

PRIVATE ESCORTED TOURS

Southern France 2011



The Best of Bordeaux (5 days)
The Best of Languedoc (4 days)
The Cathar Citadels (4 days)
Heritage & High Tech (5 days)
Cave Paintings & Wine Tour (6 days)
Wine, Truffle & Foie Gras (4 days)
Bordeaux & the Basque Country (8 days)
Live Like a Prince (8 days)

Disclaimer: while every endeavor is made to keep to the programs and prices outlined in this document, FRANCE A LA CARTE reserves the right to change, modify or cancel certain visits or accommodations and to adapt the price in consequence.



THE BEST OF BORDEAUX

5 days / 4 nights

Day 1: Arrival Bordeaux

Arrival airport; welcome by your driver guide.
Panoramic tour of Bordeaux.
Transfer to your hotel in the city center.
Dinner & overnight at the hotel.



Day 2: Full day tour of Médoc

Pick up at the hotel by your driver guide, departure for the Médoc, the most famous of the Bordeaux vineyards which lies to the North-West of Bordeaux city, a vast spit of land between the Atlantic Ocean to the West and the Gironde Estuary to the East, a geographical location which confers on it a temperate climate suited to wine-growing.

This symbiosis of plant and environment has given 60 Grand Crus classés and 400 Crus Bourgeois in the 8 AOC of the Médoc.

Visit and tasting at the Château Giscours, Grand Cru classé in Margaux Appellation.

Visit and tasting at the Château Lynch Bages, Grand cru classé in Pauillac Appellation.

Lunch at leisure. We suggest : **Café Lavinal** *The café-restaurant is located in an old building at the heart of the hamlet of Bages, just opposite the famous bakery 'Au Baba d'Andréa'. Every day the chef creates a special brasserie -style cuisine for his clientele.*

Visit and tasting at the Château Beychevelle, Grand Cru classé in the St Julien Appellation.

Back to Bordeaux. Overnight at the hotel.



Day 3: Full day tour of Saint-Emilion

Pick up at the hotel and departure for Saint-Emilion.

Visit and tasting to the Château Franc Mayne, Grand Cru classé of Saint Emilion.

Visit St Emilion, mediaeval city, UNESCO world heritage site and one of the centres of Bordeaux wine-making.

Lunch at leisure. We suggest Le Logis de la Cadène in the medieval city.

A restaurant dating back to 1848 and located in a fine old mansion in the centre of the old town. One of their specialities is grilled meat on vine-clippings, but whatever you eat, you'll have a warm and attentive welcome.

Visit and tasting to the Château Laniote, Grand Cru classé of Saint-Emilion.

Back to Bordeaux. Overnight at the hotel.



Day 4: Bordeaux

Departure for a guided visit (2 hours) of **Bordeaux** to discover the old town: You will be able to discover the new heart of the City which has been considerably renovated with cleaned-up monuments, pedestrian zones and a brand-new tram service.

From the vestiges of the Middle Ages (11th century cathedral of St André, the St Pierre quarter), to the elegance of 18th century (the 4 km long façade overlooking the river, the place Royale, the



Grand Theatre, Bordeaux's 1781 opera). You will discover the different golden ages of Bordeaux's history, dominated by the wine trade and various colonial influences.

This afternoon you can do some shopping in the centre.

Gourmet dinner in a Michelin restaurant

Overnight at the hotel

DAY 5: Departure

Breakfast. Transfer to Bordeaux airport or train station.

Optional day - Arcachon



Pick up at your hotel and departure to the **Arcachon basin**, a vast lagoon on the Atlantic coast some 45 minutes west of Bordeaux.

Visit and caviar tasting at a sturgeon farm; stroll around Arcachon town.



On the way back to Bordeaux we stop at the Dune de Pyla – highest sand dune in Europe – to catch the beautiful views over the ocean and the interior forested in pines.

Back to Bordeaux and overnight at the hotel

Optional day – Cognac

Pick up at your hotel and departure to **Cognac**.

Cognac, the world-famous city that gave its name to Cognac, lies in the heart of Charente, 120 km north of Bordeaux.

It is attractive with its narrow medieval cobbled streets and elegant Renaissance facades.

Visit of the big mansion of **Hennessy** cognac, which is today the uncontested leader of Cognac and plays a unique role as ambassador of French art de vivre the world over.

Lunch at leisure.

This afternoon, discover of the "**Grande Champagne**" and the landscape and vineyards.

Visit of a traditional distillery in Segonzac the heart of the famous Grande Champagne.

Back to Bordeaux and overnight at the hotel



Accommodation: 5-star Hotel Burdigala

The Hotel BURDIGALA, situated within easy walking distance of the historic center of Bordeaux, is both elegant and welcoming. High standard of comfort prevails throughout is spacious bedrooms and suites.

Rooms:

The 83 rooms are decorated in contemporary style with relaxing colours and noble materials throughout such as wood and marble.

Facilities: Private bathroom, air-conditioning and Soundproofing, satellite television, telephone, mini-bar, safe, free broadband, internet access by WiFi



Restaurant & Bar:

Gastronomic restaurant "le Jardin de Burdigala"

Accommodation: 3-star Hotel Majestic

The Hotel MAJESTIC is situated in the commercial and historical of an 18th century building, in the centre of Bordeaux, next to the Grand Théâtre.



Rooms:

41 rooms, each with its own specific décor. Equipped with air condition, a WIFI Internet link, a modem socket, satellite TV, telephone, a mini-bar, and a bathroom with a bath and/or a shower.

