

Wines Tour de France

Duration: 14 Days
Distance: 4.600km



Executive Tour Description:

Ancient vineyards, serpentine roads, magnificent French castles and beautiful scenery all in one spectacular motorcycle tour; a dream come true. Join us for a fifteen day "tour de France" through all the major wine regions : Provence, Rhône, Beaujolais, Bourgogne, Savoie, Jura, Alsace, Champagne, Loire, Cognac, Bordeaux, Cahors, Corbières and Languedoc.

This tour is a unique opportunity to experience France's long history of wine. We will also ride through historical places like the Loire valley castles, Verdun and many more.

We'll be riding during the day, taking plenty of time to view the sights and experience the wonderful regional cuisine. We will taste wines in the evenings.

Map:



Precise Tour description:

This tour is limited to twelve motorcycles.

Prior to departure: For those interested, a wine tasting lecture will be organized for the evening prior to the tour departure (not included in tour price, contact for booking).

Day 1: The tour begins along the Mediterranean coast, through the Côteaux de Provence vineyards, and will offer a mix of coastal sceneries and charming Provencal villages like Saint Tropez, Bandol and Cassis, before riding inland towards that magical place called "Les Baux de Provence" with its delicious wine.

Day 2 : This will be the first day along the Rhône river around the many vineyards located on each side. We will focus on the southern part of the Rhône with a ride through the Côtes du Rhône Provence vineyards, followed by the Côtes du Rhône Villages and finally the Côteaux du Tricastin. We will be leaving the Rhône for the night and experience the "Clairette de Die" on the Vercors mountain side.

Day 3 : Today we leave the Vercors and ride back to the Rhône north of Valence with the "Hermitage" and "Lyonnais" vineyards. The tour will say farewell to the Rhône, travelling on to experience the lovely "Savoie" vineyards and their exquisite dry white wines. But this will only happen once the tour has visited the "Chartreuse" liquor cellar in Voiron.

Day 4 : Splendid winding roads take the tour through the mountains down to the Saône river valley and will prepare the group to face famous names like "Juliénas", "Chardonnay", "Mercurey", or "Meursault". This day is dedicated to the Beaujolais, Mâconnais and Bourgogne (Côte Chalonnaise, Côte de Beaune) vineyards.

Day 5 : In the morning we will enjoy some more Bourgogne vineyards such as the "Côtes des Nuits" where famous wines like "Nuits Saint Georges" and "Gevrey-Cambertin" are produced. Then it's time to go east and enter Alsace! Before reaching Thann and the beginning of the Alsacian wine road the tour will take lovely meandering roads along the Swiss border until reaching the start of the Vosges mountains and the road that climbs the famous "Grand Ballon d'Alsace".

Day 6 : is dedicated entirely to the Alsace wine road. Along this 150km road tiny, ancient villages follow each other around the curves while the famous white storks of Alsace keep an eye on the vineyards and the many wine cellars where "Sylvaner", "Pinot Blanc", "Riesling", "Muscat d'Alsace", "Tokay Pinot Gris", "Pinot Noir" and "Gewurztraminer" are produced.

Prices:

Motorcycle	Premium	Medium
R1200GS	6 250	No Medium
F800GS	6 150	No Medium
F650GS	6 050	No Medium
Passenger	3 990	No Medium
Own Bike	5 200	No Medium
Chauffeur Service	7 200	No Medium

2009 tour prices per person, in Euros

Dates: 2009

June	6th to 20th
September	2nd to 16th
October	Sept 30th to 14th

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Day 7 : As the tour is reaching its half-way point, what better beverage than “Champagne” for such a special moment? But before arriving in the Champagne region of France, where the world-famous sparkling white wine is produced, the tour will first experience the undulating roads of the Vosges mountains and cross some places full of history like “Verdun” where some WW I battles reached their climax. Our reward will be to ride around in the champagne vineyards and visit their cellars.

Day 8 : With our heads being a bit lighter with all the Champagne bubbles, the ride will be easy towards the Loire valley, with its astonishing castles and spectacular wines. The “Orléannais” vineyards and the Chambord Castle are but two examples of the wonders that will be experienced during this stage.

Day 9 : This is a busy day visiting the “Nemrod” vineyards around Cheverny and its castle and the “Gamay de Touraine” before pressing on towards Chenonceaux and its wonderful castle, Amboise, and the “Touraine” vineyards. This day will be made perfect with a bit more riding along the Loire to enjoy places like Azay-le-rideau and Chinon. The day will be capped off with a visit to Saumur where the world famous “Cadre Noir” equestrian school is based.

Day 10 : Following the Loire through the “Coteaux de Saumur” vineyards the tour will reach the “Vins du nantais” road near Nantes. Jumping from one curve to the next we will travel to the port of La Rochelle, a perfect place to enjoy delicious wines and seafood. We’ll take a good rest for the next day’s ride.

Day 11 : From the vineyards through which the tour will ride on this day comes a great, strong and oak cask matured “Eau de Vie” called the Cognac. The end of the day will be spent on the Atlantic coast.

Day 12 : A quick ferry ride over the Gironde and here starts a day dedicated to the “Bordeaux” wines. Starting with the “Châteaux du Médoc” vineyards with names like Saint Estèphe, Lafite-Rotschild, Pauillac, Margaux and many more. After a quick ride through Bordeaux here come the “Pomerol” vineyards with the world famous “Saint Emilion”, followed by the “Pecharmant” , “Côtes de Bergerac” and “Montbazillac” ones. Such a ride deserves a good rest at the gates of the Dordogne.

Day 13 : A great variety of vineyards awaits us on this day, leaving the Bergerac area for the “Cahors” and its delicious wines. After having enjoyed the “Gaillac” vineyards, many curves will help us keep the rhythm on the way down to the “world heritage” historical fortress known as the “Cit  de Carcassonne” .. Once in Carcassonne it will be a great idea to taste the “Blanquette de Limoux” sparkling wine produced just to the south.

Day 14 : This day will be spent riding across the most productive wine regions of France, starting with the “Minervois” and going through Béziers (wine capital of France). We will continue on towards Frontignan and its wine, the Montpellier Muscat, followed by the “Vins des sables” on the Mediterranean coast before getting to Nîmes and its “Costières de Nîmes”.

Day 15 : This last day will take the tour back to the French Riviera through more vineyards like the “Clairette de Belgarde”, “Côteaux d’Aix” and some more “Côte de Provence”.

Overnight towns: Saint Rémy de Provence, Soyons, Challes les Eaux, Beaune, Guebwiller, Strasbourg, Epernay, Jou  les Tours, Royan, Bergerac, Carcassonne, Nîmes.

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