

WineNot Boutique- Bordeaux to Bilbao- Wine & Basque Country–September 22nd-29th 2017



Date	Outline Itinerary	Accommodation
Sept 22	Bordeaux. Arrive and private transport to Hotel. Visit to the brand-new www.laciteduvin.com wine centre with a classic French evening welcome dinner with wine– D	Bordeaux 4*
Sept 23	Bordeaux and St Emilion – World-class wine. Visits and full tastings at 2 renowned Winemakers/ Chateaux, visit St Emilion village and a walking tour of Bordeaux in the evening. (B,L)	Bordeaux 4*
Sept 24	Glamorous Biarritz and foodie favourite San Sebastián. Discover chic Biarritz, the bucolic Pyrenean village of Espelette and its famous D.O. Peppers and lunch in a remarkable restaurant! Free evening in the beautiful, gastronomic capital of the world, San Sebastián. (B,L)	San Sebastian 4*
Sept 25	Getaria and its charms... Visit some amazing local producers and canneries and discover the unique Txakoli wine, only produced here in the Basque Country. Dinner in a Cider House... not to be missed! (B,D)	San Sebastián 4*
Sept 26	Rugged & green Basque Coast. West to Bilbao and a unique Ernest Hemingway Tour in the verdant Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve. Lunch in a stunning spot before discovering the spectacular San Juan de Gaztelugatxe Evening of sampling local beers and cheese in Bilbao. (B,L,D)	Bilbao 4*
Sept 27	Alternative Rioja. Visit one modern winemaker and the undertake Rioja wine tasting in another smaller family-run bodega with a light lunch included. Return to Bilbao and pintxo tour in the evening. (B,L,D)	Bilbao 4*
Sept 28	Bilbao like a local. Morning walk along the cliffs and beaches outside of Bilbao, a couple of glasses like a local in the old fishing port before a free afternoon in Bilbao before the unique, farewell ‘hands-on’ dinner in a Txoko! (B,D)	Bilbao 4*
Sept 29	Private transport to Bilbao Airport and return. B	



Detailed Itinerary: WineNot Boutique – September 22nd – 29th 2017

Introduction:

Seven nights of wine, gastronomy, stunning countryside and culture in Bordeaux, San Sebastián and Bilbao. South-west France and the Basque Country; characterised by celebrated gastronomy, innovative architecture and fashionable cities, a mix that is proving to be an attractive combination for visitors, both new and those who have been before!

Keeping travel to the minimum maximises your time here, and with the tour also taking in the coast, culinary culture, wine making, mountains, history and literature you will be feeling very familiar with this historic corner of western Europe when you return.

Day 1 – Friday 22nd September - BORDEAUX

Meeting at Bordeaux airport, we will have a private bus and driver take us to your accommodation a 4* centrally-located city centre hotel. After check-in, (times t.b.c.), our first day in Bordeaux will include a visit to the newly inaugurated (June 2016) [Cite du Vin](#) This museum and interpretation centre provides us with the perfect introduction to the Tour, as well as an opportunity to discover the wine region of Bordeaux and indeed French wine generally. Our evening will see us have a welcome dinner in a typically ‘Bordelais’ restaurant.

Two nights accommodation with breakfast in a 4* Hotel.



Day 2 – Saturday 23rd September – BORDEAUX & ST EMILION – Wine Giants

Breakfast in the hotel before our private bus and driver, comes to collect us for our visit to the World-famous Bordeaux wine region. Our first visit will take us to a small family-owned property in the Graves sub-region of Bordeaux, the only one famed for all three of Bordeaux's three main wine types—reds, dry whites and sweet wines. From here we drive to the famous village of St-Emilion to visit our second winery- [Chateau Lassegue](#). This historic 17th century chateau was purchased in 2003 by Jess Jackson and Barbara Banke, who along with Vigneron Pierre Seillan and his wife Monique, have set out to make it one of the premier producers in Saint-Émilion.

Lunch will be taken in St Emilion where we will also be given a short tour of the Monolithic Church.

Returning to Bordeaux in the evening we will have the pleasure of discovering the old town on foot with a guided tour of this charming and historic city.



Day 3 – Sunday 24th September – FRANCE & SAN SEBASTIÁN – Glamour and Gastronomy

After breakfast and check-out from the hotel, our private bus and driver will rendezvous with us for the short trip south via the flat Les Landes National Park towards the Pyrennees and the French Basque Country. With our specialist French-speaking guide we will explore the beautiful and glamorous Basque Riviera towns of Biarritz, and St Jean de Luz, (Donibane-Garazi) have lunch in a remarkable small restaurant in Baiona, and in the afternoon visit the charming village of Espelette, and an enthusiastic pepper grower in the A.O.C (Protected Original Status of Origin) of Espelette Peppers. Late afternoon and we cross the border and make the short 30 minute journey to the gastronomic capital of the world... San Sebastián. A free evening for a quiet stroll along the promenade or an early night!

