

# BORDEAUX GRANDS CRUS & TREASURES OF THE DORDOGNE

7 days / 6 nights



Beautiful chateaux, famous wines and terrific food: what more do you need to experience the real France? This tour starts in **Bordeaux** and then moves into the vineyards including the famous name of **Saint Emilion** and the Prehistory region of the **Dordogne**, **Les Eyzies** and **Sarlat**. Discover this countryside mixed with vineyards, chateaux, and the grottos of prehistory. You will pass through some old walled towns, see abbeys, and visit medieval castles during an unforgettable trip!

## Highlights:

- ☞ Taste the grands crus' superior quality wines of the **MEDOC** and see the wine makers at work
- ☞ Visit villages rated 'the most beautiful villages in France' in the **DORDOGNE**
- ☞ Visit the ancient 'cave of hundred mammoths' (Upper-Paleolithic period)

Package will be quoted in EURO per person and would potentially include:

- ☞ 2-Night accommodation in **BORDEAUX** at some listed hotels
- ☞ 4-Night accommodation in **SARLAT** at some listed hotels
- ☞ Daily Breakfast at Hotel
- ☞ English speaking accredited guide/driver
- ☞ Travel in recent, comfortable and fully equipped Minivans
- ☞ Arrival transfer and private guided walking tour of **BORDEAUX**
- ☞ **MEDOC** full day wine tour with 3 Château visits
- ☞ **MEDOC** Lunch in selected restaurant during the tour
- ☞ **SAINT EMILION** wine tour with 1 Château visit & underground monuments private visit
- ☞ Transfer to **SARLAT**
- ☞ Entrance fees to National Prehistory museum, **LASCAUX II** and **ROUFFIGNAC CAVE**
- ☞ Entrance fee to **CASTELNAUD CASTLE**
- ☞ Lunch in a selected restaurant on day 6
- ☞ Boat Ride on the **DORDOGNE RIVER**
- ☞ Bottles of water in the minivan
- ☞ Return transfer to Bordeaux, Souillac train station, Toulouse or Brive
- ☞ Telephone assistance in case of any problems
- ⊖ Package excludes airline ticket on Air France

City	3-star	4-star	5-star
BORDEAUX	Residhotel Galerie Tatro or similar	La Maison Bord'Eaux or similar	Burdigala Bordeaux - Mgallery Collection or similar
SARLAT	Domaine du Chateau de Monrecour or similar	Hotel De Selves or similar	L'Incontournable Chambres & Spa or similar

### Important Notices:

- ✦ We are doing our best endeavors to continuously introduce new packages in new cities for you to explore.
- ✦ Fares are On Request basis.
- ✦ The Itinerary or program may be subject to change as per suppliers' latest updates and/or logistic issues.
- ✦ Actual rates will be given upon quoting / booking and this according to the recommended / selected route, availability and seasonality.
- ✦ Hence, you can select Your Hotels according to Your Budget. Choose between a budget minded accommodation, standard, first class and luxury hotel alternatives.
- ✦ You can combine different City Breaks, Mix and Merge programs.
- ✦ Few suggestions on sites to see and activities to enrich your stay, if any.
- ✦ The list of packages and itineraries are Not exhaustive. Other Packages are available and/or can be tailor-made. Just email us.

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### Route Notes

This tour is designed to discover two of the most beautiful regions of south western France. Firstly, the **BORDEAUX** wine region, a world-renowned destination for all wine lovers. Here, not only will you discover some of the most renowned appellations, but you will also have the opportunity to visit prestigious classified wineries and taste some of the most famous blends that this area has to offer. Your English speaking wine guide will also be happy to share all his/her knowledge so that your Bordeaux experience is as enriching as possible.

Secondly; you'll move on to the enchanting **DORDOGNE** region. Small traditional villages classified among the "most beautiful of France", breathtaking Medieval castles that line up along the river, refined and exhilarating art that goes back to the origins of Man... incredible food, all these aspects concur in making the Dordogne so special. From the beautiful town of **SARLAT**, experience daily excursions to the most significant attractions in what is, without a doubt, one of the fascinating provinces of France.

## ITINERARY



**BORDEAUX – MEDOC – SAINT EMILION – SARLAT – LES EYZIES – MONTIGNAC – DORDOGNE – BORDEAUX**

### Day 1 - BORDEAUX

- ✦ Our assistant will pick you up at Mérignac airport or Bordeaux Saint Jean Train station.
- ✦ Upon arrival, enjoy a private walking tour of **Bordeaux** with your English speaking tour guide.
- ✦ Discover the most famous monuments and landmarks that the city has to offer. **Bordeaux** has been classified a "City of Art and History" and is home to one of Europe's largest collection of 18<sup>th</sup> Century architecture.
- ✦ Stroll around imposing squares and adorned avenues. Admire the neo-classical Grand Theatre, conceived as a "Temple to the Arts and Light", Saint Andrews Cathedral where young Eleanor of Aquitaine married Louis VII.
- ✦ Return to hotel for an overnight stay.

## Day 2 - BORDEAUX - MEDOC - BORDEAUX



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- ✦ Breakfast then a full day tour to visit and wine taste three prestigious 1855 Classified Growth Châteaux from different **Medoc** appellations.
- ✦ Your tour will begin with the visit the buildings and *wine-making installations of the Châteaux* so as to better understand the chemistry & technical complexity involved in the wine making process. The visits also point out the importance of the soil and weather conditions, which the French translate into one very important word: **terroir**. All visits are private and will be for our small group only.
- ✦ Lunch today will be taken in a carefully selected local restaurant. Your day will also take you along the 'Route des Chateaux' so that you may admire some of the most famous estates such as **Château Palmer**, **Château Margaux** or **Château Pichon Longueville** for so many great photo opportunities. Night in Bordeaux.

