



France - Bordeaux Chateaux, Rivers and Wine Boat and Bike Tour 2018
Individual Self-Guided or Guided
8 days / 7 nights



During this unique tour you will explore one of the most beautiful, famous and beloved parts of France. The region of Bordeaux, located in sun drenched, south-western part of France is the perfect setting for a bike and boat tour. Set at the confluence of the Garonne and Dordogne rivers and the Gironde estuary, it is one of the most prolific and famous wine growing regions in the world. Caressed by Atlantic breezes, the vineyards that cover the rolling hills of the region have for centuries produced France's most remarkable wines. Appellations such as Saint-Émilion, Pomerol, Sauternes, Médoc and Margaux have made Bordeaux wines world famous.

During daily cycling tours through six famous wine regions you will visit these areas, see many châteaux and wine estates and you will probably taste various excellent wines. The Bordeaux area does not only offer the finest wines; it is also home to finest, scrumptious, distinct tasting culinary specialties. The cuisine on board is great and menus will include regional specialties, prepared with fresh ingredients. The bar on board offers a wide variety of excellent local wines to enjoy during dinner or simply to taste them during your personal "cocktail hour"... At the region's heart, the city of Bordeaux is the cultural center. Once known as the Sleeping Beauty, the UNESCO World Heritage Site stretches along the Garonne river banks, inviting visitors to savor its grand architecture, tempting cafés and shops and superb museums. The probably most bicycle-friendly French city sleeps no more! Cruise the Dordogne, Garonne and Gironde Rivers and cycle through the vineyards on carefully chosen routes and experience this region in a unique way!

Itinerary Day to Day

Day 1: Castets-en- Dorte – Canal des Deux Mers round tour 15 km

Individual arrival and optional transfer from the meeting point at Gare St. Jean train station in Bordeaux to the mooring location of the boat near the Canal des Deux Mers at Castets-en-Dorthe, located in the middle of the Garonne Valley. Embarkation starts at 3:00 p.m. You can enjoy an optional short first test bike ride around Castets, exploring this flat and fertile region aptly named “Little Holland” with its walnut trees, kiwi orchards and vegetable fields. Following the bike path along the Canal des Deux Mers (Canal of Two Seas) that links the Atlantic to the Mediterranean, you will discover this lush rural countryside. In the evening,



Guide.voyages-sncf.com



Thewinekart.com

Day 2: Castets-en- Dorte – Sauternes round tour 35 - 50 km | Castets-en-Dorthe – Cadillac

After a good sleep on board, you will be ready to discover by bike the Sauternais region, where sweet dessert wines are produced. Part of the route follows the winding banks of the Ciron River, whose icy waters flow into the warmer waters of the Garonne. In the autumn, when the climate is warm and dry, the combination of the two different temperatures produce a mist that descends on the vineyards, promoting the perfect conditions for the famous Sauternes wine. The country roads are dotted with picturesque chateaux whose elegant turrets rule over an ocean of colorful vines. Time seems frozen in the medieval era when Englishmen

ruled the region. In the late afternoon, back on board again, the tour continues by ship, heading downstream along the Garonne River to reach Loupiac or Cadillac, a small town with a towering castle.

Day 3: Loupiac/Cadillac – Entre-Deux-Mers / Graves round tour 40 km | Cadillac – Bordeaux

Cadillac is located in the region of Graves, also known as the birthplace of Bordeaux wines. It is a fortified medieval village known as a Bastide in the Entre-Deux-Mers wine region in between the Garonne and Dordogne rivers. The cycling itinerary today leads through this “Premieres Côtes de Bordeaux” wine growing area. There is an opportunity to visit the former residence of the writer Francois Mauriac and Malromé castle, house of the painter Toulouse-Lautrec, built in the sixteenth century. Wine tastings are offered here! Once back on board, you will sail the Garonne River towards the enchanting city of Bordeaux, reaching the passage of the famous Stone Bridge and the pier in the city center, facing the region’s most prestigious panorama: the Stone Bridge, Place de la Bourse and Quai des Chartrons which intermingle in a single view