Two nights accommodation in 4* hotel with breakfast included



Day 4 – Monday 25th September – GETARIA & IT'S CHARMS

Close to San Sebastián lies a remarkable small fishing village, voted by the [New York Times as one of the places to visit in 2013](#). The mix of stunning scenery, the coast, and The Camino de Santiago only form part of its fame. Setting off from your hotel after breakfast, we will trace the spectacular coast-road from Donostia/San Sebastián to the village of Getaria. Our first stop is a small family farm where over the last few years the produce here has found its way to the best restaurants in Basque Country and Spain. I won't say too much but it is a taste sensation!... From here it's a five minute drive so we can learn about, sample and taste Txakoli, the autochthonous, dry, fresh, and almost sea spray-like white wine at an outstanding family-run bodega. Late lunch is free time and will be taken in the picturesque fishing harbour where you will be able to discover the hidden nooks and crannies of the old town as well as grabbing a pintxo or two...

Free afternoon back in San Sebastián before we visit, for dinner, one of the Cider Houses dotted around the hills in the back of town for truly great Basque Experience. Cider pours from huge barrels in these old farms to help wash down the traditional cider house dinner of salt cod omelette and huge bone-in steaks! And you can have as much as you like!



Day 5 – Tuesday 26th September – RUGGED & GREEN BASQUE COAST

After breakfast and check-out from our hotel we will head west out of San Sebastián and along coast towards Bilbao and into the beautiful Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve. Now recognised as a spot of outstanding natural beauty, it is also an important stop to many migrating birds heading north or south. However, and unknown to most locals, this area was a very popular haunt for the U.S. author Ernest Hemingway. More well-known for his escapades in Pamplona and further afield, we will learn about this great author aboard a boat as it winds its way up river. Lunch will be taken in an excellent local restaurant with great views before we carry on along the coast to stop at one of the Basque Country's most emblematic spots, San Juan de Gaztelugatxe. After a check-in and a freshen -up we will head for the old town of Bilbao and an evening discovering and sampling local craft beers and Basque cheeses.

Accommodation will be three nights in a 4* Hotel with breakfast



Day 6 – Wednesday 27th September – ALTERNATIVE LA RIOJA

The Rioja wine-producing region. The most well-known of Spain's various 'Denominaciones de Origen', and one of only two to hold the 'Calificada' status Rioja is the standard by which all of Spain's wines are compared. Our visit to this region, steeped in oenological history, will see us visit a very modern maker with spectacular installations and also that of a very traditional family run operation where visits are rarely undertaken and we can visit the vineyards and the ancient wine making facilities handed down through generations before tasting the produce... We will also take a light lunch on the premises.



Back to the hotel for late afternoon, we will regroup early evening after a siesta, very Basque... and seeing as it's Saturday we will go out like the locals, with a Pintxo Tour of the best bars (by that I mean the non-touristy ones). The tour will see us visit different bars and have one drink and one small pintxo, a light bar snack eaten on foot somewhat like a tapa, in each before moving on to the next one... This is a great Bilbao tradition and gives us a great insight into one of the important elements of our social life.



Day 7 – Thursday 28th September – BILBAO LIKE A LOCAL

After a week of travelling and sampling wines and foods, it would be appropriate to have a final day appreciating some of the natural beauty of the Basque Coast. Leaving the hotel in the morning we can take the metro through the city out to the coast for a stroll along the cliffs in the village of Getxo. With views of the open Atlantic Ocean, the harbour and some rugged beaches, the paths are fully marked and ensure that we can get our lungs full of clean, fresh air. We will make a stop in a couple of the local establishments in the fishing village for a bit of atmosphere before heading back to Bilbao for a free afternoon for shopping or whatever takes your fancy before our farewell dinner....

A visit to the Txoko is obligatory for visitors to the Basque Country, although nearly all will not make it... These private dining clubs, owned by their members hold an important and traditional place in Basque folks' hearts. Preparation, cooking, dining, drinking and conversations (often arguments and sometimes very important decisions) are held in them, and unless you are invited by a member, you won't get in!! Some of the best amateur chefs can be found here preparing classic Basque dishes and creating new versions using locally sourced produce, however many are still men-only so we have to have special permission to let the girls in... With the only rule being that they do not enter the kitchen!!

Day 8 – Friday 29th September

Breakfast and check-out. A free morning and private transfer back to the airport for your flight.

Package Cost:

\$3,095 per person double occupancy.

\$ 795 single supplement

Includes:

- All accommodation with breakfast.
- Public Liability Insurance.
- Transfer to and from airport in our bus (we will provide 2 windows for transfers)
- Private transport, and costs throughout with driver/guide.
- Guide at all times where indicated. Not during free times.
- Entry to all bodegas, farms, pepper farms with tastings included.
- Cheese tasting with beers.
- Lunches, with wine, on days 2,3,5,and 6.
- Dinners, with wine, on days 1, 6 and 7 and with Basque cider on day 4 and local craft beers on day 5.

Does not include:

- Flights.
- Alternative transfer arrangements.
- Personal Insurance.
- Meals and drinks not included above.
- Any other purchases.
- Visas, tips or vaccinations.