

GT Experiences



# WINE & GASTRONOMY TOURS 2022

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# DESTINATIONS

- ITALY
- FRANCE
- SPAIN & PORTUGAL
- IRELAND / UK
- AUSTRIA & SLOVENIA
- SWITZERLAND
- GERMANY/FRANCE
- SPECIAL ITINERARY





# ITALY PROPOSALS

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- [Tuscany and Piedmont wine tours](#)
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# *Luxury Piemonte wine tour*

## **DAY 1 – MILANO MALPENSA / SERRALUNGA D'ALBA**

Arrival in Milano Malpensa.

Transfer to Serralunga d'Alba by private bus and accommodation at the beautiful Boscareto Resort (or similar). Free time to relax. Dinner and overnight

## **DAY 2 – SERRALUNGA D'ALBA/SANTO STEFANO BELBO: THE DOOR TO THE LANGA TERRITORY/SANTO STEFANO BELBO/CANELLI/SERRALUNGA D'ALBA**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Morning: Transfer to Santo Stefano Belbo, native land of the famous Italian writer Cesare Pavese. Guided tour. Visit to Pavese's native house with the room where he was born, books, documents and pictures of the author.

Lunch in a restaurant in Santo Stefano Belbo.

Transfer to the nearby village of Canelli, home to the Asti D.O.C.G., the bestselling sparkling Italian wine abroad, made with sweet Moscato grapes, using champenois method, same process in the production of Champagne in France and adapted to this sweet wine. Visit to one of the historic cellars, renamed "Underground Cathedrals", which have been declared UNESCO World Heritage Site. Dinner in cellar.

Transfer to Serralunga d'Alba and overnight

## **DAY 3 – SERRALUNGA D'ALBA/MONFORTE D'ALBA/BAROLO/SERRALUNGA D'ALBA**

Breakfast in resort.

Morning: transfer to Monforte d'Alba, brief town tour and then proceed to Barolo, the capital of Langhe. Visit the Falletti di Barolo Castle, the Wine Museum "WIMU" with wine tasting and to the Corkscrews Museum. Free lunch. Afternoon: transfer to Serralunga d'Alba to relax, before Dinner and overnight..

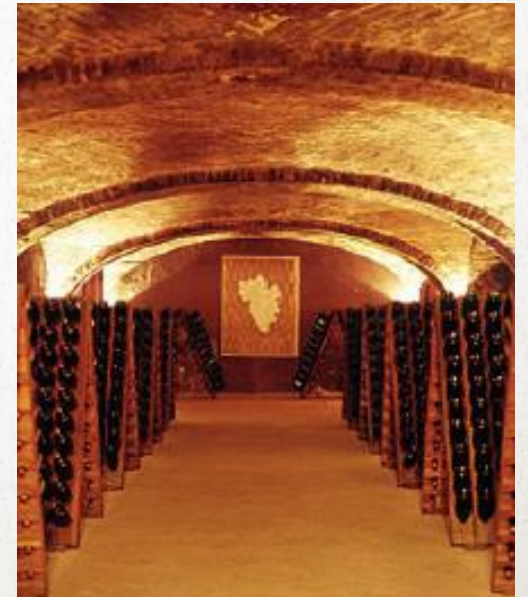
## **DAY 4 – SERRALUNGA D'ALBA/GRINZANE /CAVOUR/DOGLIANI/ALBA/SERRALUNGA D'ALBA**

Breakfast at the resort.

Morning: tour of some villages on the hills where the famous Barolo wine is produced. Arrival in Grinzane Cavour, with its wonderful Medieval Castle, UNESCO site, and houses, the Regional Wine Cellar, the Ethnographic Museum and the Langa Museum. Wine tasting in the Regional Wine Cellar. Transfer to Dogliani, where travellers will visit the "Poderi Luigi Einaudi". The history of the Poderi (estates) started in 1897, when Luigi Einaudi (second President of the Italian Republic), only 23 years old, acquired the farmhouse 'San Giacomo' in the village of Dogliani, surrounded by 40 acres of vineyards. Visit of the winery, the cellar with wine tasting. Light lunch in a local restaurant, and back to the hotel for time to relax.

Late Afternoon: transfer to Alba, a city known for its White Truffle International Fair. The Dome has been rebuilt in Gothic style; not far away, the Church of San Giovanni Battista hosts works of art from the fourteenth century. The Federico Eusebio Museum presents artifacts from Prehistory to the Roman era, as well as a section dedicated to natural history. Dinner at "Piazza Duomo" Restaurant by Chef Enrico Crippa (3 Michelin stars). The restaurant is located nearby the ancient town of Alba, closed to its Dome.

Return to Serralunga d'Alba and overnight





**DAY 5 – SERRALUNGA D’ALBA / TORINO AND THE ROYAL ROUTE  
OF TURIN WINES (80 Km – 50 miles)**

Breakfast at the resort.

Morning: transfer to Torino; Visit of the Egyptian Museum, an archaeological museum, specialised in Egyptian archaeology and anthropology. It houses one of the largest collections of Egyptian antiquities, with more than 30,000 artefacts. It is the second most important Egyptian museum in the world after the Cairo museum and one of the largest museums in Italy.. After a pleasant walk towards the historic centre, lunch in restaurant at Baratti&Milano, one of the oldest and most prestigious historic cafés in Turin.

Afternoon: transfer to Pessione to visit the Martini&Rossi Museum of Oenology an exceptional location, home to an iconic Italian brand. Wine experience "Make Your Own Vermouth", an innovative format that offers an immersion in the art of making Vermouth, a solid Piedmontese cultural heritage. Discovering the principles of preparation and the use of aromatic extracts and distillates to personally recreate the flavours of your Vermouth, playing with aromatic notes and aromas. You will have the chance to experience a real oenological laboratory. Dinner at "Terrazza Martini" new Bar Lounge, with an unmistakable charm. Return to Torino for overnight

**DAY 6 – TORINO**

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning: transfer to Piazza Castello and visit to the Royal Residence hub: Palazzo Reale and its Gardens, symbol of the magnificence and opulence of the Savoy dynasty. This is the epicentre of all this power, where the Collezioni Reali are held, to show the careful administration by the Savoys and their love for art; Palazzo Madama, the first Senate of the Italian Kingdom, that takes its traditional name from the embellishments it received under two queens (madama) of the House of Savoy. Lunch at historical “Ristorante del Cambio” the most renowned and gastronomic restaurant in Turin, a real city institution. Afternoon: visit to Palazzo Carignano, a symbolic place for the history of the House of Savoy and the Italian Risorgimento: besides being the birthplace of Charles Albert and Victor Emmanuel II, it was the site for the Piedmontese Parliament and the first Parliament of Italy. Walk through the central Via Po up to the Mole Antonelliana, the symbol of the city. Visit of the National Cinema Museum and panoramic lift to the terrace overlooking the entire historic centre. Dinner at the Officine Grandi Riparazioni, an ancient repair and maintenance centre for railway vehicles turned into a meeting and exhibition centre with its excellent restaurant. Overnight at the hotel.

**DAY 7 – TORINO / MILANO MALPENSA (140 km 85 miles)**

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to Milano Malpensa.

Departure.

End of our services.



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# ***TUSCANY & PIEDMONT***

## ***LUXURY WINE EXPERIENCES***

### ***Day 1 – TUSCANY/FLORENCE/SIENA***

Arrival in Italy (Florence Airport to be confirmed); meeting with your English speaking Assistant and transfer to Siena, in Chianti area, by private bus. Check-in at the Hotel, welcome drink and briefing about the destination and the program.

Dinner; overnight at the Hotel.

### ***Day 2– SIENA/MONSANTO/MONTERIGGIONI/SIENA***

Breakfast at the Hotel and private transfer to the Castello di Monsanto winery to learn a lot about the Tuscan winegrowing with a tour through the Castle and the wine cellar (tasting of 3 wines)

Lunch free. On the way back to Siena, stop at Monteriggioni, small town, completely surrounded by defensive walls and towers inviting to linger... Transfer back to Siena and visit this beautiful city with the world-famous Piazza del Campo, one of the most beautiful “piazza” in Italy. In the historic Caffè Nannini you will enjoy an espresso with a “dolce”, a pure joie de vivre for Siena’s gourmets! Back to the hotel to enjoy your dinner. Overnight.

### ***Day 3 – SIENA/BABERINO VAL D'ELSA/PANZANO VAL D'ELSA/SIENA***

Breakfast at the Hotel. What would Italy be without pasta? Private transfer to Barberino Val d'Elsa and get to know the art of pasta preparation during your cooking lesson. From the base dough to the matching sugo.

Afterwards you can enjoy the different pasta dishes at lunch. In the afternoon, visit the Fattoria Pasolini Dall'Onda Borghese or similar one in the same village and taste different wines.

Dinner at an historical “Macelleria” (butcher shop) in Panzano Val d'Elsa where you will taste the real Fiorentina with all your senses... Transfer to the hotel and overnight.

### ***Day 4 – SIENA/RADDA/FIRENZE/SIENA***

Breakfast at the Hotel. Today you will discover the heart of the Chianti Region with the medieval castle and winery Castello d'Albola in Radda. During the guided tour you will of course see the historic wine cellars and enjoy wine and extra virgin olive oil tasting. Transfer to Florence and guided visit of the pearl of Renaissance of Italy... Imagine with your heart. Back to the Hotel; dinner and overnight.

### ***Day 5 – TUSCANY: SIENA/LANGASERRALUNGA D'ALBA***

Breakfast at the Hotel. Morning: transfer to Serralunga d'Alba Langa Area  
Light lunch free on the way to Piedmont.

PIEDMONT: LANGASERRALUNGA D'ALBA

Afternoon: arrival in Serralunga and accommodation. Free time to relax

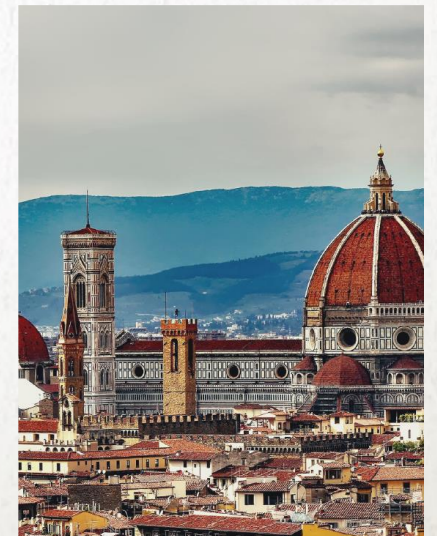
Welcome Dinner with briefing about the destination and the program.

Overnight

### ***Day 6 – SERRALUNGA D'ALBA/GRINZANE CAVOUR/ALBA/SERRALUNGA D'ALBA***

Breakfast at the Resort.

Morning: meeting with our Guide: tour of some villages on the hills where the famous Barolo wine is produced. Arrival in Grinzane Cavour, with its wonderful Medieval Castle, UNESCO site, the Regional Wine Cellar, the Ethnographic Museum and the Langa Museum. Wine tasting in the Regional Wine Cellar. Lunch in the Restaurant “Il Castello” by Chef Marc Lanteri, Michelin Star Chef. Afternoon: Transfer to Alba, famous for its White Truffle International Fair (October/November) “Truffle Sensor Analysis” Experience: Full in-depth experiences guided by the judges of Sensory Analysis of the National Center for Truffle Studies, where you can discover the organoleptic characteristics of Tuber Magnatum Pico. At the end, “Taste Alba” Experience: tour with a Wine Teller, a special personal food shopper, who will guide you in a walking tour through history and food & wine specialties among winery shops and Truffle specialized shops. Dinner in Fontanafredda at Guido Restaurant. Back to hotel for overnight





**Day 7 – SERRALUNGA D’ALBA/MONFORTE D’ALBA/ BAROLO/LA MORRA/SERRALUNGA D’ALBA**

Breakfast. Morning: transfer to Monforte d’Alba, brief town tour in this little town famous for its Barolo wine production; then proceed to Barolo, the capital of Langhe. Visit the nice Corkscrews Museum, the Falletti di Barolo Castle with its Wine Museum “WIMU”, with wine tasting. Lunch at Massimo Camia Restaurant (Michelin Star Chef) in La Morra.

Afternoon: transfer back to Serralunga d’Alba to relax at the hotel. Dinner and overnight

**Day 8 – SERRALUNGA D’ALBA/SANTA VITTORIA D’ALBA/POLLENZO/TORINO**

Breakfast and transfer to Santa Vittoria d’Alba. Morning: visit to the important Diageo Glass Collection. Light lunch in Pollenzo at the "Albergo dell'Agenzia" Restaurant, made from a Slow Food idea. Afternoon: arrival in Turin and check-in at your hotel.

Free time for relax or Luxury Shopping in the city centre or at the Torino Luxury Outlet Village (private transfer and personal shopper on request). Special Wine Tasting Dinner in the ancient Cellar at the historical “Ristorante del Cambio” the most renowned and gastronomic restaurant in Turin, a real city institution, situated in front of Palazzo Carignano, a symbolic place for the history of the House of Savoy; it was the site for the Piedmont Parliament as well as the first Parliament of Italy. Overnight in Hotel.

**Day 9 – TORINO/PESSIONE/TORINO**

Breakfast in Hotel. Morning: visit of the Egyptian Museum, an archaeological museum, specialised in Egyptian archaeology and anthropology. It houses one of the largest collections of Egyptian antiquities, with more than 30,000 artefacts. It is the second most important Egyptian museum in the world after the Cairo museum and one of the largest museums in Italy. After a pleasant walk towards the historic centre, lunch in restaurant at Baratti&Milano, one of the oldest and prestigious historic café in Turin. Afternoon: transfer to Pessione to visit the Martini&Rossi Museum of Enology: an exceptional location, home to an iconic Italian brand. Wine experience "Make Your Own Vermouth", an innovative format that offers an immersion in the art of making Vermouth, a solid Piedmontese cultural heritage. Discovering the principles of preparation and the use of aromatic extracts and distillates to personally recreate the flavours of your Vermouth, playing with aromatic notes and aromas. You will have the chance to experience a real oenological laboratory.

Back to Torino. Dinner at the hotel

**Day 10 – TORINO**

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning: transfer to Piazza Castello and visit to the Royal Residence hub: Palazzo Reale and its Gardens, symbol of the magnificence and opulence of the Savoy dynasty, where the Royal Collections are held, to show the careful administration by the Savoy and their love for art; Palazzo Madama, the first Senate of the Italian Kingdom, that takes its traditional name from the embellishments it received under two queens (Madama) of the House of Savoy. Free time for Lunch. Afternoon: visit to Palazzo Carignano, a symbolic place for the history of the House of Savoy; it was the site for the Piedmontese Parliament and the first Parliament of Italy. Visit of the National Cinema Museum, situated inside of the Mole Antonelliana, with its panoramic lift to the terrace overlooking the entire historic centre. Visit to a Chocolate Laboratory with chocolate tasting experience Dinner at the Officine Grandi Riparazioni, an ancient repair and maintenance centre for railway vehicles turned into a meeting and exhibition centre with its excellent restaurant. Overnight at the hotel.

**Day 11 – TORINO/MILANO MALPENSA**

Breakfast in hotel. Transfer to Milano Malpensa. Departure.





# Italian cooking tour

## Day 1: Nizza Monferrato

Arrival at Nizza Monferrato in Piedmont. In the evening you will enjoy an “*apericena*”, an aperitif with plenty of different appetisers, a mixed combination between an aperitif (aperi) and a full dinner (cena), a very popular tradition in Piedmont. Accommodation in a deluxe farmhouse/country inn. Overnight in hotel.

## Day 2: Nizza Monferrato/Canelli/Nizza Monferrato

Breakfast in hotel.

Morning: visit of the Bersano wine cellars and old farm tools museum in Nizza Monferrato, displaying a collection of top wines, including Barbera d’Asti D.O.C.G. and Barbera del Monferrato d.o.c.g.. Transfer to the nearby village of Canelli, home to the Asti D.O.C.G., the bestselling Italian wine abroad, made with sweet Moscato grapes with the champenois method, the same used in the production of Champagne in France, adapted to this sweet wine. Visit of a winery and cellar to get a full knowledge of this wine and of course, a taste of it! Back to the farmhouse in Nizza Monferrato. Lunch in restaurant in Nizza Monferrato. Afternoon: first session of your Piedmontese and Italian cooking class: an award winning chef will show you all the secrets of the most renowned Piedmontese and Italian dishes. Lesson ends with the delicious dinner, prepared by yourself under the chef supervision. Overnight in hotel.

## Day 3: Nizza Monferrato/Costigliole d’Asti/Nizza Monferrato

Breakfast in hotel.

Morning: transfer to the village of Costigliole d’Asti for a truffle hunting (white or black depending on the time of the year). You will visit the “Casa del Trifulau” (truffle hunter’s house) and will be taught everything about history, characteristics, environment and traditions of truffles. Most important thing, you will take part actively in the truffle hunting with the support of an expert and his dogs, trained for this purpose. Afternoon: visit of Costigliole d’Asti’s old city center and his wonderful Castle. This majestic building was built in the XIII century. In the sixteenth century it was an important military stronghold, but what we see today is the result of a restoration made in the nineteenth century that transformed the building into a fashionable neogothic structure. Lunch in a typical restaurant. Return to Nizza Monferrato. Second session of your cooking course with a dinner made by yourself under the chef supervision. Overnight in hotel.

## Day 4: Nizza Monferrato/Acqui Terme/Nizza Monferrato

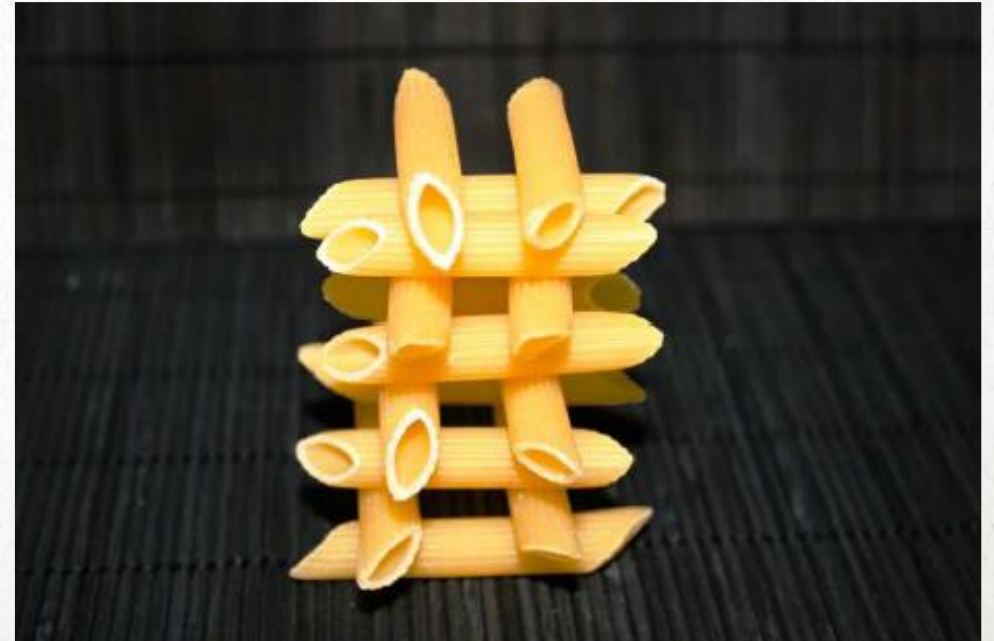
Breakfast in hotel.

Morning: You will just relax and unwind! Transfer to the nearby Roman historic city of Acqui Terme, the most renowned spa resort in Piedmont, where you will enjoy a few hours of total care of your body and mind. Lunch in restaurant. Afternoon: visit of the old city center. Return to Nizza Monferrato. Third session of your cooking class with a dinner made by yourself under the chef supervision. Overnight in hotel.

## Day 5: Nizza Monferrato/Gavi/Nizza Monferrato

Breakfast in hotel. Morning: driving tour through the hills and vineyards of Monferrato up to the village of Gavi, that gives its name to the Gavi D.O.C.G., probably the most renowned white wine of Piedmont. Visit of its fort and its main wine cellar and shop. Lunch in restaurant.

Afternoon: return to Nizza Monferrato, fourth and last session of your cooking course. Overnight in hotel.





#### Day 6: Nizza Monferrato/Barbaresco/Barolo/Alba/Grinzane Cavour/Nizza Monferrato

Breakfast in hotel.

Morning: you will explore the Langhe area, a part of Piedmont that may be considered the food and wine district along with Monferrato and Roero, UNESCO heritage. First stop at Barbaresco, giving its name to one of the best red D.O.C.G. wine, nicknamed “The wine of *queens*” according to an old saying. Here you will visit and have a taste at the renowned Marquis of Gresy wine cellars. Trip goes on to Barolo, home to the worldwide famous Barolo D.O.C.G., also nicknamed “*Wine of the kings*”. Visit at a local wine maker premises followed by a Piedmontese typical lunch accompanied by a taste of different kinds of Barolo d.o.c.g. and other wines of this area. Afternoon: Grinzane Cavour, where you will visit its castle hosting the Enoteca Regionale Piemontese Cavour (Cavour Piedmontese regional cellar) and Langhe Museum. The castle is also home to a famous international literary award held here once a year, named Grinzane Cavour Prize. Transfer to Nizza Monferrato with a stop along the way in Alba, the “capital” of the Langhe, a beautiful medieval city home to the famous white truffle and the “round and mild nut”, basic ingredient of Nutella, the worldwide famous nut and cocoa cream produced by Ferrero company, which has its headquarters here. Back to your hotel for dinner and overnight .

#### Day 7: Nizza Monferrato/Torino

Breakfast in hotel.

Morning: Transfer to Torino to begin a walking tour through the beautiful streets of the old town centre. Free lunch.

Afternoon: visit to the Royal Residence hub: Palazzo Reale and its Gardens, symbol of the magnificence and opulence of the Savoy dynasty, is the epicentre of all this power, and where the Royal Collections are held, bearing witness to the careful administration by the Savoyes and their love of art; Palazzo Madama, the first Senate of the Italian Kingdom, and takes its traditional name from the embellishments it received under two queens (madama) of the House of Savoy; Palazzo Carignano, a symbolic place for the history of the House of Savoy and the Italian Risorgimento: as well as being the birthplace of Charles Albert and Victor Emmanuel II, it was the site for the Piedmontese Parliament and the first Parliament of Italy. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

#### Day 8: Departure

Breakfast in hotel. Time at leisure according to departure time





# ***Culinary delights of Emilia Romagna & Marche***

## **DAY 1: Welcome to Emilia (D)**

Arrive at Milan Malpensa international airport and be met to start your “Central Italy Experience” and transfer to your elegant hotel in Emilia area. Free time to freshen up and then be ready for a delicious Welcome Dinner, accurately prepared by the resort’s master chef, with local products. Overnight.

## **DAY 2: Parmigiano & Balsamic Vinegar Tastings (B,L)**

Early bird breakfast this morning! Today you will leave your Hotel quite early in order to get to an authentic Parmigiano Reggiano producer on time for the cheese making (roughly 8AM). There are dairies in an array of cities and you’ll visit a dairy in Reggio Emilia, about one hour from Modena. The visit is complete, and you will be an expert by the end of the cheese tour. You’ll see all elements of the Parmigiano production from the processing of milk in the vats, the molding of the curd, the salting and then the aging process of the photogenic cheese wheels.

After this fascinating visit you will head back to the wealthy little Modena for a visit to the 11th century Unesco heritage preserved Duomo and relax over an aperitif of a bubbly “vino bianco”, outside if weather permits. Lunch today is at local trattoria, right in the heart of Modena, tasting traditional cuisine. After lunch, you will probably want to enjoy a short little digestive walk!

Before returning to the hotel, you will visit a beautiful “Acetaia”, a real “Aceto Balsamico” cellar, where you’ll learn about the interesting history and production of this liquid gold and taste a few aged balsamic. This is a treat! Return to the hotel, dinner on your own and overnight.

## **DAY 3: Culatello Ham Tasting – The Motor Valley (B,L)**

Breakfast at the Hotel and then head towards Colorno, in Parma province, to visit a small and upscale Culatello cellar producer’s; you will taste some slices of the Crème de la Crème prosciutto of Italy, finishing with an elegant lunch focusing on local specialties. Sample dishes will be offered, including Culatello di Zibello d.o.p. and a selection of the best charcuterie. Superb wines will be chosen for you from the encyclopedic wine list. After lunch enjoy a digestive “passeggiata” in Parma, a small gourmet town that was also the home of Italy’s famed composers Giuseppe Verdi and Arturo Toscanini. Don’t miss the wonderful Duomo. Also, you can’t miss the great Teatro Farnese and the art gallery renowned for its paintings by Correggio. On the way back to the Hotel, along the Via Emilia, you will have an interesting tour of the most important factories and museums dedicated to engines such as Ferrari (Maranello), Lamborghini (Modena), Maserati (Sant’Agata Bolognese) and Ducati (Bologna).

