

BORDEAUX WINE 5MIN HISTORY

The history of the Bordeaux wine region dates back to ancient Roman times. **It was the Romans who first planted and cultivated vineyards to produce wine in about 60 BC**, and referred to the area as Burdigala.

In 1152, Eleanor of Aquitaine (The Duke's daughter) married Henry Plantagenet, the future King Henry II of England. Bordelais wine was served at the royal wedding and thus began the everlasting love affair between England and Bordeaux.

To reduce costs, Dutch merchants started burning sulphur in barrels to preserve their cheaper wines. By the 1600s, Dutch engineers had drained all of the marshes and swamps, allowing for quicker transport of their wine, creating much more land for vines.

Bordeaux winemaking estates were confiscated from nobles and the Church during the French Revolution in 1789. To get around the Napoleonic Law that was reducing the size of vineyards elsewhere in France, the new owners came up with a shareholding system for their estates which, in agriculture, is still in use today.

In 1855, the official classification of Bordeaux wines was established to give an indication of their value and quality for buyers. Depending on its prestige, each of the highly-rated red wines from the Medoc and Graves regions and sweet whites from Sauternes fell into a specific category. The classification proved to be an instant international success that led to an unparalleled increase in demand.

"A phylloxera epidemic hit in the late 1800s which almost ruined the entirety of Bordeaux's vineyards. It was due to the grafting of American rootstock that, eventually, the vines were cured."

The early 20th century was mostly positive for Bordeaux wine; the vintages of the 1920s were particularly successful. After the Bordeaux Wine Market crash in 1972, caused by inflated prices, the Bordelais winemakers bounced back with what the critic Robert Parker Jr. called a "sublime" 1982 vintage.

Since the end of the century, Bordeaux's chateaux have gone from strength to strength. Increased interest from Asia and the rest of the world has boosted production to the point where the region now produces, on average, 900 MILLION bottles of wine a year!

DID YOU KNOW?
IT TAKES FROM 500 TO 650 INDIVIDUAL GRAPES TO MAKE ONE BOTTLE OF WINE!

Bordeaux is where the Sauvignon Blanc grape originated! At some point in the 18th century, the vine was paired with Cabernet Franc to parent the Cabernet Sauvignon vine, which is one of the world's most widely recognised red wine grape varieties.

KNOW YOUR BORDEAUX WINE REGIONS



THE RIVER DIVIDE

The region is naturally divided into two sides by the **Garonne River** and the **Gironde Estuary**. On the **Left Bank** you have the **Médoc** and **Graves** appellations, while on the **Right Bank** you have the area surrounding Libourne, **Blaye** and **Bourg**.

LEFT BANK FROM LA GARONNE TO THE ATLANTIC

This area is known for its gravelly soils and graphite-driven red wines with **blends that are dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon grapes**.

MEDOC
GRAVES

Wines from the Médoc are some of the boldest and most tannic of Bordeaux's wines, perfect for ageing over several years, or for matching with red meat.

MARGAUX
PESSAC-LEOGNAN

The Margaux and Pessac-Leognan regions are among the most prestigious sub-regions on the Left Bank, producing very high quality, world-renowned red wines.

LOCAL FACT: These two appellations were included in the very first classification of Bordeaux wines in 1855.

RIGHT BANK FROM THE ESTUARY & LA DORDOGNE

"Le Libournais" region encompasses much of what is referred to as the **Right Bank**.

FRONSAC
POMEROL
ST-EMILION

This area is known for its red clay soils that produce bold plummy red wines. **Wines from the Right Bank are Merlot-dominant blends.**

BOURG
BLAYE

North of the "Libournais" are two of the oldest wine producing regions in Bordeaux, with the first vineyards dating all the way back to the Roman occupation in the 2nd Century!

WHITE WINES FROM THE LEFT BANK TO 'ENTRE-DEUX-MERS'

The largest appellations in Bordeaux that are exclusive to dry white wines made from **Semillon** and **Sauvignon Blanc**.

PREMIERES COTES DE BORDEAUX
ENTRE-DEUX-MERS

"Entre-Deux-Mers" translates to "between two seas", and refers to the **Garonne** and the **Dordogne** rivers that enclose the region.

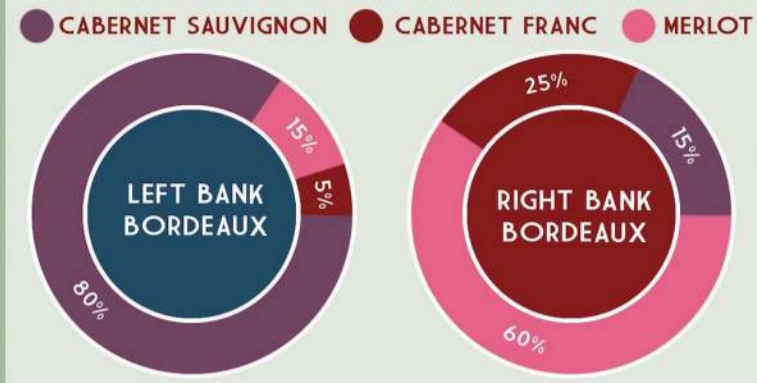
SAUTERNES

Although the village of Sauternes is located on the **Left Bank**, the region is famous for its high quality sweet wines which locals say are the perfect accompaniment to foie gras!
LOCAL FACT: Some wineries here make dry wines, but sell them under other labels to protect the sweet-specific Sauternes appellation.

KNOW YOUR BORDEAUX GRAPE BLENDS

BORDEAUX RED

Is made from blending **Cabernet Sauvignon**, **Cabernet Franc** and **Merlot** together, though the grape proportions and addition of other grape varieties in small amounts—such as **Malbec** or **Petit Verdot**—depends on the location and inclination of each winery.



BORDEAUX WHITE

The grapes of Bordeaux Whites include **Sauvignon Blanc**, **Semillon** and **Muscadelle**. A few other lesser-known varieties are used such as **Colombard** and **Ugni Blanc** (the grape used in Cognac), but most Bordeaux Whites are made using **Semillon** and **Sauvignon Blanc**.

LE MAP



LOCAL CITY GUIDE

FREE

VISITING *The Wine City!*

LE MAP BORDEAUX

FREE MAP & LOCAL CITY GUIDE

PLUS LE M'APP ONLINE!



WITH NEW SPECIAL OFFERS EVERY WEEK



ALSO en Français!
LEMAP-BORDEAUX.COM

CHATEAUX BIKE ROUTES



We've ploughed through vines, fallen off our bikes a few times and braved the crazy local drivers to come up with the best bike route possible through the picturesque vineyards, giving you some beautiful stopping points along the way!

2HR VINEYARD BIKE TRIP
Don't forget to take water, AND KEEP TO THE RIGHT SIDE!



LA TOQUE CUIVREE
164 Ave du Général de Gaulle
Don't miss Bordeaux's best Canelés on your way into Saint Emilion on D670. In case you don't know, canelés are heaven-like pastries, flavoured with rum and vanilla. They have a soft and spongy center covered by a dark, thick caramelised crust. **The Toque Cuivrée keeps the 300 year old Bordeaux tradition alive with their delicious canelés made fresh to eat every single day!**

OPEN EVERY DAY
8AM TO 7PM

CHATEAU SAINT-GEORGES
1 Château St Georges
The estate was sold by Henry IV in 1602 and this chateau, sitting in the centre of its eponymous appellation, has witnessed all the ups and downs of Bordeaux's wine trade ever since. **In the 18th century, the famous French architect Victor Louis designed the magnificent facade that we see today (as well as Le Grand Theatre in Bordeaux).** The appellation is located on the highest hill around Saint-Emilion, which means you have a great view of the medieval village. Visitors can take an excellent tour of this beautiful estate finished by a blind tasting of two of their exquisite wines!

Château Visits • Tastings 8€
APPOINTMENT ONLY

CHATEAU CHAMBRUN & MONCETS
Chemin Roussillon
This gem is just on the other side of the **Barbanne**, which marks the border between the **Saint-Emilion** and **Montagne-Saint-Emilion** appellations. They might not have the shine of a 'Grand Château' or rehearsed tourist visits, but they are 100% authentic and personal. The 'Moncets' team tailors their visits to the demands of each group and fully open the doors of the Château to their guests.
LOCAL TIP: The back garden has tables and chairs, making it a great spot to stop for lunch and a bottle of wine!

Visits • Tastings 5€ • PicNic
M T W T F S S

CHATEAU HAUT-SARPE
Saint-Christophe-des-Bardes
A chateau that seeps with history, having been owned by a Lieutenant General who served under Louis XVI in the 18th century. For around 100 years now, the Janoueix family have handed down the property from father to son. **Today, Françoise and Jean are the proud custodians of this splendid estate.** The Grand Cru Classé label brings them plenty of renown, but the remarkable mansion in the midst of the vines is set among equally stunning views on all sides. **The chateau sits atop a high hill so you have a wonderful perspective of the entire historic countryside!**

Estate Visits • Art & History
M T W T F S S

CHATEAU AMBE TOUR POURRET
Château Ambe Tour Pourret
Not only is this chateau gorgeous, it gives you plenty of reasons to visit: You can tour the estate followed by a tasting of four wines with either 4 cheeses or 4 chocolates!
No reservation needed for English speakers at 10am and 2pm (French speakers can come at 12pm and 4pm).
Cooking classes! Cook and eat local delights and drink wine made here! - Reserve cooking classes online - Brunch! Every first Sunday of the month have an incredible brunch made from fresh local products. The price includes a tour and tasting!

Visits • Tastings 15€ • Cooking
M T W T F S S



DAILY WINE TOURS

RUSTIC VINES TOURS & E-BIKE RENTAL
Rustic Vines is a friendly, professional tour company that specialises in English-speaking daily tours of the region - in small groups!
They have firmly established themselves as No. 1 on Tripadvisor for activities in and around Bordeaux!

E-BIKE TOUR - FULL DAY
DEPARTS FROM BORDEAUX OR ST. EMILION
Cruise around the vineyards in style for a day full of great wine and stunning scenery. Includes 2 Chateaux, an al fresco lunch, tastings at a wine merchant, a village tour and more...

FAMOUS MONK TOUR
DEPARTS FROM BORDEAUX IN MINIVAN
Head to the celebrated region for a day of fun, enjoyment and education on this friendly, action-packed tour. Includes 2 Chateaux, lunch, tastings at wine merchant, the village and so much more!

E-BIKE TOUR - HALF DAY
DEPARTS DIRECTLY FROM ST. EMILION
Enjoy a fun afternoon on the bikes for a great taste of the region among the vines. **Activities include a Chateau visit and tasting, a light picnic and tastings at a wine merchant's cellar.**

BIKE RENTALS
AT THE SHOP IN ST. EMILION
Do it yourself and hire an e-bike for up to 6 hours! Rustic Vines provide you with a suggested route (includes chateau stops) and bottled water. See directly at the shop in St Emilion : Place Bouqueyre

CHECK OUT THEIR BORDEAUX & MEDOC TOURS ONLINE!
BOOK AT RUSTICVINESTOURS.COM

NE PAS JETER SUR LA VOIE PUBLIQUE SVP
PLEASE RECYCLE