

Our Home on the Road

Experience Burgundy

Burgundy is vintage B&R territory—a place renowned for its culinary traditions, celebrated wines and rich history. With our European headquarters based in Beaune, Burgundy for us is literally home territory. Thousands of miles of peaceful, paved roads await your exploration, and our guides are well acquainted with how best to stay off the beaten track when traversing this stunningly varied landscape. We'll take you to the top of the gorgeous Hautes Côtes, uncorking splendid vintages along the way. We'll introduce you to some of the region's most charming hotels, including Castel Tres Girard, in the heart of the Côte de Nuits vineyards.

THE BISTRO EXPERIENCE

If B&R were a Michelin-star restaurant, these trips would be our spin-off bistro next door. Same brilliant kitchen, same renowned chefs—it's just a little more casual and pared down. Bistro trips offer more independence (more meals on your own), and the hotels tend to be 3 or 4-stars instead of off-the-chart. But the heart of every Bistro trip is exactly the same as our marquee trips—same incredible routes, events, insider access and, of course, B&R guides.

Other questions?
Call us at 800 678 1147

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the journey

Day 1 Route des Châteaux

We'll rendezvous at the train station in Dijon, before driving to the plains of the River Saone. There we'll enjoy an open-air lunch at Château de Saulon-la-Rue (weather permitting), with views of the château's extensive gardens. The meal will be the perfect introduction to the culinary spirit of Burgundy, and the perfect incentive for our warmup ride, through flowing wheat fields and past rustic French farms. We'll end our ride in the village of Morey-saint-Denis, on the lower slopes of the famed Côte de Nuits, home to some of the world's finest red wines. After settling into our hotel, we'll gather for an informal introduction to Burgundian wine with local winemaker and tasting professional, Jane Eyre-Renard. Suitably educated, we'll repair to the hotel's chic dining room for a gourmet dinner prepared by up-and-coming chef Eric Shmitt.

HOTEL

Castel Tres Girard, Morey St. Denis

Set amid the vines in tiny Morey, the intimate Tres Girard boasts unbeatable vineyard views, as well as an expansive terrace and pool. Tastefully decorated, the hotel has only 8 rooms, which means that the service is excellent, and we usually have the place to ourselves.

THE BIKING

Day 1: A 40 km (25 mi.) ride following small roads through quiet farmland and vineyards. Most of the ride is quite flat, then becomes slightly uphill and rolling after lunch as we approach the Côte d'Or.



Days 2 & 3 Côte de Beaune

Today we head south into the Côte d'Or vineyards, passing through the town of Nuits St-Georges, on our way to Beaune. (The long option detours deeper into the vineyards of Corton-Charlemagne.) Once in Beaune, we'll follow the maze of cobblestone streets to our delicious picnic lunch in a private home. The afternoon is free to explore this charming, medieval town on your own. This evening, we'll walk to a special wine-tasting dinner in Burgundy's oldest wine house, Maison Champy. Our host, Emilie Forterre, a young local sommelier, will tour us through Champy's famous 15thC wine cellars, culminating in an unforgettable feast cooked specially for us by French Chef Thomas Lecourbe—twice a chef's assistant in the three Michelin-starred restaurants of Pierre Gagnaire and Jacques Lameloise! As we dine, Emilie will take us through an unforgettable tasting of some of Burgundy's finest crus, taken directly from the cellar below our chairs.

Other questions?

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info@butterfield.com

After breakfast the next morning, we'll pedal into the Côte de Beaune, via Savigny and Bouilland. Following vineyard and forest roads, we'll ascend the Côte, dropping into the Ouche Valley on the other side, where the tranquil Burgundy Canal follows the course of the Ouche River. Lunch will be on your own, in any of the little villages along the way. The long option will take you further afield, into lovely, medieval Chateauneuf. After returning to Beaune, we'll rendezvous in the early evening to meet our local guide, who will accompany us through the Hospices, Beaune's incredible charity hospital, established in 1443. Afterwards, we'll head our separate ways for dinner in any of Beaune's numerous excellent restaurants.

HOTEL

Hotel de la Poste, Beaune

This centrally-located hotel faces the medieval ramparts of the old town, and is ideally located within steps of all the best shops and restaurants. Its 30 rooms, recently renovated, offer all the creature comforts needed for your two-night stay.

THE BIKING

Day 2: A 27 km (17 mi.) ride through slightly rolling vineyards. There are two long options today: one in the morning that adds 14 km (9 mi.), and one in the afternoon that adds 25 km (15 mi.).

