

Cycling Safaris

BORDEAUX WINETRAIL 2017

Guided Tour

Guide cycling with group | 286 km | 7 nights / 8 days



A biking exploration of the world's greatest vineyards in the most famous wine region in the world! Bordeaux has a huge variety of wines, from simple Bergeracs to the sumptuous wines of St. Emilion and Haut Medoc but in between we'll enjoy lesser known delights like the rich reds of Pecharent, and the exquisite dessert wines of Monbazillac. The diversity of the viniculture is reflected in the scenery which varies widely.

We start our tour in the wooded hills of the perigold passing Tremolat (rated 3*** attraction by Michelin). We also visit St. Emilion, a beautiful town, and beside the Gironde, we cycle past huge forts built to repel the English. Its truly fascinating week and a fine bike ride, marked by some wonderful wines and great scenery.

TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 **Saturday**

Make your way to Angouleme train station where set transfers are arranged to Les Eyzies at Moulin De La Beune

DAY 2 **Sunday** **Les Eyzies to Lalinde** **24 miles / 39 km**

We're off, this isn't wine country yet, but it is beautiful country. Our cycling holiday takes us over the 'Cingle de Tremolat' where we're treated to 3*** views across the Dordogne valley.

We take a lunch break at the lovely Bastide town of Limeuil where the Dordogne and Vézère rivers meet. We end the day at Lalinde, another Bastide and once an important town where the canal took boat-traffic past the rapids of the Dordogne.

DAY 3 Monday Lalinde to Sainte Foy la Grande 38 miles / 61 km

Today we enter wine country, on our way to Pecharent, within Bergerac. All will be explained by le Comte de Saint Exupery, the owner of Chateau Tiregand. After lunch in Bergerac we cycle into the hills of Monbazillac, home of famous dessert wines including the award winning Chateau Caillavel, one of the most renowned producers in the region.

From Monbazillac a flat run into Ste Foy - La - Grande, another beautiful bastide.

DAY 4 Tuesday Sainte Foy la Grande to Saint Emillion 28 miles / 45 km

Today we uncover a wonderful secret, Montravel, where we meet one of the superstars of local wine making, Daniel Hecquet at Chateau Puy Servain. His dessert wines are world class. A lovely cycle along the Dordogne Valley leads to St. Emilion, home to some of the finest wines in the world. It's a great place to visit, and Chateau la Clotte is a great introduction to the wines. This evening we'll eat at their cousins restaurant in the heart of St Emilion, and stay at Auberge de la Commanderie.

DAY 5 Wednesday Saint Emillion to Blaye 39 miles / 63 km

Today starts with a wonderful descent to Libourne. We're now into Fronsac, after St. Emilion and Pomerol the best known of all the right-bank appellations, and we visit possibly the finest producer of all, Chateau de la Riviere by repute the most beautiful vineyard in Bordeaux. After lunch we cycle to Blaye, an appellation with a fast-improving reputation, staying at Le Citadelle within an enormous fortress overlooking the river.

DAY 6 Thursday Blaye to Pauillac 14 miles / 23 km

Today we cross the Gironde by ferry to the Haut Medoc, home of the finest wines in the world including Mouton Rothschild and Chateau Latour. We visit two vineyards, Chateau du Raux owned by the delightful Bernard family, and Chateau Lynch-Bages an 1855 classed growth. Today is a real step up in class. Tonight we stay in Pauillac on the banks of the Gironde, the centre of world wine making.

DAY 7 Friday Pauillac 34 miles / 55 km

We spend most of today on tiny roads and tracks. Before lunch we'll visit the estate of Chateau Loudenne. Our final visit is to a very traditional vineyard at Chateau Your de By where we'll discover the best value among some excellent wines.

DAY 8 Saturday

An early departure for the train in Bordeaux that reaches Paris in the late morning and London by 3.00 pm in the afternoon.

2017 GROUP TOUR DATES

June 24th

September 9th

2017 TOUR PRICE

€1,590.00 based on 2 sharing a room

+ €395.00 single supplement

If you are travelling on your own, we will endeavour to find a room mate for you)

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- 7 nights hotel accommodation with breakfast
- 7 dinners
- Guide cycling with the group
- Luggage transferred locally
- 24 speed hybrid touring bike with pannier and helmet
- Vineyard fees and wine-tasting
- Waterproof jacket
- Cycling jersey
- Set Transfer from Angouleme train station to the starting point of the tour (Les Eyzies)
- Set Transfer to Bordeaux at the end of the tour.