When in Maranello, learn all about the “prancing horse” and visit the museum, which is quite large, and you can see over 40 real models such as Formula 1 racecars from many different decades. For Ferrari lovers, there is also a Ferrari shop and you can even have the chance to enjoy a test drive (Ferrari California or Ferrari 458 Italia)! Return to the hotel, dinner on your own and overnight.

## **DAY 4: Bologna – Ravenna – Pesaro (B,L or B,L,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel, this morning you will have a walking tour of Bologna, with a local art guide, who will lead you through the best highlights of Emilia Romagna’s capital, such as the Two Towers, Piazza Maggiore and Piazza del Nettuno, the Jewish Ghetto, and the fascinating 16th century Anatomical theater in the Archiginnasio Palace ancient home of the University of Bologna “the learned”, that shows on its walls one of most precious heraldry collection in the world. Also visit Piazza Malpighi where stands the apse of the Gothic church of St. Francis next to the graves of Glossatori, the first professors at the University of Bologna. Lunch on your own, with our suggestions for many wine bars and restaurants. In the afternoon you will leave Emilia Romagna to Le Marche, going southern, and you will stop on the way in Ravenna, where you will be taken back by the breathtaking 6th and 7th century mosaics, all with your own private art guide. These are some of the most gorgeous mosaics in the world. Located close to the Adriatic Coast, Ravenna is a town with a lot of history! The Roman Emperor Octavian Augustus built a port here, denoting the strategic importance of Ravenna and later the city was one of the main hubs of Byzantine culture in Italy. You’ll learn all about the town’s history and visit some major highlights such as the mosaics of 5th century Galla Placidia (daughter of Emperor Theodosius), the Saint Francesco Basilica with Dante’s Tomb, the Basilica of San Vitale (with some of the best early Christian art in Italy) and more.

In the early evening arrival at your hotel in the region Marche. After checking in, you will have a tasty dinner at the hotel’s restaurant. Overnight.





### **DAY 5: Urbino (B,D)**

Today after breakfast we explore the land once ruled by the lords of Montefeltro. The day is devoted to visiting Urbino, one of Italy's most fascinating towns of the Renaissance, seat of an ancient university and perfect destination for art history lovers. It is also the birthplace of Raphael and site of the Unesco world heritage.

Have a guided tour of the magnificent Palazzo Ducale, one of the most interesting architectural and artistic examples of the Italian Renaissance; it is a wonderful and mysterious place, which houses the Galleria Nazionale delle Marche with its precious paintings by Piero della Francesca, Tiziano, Paolo Uccello and Raphael. Among the many rooms of the building there's a private one where the Duke Federico used to spend his time: the study room. It preserves valuable stuccos on the vaulted ceiling and a lower section paneled with engraved wood. Lunch on your own, and your local expert tour manager will be happy to give you some advices to choose the best spots.

After this local experience, you will head back to Pesaro, and have a guided walking tour of this beautiful town, birthplace of the famous musician, Gioachino Rossini. There's so much to see and do in Pesaro: from the ancient Roman remains dating from when it was called Pisaurum, to the Museum of Ceramics and Art Gallery; from the fascinating mosaics in the Cathedral to the Gothic church facades; from Villa Ruggeri in the Liberty style to the Sforza Fortress and the Ducal Palace. Pesaro boasts parks, beaches, art, history and music. Properly talking about music, you can't miss a visit to Rossini's house, the theater and the Conservatory that conserve Rossini's operas and memorabilia.

### **DAY 6: Gradara – Fano (B,D)**

Breakfast. A trip to Le Marche should include a visit to one of the most famous castles in Italy. Then, you need to schedule a day exploring the historical beauties of Gradara. You will see this lovely town even before getting there, as the beautiful medieval castle stands out among the woods and hills. Just a few steps and you will be immersed in an atmosphere of old times that recalls a thirteenth century tranquility. The Castle of Gradara was the first military fortress on a border land which was turned into a majestic noble residence by powerful families. Tradition in this medieval village certainly contributed to making this fortress famous as the background of the unfortunate love between Paolo and Francesca, sung by Dante. But what really makes the Castle of Gradara unforgettable is the architectural beauty of an extraordinarily well-preserved complex, that has retained the appearance and atmosphere of an ancient medieval settlement.

Lunch on your own and in the afternoon, you will move southern towards Fano, known as the city of fortune, because of the Temple Fortuna around which the entire city has developed. The historic walls of Fano stretch for over half a kilometer, interspersed with cylindrical towers offering a wonderful example of Roman architecture that dates back to the period of the Emperor Augustus. You will have a walking tour of the city center, including a visit to the mysterious underground Fano, a fascinating itinerary through tunnels and galleries, taking you to truly unique places. Before dinner enjoy a walk by the seaside, you can perceive the long seafaring tradition of this city in the characteristic fishermen's houses, along its beaches and in the many excellent restaurants. Your local expert tour manager will show you the Walk of Lisippo, on a fixed dock protected by the rocks, overlooking the sea.

After all these beautiful walks to discover Fano that will never cease to amaze you, it's finally time to sit at the table and try the two local specialties: Brodetto and Moretta.

The Brodetto of Fano (fish soup) is a typical dish of the Adriatic Sea cooking tradition, while Moretta is a hot drink mixed with a liquor born among sailors and fishermen in the port of Fano to get warm before going out to sea. Return to the Relais for overnight.





**DAY 7: Ancona – Conero – Loreto – Roma (B,L,D)**

After breakfast, you will head, in the morning, to Ancona and Riviera del Conero. Overlooking the sea, with one of the largest ports in Italy, Ancona is a city full of monuments and beautiful landscapes; it is also known as "City Dorica", a name which refers to its Greek origins. The Cathedral which dominates the city from above and from which you can enjoy a special view, the picturesque arch of Trajan and Mole Vanvitelliana on the side of the harbor, the War Memorial overlooking the sea in one of the most unique areas of the coast. Don't stop at the most famous monuments! Walking through the alleys and historical streets, you can discover hidden spots and panoramic views. After lunch at a local winery and tasting of Rosso Conero, one of the best red wines of the region, you will have a panoramic tour of the Conero Riviera: the stretch of coast on the slopes of Monte Conero, rich of beaches, bays and coves of exceptional beauty. Last stop of the day but not the least as per importance, will be in Loreto, a beautiful hill town second only to Assisi and Rome as a place of religious pilgrimage. The town is a showcase of some of Italy's greatest artists and architects. People come here from all over the world to visit the Basilica della Santa Casa, known for enshrining the house in which the Blessed Virgin Mary is believed by some to have lived. Devotees believe that the same house was flown over by Angelic beings from Jerusalem to Tersatto (Trsat in Croatia) then to Recanati before arriving at the current site. In the early evening proceed onto Rome, where you will spend the last night of the tour. Check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight.

**DAY 8: Arrivederci Italia (B)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport to take your flight back home.





# SAVORING APULIA

## DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN MASSERIA (D)

Arrival at Bari international airport and meet your local guide; transfer to a Deluxe Masseria Hotel in Fasano, the best area to discover Apulia living like a local. Check in and free time at your disposal to relax . Before dinner, you will have a welcome cocktail in the Masseria garden and then get ready for tasting some very special local food at your Welcome dinner. Of course, local wines of the area will be combined with the various dishes. Overnight.

## DAY 2: BARI – ALBEROBELLO (B,D)

Breakfast at the Masseria. Today will begin with a guided tour of the beautiful city of Bari, capital of Apulia region. While strolling around the old town, you will have the chance to watch women in the streets making “strascinati and orecchiette”, two typical pastas of the area. You will be amazed at how fast they make these foods! Lunch on your own and in the afternoon, head toward the Murgia area, a subregion of Apulia between the Ionian and Adriatic coasts. Its main characteristic is the geology it presents, in fact, the landscape is riddled with holes and ravines through which small streams and rivers gurgle, creating what is in effect, a giant sponge. Excursion in Alberobello: this small town is the capital of the Trulli (small, white buildings with conic roofs that are unique just to this region in Italy and are a UNESCO World Heritage Site). Guided visit of the Trulli followed by dinner with local specialties at a restaurant in the area. Return to your Masseria, overnight.

## DAY 3: MARTINA FRANCA – LOCOROTONDO – FORNELLO – CISTERNINO (B,L,D)

Breakfast at the Masseria. In the morning, you will visit a local olive oil mill that has been operated by the same family for almost 100 years. The farmers will teach you everything you need to know about olive oil, and you will taste some of their best oils produced at the mill. Proceed then to the elegant little town of Martina Franca; during the local guided tour, you will learn about the town's baroque architecture. First stop will be at factory producing the famous "Capocollo di Martina Franca," salume that is lightly smoked with local herbs, and enjoy many other specialties there for lunch. Return to the Masseria for a short rest in the early afternoon and go then to Locorotondo, which is a jeweled hilltop town considered to have the best views of the Valley of Itria and Murgia. The day will end in Cisternino, another beautiful hill town with stunning views. You will indulge in the town's traditional dinner, which is held at the butcher shop with an annexed wooden oven. You will choose between lamb, veal, or sausages that will be cooked "al Fornello" just for you. An experience you can only have in Cisternino! Return to the Masseria, overnight.

## DAY 4: MONOPOLI – OSTUNI (B,D)

After breakfast, you will visit a nearby cheese producer where you will get to see the interesting process of making fresh mozzarella and other cheeses. Lunch on your own. Have a nice stroll through Monopoli in the early afternoon and experience next a wine tasting at the Tenuta Gemi, a local farmhouse in the neighborhoods of Monopoli, offering homegrown products and typical wines from the area. Continue on to your next outstanding accommodation in Ostuni. After checking in, relax some time before enjoying a delicious just caught fish dinner at hotel. Return to the hotel, overnight.

## DAY 5: GIOIA DEL COLLE – ALTAMURA – MATERA (B,L,D)

Breakfast at the hotel. Today will begin with an excursion to Altamura with a stop in Gioia del Colle at a terrific winery to taste Primitivo and other local wines. You will have lunch at the winery and then continue the drive to Altamura, a town famous for making one of the best breads in Italy. Here you will have the chance to visit a century old bakery where you will see how bread, focaccia, and other delicacies of the region are made. Afterwards, visit a beautiful nearby cathedral and observe the unique architecture. Arrive Matera in the early afternoon: this city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is located in the Basilicata region that borders Apulia. The Sassi district is the ancient heart of the city and still has existing prehistoric dwellings from thousands of years ago that are carved out of the face of the calcareous rock. Your local guide will bring you in a tour of the Sassi, to learn more about these fascinating habitats. Dinner will be served in Matera at a charming restaurant. You could enjoy food with different flavors that belong to the Basilicata region. Return to the hotel, overnight.





**DAY 6: OSTUNI – BRINDISI (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel before your transfer south to the Salento area, where Lecce is the most prominent city. Stop on the way in Ostuni, known as "the white town"; in fact, it is a gleaming white hilltop town with sun-bleached streets and cobbled alleyways. Continue toward Brindisi, where we will visit a winery for a tasting of local wines. Lunch on your own. Arrive in Lecce early afternoon. This lively university city is considered one of the most interesting cities in the region for its typical seventeenth century architecture. It is often called the Florence of the South for its monuments, mansions, and ornate buildings. Your deluxe hotel in Lecce is very close to the city center, and you will stay here for the remaining two nights of the tour. After checking in, you will have an aperitif in the heart of the city followed by a delicious fish dinner. Return to the hotel, overnight.

**DAY 7: LECCE (B,D)**

After breakfast at the hotel, meet your local guide for a city tour; visit the central food market and then have some free time when you can enjoy shopping and strolling in the lively city center. Lunch on your own

In the afternoon, you will have one last foody experience: creating your own local specialties that you will enjoy during your Farewell dinner.

Return to the hotel, overnight.

**DAY 8: ARRIVEDERCI ITALIA (B)**

After breakfast, depart to Brindisi airport to catch your flight back home.





## *Umbria between wine and nature*

### **DAY 1: ROME – MONTEFALCO (D)**

Arrival at Rome Fiumicino Airport and private transfer to Umbria. Check in at an elegant farmhouse in Montefalco area, the best of the fascinating villages in the Valle of Spoleto. Get ready for a very special welcome dinner, with local dishes prepared with on site products. Overnight.

### **DAY 2: ASSISI – SPOLETO (B,D)**

Breakfast in hotel. This morning you will travel through a dream landscape to Assisi, St. Francis was born here in 1182 and spent most of his adult life preaching around this area of Umbria. Your local guide will introduce you to the Roman remains under the still standing temple of Minerva, and the Basilica of San Francesco with Giotto's frescoes which decorate the lower church. Also worth a visit is the Basilica of Santa Chiara, dedicated to Saint Clare of Assisi, a follower of Saint Francis of Assisi and founder of the Order of Poor Ladies, known today as the Order of Saint Clare; the remains of Saint Clare are kept in the Basilica. After lunch on your own, you will proceed to Spoleto, a town rich in Roman and medieval history; explore the ancient center including the Roman house the Duomo to see Filippo Lippi's final fresco cycle. There is also free time to wander the streets, shops and cafes in this evocative town. Return to the farmhouse in Montefalco and enjoy a relaxed dinner in Umbria's countryside. Overnight.

#### **TOUR ITINERARY DURING HARVEST: ASSISI – GUBBIO (B,D)**

Assisi (same itinerary as previously described).

In the afternoon you will move to Gubbio, a town with a strong medieval aspect, which is austere in appearance because of the dark grey stone, narrow streets, and Gothic architecture. Many houses in central Gubbio date to the 14th and 15th centuries and were originally home of wealthy merchants. The hills above the town were already occupied in the Bronze Age and it was an important town of the ancient Umbrian people in pre-Roman times, made famous for the discovery there of the Etruscan Tablets, a set of bronze tablets that constitute the largest surviving text in the Etruscan language and transcribed into ancient Umbrian.

### **DAY 3: PERUGIA – BEVAGNA (B,D)**

After breakfast in hotel depart to Perugia, where you will meet your local guide for a half day guided tour of the Umbria's largest town, a rich microcosm of medieval and modern. Its highlights include the magnificent frescoes in the Collegio del Cambio and the town's famous chocolates.

Once an important Etruscan settlement, Perugia has piled up layers of history ever since, turning Renaissance palaces into shops and inserting modern escalators into medieval remains. You will walk through the medieval ghost town under Rocca Paolina. The virtual underground city was a stroke of genius by the architect who was ordered to destroy the area. The tour also includes a visit to an Etruscan well and the extraordinary Etruscan gate from the 2nd century BC. Before lunch you can't miss the visit of Perugia's chocolate factory and the Chocolate Museum to learn about chocolate production. The museum explains the process of converting cocoa into chocolate and introduces the history of the Perugina chocolate company. Independent lunch. On the way back to Montefalco, you will make a stop in Bevagna, one of Umbria's most evocative towns. During Spring you can view a circuit of mediaeval artisans in their workshops including Francesco, the artisan paper maker surrounded by shredded fabrics, an enormous water operated pulping mill, and boiling animal hides. Part of the guided tour is the visit to a revocation of a Medieval house complete with frescoes, bedlinens, bath and weaving loom. Also visit the town's Roman mosaics and the beautifully evocative piazza encircled by Bevagna's other essential sights; the two Romanesque churches that face each other across Piazza Silvestri, the intact medieval main square. San Michele and San Silvestro (its utter lack of adornment and steeply raised presbytery radiate a stern Romanesque purity).

**TOUR ITINERARY DURING HARVEST: PICKING GRAPES WITH THE FARMERS & SPOLETO (B,L)**  
Breakfast in hotel. Today you will have a unique experience by spending the morning with the farmers in the vineyard. This is the time of the year for the grape harvest: you will see and experience all the traditional activities of the countryside. At the end of this hard work, you will enjoy a delicious picnic lunch in the vineyard, sipping of course a local red wine! Return to the hotel and have some free time to relax before an excursion to Spoleto (same itinerary as before). There are plenty of restaurants and bars here where you can decide to have independent dinner. Return to Montefalco, overnight.





#### **DAY 4: TODI – DERUTA – COOKING CLASS IN MONTEFALCO (B,D)**

Breakfast in hotel. This morning depart for an excursion to Todi, one of the most strikingly situated of Umbria's famous hilltowns. This ancient Etruscan, and then Roman settlement, still preserves an uncorrupted medieval look, with several churches, three austere public places and many sleepy corners.

On the way back to Montefalco, you will stop in Deruta, famous in the world for its ceramics. Here you will be able to admire and, if you wish so, to buy, the typical renaissance inspired ceramics.

Once you reached Montefalco again, get ready for a cooking class with Mrs.

Alessandra: in the kitchen, she will teach you the ancient Umbria art of cooking. At the end, of course, you will taste your delicious "work", together with a few glasses of wine!

Return to the farmhouse, overnight.

#### **DAY 5: ORVIETO – CITTA' DELLA PIEVE – TODI AREA (B,D)**

After breakfast in hotel, board your minivan and visit more of Umbria, Italy's green heart. You will first stop in Orvieto, perched on a 300 m. Plateau. Orvieto overlooks down a vineyards spotted plain. Visitors admire the Duomo, among the greatest of Italy's Romanesque Gothic Cathedrals. In the afternoon, on the way to Todi area, where you will spend the rest of the nights of your tour, you will stop in Città della Pieve, an Etruscan Roman center, with a rather troubled past, having been contended between medieval lords and the Church state. Worth seeing here is the Duomo, dedicated to Saints Gervasio and Protasio and which still today holds the masterpieces of the great artist Pietro Vannucci, known as "Il Perugino" (The Adoration of the Magi of the Oratory of Santa Maria dei Bianchi, The Baptism of Christ Cathedral, The Descent from the Cross of the Museum of the Diocese of Santa Maria dei Servi), ) one of the most important painters of the Italian Renaissance. Also, you could visit the Torre del Pubblico and the church of Sant'Agostino. Nowadays this destination is made even more attractive by the Palio dei Terzieri, an historical reenactment of an ancient contest between the town's neighborhoods, which features a parade with over 700 costumed characters.

Proceed then to your elegant farmhouse in the countryside of Umbria.

#### **DAY 6: MAGIONE – PACIANO – OLIVE OIL TASTING (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Further exploring Umbria, and getting closer to Trasimeno Lake, you will come across Magione, a castle first mentioned at the time of the Knights of Malta. Built in the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century as hospital of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, currently Knights of Malta, the facility is now the operational center of a wide farm/estate whose products are known for their high quality.

Next stop en route will be Paciano, a charming village founded around the XIV century, on a spur of Mount Petrarvella, and is definitely worth a visit thanks to its four churches, dedicated respectively to Saint Giuseppe, Saint Borromeo, Saint Maria and to the Madonna della Stella. The village is surrounded by 14<sup>th</sup> century walls, about 600 meters long, which includes eight towers and three gates, Porta Fiorentina, Porta Perugina and Porta Rastrella. A walk through the narrow streets of the center allows you to experience this ancient atmosphere.

Finally, before heading back to your farmhouse, you will stop at a local farm for an olive oil tasting; the perfect climatic conditions and the fertile soil at the foot of the Apennines are ideal for a slow ripening of the olives and, hence, their low acidity. These olives are the source of an extraordinarily rich quality of extra virgin olive oil produced in the hills of Trasimeno Lake.

Return to Todi area; dinner tonight will be at the farmhouse, with tasty dishes prepared with local homegrown crops and wine from local wineries. Overnight.

#### **DAY 7: CASTIGLIONE DEL LAGO – TUORO SUL TRASIMENO – ISOLA MAGGIORE (B,D)**

After breakfast at the hotel you will have a full day excursion to the Trasimeno Lake area. You will first visit Castiglione del Lago, a town owing its foundation to Etruscan ancestors, as testified by the burial remains uncovered in the area. Very well preserved within Castiglione are the town hall, the ducal palace of the Della Corgna family, and the castle, with impressive wall, constitutes one of the main examples of military art in the region.





Free time for lunch and in the afternoon, you will continue on to Tuoro sul Trasimeno, where the epic battle between the armies of Rome and of Carthage, headed by Hannibal, took place. Do not miss, in the same area, Isola Maggiore, which rises near the north bank of the lake and is surrounded by typical Mediterranean vegetation, as well as artistic monuments. Final stop will be Passigano sul Trasimeno, one of the most popular and historically interesting villages among those overlooking the lake. Its middle age walls testify the development of the center, evolving from a small agricultural village to a castle, which, after the Lordship of Uguccione II in the 917, was constantly aimed at by the towns of Arezzo, Perugia and Florence. Your day will end with an aperitif beside the Lake at the sunset, and you will then have an unforgettable Farewell dinner in a beautiful restaurants by the lake. Return to your countryside mansion for overnight.

#### **DAY 8: DEPARTURE FROM ROME AIRPORT**

After breakfast transfer to Rome airport for your return flight.





## *True flavors of Veneto*

### **DAY 1: ARRIVE ITALY (D)**

Arrival Milan Malpensa International airport and be met by your guide for a private to your charming accommodation in Lake Garda area, free time to relax and get ready for delicious Welcome Dinner, at the resort/small boutique hotel's restaurant

### **DAY 2: LAKE GARDA – VERONA (B,D)**

Breakfast at the resort/hotel. The leitmotif of the day are the five castles you will see: Monzambano, Valeggio, Villafranca Veronese, Soave and Montecchio Maggiore along the way to Vicenza. You can visit several castles that are in a frame of vineyards along the rolling hills of Veneto.; often, these buildings shape the landscape in which they are located and become veritable landmark. Next will come Verona, this beautiful city on the Adige river, where you will have a walking panoramic tour. Built in the distinctive local pink marble, Verona has a rosy hue, as if the sun were constantly setting. What was once a thriving Roman settlement is today one of the most prosperous and elegant cities in Italy. Shakespeare's setting for Romeo and Juliet appeals to lovers of all ages (OPTIONAL: visit the most famous balcony of the world). You can now even get married on "Juliet's Balcony". The celebrated Arena di Verona opera season attracts opera fans to the Roman Amphitheatre. The sophisticated center remains a peoplewatching parade, from cafés in Piazza Brà to Piazza delle Erbe, once the site of the Roman forum. Verona is also a citadel of consumerism, awash with sunglasses, shoes and jewelry. Before heading back to the resort/hotel you maybe want to stop for a sweet treat, we can recommend you the best place depending on the flavor you like the most, traditional or contemporary? The flavors of gelato differ by season, with September offering fig and strawberry, and while December brings apples and pear. Return to the resort/hotel, dinner and overnight.

### **DAY 3: PADUA – VICENZA (B,D)**

After breakfast at the hotel leave for Padua: its narrow streets open to the grandeur of the main squares in a city adorned with Byzantine domes and statues that line the banks of the Prato della Valle. Your local art guide will lead you to discover the grandeur of Padua and Vicenza. The University of Padua was founded in the 13th century and continues to bring a youthful ambiance to the historical streets. Outside of Padua, the plains of Veneto reach the horizon with grass that shines emerald. The morning market at Piazza della Frutta e delle Erbe comes to life with vendors that sell regional specialties and local produce. The eggplants have a bright purple glow and the aroma of fennel sweeps across the cobblestones.

The rainbow colors of the fruit contrast with the pearled arcade of the 13<sup>th</sup> century Palazzo della Ragione, which extends up to nearly 270 feet long. Venture to Cappella degli Scrovegni to view the Renaissance masterpiece crafted by Giotto in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century. Lunch on your own, and in the afternoon proceed to Vicenza, a splendid Renaissance city nestled within the Po River Valley, rich with history and art. Vicenza is the "city of Palladio", famous architect of the 16th century, whom it is bound by a unique and indissoluble bond. The city is silently overlooked by the majestic Sanctuary of the Madonna di Monte Berico, which houses a splendid painting by Paolo Veronese titled "La cena di San Gregorio Magno". Legend has it that the Madonna appeared here twice to free the city of a terrible plague. After a panoramic tour of the city center, you will stop for a guided tour of Palladio's masterpiece Almerico Villa Capra, better known as Villa "La Rotonda", with its square-based dome and large loggia, which features Ionic columns reminiscent of an imposing ancient temple. The city of Vicenza is home to numerous later Renaissance architectural works designed by Palladio himself (Palazzo Chiericati, Palazzo Barbaran da Porto – which houses Palladio Museum, Palazzo Thiene), the presence of which has resulted in the city being named as a UNESCO world heritage site. Another masterpiece of the famous architect is Villa Valmarana in Nani, where your local art guide will show you the rooms frescoed by Giambattista Tiepolo in the Palazzina (Owners' Residence) and by Giandomenico in the Foresteria (GuestHouse), also, you will see the magnificent historical park with its rose gardens, a "giardino all'italiana" with its open air theater and well, a double hornbeams alley terminating with a statue of Neptune. At the end of the tour, you would be hungry... so we thought to plan a stop at a local delicatessen famous for its selection of cheeses, meats, and fresh salads. The aroma of fresh herbs, olive oil, and artichokes accompany the unforgettable scent of the variety of cheeses on offer. Taste some authentic food from the territory, accompanied by local wines. Return to your accommodation for overnight.