Day 3: A 45 km (25 mi.) ride through vineyards, forests and villages, on impossibly quiet roads. The long option to Chateauneuf adds 20 km (13 mi.).

Days 4 & 5

The Hautes Côtes and the Vallée de l'Ouche

Today we head further south, into the epicentre of the Burgundy wine scene. Legendary towns like Pommard, Meursault, and Volnay dot our route, which follows miniscule vineyard roads used only by winegrowers. Eventually, we'll turn our handlebars towards the Côte itself, climbing to nestled villages such as St. Romain. In La Rochepot, feel free to tour the famous château, whose Burgundian tiled roof sets the standard for Burgundian tiled roofs. We'll pause for a picnic with a view, before rolling into the Montrachet, home of some of the finest white wines in the world. After checking-in, feel free to explore the hotel's wine cellars, or take a stroll through Puligny. Tonight, you'll be free to dine on your own: there are excellent options in town; otherwise, why not venture to nearby Chagny, for an unforgettable three Michelin star dinner at Lameloise?

The following morning's loop ride takes us into the Maranges, a lesser-known corner of Burgundy characterized by verdant rolling pasture land—you'll see plenty of the famous white Charolais cow in these parts. Spend the day as you see fit: stop for an impromptu



tasting at one of the many wine houses we pass by; linger over lunch in a shaded square; or challenge yourself on the Century Ride, which includes some great climbs, and some lovely flat riding along the Canal du Centre. Back in Puligny, there'll be time for a quick nap before cocktails, and our fabulous final night dinner in the hotel's restaurant.

HOTEL

Le Montrachet, Puligny-Montrachet

Located in picturesque Puligny, Le Montrachet has been a beacon of hospitality for wine pilgrims for over two hundred years. The comfortable rooms and public spaces will make you feel perfectly at home. A great base for exploration of the wine country of the Montrachet and Santenay, as well as the Maranges.

THE BIKING

Day 4: A 35 km (22 mi.) ride from Beaune to Puligny-Montrachet via the Hautes Côtes. An extra 25 km (16 mi.) of predominantly flat riding is also available.

Day 5: A 50 km (31 mi.) moderately hilly ride through the farmland of the Maranges. The long option doubles the distance, for a 100 (62 mi.) Century Ride.

Day 6 Farewells

This morning, after breakfast, we'll drop you off at the Gare de Dijon-Ville train station in Dijon in time to catch your train to Paris. *Bon voyage!*



Closely Connected

By Olivier Maillard

Burgundy is my homeland and even after travelling to many different cities around the World, from Saïgon to Amsterdam and from Marrakech to Florence, nothing was able to keep me away from my “*terroir*.”

I remember as a small French boy having those long Sunday lunches made up of six or seven courses, with my grandfather never failing to open an amazing bottle of wine. Aged perfectly in his cellar, he was so proud to serve his family and friends some Grand Crus from Aloxe Corton or Gevrey Chambertin. He opened them 1 to 2 hours prior, served them in different glasses, and looked at each person's face for the moment of joy the beverage provided... By this time I was fed up of sitting at the table, as a young boy I didn't care to understand anything about wine and all I wanted to do was play outside and run in the fields...

Years later, I now understand my grandfather's devotion to wine, as I bike along the beautiful landscapes, made up of vineyards, rolling hills, an array of colours and the warm sunlight. Meeting with many famous wine growers and makers allowed me to discover all of what this generous man wanted to transmit. The colours and the flavours of those white and red juices that come from the ground describe why we all love this countryside.

Other questions?
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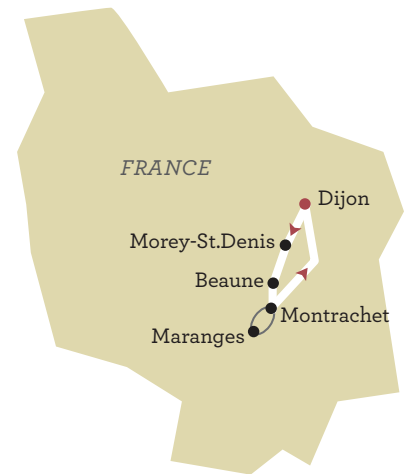
When I met George Butterfield a few years after this revelation, we both agreed that Burgundy is the best place to bike on the planet. With the cliffs of Saint Romain and the depths of the unknown Vallée de l'Ouche; each season, the views are outstanding. George now has a house in Beaune about 200 yards from mine. Whether we go on a bike ride or simply share a glass of Mersault in a local bistro, we always talk about how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful area.

