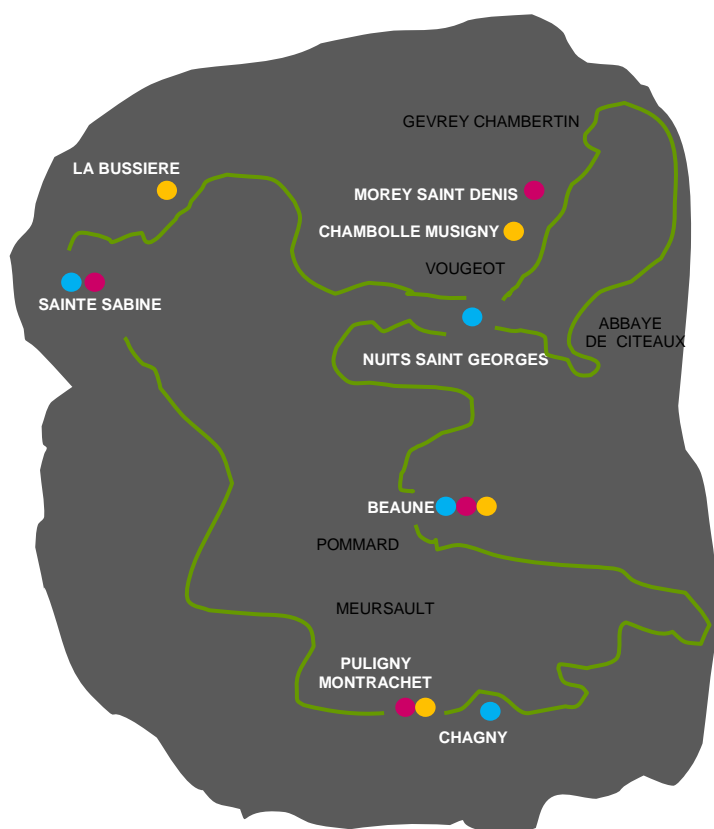




## COLOURS OF FRANCE BURGUNDY BIKING

7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS  
CHALLENGE TOUR



## EXPLORE BURGUNDY AT YOUR OWN PACE

### Day 1 : Arrival in Beaune

Upon your arrival in Beaune, we will meet at your hotel and set you up with your trip package and check the fitting of your bikes. Depending on your arrival time, you will likely have time to wander the medieval streets of Beaune, its ramparts, the Collegial church of Notre Dame with its 15th century tapestries, and have a drink in one of the many cafes on the main square! We provide a self-guided walking tour of the historic centre to help with your explorations. Dinner tonight is included in a gourmet restaurant

### Day 2 : Beaune to Puligny-Montrachet 64 or 80 km

Your ride today takes you southwards, ending up in the heart of the vineyards of the Cote de Beaune – a region that makes outstanding red wines, but is renowned in particular for their whites – some of the best white wines in the world! You head out first into the Saone River plains; the ride is heavenly, through really pretty quiet villages, on well-paved roads with very little traffic. You'll cross over the Saone River twice if you detour in to the town of Verdun for a cold drink or some lunch, and then loop back through tiny little farming villages with big stone traditional houses. The route brings you back to snuggle up against the vineyards of the Cote



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d'Or. Near the end of the day, stop in Meursault if you like for a wine tasting, before continuing the last few kilometres along a marked bike route, into Puligny-Montrachet. Dinner tonight is a treat – a winery in the centre of the village hosts a wine tasting dinner – you'll be able to taste and compare up to 9 different wines over the course of your delicious regional meal.

### Day 3 : Puligny to Ste Sabine 55 or 70 km and a Century option

Today's route takes you away from the vineyards of the Cote d'Or, and into a completely different landscape. After a short stretch through the Cote de Beaune, and then along an old railway line that has been transformed into a bike path to Nolay, with its medieval covered market hall and antique shops, you climb up into the Hautes Cotes. Follow the top, on a slightly rolling ride through small towns and past the castle of Coraboeuf and the Roman pillar of Cussy, then descend down into the pretty farming land near Arnay (some of the best cream of France comes from the contented cows around this town). Continue on past the small villages and old manor houses that dot the countryside, and then a final descent towards the Ouche River Valley. This region, filled with forests and fields of the region's famous Charolais cows, is dotted with pretty villages with beautiful stone buildings and the traditional lavoirs, or old washing houses. Arrive at your chateau hotel in Ste Sabine, where you'll have a delicious dinner this evening. (Deluxe itinerary stays in nearby Abbey de la Bussiere).

### Day 4 : Loop ride in to the Auxois 60 km

The ride today turns up following the Canal de Bourgogne. You have the option to detour into the charming Medieval village of Chateauneuf en Auxois – it is a stiff 2 km climb into the village, but the chateau and panoramic views are great at the top! From there continue along through Vandenesse (this is the mooring point for many of the pleasure barges on the canal) and then extends on towards Pouilly-en-Auxois, and through several of the small villages of this pretty region. The century option takes you all the way to Vitteaux, with its beautiful church. On the return ride, the route brings you into the small town of Commarin, where you can visit the elegant castle, including the park and gardens, and beautiful Renaissance chapel. A final climb awaits, and then a heavenly descent on quiet roads down to the tranquil Ouche River Valley. Follow the winding river past Pont d'Ouche, where you can stop for a refreshing drink, almost all the way back to your hotel for a second evening.





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### Day 5 : Ste Sabine to Morey-St Denis 56 to 68 km

From Ste Sabine head northwards along the Ouche River Valley, passing through lovely small villages, reflected in the tranquil waters of the Burgundy Canal. After riding through Barbierrey (with the chateau's lovely gardens), and Ste Marie sur Ouche, climb back up into the Hautes Cotes, passing in front of the crumbling ruins of the Chateau de Montculot, and through Clemencey and Chamboeuf, with their forests of truffle-producing pines and oak, before the great descent back into the vineyards of the Cote d'Or. You'll arrive in the small town of Gevrey Chambertin, with its nine Grand Cru vineyards (more than any other village in the whole region). You have the option of detouring northwards through Fixin and to Marsannay-la Cote, where they make a decent rosé. Stop there for a tasting if you like, there, before meandering back southwards to your hotel for the evening. Dinner tonight included in a great regional restaurant.

### Day 6 : Loop ride to the Abbey of Citeaux 72 km

Great, easygoing (flat terrain) ride out extending the plains ride further – you'll pass the site of the Abbey of Citeaux, the most powerful Abbey in all of Europe in the later Middle Ages. The religious community not only had literally thousands of churches and abbeys spread throughout Europe at the time, but they also owned and developed a majority of the Burgundian vineyards, and are responsible for many of the wine names you can taste today. Although the original buildings were destroyed during the French revolution, a more modern church has been rebuilt on the site today, and there is still a community of Cistercians who live and work there. Stop to buy some Citeaux cheese (this is still the only place in the world this cheese is made) and then continue all the way to the port town of St Jean de Losne on the Saone River. You can definitely find lunch there, in one of the popular local restaurants, before curving back to the vineyards, for some tasting right near the end of your ride

### Day 7 : Morey St Denis back to Beaune 40 km + options

Decide if you want to just ride to Beaune in the morning and spend the afternoon with final souvenir shopping or to relax in a café. Otherwise do the afternoon ride into the Longvay forest, or up into the Hautes Cotes to St Romain - the choice is yours! You'll pass the 15th century fortified winery in the centre of the Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru (stop to visit the four monumental antique wine presses!), as well as the most expensive vineyard in all of Burgundy, the Romanee Conti. If you didn't have time on your arrival day, be sure to visit the Hospices de Beaune, a fabulous 15th century charity hospital, built by the Chancellor to the Dukes of Burgundy, Nicolas Rolin.

### Day 8 : Departure

After a final delicious breakfast, you can catch the train in Beaune for easy connections for your further travels. Bon Voyage





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### What's included in your package

- 7 nights' accommodation of the comfort level of your choice CLASSIC, CLASSIC + or DELUXE
- All hotel taxes
- All breakfasts, 1 wine tasting lunch or dinner, and 3 other dinners (drinks not included with these dinners)
- Orientation with our Trip Manager
- A private guided tour of the Hospices de Beaune
- Fully equipped quality hybrid bike
- Daily step-by-step route notes and detailed maps
- Regional information and advice
- Luggage transfers from hotel to hotel
- Train ticket from Tournus back to Beaune
- Emergency phone call support 7 days a week