2011 Price per person in € (euros)

The Best of Bordeaux	Basis 2 pax	Basis 4 pax	Basis 6 pax	Supp single room
3-star hotel	1,270	955	910	280
5-star hotel	1,445	1,135	1,085	465

Included in prices :

- Return transfers from Bordeaux airport or train station.
- Transport in air-conditioned mini van
- The services of a professional driver guide throughout the tour with commentaries in English
- Accommodation and meals for the driver
- 4 nights accommodation 5-star hotel Burdigala or 3-star hotel Majestic (or similar)
- Breakfast from day 2 to day 5.
- 2 dinners (including 1 gourmet dinner)
- Visits as mentioned :
 - Visit and tasting at the Château Giscours, Grand Cru classé in Margaux Appellation
 - Visit and tasting at the Château Lynch Bages, Grand cru classé in Pauillac Appellation
 - Visit and tasting at the Château Beychevelle, Grand Cru classé in StJulien Appellation
 - Visit and tasting to the Château Franc Mayne, Grand Cru classé in Saint Emilion Appellation
 - Visit and tasting to the Château Laniote, Grand Cru classé of Saint Emilion Appellation
 - Guide tour of St Emilion (*no entrances*)
 - Guided tour of Bordeaux (*no entrances*)

OPTIONAL TOURS	Basis 2 pax	Basis 4 pax	Basis 6 pax
Arcachon 5-star hotel	455	320	275
Arcachon 3-star hotel	415	275	230
Cognac 5-star hotel	495	330	280
Cognac 3-star hotel	450	290	240

Included in prices:

- Transport in air-conditioned mini van
- The services of a professional driver guide throughout the tour with commentaries in English
- 1 night accommodation 5-star hotel Burdigala or 3-star hotel Majestic (or similar)
- Visits as mentioned :
 - Visit at a sturgeon farm & caviar tasting (Arcachon option)
 - Visit and tasting at Hennessy & at a traditional distillery in Segonzac (Cognac option)

THE BEST OF LANGUEDOC

4 days / 3 nights

Day 1: Toulouse - Carcassonne (191 km)

Arrival Toulouse airport; welcome by your driver guide & transfer to Carcassonne.

Guided tour of the Mediaeval Citadel of **Carcassonne**, Unesco Heritage. It is a town within a town, a maze of narrow cobbled streets within severe ramparts of thick walls and turreted towers, but bustling with life and colour.

Check in into your hotel. Overnight in Carcassonne.



Day 2: Carcassonne - Pennautier - Minerve (102 km)

Pick up at the hotel and short drive to the **Chateau Auzias** in Pennautier for a guided visit of the vineyards and winery.

Wine tasting session in the wine cellars.

Suggested a lunch at the Chais du **Chateau Pennautier**, followed by a visit to the wine cellars of the Chateau.

Transfer to Caunes Minervois for a fascinating visit to the ancient Louis XIV marble quarry, where the marble was extracted for the Palace of Versailles.

On through the surrounding Minervois vineyards to **Domaine Clos Centeilles** in the region of the Minervois. A small independent producer, where they still press one of their wines by foot!!

You will enjoy the 'aperitif vigneron', tasting the wines with local products.

Overnight in Carcassonne.



Day 3: Limoux / Domaine de Gayda (95km)

Pick up at the hotel and transfer to **Limoux**

You will start the day at the **Domaine de Gayda**, with it's interesting history and wine making philosophy.

A visit to the ultra modern facilities, followed by a comprehensive wine tasting will give you a good idea as to why this stunning domaine is so successful.

A top quality lunch of your choice in the restaurant will set you up for the rest of the day's activities.

After lunch a guided visit to the 14th century **Abbey de St Hilaire** and its cloisters will transport you back in time and you will visit the actual cellars where sparkling wine was first discovered in 1531.

Next stop is the family run **Domaine de Fourn**, for a tasting of Blanquette and Cremant in their wine cellars. Surrounded by beautifully restored wine making equipment, it gives a fascinating insight into the region, its history, traditions but also shows a way forward for wines of the region.

Overnight in Carcassonne.



Day 4: Return transfer to Toulouse

After breakfast, transfert to Toulouse airport. End of our services.

Accomodation : 4-star Château de Floure

Within ten minutes of Carcassonne, you will find yourself in the peaceful countryside of Château Floure.

Formely a Roman Villa on the ancient Via Aquitania, it became a monastery in the middle ages. Today, the Château de Floure is a hotel of atmosphere with a gourmet Restaurant.

Rooms:

21 rooms, each room is unique but identical in comfort.

Equipped with a bathroom, hairdryer, mini-bar, air-conditioning, telephone, wifi.



Restaurant & bar:

Gourmet restaurant where the chef knows how to marry local produce with local wines in a real French tradition.

Activities:

Indoor/outdoor swimming-pool, a tennis court, a solarium, a spa & jacuzzi, a terrace.

2011 Price per person in € (euros)

The Best of Languedoc	Basis 2 pax	Basis 4 pax	Basis 6 pax	Suppl. Single
Package	1,680	1,160	990	355

Included in prices:

- Transfer and transport in air-conditioned minivan
- The services of a professional driver guide throughout the tour with commentaries in English
- 3 nights accommodation in a 4-star Hotel
- Breakfast from day 2 to day 4
- 1 lunch (Domaine de Gayda)
- Transfer from Toulouse airport and return transfer
- Visits as mentioned:
- visit and tasting at the Château Auziaz in Pennautier
- visit and tasting at the Domaine Clos Centeilles
- Visit and tasting at the Domaine de Gayda
- visit and tasting at Abbaye de St Hilaire
- visit and tasting at the Domaine du Fourn

Not included in prices:

- Flight
- Drinks, other meals not mentioned in the programme
- Insurance
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling

THE CATHAR CITADELS

4 days / 5 nights

The Cathar 'religion' was more a sect and distant branch of Christianity based on the principles of a Good God and a Bad God. All immaterial things are the work of the Good God and material things that of the Devil. By the XIIIth century Catharisme was practiced over a wide area of the Languedoc prompting the established Catholic church to bring these 'heretics' to reason – by force. This was the 'Albigensian Crusade' launched by the Church and the French King (who had political interests in the region) against the last incorrigible fanatics who had taken refuge in a number of castles and fortresses perched in inaccessible locations on cliff-sides and mountain-tops in the Montagne Noire, Corbières and Ariège, determined to brave the King's army and the Inquisition to the death.

