

French Wine Explorers

Best of Bordeaux : Médoc, Graves, Saint Emilion & Sauternes

May 11-17, 2003 7 days, 6 nights Limited to 14 guests
Co-led by Robin Garr, wine journalist, of WineLoversPage.com,
and Lauriann Greene and Jean-Pierre Sollin, Sommeliers-Conseil

An outstanding opportunity to taste at Bordeaux's most prestigious chateaus, including nearly all the famous first-growth estates. All the major regions of Bordeaux are included, to give you an excellent overview of this fascinating and important region.

Sample Itinerary*

Sunday, May 11

D

Meet late afternoon at the Hotel de Normandie in Bordeaux, conveniently located in the historic center of the city, near shops and restaurants. We'll start with an orientation/getting acquainted session at the hotel, including a short introduction to wine tasting techniques to give us a common tasting language for the tour; then we're off to our welcome dinner in a fine local restaurant

Monday, May 12

Sauternes, Pessac-Leognan

B, L

We'll begin our wine explorations today in the Graves, with our first tour and tasting at renowned first growth **Château Haut Brion** in Pessac-Leognan. After an elegant lunch, we'll taste the exceptional wines at 1er Grand Cru Classé **Château Suduiraut** in Sauternes. Finally, we'll have an extraordinary **surprise visit and tasting** at perhaps the most famous estate in the world in Sauternes. Dinner tonight on your own at one of Bordeaux's many fine restaurants, with our suggestions.

Tuesday, May 13 *Saint Emilion, Pomerol, Lalande de Pomerol, Montagne Saint Emilion*

B, L, D

Our destination is the Right Bank and the Libournais today, for tours and tastings today at leading estates (Beauséjour Bécot, La Conseillante, Cheval Blanc, etc.) in Saint Emilion and Pomerol. Stroll through the beautiful village of **Saint Emilion**, then check out one of the newest *garagiste* producers, **Chateau Acapella**, in a barrel tasting with the owners. Back to Bordeaux for dinner at **one-star Jean Ramet restaurant**.

Wednesday, May 14

Saint Emilion, Pomerol

B, L

On our second day on the Right Bank, we'll delve further into this region where Merlot is king. We'll enjoy tours and tastings at two great chateaus in **Saint Emilion and Pomerol** (L'Eglise Clinet, Canon La Gaffalière, etc.), as well as a gourmet lunch in Saint Emilion. You'll have the late afternoon and evening free to visit some of the historic sites of Bordeaux and dine in one of its great restaurants.

Thursday, May 15

Pauillac, Margaux, Saint Julien, Saint Estephe

B, L, D

Today is the first of two blockbuster days in the Médoc, with a combination of visits to world-renowned first growth chateaus, including Chateaus Margaux, Latour, Mouton Rothschild and other top Grand Cru Classé chateaus (Cos d'Estournel, Palmer, Léoville Las Cases, Montrose, Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande, etc.). We'll dine at the elegant Chez Dubern restaurant, just a short walk from the hotel.

Friday, May 16

Pauillac, Margaux, Saint Julien, Saint Estephe

B, L, D

Our second day at the mythic Grand Cru Classé chateaus of the Médoc. In addition to tours and tastings at the great chateaus, we'll take time for an elegant lunch in Saint Julien, and stop for photos of the other beautiful chateaus we pass along our route today. We'll celebrate that evening back in Bordeaux with a gala farewell dinner at **restaurant Didier Gélinau** with great wines.

Saturday, May 17

B

Your wine tour ends after breakfast today.

Legend for meals included in your tour: **B**=Breakfast, **L**=Lunch, **D**=Dinner

* **Itinerary subject to change** : every effort will be made to keep the itinerary as close as possible to what appears here ; however, the final itinerary may vary due to wine producer schedules, availability and factors beyond our control.

Please note: Wine producer visits are by special arrangement, and winemakers may not be available on our dates. Producers mentioned here are meant to be representative, except where otherwise noted. To see producers visited during our 2002 tour of Bordeaux, please go to <http://www.wine-tours-france.com/photosBordeaux02.htm> .

Your 7 Day, 6 Night Tour includes :

- 6 nights at the comfortable 3-star Hotel de Normandie in Bordeaux, double occupancy (4-star rooms in the same hotel are available for an additional US\$300 per person dble occ., dependent on availability)
- 4 gastronomic dinners with fine wines, including one-star Michelin rated Jean Ramet restaurant
- 5 gourmet lunches with regional wines
- Continental breakfast each day
- Deluxe, air-conditioned motor coach transportation throughout
- All wine chateau tours and tastings
- The services of two sommeliers (wine experts) throughout the tour
- An Introduction to Wine Tasting taught at the level of the group
- A full packet of wine tasting information, a tasting notebook created by French Wine Explorers, brochures on the regional wines, city maps, and a small wine accessory gift.

Price per person, double occupancy : US\$2,895.00

Single Supplement : US\$250.00

(Singles: please let us know if you'd like to room with another single to take advantage of the double occupancy price)

Space is limited to 14 guests, so reserve your place today!

We accept VISA, MasterCard, American Express or checks or money orders in US Dollars.

We look forward to meeting you in France !

The Staff of French Wine Explorers