#### **DAY 4: BARDOLINO AND LOCAL WINES – OLIVE MILL ON THE BANKS OF LAKE GARDA (B,D)**

After breakfast, you will wander through the local wine museum that connects to a historical winery along the slopes of the town's bordering hills for a different view over the streets and waters of Lake Garda. The museum contains an aroma of cedar and soil to capture the vast history that the galleries display. Each room is dedicated to a different stage of the wine process to enhance the past and contemporary differences of winemaking, from soil to bottle. You will come across clay jugs that are painted with elaborate caricatures, and instruments used to till the land as antique pumps and ploughs that showcase the grafting systems. In the fourth room, you can see the mastery of coopers and their tools that shape the wooden barrels in which the wine rests for months to years at a time to absorb the flavors of the container. The museum provides an all-encompassing tour followed by a tasting of the wines produced on the property. The Bardolino Classico has an intense ruby hue as the aroma hints at flowers and delicate red fruit. The velvety texture leads to a bold, full flavor that lingers on your palate. Lunch on your own, and in the afternoon proceed to a local olive mill on the banks of Lake Garda. The Olive oil museum attracts 50,000 visitors every year, offering the insight of the Turri family, who have been producing highly acclaimed Olive oil for over 50 years. You will learn all about the past and present processes of olive oil making. Of course, you won't leave the Turri mill, without tasting some delicious Garda extra virgin olive oil, using the appropriate glass, and at the end of the visit you will also have the chance to taste olives and various savories with olive pâté, pesto and other sauces. Return to the resort/hotel in the evening, dinner and overnight.

#### **DAY 5: ASIAGO – BASSANO DEL GRAPPA – TREVISO (B,D)**

Breakfast at the resort/hotel. This morning you will leave Lake Garda area to reach your new charming accommodation in Treviso area at the end of the day. You will make stops on the way to visit the historic town of Asiago and the marvelous Bassano del Grappa. Located at an elevation of 1001 m above sea level, Asiago is undoubtedly the most famous among the towns of the seven Municipalities Plateau (now 8 from 1796 - Rotzo, Roana, Gallio, Foza, Enego, and Lusiana, and the recently added Conco -), known also as "the Asiago plateau". The tourist attractions, points of interest, the historical and natural scenic beauty, the events, the slopes, the trails, etc. are distributed throughout the territory of the plateau. After a panoramic walking tour of the town, you will visit the Military Shrine of Asiago: built between 1932 and 1936, it houses the remains of over 55,000 soldiers in Italy and Austro-Hungarians died in the fighting took place on the plateau during the first world war of 15-18. Inside the Ossuary is an interesting Museum open to the public where are exposed explosive remnants of war memorabilia and photographic documents of the era.

One of the best-known delicacies you can taste in the Asiago Plateau is the cheese, prepared in various degrees of ripeness. However, it is not the only specialty of the region: there are also the potatoes of Rotzo, the celery of Rubbio, the dandelion of Conco, cold cuts, honey, jams, and many other specialties of exceptional quality. In the late morning, before leaving this historical town, you will stop at a local farm to see the process of the famous "Asiago" cheese making. The dairy milk is collected from the local farmers and processed according to a strict discipline that respects traditional methods of production. The quality is certified by the D.O.P. and guaranteed by the Consorzio di Tutela del Formaggio Asiago (the "Asiago Cheese Producers Association"). You can try Asiago Cheese of different stages of maturity: cool (or pressed), middle, old and very old. From a few months old up to three years. In summertime, you can also taste the alpine cheese, produced in the "malghe" in high mountains.

Proceed to Bassano del Grappa in the afternoon, a very old town, located near the confluence of the Po and Brenta Rivers. Cross over the 16th-century Ponte degli Alpini, a carved wooden bridge that leads into the historical center of town. You will visit the 15th-century Palazzo Ducale, which rises above the shoreline of Lake Garda. The 500-room structure features lavish frescoes, including a trompe l'oeil painting that depicts the court pranksters ready to drop a potted plant atop wandering tourists. At the end of the panoramic tour of the historic center, stop at the local Grappa Museum to learn about the deep roots of the liqueur located inside the Palazzo delle Teste. Follow the steps known through centuries of Grappa making, which was started in the 14th-century and lead to the contemporary process of aging the liqueur in wooden barrels. Much of the flavor is derived from the natural qualities of the grapes, stems, and leaves, however, many producers soak medicinal plants in Grappa to release aromatic properties during distillation. Once you learned everything about "grappa", it's time for a tasting: your tour manager will pour you a selection of samples that span the various characteristics, from pale hay hues to molasses. You will find an aroma of licorice that blends with sweet blueberry, and the distinctive flavors offer an unforgettable tasting in the unique historical location.

Arrive Treviso area where your next luxury accommodation is; after checking in, dinner at the restaurant of the resort/hotel or in local restaurants in the surroundings. Overnight.





## **DAY 6: PALLADIAN VILLAS – PROSECCO TOUR (B,D)**

After breakfast, you will leave for a visit of two of the masterpieces realized by the famous 16th century architect, Andrea Palladio: Villa Emo at Fanzolo di Vedelago and Villa Barbaro at Maser, both Palladian, and both decorated with Paolo Veronese's and/or his pupil G.B. Zelotti's frescos. Villa Emo, once center of a farming estate, is built upon a high footing, with two porticoed service buildings which are enclosed by dovecot towers. The façade is stunningly plain, with a Doric tetrastyle loggia topped by a triangular tympanum with the family coat of arms, held up by angels. The architect solves the relationship between architecture and environment brilliantly: the overall harmony becomes more evident both approaching the villa and looking around from the loggia. The linearity of the building is opposed to the interior decoration which adorns the rooms with an extraordinary world of people and views. Not far from Vedelago, you will find Villa Barbaro: also known as Villa di Maser, the Villa is located in the middle of a flourishing estate whose Historic Winery produces wines of great quality. Open all year round, it maintains the fascinating character of a home where the owners still live and work, and during the many events staged, its beauty and magic atmosphere can be enjoyed throughout the changing seasons. Climbing roses, wisteria, and begonias adorn the entrance courtyard and welcome visitors to the villa. The visit continues inside with the six rooms with frescoes by Paolo Veronese, which represent his largest and most important fresco works and from where one can see the Ninfaeum with stuccoes by Alessandro Vittoria. A short walk through the vineyards will lead you to the carriage collection which contains some thirty exhibits of forms of transport from past centuries. Independent lunch and in the afternoon your local tour manager will accompany you in a Prosecco wine tour, visit some of the most famous areas of the Venetian wine tradition and enjoy the luxury of one of the best food and wine trips in Italy. The road of Prosecco and wines from the Conegliano and Valdobbiadene hills.

This tour will meet the needs of the modern wine tourists who, in addition to sample delicious food and wine, want to explore the environmental and cultural components that make up the traditions of the area; you will tour along uninterrupted vineyards and small parish churches from medieval times to savor the delicacies and scents of the famous Prosecco di Valdobbiadene. You will stop at two local wineries to taste this pleasant sparkling white wine, and at the end of the tour you will enjoy a typical dinner at a local restaurant in the area. Return to the resort/hotel, overnight.

## **DAY 7: VENICE – ISLANDS OF THE LAGOON (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning you will have a half day guided tour of Venice, known also as "La Serenissima". "Serenissimo" was a Byzantine title, bestowed upon the Doge and the Signoria at first, then extended to the entire Republic of Venice.

'Most Serene' was an honorary appellation and an indicator of sovereignty. The intricate network of canals, alleys, bridges, the elegant architecture and gondolas along the waterway is what makes Venice one of the most romantic cities in the world. The royal ambiance of St. Mark's Square, St Mark's Basilica and Doge's Palace will fill you up with amazement. As you weave your way through the twisting back streets, cobbled courtyards and small arched bridges, your expert guide will regale you with tales from Venice's colorful past. You'll discover why the city was built on a lagoon, how it came to be an important center of trade and what events conspired to end its domination over much of the Mediterranean. Walk by Marco Polo's house and hear about how the Venetian merchant set off to sea one day and returned with tales of faraway eastern lands that in those days few had ever seen. You'll stroll across the church and palace-lined piazzas of Campo SS Giovanni e Paolo and Campo Santa Maria Formosa, where Byzantine, Renaissance, and modern elements fuse together their timeless portraits of the city, and also glimpse the romantic Bridge of Sighs, said to be named after the sighing prisoners as they were escorted across the canal to the cells of the adjacent prison. Lunch on your own and in the afternoon, you will go for a boat excursion to discover the Venetian islands of Murano and Burano! With your expert guide, you will learn about the age-old handicrafts that brought these little islands fame, and you will see fine Murano glass and Burano lace being made first-hand. It's the perfect trip from Venice for those seeking a combination of history and behind-the-scenes action! The tour will start with a short ride to Murano, you will head straight to a glassblower's workshop for an authentic, behind-the-scenes look at a Murano glassmaker in action. As the craftsman goes about his daily business, you'll learn how finished glass is carefully prepared and made. Watch the silica sand turn to glass, discover how the bright colors (typical of Murano glass) are achieved and hear all the highs and lows of working as a glassblower in Murano! You'll have time to spend at leisure on Murano – a great opportunity to browse the workshop's impressive glass art collection, simply explore on your own or stop for a coffee and pastry.





Proceed then to the neighboring island of Burano, where you will be greeted by its vibrantly colored fishermen's houses that line the streets. Just as Murano is famous for its glassmaking, Burano is famous for its lace making. Visit a local workplace to see the island's craftswomen at work. Almost exclusively made by women, Burano lace is the finished product of a painstakingly precise textile craft. As you watch, your guide will talk about the history of this exquisite Venetian lace and explain how the handcrafted finery is sadly becoming a dying art. At the end of the tour you will head back to Venice for a "Ombre and Cicchetti" tour (Venice's appetizers and wine tour). Your guide will take you to 3 different enotecas to discover where local Venetians go to drink, eat and mingle. You will visit a nearby bar that occupies the former site of a charcoal store and then stroll over to the Cannaregio neighborhood and visit a 18th-century watering hole on the bustling street of Strada Nuova. The tour will then cross the Grand Canal on a traghetto passenger ferry and stop at the historic, open-air Rialto Market, where many Venetians shop for daily fresh produce and seafood. You will visit one more local bar in central Venice. Each tavern has its unique atmosphere and specialty appetizers (Cicchetti) dishes. Your tour will end at the iconic Rialto Bridge. Return to the hotel, overnight.

#### **DAY 8: VALPOLICELLA AND AMARONE (B,L,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Today you will have a full day wine tour: starting in Venice and crossing a huge part of Veneto region, once territory of the Serenissima Repubblica di Venezia, you will arrive in Valpolicella, the land of Amarone.

Its vineyards begin just outside the city of Verona and stretch in two directions from the romantic home of Romeo and Juliet: west towards Lake Garda, at the historic heart of this very traditional wine, and to the east, where younger, more modern winemakers are making their mark. The region produces only red wines, and although its reputation suffered in the past as the kind of cheap vino you'd order in a pizzeria, today it is producing some of Italy's finest. Discover the charm of this land, admiring the valleys painted with vineyards and breathtaking landscapes. You will first reach the "temple" among Valpolicella wineries, the Giuseppe Quintarelli winery, an Amarone legend, he is the godfather, if not the parent, of Amarone. Enjoy a guided tour of the cellar and a wine tasting. At Quintarelli there is an obsession about quality: from the product itself, to the quality of the corks, glass and bottle caps. The labels stand out with their charming and idiosyncratic handwritten style. They treat wine with respect and patience, allowing it to develop to its maximum potential before it is bottled.

At lunch time you will stop at a traditional restaurant, in the heart of Valpolicella Classica, and enjoy a traditional lunch on an amazing terrace facing the breathtaking landscape of the valley. Continue your Valpolicella tour after lunch, and reach Villa della Torre, owned by Allegrini, one of the most renowned wine producers in Italy and in the world, a bench-mark producer of Amarone. Since Giovanni Allegrini passed away, the company is now run by the last generation of the Allegrini family who was able to renew traditional wine making processes with an interpretation of the Ripasso technique and the re-introduction of the Oseletta, an old Valpolicella grape variety which, despite a modest output, gives a distinct structure and body to the wine due to its high tannin content. Visit the beautiful Villa surrounded by vineyards and enjoy a tasting of Allegrini's wine, including Amarone. Villa della Torre has been designed to remind of a domus, the typical residence of ancient Rome noble families. In the center of the building there is the typical courtyard where, instead of the Roman impluvium, the tank used in ancient Roman time to collect rain-water, you will find a beautiful fountain. All around the inner courtyard there is an arcade with columns made of local stone. At the end of the tour you will have the chance to taste the most important Allegrini products: Valpolicella Classico, Palazzo della Torre, La Poja, Amarone and Giovanni Allegrini Recioto. Return to the resort/hotel in the evening; dinner and overnight.

#### **DAY 9: ARRIVEDERCI ITALIA (B,D)**

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to Venice airport to catch your flight back home.





# ***Pearls of Liguria***

## **DAY 1: ARRIVE ITALY**

Arrive Milan Malpensa International airport and be met by your tour manager; transfer to your charming accommodation on the Riviera Ligure. Free time to relax after checking in, tonight you will have a delightful Welcome Dinner, in a typical seafood restaurant on the seaside.

Return to the resort, overnight.

## **DAY 2: COOKING CLASS IN GENOA (B,L,D)**

Breakfast in hotel, today you will visit Genoa, the capital of Liguria, where you will have a fun, creative, cultural and interesting 360-degree cooking class! You will cook an entire Italian Riviera menu.

The class, in a cozy elegant kitchen in the historic center of the city, is 100% hands-on, your cook will guide you through all the ingredients and the cooking techniques and you will learn how to cook like an Italian (or better like a Genoese!).

During the course you will chat on Genoese and Italian cuisine and you will be told stories behind each local product you will use and each traditional dish we will prepare. It will be a full immersion in the Italian Riviera food culture!

You will learn how to make pesto sauce in the mortar as tradition rules will prepare handmade traditional pasta, a savory pie learning how to stretch dough thin like a bride veil and you will cook an Italian dessert.

During the class you will enjoy an aperitivo where you will taste local wines jointly with samples of local cheese and charcuterie.

The class will end you will eat all together what you prepared, all wrapped up with a digestive as the Italians do. It will be as a lunch with friends.

In the afternoon you will have a digestive walking tour of this interesting city. Genoa, on the northwest coast of Italy, is Italy's principal seaport. Genoa was 2004 European Culture Capital; money flowed into the port city made famous by Columbus and now it's a better place than ever to visit. It has a fascinating aquarium, an interesting port area, and a historic center said to be the largest medieval quarter in Europe, with a wealth of churches, palaces, and museums. Your local guide will show you the most beautiful spots of the city: Via Garibaldi, heart of the UNESCO World Heritage sites with the richness of its "Palazzi", their frescoes and gilded decorations, Piazza De Ferrari, elegant architecture of the 20th C.; Columbus's house, the imposing Palazzo Ducale, and the stories of the ancient republic; the Cathedral and its treasures, Palazzo San Giorgio, the story and Glory of the ancient Marine Republic, creating the bases of our modern economy.

At the end of the tour, free time at your disposal, to discover more of Genoa, before enjoying a delicious seafood dinner in an elegant restaurant on the seaside. Return to your accommodation for overnight.

## **DAY 3: CINQUE TERRE (B,D)**

After breakfast at the resort, you will leave have a half day excursion at the famous Cinque Terre: a string of five fishing villages perched high on the Italian Riviera, which until recently were linked only by mule tracks and accessible only by rail or water. You will board the ferry and make stops in the five villages: Monterosso, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola and Riomaggiore. An ancient system of footpaths is still the best way to visit these beautiful villages. The Cinque Terre is noted for its beauty. Over centuries, people have carefully built terraces to cultivate grapes and olives on the rugged, steep landscape right up to the cliffs that overlook the Mediterranean Sea. Each town has a distinct character, but all share a similar aesthetic: narrow, tower-like pastel-colored houses cluster atop one another in an appealingly hodge-podge pattern, and steep streets are interrupted by staircases cutting through the towns' historic centers. The scenery in Cinque Terre is simply breathtaking.

This beautiful area was recognized in 1997 by the UNESCO Mankind's World Heritage, and today it's a National Park and Protected Marine Area with the aim of protecting this great cultural heritage and natural environment. Lunch on your own, in a typical "osteria", and in the afternoon you will visit a family-owned farm and winery in Riomaggiore; during the tour you will walk through the sea-view steep slopes and explore the dynamic vineyards, continue then to the cellar and enjoy some quality wine tasting, from the known Schiaccetrà to the classic local white wines, but also surprising reds and rosés. You will listen a local wine expert, owner of the farm, proudly explaining the production of his wines, safeguarding local products that do not have famous name. Apart from the vineyards, the farm is also involved in beekeeping and the production of integral honey; also, they have a small plantation of lemon trees used for limoncello and jams. At the end of the day, come back to the mainland and reach your small luxury boutique hotel/resort in the Riviera Ligure, after checking in relax some time before dinner at the hotel's restaurant. Overnight.





#### **DAY 4: PORTOFINO – SAN FRUTTUOSO – SANTA MARGHERITA LIGURE (B,D)**

Breakfast in hotel, today will be dedicated to an excursion in the Riviera Ligure, you will visit some of the most beautiful cities of the area, among which: Portofino, San Fruttuoso e Santa Margherita Ligure. Portofino is a famous tourist resort located in the province of Genoa. The city is considered as the hub of tourism always visited by celebrities. It welcomes the tourist with its beautiful shops, its natural park, the beach with its clear water and the charming beauty of nature surroundings have helped the enormous growth of the tourist place. Also, you will visit San Fruttuoso Bay and see the two powerful attractions of this indentation along a mountainous coastline. One is an ancient Benedictine monastery and the other the Christ of the Abyss. The monastery is a lovely stone building with a small dome, which straddles the beach. The Christ of the Abyss is an above-life-size bronze statue a little way offshore and over 15m. (50 feet) under the sea. You can see a replica in the church next to the monastery. Next stop will be Santa Margherita Ligure, a fair-sized town, large enough to receive the huge number of tourists that come there; visit Antiochi's Church and Villa Durazzo Centurione, which is a monument to the faded glory of the Riviera. The garden terraces are a public park and a pleasant place to sit. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight.

#### **DAY 5: NERVIA VALLEY & MEDIEVAL VILLAGES – ROSSESE WINE TASTING (B,D)**

After breakfast at the hotel, you will go for a full day excursion to the the Nervi Valley, where you will visit the most representatives of the Medieval villages in the "Imperiese": Dolceacqua and Apricale. There four more villages (Castellaro – Taggia – Badalucco – Triora), that you can decide to visit in the afternoon, as an alternative to the wine tasting in Dolceacqua. Apricale is a beautiful and charming historic center. The present town goes back the IX century and preserves part of the medieval walls, three doors with pointed arches and the ancient castle. Dolceacqua most attractive feature is the oldest part of the village, called Terra, which is situated at the foot of Mount Rebuffao, and it's dominated by the Doria's Castle. Also, this village is known for the famous 15th-century, Romanesque bridge that Claude Monet had painted in 1884, defining it "a gem of lightness". Lunch on your own, and in the afternoon, stop at "Cooperativa Riviera dei Fiori" in Dolceacqua for a Rossese wine tasting: it is believed that the introduction of this vine in Liguria has taken place by the Greeks, but there is also a version that supports the Etruscan thesis. During the Middle Ages Andrea Doria elected it as festive wine for its fleet and centuries later Napoleon also had the opportunity to taste it, sending many bottles to Paris. Its characteristics, its long tradition and its denomination of origin (DOC) make Rossese wine one of the most popular and appreciated Ligurian wines. At the end of the tour, you will reach your charming accommodation in the Riviera dei Fiori, check in and have some free time to relax in the grounds of resort/small boutique hotel. Dinner and overnight.

#### **DAY 6: BORDIGHERA AND NOBLE VILLAS (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel: this morning go to Bordighera, an elegant city, center of the elite tourism of the mid-1800s. Royals, writers and artists from all over Europe but especially English, built here their gorgeous villas and planted exotic gardens. You will visit the splendid villa of Queen Margherita di Savoia, the Villa Garnier, built by the famous architect of the Paris Opera House and the Giardini Pallanca. Also, your tour manager will lead you to a walking tour of Bordighera historical center: a maze of narrow alleys surrounded by massive walls.

Just behind Bordighera don't miss Vallebona with the Vecchia Distilleria (old distillery) where they produce Acqua di fiori d'arancio ([orange blossom water](#)) that is ancient product, a natural distillate that has been used for centuries as a beauty secret, as an herbal remedy and above all as an aroma in the kitchen. Here, Pietro Guglielmi grows bitter orange trees few years ago completely lost and distills orange blossom water with the old methods of his ancestors. Actually, this precious water is recognized to be a Slow Food Presidia or Liguria.

#### **DAY 7: SANREMO – TAGGIA AND EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL TASTING (B,D)**

After breakfast at the hotel, board your minivan and head to Sanremo, another center of elite tourism of past times as the hotels and villas in Art Nouveau or eclectic style testify.

The first stop in town is Villa Nobel, a Moorish-style building which hosted the famous Swedish scientist Alfred Nobel from 1890 to 1896. It was here that he decided to establish the famous "Nobel prizes". Nowadays the villa thrives with prestigious cultural initiatives and it houses permanent museum of Nobel relics together with a gallery of Italian Nobel Prizes. Its park is full of age-old and precious plants.





Proceed then to the characteristic historical center, “La Pigna”, which once was the pulse of a no longer existing Sanremo. It was the actual old town and now it is both the “humblest” and the most spontaneous area of the town. It is full of covered alleys, little squares, and terraced houses together with dull colors and long silences which in turn create emotions and sensations unknown to mass tourism. You will reach next Piazza dell’Oratorio, where you can admire the 18<sup>th</sup> century frescoes inside the oratory. You won’t miss the Palace of the Counts Sapia Rossi, Napoleon was hosted here in 1794. Last stop before visiting the Sanremo city center is Madonna della Costa (Our Lady of the Coast), as the sanctuary is called here in Sanremo. This 17th century building was once a safe landmark for sailors approaching Sanremo. The inside of the sanctuary is richly decorated with marbles and stuccoes.

Free time for lunch, and in the afternoon, you will visit a local farmhouse in Taggia, where you will know more about the extra virgin olive oil production process. Going back to the origins of Taggia means rediscovering the story of a territory where the presence of man is confirmed by the prehistoric remains in the Grotta dell’Arma or the legend according to which Greek navigators on our coasts identified this valley and gave it the name of “Taleia”, a name that is quite similar to Taggia and which means “blooming”.

The original olive trees in the Sanremo hinterland were native to this part of Europe. They were growing before man existed. Today the crop is riper, less bitter and bigger but the [Ligurian DOP oil](#) produced is of the highest quality. The village of Taggia, in fact, give name to the local variety of olive, called the Taggiasca and the town's wealth is, in part, still based on this fine fruit. The olive itself is extremely hardy and grows from sea level up to 1000 meters. Some of the trees live for 300 hundred years and all produce three colors of fruits - red, black and green. Your expert tour manager will bring you to a local “frantoio”, where you will see the original water wheel and olive presses below the present factory. Return to your charming accommodation, relax some time before a very special Liguria Farewell Dinner.

#### **DAY 7: MILAN (B,D)**

After breakfast at the hotel proceed to Milan, where you will have a half day guided tour. Your local art guide will introduce you to Italy’s most stylish city: first stop will be at the medieval Sforza Castle. A grand medieval Castle and fortress, the Sforzesco was once residence for the ruling family of Milan and now houses several of the city's museums and art collections. Visit the splendid Duomo, one of the world's largest, most striking Gothic cathedrals. Some 135 spires and 3,200 statues are crammed onto the roof and facade of the building.

Walk inside Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II shopping gallery, a 19th century glass vaulted shopping arcade. Brimming with fashionable shops and cafes, it is often called the ‘salotto di Milano’ or ‘Milan’s drawing room’ for its importance over the years as a common meeting point for the people of Milan. Enter Milan’s most famous Opera House, the fabulous La Scala theatre. Founded in 1778 and still in use, some of the world’s greatest musicians and opera singers have performed here including Pavarotti and Giuseppe Verdi, whose famous operas such as Falstaff often premiered in this very theatre. Independent lunch and in the afternoon, free time at your disposal to know more about Italy’s fashion capital, you maybe want to have walk to the Quadrilatero della Moda (Milan’s fashion district). Visitors come from all over the world to shop in the boutiques and showrooms, or just to stroll around and admire the shop windows, often showcases of superb taste and exclusive design. Or you can visit Brera District, the artistic heart of the city. In fact, as you stroll along the streets of this ancient district, you cannot help but be enchanted by its almost surreal atmosphere boasting small artisan’s workshops or quaint stores selling canvases and paints. Additionally, Brera is home to the impressive [Accademia di Belle Arti](#), where visitors can admire Milan’s famous painting collection at the [Pinacoteca \(the Brera Picture Gallery\)](#), the historic Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense (Braidense National Library), the [Museo Astronomico](#) (The Astronomical Museum), the oldest scientific research institute in the city and the Giardino Botanico (Botanical Gardens), an evocative green space located. At the end of the day reach your hotel in Milan’s city center, dinner and overnight.

#### **DAY 7: ARRIVEDERCI ITALIA (B,D)**

After breakfast at the hotel proceed to Milan Malpensa International Airport to catch your flight back home.





# *Gastronomic tour of Sicily*

## **Day 1 - Arrival in Palermo**

Arrival in Palermo airport and transfer to your Hotel where our tour leader will be at the arrival to welcome you - 7.00 pm we will meet all together in the lobby and have an orientation of the tour with an aperitif at the lounge bar of the Hotel - 8.00 pm dinner will be at a fantastic restaurant Villa Zito, inside an Art Deco style mansion.

## **Day 2 - Arab (Market) and Norman influences in Sicily: Monreale and Palermo**

9AM am we will meet in the lobby and go together to the market where we will meet the Duchess of Palma. You will see while Nicoletta is doing grocery at the colorful Il Capo market, where you will find fresh ingredients for our “Gattopardo style” cooking class. The cooking class is held infact by Nicoletta Lanza Tomasi Duchess of Palma in her family palace. Lunch will follow in Nicoletta’s private library! After lunch you will start the guided tour of the exciting city of Palermo and visit the Cathedral, Piazza Pretoria, the Norman Palace and the Palatina Chapel, a jewel of the Arab-Norman art and architecture.

8.00 pm dinner will be at the restaurant Trattoria Corona, a farm to table kitchen in the city center.

Overnight in Palermo

## **Day 3 - Saline and Erice**

9.30 am check-out our Hotel in the morning and go towards Trapani Provence

Your fist stop will be in Erice, a breathtaking small medieval town located on the top of a mountain overlooking the west coast of Sicily. Besides the location, Erice is famous for Maria Grammatico, an old pastry lady who was a nun in a convent for over 15 years before opening her own pastry shop in the 60s. You will have a class with her and the chef will teach you how to make the famous Genovesi Vanilla Custard pastries. Lunch will be on your own - 3.00 pm you will go down by the sea to the Saline Ettore Infera. They are fantastic Salt Pools where the sea salt is extracted. The characteristics are some original Wind Mills still active used for cracking the salt crystals.

You will have an incredible visit and sea salt tasting!

After this unique experience we will check -in at the

Wine Resort Baglio Soria, owned by Firriato family

This is a luxury boutique farmhouse entirely remodeled infinity pool and Skydeck cocktail bar!

8.30 pm dinner will be at the authentic restaurant Trattoria Caupona, a local trattoria in the historic center of Trapani. Overnight in Trapani



## **Day 4 - Trapanese Pesto on Favignana’s Island**

8.40 am we will meet in the lobby and go to the harbor to take our ferry to Favignana, a beautiful island full of nice surprises. You will take first a hydrofoil (20 minutes ride) and then jump on a private boat for a tour of the island, visiting from the sea the old tuna canning facility, the blue water bays and grottos, and completing your experience with an on-board meal with our chef and the Captain.

Later in the afternoon you will come back to Baglio Soria Resort, have time to rest by the beautiful pool before having the pesto cooking class with Baglio’s Restaurant Chef!

8.00 pm dinner will be at the restaurant of the Hotel

## **Day 5 - Olive Oil experience**

9.30 After breakfast you will go to the very impressive Olive Tree Plantation, where Alberto, the owner, will lead us towards the unique experience of harvesting the olives. This is the starting point of the season, so when you will make the oil you will have a bright green juice coming out from the olives. You will have a nice lunch in the olive farm before going to Marsala and experience a visit at the oldest Marsala Winery Cellar called Florio, testing the finest Marsala Wine ever and have a pleasant walk in the town of the old town. This evening the dinner will be on your own, we will give suggestions of the nice restaurants in the area. We always suggest the local pizza called Rianata! After dinner we will provide transportation to go back to Baglio Soria.

## **Day 6 - Agrigento, Valley of the Temples**

9.00 am check-out and you will proceed to Agrigento and you will visit the incredible Greek Temple Valley. Our guide will entertain you during this incredible visit where you will pushed-back 2000 years in the past! The lunch will be light at the wine bar Enotria Calici in Dispensa, famous for their Sicilian wine selection but also all the farm to table products to pair with.

Luca, the owner, use to select the best local cheese and bakery products

After lunch you will proceed to Ragusa and arrive at Relais Chateaux Hotel Eremo della Giubiliana

This is a charming former convent, turned in a five-star hotel with swimming pool, 5 acres Mediterranean lush garden and its own organic farm.

8.30 dinner will be at their gourmet restaurant with delicious preparation based on the products coming from their farm



### Day 7 - Modica – Scicli

8.30 am you will go to experience of the fresh ricotta making!

With the farmer you will see how to make the fresh cheese and you will have an amazing tasting.

Then you will go to Modica, UNESCO Heritage site for the architecture, and visit the famous **chocolate producer** Antica Dolceria di Bonajuto open since 1796.

With the owner you will explore their history, put the hands on the chocolate preparation and finish with an unforgettable chocolate tasting. You will have time to explore the old town of Modica.

1.00 pm lunch will be at the restaurant Osteria dei Saperi Perduti in a typical local trattoria, tasting one of the best Caponata in Sicily! Later in the afternoon you will go to the close town called Scicli, another lovely and famous baroque site, and after a guided tour you will access to the unique experience at the biggest herb garden of Sicily, owned by Enrico Russino, called Gli Aromi, having a sensorial tour and dinner in the garden. After dinner you will go back to Eremo della Giubiliana.

### Day 8 - Food market at Syracuse

10.00 am you will check-out and make a stop on the way in the beautiful town of Noto, and our guide will take you around explaining the history and architecture and also letting you taste one of the best lemon granita ever! Around noon you will go to visit Siracusa, about 40 minutes away, starting from the spice and food market and having a street food experience lunch!

After the lunch you will have a walking tour of Ortigia, the old town of Siracusa, with a private guide and then you will proceed to Taormina and check-in at your hotel in Taormina.

You will relax before the dinner will be at the fantastic restaurant Trattoria Nero d'Avola, seated al fresco terrace overlooking the monastery of San Domenico

### Day 9 - Mr. Etna and Taormina

9.15 am we will meet in the lobby and go to explore Etna Volcano, the tallest active volcano in Europe.

You will first have a stop in Castiglione di Sicilia, half way to the top, and visit a small cheese producer to see how the famous mountain baked ricotta is made, and then taste it with a good locally made fig jam. Right after this local experience you will go to the beautiful Volcanic Winery called Cavanera. You will visit the historic pre-phylloxera vineyard, the 17<sup>th</sup> century winery and you will end your experience with a great lunch paired with the best wines from Etna. After lunch you will go back to Taormina and have free time to explore and do shopping.

8.00 pm Farewell dinner will be in Taormina to say goodbye to Sicily!

### Day 10 - Buon Viaggio!

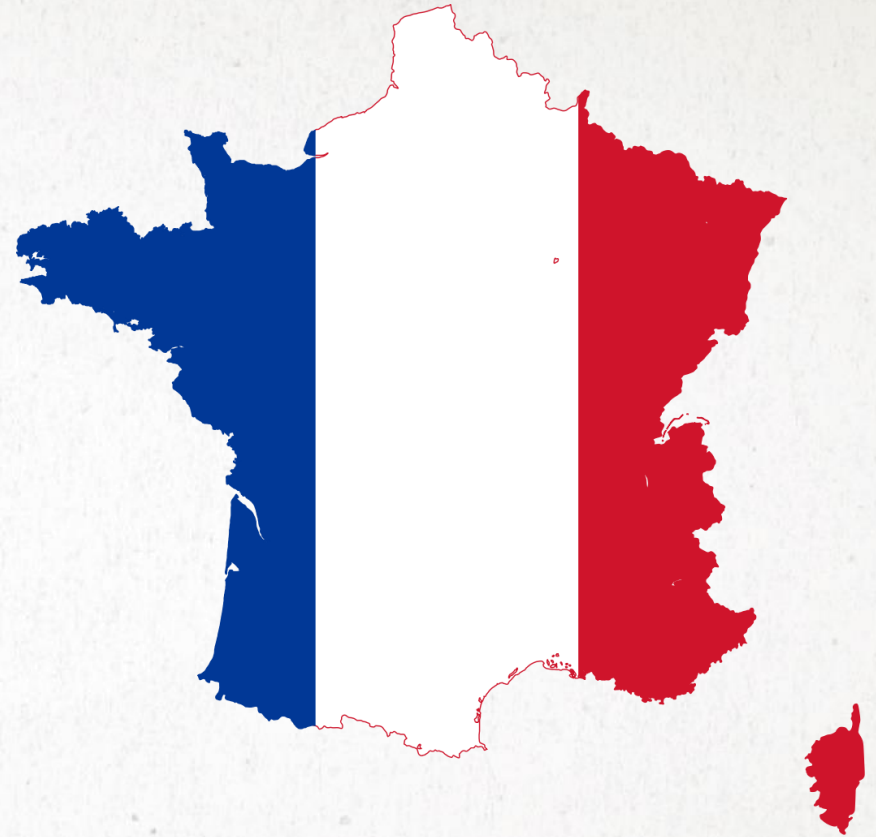
Check-out and transfers to Catania airport.





# FRANCE PROPOSALS

- [Exclusive French wine tour](#)
- [Rhone and Burgundy wine tours](#)
- [Champagne wine tour](#)
- [Live like a Prince](#)
- [Wine, truffle, peppers & Basque country](#)
- [Burgundy wine and gastronomy tour](#)
- [Bordeaux wine tour](#)





# Exclusive French wine tour

## **DAY 1: PARIS, REIMS**

Arrival in Paris & transfer to Reims. Your day in Reims start with a guided walking tour of the city. Reims offers the most important example in France of an entire town in the architectural style of the 1920s with its Art Deco style facades: wandering through the streets and discover the city of coronation and one of the main gastronomic and Champagne wine centers of France. Enjoy a visit of its Notre Dame Cathedral, a masterpiece of Gothic art dates from the 13th century as a reminder of the christening of Clovis. Adorned with over 2,300 statues, this is the only cathedral that displays angels with open wings. Then you will enjoy a visit & a wine-tasting at a champagne house. For a while, take a dip into the heart of their House, their heritage, their “savoir-faire”. And discover the making-process of their cuvées. Your tour continues through another vineyard. This journey will lead you in turn to the **vestiges of the abbey Saint-Nicaise dating from the 13th century, then to 18 meters deep, in** sumptuous Gallo-Roman Crayères forming part of the Coteaux, Houses and Caves of Champagne registered on UNESCO’s World Heritage List. At the end of your visit, you will appreciate a prestigious wine tasting. Transfer & settle into your hotel in Reims. Welcome dinner & overnight at your hotel.

## **DAY 2: REIMS, HAUTVILLERS**

Breakfast at your hotel. Departure to Reims Mountains. Today you will discover the champagne path through the vineyards of the Reims Mountains. Lunch in a local restaurant. Enjoy a Guided tour of Hautvillers, a charming village classified at UNESCO which is nested on the historical hillsides of Champagne. Discover the history of Dom Perignon who finalized the process to elaborate Champagne. Continue to Epernay capital of champagne with its Avenue du Champagne, headquarter of the major wine-maker trade and production. This magnificent street is considered as one of the most world prestigious Avenues. There, you will enjoy the visit of the Moët & Chandon cellars with a tasting. Back to your hotel & overnight in Reims.

## **DAY 3: REIMS, BEAUNE**

Breakfast at your hotel and check-out. Crossing the champagne vineyards with visit and tasting of champagne grand vineyards in a small producer. This Family Estate is a wine grower since the 16th century and producing Champagne under their own brand since 1875. Far from the commercial aspect of the Grandes Maisons you will discover here the ancestral methods for the making process of champagne and meet passionate people.

Stop in the historic center of Troyes. Continue towards Burgundy with stop in Chablis for visit and wine tasting in Chateau Testut. Transfer to Beaune. Settle & overnight at your 3-star hotel in Beaune.

## **DAY 4: BEAUNE**

Breakfast at your hotel. Departure for the route of the vineyards of Côtes de nuits., to discover the Grand Crus of Bourgogne. Stop at a small producer to visit the cave and wine tasting Chateau Entre-deux-Monts in Nuits Saint Georges. Lunch in a gastronomic restaurant in Vosne-Romanée. After lunch, walk to the mythical Romanée Conti vineyard. Then you will visit the Clos Vougeot, former cellar of the Cistercian monks and discover the ancient wine-making facilities and the monk’s cellar, constructed between the 12th and 16th centuries. Back to Beaune. Overnight in your hotel.

## **DAY 5: BEAUNE**

Breakfast at your hotel. Today enjoy a guided tour in the medieval town of Beaune with visit to the famous Hospices de Beaune (hotel Dieu), built in the 15th century. Then go to a guided visit of a traditional Mustard Factory Fallot with tasting. Endowed with a successful industrial facilities, it knew how to protect the know-how of the craftsman mustard-maker; the grinding of seeds in the stone grindstone which protects all the gustatory qualities of the mustard. Enjoy a tour to the north of the Côte de Beaune. Stop off on the Corton hillside, a unique location in Burgundy for both red and white wines. Then visit & tasting at the Château de Santenay. Overnight in Beaune.





**DAY 6: BEAUNE, LYON**

Breakfast at your hotel and check-out and route through the vineyards of southern Burgundy and Beaujolais. Enjoy a visit and wine tasting in Château Montmelas. The beautiful outline of this castle is made up of numerous turrets, which is why it's often called Sleeping Beauty's castle, especially since it is surrounded by 70 ha of vineyard in the Beaujolais Appellation area. You will visit the interior of the château with tapestry and furniture. Then you enjoy a buffet lunch of Beaujolais Specialities: "Machons" in Château Montmelas. After lunch transfer to Lyon, capital of French gastronomy. Meet your local guide and enjoy a walking tour of Lyon. Visit to the Basilica Notre Dame de Fourviere and discover the quarter of Vieux Lyon considered a UNESCO world heritage site. Settle at your hotel in Lyon. Overnight at your hotel.

**DAY 7: LYON, CLERMONT-FERRAND, LIBOURNE**

Breakfast at your hotel and check-out and transfer to Libourne. Route through the central Magico and the park of volcanoes with its magnificent mountainous landscapes. Stop in the historic medieval centre of Clermont Ferrand. Visit on your own the Cathedral which is distinctive by its charcoal grey colour resulting from the Volvic lava stone used to build it. The interior conceals a remarkable collection of stained-glass windows and murals. Discover Notre-Dame-du-Port Basilica, listed on UNESCO's World Heritage, which takes visitors into the spellbinding world of Romanesque art. Continue to the region of Aquitaine. In the late afternoon arrival in Puisseguin Saint Emilion to visit the cellar and garden of the Chateau de la Vaisinerie followed by a typical dinner. Settle at your hotel in Libourne. Overnight at your hotel.

**DAY 8: LIBOURNE, BORDEAUX**

Breakfast at your hotel and check-out. Discovery of the wine route of Medoc, through the famous vineyards of Margaux, Saint Estephe, Saint Julien, Pauillac. Stop at two grands vineyards Classes of 1855 for a visit of the cellar with wine tasting (Chateau Lynch Bages, Chateau Giscours, Chateau Pontet Canet. Transfer to Cite' du vin in Bordeaux. Discover Cite' du Vin, a new unique cultural facility where wine comes to life through an immersive, sensorial approach, all set within an evocative architectural design. Cite' du Vin gives a different view of wine, across the world, across the ages, across all cultures and all civilizations. Enjoy a panoramic tour in Bordeaux. Bordeaux UNESCO heritage; from the vestige 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. Overnight at your hotel.

**DAY 9: BORDEAUX**

Breakfast at your hotel. You will appreciate a private cruise through the heart of the estuary and stopover on Patiras island. Enjoy the musical atmosphere and taste specialties from the Gironde estuary. You will discover the view of islands, sailing channels, Medoc vineyards, as well as the history of the people who used to live on the islands. Today, Patiras also invites you to relax in a deckchair and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere of the island. Overnight at your hotel.

**DAY 10: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel and check-out. Transfer to the airport.





# Bordeaux and Burgundy wine tours

## **DAY 1: BORDEAUX**

Arrival in Bordeaux. Transfer to Bordeaux for a Panoramic tour of Bordeaux UNESCO heritage: from the vestige 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. Then go for a sightseeing walk along the quays of the Garonne, its elegant streets and imposing town squares. Must-see places include the lively Place de la Comédie with its neoclassical Grand Theatre adorned with majestic Corinthian columns, Place de la Bourse with its fountain of the Three Graces and water mirror, the Allées de Tourny, and Place des Quinconces. Settle into your hotel in Bordeaux. Welcome dinner & overnight at your hotel.

## **DAY 2: MÉDOC VINEYARDS**

Breakfast at your hotel. Departure for the Médoc for a guided visit of the city. 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 that confers on it a temperate climate suited to wine-growing. This symbiosis of plant and environment has given 60 prestigious Grand Crus Classés and 400 Crus Bourgeois in the 8 AOC of the Médoc. During your tour you will have three visits and wine tastings at prestigious vine-yards and wineries in Pauillac, Margaux & Saint-Julien wine appellations of Origin (AOC). Lunch in a typical restaurant to discover the Médoc gastronomy. These places are immersed in a remarkable views of vineyards landscapes and they are based on soils which have been laboured and transformed by the winemakers' industry and savoir-faire like the distinguished. Back to & overnight at your hotel in Bordeaux.

## **DAY 3: SAINT-ÉMILION**

Pick up at your hotel and transfer to Saint-Émilion, UNESCO World Heritage site & ravishing little mediaeval village on a hill surrounded by wine estates and châteaux. Follow your guide for guided visit of Saint-Émilion through several centuries of history! From the village's foundation in the 8th century to the French Revolution in 1789 through the period of English domination, you will discover the rich past of Saint-Émilion through its main monuments. Then you will explore the vineyards of Saint-Émilion by bicycle! During the tour your guide will show you the famous Grand Crus wine estates, but also family estate.

The owners or winemakers will greet you and give you a tour of their estates to discover the different steps of the winemaking process before inviting you to a wine tasting session. For lunch you will share a buffet lunch of regional specialities. Back to Bordeaux. Overnight at your hotel.

## **DAY 4: BORDEAUX**

Breakfast at your hotel. You will appreciate a private cruise through the heart of the estuary and stopover on Patiras island. Enjoy the musical atmosphere and taste specialties from the Gironde estuary. You will discover the view of islands, sailing channels, Medoc vineyards, as well as the history of the people who used to live on the islands. Today, Patiras also invites you to relax in a deckchair and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere of the island. Overnight at your hotel.

## **DAY 5: TRANSFER TO DIJON**

Check out from your hotel and transfer to Dijon via the heart of France. Stop on route for a lunch in Clermont Ferrand and then continue to Dijon. Overnight in Dijon

## **DAY 6: DIJON**

Meet with your local guide and start the day by a walking tour in Dijon where you will enjoy discovering and strolling around the City. This morning enjoy a guided tour of Dijon and appreciate the richness and elegance of its architecture heritage from the Palace of the Dukes of Burgundy to the neighbourhood of Parliament, and from the area of Notre Dame to the medieval streets. Treat yourself to the local specialities and go on to Mulot et Petitjean, the Gingerbread experts. Enjoy a visit of the factory followed by a tasting session. Stop at Bourgogne Street, a producers shop where you will be able to ask the different producers about their products and learn about all the gastronomic specialities of Bourgogne. Transfer to the Cassisium Museum. Enjoy an explanation of how the famous Crème de Cassis (blackcurrant) is made, then go on to discover the Vedrenne distillery, and finish by tasting the tasteful Crème de Cassis, used to prepare the "Kir" drink. Settle into your hotel in Dijon.

## **DAY 7: FULL DAY TOUR COTE DE BEAUNE**

Breakfast at your hotel. Pick up at your hotel. Departure for the Côte de Beaune. Begin the day by the visit of the family domain Chassagne Montrachet. This domain has been owned for 3 generations by a Burgundian family. They will explain wine-growing techniques as well as offer an enjoyable tasting-session. Continue by a visit and tasting-session at Santenay domain. The Château de Santenay was the home of Philippe le Hardi from 1342 to 1404. Its history underlines its great collection of wines, especially Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.



Regional lunch at Cellier Volnaysien, a fabulous wine-tasting cellar in Volnay. In an original Burgundian setting, have a taste of the domain's wines and also appreciate some regional specialties such as snails or "Coq à la lie". In the afternoon enjoy a walking tour of Beaune which boasts some exceptional heritage. Surrounded by old ramparts, it is known as the centre for the Burgundy wine trade. The old town contains some remarkable monuments and has some beautiful Renaissance mansions for visitors to admire, as well as pretty half-timbered houses and charming inner courtyards. Finish the day by the Hotel Dieu for a guided visit. The Hotel Dieu, also called Hospices of Beaune, is a former charitable almshouse and has now become a museum. The beautiful architecture of the building and the many art pieces are breathtaking. Every third Sunday of November a wine auction is organized for charity in the Hotel Dieu. Back to your hotel & overnight in Dijon

#### **DAY 8: FULL DAY TOUR COTE DE NUITS**

Breakfast at your hotel. Departure for the Côte de Nuits. Start the day with a visit of the Gaugry dairy farm in Brochon and enjoy a tasting-session: 5 different cheeses, from the mildest to the strongest in flavour. The tasting will come with a glass of Burgundy wine and French bread. Continue and go into the heart of the Pinot Noir Grand Crus vineyards of Gevrey Chambertin. Your guide will teach you about the unique Burgundian appellations, showing you what is happening in the vineyards, and explaining how to understand a wine label. Visit and tasting at two domains. For lunch, the Domain Jean Louis Trapet at Gevrey Chambertin welcomes you for an outstanding meal. Delicious dishes, an amazing setting and of course prestigious wines are on program! In the afternoon visit of a domain where you will experience a truffle tasting. Learn how to enjoy truffles and associate them with wine. The ultimate gourmet experience. Back to your hotel in Dijon. Overnight at your hotel in Dijon.

#### **DAY 9: LYON**

Breakfast at your hotel and check-out. In the Beaujolais, visit a castle owned by the same family for 5 centuries with a breathtaking view to the Rhone valley and taste their wines (4 to 6 wines). Transfer to Lyon. Meet with your local guide for a walking tour of the city. Lyon ranks among France's must-see cities, with beautiful architecture, a colourful history, and a strong culinary culture. On this walking tour, explore Lyon's busy boulevards and quiet backstreets with your guide to lead the way. Hit top attractions including Bellecour Square, the UNESCO-listed Old Town, and St-Jean Cathedral. Farewell dinner at local restaurant  
Overnight in Lyon

#### **DAY 10: DEPARTURE**

Check out and transfer to the airport for your flight back home





# Champagne wine tour

## **DAY 1: PARIS - REIMS**

Arrival in Paris & transfer to Reims. Start with a guided walking tour of the city. Reims offers the most important example in France of an entire town in the architectural style of the 1920s with its Art Deco style facades: wandering through the streets and discover the city of coronation and one of the main gastronomic and Champagne wine centre of France. Enjoy a visit of its Notre Dame Cathedral, a masterpiece of Gothic art dates from the 13th century as a reminder of the christening of Clovis. Adorned with over 2,300 statues, this is the only cathedral that displays angels with open wings. Then you will enjoy a visit & a wine-tasting at a champagne house. For a while, take a dip into the heart of their House, their heritage, their “savoir-faire”. And discover the making-process of their cuvées. The tour includes a tasting of their Brut Yellow Label cuvée. Your tour continues through a vineyard. This journey will lead you in turn to the vestiges of the abbey Saint-Nicaise dating from the 13th century, then to 18 meters deep, in sumptuous Gallo-Roman Crayères forming part of the Coteaux, Houses and Caves of Champagne Inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List. At the end of your visit, you will appreciate a prestigious wine tasting. Transfer & settle into your hotel in Reims. Welcome dinner & overnight at your hotel.

## **DAY 2: OFF THE BEATEN PATH**

Breakfast at your hotel. Transfer to Hautvillers. Enjoy a guided tour of Hautvillers, a charming village classified at UNESCO which is nested on the historical hillsides of Champagne. Enjoy the visit of the Abbaye and discover the history of Dom Perignon who finalized the process to elaborate Champagne. Transfer to the little village of Damery for a wine tasting at a family estate. The house was created in 1875 and are focus on the respect of both traditions and ancestral working methods. Transfer to Ambonnay for a lunch & wine tasting at another family estate, a wine grower since the 16th century which own 4 hectares of grand cru vineyard, especially renown for their Pinot Noir.

Your tour continues with another wine tasting at Maison Canard Duchêne. The Canard-Duchêne signature perfectly befits its setting in Ludes. The park, with its centuries-old trees, magnificent views over the vineyards, vast residence hosting more than 6km of chalk-carved underground cellars, make this a truly unforgettable visit. Back to Reims and overnight at your hotel.

## **DAY 3: EPERNAY CAVES, PARIS**

Breakfast at your hotel. Enjoy a visit of several different domains and cellars where the famous Champagne is produced. Located in the heart of the Champagne vineyards, Epernay is the capital of Champagne with its Avenue du Champagne, headquarter of the major wine-maker trade and production. This magnificent street is considered as one of the world most prestigious Avenues. This morning your day enjoy two visits & wine tasting sessions in distinguished and ancient cellars learning about the production techniques and the different types of wines. You will appreciate two Grand cru tasting at different vineyards. The wine-growers will share their passion with the group and will be glad to answer any question. Enjoy the lunch in one traditional restaurant in Epernay. Your tour continues with a visit & cheese tasting at Meaux. You will discover the different stages of the manufacture of Brie de Meaux, from the harvesting of milk to maturing in the cellar. Then you will understand the current stakes of this PDO cheese proudly represented by his Brotherhood. Transfer to Paris.

## **DAY 4: PARIS**

Breakfast at the hotel, & start an orientation tour of Paris with visit with lunch at the Tour Eiffel

The afternoon is dedicated to the of the most extraordinary palaces, “Chateau de Versailles”  
Overnight in Paris

## **Day 5 : PARIS – LOUVRE - MONTMARTRE– PARIS**

Breakfast at the hotel

Full day to visit the world-renowned Louvre Museum and a guided visit of Montmartre area and discover its picturesque places such as Place du Theatre, the Abbesses quarter and the famous Vignes de Montmartre.

For your last night in Paris an unforgettable evening with dinner with Champagne at one of the most renown show . Overnight in Paris

## **Day 6 : DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Meeting with your driver for your transfer to the airport





# Live like a Prince

## **DAY 1: TOULOUSE & CARCASSONNE**

Arrival in Toulouse and welcome by your guide. Transfer to Carcassonne. Guided tour of the medieval citadel of Carcassonne, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was used in the 1st Century for a Roman villa before reappearing in the XIth century as a fortification belonging to the powerful Viscount Trencavel. It is a town within a town, a maze of narrow cobbled streets within severe ramparts of thick walls, turreted towers, but bustling with life and colours. The spectacular walled town is one of France's most famous national monuments and UNESCO Heritage Site. Settle in your hotel in Carcassonne. Dinner & overnight at your hotel.

## **DAY 2: FONTFROIDE ABBAYE & MINERVE**

Breakfast at your hotel. Pick up at your hotel by your driver-guide and departure to Fontfroide Abbey, one of the most lavished and best-preserved Cistercian abbey in France. The site includes a magnificent Rose Garden and a succession of Italian style terraced gardens. Then drive to Minerve, located in the foothills of the Montagne Noire. A fortified medieval village perched high above a canyon, Minerve is an old Cathar bastion destroyed by Simon de Montfort in 1210, also famous for its wine produced here for centuries. You will enjoy a visit and a wine tasting in the wine cellars of Ostal Cazes (or similar) in La Livinière. Owners of Château Lynch-Bages, the Cazes family are passionate about wine, and have devoted themselves to researching and developing this outstanding terroir. Back to Carcassonne. Dinner in a fine local restaurant. Overnight at your hotel in Carcassonne.

## **DAY 3: CAHORS & ROCAMADOUR**

Breakfast at your hotel. Pick up at your hotel by your driver-guide and departure to Cahors, with its Roman monuments, medieval quarter and famous 14th century fortified Pont Valentré bridge. This afternoon features a visit and wine tasting at Château Lagrézette in the Cahors vineyards. This 15th century château was rediscovered by luxury entrepreneur Alain Dominique Perrin in 1979, and his love for the region and its wines has helped him develop the elegant and refined vintages of Château Lagrézette. End finish your tour with a visit of Rocamadour, a monumental complex dated from the 11th to the 19th century set on the side of a cliff with seven chapels and a thousand-year old religious history. The holy city clings to the steep rocky cliffs at a dizzying height, displaying layer upon layer of houses and chapels. Transfer to Sarlat & settle in your hotel. Dinner in a fine local restaurant & overnight at your hotel in Sarlat.

## **DAY 4: LASCAUX IV & SARLAT**

Breakfast at your hotel. Pick up by your driver-guide and departure for a tour of Sarlat, the exceptionally well-preserved medieval city and capital of the Périgord Noir region. More than 1.000 years of architecture live in its lanes, roof-tiles and stonewalls. The exceptional number of buildings registered or classified as historical monuments make Sarlat one of the most important European cities in terms of cultural heritage. Discover Sarlat through its gastronomy as it is the capital of an exceptional "terroir". You will experience the famous Farmer's market (every Saturday), an unmissable spot and one of the most beautiful in all of the South West. Then go back in time to Lascaux IV, for an immersing experience of Europe's most stunning prehistoric cave paintings, followed by a visit to the amazing Musée National de Préhistoire at Les Eyzies-de-Tayat. Built on the face of a striking cliff and containing over 18,000 prehistoric items discovered in the neighbouring Vézère Valley, the Museum's unique archaeological collections offer an extensive overview of the Palaeolithic past of this region of France. Back to Sarlat. Dinner in a fine local restaurant & overnight at your hotel in Sarlat.

## **DAY 5: SAINT-ÉMILION & BORDEAUX**

Breakfast at your hotel. Pick up at your hotel by your driver-guide and departure for Saint-Émilion. Enjoy a walking tour of the medieval city of Saint-Émilion, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the centres of Bordeaux wine-making. Saint-Émilion's other speciality is the macaroon - unlike the brightly coloured filled macaroons of today, these were created in 1620 by Ursuline nuns. The secret recipe was passed down through the centuries, and today Nadia Fermigier is the only custodian of the authentic recipe. You will enjoy a visit at the Fermigier shop, followed by a macaroon-tasting session. In the afternoon, enjoy a visit and wine tasting at Château Coutet (or similar), ranked Grand Cru Saint-Émilion. Transfer to Bordeaux. Settle in your hotel in Bordeaux. Dinner in a fine local restaurant & overnight at your hotel in Bordeaux.

## **DAY 6: BORDEAUX**

Breakfast at your hotel. Pick up at your hotel by your driver-guide, and drive to the one Michelin-starred restaurant Le Saint-James for a half-day hands-on cooking class under the expert guidance of Head Chef Nicolas Magie and his team. For all ages and abilities, classes include forays into sweet and savoury themes, introductions to snacking, oenology and gastronomic classics - the perfect place to learn how to be a great chef in your own home. You will enjoy the fruits of your labor over lunch, including wine. The afternoon sees a guided tour of Bordeaux to discover its historical centre, a UNESCO world heritage site. Discover its architecture, its old districts, its sites and monuments like the Water mirror, the Opera house, or the Aquitaine Museum



Overnight at your hotel in Bordeaux.

#### **DAY 7: ARCACHON**

Breakfast at your hotel. Pick up at your hotel by your driver-guide and departure for the Bassin D’Arcachon, a vast lagoon on the Atlantic coast only at 45 minutes from Bordeaux. Embark on a traditional boat for a cruise around the bay, the iconic “Cabane tchanquée” stilt houses and spectacular views of the Île aux Oiseaux and the Dune du Pilat - the highest sand dune in Europe. Lunch at leisure, we suggest a lunch of local oysters and white wine before exploring the town of Arcachon. Back to Bordeaux and overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 8: THE GREAT VINEYARDS OF BORDEAUX**

Breakfast at your hotel. Meet at your hotel with your guide and your driver and transfer through the famous ‘Route des vins’ to discover 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 that confers on it a temperate climate suited to wine-growing. This symbiosis of plant and environment has given 60 prestigious Grand Crus Classes and 400 Crus Bourgeois in the 8 AOC of the Medoc. During your tour you will have three visits and wine tastings at prestigious vineyards and wineries in Pauillac, Margaux & Saint-Estephe. These places are immersed in a remarkable views of vineyards landscapes and they are based on soils which have been labored and transformed by the winemaker’s industry and savoir-faire. Back to your hotel in Bordeaux. Gourmet dinner at restaurant Le Gabriel, walking distance from your hotel. Overnight at your hotel.

#### **DAY 9: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel and check-out. Private transfer to Bordeaux train station or airport.





## ***Wine, truffle and Peppers & Basque country***

### **DAY 1: BORDEAUX, SAINT EMILION & LES EYZIES**

Pick up at Bordeaux and transfer to Saint-Emilion. Guided visit of St Emilion, medieval city, UNESCO world heritage site and one of the centres of Bordeaux wine-making. Visit and tasting to the Châteaux Ferrand, Grand Cru classes of Saint Emilion. Transfer to Sarlat, medieval town in a region known in France as the Perigord Noir. It has been exceptionally well-preserved and is one of the towns most representative of the 14th century in France. More than 1000 years of architecture live in its lanes, roof-tiles and stone walls. Settle in your hotel in Les Eyzies de Tayac, the world capital of Prehistory as this is the town where CroMagnon was discovered. Gourmet dinner & Overnight at your hotel.

### **DAY 2: TRUFFLE EXPERIENCE & PERIGORD VILLAGES**

Today is devoted to the 'Black Diamond' the truffle of Perigord. Departure to St-Cyprien for visit and initiation of "escavage" that will show the techniques of findings the truffles with a dog. Truffled lunch at the Ferme Auberge.

Then transfer to the beautiful village of Beynac-et-Cazenac and enjoy a boat ride along the Dordogne River to admire all the mighty castles that line the River. Back to your hotel. Dinner at leisure & Overnight at the hotel.

### **DAY 3: MARKET IN SARLAT**

Breakfast at your hotel. Today you will discover Sarlat through its gastronomy as it is the capital of an exceptional "terroir" You will experience the famous Farmer's market - (every wednesday & saturday) an unmissable spot and one of the most beautiful in all of the South West. Then, you will then enjoy a guided walking tour of historic Sarlat, rich merchant town during the 13th to 16th century. This afternoon, you will discover the romantic and picturesque Gardens of Marqueyssac around a castle covered with eighteenth-century slate, over 6 kilometres of shaded walks, bordered by hundred-year-old box trees and decorated with belvedere, rockeries and waterfalls. Back to your hotel. Dinner at leisure & Overnight at the hotel.

### **DAY 4: BAYONNE & BIARRITZ**

Check out your hotel in Bordeaux and drive South to the Basque Region. Stop in Bayonne, the Basque Country capital and discover its characteristic arcades, facades of stone, half-timbered houses and Sainte-Marie Cathedral. You will visit the "Atelier du Jambon" where you will learn about the techniques for preparing and smoking the famous "Jambon de Bayonne". You will have a tasting session at the end of your visit. Then you will retrace the fabulous history of chocolate with l'Atelier du Chocolat.

From the tropical forests, where the cacao tree grows, to the windows on the production line where you can see the confectioners making the chocolatiers' specialties. At the end of your visit, you will taste different chocolates from around the world. Later this afternoon, arrival in Biarritz and guided walking tour of the City. What was once primarily a whaling town centered around Port Vieux (the old port), has become a trendy destination ever since Napoleon III and his Spanish-born wife Eugénie arrived during the mid-19th century. It's been a glamorous spot ever since, lined with elegant villas and listed residences that glitter with belle époque and art deco details. Settle in your hotel & overnight in Biarritz.

### **DAY 5: ST JEAN DE LUZ & TRADITIONAL VILLAGES**

Breakfast at your hotel. This day is dedicated to the discovery of the French Basque Country : Visit of St Jean de Luz Coastal Town and the small villages of Sare, Espelette and Ainhoa. Your tour this morning will take you to the traditional Basque town of Saint Jean de Luz. Stroll through the streets of this legendary port town, home to many famous French Buccaneers. Enjoy a guided walking tour and visit the major attractions of the town including the magnificent Church of St John the Baptist, with its fabulous baroque altar, and in which the sun King Louis XIV married the infant of Spain. After the visit of Saint Jean de Luz, head inland to visit some of the most beautiful villages of the region. Begin with Aïnhua, a quaint little village located in the interior of the French Basque province of Labourd, that is formed by a main street full of incredibly beautiful Basque style houses. After lunch, your next stops will include the village of Espelette famous for its walls disappearing under scarlet rows of hot pepper! Do not miss the Atelier du Piment & its Peppermaster tells the story of hot pepper and how it is used in multiple ways for cooking and invites you to taste some specialties of the Basque Country. Back to Biarritz & overnight.





### **DAY 3: SAN SEBASTIAN**

Breakfast at your hotel & Check out. Transfer to San Sebastian. Guided walking tour of the old town. You will discover the old Quarter, rich with historical treasures and its narrow, cobbled streets, specialty shops & local market of Brexta. You will discover the Plaza de la Constitucion with its beautiful arcades & balconies. You are now convened for a unique guided Pintxos tasting tour in the heart of the old town of San Sebastian. Your guide knows exactly where to go for the best, freshest, and most exciting local pintxos. You will also be introduced to a culinary feast as you go from place to place experiencing the local culture with food ranging from molecular and modern to comforting and traditional, there is something for everyone...Settle in your hotel in San Sebastian & overnight.

### **DAY 4: BILBAO & THE GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM**

Breakfast at your hotel. Transfer to Bilbao. Today you will visit one of the world's finest buildings - the Guggenheim Museum with a private guide. This tour offers an opportunity to explore the exhibitions of the museum and to discover contemporary and modern art masterpieces. Then you will explore the city of Bilbao which dazzles with style and energy and boasts a unique identity. Bilbao is also a "foodie" stop and is known for its inventive Basque cuisine. Your day in Bilbao will also be an opportunity to experience Bacalao dishes, based on cod, merluza, or hake. Back to San Sebastian in the afternoon & overnight at your hotel.

### **DAY 5: DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at your hotel and check out.





# Burgundy wine and gastronomy tour

## DAY 1: DIJON GOURMET TOUR

Pick up at Dijon at train station and transfer to Dijon. Meet with your local guide and start the day by a walking tour in Dijon where you will enjoy discovering and strolling around the City. This morning enjoy a guided tour of Dijon and appreciate the richness and elegance of its architecture heritage from the Palace of the Dukes of Burgundy to the neighborhood of parliament, and from the area of Notre Dame to the medieval streets. Treat yourself to the local specialties and go on to Mulot et Petitjean, the **Ginger Bread experts**. Enjoy a visit of the factory followed by a **tasting session**. Stop at **Bourgogne Street**, a producers shop where you will be able to ask the different producers about their products and learn about all the **gastronomic specialties** of Bourgogne.

Transfer to the **Cassisium Museum**. Enjoy an explanation of how the famous Crème de Cassis (blackcurrant – used in the preparation of the “Kir” drink) is made, then go on to discover the **Vedrenne distillery**, and finish by tasting the tasteful **Crème de Cassis**. Settle into your hotel in Dijon.

## DAY 2: FULL DAY TOUR COTE DE BEAUNE

Breakfast at your hotel. Departure for the **Côte de Beaune**. Begin the day by the visit of the family **domain Chassagne Montrachet**. This domain has been owned for 3 generations by a Burgundian family. They will explain wine-growing techniques as well as offer an enjoyable tasting-session. Continue by a visit and tasting-session at **Santenay domain**. The Château de Santenay was the home of Philippe le Hardi from 1342 to 1404. Its history underlines its great collection of wines, especially Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.

Regional lunch at **Cellier Volnaysien**, a fabulous **winetasting** cellar in Volnay. In an original Burgundian setting, have a taste of the domain’s wines and also appreciate some regional specialties such as snails or “Coq à la lie”. In the afternoon enjoy a **walking tour** of **Beaune** which boasts some exceptional heritage. Surrounded by old ramparts, it is known as the centre for the Burgundy wine trade. The old town contains some remarkable monuments and has some beautiful Renaissance mansions for visitors to admire, as well as pretty half-timbered houses and charming inner courtyards. Finish the day by the **Hotel Dieu** for a guided visit. The Hotel Dieu, also called Hospices of Beaune, is a former charitable almshouse and has now become a museum. The beautiful architecture of the building and the many art pieces are breathtaking. Every third Sunday of November a wine auction is organized for charity in the Hotel Dieu. Back to your hotel & overnight in Dijon

## DAY 3: FULL DAY TOUR COTE DE NUITS

Breakfast at your hotel. Departure for the **Côte de Nuits**. Start the day with a visit of the **Gaugry dairy farm** in Brochon and enjoy a tasting-session: 5 different cheeses, from the mildest to the strongest in flavour. The tasting will come with a glass of Burgundy wine and French bread. Continue and go into the **heart of the Pinot Noir Grand Crus vineyards** of Gevrey Chambertin. Your guide will teach you about the unique Burgundian appellations, showing you what is happening in the vineyards, and explaining how to understand a wine label. Visit and tasting at two domains. For lunch, the **Domain Jean Louis Trapet** at Gevrey Chambertin welcomes you for an outstanding meal. Delicious dishes, an amazing setting and of course prestigious wines are on program! In the afternoon visit of a domain where you will experience a **truffle tasting**. Learn how to enjoy truffles and associate them with wine. The ultimate gourmet experience. Back to your hotel in Dijon. Overnight at your hotel in Dijon.

## DAY 4: LYON

Breakfast at your hotel and check-out. In the **Beaujolais**, visit a castle owned by the same family for 5 centuries with a breathtaking view to the Rhone valley and taste their wines (4 to 6 wines). Transfer to **Lyon**. Meet with your local guide for a walking tour of the city. Lyon ranks among France’s must-see cities, with beautiful architecture, a colourful history, and a strong culinary culture. On this **walking tour**, explore Lyon’s busy boulevards and quiet backstreets with your guide to lead the way. Hit top attractions including Bellecour Square, the UNESCO-listed Old Town, and St-Jean Cathedral. Drop off at the **train station** or **airport in Lyon**.





# *Bordeaux wine tour*

## **DAY 1: BORDEAUX**

Arrival in Bordeaux. Welcome by your driver and your guide. Transfer to Bordeaux for a Panoramic tour of Bordeaux UNESCO heritage: from the vestige 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. Then go for a sightseeing walk along the quays of the Garonne, its elegant streets and imposing town squares. Must-see places include the lively Place de la Comédie with its neoclassical Grand Theatre adorned with majestic Corinthian columns, Place de la Bourse with its fountain of the Three Graces and water mirror, the Allées de Tourny, and Place des Quinconces. Settle into your hotel in Bordeaux. Welcome dinner & overnight.

## **DAY 2: MÉDOC VINEYARDS**

Breakfast at your hotel. Departure for the Médoc for a guided visit of the city. 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 that confers on it a temperate climate suited to wine-growing. This symbiosis of plant and environment has given 60 prestigious Grand Crus Classés and 400 Crus Bourgeois in the 8 AOC of the Médoc. During your tour you will have three visits and wine tastings at prestigious vine-yards and wineries in Pauillac, Margaux & Saint-Julien wine appellations of Origin (AOC). Lunch in a typical restaurant to discover the Médoc gastronomy. These places are immersed in a remarkable views of vineyards landscapes and they are based on soils which have been labored and transformed by the winemakers' industry and savoir-faire like the distinguished.

## **DAY 3: SAINT-EMILION**

Pick up at your hotel by a private coach and transfer to Saint-Emilion, UNESCO World Heritage site & ravishing little mediaeval village on a hill surrounded by wine estates and Chateaux. Follow your guide for guided visit of Saint-Emilion through several centuries of history! From the village's foundation in the 8th century to the French Revolution in 1789 through the period of English domination, you will discover the rich past of Saint-Emilion through its main monuments. Then you will explore the vineyards of Saint-Emilion by bicycle! During the tour your guide will show you the famous Grand Crus wine estates, but also family estate. The owners or winemakers will greet you and give you a tour of their estates to discover the different steps of the winemaking process before inviting you to a wine tasting session. For lunch you will share a buffet lunch of regional specialties. Back to Bordeaux. Overnight at your hotel.

## **DAY 4: BORDEAUX**

Breakfast at your hotel. Transfer to Bordeaux airport or train station.





# SPAIN & PORTUGAL PROPOSALS

- Rioja & Sparkling wine region
- Treasures of Spain with local Experiences
- Porto & the Douro
- Treasures of Portuguese interior





## ***Rioja & Sparkling wine region***

### **DAY 1 BARCELONA**

Transfer to the hotel. In the afternoon, guided tour to familiarize yourself with the town, walking for the Gothic quarter full of buildings of the twelfth and sixteenth centuries, and visit inside the Cathedral. Followed by a visit of the district 'Eixample', where there are the main modernist buildings and the famous Sagrada Familia. To complete the tour, walking through the famous "Ramblas", a street full of life, bars, cafes, restaurants and street performers. Dinner in a typical restaurant. Overnight at hotel.

### **DAY 2 BARCELONA-PENEDES-SITGES-BARCELONA**

Breakfast. Full day guided excursion to the nearby wine region of PENEDES, which is the largest sparkling wine region in the whole world. We will visit one of the most famous vineyards, 'Codorniu', they have the largest subterranean wine cellar in the world (more than 30 kms !!). We will visit, a part of it, in a little train. We will also visit the famous wine cellar of 'Torres'. In the afternoon.. SITGES we will follow to this beautiful seaside village, residence of many famous worldwide painters due to the amazing light. Return to hotel

### **DAY 3 BARCELONA-MONTBLANC-POBLET-LOGROÑO**

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Montblanc, and walk around this little walled town, with plenty of interesting gothic buildings. There is the curious little Wine Museum Prenafeta, where we can see all the elements used in the traditional family wine process. POBLET The most important middle age monastery in the Catalanian region, it was like little village itself. They had a big influence in the culture of the region. LOGROÑO (The capital of Rioja region) Dinner with local specialties and overnight.

### **DAY 4 LOGROÑO-HARO-LAGUARDIA-LABASTIDA-LOGROÑO**

Breakfast. Today we will visit the Rioja wine 'world'. All in this region is in relation with the Rioja wine... We start in the morning with the area called 'High Rioja', and its main village: HARO Here we will visit the Museum of the Wine, and The Technical Institute of the Wine. LAGUARDIA we can visit Villa Lucia complex dedicated to wine, arranging tasting and technical talks. Afternoon, we will go to LABASTIDA little village which the whole economy is in relation with Rioja wine. We will visit the wine cellar of 'Nuestra Señora de Remelluri' (a little family producer but very highscale production)

### **DAY 5 LOGROÑO-STO. DOMINGO DE LA CALZADA-SAN MILLAN DE LA COGOLLA-LOGROÑO**

Breakfast. In the morning visit of other wine cellars. Excursion to STO. DOMINGO CALZADA. An important stop in the 'St. James Pathway' and S. MILLAN COGOLLA where the monasteries of Yuso and Suso are -which are considered the 'birthplace of The Spanish' language, it is also an architecture masterpiece. Return to hotel.

### **DAY 6 LOGROÑO-ZARAGOZA**

Breakfast at hotel. ZARAGOZA Stop for walk in the Pilar Square, where the local citizens congregate for important events, and where there are the main monuments: Pilar Basilic, Seo, XVth cent. Lonja (old market),... Afternoon guided city tour (Basilic of Pilar, Palacio Aljaferia). Dinner in a typical restaurant with wine paring. Overnight

### **DAY 7 ZARAGOZA-BARCELONA**

Breakfast at hotel. BARCELONA Airport





## Treasures of Spain with local Experiences

### Day 1 Madrid

Welcome to the Spanish capital, Madrid. Relax or take a stroll along tree-lined boulevards before enjoying a welcome Spanish drink and your first local Iberic meal.

### Day 2 Madrid & Toledo

After breakfast, depart for your tour of Madrid. Drive through the main avenues of the city, highlights include the magnificent fountains of Neptune and Cibeles, the Alcala Gate, the Plaza de España, where we will see panoramically the view of most representative buildings. We will visit inside the spectacular Royal Palace which is still in use for Government ceremonies. After a light lunch, travel south to Toledo. It was the capital of Spain during several centuries. In XIII and XIVth centuries, Muslim, Jews and Christians populations lived together peacefully becoming as a great cultural center. This afternoon, walk along it's narrow streets where the history can be felt in the air. We will visit the Cathedral from outside and St tome Church inside (where is El Greco painter's masterpiece). Return to Madrid.

### Day 3 Madrid, La Mancha and Granada

After breakfast depart to Granada. En route, enjoy a short stop in Aranjuez to see the magnificent gardens full of centenary trees of this old summer residence of the Spanish kings. Continue south to discover the large flat region of "La Mancha", the land where Don Quixote lived his crazy adventures, also the Spain's largest wine producing area. We will visit a traditional wine producer where they will show us their way of elaboration and some curious secrets, like the influence of the moon and stars in the biological process of the vineyards. We will end the visit with the tasting of different wines with tapas of ham, local cheese and special local bread, the best way to taste these wines. After continue to Granada. After arrival in Grenada, dinner in a local typical restautant.

### Day 4 Granada, La Alhambra & Generalife Gardens & Seville

After breakfast, morning guided city tour to visit La Alhambra, the best example of the sophisticated Royal life in the Nazari Islamic kingdom from the XI to XVth century. We will find numerous halls and "patios" (courtyards) of amazing beauty. We will also visit the famous and beautiful Generalife gardens with its fountains. Afternoon continue to Seville, where a delicious Sevillian dinner will wait for you

### Day 5 Seville

Morning guided tour to visit inside the Gothic Cathedral, the largest in Spain and third in the world with the burial of Christopher Columbus discoverer of America. You can walk up the Giralda tower (striking minaret of the former mosque) to have superb view over the city. Then a walk by Santa Cruz Quarter, a maze of small alleys and small squares with the peacefulness of a tiny garden is an invitation to rest. In the afternoon you will enjoy an introductory and practical Flamenco lesson dancing with a professional dancer. Followed by a Flamenco special dinner - show

### Day 6 Seville, Cordoba & Madrid

After breakfast, (\*) visit an Andalusian horse farm (yeguada) to see a normal day of training and learn about the breeding and taming of these amazing horses. Afterwards, travel north to Cordoba. Cordoba, during the Roman age, this city was important, but during the Moslem domination it reached the maximum splendor, especially in the IX and Xth centuries, when Cordoba became the capital of the Caliphate, was the most populated town in the world (almost 1 million). Morning guided city tour, to visit the Mosque, considered one the most beautiful. Then, a walk around the Jewish Quarter, with its narrow streets and Andalusia "patios". Afternoon we continue to Madrid, where a Farewell dinner will be served, a good moment to enjoy a mixed of the cuisine tastes you had a chance to eat during the tour.

### Day 7 Madrid – Check out and transfer to the Airport





# Porto & the Douro

## Day 1 Porto

Arrival at the Porto Airport. Private transfer to the hotel. Rest of the day at leisure

## Day 2 Porto > Penafiel > Amarante

Breakfast at the hotel. Our journey through the most famous wine region begins, Douro. We'll uncover what's behind the high granite walls that safeguards one of the most beautiful wine estates, you'll be amused by exuberant flora and fauna, swan lake, picturesque Victorian style teahouse, not to mention the 120 hectares of vineyards that produce the notorious "vinho verde" (green wine) among others. After delighting ourselves with this enchanted world, we'll proceed to Amarante, a beautiful town in the riverbanks of the Tâmega River with a rich historical center and endless Middle Age and Romanic monuments. Lunch on your own, and in the afternoon, we'll unveil the secrets of Amarante with a lovely stroll before your dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight

## Day 3 Amarante > Peso da Régua > Lamego > Ucanha > Pinhão

Breakfast at the hotel. Depart to Peso da Régua, considered to be the capital of Douro Demarcated Region. This town has a unique beauty and glow, starting with the calm waters of the Douro River, the vines terraces sloping steeply towards the river with viewpoints to delight the visitors. Peso da Régua surroundings have a rich heritage with manor houses, renowned wineries and charming small palaces. We'll commence our journey through the world of wine by visiting a unique museum that offers a perfect introduction to the Douro Region. Then we'll continue to a beautiful wine estate in the heart of the Douro, surrounded by vineyards and history, apart from sipping its delicious wines we'll also awaken the palate in its restaurant. In the afternoon we'll visit the famous Nossa Senhora dos Remédios Sanctuary in Lamego, as well as, tasting a unique sparkling wine produced with the finest grape varieties. After the visit, proceed to Pinhão, along the way we'll stop in a unique place to appreciate one of the best views of Douro. Diner in a local restaurant in Pinhao and overnight

## Day 4 Pinhão

Breakfast at the hotel. The day will be dedicated to slowly unveil the enchantments of the Alto Douro Region, a true paradise by the riverside with steep valleys and magnificent vineyards, producing the genuine nectar of the Gods, the Porto and Douro wines. This Portuguese pearl is classified as a World Heritage Site in 2001. We'll start the day appreciating its beauty by navigating the water of the Douro River, a matchless tranquility that's enhanced with the endless shades of green from the vineyards.

In the afternoon, we'll visit two unique wineries; one is situated on top of a hill, the Portuguese Tuscany, and the other, situated by the riverside bubbling with stories and charm. Overnight in Pinhão

## Day 5 Pinhão > Foz Côa > Pinhão

Breakfast at the hotel. We'll discover one of the best well-kept secrets in Portugal, Foz Côa, a small and peaceful village that survived through the different eras. Always safeguarding a unique art engraved in stones from different ages that can be appreciated outdoors. Foz Côa was recently enriched with the opening of a museum. After lunch in a farm with local specialties, we'll continue to a typical village of the Alto Douro region that preserves its own treasure. Dinner on your own. Overnight in Pinhão

## Day 6 Pinhão > Favaios > Vila Real > Porto

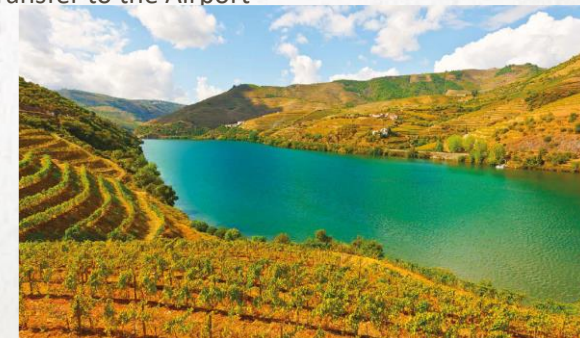
Breakfast at the hotel. We'll uncover another facet of the Douro, the origin of the Galego Branco Muscatel, known world-wide. Favaios is a small village with breathtaking sceneries, archaeological trademarks, manor houses and religious monuments. We'll finish our morning, tasting the famous muscatel whilst appreciating the distinct beauty of the village. Slowly make our way out of the Douro Region, to discover a palace built in XVIII century, one of the most beautiful baroque style in Portugal. Apart from its singular beauty, this palace is also surrounded by vineyards that produce a smooth wine. After the visit, we'll continue to Porto. Dinner in your elegant hotel and overnight in Porto

## Day 7 Porto

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning we'll discover Porto, a fascinating city that combines in a unique manner the contemporary and ancient, giving the city a distinct glow. We'll stroll through picturesque streets with typical houses and fascinating monuments. During the afternoon, we'll satisfy the desire of the wine lovers by visiting a wine cellar in Vila Nova de Gaia, followed by a special candel light dinner in the cellar. Overnight in Porto

## Day 8 Departure

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to the Airport





# Treasures of Portuguese interior

## Day 1 Lisbon

Arrival at the Lisbon Airport. Private transfer to the hotel. Check-in. Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight Lisbon

## Day 2 Lisbon > Torres Vedras > Óbidos > Coimbra

Breakfast at the hotel. We'll leave Lisbon towards Torres Vedras, to visit a winery that's surrounded with 40 hectares of vineyards, besides being a wine temple, its contemporary architecture will amaze you, at the end of the visit will savor their wines. Continuing to Óbidos, one of the most beautiful villages in Portugal with a captivating medieval history. After lunch, will discover what makes this village special, starting with an arch from the XVIII covered with Portuguese tiles called "azulejos", its narrow and maze-like streets with white houses and terraces fulfilled with flowers, dozens of temples, a well-preserved castle and handicraft stores. In the end of our stroll, try a local speciality: Ginjinha, liquor served in a chocolate glass. Our last stop will be Coimbra, a mystical city that has one of the most ancient universities in the World. Overnight Coimbra

## Day 3 Coimbra > Anadia > Curia

Breakfast at the hotel. Our morning will be reserved to carefully unveil the wonders of Coimbra, a charming city situated on the banks of the Mondego River, calmly walk through its narrow streets, passing by the fascinating ruins of Santa Clara Monastery and other enchanting historical traits. At the end of the morning, we'll proceed to another wine region called Dão, we'll have lunch and visit at a unique winery considered to be one of the most modern, due to its avant-guard architecture from cellar to the restaurant, and were you will have a taste of Portuguese nouvelle cuisine. Then, we'll visit another winery with a more traditional background, 16 hectares of vineyards that's been producing wine since XVIII, finishing our visit with a wine tasting. We'll continue to Curia, a city known for its magnificent hot springs, as well as, being surrounded by lushes gardens and forest. Overnight Curia.

## Day 4 Curia > Sangalhos > Carregal do Sal > Viseu

Breakfast at the hotel. We'll begin our day jumping into the world of wine and art in a unique manner, appreciating eight art collections with the most diverse themes, that's been carefully blended with the wine universe, finishing with a wine tasting. Then we'll unveil another relic in the heart of the Dão, a place that combines two pleasures in life, wine and gastronomy.

This wine estate is well known in the region, its restaurant offers succulent and regional dishes and its cellar produce renowned wines. After lunch, we'll visit the cellar to learn more about the characteristics of the wine. We'll proceed to Viseu, a city that's surrounded by mountains and rivers, besides playing an important role in the Portuguese history, its known for its sacred art and religions architecture.

Overnight Viseu

## Day 5 Viseu > Santar > Viseu

Breakfast at the hotel. Our day will be reserved to uncover a beautiful village, that's been preserving its architectonical heritage, where the granite reigns with imposing houses, and throughout the years, the wine production has imprinted the lifestyle in Santar. The first visit will be to a property from XVII century, recently renovated, beginning with a stroll in the vineyards, passing by a small garden and finishing with a wine tasting. After lunch, we'll walk down the street to discover another property that's over flowing with history, a magical garden that carefully blends with the vineyards leading to the wine cellar. Dinner at the cellar before returning to Viseu to visit a unique place that embraces the local wines in a special manner. Overnight Viseu

## Day 6 Viseu > Aveiro > Porto

Breakfast at the hotel. We'll make our way to the coast to Aveiro, known as "Portuguese Venice" due to a set of canals that are intertwined with Aveiro streets. Spending the morning appreciating its pastel colors art nouveau buildings, visiting its monuments and museums, and a lovely trip aboard a typical boat called "moliceiros". During the afternoon, we'll visit a distinctive place that produce a famous pastry made from egg yolk and sugar among other sweets from the region, besides tasting these delicacies; you can roll-up your sleeves and make the delicious dough. Continuing to Porto, an enchanting city situated at the banks of the Douro River. Dinner with local specialties and Port tasting/ Overnight in Porto

## Day 7 Porto

Breakfast at the hotel. We'll visit the enchantments of Porto, classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its staggering monuments and historical buildings. During the morning we'll stroll through picturesque streets with typical houses and fascinating monuments. In the afternoon, we'll see the city from a different perspective, navigating the waters of the Douro River in a typical boat called "Rabeloâ". In the past, these boats used to carry Porto Wine Barrels from the Douro Region to Vila Nova de Gaia (Porto), where the wine was stored. Afternoon at leisure. Sight-seeing suggestion: unveil the famous Lello bookstore, considered to be one of the most beautiful bookstores in the world. Farewell dinner in a special typical restaurant with Portuguese wine paring. Overnight in Porto

## Day 8 Porto

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to the Airport



- *From Marseille to Bilbao*





### Day 1 – Avignon

Private transfer from Marseille airport to Avignon.

Check in at your hotel in the city center , and after some time to relax, meet your guide for a walking tour discovering Avignon stretching in all its beauty along the Rhone river. Discover the rich historical past of Avignon where the papacy established in the early 14C. Enjoy **skip-the-line access** and follow your guide inside the **Pope's Palace**, largest Gothic-styled Palace in Europe. In this maze of galleries, chambers and chapels, imagine its luxurious furnishing and sumptuous decoration from the medieval period.

Walking on the cobbled streets to the **Place de l'Horloge**, find out about the secret of the painted windows. See the Town Hall topped with its clock tower, and the theatre.

Dinner in a local restaurant nearby the hotel Overnight.

### Day 2 – Avignon

Private full day wines tour to Rhone Valley. Among the prestigious growths of the northern Rhone Valley, the Crozes-Hermitage appellation beguiles with its compelling, relaxed elegance. Known primarily for its red wines, where Syrah lends unbridled expression, the Crozes-Hermitage appellation also produces some white wines. Elegance is the hallmark here, as is pleasure.

Lunch in a local gourmet restaurant. Visit 2 wineries during your day. Back to Avignon. Overnight.

### Day 3 – Avignon

Walk on your own and meet the Chef in front of the vegetal wall of "Les Hailes", covered market displaying fresh and colorful food every morning. Choose with him the best local products that you will cook during the lesson. Arrival in his cooking workshop in Avignon Creation of recipe cards to be performed. Theoretical demonstration with practice. During the Aperitif, various thinkings about the course given together with how to pair the meals with wine. Lunch (with the Chef and informal talk about the course presented. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner in a local restaurant Overnight.



### DAY 4 - Avignon

Enjoy a private full day wines tour to Ventoux and Gigondas: Morning dedicated to wine-tasting theory and techniques

Our philosophy is to create an interactive wine-education in a friendly environment with a professional wine expert. Your tour will start with a scenic drive to the foot of the Mont Ventoux through the vineyards of the Ventoux appellation. You will discover an outstanding wine estate and enjoy a guided tour of the cellar. Practice wine-tasting, discovering your 5 senses, the wine's aroma also called nose, and learn how to improve your tasting ability and knowledge. To truly taste a wine, the guide will explain how you must recruit the nose to pick up the flavor scents and the tongue to help discern the tastes. You will taste wines (white, rose and red wines). After the tasting session, a picnic lunch will be served on the terrace of the chateau, sheltered by centenary plane trees, offering "terroir" (local) products (seasonal fruits and vegetables, tapenade, goat cheese, special breads) pairing with the wines of the domain. Then continue the afternoon wine-tasting tour with the village of Gigondas. Located at the foot of the Dentelles de Montmirail hill range, the vineyard covers an area of 12 km<sup>2</sup>: the wines produced belong to the Crus of the southern Cotes du Rhone. The Grenache noir expresses its full flavor in glimmering red wines with pronounced tannins, a robust body, and a solid propensity for ageing. Back to Avignon. Overnight.

### DAY 5 - Carcassonne

enjoy a private full day wines tour to Carcassonne: The history of Carcassonne is particularly bound to a period of the Middle-Ages, often called "the Crusade of the Albigenses". This name comes from the city of Albi, about 100 km north of Carcassonne. A question of heresy, a holy war, a conquest, a resistance against the invaders... the interpretations of our history are very numerous. It is impossible not to talk about this Crusade, so we will do a little bit later. But Carcassonne's history cannot come down to the painful period. Carcassonne is more than 2000 years old ! Enjoy a guided tour of this medieval city! Check in at your hotel. Then taste a famous "cassoulet" in a local restaurant. Overnight in Carcassonne





### **DAY 6**

Departure to Bordeaux .

Check in at your hotel. After some time to relax, enjoy a walking tour of Bordeaux. Dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight.

### **DAY 7 - Bordeaux**

Your local guide will take you for a private full day wines tour to st Emilion and Medoc : The terroir is the whole land of a region that gives to the product grown on it a certain singularity. The combination of great conditions for viticulture as well as a clever blending of grape varieties (mostly Merlot combined with Cabernet Franc or Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec in smaller proportions) give to the wine a large variety of taste and smell.

These grape varieties have also, their features :

- *The MERLOT brings fullness and generosity as well as fragrances of red and black fruits such as blackberry and cherry. It has become the privileged grape variety in Saint-Emilion.*
- *The CABERNET FRANC, tannic and very aromatic, brings delicacy and elegance.*
- *Finally CABERNET SAUVIGNON brings spicy aromas and contributes to the longevity of wine with hard tannins.*

The wine of the Grand Saint-Emilionnais Area can as well be hard and concentrate as refined and delicate. Lunch in a local restaurant.

Continue to Medoc: The Medoc vineyard differs from most other vineyards by the combination of different factors that make it unique: its size, its economic weight, its variety of vintages, the coexistence of its traditions with the most modern production techniques, its prestigious brands and of course its terroir. Visit 2 wineries during your day. Back to Bordeaux. Overnight.

### **DAY 8- Bordeaux**

Today your guide will lead you to a full day to Cite du vin and Arcachon Bay. Situated in Bordeaux, the *Cite du Vin* is a new generation museum where wine comes to life through an immersive, sensorial approach, all set within a vocative architectural design. The *Cite du Vin* gives a different view of wine, across the world, across the ages, across all cultures and all civilisations. The *Cite du Vin* invites you on a lively, eye-opening journey around a world of wine and culture. Lunch in a local restaurant.

Then drive thru Arcachon and enjoy a cruise to discover the Bay by boat

After the Bay and the oyster-farming villages in Cap Ferret, the circuit will take you towards the ocean with its beaches, the great Dune du Pilat and the Banc d'Arguin.

End you day with an oyster tasting and a light chilled glass of white Bordeaux wine!

Back to Bordeaux. Overnight.

### **DAY 9 - Bilbao**

After breakfast you will head south, toward the Spain/France border.

On the way we will stop in Espelette, a delightful village situated in the foothills of the Pyrenees to the east of Saint-Jean-de-Luz, and south-east of Biarritz below a mountain called Mondarrain. Historically the village is within the Basque province of Labourd. The village is famous for its chili peppers and those grown in this region even have an 'appellation controlée' to vouch for their authenticity. After the harvest at the end of summer the houses are strung with strings of the 'piments' to dry and the effect is wonderfully colorful. We will arrive in Bilbao late afternoon – Check in at your hotel in Bilbao

### **DAY 10 - Bilbao**

After breakfast we will heading to the rioja Region and we will half a full day excursion visiting Rioja Alavesa. **Rioja Alavesa** is the smallest of the three wine-producing sub-regions in [Rioja](#), Spain. It is situated to the north of the River Ebro, straddling the La Rioja region and the Alava province within the autonomous community of the [Pais Vasco](#) (Basque Country) . Rioja Alavesa is the northernmost of the three sub-regions, bordering [Rioja Alta](#) to the southwest and [Rioja Oriental](#) (formerly Rioja Baja) to the southeast. Rioja Alavesa is most similar to Rioja Alta in terms of climate, soil and style, and together they are considered to produce the best wines of the region. A space-age 'wine city' and ultra-modern wineries sit side by side with stately *bodegas* and more modest wineries. We will be visiting 2 wineries and taste the best wine producers of the area. We will have lunch at local typical restaurant. Return to Bilbao Dinner on your own





### Day 11 - Bilbao

Today we will experience a walking portion of the Camino de Santiago. The Camino de Santiago, known in English as the Way of St. James, is a network of pilgrims' ways or pilgrimages leading to the shrine of the apostle Saint James the Great in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwestern Spain, where tradition has it that the remains of the saint are buried. Different itineraries were available from Pilgrims coming from all around Europe and one of them is passing close to Bilbao. For the Camino del Norte, the trail crosses a suspension bridge and winds along the banks of the Cadagua River. You will cross the famous Devil's Bridge before arriving at the Hermitage of Santa Águeda. After this, there is a steep climb to the small town of Barakaldo before arriving in Portugalete via a path along the banks of the Galindo River. Walking distance 6 miles. Lunch will be served during the walking itinerary at local typical restaurant. Return to the hotel for a refreshing shower and then ready for our farewell dinner at local restaurant. Overnight

### Day 12 – Departure

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight back home





# IRELAND & UK PROPOSALS

- England - Taste of England
- Ireland - Food Drink Trail - Kilkenny Clare Mayo Dublin
- Taste of Scotland Product Sheet
- From Scotch to beer





# Taste of England

Day 1 Arrive at your London Airport and meet your driver.

Your itinerary today depends on your arrival time, but you may want to visit one of the many castles or gardens in Kent, such as Leeds Castle or Hever Castle, or the iconic Sissinghurst Garden. Overnight: Kent area

Day 2 Today is a full day of exploring Kent, also known as the Garden of England. You may choose to visit Kent Life to stroll through the different Kentish gardens and apple orchards on display, or Shepherd's Neame, the oldest brewery in Britain. Why not visit one of the many vineyards in Kent, such as Chapel Down Winery or Biddenden Vineyards, to sample award winning English wine? Prince William and Kate chose the sparkling rose from Chapel Down for their wedding, so you are in good company! Whatever you choose to do, make sure you stop in one of the charming villages, dotting the Kentish countryside.

Overnight: Kent area

Day 3 Drive at your leisure to Bournemouth today via the south Downs National Park, and maybe stop in Brighton to have fish & chips on the beach, or at one of the many castles in this area, such as Arundel Castle. On arrival into Bournemouth, you may want to visit The Chocolate Boutique Hotel. Even if you don't stay here, they arrange regular chocolate classes, for you to create your own chocolate creations. Overnight: Bournemouth

Day 4 Continue along the Jurassic Coast and stop for photos at your leisure of Chesil Beach or Durdle Door. Maybe stop at a beach to see if you can find one of the many fossils along this coastline. Cross Dartmoor National Park, and stop in one of the many picturesque villages to sample Devon Cream Tea. On arrival into Plymouth, you may want to park up and visit Plymouth Gin Distillery, centrally located in the oldest part of Plymouth. Learn how gin is made, and sample some of the end product. Overnight: Plymouth

Day 5 Today you will explore Cornwall. There is so much to see and do – for example why not stop at the St Austell Brewery to try a local ale, or maybe at Healey's Cider Farm for another popular local drink. There are also several award winning vineyards in the county.

For those of you who would like to sample the local food, go to the coastal village of Mousehole and try the local delicacy Stargazy Pie, or try a Cornish Pasty in one of the many fishing villages and towns like Mevagissey or St Ives. The scenery is spectacular and you can choose to stop to take photos of St Michael's Mount, or visit Land's End or the Minack Theatre.

Overnight: Plymouth

Day 6 Head north from Plymouth this morning to the north Devon Coast and visit Ilfracombe Chocolate Emporium in the coastal town. On your way to Bath, drive through the beautiful Cheddar Gorge with its dramatic cliff formations, and stop in the village to try cheddar cheese, matured in caves in the area. You may also want to stop at one of the many local Somerset cider farms, Sheppy's Cider for example. On arrival into Bath, visit the oldest house in Bath to sample the local bread called "Sally Lunn's Bun". It's a brioche style bread that can either be had with savoury or sweet toppings. Overnight: Bath area

Day 7 Explore Bath this morning, a UNESCO world heritage city, before heading west to stop in one of the many picturesque villages in south Cotswolds like Castle Combe before visiting the iconic Stonehenge. You may also choose to stop in Avebury where you find the world's largest stone circle. Arrive at your overnight location in the London area – location depends on where your departure point is tomorrow. Overnight: London area

Day 8 Return home by plane, ferry or train. Or, extend your stay with a couple of days in London to sample the many award winning pubs and restaurants in the city.





# Food Drink Trail - Kilkenny Clare Mayo Dublin

Day 1 Meet with your driver and guide and depart for Kilkenny area.  
Overnight: Kilkenny area

## Day 2

Kilkenny produces very fine foods and drink and today you will have an opportunity to enjoy some of the local produce. Stop at Keogh's Model Bakery in Callan. One of the oldest bakeries in the country, the bakery has been here since 1838. The owners still bake in the old fashioned stone ovens. Continue to Highbank Orchard. From apple to bottle, partake in living organic farming with a tractor train tour through the organic orchards, a visit to the distillery ending in the stone built 17th century mill with a sampling of delicious Single Estate organic ciders, syrups and apple spirit. Next visit will be to Goatsbridge Trout Farm, located near Thomastown, south of Kilkenny city. A tour will help you learn about a traditional trout farming system, the art of smoking and processing, as well as the family history and the heritage behind their farm. Follow this with a light lunch containing a taste of Goatsbridge products. Return to Kilkenny later this afternoon and your evening is at leisure to enjoy a meal in one of Kilkenny's many fine restaurants or pubs. Overnight: Kilkenny area

## Day 3

Across the road from Kilkenny Castle, take a little time to discover the National Craft Gallery, one of Ireland's most exciting artistic venues. The centre is part of Kilkenny's Castle Yard, built in the 1780s by the Butlers, Earls of Ormonde, as the coach houses and stables of historic Kilkenny Castle. Depart for Limerick and stop to visit the Milk Market. Open in Limerick since 1852 and providing access to a wide variety of fresh, local, in-season produce typically directly from the producer. This is a haven for all who care about the provenance and quality of the food they eat. It is a place to explore, to ask questions, to discover new flavours and savour the unique atmosphere at hand. Then visit the Curragower Bar and Restaurant. Serving high quality and tantalizing food, the restaurant's menu has won a number of awards and accolades and it is here that we will enjoy dinner this evening. Overnight: Limerick area

## Day 4

Today we leave the city and travel into the Burren region. You will discover some of this. "Burren" means "large stones". In fact its name describes this impressive scenery perfectly well.

