

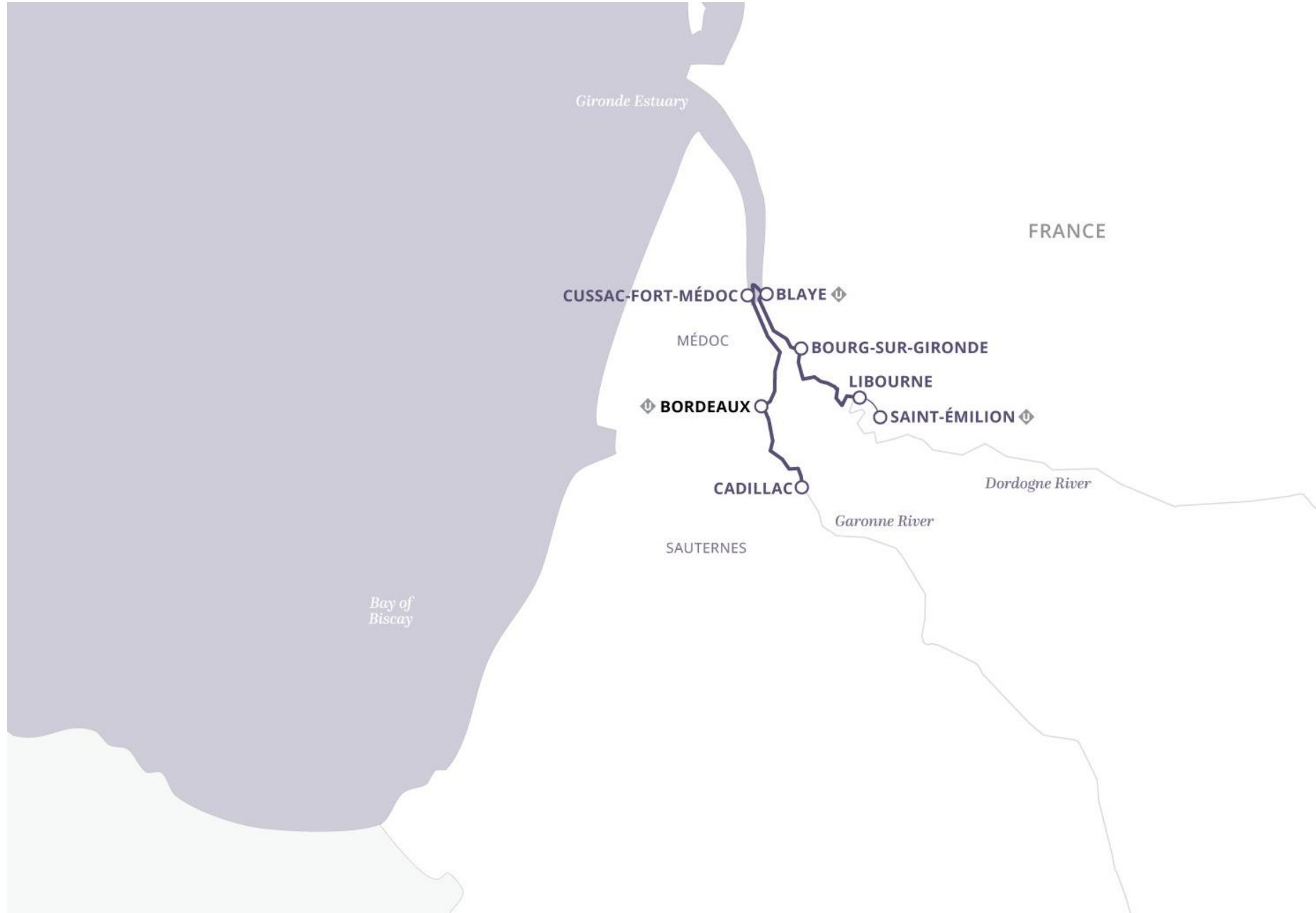
Brilliant Bordeaux Uniworld Boutique River Cruises

By

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Europe River Cruise Expert

Map From Uniworld River Cruises



Overview

- Set sail along three stunning rivers, the Garonne, Dordogne and Gironde, on one fascinatingly historical and invigorating journey.
- Explore the country's breathtaking backdrops, wines and cultural treasures across the region in Bordeaux, Fort Médoc, Cadillac, Blaye, Libourne and more.
- Wander through archaeological marvels, historic landmarks and magnificent vineyards where you'll be treated to a sampling of quintessentially French experiences.
- Embark on a scenic drive from Blaye to Bourg along the Route de la Corniche Fleurie and marvel at the sights of Blaye Fortress and Lansac Windmill along the way.
- Slow things down in Libourne and on your return to Bordeaux with multiple wine tastings, village tours, a farmers' market visit and Bordeaux heritage walking tour.
- Join us on a showcase of the best Southwest France has to offer.

Day 1 Bordeaux

- Arrive at Bordeaux-Mérignac International Airport.
- If your cruise package includes a group arrival transfer or if you have purchased a private arrival transfer, you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the ship.

Day 2 Cadillac

- The French phrase “la douceur de vivre” is an accurate description for your time in Cadillac, known for its deliciously flavored dessert wines.
- Visit Château Royal de Cazeneuve, site of Henry IV’s and Queen Margot’s tempestuous love. Meet the owner around a glass of Sauternes in the reception hall.
- *In the evening, a special Captain’s Welcome Reception and Dinner will be prepared for you.*
- *Note: Sailing this stretch of the Garonne depends on the tides. If it is not possible to sail to Cadillac, you will be transferred to your destination via motorcoach.*

Private owner's tour of Royal Château with Sauternes toast

- You'll journey through the vineyards to Château Royal de Cazeneuve, a polygonal 14th-century fortress with a royal pedigree.
- A favored residence of Henry IV, who inherited it from his mother, Jeanne d'Albret.
- The beautifully restored château still belongs to descendants of the Albret family.
- After your intimate visit you will meet Louis and Caroline de Sabran-Pontevès, the owner and his wife for a Sauternes toast, sampling the unique perfume and flavor of the area.

Day 2 The colorful life of Toulouse Lautrec at Château de Malromé

- Uncover the history of artist Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec with a visit to Château Malromé.
- Originally the home of his mother, Adèle, Malromé would soon inspire much of his artwork.
- As one of the best painters of the post-impressionist period, Toulouse-Lautrec is known for his distinctive and colorful take on Paris in the late 1800s as well as his fascination with Moulin Rouge dancers and famous singers, who were prominent in much of his work.
- Venture to the nearby town of Verdélais, where you'll notice two beautiful central walkways lined with trees and 19th-century façades.
- It is in Verdélais' cemetery that Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec is buried.
- After, you'll be treated to an absinthe tasting at Café les Pèlerins.

DAY 3 CUSSAC FORT MÉDOC

- The legendary Médoc region abounds with prestigious wine châteaux in a dizzying array of architectural styles, as well as miles of grapevines stretching to infinity.
- Take a scenic drive through the storied Médoc wine route, followed by a wine tasting at a beautiful wine estate.

Day 3 Featured Excursion: **Fresh Médoc Oysters Tasting**

- Oysters have long been a beloved product of the Médoc—and for good reason.
- Discover why today as you join an oyster farmer at the Guards' House terrace for a tasting of this delicacy, accompanied by a glass of local white wine.

Day 3 **“Let’s Go”** bike in the **Médoc vineyards**

- Combine fresh air, gorgeous scenery and fine wine with a bicycle ride among the prestigious Médoc vineyards.
- Meet your guide and mount your bicycle in Pauillac and wheel out of town, pedaling through the lush landscapes of historic estates that have seemingly remained unchanged for centuries.
- Truly experience the atmosphere—the earth, the sunshine—of this famous wine-growing region.

Day 3 Médoc Châteaux route with private wine tasting

- In 1855, when Napoleon III asked for a classification of the best wines in France to give visitors, some 60 Médoc wines were awarded Grand Cru status—out of 61 total.
- A panoramic tour of this legendary landscape takes you from Pauillac to the tip of the Médoc peninsula, past storied vineyards of the region, including Château Latour, Mouton Rothschild and Pichon Longueville Baron, and through the villages of Margaux, Saint-Julien and Saint-Estèphe.
- You might be surprised to discover that the peninsula is only three miles wide, though it is 50 miles long, and the road carries you past a dizzying array of architectural styles— Renaissance, Greek Revival and medieval—as well as miles of grapevines.
- You'll turn off the road and enter one of these estates for a private tour and a tasting of premier Grand Cru wines—but you won't know which one of these exceptional châteaux is your destination until you open your invitation.

Day 4 BLAYE, BOURG SUR GIRONDE

- The Route de la Corniche Fleurie...could this be the most beautiful road you've ever traveled?
- Find out today on the drive to Blaye Fortress, passing through one impossibly picturesque hamlet after another.
- Once you arrive, you'll discover the wonders of this historic fortress, a UNESCO-designated citadel that once protected Bordeaux from attacks by sea.

Day 4 **Panoramas of Route de la Corniche**

Fleurie with Blaye Fortress

- This little road between Blaye and Bourg-sur-Gironde winds through picturesque hamlets with equally picturesque names—Pain de Sucre, Marmisson and Roque de Thau among them—limestone cliffs on one side, the Gironde on the other.
- Fishing huts on stilts stand above the waters of the estuary; charming 19th-century stone houses built by sea captains sit tidily along the road.
- Many of these captains traveled to far-off places and returned with exotic plants, which they planted in their gardens and along the road (hence the route's name).
- But the history of these cliffs extends far beyond the 19th century—people have inhabited the area for thousands of years.
- Upon returning to Blaye, your guide will take you through the 17th-century demilune-shaped citadel built by famed military engineer Vauban.
- This fortress design was the one Vauban, Louis XIV's favorite military engineer, found most satisfactory, and he built some 300 of them in the Sun King's realm.
- The citadel contains the ruins of a medieval castle, houses, squares, streets, even a convent, all enclosed within stark walls.
- If you stand on top of those walls, you will have a terrific view of the estuary— this view was the field of fire, giving the citadel command of the river.

Blaye Citadel

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Diagram of the Fortifications

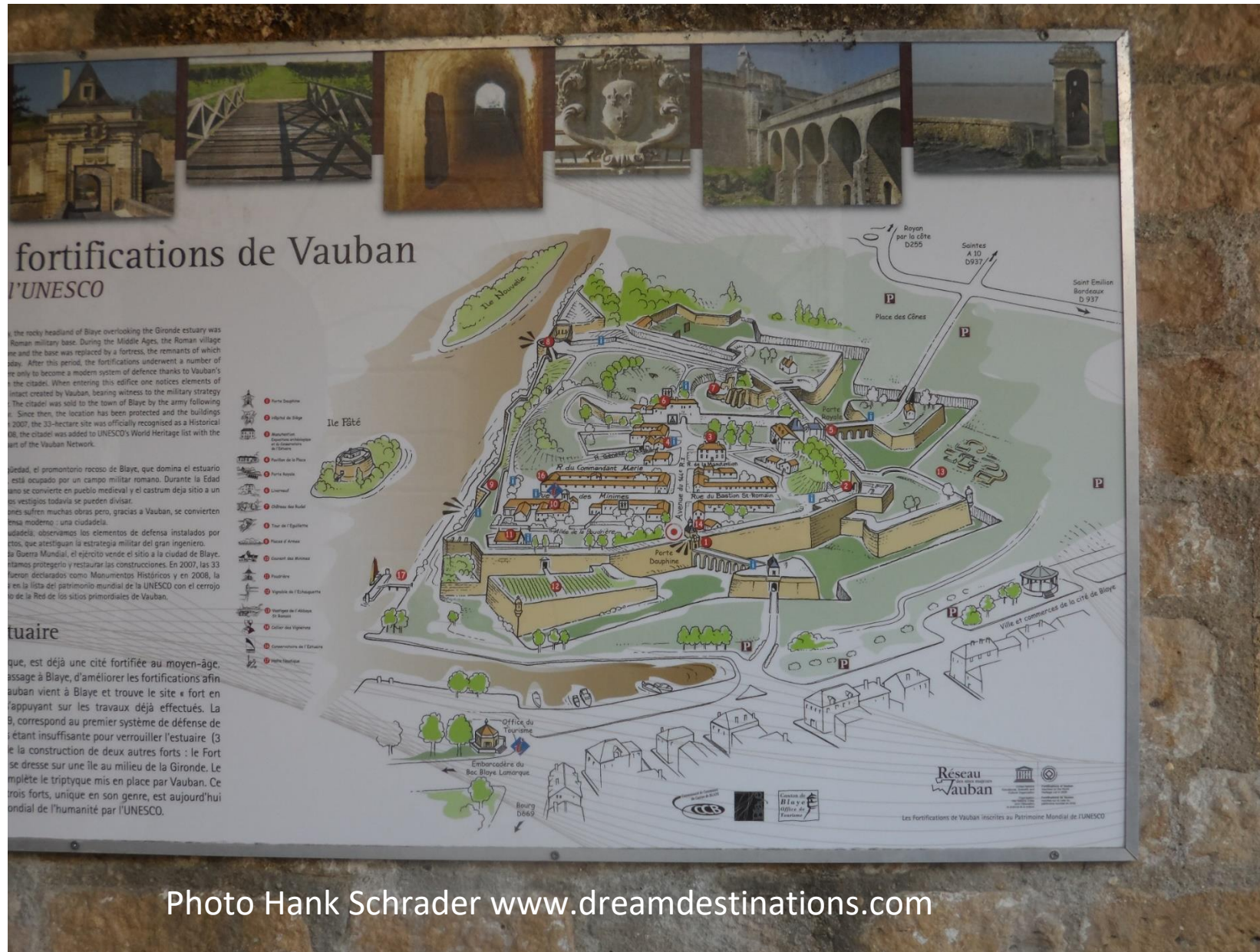


Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Day 4 Rendez-Vous Chez Rémy Martin (\$93 Per Person)

- Not all wine remains wine: some of it is distilled into cognac.
- Rémy Martin has been making cognac for almost three centuries, refining the process over the years.
- Tour the facility and learn how this elixir is created, then taste three different cognacs with complementary nibbles.

