

LUXURY WINE TOUR TO BORDEAUX

The Great Estates of Bordeaux

PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Just think, you'll shortly be visiting some of the greatest châteaux in Bordeaux, tasting and drinking spectacular wines, sampling French cuisine, and staying in a luxury hotel set in the vineyards. I hope that you enjoy what promises to be a fabulous trip!

GETTING THERE: There are dozens of ways to get to Bordeaux Mérignac airport with flights from Paris, Frankfurt, Rome, London, or Amsterdam. It's just a question of what works best for your schedule. Alternatively, there is the high-speed train (TGV) from Paris to Gare St.-Jean railway station (about a 2 hour trip).

Once you arrive at Bordeaux Mérignac airport or Gare St.-Jean station, I suggest you take a taxi to the hotel which is roughly 25 minutes away as there is no hotel shuttle. There are no shops close to the hotel so bring everything you need with you. If you are staying a few nights in Bordeaux city centre before the trip, then it is about a 25 minute taxi ride to the hotel.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Travel and medical insurance are not included with tours booked through Fine Vintage. It is essential that you arrange for appropriate travel and medical insurance with your insurance provider or travel agent before leaving for France.

VISA & PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS: Please consult with your travel agent if you require any additional visas to enter France. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for up to 6 months after your arrival date to the European Union.

MEETING POINT: Les Sources de Caudalie
Chemin de Smith Haut Lafitte – 33650 Bordeaux-Martillac
Tel: +33 (0)5 57 83 83 83 www.sources-caudalie.com

CHECK-IN: Check-in time is normally 3:30pm but you can contact the hotel (seminaire@sources-caudalie.com) and ask if you can be accommodated earlier if possible. If you wish to book extra nights before or after the tour at Les Sources de Caudalie, you can email the hotel and they will ensure you are in the same room for the duration of your stay and quote you a favorable rate.

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If you plan to arrive at the hotel before check-in, my recommendation is to reserve a Vinothérapie Spa massage, have lunch in the bistro or tapas restaurants, and relax by the pool. The Spa has a great reputation (advance reservations are recommended) so this could be a good way to start the trip.

If you wish to stay in Bordeaux city centre before or after the tour, we recommend the InterContinental Bordeaux – Le Grand Hotel (www.bordeaux.intercontinental.com) or the Hotel de Normandie (www.hotel-de-normandie.com).

END OF TRIP: After our last visit on the Friday, the bus will first go back to the hotel for guests staying on at Les Sources de Caudalie and then on to the Gare St.-Jean railway station, arriving at 4:30pm. From there, the bus will go to the airport by 5:30pm.

DRESS: As an overall guideline for all luxury tours, we recommend smart, elegant, and/or business casual dress. Europe is typically design-forward; the locals dress for day, lunches, dinners, and evenings and as their guests, we want to be respectful. We visit cities, cathedrals, churches, hotels, as well as tour wineries both in vineyards and in cellars; the wineries are all top estates, and the owners and hosts are usually well-dressed.

Seasonal weather is a key factor and is changeable at all times of the year. We recommend packing layers accordingly; thin raincoats or jackets, shawls, sweaters, wraps, pashminas, and scarves for both daywear and eveningwear.

For women, trousers and/or designer jeans are fine. Generally, dresses, long pants, and skirts (both long and short) are practical. For footwear: a variety of shoes and/or boots, ideally comfortable. Save the heels for dinners and eveningwear, given we walk on cobblestones, concrete, and in vineyards during the day.

For men, we suggest sports shirts and/or collared shirts, dress shirts, and trousers. Jackets are not mandatory but are recommended for formal dinners. Sweaters and rain jackets work for daywear.

BORDEAUX: We will only have one free evening. You may decide to stay at the hotel and have dinner in the 2 star Michelin restaurant there, or go to the City of Bordeaux about 25 minutes away by taxi.

For where to dine on the free evening or on evenings before or after the tour, a list of the best restaurants in Bordeaux city centre can be found by clicking here

Have a good trip to France! Let us know if you have any questions. It should be a once-in-a-lifetime experience and we hope you enjoy it. Every trip we seem to have a great group, and no shortage of laughs!