamed La Belle Endormie, or the Sleeping Beauty, used to be plagued with industrial soot and despair, leaving wine lovers wanting to sample the local produce from far away! But like the grapes in the bottles, age has worked in her favor. Over the past decades, the city of Bordeaux has reinvented herself, now mirroring the beauty of the sprawling vineyards that surround her.



VINEYARD IN ST. EMILION

Our days will be spent lingering among the freshly harvested vines, touring the palatial French chateaux, tasting our way from small town to small town, sampling not just the wine, but the food, the culture, and the vistas along the way. From reds to whites, from the coast to the inland towns, we will uncork this region and explore one of the world's best wine destinations.



THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED): **\$3990**  
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: **\$1180**

*Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.*

**THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:**

- HOTELS:** 7 nights' accommodation in a first-class hotel  
All hotel taxes and service charges included
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Continental breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 4 dinners
- GUIDES:** DISCOVER EUROPE tour guide throughout, local guide for walking tour of Bordeaux
- EXPENSES:** Portage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.  
Insurance information will be mailed on receipt of deposit.*

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**FRIDAY, SEPT 29<sup>TH</sup>** – Departure from your chosen US gateway. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>** – Your morning arrival at Bordeaux Airport will be met for the short drive to our hotel in Saint-Emilion. This small medieval town, whose vineyards were first planted by the Romans, will be our home base throughout the tour, allowing us to fully unpack, uncork, and relax. After time to check into our hotel, we will gather for a two-hour wine tasting workshop. This includes an introduction to aromas, a tasting of four vintages, and a discussion on wine & food pairing, followed by a sumptuous welcome dinner. **(D) OVERNIGHT: SAINT-EMILION**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>** – An excursion to the south today takes us first to visit the romantic ruins of the Abbey of Sauve-Majeure. Originally founded in 1079, this Benedictine monastery became an important stopping point on the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. It is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, mainly because of the wonderful examples of Romanesque architecture that still survive here. After lunch (included), we'll visit the Chateau de Mongenan. This marvelous Regency-period chateau is set in a botanical garden inspired by Jean-Jacques Rousseau, with over a thousand species of roses, and bygone medicinal and colorful plants. A small museum on the site is dedicated to the 18th century, from King Louis XVI to the revolution, and contains an extensive collection of antique vineyard tools and equipment. The estate also produces good quality red and white Graves wine. We'll return to our hotel for a free evening. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: SAINT-EMILION**

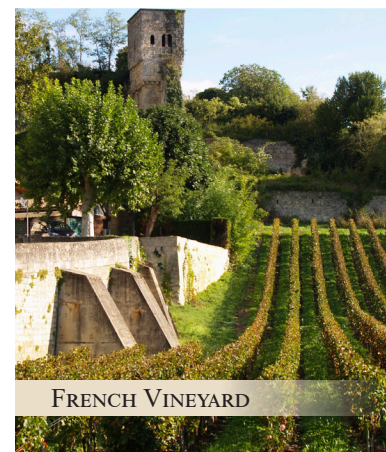
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup>** – After breakfast today we will explore our “home town” of Saint-Emilion. We will visit the Maison du Vin, and the iconic tower of the Chateau du Roy, before we head underground to explore the galleries, church, catacombs and other mysteries beneath the city streets. This medieval village offers more than just spectacular bottles of wine, beautifully narrow side streets to explore, and ancient churches hewn into the rocks; there is much to explore beneath the surface as well. You are free to dine this evening on your own. **(B) OVERNIGHT: SAINT-EMILION**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup>** – Today you'll explore the beautiful, sophisticated center of Bordeaux, one of the leading wine cities in the world and another important way station on the pilgrimage to Compostela. In the morning, we'll take a walking tour of the old town in the company of a local guide, after which you'll have free time to explore. This evening we'll return to our hotel for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SAINT-EMILION**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup>** – Heading towards the ocean today, we go west from Saint-Emilion to the coastal town of Arcachon, famed for its spectacular oysters. On the way, we will stop at a major estate for a wine-tasting, probably the Domaine de Chevalier in Pessac-Leognan. On arrival in Arcachon we will visit the town's four distinct districts, known by the seasons; summer (Ville d'Ete), autumn (Ville de'Automne), winter (Ville d'Hiver) and spring (Ville de Printemps). We will also see the Dune De Pilat, the largest sand dune in France, before we enjoy a lovely seafood dinner, accompanied by some local wine, and then head back to our hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SAINT-EMILION**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup>** – Life requires balance, so to balance out all those deep reds and savory foods, today we turn our attention to the sweeter varieties. To do so, we will head south to the town of Sauternes. This renowned dessert wine is made from the Semillon, Muscadelle and Sauvignon Blanc grapes which are then conditioned by the “Noble Rot” (Botrytis cinerea). We will visit a local vineyard to try a variety of whites and have lunch among the freshly harvested grapes. This afternoon we visit the magnificent medieval castle of Roquetaillade – inhabited by the same family for over 700 years! We return to Saint-Emilion for a free evening. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: SAINT-EMILION**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup>** - The history of wine-making in this region of France goes back to at least Roman times and this morning's visit will illustrate this. Heading east along the Dore Valley into the heart of the Dordogne, we will visit the town Montcaret and the remains of a Roman Villa, excavated here in the 1920's. The mosaic floors are among the best preserved in France. Following the river east we next visit the charming medieval “bastide” (fortified town) of Sainte-Foy-la-Grande. We'll stop here for lunch and have free time to explore the town (and perhaps do a little shopping) before we return to our hotel. We will have time to make use of some of the hotel amenities before we gather for a farewell dinner and one last toast to one of the world's best wine regions, Bordeaux. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SAINT-EMILION**



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup>** - Transfers this morning back to the airport in Bordeaux for returning flights to the US. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**

*Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner*