

7 Night Bordeaux River Cruise



Visit Château de Cazeneuve, once home of the Kings of Navarre and later King Henri IV of France and his wife Queen Margot. Here, you will sit down to dinner in the Grand Salon while you are entertained by a Baroque band.

See how wooden wine barrels are made during a visit to one of the few remaining family-owned cooperages, before a wine tasting with your very own oenologist

KEY

FREEDOM OF CHOICE™

CYCLING EXPERIENCE

(B) Breakfast (L) Lunch (D) Dinner

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

| DAY | DESTINATION |
|-----|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Bordeaux |
| 2 | Bordeaux, Cadillac |
| 3 | Pauillac |
| 4 | Blaye, Bourg |
| 5 | Bourg, Libourne, Saint-Émilion |
| 6 | Libourne, Bordeaux |
| 7 | Bordeaux |
| 8 | Bordeaux |

Day 1. Arrive Bordeaux, Embark Ship.

Upon arrival into Bordeaux, transfer to your river ship. After settling in, meet your guides, and get fitted for your bike before a briefing on the upcoming daily rides. This evening, delight in a Welcome Reception.

Seven Night Stay: one of APT's luxurious Aria river ships.

Day 2. Bordeaux, Cadillac.

Disembark your ship and cycle along the Roger Lapebie cycle path and continue to Entre Deux Mers by a winding valley route. Pass through the 13th century bastide town of Creon, then reach La Sauve to visit the ruined Abbey and the historic 12th-century site of Maison du Vin in the old Tithe Barn. Continue riding to Dardenac, and perhaps stop for a coffee break, before turning south to head back to the Garonne, passing through Saint-Leon, as well as the beautiful Château Vermont, whose spectacular vineyard produces some of France's finest red wine, including the first vintage of Entre-Deux-Mers in 1874. Upon reaching Cadillac, re-board your ship (**Duration: 3 hours, Intensity: medium, a few slopes; Trail length: 56 kilometres**). Non-cycling options include a sailing morning, followed by an afternoon tour of Cadillac

and Saint-Macaire, or visit Sauternes and try their dessert wine.

BLD

Day 3. Pauillac.

Enjoy a relaxing morning on board, then take a ride from Pauillac to Saint Vivienne-de-Medoc, passing vineyards and quaint villages along the way. After a coffee break, or even a cheese tasting, head towards the Garonne following its banks back to Pauillac. Perhaps visit Château Laffite Rothschild, Château d'Armailhac or Château Pontet-Canet for some wine tastings before riding back to the ship (**Duration: 4-5 hours, Intensity: easy, slight gradient; Trail length: 86 kilometres**).



BLD

Day 4. Blaye, Bourg.



Awake to stunning landscapes as you continue along the Dordogne River. Step ashore to discover the town of Blaye with a walk around the 17th-century citadel. Overlooking the Gironde, this impressive

structure was built by order of Louis XIV, King of France, to prevent enemies from sailing to Bordeaux. In the afternoon, you may like to travel to Cognac for a tour through this rural town. Stop at Château de Cognac, a French cognac house founded in 1795, for a tour of the storehouses, as well as a tasting. Alternatively, sail to the beautiful town of Bourg and take a walking tour to discover the delightful town centre, medieval ramparts and picturesque harbour. Both groups return to the ship now docked in Bourg. Later, savour the freshest gourmet local produce as you dine on board. BLD

Day 5. Bourg, Libourne, Saint-Émilion.

  Today's ride flows along the Dordogne River from Bourg to Libourne. Head east, then cross to the west bank of the Dordogne at Saint Vincent de Paul. From here, follow uninhabited roads through lush farmland, and eventually arrive at the medieval castle of Château de Vayres, for a stop to wander its magnificent landscape gardens. A short ride to Libourne completes your journey (**Duration: 2-3 hours, Intensity: medium, a few slopes; Trail length: 45 kilometres**). Otherwise, alight in Libourne and travel to Saint-Émilion for a tour. After lunch, head beneath the streets to explore the underground cellars of Les Cordeliers, where exclusive sparkling wines have been made and aged in this 14th-century cloister since 1892. Finish with a glass of the famous sparkling wine and a fine selection of Saint-Émilion's renowned macarons. BLD

Day 6. Libourne, Bordeaux.

  Cycle along the Dordogne's wonderful meandering banks, stopping at charming towns such as Castillon la Bataille on your way to Saint Foy-La-Grande. Here, take a short break at one of the many riverside terrace cafés, before following the Route des Vins into the vineyards of Bergerac, famous for its dessert wine. Our ride back to Libourne takes you via Montcaret (**Duration: 5 hours, Intensity: medium, a few slopes; Trail length: 104 kilometres**). Alternatively, join a guide for a tour of Bergerac to discover the wonderfully restored Old Town. Another option is a guided tour through Libourne to visit a caviar estate for a tasting. Tonight, enjoy the Captain's Farewell Dinner as you cruise towards Bordeaux. BLD

Day 7. Bordeaux.

At the heart of the most extensive wine producing region in France lies the city of Bordeaux. Considered the region's cultural gem, much of the city is now World Heritage-listed. In recent years, however, numerous historic sites have been revitalised with modern concepts. The best example of this is the stunning Miroir d'eau (water mirror) that you will be able to see outside the Place de la Bourse as part of your city tour. Other highlights include the tower of Pey-Berland and the Pont de Pierre (stone bridge). BLD

Day 8. Disembark Ship, Depart Bordeaux.

Be transferred to the airport. B



Discover France's quintessential culture during your cycling adventures

2017 DATES & PRICES (A\$) PER PERSON

| 8 DAYS BORDEAUX RETURN (EUBC08C) | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| River Ship | Twin Share | | | | | | | | Solo Trav. |
| | Twin Window Suites | | Panoramic Balcony Suites | | | | | Twin Window Suite | |
| Aria | E | D | C | B | B+ | A | A+ | Owner's | E |
| July 6. | \$6,995 | \$7,595 | \$9,995 | \$10,195 | \$10,295 | \$10,495 | \$10,895 | \$11,595 | \$9,595 |
| Sept. 28. | \$7,095 | \$7,695 | \$10,095 | \$10,295 | \$10,395 | \$10,595 | \$10,995 | \$11,695 | \$9,745 |

PLEASE NOTE: Prices include port charges, gratuities and sundries. Solo traveller price based on Cat. E Twin Window Suite, please enquire for solo suite upgrade prices. See page 108 for deck and suite plans. The cycling itineraries shown above are to be used as a guide only and may be substituted with an alternative ride. The waterways in the Bordeaux region are part of a tidal river system which results in changing water levels and nautical schedules. Disruptions to cruising and itinerary may occur. *For further information as well as all terms and conditions, see pages 112-113.

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