Often described as lunar, the Burren is a high plateau of porous limestone situated in Northern Clare. No trees are growing here, no land is covering the stone, the limestone is bare. But the cracks allow different types of flowers to grow all year round. The rocks hide many caves like Ailwee, as well as "Turloughs". During the day we will enjoy a Wild Food walk with Oonagh O'Dwyer. Oonagh will take you to a secret beach, where a family of wild seals play hide and seek on the rocks nearby, where barnacle geese and wild duck forage on the rich pickings and maybe catch a glimpse of a hump back whale! She will show you how to sustainably harvest up to 12 of our native seaweeds. A seaweed cookery demo will take place in Barrtra Seafood Restaurant which is located very close to the beach! In the late afternoon return to Limerick and enjoy your evening at leisure. Overnight: Limerick area

## Day 5

Today we travel to Galway. Known as The City of Tribes and located at the mouth of Galway Bay, Galway is both a picturesque and lively city with a wonderful avant-garde culture and a fascinating mixture of locally owned speciality shops. Enjoy a short walking tour in the city and some free time to enjoy lunch at your leisure. In the afternoon drive through the Connemara region. Connemara is a land of lakes, rivers, bogs and mountains. Connemara is a vast peninsula bordered by the arid and rocky coastline of Galway Bay in the South. On its northern shore the land is harsher and more secret, with spectacular views of the Atlantic Ocean and the beautiful fjord of Killary Harbour. Dinner is at your hotel. Overnight: Westport area

## Day 6

Today travel to Achill Island visit Calvey's Achill Mountain Lamb. Seven generations of the Calvey family have been raising Mayo Blackface Mountain Sheep on the mountains and shorelines of Achill Island. They will tell you all about their Blackface Mountain Sheep. It ends with a tasting. Remaining on Achill, we visit Keem Bay Fish Products. Gerard and Julie Hassett started smoking wild Atlantic salmon and other fish species in 1985, in their smokehouse based on the island. This has developed from a cottage industry supplying locally to a successful business supplying international customers. They pride themselves on quality and customer service and their stock is freshly prepared and quality standards. The products have become part of the Gourmet Greenway a showcase food in the areas of Mulrany, Newport, Westport and Achill. The Chalet Seafood Restaurant has been in the family since 1963 and you will enjoy lunch here. Return to Westport and visit a local pub in the town for some local craft beer tastings! Evening at leisure. Overnight: Mayo area





### Day 7

Today we leave the west coast of Ireland and travel once more to the east coast and our capital city, Dublin. Enjoy a Panoramic City Tour, the ideal introduction to Dublin's Fair City. The tour will introduce you to the principal sites. You will visit Georgian squares, Trinity College, Christchurch and Phoenix Park. The tour includes a pass by Guinness Brewery and Collins Barracks. In the afternoon visit and whiskey tasting at the Teeling Distillery. Located in the heart of Dublin City Centre, in the historic Liberties, the Teeling Whiskey Distillery is the only operational distillery in the city and home to the Spirit of Dublin. Enjoy a fully guided tour and each tour concludes with a tasting of award winning Teeling Whiskeys. Evening dinner at O'Connell's Restaurant in Donnybrook which is run and established by husband and wife Tom and Annette O'Connell. Their vision is to create a 'home away from home' Irish Brasserie. Using the best of Irish produce, with contemporary cooking and an insistence on value for money. Overnight: Dublin area

### Day 8

Participate on a Fab Food Trail! On a gentle 2.5/3 hour stroll you will visit seven to eight different places, all independently owned, enjoy a tasting in each place and meeting the purveyors or makers. The tastings reflect the current food scene, bringing new international and contemporary tastes to the Irish table and all using great Irish produce. As you enjoy the food, you'll also learn a little about the culture and history of our lively and charming city from your local guide. Visit to Guinness Storehouse. The Guinness Brewery is Europe's largest stout producing brewery and home to the storehouse. Opened in 1904, the Storehouse was an operational plant for fermenting and storing Guinness. Today it houses a very fine exhibition dedicated to the Guinness story. Visitors will discover what goes into the making a pint of Guinness - the ingredients, the brewing process, the time, the craft and the passion. The exhibition shows how the brew has been marketed and how it is today sold in over 150 countries. Once the tour has finished, the guest is invited to the Gravity Bar to enjoy a pint of Guinness. This panoramic bar gives terrific views across the city and bay area of Dublin. Afternoon and evening at leisure to discover Dublin. Overnight Dublin area

### Day 9

Depart for Dublin Airport and your return flight home.





# From Scotch to Beer

## Day 1: Welcome to Scotland

This morning arrive into Edinburgh airport, meet your expert driver and English speaking guide. Enjoy a **panoramic city tout of Edinburgh**

Discover Edinburgh, the inspiring capital of Scotland, with a panoramic city tour. From the historical closes of the Old Town to the large avenues of New Town, explore an outstanding city of contrasts and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Along its main thoroughfare, Princes Street, you will witness the most unique sight of Edinburgh Castle, majestically dominating both Old and New Town. See Calton Hill and its National Monument, rightfully giving Edinburgh its nickname: the "Athens of the North".

### Visit **Scotch Whisky Experience – Gold Tour**

The new Scotch Whisky Experience for a sensational journey! Take a swirling, bubbling barrel ride through a replica distillery as you become part of the whisky making process. Along the way you'll hear the stories behind this magical craft, with expert tour guides and whisky advisors with you every sip of the way. They'll help you discover the aromas and flavours that appeal to your palate and lead you to your perfect Single Malt Whisky. Become a member of our Scotch Whisky Appreciation Society and compare and contrast four regional single malts whilst relaxing in our beautiful McIntyre Gallery. Assisted by our experienced guides, and provided with tasting notes, you'll be able to sip like a true connoisseur, and compare the regions to find your perfect dram.

Check in to your hotel

### This evening, enjoy a **group private dinner at the Scotch Malt Whisky Society**

Originally an 18th century residence, 28 Queen street continues to welcome and entertain guests in elegant Scottish fashion. The grand property boasts geometric Georgian architecture with breathtaking views over the waters of the Firth of Forth. Our brand new Members' Exclusive Lounge takes pride of place on the 1st floor along with 3 private function rooms available for both our members and non members to privately hire. Each of our bars boast over 200 rare single malts from across Scotland, which can be paired with the finest craft beers, artisanal spirits and wines. Return back to your hotel. Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Edinburgh or area.



## Day 2: Edinburgh Castle, Afternoon Tea and Kilts

This morning we will visit **Edinburgh Castle**. Edinburgh's Castle rock has been a stronghold for over 3000 years. In its dominating position overlooking the capital city, the grandeur and historical significance of Edinburgh Castle has made it a globally famous icon of Scotland and part of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site. Sited on top of an extinct volcano, gaining stunning views across the City of Edinburgh, the castle has witnessed many of the defining events of Scottish history and has dominated its surroundings with majesty for centuries. Captivating visitors with its ancient buildings and marvellous views, it continues to spellbound with its wonderful story. Visit **Georgian House for Afternoon Tea**. The north side of Charlotte Square in Edinburgh is Robert Adam's masterpiece of urban architecture.

The Georgian House, with its elegant furnished interior, is located at No. 7 Charlotte Square. A heady vision of sweeping crescents, broad boulevards and elegant squares, the New Town of Edinburgh offered wealthy citizens in the late 18th century a means of escape from the overcrowded tenements of the Old Town.

The house has been magnificently restored to show a typical Edinburgh New Town House of the late 18th to early 19th century. The fine collection of period furniture, porcelain, silver and glass reflects the lifestyle and social and economic conditions of the time.

To end the day, **meet with a Kilt maker and Bagpiper**.

Dive into extensive knowledge about the rich history of tartan and kiltmaking while enjoying a traditional dram, Gordon will welcome you in his exclusive workshop located in the heart of Edinburgh's Old Town. The kiltmaker will talk you through the beginnings of tartan, how kilts were introduced and how they became such a proud part of Scottish heritage. Finally, you can immerse yourself in Scottish culture by trying out Gordon Nicolson's quality kilts first-hand! A fantastic chance to wear a kilt and receive professional advice from your private kiltmaker! Listen to a piper play the bagpipes A unique opportunity to meet an ex Pipemajor of the King's Own Scottish Borderers and get your first bagpipes masterclass. Return back to your hotel. Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Edinburgh or area.



## Day 3: Edinburgh to Pitlochry

This morning we will depart from Edinburgh for Pitlochry. En-route, visit **Highland Chocolatier**. Known as The Highland Chocolatier, Iain Burnett is an award-winning artisan based in the heart of the Scottish mountains. Iain hand-makes all sorts of luxury spiced pralines and dipped fruits, but it's the world's finest Velvet Truffles which have brought him to worldwide recognition as a Master Chocolatier and Truffle Specialist. Iain Burnett's Velvet Truffles have won over 40 prestigious awards ranging from Academy of Chocolate Awards Gold, to Great Taste Awards Triple Gold, to Scotland Food & Drink's Product of the Year, to World Gold at the International Chocolate Awards - twice! **Possibility to meet owner, strictly subject to availability.**



Continue to **Blair Athol Distillery**

Established in 1798, Blair Athol Distillery is one of the oldest working distilleries in Scotland. Blair Athol Distillery stands at the gateway to the Scottish Highlands in the picturesque town of Pitlochry, and produces a 12 Year Old Single Malt Whisky with mellow deep-toned aromas, a strong fruity flavour and a smooth finish. You can see the distillers utilising the most valuable of local resources, the crystal clear waters of the Allt Dour. After absorbing a few secrets of the distillers' art on a leisurely conducted tour, you can mull over the distinctive character of the finished article as you sip your complimentary dram. ***Possibility to include a behind the scenes tour or meet and greet with operator, strictly subject to availability***  
Check into your hotel. Overnight, dinner, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Pitlochry

**Day 4: Pitlochry to Glasgow**

This morning, we will depart for Glasgow.

En-route, visit the **Haggis Experience** to enjoy a Haggis Masterclass

Discover the origins of haggis and the unique local ingredients that make it so delicious. The Master Haggis Maker will explore the spices with you as you blend your own mix to create your very own Haggis.

While the Haggis cooks, learn about how to perfect the traditional accompaniments while a Boozy Whisky Cream is prepared.

***\*Three hour experience***



Continue to Glasgow and visit **Tennents Brewery - Craft Beer Masterclass**

Wellpark Brewery is home to more than 450 years of brewing tradition and award winning beers, a heritage that began in 1556 when Robert Tennent was a private brewer and maltman based near Glasgow Cathedral. Today, Tennent's Lager is Scotland's leading lager and the oldest ongoing commercial operation in Glasgow. The tour takes visitors through the process from refining the ingredients to mashing, malting, brewing, kegging, bottling and canning. Once guests seen the brewing and packaging process, they can enjoy a complimentary pint of Tennent's Lager on the premises. In the T Room visitor area, there is an opportunity to learn about the rich heritage of one Scotland's most loved brands and discover a rare collection of Tennent's Lager packaging. Enjoy an expert lead experience who will share their knowledge of beer during a 2-hour masterclass that features an array of Scottish and international beers with complimentary food pairings.  
Check into your hotel. Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Glasgow or area.

**Day 5: Glasgow to Ireland**

This morning after breakfast we will depart from Glasgow. Journey South to catch the ferry at Cairnryan. Upon arrival in Belfast enjoy a **Black Cab City Tour**  
Enjoy the Famous Black Cab Tours of Belfast. Experience over a decade of history and see Belfast political murals. Experience the city as you learn about local life and how Belfast has developed from its historical sites, including the Political Murals and Peace Lines, Crumlin Road Jail and Court House, the City Hall, Albert Memorial Clock, Crown Liquor Saloon and Titanic.  
Check into your hotel. Overnight, dinner, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Belfast or area.

**Day 6: Day Excursion to Montalto Estate and Shortcross Gin**

Visit **Montalto Estate - Walking tour with "Lord Moira" with lunch**

This majestic and magnificent estate re-opened to the public in 2018. Be enchanted by these mystical natural surroundings as you stroll through the vast and beautiful ancient woodlands. Be greeted by Lord Moria who will give you an introduction to the rich history of Montalto Estate. Explore the grandeur of the 18th century Georgian mansion with its wonderful collection of original art and antiques. Discover the main rooms of the house such as the rebuilt eat wing, the Lady's Sitting Room with its original plastered ceilings by Robert West and the Chinese Room, the perfect complement to the fresh lunch that awaits you. Continue to **Shortcross Gin Distillery**

Rademon Estate in Co. Down is one of the oldest historic estates in Ireland and a haven in a unique setting. Since 2014, they have been distilling Shortcross Gin on the estate, proudly Northern Ireland's first craft gin and now the most awarded gin in the island of Ireland. Shortcross is an aromatic and exceptionally smooth gin: its unique flavour profile is created using fresh apples, elderflowers, elderberries and wild clover harvested on the estate, distilled alongside classic gin botanicals. Guests are welcomed from all over the world to explore the unique working distillery and visitors centre. Today we suggest taking part in an exclusive tour and tasting experience, which will unlock some of the secrets and skills that go into creating Shortcross. David Boyd-Armstrong, the head distiller, will talk you through the fascinating process; from how we harvest local botanicals, draw fresh water from the distillery well, distil on a bespoke copper pot still and bottle and label the finished product on site. ***Possibility to meet owner, strictly subject to availability.*** Return back to your hotel. Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Belfast or area.





### Day 7: Best of Belfast

#### This morning visit **Titanic Museum**

Located in the heart of Belfast, the Titanic Belfast recreates the story of the world's most famous ship in an iconic, six floor building right beside the historic site of the original ship's construction. Opened in April 2012 to coincide with the centenary of its launch, the self-guided journey begins on entering the building's giant atrium, where the visitor is surrounded by the four 'ship's hull' shaped wings which house the Titanic Experience. As you journey through the nine large galleries of the interactive exhibition, you will uncover the true story of the Titanic, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900's, through her construction and launch, to her famous maiden voyage and subsequent place in history.

#### Enjoy a group **lunch at Ballyscullion Park.**

#### Continue to visit **Giants Causeway**

Encounter Northern Ireland's favourite giant Finn McCool at the new Giants Causeway Visitor centre on the North Antrim coast which opened in the summer of 2012. According to legend Finn McCool created the Giants Causeway by building stepping stones to Scotland to challenge the Scottish giant Benandonner!



The new Visitor centre explores the major themes of mythology, geology, landscape, ecology, culture and social history based on the UNESCO World Heritage site that consists of 40,000 basalt polygonal columns formed 60 million years ago after a volcanic eruption. There are various interactive exhibits and short video presentations within five designated interpretive exhibition areas and the self-guided visit will culminate with a spectacular two minutes audio-visual projection of a volcanic eruption flowing over the walls and onto the floor. Other services and facilities include a large craft and souvenir shop, Tourist Information and restaurant. To enhance the wider visitor experience around the site, a hand held audio guide is available in a range of languages which will bring the wider World Heritage Site to life and inform visitors of unique features to look out for across this amazing landscape. Guided tours of the site are also available. The walks and trails around the World Heritage Site have been upgraded, with the addition of a new accessible cliff top walk for families and people with disabilities. In 2015, Conde Nast Traveler magazine included hopping the stones of the Giant's Causeway as one of the '50 things to do in Europe before you die'. Return back to your hotel.

Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Belfast or area.

### Day 8 – Belfast to Dublin

#### This morning we will depart from Belfast. Visit **Tracey for a Cooking Experience**

Based in Comber, County Down on the shores of Strangford Lough, Tracey Jeffrey has a beautiful traditional cottage where she provides a traditional Irish bread making experience. The session starts with a traditional Irish Fruit Soda Cake, a sweet treat and delicious with lots of homemade Irish butter. While the Fruit Soda Cake is baking in the stove oven, guests will make some potato bread (or fudge as it is known locally). Fillings of scallions or cheese can be added to the potato mix. Soda bread will also be made, with various alternative ingredients, including treacle, currants, sultanas or cinnamon. Tray-bakes are a typical sweet treat from Northern Ireland, and are delicious served with tea or coffee. Guests will take home a bag filled with their handmade products and all of the recipes. Tracey also offers various day trips in Northern Ireland and she has an in-depth knowledge of where to find great local producers, where guests will hear their story and taste their produce. Guests will sample foods as varied as single estate whiskey to artisan dulce wheaten bread. Visit **Armagh Cider Company**. The Troughton family have been growing apples there for four generations since 1898 and all their products are made 'from blossom to bottle' on the home farm located in the unique micro climate of Portadown. Experience a guided tour and immersive experience, where guests literally walk into 'A Day in the life of Armagh Cider Company'. This experience offers them the opportunity to learn of the importance of the apple industry, the relevance of PGI status to the Armagh Bramley Apple, the processes involved in apple growing, storage, processing and packaging. Finish up with a cider tasting. Continue to Dublin and check into your hotel. Overnight, dinner, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Dublin or area.





### Day 9: Best of Dublin

This morning after breakfast we will explore Dublin. Visit **Guinness Storehouse**

The Guinness Brewery in Dublin is Europe's largest stout producing brewery and home to the Guinness Storehouse. Opened in 1904, the Storehouse was an operational plant for fermenting and storing Guinness. Today it houses a very fine exhibition dedicated to the Guinness story. Visitors will discover what goes into the making a pint of Guinness - the ingredients, the brewing process, the time, the craft and the passion. The exhibition shows how the brew has been marketed and how it is today sold in over 150 countries. Once the tour has finished, the guest is invited to the Gravity Bar to enjoy their pint of Guinness. Regular demonstrations on the art of pulling a pint of Guinness also take place in the Storehouse. Launched on the fifth floor in 2011, "Five" at Guinness Storehouse, includes a small replica authentic Irish Bar, an 18th Century inspired Brewers Dining Hall, and a restaurant named Gilroy's where guests enjoy a Guinness gastronomic experience driven entirely by the Irish tradition of wholesome local produce

Menus include local foods such as Ardsallagh goat's cheese, Irish mussels from Carlingford and the Waterford Blaas bread supplied by MD Bakery in Waterford. This area will host from time to time live cooking demonstrations using Guinness in the recipe and it includes an interactive recipe sharing bank that allows visitors to take Guinness recipe cards home. ***\*Possible to include a special guided tour here. Strictly subject to availability.*** Enjoy **Experience Gaelic Games**. With Experience Gaelic Games, visitors take part in a unique and integral part of Irish culture and heritage, such as traditional Gaelic games and dances. The experience is brought alive by a team of passionate ambassadors/coaches. Visitors can learn the games, and operators will coach and instruct them in the skills, then let them play mini-matches, take part in team building activities or sit back and watch. This evening take part in a **Musical Pub Crawl**. This musical visit of pubs in Dublin is told by two professional musicians, who will explain the history of Irish music as well as its influence on contemporary music, all while playing traditional airs, and allowing guests to discover typical Irish songs. You will move from pub to pub in the company of the musicians. Each of the pubs is reserved for the group, and there is access to a private bar. The pubs are located close to each other in the Temple Bar area. Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Dublin or area.



### Day 10: Day Excursion to Wicklow

This morning after breakfast we will depart to explore Wicklow. Visit **Wicklow Way Winery**  
The first fruit winery in Ireland, Wicklow Way Winery produces delectable wines made from blackberry, strawberry, and raspberry under the brand Móinéir Fine Irish Fruit Wine. Having first tasted fruit wine whilst living in California, the owners Pam and Brett returned to Ireland in 2013 to realise their dream of producing beautiful wines from the fruits of the Wicklow Mountains. Wicklow Way Winery place an emphasis on producing wine in a sustainable manner, with a focus on using environmentally friendly processes from berry to bottle with individual handwritten labels. ***Possibility to meet owner, strictly subject to availability.***

Continue South and visit **Haydens Family Farm and enjoy a Baileys Tasting**

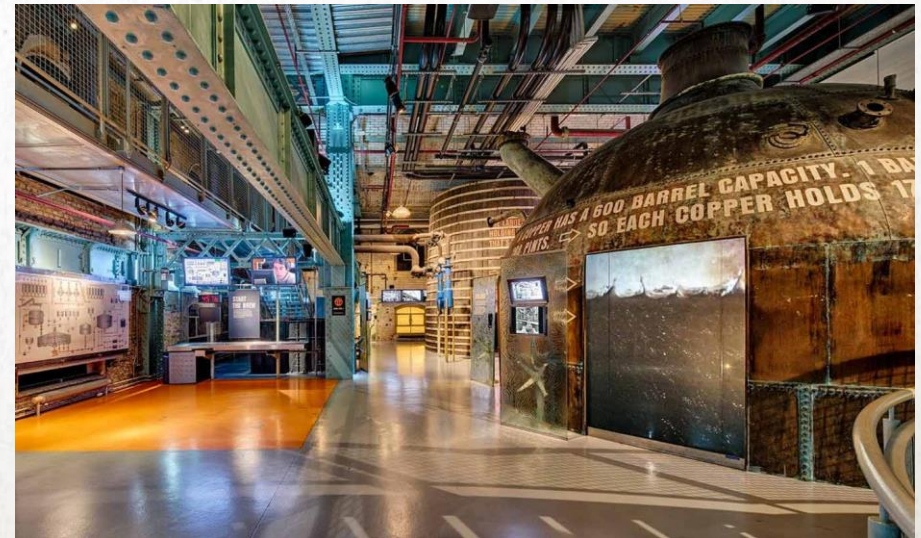
Located in the beautiful Wicklow countryside is Hayden's Family Farm. Enjoy a guided farm tour on the 175 hectare farm where their 140 cow dairy herd produces milk for Baileys Irish Cream. In 2002 the farm was chosen as the international 'Vineyard' for the world's number one cream liqueur and now plays host to the many visitors who wish to visit the natural home of Baileys and learn how they have introduced sustainable farming techniques.

***Possibility to meet owner, strictly subject to availability.***

Return back to Dublin and enjoy a free evening. Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Dublin or area.

### Day 11: Farewell

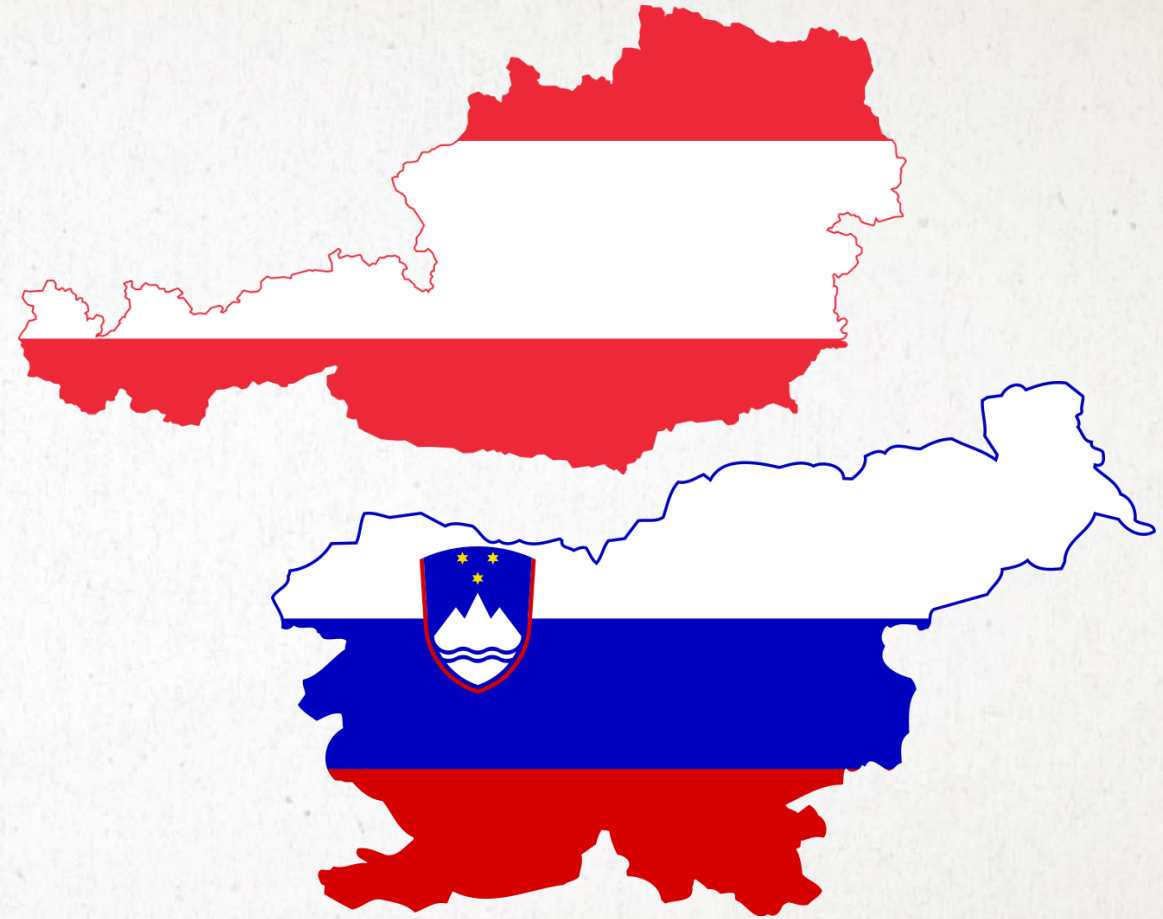
Transfer to Dublin Airport for your return flight home





# AUSTRIA & SLOVENIA

- Austria & Slovenia wine tour





# Austria & Slovenia wine tour

## Day1 - Ljubljana-Maribor/Slovenia

Arrival at Ljubljana/Slovenia airport. Meeting with driver and tour escort and transfer to your Hotel in Maribor (or surrounding). Dinner at local restaurant. Overnight in Maribor.

