



GAY CRUISE & BIKING IN THE BORDEAUX WINE REGION

Bordeaux region is known all over the world for its famous vineyards but also chateaux, old charming towns, picturesque abbeys... a prestigious brand image behind which hides a whole world of delicacy and finesse. The perfect bicycle 'rendez-vous'.

- **Cycle through a puzzle of 57 designations** on 120 000 hectares of vineyards and around 8000 chateaux. It represents the largest and most ancient fine wine vineyards in the world: Saint-Émilion, Pomerol, Sauternes, Médoc, Margaux...
- **Cruise the Dordogne, Garonne Rivers and the Gironde Estuary** which draw the only border between all the Bordeaux wine areas.
- **Discover three UNESCO World Heritage Sites 'Grands Crus'**: The Saint-Emilion's medieval village with vineyard; Some 1,810 hectares of Bordeaux's monumental architecture; The three fortifications of Vauban's Bolt on the Gironde Estuary (the Citadel of Blaye on the right bank, Fort Pâté on an island in the middle, and Fort Médoc on the left bank).

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DAY 1, Saturday

CASTETS-EN- DORTHE

“Canal des Deux Mers” round tour (10 miles /15 km)
Embarkation as from 03:00 PM. On the arrival you can put your luggage already on board as from 01:00 PM. Boarding starts at 03:00 PM. Individual arrival and transfer from the meeting point in Bordeaux to the mooring location of the boat near the Canal des Deux Mers at Castets-en-Dorthe, located in the middle of the Garonne Valley. You can enjoy a short first test bike ride around Castets, exploring this fertile region aptly named “Little Holland” with its walnut trees, kiwi orchards and vegetable fields. Following the bike path along the Canal des Deux Mers (Canal of Two Seas) that links the Atlantic to the Mediterranean, you will discover this lush rural countryside. In the evening, a welcome cocktail awaits you on board.

DAY 2, Sunday

CASTETS-EN-DORTHE-LOUPIAC/CADILLAC

Castets-en-Dorthe/ Entre-Deux-Mers round tour (17 to 29 miles /27 to 46 km)
The cycling itinerary today leads through Entre-deux-mers, the “Premieres Côtes de Bordeaux” winegrowing area. You will be introduced to family estates, with wine tastings, and have the opportunity to visit the ‘Malagar’ former residence of the writer Francois Mauriac as well as the Malromé castle, family house of the painter Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, built in the sixteenth century. Your castle-to-castle course will allow you to discover breathtaking panoramas, ancient buildings, scenic spots, an exceptional terroir and strange natural sights: the village of Sainte Croix du Mont offers a panoramic plateau formed by huge fossilised oyster beds accumulated from the tertiary and the medieval village Saint-Macaire is on the Garonne river with troglodyte houses. In the late afternoon, back on board again, the tour continues by ship, heading upstream along the Garonne River to reach Cadillac, a small town with a towering castle.

DAY 3, Monday

LOUPIAC/CADILLAC – BORDEAUX

Cadillac / Graves -Sauternes round tour (25 to 31 miles /39 to 50 km)-
After a restful night on board, you will be ready to discover the Sauternais region by bike, where sweet dessert wines are made. Cadillac is located in the region of Graves, also called the birthplace of Bordeaux Wines. It is a fortified medieval village known as a Bastide. The route follows the winding banks of the Ciron river, whose icy waters flow into the warmer waters of the Garonne. The country roads are dotted with picturesque châteaux whose elegant turrets rule over an ocean of colorful vines. Time seems frozen in the medieval era when the region was under the rule of English crown. The Château de Roquetaillade (XIVth) is a defensive site, owned by the same family since....1306! You will see here the prestigious Château Yquem (Château Climens, Château Guiraud, Château Rayne Vigneau and many others). Once back on board, you will sail down the Garonne River towards the enchanting city of Bordeaux, reaching the passage of the famous Stone Bridge and the pier in the city center, facing the region's most prestigious panorama: the “Port de la lune” with magnificent XVIIIth facades, the Stone Bridge, Place de la Bourse and Quai des Chartrons all in one view.

DAY 4, Tuesday

BORDEAUX - LAMARQUE

Heart of Bordeaux tour (6 to 20 miles /10 to 32 km)

Ready to discover Bordeaux? You will be offered three bike tours. Don't miss the architectural gems with the UNESCO World Heritage Tour which will take you down the historical streets, monuments and hidden places of the world famous City of wine. You will begin with the historical background, followed by the exploration of some of its main attractions; the royal entrance of the city (Cailhau Gate), the Big Bell of Pey Berlan, the Golden Triangle, the Girondins column, the water mirror... and more. Also, you can discover Bordeaux with the Garonne River tour and cross some bridges to admire the total harmony of the city, in its surprising new and redeveloped areas. There is free time in the afternoon to shop or explore. Be sure to sightsee the town's streets and shops where wine is as old as the underground cellars carved in stone or to visit the newly opened Cité du Vin.

DAY 5, Wednesday

LAMARQUE - BOURG-SUR-GIRONDE

Medoc/Margaux bike tour (18 to 35 miles /29 to 58 km)

You will cruise down the Garonne River, admire the facades of the docks of Bordeaux, at the point at Ambes where the two rivers join and enter the Gironde estuary. Your boat reaches the point where Dordogne and the Garonne rivers meet and flow into the Gironde estuary and it will moor at Cussac Fort Medoc, Unesco site from the Médocwine region. You will have time to saunter into the village, where an exceptional old Fort testifies to the English military presence to guard the left bank of the estuary, frontiers of their highly coveted territory. Do you prefer "Medoc"? "Margaux"? "Pauillac"? "Saint Estephe"? or "Saint Julien"? Biking there will help you to decide! Winding your way through vineyards you will discover some of Médocs best wineries, which pride in 21 first great classified growth, including the Châteaux Palmer, Pontet Canet, Grand Puy Lacoste, Lynch-Bages, Latour, Pichon- Longueville, Cos d'Estournel/Lafite Rothschild, Issan, Lewis Brown, Desmirail, Prieuré Lichine, Rauzan Segla Gassies and last but not least Château Margaux . You can stop at one of these great wine estates for a visit / tasting (optional) and learn everything about classifications before returning to the boat. In the late afternoon, the ship will cruise the wide Gironde estuary to the jetty of Bourg, a picturesque little town near the conjunction of the Gironde and Dordogne rivers. The old city center overlooks the Gironde estuary.

DAY 6, Thursday

BOURG-LIBOURNE/FRONSAC

Blaye Fortress and vineyards round tour (15 to 26 miles /25 to 41 km)

You will be surprised to see what this region holds in secret behind its hilly landscape covered with endless vines and dotted with scattered fairytale chateaux and elegant manor houses. Its wine chateaux may be little known but all the same beautiful and their production is just as prestigious to its more famous neighbors on the left bank. You will have the choice to visit some of them such as Monconseil-Gazin, Tayac, Eyquem and many others châteaux... After a short loop through the Blaye Citadel (UNESCO World Heritage Site) to admire the military masterwork of architect of Louis XIV, the "Sun King", you will enter the "Côtes de Blaye" vineyard. Since the Middle Ages, countless numbers of pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostella passed through this region. Along an ancient railroad, now transformed into a pleasant bike path, you can visit village squares and towering chateaux. Be enchanted by the "douceur de vivre" (sweet life), so typical for this wine region.

Back on the boat, it heads to Bourg-sur-Gironde, officially recognized as a historic village because of its rich background and architectural heritage. In the footsteps of Louis XIV, spend an enjoyable evening. In the evening you will sail to Fronsac / Libourne on the Dordogne river.

DAY 7, Friday

LIBOURNE

Libourne & Saint-Émilion vineyards (21 - 32 miles / 35 - 50 km)

In Libourne, you can stroll to the picturesque city square, lined with buildings dating as far back as the 16th century. You can visit the weekly market on Friday mornings, before starting your exploration of the famous Pomerol and Saint-Émilion wine areas. Pedaling through the countryside, lined with vines, you will enjoy riding through this unspoiled UNESCO World Heritage landscape. Cycling through the landscape provides a unique view of the village's medieval lanes and surrounding vineyards. Your ride will continue on small picturesque country roads and paths where you will get a glimpse of Saint-Émilion's most famous châteaux. Along the way we see some of the 1st Classified growth such as Angelus, Ausone, Cheval Blanc, Petrus..., some of the world's most famous wine estates. A true paradise for wine lovers!

DAY 8, Saturday

LIBOURNE/ FRONSAC

Disembarkation and transfer to Bordeaux Airport or Station

After your final breakfast on board, it will be time for a return transfer (optional) to the pre-agreed drop off point in the city of Bordeaux. Disembarkation before 09:00 AM.

This cruise will be offered in the opposite direction on alternate weeks.

The Garonne, Gironde and Dordogne Rivers are part of a tidal river system that results in changing water levels (daily changes of up to 6 meters / 20 ft.) in the region. Every effort is made to follow the scheduled itinerary, however, based on tides it may be amended or modified as required.

All distances are "approximate distances" of recommended bike tours. When a guest does not want to cycle one day, he can skip the bike tour and relax on board. Program + details barring changes as a result of nautical, technical or meteorological reasons.

The BORDEAUX

78 meters (256 ft.) long and 10 meters (33 ft.) wide, max. 80 guests.

The upper deck : 11 twin cabins and 2 single cabins.

The lower deck : 34 twin cabins (approx 7.5m² =81-86 sq.ft., 2 single beds) and 2 junior suites (approx. 11.5m² =125 sq.ft., 2 single beds, small sitting area)

All cabins have small windows that can be opened, en-suite bathroom with shower + toilet, individually regulated air conditioning, satellite- TV, mini-safe.

The Promenade Deck features a salon with large windows, a separated restaurant area, a bar and in front of the ship a large lounge with seats & tables and full glass panoramic windows where passengers can relax and enjoy the scenery. Another great spot for relaxation is the large and partially roofed Sun Deck with a large sunroof, chairs and tables & cycle shed (aft deck).

FROM (based on 80 guests):

€ 1 249/person - Twin cabin lower deck 2 pers.

€ 1 399/person - Twin cabin upper deck 2 pers.

€ 1 649/person - Single cabin upper deck 1 pers.

€ 1 599/person - Single use twin cabin lower deck 1 pers.

€ 1 549/person - Junior suite lower deck 2 pers.

Rental bicycle with 21 gears, hand brakes, pannier bag: € 75

Rental electrical bike (E-bike): € 165 (limited number available, early bookings strongly recommended)

Other types of bicycles: only on request

Package fully guided bike tours (English spoken, group of max. 25 persons, daily guided cycling): € 200

Included:

Tour and accommodation on board in the booked cabin category during 8 days/7 nights (Sat.-Sat.). Full board: 7 x breakfast, 6 x picnic lunch during bike tours, 7 x three course dinner. Use of bed linen and towels (change of towels daily possible). Daily cleaning of the cabin. Welcome cocktail, presentation of ship + crew and briefing on the first evening. Tour leader (French/English speaking) with daily briefings of the bike tours, some short walking tours. individual cycling/semi-guided cycling tours. Tour leader is not guiding the group, but cycling in the area and can be contacted during bike tours by mobile phone in case of questions, problems or emergencies (fully guided cycling as option/surcharge: see above). Printed instructions and detailed maps for individual daily bike tours, 1 set/cabin. Complimentary coffee and tea every afternoon.

Not included:

External transport. Package guided cycling; Rental bicycle, Rental e-bike. Other transfers. Parking fees. Entrance fees & excursions & wine tastings. Drinks on board. Personal insurances. Gratuities (at your discretion). Special diets on request/surcharges may apply. Concierge services.

The reservation can be firm and definitive only after payment of the total amount.

Subject to availability at the time of booking.

Bicycles:



The bicycles on board are mostly unisex touring bicycles with normal mount (ladies model), 2 hand brakes and a pannier bag. Bicycles and e-bikes have aluminum frames with frame suspension for unbeatable comfort, 21 gears. Other bikes (e.g. children's bikes, "slip streamers", tandems, etc.) and child's saddles (front or rear) are on these tours only available after prior request (early booking recommended) and only after reconfirmation and in very limited numbers.

Bike rental is optional. Guests are allowed to bring their own bicycles or E-bikes (at no extra cost).

However, the ship owner, crew and tour operator are in no way responsible/liable for any damage, loss or theft of such bicycles. In France all bicyclists are obliged to wear a bike helmet. We urgently recommend you to bring your own (well fitting) helmet. There are a limited number of bike helmets available on board.

Background information:

The Terms & Conditions and cancellation policy of Aquitaine Croisières apply to cycling cruises.

The interior of the ship (all cabins and public areas) is non-smoking; smoking is only allowed on the sun deck.