









7-day/6-night Self-drive Bespoke Itinerary of the Bordeaux region

This is purely an *example* of a past itinerary – ask us to personalise your own Bespoke itinerary

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|  7-days/6-nights. |  4-nights Bordeaux boutique hotel. 2-nights St Emilion wine estate. |  Self-drive drive with intermediate size hire car and pre-programmed GPS. |  6 vineyard visits and 2 private wine tasting & coaching classes. |
|  3 lunches and 3 dinners included. | Misc Caviar farm visit and tasting. |  Bordeaux city walking tour. St Emilion underground monuments. Historical Sauternes château. Citadel of Blaye. |  Personalised guidebook sent in advance of arrival. |
|  2,300€ per person. | + Optional additions; Upgrade to 5* hotel in Bordeaux city. Michelin-starred dinner upgrades. Car hire upgrades available. Hot-air balloon ride. | | |

First 4 days

| | Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 |
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| Touring Region | Bordeaux city | Atlantic coast | Bordeaux city & Pessac-Leognan | Bordeaux city & Sauternes |
| Accommodation | 4 night's accommodation with breakfast at La Course boutique hotel in Bordeaux city centre. | | | |
| Activities | <p>Collect your hire car from Bordeaux airport. Use your pre-programmed GPS system (sent to you in advance of your arrival) to seamlessly find your hotel.</p> <p>Check-in to your accommodation in Bordeaux city.</p> <p>This afternoon will be kept free of pre-booked appointments so you can shake off your jet lag.</p> <p>A dinner table will be booked at the delightful little restaurant in Bordeaux. Their menu is not very extensive as they focus on using only the very freshest of ingredients, but everything they serve is wonderful, whilst also being quite simple.</p> | <p>This morning head out to the coastal region. It is very different to the rest of the region and well-worth visiting.</p> <p>Your morning at the coast will start with an appointment at a caviar farm where you will receive a tour then taste their delicacies.</p> <p>From here you can visit the intriguing oyster farming villages of Gujan Mestras. A lunch of freshly grown local oysters served with prawns will be served for you, accompanied by chilled white wine. The lunch is very simple and informal but comprises the freshest imaginable ingredients served in a unique location, amongst the oyster farming huts.</p> <p>This afternoon will be kept flexible allowing you to do whatever your mood dictates. A walk up Europe's largest sand dune, the Dune du Pyla, is highly recommended. The views from the top are simply stunning. Alternatively you may wish to stroll down quiet stretches of beach, take a boat ride in to the bay or visit a tranquil ornithological park. There is plenty to do and everything will be written up in your guidebook.</p> <p>Suggestions will be made in your guidebook of where you could eat, either at the coast or back in Bordeaux city tonight, and a reservation made if you wish.</p> | <p>Your morning today will be spent exploring Bordeaux city. It has breathtaking 18th century architecture that is easy to enjoy since Bordeaux has more pedestrianised streets than any other in Europe. The best way to discover it is to take an organised walking tour of the city. This will be organised for you at 10:00am in the morning. You will be met by a guide who will take you on a private walking tour of around 2 hours in duration.</p> <p>After lunch you will drive in to the neighbouring Pessac-Leognan appellation where a tour and tasting to a vineyard will be organised for you.</p> <p>Since you expressed an interest in architecture, this visit can be followed by the opportunity to see 'Corbusier's Pessac'. It consists of buildings on three roads that were the first hallmark styling of architectural modernism.</p> <p>This evening you will be booked in to a fabulous little gastronomic restaurant in Bordeaux. It really is an experience not to miss and is somewhere which is not typically frequented other than by locals in the know.</p> | <p>This morning you can choose to have a bit of a lazier start to the day if you wish. After breakfast we then recommend that you take a visit to the, open-air, organic food market held each Sunday morning in Bordeaux by the quayside.</p> <p>It is a wonderful place to pick up an informal alfresco lunch to enjoy by the river.</p> <p>After lunch you will drive south-east to the Sauternes area. It is steeped with history and culture. You will have the opportunity to tour some of its picturesque countryside and visit one of its historical châteaux.</p> <p>During the afternoon a visit to one of Sauternes' sweet white wine châteaux will also be organised for you. This will be organised at a small family-run property where you will be shown around by its owner.</p> <p>Bordeaux city is free to enjoy as you wish tonight. Restaurant recommendations will be described in your guidebook and a reservation made if you wish.</p> |
| Included Meals | Evening meal (excl drinks) at a restaurant in the city. | A light lunch of fresh oysters and prawns with wine. | Evening meal (excl drinks) at a gastronomic restaurant in Bordeaux city. | |
| Additional services | Throughout the duration of your stay you will be provided with a bespoke Satellite navigation linked to your personalised touring guidebook constructed specially for your stay. Gourmet Touring provides a complimentary 24-hour support service throughout the duration of your stay for any issues regarding advice or assistance that may be needed. | | | |