## Day 2 - Maribor-Ptuj-Maribor/Slovenia

Morning City tour of Maribor. Afterwards short drive to Ptuji, the oldest town in Slovenija nestled between gentle wine-growing hills and the river Drava. Short city walk including visit of the historic castle. Afterwards visit of the Ptuji Wine cellar one of the oldest cellars in Slovenia. Learn about the local wines like the “Haloze sauvignon”, sipon or Laski Riesling. Overnight in Maribor.

## Day 3 - Maribor-Jeruzalem-Maribor/Slovenia

Full day excursion to the wine fields of Jeruzalem. Visit of a pumpkin oil mill, visitors can taste various oils and also learn how the oil is produced and how the specialties are prepared. Lunch in a typical local restaurant. Afternoon visit of the vineyard Malek, located between Svetinje and Jeruzalem in the middle of the most beautiful vineyard terraces. The more than 350-year old building used to be a majestic edifice, where grapes were pressed into wine. Taste excellent wines, visit the small museum about winemaking and wonderful old cellar. Dinner and overnight in Maribor

## Day4- Maribor-Graz/Austria

Morning departure to Graz/Austria. On our way we will visit the “Weingut Tement” located in Berghausen right after the border between Slovenia and Austria. Tasting of wines and local specialties. Drive further to Graz/Styria, Check in at hotel. Dinner at local restaurant. Overnight in Graz

## Day 5 - Graz/Austria

On our city tour you will see the famous “Uhrturm” clock tower in the historic old town. The Glockenspiel, the Graz opera and the municipal parish church of Graz. After lunch you will experience another highlight of our tour – the Federal Stud Piber in Koeflach, which lies 45 km west of Graz, looks back at 400 years of tradition. It is the home of the world-famous white stallions which perform at the Spanish Riding School in Vienna. Dinner and overnight in Graz.

## Day 6 - Graz – Lake Neusiedel – Vienna/Austria

Picturesque trip to the Lake Neusiedel at the border to Hungary and visit of the “Opitz winery”. Lunch and wine tasting. Drive further to Vienna. Overnight in Vienna

## Day 7 - Vienna/Austria

Half day city tour including a walking tour through the old part of the city. This tour will give you an overall impression of the most significant historical sights of Vienna. Along the Ringstrasse we show you numerous grand buildings, such as the State Opera House, the magnificent Museum of Fine Arts, the Natural History Museum, the Hofburg (the former Habsburg winter residence), the Parliament, the City Hall and the Burgtheater. Remainder of the day is free. In the evening you will enjoy folklore music, traditional food and wine at one of the cosy wine taverns in the surrounding of Vienna . Overnight in Vienna.

## Day 8 - Vienna – Vienna APT

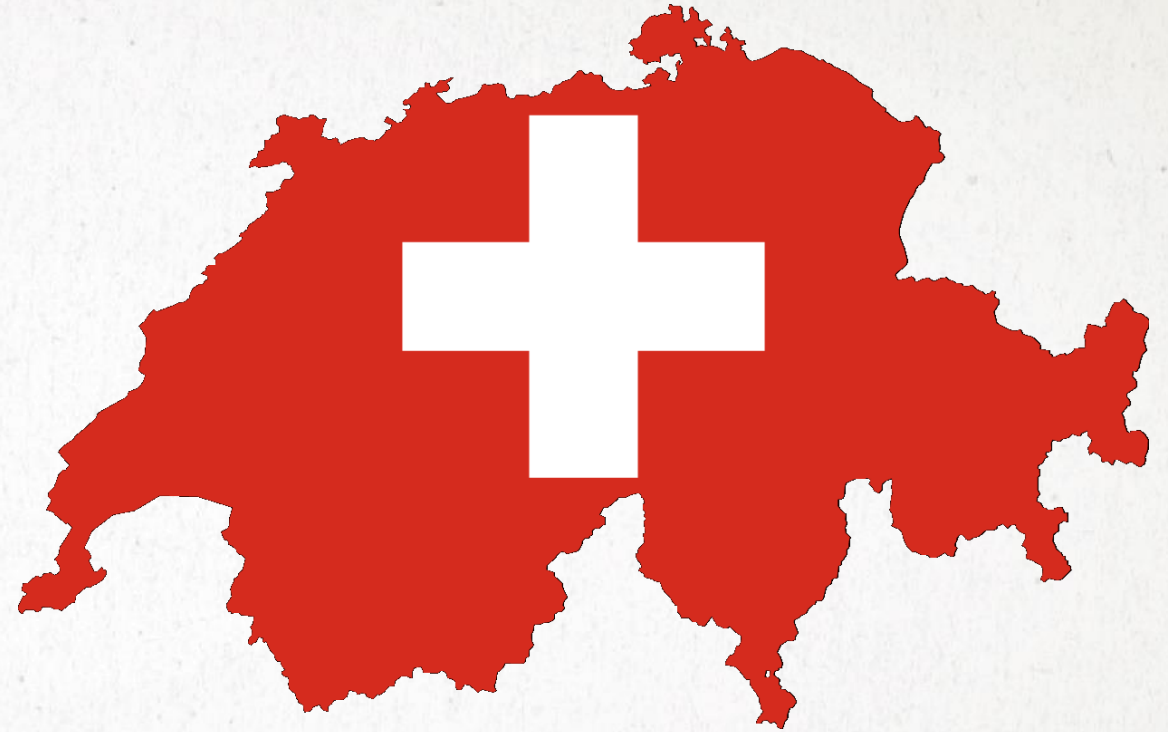
Transfer to Vienna airport





# SWITZERLAND

- Wine and Gastronomy tour
- Off the beaten path





# Wine and Gastronomy tour

## Day 1

Arrival in Switzerland, Zürich airport. You are met by our bus and guide.

Visit in the afternoon to the Rhine Falls, biggest water falls in Europe. After return city orientation tour before you can do the check in at the hotel

Overnight in Zürich - Welcome dinner at the hotel

## Day 2

Breakfast buffet at the hotel. Our bus and guide will take you to Lucerne, the city of light situated on board of lake Lucerne. Boat ride and visit of the famous Stanserhorn mountain with the open Cabrio cabine. Enjoy the beautiful sights of the region. On top we have lunch with the typical meal called Aelplermaccaroni with potatoes and cheese mixed and onions on top. It is served as a local Swiss speciality together with apple mousse. After return to Lucerne orientation tour . In the evening dinner on own or dinner together at the famous Restaurant Stadtkeller with folklore music and show. Overnight in Lucerne

## Day 3

Breakfast buffet at the hotel. Our bus and guide will take you over the Gotthard pass to southern village of Bellinzona. Enjoy a food and wine tour of delis and restaurants where you will get the chance to try local delicacies and wines.

After the tour visit of the castles which are UNESCO world heritage sight or you can just simply enjoy a coffee and pastry on the piazza in the village. Later drive to Locarno for overnight

Overnight in Locarno

## Day 4

Breakfast buffet at the hotel. our bus and guide will take us to the town of Ascona. Located on the delta where the Maggia River meets Lake Maggiore, we will visit an “azienda” where they produce wine, polenta and rice amongst other products. It is also the northernmost rice field in Europe. After the visit, we will be treated to a wine tasting with some local cheese followed by a traditional “risottata ticinese”. After lunch, we will have some time at the beautiful lakefront of Ascona before heading back to the hotel. Overnight in Locarno

## Day 5

Breakfast buffet at the hotel. our bus and guide will take you to Locarno. You enjoy a train ride from Locarno on the Centovalli train to Domodossola in Italy and on to Sierre. A short coach ride will take you from Sierre station to the Chateau de Villa, where we will enjoy a wine tasting with an expert followed by a 3-course raclette lunch.

After lunch drive to Lausanne, the olympic city on the board of Lake Geneva. Possible boat ride from Lausanne to Evian in France and back. Dinner at the hotel or in a local restaurant. Overnight in Lausanne

## Day 6

Breakfast buffet at the hotel. our bus and guide will take you through the Lavaux vineyards to Chexbres village. The local train running from Vevey to Puidoux, called the “Train des Vignes”, takes its passengers on a stunning ride through the Lavaux vineyard terraces, a UNESCO world heritage site. At the very heart of the Lavaux, we will visit Domaine Bovy, a family-run winery with cellars dating from the 16th century. We will try up to 4 different wines and have some local bread, cheese and cold cuts. Afternoon visit of the famous Charlie Chaplin museum near Vevey and later drive back to your hotel

Overnight in Lausanne

Day 7 Breakfast buffet at the hotel. our bus and guide will take you from Lausanne to Montreux . Enjoy a beautiful walk along the lake promenade and may also a ride to the top of Mt Rochers-de-Naye, overlooking Lake Geneva. Later drive to Bern, the capital city of Switzerland and UNESCO world heritage site. Farewell dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight in Bern

## Day 8

Breakfast buffet at the hotel and transfer to Zurich airport for departure





## Off the beaten path

( program is a mix with rail and private bus )

### Day 1

Arrival in Switzerland. our guide will expect the group in the arrival hall ( if you decide to travel by bus the bus will also be there ) you drive by bus over the Brünig Pass to Brienz, the city of woodcarvers. From there you take a boat to Giessbach. Here you board a nostalgic train up to your hotel. Check in and Dinner at the hotel

Overnight in Giessbach/Brienz

### Day 2

Breakfast buffet at the hotel. Later you board the train down to lake to board the boat which brings you over to Brienz.

Learn more about the background of the nostalgic Brienzer Rothorn Steam Railway during a depot visit. Brienzer Rothorn Steam train from Brienz up to the Brienzer Rothorn. Enjoy some time and the beautiful view up the Brienzer Rothorn before you board the steam train back to Brienz. Boat from Brienz back to Giessbach.

Your evening meal will be served at the hotel tonight. Overnight in Giessbach/Brienz

### Day 3

Breakfast buffet at the hotel. our bus and guide will take you from Giessbach and drive all the way to Lucerne. There is some time to linger in Lucerne and catch the scenic sights in this Swiss city. Later in the day make your way to Brunnen to the Victorinox museum, where you will learn more about the famous Swiss knife and the traditional Swiss company. In the end collect your own Victorinox pocket knife. Your private coach will pick you up again from Brunnen and drive you the Stoos funicular railway valley station. Take the steepest funicular up to the Stoos plateau where your hotel for the next two nights will be located. Your evening meal will be served at the hotel. Overnight in Stoos

### Day 4

Breakfast buffet at the hotel. Today you will experience the national sport of Switzerland – hiking. An easy 1.5 hours walk will bring you to a nice alpine hut where you will be able to enjoy a cold platter with meat and cheese – exactly as a Swiss person would do. There is also a shop at the alpine hut where you will be able to buy some local products. An easy hike back will bring you back to the hotel. Enjoy the fantastic Spa area – you definitely earned this today. Your evening meal will be served at the hotel

Overnight in Stoos

### Day 5

Breakfast buffet at the hotel. Take the funicular back from Stoos to the valley station. Your private coach will bring you to the village of Einsiedeln with the baroque monastery dating back to the 18th century. Visit the local cheese dairy and learn more during the guided tour about the cheese manufactory and also taste some free samples. During the free stroll in Einsiedeln there is also the possibility to taste the local gingerbread sweet at the gingerbread museum. Have a look at this traditional bakery and see how the sweets were produced many years back. Board your private coach for your journey onwards to Heiden, where your next hotel is located. Dinner at your own arrangement tonight.

Overnight in Heiden

### Day 6

Breakfast buffet at the hotel . our bus and guide will take you to Gossau and Wasserauen . From here take a cablecar up to the Ebenalp. Short hike to the Aescher Wildkirchli, the restaurant clinging to the foot of a vertical cliff face. Enjoy your lunch at this scenic restaurant. Cable car back to Wasserauen and bus ride back to Appenzell. Enjoy some free time in this traditional Swiss city, where people still meet on the local square for voting. The city is also home to lots of cultural traditions. We can plan a visit at the local Brewery where they make beer and whisky. Overnight in Heiden

### Day 7

Breakfast buffet at the hotel. our bus and guide will take you to Rorschach on Lake Constance. where you will board a cruise all the way to the Island of Mainau. The lake of Constance is divided by the three countries in this area – Switzerland, Germany and Austria. Enjoy the beautiful flowers on the magnificent island of Mainau. Boat ride from Mainau to Kreuzlingen where our bus will pick you up.

Overnight in Heiden

### Day 8

Breakfast buffet at the hotel. our bus and guide will take you to St. Gallen. There you will have some time to visit the monastery and the abbey library which is world famous and a UNESCO Cultural heritage site. St. Gallen is very much known for its history in textile producing. We suggest also a visit of the Textilmuseum in St. Gallen where you find the history of textile making. Later in the day drive to your hotel and check in. Overnight in St. Gallen

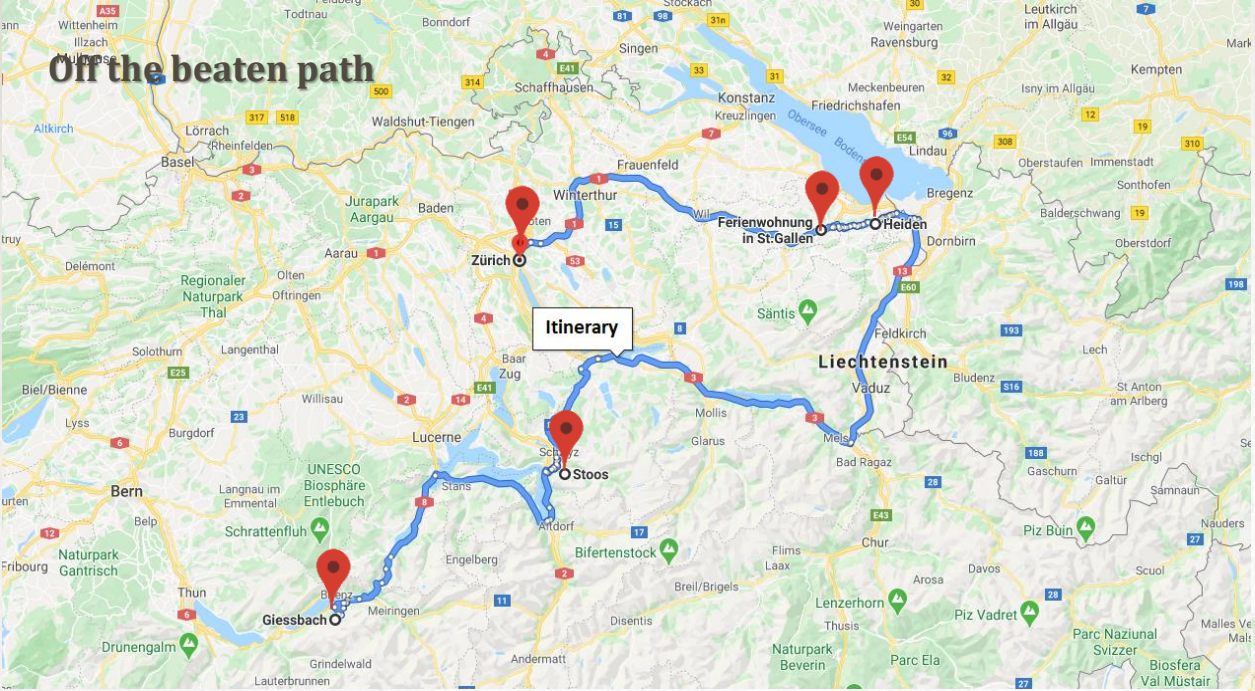
### Day 9

Breakfast buffet at the hotel and later in the day drive to Zürich for your last overnight in Switzerland. Farewell dinner in Zürich. Overnight in Zürich

### Day 10

Breakfast buffet at the hotel and transfer to Zurich airport for departure







# GERMANY - FRANCE

- **Alsace and Baden**  
around Wine & Gastronomy





# Alsace and Baden aound Wine & Gastronomy

Discover the natural beauty, the heritage, the gastronomy and the wines of Alsace in France and of Baden in Germany during an exclusive stay specifically designed for you!

DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN STRASBOURG: Private transfer(s) from Strasbourg train station (or from the airport) to your hotel. Welcome dinner and overnight in Strasbourg

DAY 2: FULL-DAY WALKING GOURMET & CITY TOUR IN STRASBOURG:

Your private guide will meet you at your hotel and will bring you to the best places in town to taste the Alsatian specialties which have contributed to the reputation of our cuisine!

You will taste:

- The famous kougelhopf (Alsatian cake).
- The wonderful gingerbread from Mireille Oster.
- A traditional Alsatian beer at a craft brewery.
- For the lunch you will enjoy a choucroute (sauerkraut) with a glass of Alsatian Riesling at a typical winstub, a restaurant offering local cuisine.
- After the lunch, you will continue with French pastries, as well as with macarons and chocolates made by a famous pastry chef.

Strasbourg has a worldwide renowned historical heritage: the Grande Île district is listed a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Together with your guide, between the tastings, you will visit the 'Petite France' area, the most picturesque district of Old Strasbourg where you will discover the half-timbered houses, the Cathedral and the Maison Kammerzell.

Overnight in Strasbourg

DAY 3: THE ALSACE WINE ROUTE

Check-out from your hotel in Strasbourg. Full day tour on the Alsace Wine Route. Today, you will marvel at the beauty and diversity of the landscape and will stroll through picturesque villages surrounded by vineyards where you can admire the traditional half-timbered houses and their balconies, overflowing with flowers! You will start with the visit of the renowned Spindler&#173;s wood marquetry in Boersch, a famous symbol of arts & crafts in Alsace. Jean-Charles Spindler, the 3rd generation of this family of artists, will open the doors of his private little museum just for you. In Mittelbergheim, a superb village with a characteristic Renaissance style architecture, ranked among the 'Most Beautiful Villages of France', you will do a wine-tasting at Domaine Albert Seltz, a reputed winery together with the owner Albert, the 14th generation who will guide you in his cellar dating from 17th century. <http://www.albert-seltz.fr/> . You will taste the Zotzenberg Sylvaner Grand Cru, the only Sylvaner Grand Cru in the world!

Traditional Alsatian "flammekuechen" will be served for lunch at the winery after the tasting. Visit of Ribeauvill  , a typical Alsatian village and visit of Domaine Trimbach, one of the most reputed Alsatian wine producer and largest private exporter of Alsatian wines to the US. The tasting will allow you to taste very different types of wines which reflect the diversity of the wines of Alsace. The combination of a rich soil and generations of winemaking skills have made Alsace one of the world's premier wine regions. With 51 Grand Crus and seven types of grapes (Riesling, Gewurztraminer, Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Noir, Sylvaner, Muscat), Alsatian wines are acclaimed the world over!

<https://www.trimbach.fr/en/trimbach-estate/>

Check in at your hotel in Obernai, a charming medieval town on the Wine Route.

DAY 4: THE ALSACE WINE ROUTE:

Full day tour on the Alsace Wine Route. Privileged visit of the Haut-Koenigsbourg castle. The castle is one of the symbols of the Alsatian heritage and a witness to the course of European history. A private guided tour will allow you to become more familiar with the castle architecture, the Middle-Ages and the early 20th century restoration. A private wine-tasting will be offered in places which are normally closed to the public! Lunch at a winstub, a local restaurant offering regional cuisine. Visit of Riquewihr, the gem of the Alsace Wine Route, also ranked among the Most Beautiful Villages in France, and where most houses are from 16th and 17th centuries. Wine-tasting at Domaine Hugel. <http://www.hugel.com/> Visit of Domaine Weinbach-Faller family in Kaysersberg. <http://www.domaineweinbach.com/en> Both Hugel and Weinbach wineries are among the top 5 or 10 best wineries in Alsace. Return to your hotel in Obernai.

DAY 5: THE ALSACE WINE ROUTE

Full day tour on the Alsace Wine Route. Suggestion of itinerary: Visit of Colmar, the Alsatian wine capital, where strolling is so enjoyable. You will discover the superb Little Venice area, and its historical and architectural heritage. Visit of Eguisheim, ranked among the Most Beautiful Villages in France. Lunch at a winstub, a local restaurant offering regional cuisine. Wine-tastings organized with the "Divines d'Alsace", an association which gathers approximately 70 female wine professional from Alsace, with a majority of wine makers or their spouses.

The tastings will be arranged at 2 wineries  
Domaine Emile Beyer and Domaine Zinck





In the evening, a gastronomic dinner will be arranged at Château de Kientzheim together with the “Confrérie Sainte-Etienne”, which is considered as one of the oldest brotherhoods in France. With its 500 members, the Confrérie promotes Alsatian wines around the world. You will have the possibility to visit the wine cellar, which holds old bottles of Alsace wine dating until 1834! Wine-makers will be present during the dinner in order to present their wines. Old vintages of Alsatian Grand Crus wines will be offered for tasting. Return to your hotel in Obernai.

#### DAY 6: LALIQUE IN NORTHERN ALSACE:

Check-out from your hotel in Obernai and departure to Wingen-sur-Moder in Northern Alsace. Visit of the Lalique museum. Inaugurated in 2011 in the village where René Lalique implemented his glass factory in 1921, the Lalique Museum’s ambition is to make you discover the Lalique creation in all its diversity, putting the accent mainly on what is produced by Lalique in Wingen-sur-Moder: glass and crystal. After the visit of the Lalique museum, prepare yourself for a fabulous lunch experience at the Villa René Lalique restaurant, which opened in September 2015 headed by world-acclaimed chef Jean-Georges Klein and who benefits from 2\* in the Michelin guide! Before lunch, an exclusive private wine tasting will be organized in the fabulous cellar together with Romain Iltis, Best Sommelier in France in 2012. <https://villarenelalique.com/en/> In the afternoon, you will be heading to Baden-Baden in Germany. On the way, if time allows, you will go through Hunsbach, ranked among the Most Beautiful Villages in France, or Betschdorf and Soufflenheim, where potters continue the tradition of Alsatian pottery.

Check in at your hotel in Baden-Baden. Its so peculiar Mediterranean character makes Baden-Baden one of the most charming German cities.

#### DAY 7: THE BADEN WINE ROUTE:

With 16,000 hectares of vineyards, Baden is Germany’s 3rd largest wine region. As in neighbouring Alsace, Baden has a great tradition of wine and food. Among other grapes, its Spätburgunders and Burgunders (Pinots) have long been popular throughout the region. Full day tour on the Baden Wine Route: You will visit the famous Franz Keller winery in Oberbergen, located in the Kayserstuhl area. You will be welcomed in the superb setting of a building with an audacious architecture built in the middle of the vineyard. A wine-tasting and a lunch will be arranged at the winery. <https://www.franz-keller.de/en/winery/winery/> In the afternoon, you will visit the Laible winery in Durbach: <https://www.weingut-alexanderlaible.de/en/home/> Return to your hotel in Baden-Baden. A farewell dinner will be arranged at the restaurant Jardin de France, owned by a French couple from Alsace and which has 1\* at the Michelin guide. Wines from the Baden region will be offered during the dinner.

#### DAY 8: END OF STAY.

Check out and transfer to the airport





### **GT Experiences**

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