Today, my desire to discover the world isn't over yet, but I'm always delighted to show and explain the destination that both my grandfather and George are fanatics of. On a bike, we'll follow their paths to continue the tradition. My tradition.

B&R REGIONAL EXPERT

Olivier Maillard

Starting out as a bike mech at B&R's atelier in Beaune, this Burgundian now has 100+ trips under his belt and an avid passion for travel and cycling. (He watches the Tour de France every year—roadside!)



the details

2012 Dates

May 20 - 25
Jun 10 - 15
July 29 - Aug 3
Aug 12 - 17
Sep 9 - 14
Oct 7 - 12

Duration

6 Days / 5 Nights

Start

Dijon
Train Station
12:30pm

Finish

Dijon
Gare de Dijon
10:30am

2012 Price

US\$ 3,995
(\$500 single supplement)

LEVEL OF ACTIVITY

We rate this trip Moderate

The trip includes everything from relatively flat routes to hilly rides. Distances range from 27 to 50 km (17 to 31 mi.) with options every day, including the Century Ride of 100 km. In general, we follow small, quiet roads through vineyards, farmland, forests and charming towns. Burgundy has been credited with having the best biking, not just in France, but the world. This is no small claim, but it has been asserted time and again by B&R guides and travellers alike.

MORE INFO

How do I get to Dijon?

Your likely point of arrival into France will be Paris. The high-speed TGV train is the best way to get from Paris to Dijon—it takes about two hours and reservations are required. Trains to Dijon leave central Paris from the Gare de Lyon, but there is limited direct rail service between Charles de Gaulle Airport and Dijon. If your flight arrival corresponds to a convenient train departure, you may want to consider avoiding the expense and hassle of going into the centre of Paris.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All hotel accommodation
- All breakfasts, three lunches, three dinners, including wine
- Use of a customized Cannondale bike: a hybrid, a racing bike with drop bars, or a racing bike with flat bars, equipped with handlebar bag and helmet
- Use of a handlebar bag and helmet
- Services of B&R guide(s) and support van
- All special events, private tours, guest experts and entrance fees
- All transportation from rendezvous to drop-off
- All baggage transportation
- Detailed maps, route suggestions and water bottle
- All gratuities for baggage, porters and hotel service

Other questions?
Contact us 800 678 1147
info@butterfield.com

The itinerary information may vary slightly for your specific departure as we continuously research and develop each trip. Inclement weather may also necessitate minor alterations. © 2011 Butterfield & Robinson Management Services Inc. Revised December 19, 2011.



your next steps

At Butterfield & Robinson, the guiding starts while you're still at home. We make sure you know everything you need to know before you've even left your living room.

READY TO BOOK?

- Call or email a Travel Advisor (or your travel agent) with any remaining questions, and to reserve your space.
1-800-678-1147 / info@butterfield.com
- Reserve your flights to and from the region.
- Book your night before hotel.
- Make sure your passport is up to date.
- Enquire after travel insurance.

Once you are confirmed on a B&R trip, you will receive a Confirmation Package that contains tons of information to help you prepare for your trip. Then, about a month before you leave, we will send you a list of your fellow travellers, final rendezvous instructions and your hotel contact numbers.

YOUR BIKE

We pride ourselves on having the very best equipment for each activity and locale, maintained by expert staff and custom tweaked just for you. Visit us at www.butterfield.com/ourbikes to learn about our biking equipment and see pictures of what you'll be riding. And don't forget that we will modify your bike to accommodate most special gear requests. Just ask.

EXTENDING YOUR TRIP

Paris is one of the great cities in the world, so chances are you will want to spend time there either before or after your trip. There are several recommendations for where to stay and what to do and where to eat while in Paris included in the Confirmation Package you will receive upon booking. We'll also happily recommend a city guide if you want an insider's tour of Paris.

STAY IN TOUCH!

Sign up to receive *The Slow Road* our e-newsletter that is full of travel news, unique offers and B&R insider info.

PHOTO CONTEST

While on your trip, keep in mind you can win some great prizes with the B&R Photo Contest. We've created three categories that capture the true spirit of B&R adventure: Faces, Places and Moments. Submit your top shots and show us how you see the world with B&R. Full details are at www.butterfield.com/photocontest.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about your B&R experience—big, small or downright quirky—please call a Travel Advisor, or contact your travel professional. We are always happy to help.

Weather:
Beaune

month	high	low
Jan/Feb	44	31
Mar/Apr	57	38
May/Jun	72	50
Jul/Aug	78	58
Sep/Oct	70	48
Nov/Dec	48	34

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