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Last 3 days

| | Day 5 | Day 6 | Day 7 |
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| Touring Region | Médoc, Blaye & St Emilion | St Emilion | Pomerol & Entre-deux-Mers |
| Accommodation | 2 night's accommodation with breakfast at Belles Perdix on the Château Troplong-Mondot estate just outside the town of St Emilion. | | |
| Activities | <p>Check-out of your accommodation and head northwards up the left side of the estuary in to the Médoc wine area.</p> <p>Your first appointment of the day to a highly regarded château, in the Pauillac appellation, where you will attend a private wine coaching session. The focus will be on the wines of the left bank (the Médoc). During the session you will taste wines from Margaux, St-Julien, Pauillac & St-Estephe. Through the tasting & discussion of these wines you will discover some of the subtle differences between the four most prestigious appellations of the Médoc.</p> <p>Lunch will be served for you at a busy restaurant in Pauillac – one that has an interesting mix of clientele from local workmen to vineyard owners. Its menu is simple but the food – whilst somewhat over generous – is great.</p> <p>After lunch a private tour and tasting to a Grand Cru Classé estate in one of the appellations that you learnt about earlier in the day will be organised for you.</p> <p>Cross over to the right bank via the 30-minute car ferry departing from just north of Margaux and arriving in to the citadel town of Blaye. Spend an hour or so wandering around this incredibly well preserved and amazingly un-touristy (as yet!) citadel of Blaye. It is a magnificent walled citadel designed in the 17th century by the famous military architect Vauban. It is similar in style to the more well known walled citadel of Carcasson but benefits from not being overrun by visitors.</p> <p>Then head down the picturesque '<i>route de Camargue</i>' and on to St Emilion to check in to your new place of accommodation in the grounds of a Château on the outskirts of the town.</p> <p>Nothing will be pre-booked for your dinner, but suggestions will be made in your guidebook (including the opportunity to eat at the magnificent restaurant at your accommodation if you wish).</p> | <p>After breakfast make your way to the outskirts of the town where you will start your second private wine class. This time you will explore in detail the wines of the right bank (St Emilion and Pomerol). Once again it will be a private session just for the two of you so can be tailored to your own specific areas of interest. It will include the tasting of 4 excellent wines from these two appellations.</p> <p>Various lunch suggestions will be made in your guidebook including a nice picnic spot in the hills above St Emilion should you wish to have an alfresco lunch.</p> <p>After lunch a pre-paid guided tour of St Emilion's incredible underground monuments will be organised, giving you an interesting insight in to the town's history and geology. It is a significant part of its culture that is hidden away and can only be viewed with an authorised guide.</p> <p>You will now have some free time to explore the cobbled streets of St Emilion. The buildings all tell a different architectural story and it is the region's most visited town and for good reason.</p> <p>At the end of the afternoon a tour and tasting to a St Emilion Grand Cru Classé estate will be organised for you.</p> <p>Your evening meal tonight will be at a small gastronomic restaurant in St Emilion town.</p> | <p>After a leisurely breakfast make your way to the neighbouring wine appellation of Pomerol. You will have learnt about their wines yesterday in your coaching session and this morning you will see and taste things first hand at a small estate where you will receive a private tour and tasting.</p> <p>After this visit drive in to Entre-deux-Mers. It is Bordeaux's largest wine appellation and is home to a myriad of wonderful little family run vineyards yet is surprisingly often overlooked by visitors to the region. In addition to the attraction of the wines it is also the area of the Bordeaux region that has the most picturesque countryside, rich culture and historic villages (all of which will be described in your guidebook).</p> <p>Your first port of call will be a lovely little restaurant in the countryside run by a husband and wife team. Their service is not the fastest but the food is magnificent.</p> <p>After lunch a route will be suggested that will take you through nice countryside, past ancient abbeys and through bastide towns and on to a family-run vineyard where you will be shown around by its owner and invited to taste their wide range of wines.</p> <p>Bordeaux airport is a relatively short drive from here so you will have plenty of time to drive there in good time for your 5:10pm departure flight.</p> |
| Included Meals | Lunch (excl drinks) at an informal restaurant in Pauillac. | Evening meal (excl drinks) at a small gastronomic restaurant in St Emilion town. | Lunch (excl drinks) at a delightful restaurant in the Entre-deux-Mers countryside. |
| Additional services | Throughout the duration of your stay you will be provided with a bespoke Satellite navigation linked to your personalised touring guidebook constructed specially for your stay. Gourmet Touring provides a complimentary 24-hour support service throughout the duration of your stay for any issues regarding advice or assistance that may be needed. | | |



