

The Potomac Ski & Adventure Club

Presents



Bordeaux: Chateaux, Rivers & Wine

Bike & Barge Adventure

Sep 28 – Oct 8 (w/ Extension), 2019

Prices: from \$2,120 (upper Deck) - \$1,939 (Main Deck)* Land Only

* Air Fares Not Available yet. Land Portion Subject to Euro Adjustments

3-night Optional Trip Extension in Bordeaux Available

The region of Bordeaux, located in sun drenched, south-west France is the perfect setting for a bike and boat tour. Set at the confluence of the Garonne River and the Gironde estuary, it is one of the most prolific and famous wine growing regions in the world. Caressed by Atlantic breezes, the vineyards that cover the rolling hills of the region have for centuries produced France's most remarkable wines. Appellations such as Saint-Émilion, Pomerol, Sauternes, Médoc and Margaux have made Bordeaux wines world famous.

At the region's heart is the cultural center; the city of Bordeaux. Once known as the Sleeping Beauty, it stretches along the riverbanks, inviting visitors to savor its grand architecture, tempting cafés and superb museums. This city sleeps no more! Cruise the French Rivers and bike through vineyards on carefully chosen routes and experience the French Joie de Vivre!

On board you will discover a wide variety of excellent local wines to enjoy during dinner or simply to sample at your leisure. The region's distinct cuisine will be featured, prepared with the freshest local ingredients.

What's Included in the Trip:

- Round trip transfer from Bordeaux to Boat's Embarkation port
- 7-nights on the *MV Bordeaux*
- Breakfast; Lunch (box or picnic); and Dinner daily while on tour
- Maps & Informational material for biking

What's NOT Included

- Air Fare to either Paris or Bordeaux
 - Bike Rentals: Std 21-speed (\$90); E-bike (\$200)
 - Optional Side-trips or tours, nor additional Extensions
 - Trip Insurance: Medical coverage required; Trip Cancellation encouraged
- Price Indicated is for Double Occupancy. Ask Leader about available Singles
- Land portion subject to Euro exchange rate of \$1.20. Increases will adjust price
- Air Fares & Associated Ground Transfers will be determined when available

Mail Deposit of: \$300 with Registration Form to:

Trip Leader: [Frank Peñaranda](#) (301) 593-6472. To register, download [Registration Form](#).
Please scroll down to view additional information and Images

[Blue Ridge Ski Council \(BRSC\) Member.](#)

PSAC is a member of the BRSC, and as such, any member of a BRSC club is entitled to the same privileges as a PSAC member.

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## General Information

**Boat & Cabins:** The *MV Bordeaux* is a good sized boat: 256 ft long and 33 ft wide with two principal decks plus a sun deck. There are 11 Twin and 2 Single cabins on the Upper Deck, and 36 Twin cabins and 2 Jr Suites on the Main Deck. We have available the entire Upper Deck plus 10 twin cabins on the Main Deck. Therefore, the availability of Single cabins is very limited, although using a couple of Twin cabins on the Main deck as singles may be possible.

The cozy Twin cabins are approx. 8 m<sup>2</sup>, air conditioned and equipped with separate beds, shower and toilet. All have windows that open.



**Biking Terrain and degree of difficulty:** This tour is rated easy to moderate with daily cycling distances from 30 to 50 km (18 - 32 miles). The terrain is relatively flat with short climbs out of the river valleys onto the intervening vineyard area. Cycling tours are semi-guided in that the tour leader provides daily briefings of the tour and participants cycle individually at their own pace with bicycle maps and route directions. The tour leader will be cycling all tours as well

and can be reached on her/his mobile phone in case of questions or problems.

**Lodgings & Food:** We'll be lodged on a modern floating Hotel as described above. We'll be served daily breakfast and a lunch picnic while bicycling. Dinner meals will be the region's distinct cuisine featuring local traditions with the freshest ingredients. Some accommodations can be made for those with special dietary needs at extra cost



## Daily Itinerary

### **Day 1: Castets-en-Dorthe - Canal des Deux Mers, approx. 15 km**



Individual arrival and transfer from the meeting point at Gare St. Jean train station in Bordeaux to the mooring location of the boat near the Canal des Deux Mers at Castets-en-Dorthe, located in the middle of the Garonne Valley.

Embarkation starts at 03:00 p.m. If time permits, we can enjoy an optional short first test bike ride around Castets, exploring this flat and fertile region aptly named "Little Holland" with its walnut trees, kiwi orchards and vegetable fields. Following the bike path along the Canal des Deux Mers (Canal of Two Seas) that links the Atlantic to the Mediterranean will reveal this lush rural countryside. In the evening, a welcome cocktail awaits us on board.