Day 1: Toulouse – Minerve – Carcassonne – Lastours – Couiza (229km)

Pick up in Toulouse and departure for **Minerve** in the Minervois wine region. This extraordinary village perched on a limestone pedestal and surrounded by deep gorges in the Languedocien garrigue is classed as one of the 'Most Beautiful Villages of France'. But even its inaccessible location was not enough to spare its inhabitants from the wrath of the Albigensian crusade in 1210 when Simon de Montfort put its Cathar faithful to the sword.

Route to Carcassonne through the Minervois vineyards.

The afternoon is devoted to exploring the Medieval Citadel – la **Cité de Carcassonne** – which is visited on foot. Carcassonne was classed as a UNESCO World heritage site in 1997. Originally an Iron age *oppidum* the site was used in the 1st century for a Roman villa before re-appearing in the XIth century as a fortification belonging to the powerful Viscount Trencavel. During the Albigensian crusade new battlements were added as it became an emblem of Royal power.

Next stop the four towers of **Lastours** 16 km north of Carcassonne: an archaeological complex comprising mediaeval castles, a working archaeological site and visitor centre explaining the strategic, religious and historical importance of the site.

Transfer to Couiza and settle into a prestigious Château- Hôtel.

Dinner and overnight at the Château- Hôtel.



Day 2: Quéribus - Peyrepertuse - Couiza (170km)

After breakfast departure for **Rennes-le-Château**, small medieval castle village, known internationally for being at the centre of various conspiracy theories.

The story became the origin for hypotheses in documentaries and bestselling books such as **The Da Vinci Code**.

Then on to **Puilaurens, Quéribus** and **Peyrepertuse** castles built on impressive rocky outcrop

Dinner and overnight at the château-Hôtel



Day 3 : Montségur – Foix – Limoux - Couiza (199km)

After breakfast departure for **Montségur** : Seat and capital of the Cathar church. The famous siege of the citadel in 1244 lasted over 11 months before the 600 Cathars and soldiers within capitulated. 230 Cathars, unwilling to deny their faith, were burnt at the stake.

Onward to **Foix** and a visit to its château, seat of the last count of Foix, Gaston Phoebus. Built on the site of VII and VIIIth century fortifications in 1034, the castle became the stronghold of the Count of Foix and played a significant role in Mediaeval military history.

Over the following two centuries the castle played host to a number of heroic resistants of the



Albigensian Crusade and gave refuge to many persecuted Cathars. Although frequently besieged, notable by Simon de Montfort (in 1211 and 1212), the fortress resisted every attack.

Departure for the mediaeval Bastide of **Mirepoix** to visit its superb Grand Place with fine half-timbered arcades and houses. Particularly fine sculpted wood facades dating from 1501 are to be found on the Maison de Justice and the Maison des Consuls: coiffured gentlewomen, bearded faces and tortoises.

Return to Couiza, stopping en route for **wine-tasting at Limoux**, home to a champagne-method sparkling white.

Dinner and overnight at the château-hôtel in **Couiza**.



Day 4 : Couiza – Toulouse airport (99km)

Breakfast and transfer to Toulouse airport.

Accommodation: 3-star Hotel Des Ducs de Joyeuse

In the heart of the Cathar country this magnificent fortified castle on grounds giving on to the River Aude is now a very comfortable hotel. Although listed as ancient monument it manages to combine its historic and noble past with 21st century modernity.

Rooms:

21 rooms with shower or bath – view on to courtyard and river.

Restaurant:

Gourmet restaurant where the chef knows how to marry local produce with local wines in a real French tradition

Activities : Pool in summer, tennis



2011 - Price per person in € (euros)

Cathar Citadels	Basis 6 pax	Basis 4 pax	Basis 2 pax	Sup Single room
Package	1,145	1,365	2,020	245

Included in prices:

- Transport in air-conditional van
- The services of a professional driver guide throughout the tour with commentaries in English.
- 3 nights accommodation in a 3-star hotel
- Breakfast from day 2 to day 4.
- 3 dinners
- Visits as mentioned :
 - Château de Foix
 - Château de Montségur
 - Visit & tasting in Limoux
 - Châteaux de Lastours, Quéribus, Peyrepertuse

Not included in prices :

- Flights.
- Drinks, other meals not mentioned in the programme
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling
- Insurance.

HERITAGE & HIGH TECH

5 days / 4 nights

Day 1: Toulouse

Arrival at Toulouse airport. Welcome by your driver guide and transfer to your hotel. Time at leisure. Overnight in Toulouse city center.

Day 2: Toulouse

Breakfast at your hotel.

Guided tour of the **Airbus assembly line**. The Airbus A380, largest passenger airliner in the world, at your feet! The Airbus factory lies at the northern end of a great swathe of land to the north east of Toulouse known as 'aerospace valley': this contains Airbus, Astrium, Alcatel Space and the CNES (Europe's equivalent to 'NASA') and a number of Aerospace universities (ENAC, Sup-Aero).

