

# Beautiful Bordeaux Scenic River Cruises

By

Hank Schrader

Europe River Cruise Expert

# Overview

- Savor the beauty and romance
- *Bordeaux is famous for the incredible wines that are produced throughout its fertile countryside, but these world-class drops are just one reason why you should explore this region.*
- Bordeaux's wine production has been refined to an art and some of the best wines in the world are made right here.
- With a wine region comes extraordinary undulating landscapes, rolling vineyards and lush green vistas, as well as delicious fare prepared with French finesse.
- As you cruise along the Gironde, Dordogne and Garonne rivers, you'll visit Grand Cru Classé wine estates, cycle through picture-book landscapes, learn about the winemaking process, and try your hand at preparing French cuisine in a cooking class.
- Beyond the culinary, the region serves up a wealth of historical landmarks, from elegant châteaux to churches that have been around for longer than most of the new world.
- You'll find that Bordeaux is everything you imagined it to be--beautiful, romantic and a feast for all senses.

# Route Map From Scenic River Cruise



# The Scenic Difference

- In the heart of the Medoc region enjoy an exclusive classical concert in Château d'Agassac
- Enjoy an exclusive show during after hours access at Les Bassins de Lumières
- Take in the sights of the spectacular Arcachon region on the Atlantic coast
- Take the opportunity to visit the fortified town of Cognac including a visit to the estate of Remy Martin, one of the finest producers in the region
- Master French cookery in our exclusive onboard cooking school, Scenic Culinaire
- Tailor your journey with a variety of Scenic Freechoice including Active, Your way excursions, Moments, Masters & Music activities and Interactive Encounters

# Truly All-inclusive Ultra-luxury Cruising

- 5-Star Scenic Space-Ships with up to 149 guests
- Your choice of spacious Standard Suite, or a Balcony Suite with an innovative Scenic Sun Lounge
- 2 Scenic Enrich experiences including afterhours access to Les Bassins de Lumière, the former submarine base converted into a digital art space and a private classical evening concert at the spectacular Château d'Agassac in the Medoc region – Exclusive to Scenic
- Personalise your trip with 24 included Scenic Freechoice activities
- Enjoy a choice of up to five on board dining experiences, from casual to fine dining
- 29 meals – 10 breakfasts (B), 9 lunches (L) and 10 dinners (D)
- Complimentary premium beverages all day, every day\* – not just at mealtimes
- Butler service for every suite

# Truly All-inclusive Ultra-luxury Cruising

- Complimentary full mini-bar restocked daily
- Innovative Salt Therapy Lounge and fitness area
- Scenic Tailormade App for river commentary and independent exploration
- The freedom of our e-bikes – electrically assisted bicycles
- Scenic Cruise Director to guide and assist & expert local guides
- Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout your cruise
- Return airport transfers^
- All tipping and gratuities on board and on shore

# Day 1 - Bordeaux

- Welcome to Bordeaux. Your friendly crew are ready to receive you on board the luxurious Scenic Diamond.
- The moniker 'Sleeping Beauty' or La Belle Endormie was given to Bordeaux when industry was moved to the outskirts and the city was all but abandoned.
- The quiet waterfront was a vestige of a once bustling port, shops were empty-- it was a once beautiful city that lay dormant.
- In the late 20th century, the city was woken and restored to its former glory, a project headed by former mayor Alain Juppe.
- The city center was pedestrianized, limestone was revealed under blackened facades, and Bordeaux was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site with more than 300 structures declared historical monuments.
- It's now one of the most desirable places in France to live and visit, with its waterfront rich in architecture and bustling with locals and visitors promenading, sipping coffee or wine from the surrounding renowned vineyards, a landscape that's also dotted with beautiful castles.
- **Meals Included:** Dinner



## Day 2 - Bordeaux > Saint-Émilion

- This morning is spent on board relaxing as you cruise into the beautiful 13th century port of Libourne.
- Head up to the Sun Deck to bask in the sunshine and enjoy the scenery along the Dordogne River rolling by. Download the Scenic Tailormade App to listen to river commentary and gain insight to the villages and sites you're passing.
- Or perhaps drop into Scenic Culinaire for a French cooking class.
- Spend the afternoon in the nearby town of Saint-Émilion, a World Heritage-listed medieval village with world-famous wineries, beautiful architecture and historic monuments.
- It's also the birthplace of macarons. The town bears the name of a monk who is said to have performed miracles, such as restoring a local woman's sight, and lived in a natural grotto here in the 8th century.
- You will enjoy a guided tour of the caves and catacombs beneath the city, including a Monolithic church built from limestone, whose 38-metre-long bell tower can be seen above ground.
- This evening your Scenic Space-Ship will be docked overnight in Libourne, a 13th-century city located at the confluence of the Dordogne and Isle rivers.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



# Saint Emilion

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## Day 3 - Libourne > Fort Medoc

- This morning, why not ask your personal butler to wake you with a coffee delivered to your suite?
- Then enjoy a leisurely breakfast at Crystal Dining.
- You will have a choice of 4 excursions today.
- This afternoon your Scenic Space-Ship will sail onwards to Fort Medoc where you will dock overnight.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

# Day 3 Shore Excursions

- Walking tour of Libourne: Join your local guide for a walking tour of Libourne, the fortified harbor town with a rich history linked to the trade of wool, wine, salt and wood.
- As you stroll through the town, you'll see the quaint 16th-century town-house and Gothic church that boasts a 71-metre stone spire.

