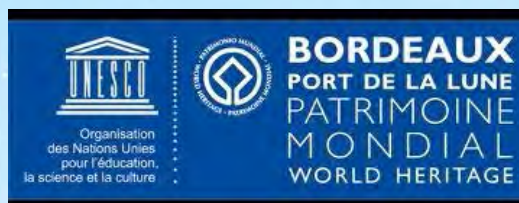


# Cycling Cruises through the Bordeaux Wine Region





# CYCLING CRUISE

EACH DAY A NEW PORT OF CALL, A NEW WINE  
APPELLATION TO DISCOVER



From Castets-en-Dorthe to Libourne via Bordeaux...

From Garonne to Dordogne river via Gironde Estuary...

Freely or guided, take cycle routes through stunning wine growing regions, visiting the historical heritage of typical villages of South West France, UNESCO World Heritage sites... Over rivers and across the countryside, discover amazing panoramas on your bike and aboard MS Bordeaux



**6 CYCLING  
EXCURSIONS  
WITHOUT CHANGING HOTELS  
EVERY NIGHT !**



8 days / 7 nights from Saturday to Saturday – 6 bike tours

Individual or group trip

Difficulty of bike trails: Level 1-4

departures in 2019 every week from april 14 until october 27





# CYCLING CRUISE

## YOUR DAILY PROGRAM DAY 1 (Sat.)



From April to October, freely or guided over 8 days (7 nights), Saturday to Saturday  
From from Castets-en-Dorthe or Libourne  
170 to 287 kms (105-178 miles) crossing Bordeaux region by bike

Castets-en-Dorthe: embarkation until 3:00pm

**"Canal des Deux Mers" round tour (10 miles / 15 kms) - Level 1**

Individual arrival and optional transfer from the meeting point in Bordeaux to the mooring location of the boat near the Canal des Deux Mers at Castets-en-Dorthe. You can enjoy a short first test bike ride around Castets, exploring this fertile region aptly named "Little Holland" with its walnut trees, kiwi orchards.

In the evening, a welcome cocktail awaits you on board.





# CYCLING CRUISE

## YOUR DAILY PROGRAM DAY 2 (Sun.)



### Castets-en-Dorthe – Entre-Deux-Mers (27-46 kms / 16-28 miles) - Level 2 Castets-en-Dorthe to Loupiac/Cadillac

After a restful night on board, the first town you will discover by bike is the lovely **Saint Macaire** and its wonderful gate and walls. There is opportunity to visit the former residence of the writer Francois Mauriac as well as having your first wine tasting at a château.

Riding along corn and sunflower fields you reach **La Réole**, using an Eiffel style bridge over the river Garonne. This town is famous because in 1190 Richard Lionheart, on his way to the holy Land, gave the town hall building to thank the locals for their loyalty to the English crown. This historical place holds two castles, an impressive church as well as narrow cobbelstoned streets.

To end the day you will enjoy the bike path along the « canal de la Garonne » and its deep blue water, built in Napoleon times. You can either go directly back to the ship or ride to Meilhan-sur-Garonne and the amazing scenery it has to offer.

Later, you will sail along the Garonne River to reach Loupiac near the city of Cadillac.





# CYCLING CRUISE

## YOUR DAILY PROGRAM DAY 3 (Mon.)



### Cadillac/Graves – Sauternes round tour (35-50 kms / 21-32 miles) Level 3 Cadillac – Bordeaux

Today we will discover the Sauternes region, where sweet dessert wines are made. We start by enjoying the view from **Sainte-Croix du Mont** before having a look at the grave of painter **Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec**. The then route follows the winding banks of the Ciron River, whose icy waters flow into the warmer waters of the Garonne. In the autumn, when the climate is warm and dry, the combination of the two different temperatures produce the mist that descends on the vineyards, promoting the perfect conditions for the famous Sauternes wine.

You will pass the famous vineyards of **Château d'Yquem**, **Château Guiraud**, **Clos Haut Peyraguey**, and many more. Wine tastings are offered here!

Cadillac is located in the region of Graves, also known as the birthplace of Bordeaux wines. It is a fortified medieval village known as the Bastide in the Entre-Deux-Mers wine region in between the Garonne and Dordogne rivers.

Once back to the MS Bordeaux, you will sail on the Garonne River to the majestic city of Bordeaux. You will enjoy the best panorama of the city: "Port of The Moon" with the "Pont de Pierre", "Place de La Bourse" and the beautiful Quais which lead to the historical wine merchant area, the **Quai des Chartrons**, transformed into outlet shops and restaurants...a pleasant place to visit!