Bang in the middle of this, in Toulouse's eastern suburbs, is the Space Centre - **la Cité de l'Espace**. The Space centre contains a wealth of exhibits, interactive resources, planetarium, IMAX cinema and other space-related games and documents to keep young and old entranced for hours. Overnight in Toulouse.



Day 3: Toulouse – Albi – Roquefort – Millau - Peyreleau (212 km)

Drive over through the Gaillac vineyards to **Albi**, magnificent pink-bricked town on the banks of the Tarn. Admire the fortified **cathedral of Ste Cecile**, a masterpiece of the Southern Gothic style, before touring the **Toulouse Lautrec museum** in the old Bishop's Palace, imposing fortress (XIIIth century).

On the road to Millau you will pass the village of Roquefort and its famous caves. Visit of the "Papillon" caves to discover the secrets of the Roquefort cheese.

Dinner & Overnight in your hotel at Peyreleau.



3-star Le Grand Hotel de la Muse et du Rozier



For over a century, Le Grand Hôtel de la Muse et du Rozier has stood as one of the most famous names in the **Gorges-du-Tarn** area.

Back in 1900, young Touring-Club-de-France chose a hamlet called La Muse to build a hotel able to entertain the growing amount of tourists (mostly British at the time).

La Muse proved to be a perfect location.

Close to Peyreleau, in a beautiful landscape, La Muse is where the small river La Jonte mixes with the wild waters of the Tarn.

Rooms:

38 rooms and suites on its 4 floors, with elevator access.. The suite comes with twin-bedrooms, a must for families. All the rooms are equipped with satellite TV, telephone, bathrooms, hair dryers – and separated toilets for most of them.

All of our 38 rooms and suites offer a rather magnificent view on Tarn and Capluc Rock. Just stand now and then at the balcony, and who knows, you'll catch sight of a doe, of a deer, on the other bank!

Restaurant & Bar:



An authentic French cuisine which innovates when necessary while always using fresh local produce.

In summer, meals are served on the terrace over-looking the river or beside the pool.

Leisure & Services:

The hotel has its own private beach and direct access to a safe spot of the river. When river water feels a bit too cold, it is time to try the heated pool, a few feet away. Cosy deck chairs will help the tanning process.

Internet Services, Wi-Fi/Wireless LAN



Day 4: Millau – Carcassonne - Toulouse (304 km)

Breakfast at your hotel.

Visit to Millau and its viaduct (20 minutes run from the hotel). The

Viaduct of Millau: Tallest in the world and taller than the Eiffel Tower, slung across the valley of the river Tarn, the Viaduct de Millau, designed by Norman Foster, was designed to take the A75 motorway from Clermont-Ferrand south to Beziers. The Millau Viaduct is currently the longest cable-stayed bridge in the world. It has a steel deck, rather than the more usual concrete roadbed.



Carcassonne : Visit of the citadel which dominates the old town.

It's a town within a town, a maze of narrow cobbled streets within severe ramparts of thick walls and turreted towers, but bustling with life and colour.

Overnight in Toulouse.

Day 5: Toulouse

Breakfast at your hotel.

Enjoy a walking tour of **Toulouse** and discover the main sites and monuments. During the tour, you will be able to admire the Capitole town hall and Saint-Sernin basilica, as well as many churches and private mansions, and appreciate wonderful views along the Garonne River. Transfer to airport.



2011 - Price per person in € (euros)

Heritage & High Tech	Basis 6 pax	Basis 4 pax	Basis 2 pax	Sup Single room
Package	1,090	1,290	1,900	295

Included in prices:

- Transport in an air- conditioned mini van
- The services of a professional driver guide throughout the tour with commentaries in English.
- Accommodation and meals for the driver
- 4 nights accommodation in 3-star hotels
- Breakfast from day 2 to day 5.
- 1 dinner (day 3)
- Visits as mentioned :
 - Airbus ▪ Cité de l'Espace ▪ Albi Pass : cathedrale & Toulouse Lautrec museum + guide ▪ Roquefort Papillon Cave ▪ Viaduct of Millau museum ▪ l'Église des Jacobins ▪ Place du Capitole ▪ La Salle des Illustres ▪ Basilique Saint-Sernin

Not included in prices:

- Flights.
- Drinks, other meals not mentioned in the programme
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling

CAVE PAINTINGS & WINE TOUR

6 days / 5 nights

Day 1: Arrival Bordeaux

Arrival Bordeaux airport or train station.
Welcome by your driver guide, panoramic tour of Bordeaux.
Settle into your hotel.
Dinner in a traditional restaurant.
Overnight in Bordeaux.



Day 2: Full day tour of Médoc (110kms)

Pick up at the hotel by your driver guide, departure for the Médoc, the most famous of the Bordeaux vineyards which lies to the North-West of Bordeaux city, a vast spit of land between the Atlantic Ocean to the West and the Gironde Estuary to the East, a geographical location which confers on it a temperate climate suited to vine-growing.

This symbiosis of plant and environment has given us 60 Grand Crus classés and 400 Crus Bourgeois in the 8 AOC of the Médoc.

Visit and tasting at the Château Giscours, Grand Cru classé in Margaux Appellation

Visit and tasting at the Château Lynch Bages, Grand cru classé in Pauillac Appellation

Visit and tasting at the Château Beychevelle in St Julien Appellation.

Return to Bordeaux. Overnight at the hotel.



Day 3: St Emilion - Sarlat (212kms)

Pick up at the hotel and departure for Saint-Emilion.

