



Decouvertes

Exclusive cultural tours
Luxury independent Travel



Gravels of Bordeaux

Full day wine excursion to Graves Region

Originally planted on the very outskirts of Burdigala (Roman name for Bordeaux) in the first centuries of the Roman occupation, the vineyard region of Graves is the cradle of great Bordeaux wines. The wines of the Graves are unique in France in bearing the name of their soil: "Gravels of Bordeaux", as a reminder of the major role played by the soil in determining the quality of the wine.

Morning visit of Graves Region followed by an afternoon visit of Sauternes

Make it "Organic Wine"!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue: Visit and wine-tasting at a private vineyard famous for its organic wine

Please see the last page for more information

Make it Private!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue: Wine-tasting at a beautiful estate under the guidance of the owner

Please see the last page for more information



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Graves & Sauternes

9.00am: Meet one of our preferred guides-drivers of the region at the lobby of your hotel in Bordeaux.

Your guide-driver is a National licensed guide, **specialist in Bordeaux Region**. Her knowledge in Bordeaux wines is recognized by the very best Sommeliers and wine makers of the region.

Visit the Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte. Famous around the world for its wonderfully elegant red wine and the sophisticated bouquet of its white, Smith Haut Lafitte undoubtedly deserves the special care that is lavished on it.

You will also visit the **Château Olivier**, an amazing building dating from the 13th century and producing one of the best wines of the region.

For years and years, Château Olivier has brought together the present and the past by making wines of great art in an estate that is the stuff of legends. Fashioned by the terroir in which they are rooted, shaped by all those who work the vines day after day, **the wines of Château Olivier are a magnificent expression of their appellation** among the six Classified Growths of Graves in red and white.

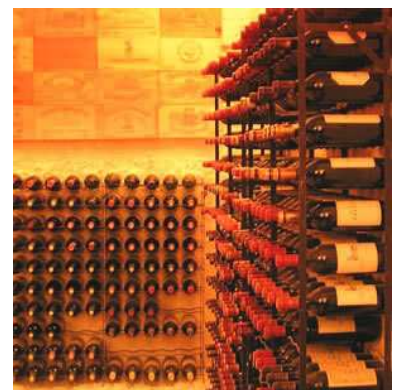
The recent geological discoveries in the two gravel mounds of Olivier have confirmed **the richness and diversity of an outstanding viticulture heritage**, passed down by those who once contributed to the building of the fine reputation of Bordeaux's great growths.

Drive towards Sauternes.

Enjoy lunch at leisure in the small villages of Sauternes. What about **Saprien**, a former typical house converted into a **gourmet restaurant** with a beautiful terrace with view on the vineyards. Try roast-meat, it is excellent!

In Sauternes you will visit the **Chateau de Cazeneuve**, formerly owned by the Kings of Navarre, as well as King Henry IV of France and Queen Margot, Château de Cazeneuve is currently the residence of The Count de Sabran-Pontevès and his family.

The château is noted for its **exceptional architecture and outstanding setting**. It has an impressive interior courtyard and a large terrace overlooking a moat.





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Don't miss the occasion to visit the **royal apartments**, the 17th century patio, the troglodyte caves, the large medieval cellar housing prestigious Bordeaux wines going back centuries, and exhibition of antique glass jewellery.

You could also visit the beautiful grounds adjoining the famous **Ciron Gorges**, which lead to the Queen's cave, which is a cool peaceful haven. And don't miss the 9th century moat, the bridleways, and the lake with its mill, bird island, and giant bamboo grove!

Continue and **visit the chateau de Malle** and its Italian gardens classed among the historical monuments.

A little architectural and wine-making gem, distinguished as a Grand Cru de Sauternes by the 1855 rating, chateau de Malle has style!

Sauternes is a type of aperitif and dessert wine made from Sémillon, Sauvignon Blanc, and Muscadelle grapes. Sauternes is a **very sweet, intense wine, and is typically not served as a table wine**. It can be drunk by itself in place of an aperitif or dessert, or with rich savory foods like foie gras or Roquefort cheese. Flavours in sauternes range from apricot, peach, pineapple, and vanilla. The wines are smooth and creamy.

Listed as a historical monument, the chateau was built in the 17th century by a Bordeaux architect of Italian origin.

The central building was built at the turn of the 18th century by the count of Lur de Saluces over two floors in the style of Louis XIV. **The Italian style gardens**, ordered in terraces, feature allegorical steles evoking the work of the vine and wine. Inside, the period furniture dates back two centuries.

Come back to your hotel at the end of the afternoon.





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This package includes

- Deluxe minivan which can carry up to 6 passengers
- Professional English speaking guide-driver who will chauffeur you on your sightseeing tour and is licensed to guide and accompany you on walking tours, as well as into museums and monuments
- Découvertes fees
- 24 hour assistance available during your stay
- All taxes

This package does not include

- Entrance fees
- Wine tastings
- Tips
- Lunch or dinner

Découvertes can also provide:

- Pre-payment of all entrance fees to museums and other sites
- Lunch reservations



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Make it Optional

Make it “Organic Wine”!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue

Visit to a private vineyard that uses traditional methods to make their wines. Evelyne and Michel Allien since 1988, are applying themselves to give life back to the building and the vineyards around. Carrying on with the traditional method since 1868, no weed-killer has been used in the vineyard till now. The Château produces now an organic wine. A Bacchus gîte was built in 1994, open to the adepts of œnotourism. In November 2006, Château Dudon was awarded by silver Best of œnotourism in Great Wine World Capitals.

Please contact us for more information and price. Upon request and availability.



Make it Private!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue

Visit to a private chateau surrounded by the most renowned Sauternes vineyards, this vineyard enjoys an ideal location and combines the best conditions to produce a great Sauternes (on the same grounds as the chateau d'Yquem). You will be welcome by the owner himself who will tell you the history of the estate which is made up of 18 "appellation" hectares (44 acres), sixteen of which are under cultivation. The majority of the plots are grouped around the château itself, in the small administrative municipalities of Sauternes, Bommès, and Preignac.

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