Day 5 LIBOURNE (SAINT-ÉMILION)

- With Libourne as your base, travel to nearby breathtaking Saint-Émilion and immerse yourself more deeply in the region's history and wine culture.
- The medieval town of Saint-Émilion is an ideal place to linger.
- Wander its cobblestone lanes lined with wine shops and bakeries and stop to admire the amazing rock-hewn church that extends beneath the city's streets.
- Another treasure awaiting you underground? A wine tasting in the cellars of a Grand Cru estate.
- *Note: Today's lunch will be on your own; ask your Cruise Manager for recommendations on the best nearby restaurants.*

Day 5 SAINT-ÉMILION WALKING TOUR WITH WINE TASTING

- Hilltop Saint-Émilion offers both exceptional architecture and historic vineyards. The Romans were the first to plant grapes here, and this was the first vineyard region to be protected by UNESCO because of its history.
- Shops brimming with wine and wine tools line the steep cobblestone streets; medieval ramparts that bore witness to battles for control between French and English monarchs still stand; and vineyards encroach upon the village.
- Of all the sights, however, perhaps the most extraordinary is the 12th-century church carved into a cliff. Only the tower is above ground; the rest of the church is subterranean. Its numerous underground galleries provided refuge during periods of strife, and include the grotto where St. Emilion, for whom the town is named, lived out his life in the ninth century.
- You have to see it for yourself—you'll be amazed by its almost unfathomable construction.
- After touring Saint-Émilion, you'll visit the cellars of a premier Grand Cru estate where you'll taste some of the world's most highly rated wines.

Saint Emilion

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Saint Emilion

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Saint Emilion

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Saint Emilion



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Day 5 COOKING CLASS AT CHÂTEAU AMBE T.P. (\$199 EXTRA CHARGE PER PERSON)

- Château Ambe Tour Pourret, with five hectares planted with merlot and cabernet franc vines, is a comparatively young wine house, dating to 1925 in its current form (though parts of the chateau are much older).
- Tour the winery before you meet your chef/teacher, then walk to the well-equipped, modern professional kitchen.
- Tie on your apron (you'll get to keep it as a souvenir) and delve into the tasks the chef assigns you.
- You might zest kaffir limes to season a first course of seared duck foie gras or make the cherry sauce in kirsch that accompanies it or help to prepare wild trout or a decadent strawberry tart.
- You'll learn something about the art of French sauces in the process, and then you'll take a seat in the elegant dining room and enjoy the lunch you've helped prepare-naturally, each course will be accompanied by the appropriate wine from Chateau Ambe Tour Pourret's cellars.

Day 5 GRAND CRU TASTING (\$117 PER PERSON)

- Today guests will enjoy a tour of Château Beau-Séjour Bécot.
- Learn about the workings of the vineyard, get an explanation of the terroir, the technical facilities, the underground cellars, and most importantly the history of the family.
- Be treated to a sommelier led Grand Cru Classé B tasting, while overlooking the vineyard from the rotunda Terrance offering an enchanted moment out of time.

Day 6 LIBOURNE, BORDEAUX

- France's rich agricultural tradition is the heart and soul of the region's exquisite cuisine—and what better way to get a taste for the freshest vegetables, cheeses, breads and fruits than with a visit to Libourne's lively farmers' market?

Day 6 LIBOURNE “VILLAGE DAY” WITH FARMER'S MARKET

- How could you visit this rich agricultural land without delving into a farmer's market?
- Libourne’s market is the heart and soul of the town; everyone comes here to choose the freshest vegetables, the ripest cheeses, the most luscious fruits, the loveliest flowers, and to chat with the producers and growers.
- Check out the stalls brimming with produce in the market square, then duck into the covered market and savor the enticing aromas of bread and cheese, fish and meat.
- After exploring the market, you and a small group of other travelers will be invited to push open the doors of ateliers, homes and shops, meeting the artisans who make some of the goods arrayed so enticingly in the market.