Visit and tasting to the Château Franc Mayne, Grand Cru classé of Saint Emilion.

Visit St Emilion, mediaeval city, UNESCO world heritage site and one of the centres of Bordeaux wine-making.

Lunch at leisure.

Visit and tasting to the Château Laniote, Grand Cru classé of Saint-Emilion

Transfert to Sarlat. Settle into your hotel.

Gourmet dinner and overnight in Sarlat.



Day 4: Sarlat & the Lascaux caves (134kms)

After breakfast and some time spent walking through **Sarlat**, capital of Black Périgord, exceptionally well-preserved city. More than 1.000 years of architecture live in its lanes, roof-tiles and stone walls. The exceptional number of buildings registered or classified as historical monuments makes Sarlat one of the most important European cities in terms of cultural heritage.

Lunch where you will.

Afternoon visit to **Lascaux II** where the cream of Europe's cave paintings is displayed. Incredibly realistic, this facsimile of the original cave, opened in 1983, reproduces 90% of the paintings found in Lascaux. Everything is there: the ambience, the paintings which appear to spring off the cave wall, the ceremonial sanctity of the place ... everything is done to make you believe you are in the real cave. Lascaux is near the village of Montignac, north of Sarlat.

Overnight and a gourmet dinner at your hotel in Sarlat.



Day 5: Sarlat / Les Eyzies / Bordeaux (191kms)

En route to Les Eyzies, world capital of prehistory listed among the 400 sites of the World Heritage of Mankind by UNESCO.

Le Musée national d'Archéologie des Eyzies, houses the most important paleolithic collection in France.

The Prehistoric Shelters: Laugerie Basse, Laugerie Haute, Fish shelter, Cap Blanc. The Cave of the Grand Roc:

Embedded in a magnificent cliff overlooking the Vézère Valley, the Grand Roc is an exceptional jewel. This natural masterpiece is made up of natural crystals famous for their variety, their unusual shapes and varied forms. Transfer to Bordeaux.

Overnight at 3-star hotel located in the heart of the City Centre.



Day 1: Bordeaux

After breakfast, guided tour of **Bordeaux**, UNESCO Heritage. You will be able to discover the new heart of the City which has been considerably renovated with cleaned-up monuments and pedestrian zones.

From the vestiges of the Middle Ages (11th century cathedral of St André, the St Pierre quarter), to the elegance of 18th century (the 4 km long façade overlooking the river, the place Royale, the Grand Theatre, Bordeaux's 1781 opera), you will discover the different golden ages of Bordeaux's history, dominated by the wine trade and various colonial influences.

Transfer to airport or train station.



Accommodation: 3-star Hotel La Couleuvrine Sarlat

This cosy and charming hotel is set in the walls of the medieval town center of Sarlat.

Rooms:

25 comfortable rooms with personalised decor **Restaurant &**

Bistrot:

Here, in a refined room near a warm fireplace, you will taste the products of the country judiciously re-imagined.



Accommodation: 3-star Hotel Majestic Bordeaux (see Best of Bordeaux)

Accommodation: 5-star Hotel Burdigala Bordeaux (see Best of Bordeaux)

2011 - Price per person in € (euros)

Cave Paintings and Wine Tour	Basis 2 pax	Basis 4 pax	Basis 6 pax	Supp single room
3-star hotel	2,020	1,365	1,145	270
3 & 5-star hotel	2,150	1,490	1,275	415

Included in prices:

Return transfers from airport or train station of Bordeaux

Transport in air-conditional mini van

The services of a professional driver guide throughout the tour with commentaries in English.

Accommodation and meals for the driver

5 nights accommodation

Breakfast from day 2 to day 7

3 dinners

Visits as mentioned:

- Visit and tasting at the Château Giscours or similar in Margaux Appellation
- Visit and tasting at the Château Lynch Bages or similar in Pauillac Appellation
- Visit and tasting at the Château Beychevelle or similar in Saint Julien Appellation
- Visit and tasting to the Château Franc Mayne or similar
- Visit and tasting to the Château Laniote or similar
- Les Eyzies prehistoric museum
- Prehistoric shelters : Laugerie Basse, Laugerie Haute, Fish shelter, Cap Blanc cave
- Cave Lascaux II
- Guided visit of St Emilion, mediaeval city, UNESCO world heritage site (*no entrances*)
- Guided visit of Bordeaux, UNESCO world heritage site (*no entrances*)

Not included in prices:

Flight

Drinks, other meals not mentioned in the programme

Insurance

Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling

WINE, TRUFFLE & FOIE GRAS 4 days / 3 nights

DEC 2010 – MARCH 2011

**Arrival Sunday, departure Wednesday
From 12th Dec until 06nd March**

The truffle market in Lalbenque, the largest in Southwest France hardly needs introducing: it's a veritable ceremony to which the initiated flock to buy the 'Black Diamond' at the price of gold. The Official opening of the truffle market in Lalbenque is in early December. Market days take place every Tuesday until early March.



Day 1 : Bordeaux / Saint Emilion/ Saint Beauzeil (198 km)

Pick up at Bordeaux and transfer to Saint-Emilion. Guided visit of **St Emilion**, mediaeval city, UNESCO world heritage site and one of the centres of Bordeaux wine-making.

Visit and tasting to the Château Franc Mayne, Grand Cru classé of Saint Emilion.

Transfer to the Quercy region and check in a Château Hotel.

Gourmet dinner where you will discover a range of typical dishes. Overnight in the château.



