

**A Gastronomic Tour of the  
Bordeaux Region**

**SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> - 26<sup>TH</sup> 2021**

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 (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.

Our days will be spent lingering among the freshly fruitful 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.



Vineyard in St . Emilion



*This proposal is based on the following hotels, subject to availability at the time of booking:*

*BORDEAUX - The Hotel de Sèze  
(www.hoteldeseze.com)*

**BASED ON 15 - 20 PAYING PARTICIPANTS, THE NET COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:**

Land only (no airfare included):  
Single supplement :

*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, including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- GUIDES:** Discover Europe tour guide throughout, local guides for tours of Bordeaux and St. Emilion
- EXPENSES:** Portage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>** - Departure from your chosen US gateway. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>** - Your morning arrival at Bordeaux Airport will be met for the transfer to our city-center hotel. After checking in, there will be time to unpack, relax and begin exploring the neighborhood. Early this evening our tour guide will gather us together in the hotel lounge for welcome reception and orientation meeting, before we head out to a local restaurant for dinner. **(D) OVERNIGHT: BORDEAUX**

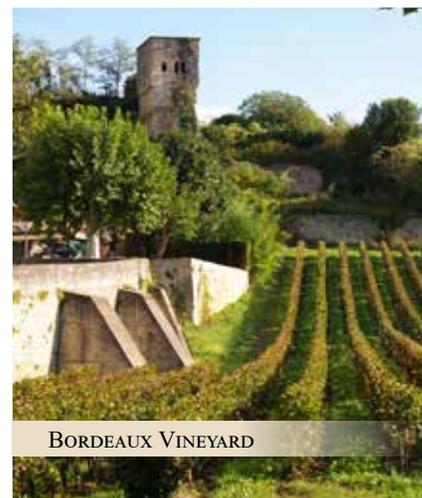
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>** - Today we will explore the beautiful, sophisticated center of Bordeaux, one of the leading wine cities in the world and an important way station on the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain. We will start our day with a panoramic tour of the city before we meet a local foodie guide of a culinary walking tour of the city center. For lunch, we will sample the wine, oysters, foie gras, cheese, pastries and chocolate that the city is known for! After lunch we will pay a visit to the magnificent Cité du Vin on the outskirts of the city. The rest of the afternoon and evening are free for individual exploration. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: BORDEAUX**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>** - After breakfast today we will explore the nearby 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 that lie beneath the city streets. After lunch (included), there will be time to explore on your own before we head back to the city. 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. The evening is free in Bordeaux. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: BORDEAUX**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>** - Heading towards the ocean today, we go west from the city to the coastal town of Arcachon, famed for its spectacular oysters. On the way, we'll stop for a tasting and tour of one of the famous vineyards which have made the region synonymous with good wine. On arrival in Arcachon, we'll visit the Maison des Huitres (the House of Oysters), which is a museum dedicated to everything oysters! After our visit, there will be time for lunch and then we'll take a walk to 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: BORDEAUX**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23<sup>RD</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 southeast, following the course of the River Garonne, 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 Bordeaux for a free evening. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: BORDEAUX**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>** - An excursion to the south today takes us 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. It is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, mainly because of the wonderful examples of Romanesque architecture that still survive here. We'll stop in the nearby town of Créon, where you will be free to find lunch around the charming main square. This afternoon we cross the river to the town of La Brède, where we will visit the domaine de Montesquieu, former home of the judge and philosopher Baron de Montesquieu - the man who came up with the theory of the separation of powers in government. On our return to Bordeaux, we will have time to freshen up before we gather again for dinner at a local restaurant this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: BORDEAUX**



BORDEAUX VINEYARD



Dune De Pilat

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25<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" (a fortified town at a crossroads) 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). This afternoon, on our way back to Bordeaux, we'll stop and visit the Chateau de Michel de Montaigne, the renowned 16th century French philosopher. On arrival at our hotel, we will have time to relax and freshen up before we gather for a farewell dinner and one last toast to one of the world's best wine regions, Bordeaux. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: BORDEAUX**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>** - Transfers this morning back to Bordeaux Airport for returning flights to the US. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**

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