

BORDEAUX CYCLING TOUR:

DISCOVERING SAINT-EMILION AND POMEROL BY BIKE

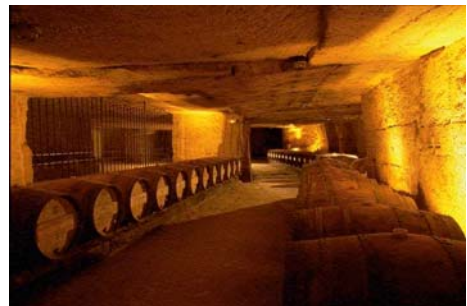
5 days – 4 nights

Saint-Emilion is set out like an amphitheatre in a splendid natural location. It is a vast indentation on top of limestone hill, exposed to the rising sun and covered with vineyards. The town has conserved its old walls and gateways as well as a series of prestigious archaeological sites. Saint Emilion and its surrounding vineyards were the first wine landscape to be listed as a **World Heritage Site by UNESCO**. Described as "the nectar of the gods" by King Louis XIV when he visited Libourne, the wines of Saint-Emilion are warm, generous and full-bodied, with a fine colour. They acquire a highly distinctive bouquet as they age.



Day 1: Welcome to Saint-Emilion

Arrival at the Bordeaux train station or at Bordeaux Airport. Transfer to Saint-Emilion and check-in at your hotel or guesthouse. Depending on your arrival time, you can either enjoy a visit and wine-tasting or go for a short spin on your bikes to take a first look at Saint-Emilion and a tour of its underground monuments. Dinner in Saint Emilion and overnight at your hotel or guesthouse.



Day 2: Saint-Emilion and Pomerol

After breakfast, head off for your first full-day bike tour along the backroads of the famous vineyards of Saint-Emilion and Pomerol. A wine estate in either of the two appellations will welcome you for instructive visits and delicious tastings. Return to your hotel or guesthouse in the late afternoon. Dinner in Saint Emilion and overnight.



Day 3: Côtes de Castillon

Today's tour will take you to the East of Saint-Emilion, the Côtes de Castillon, a region rich in history. Due to royal marriages, Aquitaine had become a rich English province, which led to greed among the French kings and the start of a long conflict: the Hundred Year War. The battle of Castillon and the death of General Talbot, the leader of the English troupes, marked the end of this troublesome time and the English dominion. You will cycle through picturesque countryside past châteaux and wine estates and along the Dordogne river for a little while. Again, two wine estates will welcome you for visits and tastings of their wines. Return to your hotel or guesthouse in the late afternoon. Dinner in Saint Emilion and overnight.

Day 4: Entre-Deux-Mers

This large region between the Dordogne and Garonne rivers (hence the name "Entre-Deux-Mers") offers rich and varied landscapes as well as an exceptional architectural heritage: romanesque churches, medieval ruins and châteaux set in green, rolling countryside. The vineyards produce a famous dry, white wine. However, it would be a great injustice not to mention the Bordeaux and Bordeaux Supérieur red wines. These are deeply-coloured and full-bodied. The region also produces delicious sweet white wines.



Having cycled along the Dordogne river yesterday, you will cross it today to reach the Entre-Deux-Mer region with its rolling hills and diverse wines. Whether you prefer flat roads or the odd climb, we will find the perfect itinerary to offer you charming landscapes as well as friendly welcomes at wine estates. Return to your hotel or guesthouse in the late afternoon. The highlight of your trip (not taking the bike tours into account that is) is tonight's dinner at the two-star restaurant Hostellerie de Plaisance. Overnight.

Day 5: Departure

Breakfast, check-out of your hotel or guesthouse and transfer to Bordeaux (airport or train station).

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PRICES 2009

Prices net per person in Euro during high season (April to October).

- two-star hotel in Saint-Emilion or three-star equivalent guesthouse in the vineyards:
 - based on a minimum of two persons: 960 €
 - based on a minimum of four persons: 865 €

- four-star hotel/guesthouse in the vineyards
 - based on a minimum of two persons: 1 325 €
 - based on a minimum of four persons: 1 225 €

This price includes:

- four nights' double room accommodation in Saint-Emilion including breakfast and tourist tax
- transfers Bordeaux – Saint-Emilion – Bordeaux at arrival and departure
- bike rental for four days including delivery, helmets, bags, locks and lights
- four dinners excluding drinks, one of which at a Michelin-starred restaurant (2*)
- the wine estate visits and tastings mentioned in the itinerary
- the guided tour of Saint-Emilion's underground monuments
- a road book, travel documentation and detailed maps
- telephone assistance throughout the tour

Not included are lunches, transfers to Saint-Emilion for dinner, drinks, personal expenses and generally speaking any service not mentioned above.

Prices & services subject to availability at the time of booking.

Please feel free to contact BORDEAUX WINE TRAVEL for further information or bookings:
www.bordeaux-wine-travel.com E-mail: contact@bordeaux-wine-travel.com