Day 4: Bordeaux: Bordeaux bike tour 15 km

The tour guide will propose a city tour of Bordeaux to discover its architectural gems on two wheels: this short cycling tour, mainly over cycling lanes, along both sides of the Garonne River in the cycling capital of France offers beautiful panorama views of the waterfront and the city. In the afternoon, enjoy the UNESCO sites of Bordeaux during a walking or cycling tour. Its main attractions are the royal entrance of the city (Cailhau Gate), the Big Bell of Pey Berlan, the Golden Triangle, the Girondins column, the water mirror... and more. You will discover beautiful squares, a hidden garden or quaint location where you can do a tasting of the Bordeaux renowned “cannelés” and coffee or fresh oysters and white wine. There is free time in the afternoon to shop or explore. Be sure to explore the town’s streets and shops where wine is as sold as the underground cellars carved in stone or to visit the newly opened La Cite du Vin.



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Day 5: Bordeaux – Lamarque | Lamarque – Margaux (Medoc) round tour | Lamarque – Bourg 40 km

In the morning the ship cruises from Bordeaux to Lamarque in the Gironde estuary, to start your cycling tour in the famous Medoc wine area. Winding your way through vineyards, you will discover some of Medoc’s most beautiful castles and prestigious wineries, which pride in 21 first great classified growth, including the Chateaux Palmer, Issan, Lewis Brown, Rauzan Segla, Ferriere, and the last but not least Chateaux Margaux. You can stop at one of these great wine estates for a visit/tasting (optional) and learn everything about classifications before returning to the boat. In the late

afternoon, the ship will cruise the wide Gironde estuary to the jetty of Bourg, a picturesque little town near the conjunction of the Gironde and Dordogne rivers. The old city center overlooks the Gironde estuary.



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**Day 6: Bourg to Blaye Fortress and vineyards round tour
35 - 50 km | Blaye – Fronsac/Libourne**

Cycling from Bourg you will enter the Cotes de Blaye vineyard. Its wine chateaux may be little known but their production has nothing to envy to its more famous neighbours on the more famous opposite river bank of Medoc. You will be surprised to see what this region holds in secret behind its hilly landscape covered with endless vines and dotted with scattered fairy tale chateaux and elegant manor houses. Since the middle Ages, countless numbers of pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostella have passed through this region. Be enchanted by the “douceur de vivre” (sweet life), so typical



estuaire-gironde.fr

for this wine region. In Blaye, take a short loop through the Vauban Fortress (on the UNESCO World Heritage List) to admire this military masterwork of the architecture of Louis Sun King”, before you return to Bourg by cycling part of the ‘Corniche’, a scenic, quiet rode along the Gironde estuary. In the evening you will sail to Fronsac/Libourne on the Dorgogne River.



**Day 7: Fronsac/Libourne, Pomerol & Saint Émilion vineyards
35 -50 km**

In Libourne you can stroll to the picturesque city square, lined with buildings dating as far back as the 16th century. You can visit the weekly market on Friday mornings, before starting your exploration of the famous Pomerol and Saint-Emilion wine areas. Pedaling the countryside, bristling with wines, you will enjoy riding through this unspoiled UNESCO World Heritage landscape. Cycling the landscape provides a unique view of the village’s medieval lanes and surrounding vineyards. Take some time to visit beautiful Saint-Emilion. Your ride will continue on some picturesque back roads and

paths where you will get a glimpse of Saint-Emilion’s most famous chateaux. Along the way you will see some of the first classified wines such as Angelus, Ausonne, Cheval Blanc, Petrus – some of the world’s most famous wine estates. A true paradise for wine lovers!

Day 8: Fronsac/Libourne: Disembarkation and (optional) transfer back to Bordeaux

After your final breakfast on board, it will be time for a return transfer (optional) to the pre-agreed drop off point at the Gare St. Jean train station of Bordeaux. Disembarkation before 9:00 a.m.



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Route



Technical Characteristics

Tour Profile: Cycling during this tour in the Bordeaux area can be rated easy to moderate, with daily cycling distances from 30 to 50km. The terrain is relatively flat with some short climbs out of the river valleys onto the intervening vineyard areas and is suitable for cyclists with some (recent) practice and basic to moderate fitness levels.