Day 2 : Saint Beauzeil: Foie Gras cooking lesson



After breakfast Guy Hérault, the *chef cuisinier*, welcomes you into his kitchen for a hands-on session all about the preparation and service of *foie gras*. At **lunch** time you will eat the fruit of your own labours! (wine included). In the afternoon a visit to the **foie gras farm museum**.



The evening will be spent exploring the particularities of the Cahors wines.

Gourmet dinner and overnight at the château.

Day 3 : Saint Beauzeil : Truffle market in Lalbenque (137 km)

Today is devoted to the « Black Diamond » the truffle of the Quercy. Departure to St Cyprien for visit and initiation of "cavage" that will show the techniques of findings the truffles with a dog or a pig.

Truffled lunch at the Ferme Auberge "La Grange de Marcillac".

After lunch departure to the truffle **market of Lalbenque**, one of the most important in France.

Back to St Beauzeil for **Gourmet dinner** and overnight at the château.



Day 4 : Saint Beauzeil / Bordeaux (172 km)



After breakfast departure for a guided visit of **Bordeaux**, UNESCO Heritage City. You will be able to discover the new heart of the City. From the vestiges of the Middle Ages to the elegance of 18th century, you will discover the different golden ages of Bordeaux's history, dominated by the wine trade and various colonial influences.

Transfer to airport or train station.



3-star Château de l'Hoste Quercy

The hotel is situated at the heart of the Quercy Blanc, near to the mediaeval bastides and the banks of the Lot river. The XVIIth century château is now transformed into a three star hotel of quality and character on its own grounds of 10 acres. You will appreciate the warm and friendly ambiance in a charming area combined with modern comfort.

Rooms:

27 rooms, all equipped with a bathroom, safe, wifi, mini bar, television, direct telephone, hairdryer.

The deluxe rooms are made up with a king size bed.

Restaurant & Bar:

Restaurant with fire place in the winter season.

Gourmet Cuisine prepared with regional products.

Wine list with a large choice of the best Cahors wines and also a special Spirits list for Armagnac and Whiskies at the Bar.

During summer season, lunch and dinner are served in the Park.

Leisure & Services:

table tennis, bike rental, swimming-pool, library and bar with fireplace, relaxing massages and beauty treatments, wifi, solarium, room service

Gastronomy: hands on cooking lessons provided by the Head Chef.



2011 - Price per person in € (euros)

Wine, Truffle & Foie Gras	Basis 6 pax	Basis 4 pax	Basis 2 pax	Suppl. Single-room
Package	970	1,180	1,770	90

Included in prices:

- Transport in air-conditioned mini van
- The services of a professional driver guide throughout the tour with commentaries in English
- Accommodation and meals for the driver
- 3 nights accomodation in 3-star Hotel Château de l'Hoste in deluxe room)
- Breakfast from day 2 to day 4.
- 3 dinners
- 1 lunch in a Ferme Auberge
- 1 cooking lesson
- Foie gras museum visit
- Initiation of truffle "cavage"
- Visit and wine tasting at Château Franc Mayne

Not included in prices :

- Flights.
- Drinks, other meals not mentioned in the programme
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling
- Insurance.

TRUFFLE & FOIE GRAS 4 days / 3 nights

Day 1 : Saint Beauzeil : Foie Gras cooking lesson

Welcome by your driver guide and transfer to the Quercy
Check in at your hotel.
Welcome cocktail with the Director and the *chef de cuisine*.
Gourmet dinner where you will discover a range of typical dishes.
Overnight in the château.



Day 2 : Saint Beauzeil : Foie Gras cooking lesson



After breakfast Guy Hérault, the *chef cuisinier*, welcomes you into his kitchen for a hands-on session all about the preparation and service of *foie gras*.
At **lunch** time you will eat the fruit of your own labours! (wine included).
In the afternoon a visit to the **foie gras farm museum** in nearby Frespech.



The evening will be spent exploring the particularities of the Cahors wines.
Gourmet dinner and overnight in château.

Day 3 : Saint Beauzeil : Truffle market in Lalbenque (137 km)

Today is devoted to the « Black Diamond » the truffle of the Quercy.
Departure to St Cyprien for visit and initiation of "cavage" that will show the techniques of findings the truffles with a dog or a pig.
Truffled lunch at the Ferme Auberge "La Grange de Marcillac".
After lunch departure to the truffle **market of Lalbenque**, one of the most important in France.

Gourmet dinner and overnight in château.



Day 4 : Saint Beauzeil / Toulouse

Breakfast at your hotel. Transfer to Toulouse.

2011 in euros – Price per person

Truffle & Foie Gras	Basis 6 pax	Basis 4 pax	Basis 2 pax	Suppl. single-room
Package	940	1,090	1,465	90

Included in prices:

- Transport in air-conditioned mini van
- The services of a professional driver guide throughout the tour with commentaries in English.
- Accommodation and meals for the driver
- 3 nights accomodation in 3-star Hotel Château de l'Hoste
- Breakfast from day 2 to day 4.
- 3 dinners
- 1 lunch in a Ferme Auberge
- 1 hands on cooking lesson at Château de L'Hoste
- Foie gras museum visit
- Initiation of truffle "cavage"

BORDEAUX & THE BASQUE COUNTRY

8 days / 7 nights

Day 1: Bordeaux

Arrival in Bordeaux.
Welcome by your driver guide.
Panoramic tour of Bordeaux, then transfer to your hotel in Bordeaux city centre. Dinner in a traditional restaurant.
Overnight in Bordeaux.