Not included:

- Admission charges to the chateaux.

WHAT TO BRING

- Comfortable cycling clothing – padded cycling shorts and cycling gloves are invaluable.
- Hat, sunglasses, suntan lotion, swimwear.
- Casual clothes for evening. You may be grateful for something warm with long sleeves.
- Helmets, though not obligatory in France, are highly recommended. To be sure of comfort we suggest you bring your own helmet, however, in the event that you need a helmet, they are provided.

GROUP, GUIDE AND BACK-UP SERVICE

The maximum group size on these tours is fifteen people and one, sometimes two guides. Each person has their own route details, as well as a guide who cycles with you, while your luggage is locally transferred each day. There is no “sag” wagon as such but we can arrange to collect the weary!!

TRAVEL INFORMATION

It is up to you to make your way to and from the tour. To help you in your travel arrangements we will arrange a local transfer to the start point.

You will be met on Saturday off the mid afternoon train arriving at Angoulême arriving 13:35 from Paris, or at 16.29 from London (via Lille) and Charles de Gaulle Airport and brought to the starting point at Les Eyzies. At the end of the tour you will be brought back to Bordeaux St Jean train station in time for the 08:14 departure to Charles de Gaulle airport and London (via Lille) and the 08.28 departure to Paris. Both local transfers are included in the tour price.

Train Arrival and Departure Times from London. *Note: Check-in no later than 30 minutes before departure. Please check train times prior to departure*

From/To London:

Outward Journey	Departure London St Pancras International	09:31	Change of train in Lille Europe
	Arrival Angouleme	16:29	
Homeward Journey	Departure Bordeaux St Jean	08:14	Change of train in Lille Europe
	Arrival London St Pancras International	16:03	

Transfers are from and to London using Eurostar and TGV trains.

Note, there is a change of trains in Lille Europe.

From/To Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport or Paris Montparnasse Train Station

Outward Journey	Departure Ch. De Gaulle Airport	10:16
	Arrival Angouleme	13:35
Homeward Journey	Departure Bordeaux St Jean	08:14
	Arrival Ch. De Gaulle Airport	12:42

Outward Journey	Departure Montparnasse	14:03
	Arrival Angouleme	16:29
Homeward Journey	Departure Bordeaux St Jean	08:28
	Arrival Montparnasse	11:54

On arrival at Angouleme you will be met by a tour representative and brought by minibus (90 miles/approx. 2 hrs) to the starting point at Les Eyzies de Tayac. These are the only transfers that we arrange, so it is very important that you are on the right train.

If you do miss the train, try and arrange to get on the next one. If you have to pay for another ticket you are responsible for the cost (depending on circumstances you may be covered by insurance). Call the owner of the first hotel, the tour guide will help you arrange another transfer to the hotel (approx. €200, a cost we are afraid which you will have to pay).

You can of course make your own way to and from the tour. All details on trains in France are available through the website www.raileurope.com/us/index.htm. If you drive you can leave your car at the first hotel.

Local airports: Both Bergerac and Bordeaux are well placed. Bordeaux means a long transfer at the beginning of the week, Bergerac means a long transfer at the end of the week. Both these options are quite expensive, so our advice would be:

Bordeaux airport. Take the train from Bordeaux to Les Eyzies, and we'll arrange collection from the train station. At the end of the week the transfer goes via Bordeaux Merignac, which is on the Pauillac side of Bordeaux.

Bergerac airport. Transfer to Les Eyzies. At the end of the week, our bikes are returned to Les Eyzies, via Bergerac airport if necessary.

BIKE / FITNESS



We use Trek 7300 FX Hybrid 24 speed touring bike with aluminium frame and Shimano gear system.

Level of difficulty:	Bordeaux - **1/2 hilly at the beginning, a couple of difficult days and a couple of easy days.
Average daily distance	30 miles
Maximum daily distance	38 miles

- ***** Training camps / sport cyclists. 50 to 80 miles per day, hills an integral part.
- **** Distances and / or hills make this a challenging tour suitable for people who exercise regularly.
- *** Moderate level of fitness required. Distances are no more than 40 miles a day, but hilly terrain.
- ** Distances and terrain are slightly easier, suitable for people who are not strangers to exercise, but don't get out as often as they'd like!

GENERAL INFORMATION

Food and Drink

What if I have any special dietary requirements?

Vegetarians are catered for (please advise if you eat fish). Vegans choice will be limited but they can be accommodated.

Are beverages included with the meals?

No, all beverages are to your own account.