### **Day 2: Castets-en-Dorthe – Cadillac, approx. 35 - 50 km**

After a restful night on board, we'll tour by bike the Sauternais region, where sweet dessert wines are produced. Part of the 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 a mist that descends on the vineyards, promoting the perfect conditions for the famous Sauternes wine. The country roads are dotted with picturesque chateaux whose elegant turrets rule over an ocean of colorful vines.

In the late afternoon, back on board again, the tour continues by ship, heading downstream along the Garonne River to reach Loupiac or Cadillac, a small town with a towering castle.



### **Day 3: Cadillac - Bordeaux, approx. 40 km**

Cadillac is located in the region of Graves, also known as the birthplace of Bordeaux wines. It is a fortified medieval village known as a Bastide in the Entre-Deux-Mers wine region between the Garonne and Dordogne rivers. The day's cycling leads through this "Premieres Côtes de Bordeaux" wine growing area. There is an opportunity to visit the former residence of the writer Francois Mauriac and Malromé castle, house of the painter Toulouse-Lautrec, built in the sixteenth century. Wine tastings are offered here!

Once back on board, we'll sail the Garonne River towards the enchanting city of Bordeaux, reaching the passage of the famous Stone Bridge and the pier in the city center, facing the region's most prestigious panorama: the Stone Bridge, Place de la Bourse and Quai des Chartrons which intermingle in a single view.

#### ***Day 4: Heart of Bordeaux, approx. 15 km***



The tour guide will propose a city tour of Bordeaux to discover its architectural gems on two wheels: this short cycling tour, mainly over cycling lanes, along both sides of the Garonne river in the cycling capital of France, offers beautiful panoramic views of the waterfront and the city. In the afternoon, enjoy the UNESCO sites of Bordeaux during a walking or cycling tour. Its main attractions are the royal entrance of the city (Cailhau Gate), the Big Bell of Pey

Berlan, the Golden Triangle, the Girondins column, the water mirror... and more. You will discover beautiful squares, a hidden garden or quaint location where you can do a tasting of the Bordeaux renowned "cannelés" and coffee or fresh oysters and white wine. There is free time in the afternoon to shop or explore. Be sure to explore the town's streets and shops where wine is as old as the underground cellars carved in stone, or to visit the newly opened La Cité du Vin.

#### ***Day 5: Bordeaux – Bourg, approx. 40 km***

In the morning the ship cruises from Bordeaux to Lamarque in the Gironde estuary to start our cycling tour in the famous Médoc wine area. Winding through vineyards, we'll discover some of Médoc's most beautiful castles and prestigious wineries, which take pride in 21 great-classified growth, including the Châteaux Palmer, Issan, Lewis Brown, Rauzan Segla, Ferrière, and the Château Margaux. One could visit any one of these great wine estates for a visit / tasting (optional) and learn everything about classifications before returning to the boat.

In the late afternoon, the ship will cruise the wide Gironde estuary to the jetty of Bourg, a picturesque little town near the conjunction of the Gironde and Dordogne rivers. The old city center overlooks the Gironde estuary.



#### ***Day 6: Bourg – Fronsac/Libourne, approx. 35 - 50 km***

The Côtes de Blaye vineyard's wine may be little known but their production has nothing to envy its more famous neighbors on the more famous opposite river bank of Médoc. Since the Middle Ages, countless numbers of pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostella have passed through this region. We'll find ourselves immersed in the "douceur de vivre" (sweet life), so typical for this wine region. In Blaye, there's a short loop through the Vauban Fortess (on the UNESCO World Heritage List) to admire this military masterwork of the architect of Louis XIV, the "Sun King". We'll return to Bourg by cycling part of the 'Corniche', a scenic, quiet road along the Gironde estuary. In the evening we'll sail to Fronsac / Libourne on the Dordogne river.

***Day 7: Fronsac/Libourne – Rundtour St. Émilion/Pomerol, approx. 35 - 50 km***

In Libourne, stroll to the picturesque city square, lined with buildings dating as far back as the 16th century. Visit the weekly market on Friday mornings before exploring the famous Pomerol and Saint-Émilion wine areas. Enjoy pedaling the countryside, bristling with vines, through this unspoiled UNESCO World Heritage landscape. Cycling the landscape provides a unique view of the village's medieval lanes and surrounding vineyards. Take some time to visit beautiful Saint-Émilion. The ride will continue on small picturesque back roads and paths with a glimpse of Saint-Émilion's most famous châteaux. We may see (and taste) their first-classified wines such as Angelus, Ausonne, Cheval Blanc, Petrus - some of the world's most famous wine estates. A true paradise for wine lovers!



***Day 8: Fronsac/Libourne***

Disembarkation is no later than 09:00 a.m. after breakfast. At 9:00 a.m. a bus will transfer us back to the Gare St. Jean train station of Bordeaux. An optional 3-night extension in Bordeaux has been planned

***More Ste Emillion Views***





*Bordeaux Bike Path*



*Dordogne Village*