



## BORDEAUX SMALL GROUP LEARNING ESCAPE

Departure Date: June 13, 2025  
Arrival Date: June 20, 2025  
Destination: Bordeaux, France

Few Americans ever get the chance to truly experience Bordeaux. But on this intimate small-group journey, we'll uncover the city's grand architecture, charming cafés, historic castles, vibrant neighborhoods, and world-class museums and monuments.



Of course, Bordeaux's reputation extends far beyond its beauty—it's also the world's most famous wine region and a culinary paradise. For anyone passionate about French food, wine, and culture, this destination is an absolute must-visit.

Join us for an immersive experience in Bordeaux, where fine wine meets the art of fine living. With a maximum of just eight participants, this exclusive tour offers a deeper connection to French culture. From stunning art and architecture to exquisite cuisine and leisurely pursuits, you'll savor every moment while learning the secrets of the French way of life from locals.

## Day 1 – Friday June 13, 2025

Time	Activity
11:00 am	Arrival Transfer
4:00 pm	Hotel Check In
7:00 pm	Welcome Dinner

### TRANSFER

Enjoy a comfortable private transfer from Bordeaux–Mérignac International Airport (BOD) or Bordeaux Train Station to your accommodations at 4-star Hotel Burdigala. Your chauffeurs will be waiting for you at the arrival lounge just after you pick up your luggage. Just look for a sign with your name.

### ACCOMMODATIONS

The plush Hotel Burdigala with its outstanding service and excellent food and wines is popular with visiting film stars. But here even non-celebs are made to feel important. At this sophisticated hotel in an elegant 18th-century building near the shopping street, rue Ste Catherine, the rooms are stylish and decorated using rich fabrics, wood and marble. The Burdigala offers a sense of spacious refuge within the city of Bordeaux. You'll be excited to return to this comfortable setting at the end of a day's exploration.



### WELCOME DINNER

After spending the afternoon settling in, meet your travel companions and take a short walk to Restaurant Influences an elegant, modern and gourmet restaurant located in the heart of Bordeaux.

This establishment stands out for its refined cuisine which boldly combines local flavors and modern influences. In this elegant and friendly setting, we'll have a unique culinary experience where each dish tells a story to awaken your senses and take your taste buds on a journey.

## Day 2

Time	Activity
9:30 am	Intro to Bordeaux
7:00 pm	Masked Participatory Ball



### INTRODUCTION TO BORDEAUX TOUR

We continue our exploration of Bordeaux with a 3-hour introductory tour with a local. This private tour provides a perfect introduction to Bordeaux for first-timers or a reorientation for returning travelers to this unique region of France. We will explore Bordeaux's viniculture and local history.

We'll strike out from our hotel and meet our charming guide at the Sanna Sculpture at Place de la Comédie. Our guide will begin to introduce the historical narrative of Bordeaux, from the Medieval period to the Golden Age to the mid-1990s and beyond. Other stops along the way may include:

- St Andrew Cathedral of Bordeaux
- The Big Bell
- Opera House
- Hotel de Ville
- Basilica of St Michael
- The Stone Bridge

- Place de la Victoire
- Porte of Bourgogne
- Rue St Catherine
- Quayside (Les quais) of Bordeaux
- Porte Cailhau

We will finish our introductory tour with a more comprehensive understanding of Bordeaux's growth into a major wine-trading city. We'll have visited a number of important locations, immersing ourselves in Bordeaux's local life and grandiose history.

### MASKED PARTICIPATORY BALL

The Bordeaux National Opera has organized a ball for the evening of June 14<sup>th</sup> to provide opportunities to learn to dance with professional or experienced dancers of the Ballet de l'Opéra.

This ball takes place in **GERARD BOIREAU SALON at the GRAND THEATRE** and features a variety of dances and costumes. Attendees are encouraged to wear or borrow masks. The goal is to create a welcoming space for participants to enjoy learning ballroom dance, relaxing in freedom and anonymity.

Costume elements from the Opera's stocks can complete your outfit.

## Day 3

Time	Activity
9:30 am	Bordeaux Old Town & Market Local Food w/ Wine Tastings Tour
12:30 pm	Free Time

### BORDEAUX OLD TOWN & MARKET LOCAL FOOD W/ WINE TASTINGS TOUR

Chef Anne leads us on this delightful tour that is half food and half history! On 2 1/2hr tour we'll visit the bustling Marche des Capucins where see restaurant chefs purchasing their products for the day and home chefs searching for inspiration. We'll spend a good hour exploring the market and tasting our way through the stalls and enjoying local products like regional oysters, Basque cheese and charcuterie. Then we'll head into the historic center of Bordeaux to visit the small local shops as Chef Anne discusses the history of the city as a port. This is where we will explore pastry and spices with our tastebuds. After we've tasted our way through the SW of France we'll finish with seasonal plates and wine pairing.

