

2019 - Taste of Bordeaux (Wine Cruise)

7-NIGHT CRUISE

Travel to France's legendary wine capital, Bordeaux. Iconic châteaux, timeless vineyards and delicious wine tastings are plentiful as you visit Libourne, Blaye, Bourg, Pauillac and Cadillac. This trip is a must for anyone interested in the best of French culture, lifestyle, wine and food.

OVERVIEW:

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DESTINATION</u>	<u>ACTIVITIES</u>
1	BORDEAUX	EMBARKATION
2	BORDEAUX	Morning scenic cruising Saint-Émilion excursion and Grand Cru Classé wine tasting OR Saint-Émilion bike tour and wine tasting OR Château de Vayres
3	LIBOURNE	French country market visit with tastings OR Libourne bike tour OR Vineyard hike Free evening
4	BLAYE	Citadel visit OR Blaye bike tour Blaye to Bourg bike tour Bourg walking tour, Carriage Museum and exclusive wine festival
5	PAUILLAC	Medoc Grand Cru Classé wine tasting and scenic vineyard tour
6	CADILLAC	Roquetaillade Castle with Sauternes wine tasting Illuminations cruise
7	BORDEAUX	UNESCO city tour and Wine Museum OR Bordeaux bike tour and Wine Museum
8	BORDEAUX	DISEMBARKATION

ITINERARY DETAILS:

Day 1, BORDEAUX. Embark the ship for your Taste of Bordeaux cruise. (D)

Day 2, BORDEAUX - LIBOURNE. Take in the romance of Bordeaux as you pass iconic sights on a scenic morning cruise. Later in the day, dock in Libourne, a gateway to one of Bordeaux's most elite wine regions. Join an excursion to Saint-Émilion, known for its celebrated vineyards, and while here, explore the monolithic church carved out of one piece of limestone rock, and then go under the church to discover its catacombs and caves. Afterwards, enjoy a Grand Cru Classé wine tasting at either Château de Ferrand or Château de Pressac. If you prefer a more active adventure, pedal through the vineyard-rich countryside to Saint-Émilion and then to Château Soutard for a Grand Cru Classé wine tasting. You can also choose to tour the magnificent Château Vayres, one of the most prestigious historic buildings of Aquitaine. (B,L,D)

Day 3, LIBOURNE - BLAYE. Stroll through Libourne's colorful, open-air market, tasting some of the region's specialties. Or, you can get your heart pumping by venturing deeper into town on an invigorating bike tour or hiking through one of Libourne's renowned vineyards. Later in the day, set sail for Blaye, where you'll enjoy an evening at your leisure. (B,L,D)

Day 4, BLAYE - BOURG. Once in Blaye, you can join a tour of its 17th-century citadel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. For a more active excursion, take a bike ride around Blaye. Later in the day, you can choose to bike from Blaye through the idyllic French countryside to Bourg. While in the ancient village of Bourg, take a

walking tour and visit the Carriage Museum, which houses a wonderful collection of horse-drawn vehicles. Later in the day, experience the hospitality of this charming medieval village with an exclusive wine festival. Meet the local wine growers and taste the fruits of their labors as well as enjoy live French music and dancing. (B,L,D)

Day 5, PAUILLAC. Pauillac, a lovely village on the Left Bank of the Gironde Estuary, is gateway to the famed Médoc region, renowned for producing some of the world's finest Bordeaux wines. You will see some of the most beautiful and famous wine estates, including Château Latour, Château Mouton Rothschild, Château Lafite Rothschild and Château Pichon Longueville. You'll then visit either Château Gruaud Larose or Château Léoville Poyferré for a tasting of Grand Cru wines. (B,L,D)

Day 6, CADILLAC - BORDEAUX. Visit the impressive Castle of Roquetaillade, an amazingly preserved masterpiece of medieval military architecture owned by the same noble family for 700 years. Next, travel to the Sauternes wine region to either Chateau de Rayne Vigneau or Chateau Guiraud to taste the highly prized golden-hued sweet wines produced here. In the evening, enjoy a spectacular illumination cruise, gazing at the iconic structures of Bordeaux as they glow against the night sky. (B,L,D)

Day 7, BORDEAUX. The breathtaking capital of the wine world, Bordeaux is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and classified as a "City of Art and History." You'll have an opportunity to experience much of the rich culture and architecture on a city tour. Bike enthusiasts will wish to join a tour along the city's amazing network of bicycle paths. Both the city tour and bicycle tour will be followed by a visit to the immersive and interactive Bordeaux Wine Museum, housed in an awe-inspiring building. (B,L,D)

Day 8, BORDEAUX. Disembark the ship and prepare for your flight home. (B)