Day 6 NIGHTS OUT: AFTER HOURS AT THE BASSINS DES LUMIÈRES

- Bordeaux's *Port de la Lune* is home to a submarine base with a checkered past.
- Originally built during the German occupation of France in WWII, and later the target of allied bombings, this building has since attracted artists who wish to reclaim the site for beauty and culture.
- Its stark walls and history have served as a poignant backdrop to artistic installations for decades.
- Tonight, you'll experience this for yourself at the *Bassins des Lumières*, a stunning and immersive light show projected against the walls of the base.

Day 7 BORDEAUX

- Discover Bordeaux's many charms today, either on foot with a local expert or on two wheels—the locals' preferred way to navigate the city's charming backstreets.
- You have a wonderful selection of active opportunities to see this magnificent UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- *In the evening, a special Captain's Farewell Reception and Dinner will be prepared for you.*
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DAY 7 "LET'S GO" BIKE BORDEAUX BACKSTREETS

- Hop on a bike and wheel with your expert guide along the Quai des Chartrons, a riverfront neighborhood that was the purview of British wine merchants back when they dominated the wine trade.
- It fell on hard times in the 20th century, but the tall merchant houses have since been reclaimed; now they house welcoming shops and cafés.
- Pedal past the antiques shops of Rue Notre Dame and the Church of St. Louis on your way to major city squares such as the Bourse and Parliament before heading back to the ship along the banks of the Garonne.
- Of course your outing will include a stop for refreshments at one of the delightful cafés you pass.

Day 7 “DO AS THE LOCALS DO” BORDEAUX WALKING TOUR

- Catch a tram at the Quai des Chartrons to the Place de la Comédie, the heart of Bordeaux’ Golden Triangle.
- Though Bordeaux was the capital of Aquitaine in the Middle Ages and has its share of Gothic churches, it reached its apex in the 18th century.
- The splendid honey-colored stone buildings from this era make up a city core that UNESCO has designated a World Heritage Site (this is the district that inspired Baron Haussmann when he redesigned Paris at the behest of Napoleon III).
- Trade with the French colonies built this handsome district, furnishing vanilla, sugar, spices and cocoa to inventive chocolatiers and bakers, who used these goods to create iconic desserts.
- Chocolate, once a Spanish monopoly, became part of Bordeaux’ culinary heritage when banished Spanish Jews brought the art of chocolate-making to France.
- What are Bordeaux’ present-day residents enjoying when they step inside the luxurious food halls and elegant shops in this neighborhood?
- Find out as you sample the delicious handiwork of Bordeaux’ bakers, as well as cheeses and chocolates—learn a few recipes, too!

Bordeaux, France



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Bordeaux, France



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Day 7 RETRO SIDECAR ROMANTIC TOUR (\$282 PER PERSON)

- Watch the city come alive at night with a sidecar tour of brilliant Bordeaux.
- Wind through backstreets, lit-up avenues and, of course, the most iconic sites of Bordeaux, like the Grosse Cloche, Place de la Bourse and Saint Michael Basilica.
- Feel the city's festive energy as you zip through town on this vintage masterpiece before stopping for a photo, a sip of champagne and even a romantic moment with your sweetheart.
- Truly a night to remember!

Day 7 RETRO SIDECAR BORDEAUX TOUR (\$ 199 PER PERSON EXTRA CHARGE)

- Get ready to explore a medley of what's best in Bordeaux!
- Your gentleman driver will take you on a journey to the unmissable places of the city: Grosse Cloche, Place de la Bourse, the Darwin district, Basilique Saint-Michel, and any requested stops you'd like to make as well.
- This truly unique and exciting experience will take you well into the night with a local who knows all the histories, folklore, and of course, best spots for a photo-op.
- Quel charm!

Day 8

- Disembark the ship.
- If your cruise package includes a group departure transfer or if you have purchased a private departure transfer, you will be transferred to Bordeaux-Mérignac International Airport for your flight home.

PARIS POST-CRUISE EXTENSION

- No visit to France would be complete without seeing the city that is widely regarded as the most beautiful in the world—Paris.
- Nothing compares to the charm of its neighborhoods, the grandeur of its awe-inspiring architecture and monuments, or the cosmopolitan elegance of its boulevards.
- Delve into the delights this magnificent city has to offer, from the Eiffel Tower and the Champs-Élysées to the quaint neighborhood cafés beloved by locals.
- 2 nights at the Hôtel du Louvre (or similar)
- Breakfast daily and all service charges, taxes and portorage
- Opera Garnier Discovery Walk (or similar)
- English-speaking expert
- All transfers

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