# CYCLING CRUISE

## YOUR DAILY PROGRAM DAY 4 (Tue.)



### Bordeaux UNESCO bike tour (10 miles / 16 kms) Level 1

#### Bordeaux

Bordeaux is a **UNESCO world heritage** for a reason. The list of buildings, place and hidden gems is worth seeing : Walk into the city via **La Porte Cailhau**, the royal entrance. We suggest a thorough tour: Bordeaux is a City that doesn't just glow due to its individual buildings, but through the grandiose, well preserved old city. Worth seeing is the **Capuchine Market** (perhaps with tastings of wine and oysters), **the basilica**, **the Pont de Pierre**, the first bridge of the city, which was built back in the day on Napoleons orders. You may admire the many squares, the **Big Bell of Pey Berlan**, the **Golden Triangle**, the **Girondins column**, the **Water Mirror**...and more. Take time to ride through the newly opened **Cité du Vin**, **Chaban Delmas bridge** and **Darwin ecosystem**, a refurbished factory where you will enjoy the view of the Quais, drinking a good coffee in a tree-filled place.

A wonderful city to explore by bike or on foot. Many opportunities for shopping, souvenirs, food and wine tastings.

And for bike challengers who want to ride a long loop, the **Roger Lapébie's cycling lane** will take you to Créon and Sauveterre-en-Guyenne, in the Entre-Deux-Mers wine region.





# CYCLING CRUISE

## YOUR DAILY PROGRAM DAY 5 (Wed.)



### Margaux – Médoc round bike (42kms / 26 miles) Level 1 Bordeaux to Lamarque and Lamarque to Bourg



In the morning, the ship will leave Bordeaux for Lamarque, here you will be in the Médoc wine region, one of the most famous ones. You will quickly find yourselves near Château Lamothe Bergeron, Cru Bourgeois du Médoc, where wine and tourism are quite highlighted. Then, prestigious properties will come one after another: **Maucaillou, Poujeaux, Rauzan Ségla, Palmer, Issan, Prieuré Lichine, Kirwan** and last but not least **Château Margaux**. Many chances to stop on your road, taste, learn about **Grand Crus classification** and learn about wine making process.

A secondary road is available here as a different loop or an additional one to the first in Margaux. You will reach Pauillac and Saint-Espèphe wine regions. Obviously, you will ride near **Château Mouton Rothschild, Lafite Rothschild, Latour, Lynch-Bages, Cos d'Estournel, Pontet Canet, Pichon Longueville** and many other Grands Crus Classés wines.

The end of the day is the perfect time for a dining cruise while the boat will cross the Estuary to reach the other bank of Gironde River. We will stop at Bourg, a beautiful little town, partially built on cliff. The old city centre allows you to overlook the Estuary.





# CYCLING CRUISE

## YOUR DAILY PROGRAM DAY 6 (Thu.)



### Côtes de Bourg vineyards – Citadelle of Blaye (25-41kms / 16-32 miles) Level 4

#### Bourg to Libourne/Fronsac

This region offers hilly landscapes covered with vines and dotted with scattered fairy tale chateaux and manor houses. The opportunity to discover very pleasant wines and Châteaux such as **Monconseil-Gazin**, **Eyquem**, **Marquis de Vauban** and others: another good reason to stop and enjoy visit and wine tastings!

The **Gironde Corniche road** is a must-see of this round tour: a calm and beautiful road which split beautiful manors on the one hand, and gardens on the other.

In Blaye, take a loop through the **Citadelle of Blaye**, a Vauban Fortress built on Louis XIV, the Sun King's request and now on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Visit underground passages of the Citadelle to understand the whole history of the Fortress. Back in Bourg, you can stop to the typical and historical wash house. Water is very refreshing on your face after this biking day!

In the evening, the MS Bordeaux will sail to Libourne/Fronsac on the Dordogne River.





# CYCLING CRUISE

## YOUR DAILY PROGRAM DAY 7 (Fri.)



### Libournais and Saint-Emilion vineyards (21–32 miles) Level 2

Today's exploration will allow you to discover Libourne, and well-known vineyards of **Saint-Emilion** and **Pomerol**. In Saint-Emilion, you will visit this stunning medieval UNESCO World Heritage village, with surrounding vineyards of the same name. Panoramas are unique here. The Monolithic Church in the centre of the town is a monument not to be missed.

Your ride will continue on small picturesque back roads. Along the way, you will see some of the classified and famous Châteaux, such as **Angelus** and its special bells, **Beauséjour**, **Ausone**, **Cheval Blanc**, **La Dominique**, **Trotteville**, **Gaubert**, **Barde-Haut**, **Clos La Madeleine**, **Bel Air Monange**, **Laroque**, **Fombrauge**, **Grand Corbin**, **Gazin** and **Petrus**, **Petit Village**, **Nenin**...some of the world's most famous wines. A very pleasant road, prestigious Châteaux, wine shopping in Saint-Emilion...



Paradise here for bike and wine lovers!





# CYCLING CRUISE

## YOUR DAILY PROGRAM DAY 8 (Sat.)

### Libourne/ Fronsac: Débarquement & (option) transfert retour sur Bordeaux

After your last breakfast on board it will be time to say farewell and disembark.  
Disembarking will take place 9.00-9.30am, taking an (optional) bus to the centre of Bordeaux.

