

FRANCE'S FINE WINES & CUISINE

9 Days FROM \$2,929



The fortified town of Carcassonne

PRIVATE DELUXE CHAUFFEUR DRIVEN PROGRAM

(2) Carcassonne • (2) Sarlat • (4) Bordeaux

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy 6 momentous wine tastings of some of France's prestigious wines such as Grand Cru Classe of Saint Emilion, Grand Crus, and Crus Bourgeois
- Indulge in 5 delicious dinners at gourmet restaurants
- Visit of Fermigier shop for a macaroon tasting session
- Explore the prehistoric Lascaux II Caves, featuring some of the best of European cave paintings
- Visit the historic center of Bordeaux and travel along the 'Route des vins', discovering idyllic vineyards, picturesque villages, chateaux, and hospitable "Vignerons"

DAY 1 | TOULOUSE | CARCASSONNE Arrive at Toulouse Airport and transfer to Carcassonne, where there will be a guided tour of the Medieval Citadel, a UNESCO Heritage Site. Discover this bustling town within a town with its maze of narrow cobble-stone streets and turreted thick wall ramparts. Check in and dinner at your hotel in Carcassonne. (D)



DAY 2 | CARCASSONNE | NARBONNE | MINERVOIS REGION | CARCASSONNE Depart for the visit of Fontfroide Abbey. Founded in 1093 on a land given to some Benedictine monks by the Vicomte de Narbonne, it is one of the most lavished and best-preserved Cistercian abbeys in France. The site includes a magnificent 3000-foot Rose Garden and a succession of Italian style terraced gardens. Continue to Minerve, a fortified medieval village with many of the fortifications still in place, perched on a naturally defended rocky peninsula high above a canyon in the barren Languedoc landscape. Return to Carcassonne after a visit of a local vineyard and a wine tasting experience. Dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 3 | CARCASSONNE | CAHORS | ROCAMADOUR | SARLAT Travel to Cahors, where you will see the famous Pont Valentré, a fortified work of art with three towers. Enjoy lunch on your own. In the afternoon, visit Cahors' vineyards and enjoy a wine tasting at Chateau Lagrazette. Depart for the pilgrimage and fortress village of Rocamadour. Set in a gorge above a tributary of the River Dordogne, this holy city clings to the steep rocky cliffs at a dizzying height, displaying layer upon layer of houses and chapels. Transfer to Sarlat and settle into your hotel. Savor dinner at a traditional restaurant (B,D)

DAY 4 | SARLAT | LASCAUX IV CAVE PAINTINGS | SARLAT After breakfast, enjoy your morning tour of Sarlat, an exceptionally well-preserved medieval town with renowned historical monuments. Later on visit the National Prehistoric Museum which houses France's most important Paleolithic collections including the first global set of Paleolithic art on engraved or carved blocks. See the oldest traces of life left by mankind and understand the evolution of societies over the last 400 millennia. Tonight, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 5 | SARLAT | SAINT-EMILION | BORDEAUX Head out to Saint-Émilion today. Here, you will visit the Château Ferrand, Grand Cru Classé of Saint-Émilion, and the lovely medieval town of Saint-Émilion, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a center of Bordeaux wine-making. Visit of the Fermigier shop and learn about the secret recipe of brightly colored macarons. Enjoy your macaroon tasting session. In the afternoon visit Chateau Coutet for wine tasting. Arrive in Bordeaux and settle in at your hotel. Dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 6 | BORDEAUX Day at leisure. Time to relax or to take an optional cooking class at the Michelin-starred restaurant Le Saint-James under the expert guidance of Head Chef Nicolas Magie and his team, or a cruise on the River Garonne. (B)

DAY 7 | BORDEAUX | ARCACHON | BORDEAUX Depart for Bassin D'Arcachon, a vast bay on the Atlantic Coast about 45 min drive from Bordeaux. Embark on a traditional boat for a cruise around the bay, learn about the iconic "cabane tchanquee" stilt houses and enjoy the spectacular views of the Ile aux Oiseaux and the Dune du Pilat – the highest dune in Europe. Savor local oysters for lunch, and spend an afternoon exploring the town of Arcachon on your own. (B)

DAY 8 | BORDEAUX | MEDOC VINEYARDS | BORDEAUX Travel through the celebrated 'Route des Vins' in the Medoc region, area of the most famous Bordeaux vineyards. From Pauillac to Margaux, you will discover some of the most prestigious names in the Grand Crus and Crus Bourgeois class wines. Experience three exquisite wine tastings as part of your exciting travel program before returning to Bordeaux. Tonight, enjoy a gourmet dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 9 | BORDEAUX TO USA (OR EXTEND YOUR STAY) Morning transfer to airport for your return flight home. (B)

(B) Breakfast - (D) Dinner



INCLUDED FEATURES

- Hotel accommodation for 8 nights
- 14 included meals consisting of:
 - 8 buffet breakfasts
 - 1 dinner at hotel
 - 5 gourmet dinners at local restaurants
- Touring by private deluxe air-conditioned minivan
- Assistance of an English-speaking professional driver/escort for the entire length of the program
- Sightseeing, including all entrance fees as follows:
 - Visit of Carcassonne
 - Visit of Fontfroide Abbey
 - Visit of Minerve
 - Visit of Cahors
 - Visit of Rocamadour
 - Tour of Lascaux II Caves
 - Visit of Sarlat
 - Visit of Saint Emilion
 - Tour of Bordeaux
 - Six wine tastings
- Arrival and departure airport transfers
- Document holder and luggage tags
- Hotel taxes and service charge

PREFERRED HOTELS (or similar)

City	Nts.	Hotels	Cat.
Carcassonne	2	Les Trois Couronnes	First class
Sarlat	2	Hotel Best Western Le Renoir	Tourist class
Bordeaux	4	Quality Hotel Sainte Catherine	Tourist class

2019 TOUR DATES & PRICES

January - December

Daily Departures

Minimum of 6 people

Minimum of 4 people

Minimum of 2 people

Price

\$2,929

\$3,580

\$5,446

Single supplement: On Request

Reduction for third person sharing twin-bedded room: On Request

Rates for additional nights at first and last city are available

Price is per person based on double occupancy.