

# Rioja Revisited

18th-25th June, 2023

in association with  
Florida International University



## What to expect

This trip sees us taking a fresh look at a region we have visited many times over the years. We have picked out what we think have been the best experiences and have upgraded them to include even better food and wines. We have also added some new adventures, so even if you've been before you might want to think about joining us in our return to 'Rioja Revisited'.

We'll begin in Bilbao and finish up in the elegant seaside city of San Sebastian. Bilbao, the capital of the Basque Country sees us visit the world famous Guggenheim Museum in the company of top art expert Gijs van Hensbergen. San Sebastian's old town is the scene for a special wine-themed gourmet pintxos tour, as well as a privileged dinner at one of the city's famed Gastronomic Societies.

On the way we visit Rioja, one of the world's foremost wine regions and sample some of the best of old and new styles of wine in several of the best wineries, where we'll talk with some owners about the future of Rioja. Local gastronomy is also highly prized and we sample traditional and Michelin star meals, all with high quality wines.

### Prequel (see end of brochure)

Beginning on the 14th June in Bordeaux this is a short trip designed to meet up in Bilbao with the Rioja Revisited tour. We start in the world's wine capital with some superstar visits in Pauillac, St Emilion, Graves and Sauternes. Bordeaux is without doubt right at the top of any wine lover's

places to visit. There are names that are so steeped in history they need little introduction but for many it is a difficult place to enjoy access. On this trip we open the door to some wonderful places where we not only taste great wines, but in some we also stay and have lunches too.

We are based in Chateau Bellefont Belcier in St Emilion, a beautiful winery from which to explore the region.

This trip is truly a food and wine lover's delight!

## Highlights

- Gastronomic Society dinner in San Sebastian
- Gourmet wine-themed pintxos tour in San Sebastian
- Taste Txakoli overlooking the Cantabrian Sea
- Michelin star dinner in Rioja with stunning wines
- Visit and tastings at some of Rioja's best wineries: Artadi, Cuzcurrita, Marques de Murrieta, Paco Garcia, Luis Cañas
- Visit to the Guggenheim Museum and town of Gernika with art expert Gijs van Hensbergen
- Walk in Pamplona

**\*\*Please note some visits may change due to Covid-19 restrictions**

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18th-25th June, 2023



## Trip Itinerary

**Day 1 (Sunday 18th June).** We meet at 12:30 in Bilbao in centrally located Hotel Gran Domine before a pintxos (tapas) tour of the city. Afternoon we are joined for a guided visit to the Gehry designed Guggenheim Museum by our friend Gijs van Hensbergen, a top art historian who will explain the significance of the building and some of the works it houses. Free evening. **L**

**Day 2 (Monday 19th June).** Morning visit with Gijs (a published Picasso expert) to Gernika, inspiration for Picasso's famous painting, to see the Tree of Gernika and the Parliament. Lunch at Kaia Kaipe by the sea in Getaria with some fine Basque food including turbot, crab and steak matched with some fine vintages of top class wines. Head to the Hotel Viura in the village of Villabuena de Alava. This small boutique hotel has a remarkable design and a warm welcome in the heart of Rioja Alavesa. Light dinner at the hotel this evening. **B/L/D**

**Day 3 (Tuesday 20th June).** Morning visit to Paco Garcia, a family winery that is young, bold and innovative. They make a series of very appealing wines to attract both Riojan wine enthusiasts and convert a few sceptics. Here we have a discussion with the owners Ana and Juan Bautista about the future of the Rioja wine region. We then head for lunch at one of Rioja's grandest names. Since 1877, Marques de Murrieta has been one of Rioja's best loved wines and the Castillo Ygay headquarters has been a symbol of the traditional style wines that age so gracefully. Recently refurbished, the Ygay castle is now a pristine and dramatic reminder of Rioja's heritage. Free evening at the hotel. **B/L**

**Day 4 (Wednesday 21st June).** Visit to Rioja winery Cuzcurrita where we taste some of their top wines. We then enjoy a Chuletillas lunch at Asador de Jose Mari with Remelluri and Amaren wines being the perfect accompaniment to the

traditional lamb cutlets. Free evening at the hotel. **B/L**

**Day 5 (Thursday 22nd June).** Drive to Haro, the capital of the Rioja wine region. We visit the iconic winery Artadi, in what is a rare and privileged tasting. There is an optional vineyard walk from the hotel to Artadi this morning. We then have a visit, tasting and light tapas lunch at Luis Cañas, a top family producer in Rioja. Five of Spain's seven 3 Michelin star restaurants carry Luis Cañas wines, now a Riojan benchmark. Dinner is at Ventamoncalvillo where Carlos and Ignacio Echapresto have created a little gastronomic haven in the hamlet (or is it a village) of Daroca. They serve produce direct from their own garden and we enjoy a tasting menu. Ignacio will cook and Carlos will serve some of the best Iberian wines from their impressive cellar and delight in the fact that their village is the smallest in the world to offer Michelin star dining. **B/L/D**