**Blue bold printed parts will be covered by ship**

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This cruise is offered in opposite direction on alternate weeks

Rough distances for bike tours are indicated. They are equivalent to recommended bike tours

Especially between Bourg and Blaye and in Entre-Deux-Mers, some short sections with steeper slopes are part of the cycling tour.  
On most days, shorter and longer, easier and more challenging cycling options are being offered: please ask your tour leader on board for details;

When a guest does not want to cycle one day, he or she can skip the bike tour and relax on board.  
At Lamarque, the ship will be anchored during the day

The Gironde, Garonne and Dordogne Rivers are part of a tidal river system that results in changing water levels (daily changes of up to 6 meters / 20ft.) in the region. Every effort is made to follow the scheduled itinerary, however, based on tides it may be amended or modified for safety reasons.





# MS BORDEAUX

## MS BORDEAUX YOUR SHIPPING-HOTEL



Length: 78m (256 ft.), Width: 9,80m (33 ft.), 49 cabins



The two MS Bordeaux's captains

### The lower deck:

34 twin cabins (approx.  $7.5\text{-}8\text{m}^2 = 81\text{-}86\text{ sq.ft.}$ , 2 single beds) and 2 junior suites (approx.  $11.6\text{m}^2 = 125\text{ sq.ft.}$ , 2 single beds, small sitting area)

### The upper deck:

11 twin cabins and 2 single cabins.

A separated restaurant

A lounge bar with large windows in front of the boat

### The sun deck:

Another great spot for relaxation is the large and partially roofed Sun Deck with sun loungers, chairs and tables & cycle shed.

All cabins have a WiFi access to the Internet, an easy opening window, en-suite bathroom with shower & toilet, air conditioning satellite-TV and mini safe.





# MS BORDEAUX

## QUALITATIVE SERVICE ON BOARD



Before riding all day long, we think it important to offer a good and full breakfast.

All the necessary is at your disposal if you want to make sandwiches for a picnic lunch.



Food and wine harmony is important on board. Following the wine region where the ship is mooring, we propose a regional wine pairing everyday.

On board, varied meals, prepared daily by the chef with fresh produce.

*A dedicated team at your service*





# CYCLING CRUISE

## BIKE INFORMATION

2018



Bike – 21 gears



E-Bike

Rental bicycle with 21 gears, hand brakes, pannier bag: 75 €

Rental electrical bike (E-Bike): 165 € (limited number available, early bookings strongly recommended)

Other types of bicycles : only on request

Guided bike tour : 150€

Bicycles on board are mostly unisex touring bicycles with normal mount (ladies model), 2 hand brakes and a pannier bag. Bicycles and E-bikes have aluminum frames with frame suspension, 21 gears, SRAM grip shifters, unisex gel saddles, shock absorbers in front forks for unbeatable comfort.

Other bikes (e.g. children's bikes) and child's saddles (front or rear) are on these tours only available after prior request (early booking recommended) and only after reconfirmation and in very limited numbers.

Bike rental is optional.

Guests are allowed to bring their own bicycles or E-bikes (at no extra cost). However, the ship owner, crew nor tour operator cannot be held responsible/liable for any damage, loss or theft of such bicycles.

On board, GPS-devices are proposed with all GPS-tracks for recommended cycling tours

In France, cyclists do not have to wear a helmet. We recommend you bring your own (well fitting) helmet. Only a limited number of helmets available on board.





# CYCLING CRUISE

## BACKGROUND INFORMATIONS

The General Conditions (travel conditions) of Aquitaine Croisières apply to cycling cruises, as well as to confirmation and cancellation of such tours.

Children are very welcome on board. However, before booking, we urgently advise you to fully assess whether your child is able to manage a cycle trip of up to approx. 50 km. Of course you may stay one or more days on board (children under the age of 18 years must always be under supervision).

The interior of the ship is a non-smoking zone: smoking is only allowed on the sun deck. As a safety measure, a statutory smoking ban applies in all cabins; this means that all cabins and rooms on board are non-smoking areas.

### Included

- Tour and accommodation on board in the booked cabin category
- Full board; 7x breakfast, 6x picnic lunch during bike tours, 7x three course dinner
- Daily cleaning of the cabin; daily change of towels is possible
- Welcome cocktail, presentation of the ship + crew and briefing on the first evening
- Tour leader (English & French speaking) with daily briefings of bike tours, some short walking tours; individual semi-guided tours: tour leader is not guiding the group, but cycling in the area and can be contacted during bike tours by mobile phone in case of questions or emergencies (fully guided cycling is on option – surcharge detailed below)
- Printed instructions and detailed maps for individual daily bike tours, 1 set/cabin
- GPS tracks and Free GPS available (deposit 100€ )
- Complimentary coffee and tea everyday until 4:00 pm.

### Not included

- 2 Bus transfers: Sat. at 2:00 pm from meeting point in the center of Bordeaux to ship (Castets-en-Dorthe or Libourne respectively) and return on next Sat. at 9:00 am from ship to meeting point in Bordeaux (transfer time: 1hour each)
- Package guided cycling,
- Rental bicycles and/or e-bike (easier to ride through hilly countryside)
- Other transfers, parking fees, entrance fees & excursions & wine tastings
- Drinks on board
- Personal insurance
- Gratuities (at your discretion – 5% suggested)
- Special diets on request / surcharges may apply.