Distance: 275 km

Travel Dates: **Departures Saturdays from Castets-en-Dorthe to Libourne/Fronsac** – April 28; May 12; May 26; June 9; June 23; July 7; July 21; August 4; August 18; September 1; September 15; September 29 and October 13
Departures Saturdays from Libourne/Fronsac to Castets-en-Dorthe: May 5; May 19; June 2; June 16; June 30; July 14; July 28; August 11; August 28; September 8, September 22 and October 6



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Price per person	April 28	May 5/ May 12/ October 13	All Other Dates
Twin Cabin Lower Deck double occupancy	€999.00	€1099.00	€1249.00
Twin Cabin Upper Deck double occupancy	€1149.00	€1249.00	€1399.00
Single Use Twin Cabin Lower Deck	€1299.00	€1399.00	€1599.00
Single Cabin Upper Deck	€1349.00	€1449.00	€1649.00
Junior Suite Lower Deck double occupancy	€1299.00	€1399.00	€1549.00
Reservation fee (obligatory surcharge) per booking/party		€15.00	
Rental bicycle with 21 gears, hand brakes, pannier bag		€75.00	
Rental e-bike (limited number)		€165.00	
Package guided cycling		€120.00	
Helmet (limited number- please inquire on booking)		Free of charge	

Included:

- Tour and accommodation on board in the booked cabin category
- Full board: 7 x breakfast, 6 x picnic lunch during bike tours, 7 x three course dinner
- Use of bed linen and towels (change of towels daily possible), daily cleaning of the cabin
- Welcome cocktail, presentation of ship + crew and briefing on the first evening
- Basic package "semi-guided cycling": Tour leader (English and French speaking) with daily briefings of the bike tours, some short walking tours; individual cycling: tour leader is not guiding the group, but cycling in the area and can be contacted during bike tours by mobile phone in case of questions, problems or emergencies (fully guided cycling as option / surcharge)
- Printed instructions and detailed maps for individual daily bike tours, 1 set/cabin
- Complimentary coffee and tea on board at the end of each cycling tour

Not Included:

- Transfers from/to Bordeaux to/from the docking places in Castets-en-Dorthe and Libourne/Fronsac
- Package guided cycling
- On board, GPS devices can be rented with all GPX-tracks for recommended cycling tours
- Other transfers, parking fees, entrance fees & excursions & wine tastings
- Drinks on board, personal insurances, gratuities (at your discretion)
- Special diets on request / surcharges may apply

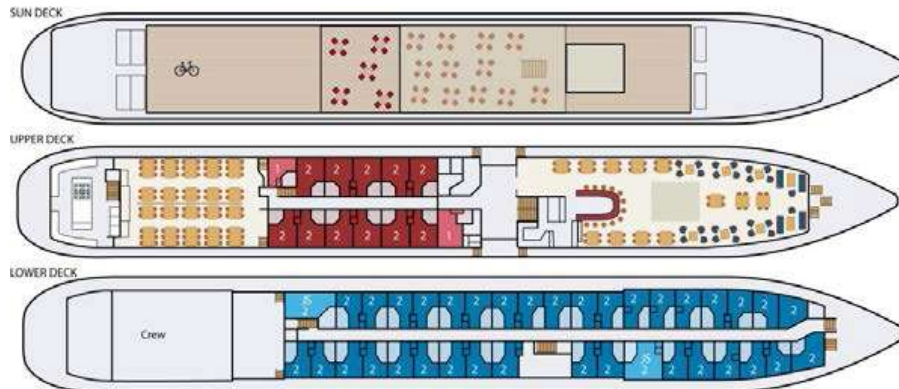


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The Ship Bordeaux



The BORDEAUX is 78 meters (256 ft.) long and 10 meters (33 ft.) wide and can accommodate max. 96 guests. The vessel is under experienced French management. The lower deck has 36 cabins: 34 twin cabins (approx. 7.5 – 8.00 M², 2 single beds next to each other), 2 junior suites (approx. 11.6M², 2 single beds next to each other, small sitting area); all cabins have small windows that can be opened, en-suite bathroom with shower + toilet, individually regulated air conditioning, satellite- TV, mini-safe. The upper deck there has 11 twin cabins and 2 single cabins. In the front part of the ship is the tastefully furnished salon/lounge with a nice bar and a small dance floor, large panoramic windows all around, and a separate restaurant. The sun deck has a large sunroof, chairs and tables & cycle shed (aft deck).



Assisting people in realizing their touring dreams worldwide is our passion.

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THIS IS A PARTNER TOUR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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