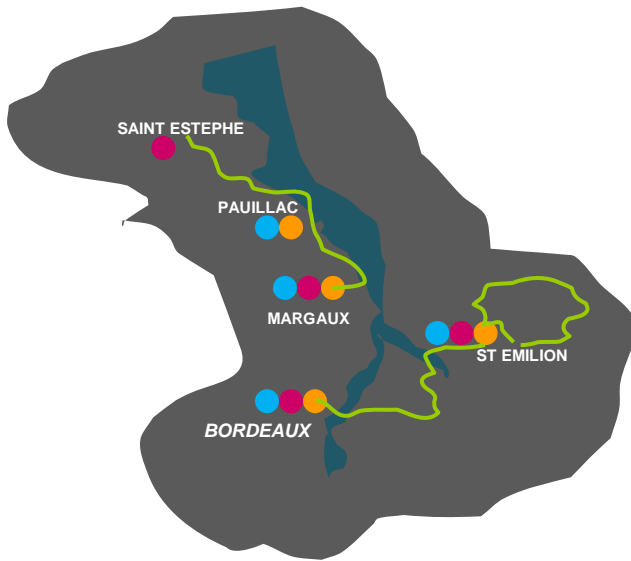




COLOURS OF FRANCE BORDEAUX REGION

6 NIGHTS / 7 DAYS
The Medoc & Saint Emilion

COLOURS OF FRANCE



EXPLORE

BORDEAUX AT YOUR OWN PACE

Day 1 : Arrival in Bordeaux

Upon your arrival at Bordeaux train station or airport, you will be met and transferred directly to your first hotel in the heart of the Medoc wine country in Margaux. After settling in to your room, you will be given your trip package and will do a final check on your bike fitting with our Trip Manager. Take some time to wander the small town of Margaux itself, after which the famous wines are named; the visitor's centre, The Maison du Vin, is also an excellent centre for information about the region's wines, Your first dinner this evening is included - welcome to the Medoc!

Day 2 : Prestigious Margaux Appellations 30 to 50 km

Your first ride, one of the prettiest, also takes you past some of the greatest names of wine in the world, which spread out around the town of Margaux to the north and the south: Chateau Margaux (which boasts the Premier Grand Cru appellation), Chateau Giscous, Chateau d'Issan... there are opportunities for tastings along the way. Enjoy the easygoing ride through pretty vineyards and flat marshland; you'll see the pretty town of Moulis along the way (whose name reminds us that the many mills in the region date from a time when wheat was the principal product in the Medoc, rather than wine!).



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Day 3 : The Route des Chateaux 28 km

Today's ride will take you by some of the most famous chateaux of the region, with their impressive and elegant architecture. Be sure not to forget your camera! Amongst others, you'll see Chateau Beychevelle, Chateau Lagrange, and Chateau Pichon Longueville. The ride takes you northwards along the estuary through small villages filled with history, as well as vineyards. Stop and take some time (the ride is not long today so you can really enjoy your explorations), to visit the Vauban-designed Fort of Medoc, or to imagine the steam boats, or "gabares", piled with wine barrels filling the harbour of St Julien, as you ride into the prestigious vineyards of Pauillac, the capital of the Medoc, on the banks of the Gironde Estuary. The day ends with another delicious included dinner

Day 4 : The Gironde Estuary 30 km

The riding today is easy, and fascinating, with a variety of landscape, dear to the hearts of the region's fishermen. You are riding further along the longest estuary in all of Europe, through vineyards and pretty marshland. As well as seeing today the famous chateaux of Chateau Pontet Canet, Chateau Marbuzet and Chateau Lafite Rothschild, you can stop in charming small port towns or villages like Vertheuil with its 12th century abbey, and St Sauveur. You'll have some beautiful panoramas of the estuary as you pedal along. At the end of your ride, we will transfer you from Pauillac to the amazing town of St Emilion for a two night stay. Your dinner this evening is included.

Day 5 : St Emilion 35 or 55 km options

Your riding today is a loop that takes you out of Medieval St Emilion, and into the countryside and vineyards which surround it, uniquely classified as a World Heritage ensemble by UNESCO. You will ride through the vineyards of the Pomerol region. The Pomerol area is tiny, but the small production of essentially Merlot wines is renowned around the world today, and not only because of its star, the wines from Petrus, which of course you'll ride by, as well as Angelus, Canon and others. You'll also want to spend some time exploring St Emilion itself, with its medieval ramparts and underground monuments, or to do some additional tasting!



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Day 6 : Back to Bordeaux 50 km

Today's ride is a little long, but you'll find it quite easy, as for most of the day's ride, you are following a tranquil bike path. After crossing over the Dordogne River in Branne, you rejoin the "Roger Lapebie" bike path, through beautiful countryside all the way back to the heart of Bordeaux itself. It takes you by Creon, where we encourage you to stop for some exploration. This typical bastide-town is quite beautiful; you'll pass many other villages as well, with pretty Romanesque churches and chapels, fortified mills, and abbeys... The path ends at the Place de la Bourse in the centre of Bordeaux. Once there you are not far from your hotel, in the heart of the historic city, where you will be staying for your final night.

Day 7 : Departure - *Bon Voyage!*

After a relaxing breakfast, say goodbye to Bordeaux, until the next time

What's included in your package

- 6 nights' accommodation of the comfort level of your choice CLASSIC, CLASSIC+ or DELUXE
- All hotel taxes
- All breakfasts, 3 dinners (drinks not included with the dinners)
- Fully equipped quality hybrid bike
- Detailed maps and step-by-step route notes
- Regional information and advice
- Orientation with our Trip Manager at the start of the trip
- 4 visits and tastings at Chateaux as described (tastings not available on Sundays)
- Transfer from Bordeaux to first hotel
- Luggage transfers from hotel to hotel
- Transfer at the end of the day Day 4 from Pauillac to St Emilion
- Emergency phone call support 7 days a week