Day 2: Full day tour of Medoc (71km)

Breakfast at your hotel.
Departure for the Pauillac region, one of the most prestigious vineyards where 18 of the famous 1855 'Grand Crus' are grown. The tour continues with a **visit and tasting** at Château Lynch-Bages, Grand cru classé in Pauillac Appellation. The Margaux region is based on white gravelly soil brought down from the mountains by river, and which has been laboured and transformed by the winemakers' industry and savoir-faire. **Visit and tasting** at Château Giscours in the Margaux Appellation, with vineyards dating back to the 14th century. **Visit and tasting** at the Château Beychevelle in the Saint Julien Appellation.
Return to Bordeaux & overnight.



Day 3: Bordeaux

After breakfast, departure for a guided visit of Bordeaux; You will be able to discover the new heart of the City. From the vestiges of the Middle Ages, to the elegance of the 18th century, You will discover the different golden ages of Bordeaux's history, dominated by the wine trade and various colonial influences. Bordeaux is now a UNESCO Heritage.
Afternoon at leisure.
Gourmet dinner in a Michelin restaurant.
Overnight in Bordeaux.



Day 4: Bordeaux , Arcachon, Biarritz & Bayonne (166km)

This morning departure to the Basque Country
We will visit the **Arcachon basin**, a vast lagoon on the Atlantic coast some 45 minutes west of Bordeaux.
Visit and caviar tasting at a sturgeon farm; stroll around Arcachon town and lunch at leisure.
Arrival in Bayonne and settle into your hotel
Then we head for the dramatic seafront in **Biarritz**, which has always remained a fashion hot spot.
Today, the town is sprinkled with some of the most beautiful "Belle Epoque" villas of France. Optional visit to Musée de la Mer (which has 24 aquariums containing sharks and seals), and the Musée du Chocolat.
Back to Bayonne & overnight.



Day 5: Bayonne

After breakfast, guided tour of the Basque Country capital. You will discover its characteristic arcades, façades of stone and half-timbered houses. We suggest the visit of two remarkable museums: the **Bonnat Gallery** and the **Musée Basque** for a fascinating insight into local customs.

Then day at leisure to explore independently the town.

Dinner in a typical Basque restaurant.

Overnight in Bayonne.



Day 6 : Bayonne – Bilbao - San Sebastian (302km)

Certainly one of the highlights of the week! Your day will begin by the visit of the incredible **Guggenheim museum** located in the city of Bilbao. Conceived by US architect Franck O. Gehry, the museum possesses one of the most important collections of XXth century art.

After the visit and some time in Bilbao, we will return via San Sebastian, the Spanish equivalent to Biarritz.

Overnight in Bayonne.



Day 7: Biarritz - Bordeaux (166km)

After breakfast, transfer to Bordeaux airport (or train station).

Optional day: Lourdes – Toulouse (335km)

After breakfast departure to Lourdes a famous city where in 1858 in a cave near the town - the **Grotte de Massabielle** - the Virgin Mary appeared several times to a local girl. You will enjoy the splendour of the enormous **Basilica of the Rosary** and **Lourdes castle**.

Transfer to Toulouse airport or train station.



Accommodation: 3-star Hotel Best Western Le Grand Hotel



Located in the heart of the old town, neighbouring the theatre and the cathedral Le Grand Hôtel, built on an ancient convent of Carmes, welcome you in a cosy and warm atmosphere.

Rooms:

54 elegant rooms spacious and comfortable.

Facilities: free WiFi access, air-conditioning, air-dryer, satellite television, mini bar, telephone.

The English-style pub proposes an elegant setting where you can relax and enjoy a drink.



3-star Hotel Majestic (see Best of Bordeaux)

2011 - Price per person in € (euros)

Bordeaux & the Basque Country	Basis 2 Pax	Basis 4 Pax	Basis 6 pax	Supp Single rooms
Package	2,820	1,870	1,560	400
Option Lourdes, Toulouse	365	190	140	-

Included in prices:

- Transport in air-conditioned mini van
- The services of a professional driver guide throughout the tour with commentaries in English
- Accommodation and meals for the driver
- 8 nights accomodation in 3-star Hotels
- Breakfast from day 2 to day 8.
- 3 dinners (including one gourmet dinner)
- Visits as mentioned :
 - Visit and tasting at the Château Giscours, Grand Cru classé in Margaux Appellation
 - Visit and tasting at the Château Lynch Bages, Grand cru classé in Pauillac Appellation
 - Visit and tasting at the Château Beychevelle, Grand Cru classé in Saint Julien Appellation
 - Guided visit of Arcachon and caviar tasting at a sturgeon farm
 - Entrance to Guggenheim museum
 - Guided visit (2 hours) of Bordeaux(*no entrances*)
 - Guided visit of Bayonne

Not included in prices :

- Flights.
- Drinks, other meals not mentioned in the programme
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling
- Insurance.

"LIVE LIKE A PRINCE": CUISINE & WINE

Day 1: Toulouse - Carcassonne (96 km)

Arrival in Toulouse and welcome by your driver guide.

Transfer to Carcassonne.

Guided tour of the Mediaeval Citadel of **Carcassonne**, Unesco Heritage. It is a town within a town, a maze of narrow cobbled streets within severe ramparts of thick walls and turreted towers, but bustling with life and colour.

Check in into your hotel. Overnight in Carcassonne.

Before dinner, you are invited to a **wine tasting initiation** by a professional sommelier.

Dinner and overnight in Carcassonne.



Day 2: Pennautier - Minervois (52 km)

Pick up from your hotel.

Short drive to the **Château Auzias** in Pennautier for a guided visit of the vineyards and winery.

Wine tasting session in the wine cellars.

Suggested a lunch at the Chais du **Château Pennautier**, followed by a visit to the wine cellars of the Château.

