

Explore the Great Vineyards of Bordeaux Châteaux, Rivers and Wine – Viking River Cruises

August 2-9, 2014

Exclusive Group Rates start at \$2,355 pp

MYRNA ARROYO

Luxury Travel Advisor
Certified Sommelier

1-888-251-3096

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www.rouxwinetours.com

Explore the world of wine.



Myrna Arroyo, Certified Sommelier and owner of Roux Wine Tours, will be accompanying you on this fantastic journey through the rivers of Bordeaux. Joining our group will entitle you to a \$250 discount per couple, a bottle of wine in your stateroom, and a welcome cocktail party on board just for our group members.

Cared for by Atlantic breezes, the vineyards that cover the rolling hills along the rivers of Aquitaine have for centuries produced France's most remarkable wines: Saint-Émilion, Pomerol, Sauternes, Médoc and Margaux are but a handful of the appellations that make Bordeaux wines world-famous. At the region's heart, the city of Bordeaux stretches along the river bank, inviting visitors to savor its grand architecture, tempting cafés and superb museums. Celebrate joie de vivre in this land of wine and oysters, truffles and cognac, as you cruise the Dordogne, Garonne and Gironde Rivers.

Included Features

- 8-day cruise with river-view stateroom
- 6 guided tours with audio headset
- All meals: 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners, featuring regional specialties and including Welcome Cocktail Reception & Dinner and Captain's Farewell Dinner
- Visit 3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

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- Culture Curriculum: Enjoy a wide sampling of Bordeaux wines, participate in classes from a master sommelier, learn 'how to say it in French', and how to pair the perfect wine with every meal

Included Tours:

- Wine Country Tour
- Blaye City Tour
- Saint-Emilion City Tour
- Sauternes Excursion
- Cadillac City Tour
- Bordeaux City Tour

Optional Tours¹

- Cognac Tour
- Bergerac Excursion
- Arcachon Excursion

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Detailed Itinerary

Bordeaux to Bordeaux (roundtrip)

Ships sailing this itinerary: Viking Forseti



DAY 1 - Bordeaux

Fly to Bordeaux. We meet you at the airport and take you to your ship²; the rest of the day is yours to relax or begin exploring Bordeaux a little bit on your own. Second only to Paris in French historic monuments, Bordeaux's beautifully preserved 18th-century urban areas make it a desirable film location and its graceful port on the Garonne River is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We remain docked overnight. (D)

¹ Optional tours are purchased on board ship and are subject to availability & minimum participation

² Airport meet & greet transfers included when air is purchased from Viking River Cruises.

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DAY 2- Pauillac (Margaux)

Sail along the Gironde River this morning, docking at Pauillac in the Médoc region before lunch. This afternoon, take a wine country tour featuring several wine-tasting opportunities, including the area's famous full-flavored Margaux. Relax on board this evening, or explore Pauillac's marina and the Plaza Lafayette—Pauillac is where the Marquis de Lafayette set sail to the New World. Undisputed capital of the Médoc wine region, Pauillac is home to Châteaux Lafite Rothschild, Latour and Mouton Rothschild, among others. You may also catch a glimpse of the lighthouse on the Île de Patiras in the middle of the Gironde. (B, L, D)



DAY 3- Blaye (Cognac)

Early this morning we sail to Blaye, arriving during breakfast. Blaye boasts an extraordinary 17th-century citadel dramatically set on a rock beside the river, which incorporates the ruins of an ancient Gothic château. The château contains the tomb of Charibert II, king of Aquitaine—and legend has it that the Frankish hero Roland, who served Charlemagne, is also buried there. The citadel of Blaye, its city walls, and two other forts are collectively listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Take a guided tour of the citadel, then enjoy some free time in Blaye—or you may choose to take an optional excursion to the charming medieval town of Cognac, birthplace of one of the world's best-known types of brandy. We lift anchor late this afternoon and dine while sailing toward Libourne, where the Isle and Dordogne Rivers meet. (B, L, D)