- Visit the historic Marche des Capucins
- Learn the history of Bordeaux through the spice trade

- Finish with small plates and wine at a local wine bar

At this point you'll likely be full enough to skip a lunch! However, it's also a great location to order more plates and relax afterwards if you choose to do so.

Free time this afternoon for wine tours or spa!

## Day 4

Time	Activity
8:00 am	Off the Beaten Track- Castles and Vines
6:00 pm	Return to the Hotel

### CASTLE TOURS



Today we head south to visit the 14th century Château de La Brède, home of the writer and philosopher Charles Louis de Secondat, better known as Montesquieu. The beautiful castle sits in a large wooded grove and has retained its appearance of a medieval fortress. Exploring the castle's interior, we'll follow in the footsteps of the writer through the emblematic places where he worked, including his library and his room which is preserved in its 18th century state.

Next, we'll head to Saint-Andre-du-Bois to Château Malromé, the former family home of the famous painter Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. We'll explore the historic apartments of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec and his original works. Château Malromé is also home to one of the oldest winegrowing estates that is still in operation. We'll stroll this vineyard that has been in operation for five centuries, enjoy a tasting during an oenological tour of the barrel cellars and then enjoy a 3-course lunch.



Our last stop of the day is Chateau Guiraud. Originally known as La Maison Noble du Bayle, the estate earned its name, and its fame, when it was purchased by the Guiraud family in 1766. Today the estate is focused on organic farming as well as a global approach to sustainable viticulture. To cap off the day we'll receive a private tour and tasting and learn the history of this great estate.

## Day 5

Time	Activity
10:00 am	Cooking Class
5:00 pm	Pétanque, Aperitifs & Dinner
8:00 pm	Return to Hotel



### TARTS AND PIES - SWEET & SAVORY

This morning we'll visit the **Gastronome Bordeaux** housed in a 17th-century building, where Chef Daniel Bowers and Wine Enthusiast Erica Bowers will provide us with an immersive culinary experience.

In this hands-on private class in a fully equipped, state-of-the-art kitchen, you'll master the basics of crafting traditional French tart dough (*pâte brisée*) and classic flaky pie dough.

After class we'll enjoy a delicious three-course lunch (with both sweet and savory offerings) and wine pairings.

### PÉTANQUE WITH LOCALS



This afternoon we'll join some local folks in a game of Pétanque. After we'll try the regional favorite aperitifs Pastis and Lillet with some snacks. Then head out on your own to dinner or follow our local friends to a recommended dinner spot on the right bank overlooking the water.

## Day 6

Time	Activity
8:00 am	Free Time This Morning
1:00 pm	Optional Half-Day St. Emilion Tour

### HALF-Day tour to Saint-Emilion and Medoc, from Bordeaux

This afternoon we'll take a drive to Saint-Emilion and discover firsthand some of the region's scenic beauty. Learn the secrets of Saint-Émilion's famous red wines, the importance of terroir and the art of producing Grand Cru wines on a guided tour of a Grand Cru winery. After strolling the vineyards and peeking into the barrel room, head to the tasting room to sample a variety of fine wines. In addition, we'll enjoy a charming walk along the streets of the village. We'll also tour a family-owned winery in either the Saint-Emilion Grand Cru or Pomerol appellation. Enjoy an expert tasting followed by a last glass of wine served with local delicacies.

## Day 7

Time	Activity
8:00 am	Arcachon Dune du Pilat and Oysters & Shrimp Tasting
6:00 pm	Return to Hotel



Today we head to the coastal town of Arcachon where we'll encounter the tallest sand dune in Europe. This is an exceptional natural site located in La Teste-de-Buch. We'll climb to the top to get a breathtaking view over the Atlantic Ocean, the Arcachon Basin, the Banc d'Arguin, Landaise Forest, and the Cap Ferret peninsula. On a clear day we might be able to spot the Pointe de l'Espiguette. Our private guide will explain the different characteristics of the Dune, and regale us with its stories and legends.

Learn about the culture of this area which is heavily centered around fishing and oyster farming. We'll enjoy a lunch of fresh shrimp, oysters and pate accompanied of course by white and rose wine.

We will also visit Winter Hill Village and the Observatoire Sainte Cecile designed by architect Paul Régnault with the assistance of a young Gustav Eiffel. Your climb to the top is rewarded by panoramic views that reveal the stunning beauty of the surrounding landscape. From this vantage point, the shimmering waters of the bay stretch out towards the horizon, dotted with sailboats and framed by the majestic Dune du Pilat in the distance another breathtaking spectacle that will leave you in awe.

## Day 8

Time	Activity
7:00 am	Departure Day

### Departure Transfer

It's time to go home but a real learning escape never ends. Your professionally-trained driver will greet you with a name sign in the reception of the hotel, and offer to assist with luggage and guide you to your vehicle to go Bordeaux Airport BOD.