Drive across Carcassonne to Caunes Minervois for a fascinating visit to the ancient Louis XIV marble quarry, where the marble for the Palace of Versailles was extracted.

On through the surroundings Minervois vineyards to **Domaine Clos Centeilles** in the award winning La Livinière region of the Minervois. A small independent producer, where they still press one of their wines by foot!!

You are invited to an intimate 'aperitif vigneron', tasting the wines with local produce

Back to Carcassonne.

Gourmet dinner in a traditional restaurant.

Overnight in Carcassonne.



Day 3: Carcassonne -Montauban – Cahors - St Beauzeil (265 km)

This morning departure for **Montauban**, city of pink bricks. Walk through the historical centre of Montauban to discover the main monuments and head towards Cahors.

Visit of **Cahors**, city with a prosperous past with the famous Pont Valentré, fortified work of art with three towers.

Lunch at leisure in Cahors city.

This afternoon visit and **wine tasting of cahors vineyards** which are implanted on two types of "terroir": the Lot Valley and the Limestone Plateau.

Transfer to the Quercy region and settle into your hotel Château de l'Hoste.

Gourmet dinner and overnight in St. Beauzeil.



Day 4: St Beauzeil



After breakfast the chef welcomes you into his kitchen for a **hands on cooking lesson** all about the preparation and service of foie gras, fish or dessert. For **lunch** you will enjoy the fruit of your own labours!

Transfer to the village of Frespech and guided tour of the farm and the foie gras museum. It is the only one of its kind in France. It traces the history of **Foie Gras**, following this magnificent dish, which has been one of the high

points of gastronomy throughout the centuries, from the Egyptians to the Romans and from the Jews of Bohemia to the famous banquets of the 19th century.

Gourmet Dinner and overnight in St. Beauzeil.



Day 5: Lascaux II Cave Paintings - Sarlat (260 km)

This morning departure to **Lascaux II**, where the cream of Europe's cave paintings is displayed. Incredibly realistic, this facsimile of the original cave, opened in 1983, reproduces 90% of the paintings found in Lascaux. Everything in there: the ambience, the paintings, which appear to spring off the cave wall, the ceremonial sanctity of the place....everything is done to make you believe you are in the real cave.

Then your guide will drive you to **Sarlat**.

Sarlat is the capital of Black Périgord and an exceptionally well-preserved city. More than 1.000 years of architecture live in its lanes, roof-tiles and stone walls. The exceptional number of buildings registered or classified as historical monuments makes Sarlat one of the most important European cities in terms of cultural heritage.

Gourmet dinner and overnight in Sarlat.



Day 6: Sarlat - St Emilion - Bordeaux (211 km)

Departure for Saint-Emilion.

Visit and wine tasting at **Château Franc Moyen**, Grand Cru classé of Saint-Emilion.

Visit of **Saint-Emilion**, mediaeval city, UNESCO world heritage site and one of the centres of Bordeaux wine-making.

Transfer to Bordeaux. Your guide will take you on a tour of

Bordeaux to discover the old town: From the vestiges of the Middle Ages to the elegance of 18th century, you will discover the different golden ages of Bordeaux's history, dominated by the wine trade and various colonial influences. Overnight in Bordeaux.



Day 7: The Medoc vineyards (105 km)

This morning departure for the **Médoc region**, the most famous of the Bordeaux vineyards which lies to the North-West of Bordeaux city, a vast spit of land between the Atlantic Ocean to the West and the Gironde Estuary to the East, a geographical location which confers on it a temperate climate suited to vine-growing. This symbiosis of plant and environment has given us 60 Grand Crus classés and 400 Crus Bourgeois in the 8 AOC of the Médoc.

From Pauillac to Margaux, dotted along the Gironde river, you'll visit or drive through some of the most prestigious locations.

Of course, **wine tasting session** will also be on your program today!

Back to Bordeaux.

Gourmet dinner in a Michelin restaurant.

Overnight in Bordeaux.



Day 8: Free day in Bordeaux or optional tour to Arcachon (143 km)

Pick up at your hotel and departure to the **Arcachon basin**, a vast lagoon on the Atlantic coast some 45 minutes west of Bordeaux.

Visit and caviar tasting at a sturgeon farm; stroll around Arcachon town.

On the way back to Bordeaux we stop at the Dune de Pyla – highest sand dune in Europe – to catch the beautiful views over the ocean and the interior forested in pines.

Back to Bordeaux and overnight at the hotel



Day 9: Bordeaux

Breakfast at your hotel. Transfer to the airport Bordeaux.

2011 in euros per person

Live like a Prince	Basis 6 pax	Basis 4 pax	Basis 2 pax	Single room
Price per person in euros	2,030	2,430	3,575	550
Optional day Arcachon	120	165	290	-

Included in prices:

- Transport in air-conditioned mini van
- The services of a professional driver guide throughout the tour with commentaries in English.
- Accommodation and meals for the driver
- Accommodation in 3-star hotels
- Breakfast from day 2 to day 9
- 1 lunch
- 6 dinners (including one gourmet dinner)
- Visits as mentioned :
 - Wine tasting Carcassonne ▪ Visit and wine tasting in Pennautier and Minervois ▪ Visit and wine tasting of cahors vineyards ▪ Visit at the Lascaux II cave paintings ▪ hands on cooking lesson ▪ Foie Gras museum ▪ Wine tasting in St Emilion ▪ Visit and wine tasting Château Franc Mayne ▪ Wine tasting Medoc

Not included in prices:

- Flights.
- Drinks, other meals not mentioned in the programme
- Any other options, tips or personal expenses, luggage handling
- Insurance.