



## Explore France at your own pace

### Day 1: Arrival in Beaune, Burgundy Wine Capital

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 56 or 74 km / 35 or 46 Miles

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 at its junction with the Doubs if you detour in to the town of Verdun sur le Doubs 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 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. Welcome to the Chardonnay Kingdom!

### Day 3: The Cote Chalonnaise 62 or 88 km / 38 or 55 Miles

Your ride today takes you southward, first through Chassagne Montrachet and Santenay at the end of the Cote de Beaune, and then along the tranquil and pretty Canal du Centre, into the Cote Chalonnaise. This wine region lies just to the south of the Côte de Beaune. Away from the ambitious pricing of the Côte d'Or, some producers, in villages like Rully and Mercurey, are turning out respectable Chardonnay and tasty Pinot Noir for a fraction of the prices these wines might fetch further north. Be sure as well to taste here the sparkling Cremant de Bourgogne, the region's version of Champagne! The route takes you through the town of Couches, with its medieval castle (open for visits, and for optional tastings). The riding is a mix of easy-going terrain and some bike path along the Canal du Centre, and some more challenging, but beautiful hillside scenery.





## BIKING IN BURGUNDY – CHALLENGE 8-night Tour

**Day 4: Puligny to Ste Sabine** 55 to 70 or 100 km / 35 to 44 or 62 Miles

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, choosing the distance for the day that you like from our three options. 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 wash 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 5: Loop ride in to the Auxois** 65 km / 41 Miles

The ride today spends some time following the tranquil Canal de Bourgogne. The loop takes you through 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 passing the village of Commarin, where you can stop and visit another elegant chateau, including the park and gardens, and beautiful small Renaissance chapel, and then extends on towards Pouilly-en-Auxois, and through several of the small villages of this pretty region. On the return ride, the route brings you into the small village of Vandenesse (this is the mooring point for many of the pleasure barges on the canal) where you can stop for a refreshment in a small cafe, before continuing the final few kilometres parallel to the canal back to your hotel for another evening.

**Day 6: Ouche Valley to Vougeot** 60 to 75 km / 37 to 46 Miles

Head northwards along the Ouche River Valley, passing through tiny villages mirrored in the tranquil waters of the canal. Ride through Barbirey (the chateau there has lovely gardens); climb back up into the Hautes Cotes, and pass in front of the ruins of the Chateau de Montculot and through Chamboeuf, with its forests of truffle-producing pines and oak. Then a great descent back to the vineyards. In the small town of Gevrey Chambertin, (with its nine Grand Cru vineyards - more than any other village in the region), decide if you want to detour north to Marsannay-la Cote, where they make a decent rosé, before meandering back southwards along the Route des Grands Crus: Chambolle-Musigny, the Chateau de Clos de Vougeot with its monumental wine presses, and the vineyard of Romanee-Conti, one of the best (and most expensive!) wines in the world.





## BIKING IN BURGUNDY – CHALLENGE 8-night Tour



### Day 7: Vougeot to Beaune 74 km / 46 Miles

Your ride today heads out into the Saone River plains, through a countryside and villages to pass the site of the once mighty Abbey of Citeaux. This was the most powerful Abbey in all of Europe in the later Middle Ages, which had not only literally thousands of churches and abbeys spread throughout Europe, but 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 and back to Beaune. If you didn't have time on your arrival day, be sure to visit the Hospices de Beaune, a fabulous 15<sup>th</sup> century charity hospital, built by the Chancellor to the Dukes of Burgundy, Nicolas Rolin.



### Day 8: Loop into the Hautes Cotes 65 km / 40 Miles

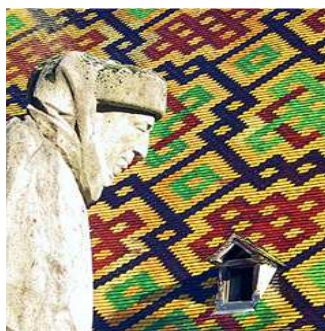
Your final day's ride is a beautiful loop up into the Hautes Cotes. Ride through the village of St Romain, home to several of the region's best-known coopers (barrel-makers), and decide if you wish to climb the extra hill to the ruined castle and great panorama in the upper village. Quiet roads along the top of limestone cliffs, and then a final great downhill sweep bring you to the grand cru vineyards of the Corton Hill. Do some tasting if you wish in Aloxe Corton or Pernand-Vergelesse; and stop near the end of the ride to visit the



Chateau de Savigny, whose eccentric owner has a weird and wonderful collection of antique airplanes, motorcycles, and Abarth cars on display.

### Day 9: Departure from Burgundy

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

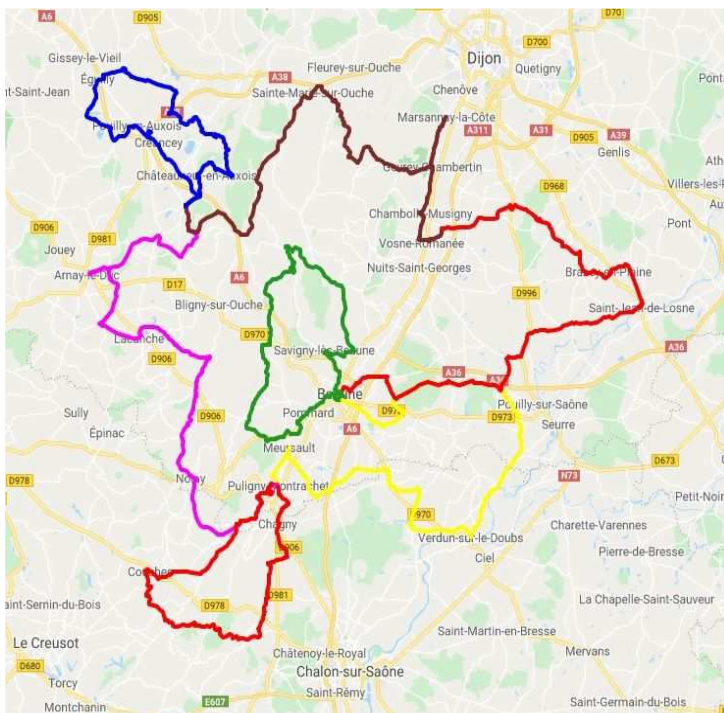




## BIKING IN BURGUNDY – CHALLENGE 8-night Tour

### What's included in your Burgundy Biking Tour

- 8 nights' accommodation of the comfort level of your choice: CLASSIC, CLASSIC+ or DELUXE
- All hotel taxes
- All breakfasts and 4 dinners (drinks not included with dinners)
- Orientation and Bike Fitting with our Trip Manager
- Fully equipped high quality Carbon Road bike
- Detailed maps and step-by-step route instructions
- Regional information and advice
- Uploadable GPS file of the route to use on a free APP on your smartphone or a GARMIN device (device not included)  
Can be used without international internet plan
- Luggage transfers from hotel to hotel
- Phone call support 7 days a week



### BURGUNDY CYCLING:

- fantastic rides
- beautiful scenery
- tiny, un-trafficked roads
- great French towns and villages

... and the **WINES !!!**