GOURMET FOOD | FINE WINE | BESPOKE ITINERARIES

Accommodations

Your accommodation suggestions have been chosen carefully with regards their geographic location, to optimise the amount of the region you will be able to see during your stay without excessive driving, but as importantly for their character, friendly hosts and charm.

First place of accommodation

You will stay your first four nights in the city of Bordeaux. It makes geographical sense for you to stay these four nights here as it not only enables you to explore this beautiful city but it also offers excellent access to the Atlantic coast, Pessac-Leognan, Sauternes and the Médoc.

Nice small boutique hotels are fairly hard to find in Bordeaux, but our suggested place of stay is exactly that. La Course is an impeccably well presented place of accommodation. Its rooms are all large, have air-conditioning and are very stylishly furnished. It is located just opposite Bordeaux's largest public park and is a short walk from the centre of the city. If your preference is for well-priced small boutique hotels then we are confident you will love staying here. We propose that you stay in their '*Les Voiles*' room it has lovely views and provides the best value. If you would prefer to stay in a large room or one of their suites then this can be arranged for a supplement. Breakfasts are included as are local tourist taxes, but please note that the hotel does not have its own private parking.

Second place of accommodation

Your last two nights will be spent in St Emilion. The place of accommodation where you will stay is a picturesque building set amongst the vines of the Château Troplong Mondot estate. The estate refers to it as their "Vineyard house". It is a lovely little building, separated from the main estate and literally surrounded by the vines with gorgeous views from all the windows. The comfortable accommodation also has a lounge area. The vineyard is one of St Emilion's top 18 – a Premières Grand Cru Classé St Emilion and is located a 5 minute drive, or a nice 25 minute walk, away from St Emilion town centre. There is an outdoor pool for your use and the Château also has its own Michelin-starred restaurant where you could dine on your first night there if you wished.

Car Hire

Hire of a medium sized, manual transmission car, such as a VW Golf for the full 7 days of your stay, is included in the quote. A larger car or one with an automatic transmission can be provided at a supplementary cost if preferred. Car hire includes unlimited mileage, collision damage and third party liability for one driver. Damage excess levels can be reduced upon collection of the car for a nominal sum.

Pricing

The total price of the itinerary described on the previous pages is 2,450€ per person, based on two people travelling.

The cost of all specified meals, vineyard visits, tours, tastings, wine classes, accommodation, breakfasts, car hire (of an intermediate sized manual transmission car the size of a VW Golf), and a personalised touring guidebook and accompanying GPS are covered by Gourmet Touring.

Payment

A 20% deposit is required upon booking with the balance payable 8 weeks before departure.

Payment can be made by electronic transfer or by settling a PayPal request (which you can pay by credit card). Please note that no surcharges are made by us for payment by electronic transfer, but a 2% surcharge contribution is charged for payments by PayPal.