**Day 6 (Friday 23rd June)** Check out before heading to Pamplona for a walk and coffee. Off to San Sebastian and check in to wonderfully situated Hotel de Londres y Inglaterra overlooking La Concha bay in San Sebastian. Free lunch. Time to freshen up before evening special wine-themed gourmet pintxos (tapas) tour of the old town, visiting 5 or 6 of the best bars and restaurants to savour modern and traditional style tapas, matched with some really excellent wines. **B/D**

**Day 7 (Saturday 24th June)** Morning visit and tasting to Talai Berri, one of the top Txakoli producers in the region. Free lunch and afternoon before an exciting visit to one of San Sebastian's exclusive Gastronomic Societies for a dinner with matched wines, a truly fitting way to end this special tour. **D**

**Day 8 (Sunday 25th June)** After breakfast end of tour.



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**\$4995 per person double occupancy**

**\$1100 single supplement**

**\$500 deposit per person**

## **Included**

- 1 nights Hotel Gran Domine, Bilbao
- 4 nights Viura Hotel, Rioja
- 2 nights Hotel de Londres y de Inglaterra, San Sebastian
- Private transport
- Tour manager
- Breakfast daily; 5 lunches/ 4 dinners
- Visits and activities as specified

## **Not included**

Airfare; meals not mentioned above; travel insurance; gratuities for guides

## *Iberian Wine Tours*

+44 7873263809

[info@iberianwinetours.com](mailto:info@iberianwinetours.com)



# Prequel trip -Bordeaux to Rioja

14th - 18th June, 2023



## What to expect

We start in the world's wine capital with some superstar visits in Pauillac, St Emilion, Graves and Sauternes. Bordeaux is without doubt right at the top of any wine lover's places to visit. There are names that are so steeped in history they need little introduction but for many it is a difficult place to enjoy access. On this trip we open the door to some wonderful places where we not only taste great wines, but in some we also stay and have lunches too.

We are based in Chateau Bellefont Belcier in St Emilion, a beautiful winery from which to explore the region. The trip ends in Bilbao to coincide with our Rioja Revisited tour which begins on the 18th June.

## Highlights

- Visit and lunch at Chateau Haut Bailly, Graves
- Visit and lunch at Chateau Troplong Mondot (1\* Michelin lunch), Saint Emilion
- Visit and tasting at Chateau Guiraud, Sauternes
- Visit and tasting at Chateau Leoville Poyferré, St Julien
- Visit at Chateau Lynch-Bages, Pauillac
- Lunch in classic Medoc brasserie
- Walking tour of Bordeaux
- Lunch in St Jean de Luz





# Prequel trip - Bordeaux to Rioja

14th - 18th June, 2023

## Trip Itinerary

**Day 1 (Wednesday 14th June).** Meet in central Bordeaux at 10.30 am for short walking tour of the city. We then take the luxury coach to Pessac-Léognan and the historical Chateau Haut-Bailly (Grand Cru Classé de Graves) for visit and lunch. Afternoon visit to Chateau Guiraud (Premier Grand Cru Classé) in Sauternes and then on to check in and dinner at the elegant and unique Chateau Bellefont Belcier in St Emilion, our hotel for the next 3 nights. **L/D**

**Day 2 (Thursday 15th June).** Today is Medoc day, where we enjoy the classic cabernet wine country of 2 of the best known communes. We have a morning visit and tasting at Chateau Lynch-Bages a stunning 5th cru winery in Pauillac before lunch in their charming Cafe Lavinal. We then go to Chateau Leoville Poyferré (2nd Grand Cru Classé), one of the star wines and most beautiful wineries in the neighbouring St Julien. Back to the hotel for a free evening in St Emilion . **B/L**

**Day 3 (Friday 16th June).** We visit Chateau Troplong Mondot, a delightful chateau that is one of the top performing premier grand cru classé properties in St Emilion followed by lunch in their Michelin star restaurant. After lunch a short visit to Tour St Christophe in the town before dinner back at the delightful Chateau Bellefont Belcier. **B/L/D**

**Day 4 (Saturday 17th June).** We head south stopping for lunch in Kaiku restaurant in St Jean de Luz before heading on to Bilbao, checking in to the 5\* Gran Domine Hotel, beside the Guggenheim Museum. Free evening **B/L**

**Day 5 (Sunday 18th June).** After breakfast, end of tour, or join the Rioja Revisited tour.



**\$2995 per person double occupancy**  
**\$550 single supplement**  
**\$500 deposit per person**

## Included

- 3 nights Chateau Bellefont Belcier, St Emilion
- 1 night Gran Domine, Bilbao
- Private transport
- Tour manager
- Breakfast daily; 4 lunches/ 2 dinners
- Visits and activities as specified

## Not included

Airfare; meals not mentioned above; travel insurance; gratuities for guides