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DAY 4- Libourne (Saint-Émilion)

Today's tour takes you to Saint-Émilion, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where you see the town's superb medieval streets and buildings and its wine caves, carved out of the plateau on which the town was built centuries ago. Taste some local vintages, both from the Saint-Émilion and the Pomerol appellations at a nearby chateau. Spend a pleasant afternoon exploring the town's streets and shops—or take an optional excursion to the Bergerac area in the Dordogne, to learn more about truffles, a great French delicacy. We remain docked in Libourne until early morning, so you can take a stroll after dinner to see the Gothic church, clock tower and the Town Hall on the main square. (B, L, D)



DAY 5- Cadillac (Sauternes)

Enjoy scenic cruising along the idyllic Garonne River all morning, stopping after lunch at Cadillac. Disembark for your excursion to Sauternes. Learn how the area's sweet dessert wines are made and taste some examples during your tour. Return aboard for dinner. (B, L, D)

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DAY 6 - Cadillac & Bordeaux

Take a walking tour of the working town of Cadillac this morning to see the ancient harbor, the fishing boats and the townspeople plying their trades. You will also see the elegant 16th-century chateau, complete with grand courtyard and moat, and the city walls with their iconic Clock Gate and Sea Gate. Return aboard for lunch as we begin sailing along the Garonne toward Bordeaux, where we arrive in the late afternoon. Dine aboard or go ashore—we remain docked overnight so you are free to explore the city's restaurants, bars and nightlife. (B, L, D)



DAY 7- Bordeaux

This morning's tour of the city center shows you some of Bordeaux's highlights, including the Place des Quinconces, one of the largest squares in Europe; the neoclassical Grand Théâtre de Bordeaux; and several spectacular churches. Your afternoon and evening are at leisure, giving you more time to appreciate the well-preserved architecture by Louis XV favorites Jacques Ange Gabriel and son and to taste the city's cuisine and wine appellations—perhaps pick up a few bottles to take home with you. Do not miss the Place de la Bourse, with its mirror-like reflecting pool—impressive by day but absolutely stunning at night. You also have the option of taking an afternoon excursion to Arcachon, a commune on the Atlantic coast, to see the Victorian-era villas, walk on the boardwalk and taste the oysters, a local delicacy. (B, L, D)

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DAY 8 - Bordeaux

After a final onboard breakfast, disembark and we take you to the airport for your flight home³, or, extend your journey with 3 nights in Paris. (B)

The following meals are included:

B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner

Explore the world of wine.



Explore More – Optional Extensions to Your Bordeaux River Cruise

More days means more to discover. We offer exciting ways to see even more of the region with extension packages you can add before or after your Viking journey.

The Loire Valley Extension



3 nights—From \$899 per person

Discover France's amazing and beautifully scenic Loire Valley. After one night in Paris, drive among the scenic countryside to Orléans, a UNESCO Site. Visit two of the region's best-known and most beautiful châteaux: Chambord and Chenonceau. One night at Paris' Le Méridien Etoile and two nights at Clarion Chateau Belmont (or similar), daily breakfasts, guided tours of Orléans and

³ Airport meet & greet transfers included when air is purchased from Viking River Cruises.

Tours plus châteaux visits and hotel/ship transfers are included along with the services of a Viking host.

Paris Extension



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3 nights—From \$799 per person

Start or end your vacation in Paris; experience the romance of France’s capital city. Three nights at the Le Méridien Etoile (or similar), daily breakfasts, guided walking tour and hotel/ship transfer are included, along with the services of a Viking host.