## Day 3 - BORDEAUX - SAINT EMILION - SARLAT



- ✦ Breakfast then head to the wine region known as the **Right Bank**. Your main destination will be the **Saint Emilion** wine area where **Merlot** is the predominant **grape variety**. Here you will first enjoy a private visit and wine tasting in a classified growth chateau of the appellation.
- ✦ In **Saint Emilion** village your guide will explain the history of this quaint medieval town and you will discover the unique underground monuments, including the **Monolithic church**.
- ✦ Continue to the **Dordogne**.
- ✦ Check in your hotel in **Sarlat la Caneda** and spend the night in Sarlat.

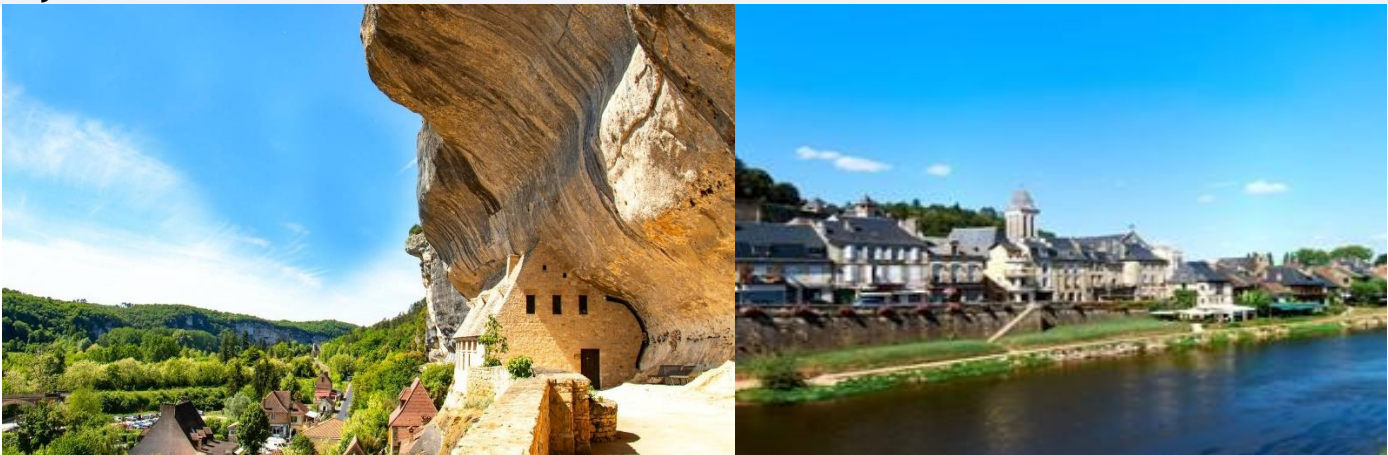
## Day 4 - SARLAT - ROCAMADOUR - SARLAT



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- ✦ Breakfast then a guided walking tour of historic Sarlat, a rich merchant town from the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- ✦ After the visit depart for the pilgrimage and fortress village of Rocamadour that has attracted visitors for its setting in a gorge above a tributary of the River Dordogne.
- ✦ The village is renowned for its historical monuments and its sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which for centuries has brought pilgrims from every country, among them kings, bishops, and nobles.
- ✦ Visit with your guide the renowned Notre Dame Chapel, part of an extraordinary 13<sup>th</sup> century chapel complex perched on a cliff and one of the *most dramatic pilgrimage sites in Europe*.
- ✦ Enjoy some free time for personal discovery and return to Sarlat for an overnight.

## Day 5 - SARLAT - LES EYZIES - MONTIGNAC - SARLAT



- ✦ Breakfast then experience the magical cave. Some 15,000 years B.C. unknown artists created breathtaking paintings, drawings and etchings inside caves of which the most extraordinary examples are found in the **Dordogne area**.
- ✦ During this day you will be introduced to this fascinating art and to the people who created it.
- ✦ Begin the day in Les Eyzies de Tayac for a guided visit of the **National Prehistory Museum**.
- ✦ Continue to Montignac where you will visit **Lascaux II cave**, a perfect reproduction of the original cave.
- ✦ Finally, end the tour with the visit of **Rouffignac Cave**, known as the '*Cave of the hundred mammoths*', and discover the original and authentic etchings and drawings. Night in Sarlat.

## Day 6 - SARLAT - DORDOGNE - SARLAT



- ✦ Breakfast then journey to the Dordogne valley through the **Carsac-Aillac** and **Montfort**.
- ✦ First discover and visit the mighty **castle of Castelnaud**, a **medieval fortress** overlooking the **Dordogne River**, erected to face its rival, the **Château de Beynac**.
- ✦ Today the picturesquely restored château houses a much-visited museum of medieval warfare, featuring reconstructions of siege engines such as the trebuchet.
- ✦ After a traditional lunch in one of the selected restaurants of the area, continue with the visit of the hill top **villages Beynac**, **La Roque Gageac** and the **bastide of Domme**. All three are classified as “*most beautiful villages of France*”.
- ✦ End the day with a peaceful cruise on the **Dordogne River** on board an authentic *Gabarre* to admire mighty castles that line the river. Night in Sarlat.

## Day 7 - SARLAT - BORDEAUX

- ✦ Breakfast at your hotel and transfer back to Bordeaux.