Located on Paris' Right Bank in the 17th arrondissement, Le Meridien Etoile is across the street from the Palais des Congres and approximately. This location is also a block from the Bois de Boulogne, half a mile from the Arc de Triomphe and Boulevard des Champs- Elysees, a mile from the Eiffel Tower, and two miles from the Orsay Museum and Garnier Opera. Hotel amenities include the Lionel Hampton Jazz Club, two restaurants, business center, newsstand, gift shop, and discounted access to a fitness center across the street. The hotel also offers concierge assistance, currency exchange, dry cleaning, express checkout, and 24-hour front desk service. Room amenities include television, climate control, safe, minibar and hair dryer.

The Viking Experience



Quietvox Tour Earphones

With our Quietvox tour earphones, there are no worries about missing any interesting details during your shore excursions. Each guest will receive a lightweight, portable receiver that can be worn

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around the neck or slipped into a pocket. The comfortable earpiece with individual volume control allows you to hear your guide's comments no matter where you are standing and makes every place on your tour the "best seat in the house."

Onboard Enrichment

Culture CurriculumSM. To help you further appreciate the countries that you will visit, we complement your shore excursion with a broad range of immersive activities, on board and ashore. Your cruise includes a French cheese tasting, folkloric performance and lectures on topics such as Joan of Arc and France: The Painter's Muse and French language lesson. Times and locations will be announced on board.

As part of our Culture Curriculum, we have partnered with the Smithsonian Institution to bring you exclusive onboard lectures. Artists, performers, historical eyewitnesses and professors all contribute to a fascinating and entertaining program that gives you true insight into the places you visit.

Expert Program Directors.

Viking River Cruises Program Directors are selected for their comprehensive knowledge of the regions you will be visiting. They have a fine appreciation of each destination's nuances and a genuine passion for travel and are there to help from the first moment to the end of your journey. If you have any questions, would like recommendations or have any concerns during your itinerary, do not hesitate to contact your Program Director.

General Physical Fitness

Our tours and cruises are not physically demanding, however, because of the nature of many of the sites you will be visiting, this tour may not be appropriate for guests with certain medical conditions and physical restrictions. Walking tours are often on uneven ground or cobblestones and may include stairs and steep inclines. If you have concerns or questions, please discuss the nature of your itinerary with your Viking River Cruises Travel Consultant.

Complimentary Wine with Onboard Dinner and Lunch Service

Enjoy complimentary bottled wine with onboard dinner and lunch service. We feature two varietals—one white and one red—that pair beautifully with our onboard menu of contemporary and regional specialties.

Know Before You Go

Before You Go

Visit our website at winerivercruise.com where you can not only learn more about all the places you might go with Viking, but you can also immerse yourself in the experience from the comfort of your own home. There is information abound and you can watch videos of destinations, take a virtual tour of a cruise ship or get a list of recommended readings.

Passports & Visas

Passports are necessary however no visas are required for U.S. citizens for this itinerary.

Non-U.S. citizens, please check your consulate for visa information.

Viking's All-Inclusive Airfare & Transfers

For your convenience, you can purchase round trip trans-oceanic air travel directly from Viking in conjunction with your river cruise. Viking's air packages are a great value because they include your transfers between airport and ship or hotel. And, when you reserve your air with Viking and purchase Viking's all-inclusive travel protection policy, your air travel is covered by the policy as part of your Viking itinerary. Select from more than 165 different gateways (additional gateways available) in economy or the upgraded service of Premium Economy or Business Class (trans-oceanic portion); once your reservation has been made, we will confirm your flight schedules 75 days before departure.

E-Check Program



July 11, 2013- For Immediate Release

Page 9 of 9

Viking offers special incentives when you pay via e-check (electronic debit to your checking account)—a quick and convenient way to pay for your vacation. Ask for details when making your reservation.

Viking Travel Protection

Viking Travel Protection allows you to cancel your trip for any reason. Enjoy peace of mind knowing that whatever may arise—even a pre-existing medical condition—you retain 100% of your travel value. Premiums are based on trip cost and start at only \$249 per person!

Climate – Average High/Low Temperature (°F)

Bordeaux 79/59

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