Wine tasting at Château Siaurac: Located in the prestigious Pomerol wine-growing region, Château Siaurac is the largest and most iconic estate of the appellation.

- With a long history in winegrowing, the estate produces award-winning wines, which you will have the opportunity to taste.
- You will also explore the immaculate property, which is home to a 19th-century château and 15 hectares of rolling parklands, resplendent with century-old trees and landscaped woods.

Biking and tasting at Château Siaurac: Cycle through this acclaimed wine-growing region to the impressive estate of Château Siaurac where you will learn about the wines produced at this property and enjoy a tasting.

Paint and Pour: Join a local artist for a class on the Sun Deck of Scenic Diamond.

- Enjoy the magnificent river views, learn watercolor techniques and create your own masterpiece while sipping on delicious local wines.



# Watch Tower of the old Fortified Walled city of Libourne





# Day 4 - Fort Medoc

- The name Médoc is synonymous with exceptional wines.
- Considered the world's leading red wine producer, Médoc has been a winemaking region since the 18th century.
- Today you will have the chance to explore this remarkable wine region with 2 excursions.
- Medoc wine tasting by coach: With more than 16,000 hectares of vineyards across eight appellations, Medoc is home to the epic 'Route des Chateaux', which translates to the 'Route of Castles' and winds through undulating countryside from Bordeaux to the Pointe de Grave.
- On this coach tour you will travel through this scenic region to a prestigious winery and enjoy a tasting of their wines.

Medoc wine tasting by bicycle: Discover the spectacular Médoc countryside by e-bike today and see many grand aristocratic châteaux in the world's leading red wine producing region.

- Afterwards, sample the region's finest at one of the prestigious estates.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

# Day 4 Scenic Enrich

- **Enrich**

- Tonight, enjoy an exclusive Scenic Enrich experience:

Classical Concert at Chateau d'Agassac: Set in spectacular surrounds in the Médoc countryside, Château d'Agassac is truly enchanting.

- Dating back to the 13th century the Château is one of the oldest winemaking establishments in the region and is the venue for your unforgettable evening concert.
- Wander through the château and its gardens and soak in the ambiance of this magnificent property before a string quartet performs classical masterpieces for your enjoyment.

# Day 5 - Cadillac

- This morning will be spent cruising towards Cadillac.
- Perhaps you'd like to spend time in the state-of-the-art gym for an invigorating workout or if you'd prefer to wind down, head to the wellness center for a relaxing massage (extra cost).
- Founded in the 13th century, the charming, fortified city of Cadillac is centered around its magnificent château.
- It has a unique connection to the United States and, ultimately, the car that shares its name.
- Seventeenth century French explorer Anthony Laumet was born in a nearby village but reinvented himself as Antoine de la Mothe, sieur de Cadillac (sire of Cadillac).
- He rose high in the French fur trade and in 1701 established the port of Fort Pontchartrain du Détroit, which would become modern day Detroit where the American auto industry began.
- The Cadillac car is named in his honor.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

# Day 6 – Cadillac Morning Excursions

- Today you have the choice between many different experiences in the region surrounding Cadillac, from its bucolic countryside to its historic castles.
- This morning explore your way with one of these 2 Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Sauternes by coach: Venture into the Sauternes region with a visit to either Château Rayne Vigneau or Château La Tour Blanche (the group will be split into two).

- Enjoy a delicious tasting of the chateau's fine wines as you take in the stunning views of the vineyard and surrounds.

Sauternes by bike: Cycle through the rolling vineyards of Sauternes to the Grand Cru Classé estate of Château La Tour Blanche for a tasting.

- Learn the history of winemaking here and the process involved in production from time of harvest, grape to wine, length of maturing and, of course, the tasting pleasure.

# Day 6 – Cadillac Afternoon Excursions

- Roquetaillade Castle: The first fortress here was built by Charlemagne, or Charles the Great, in the 10th century.
- Today, the architectural jewel of Roquetaillade Castle, which comprises two castles and a chapel, dates from around the 13th century.
- You'll tour the castle with the family whose ancestors have resided here for more than 700 years.

Biking to Château Benauges: Join a local guide as you cycle through the landscapes of the Gironde towards the impressive Château Benauges.

- The Château, which dates to the 11th century, maintains a strategic position at one of the highest points of the Gironde allowing for breathtaking views.

Château Toulouse-Lautrec: This historic estate dates back over five centuries and is considered one of the oldest estates in the region.

- Château Toulouse-Lautrec was the family home of renowned French artist Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec.
- During a guided tour you will discover the historic rooms of the estate including the apartments of the famous painter, which still house some of his greatest works.

Truffle Farm: Visit one of the most renowned truffle producers of the Aquitaine region to learn about and taste this revered delicacy.

- The farm you will visit today supplies truffles to some of the greatest chefs in the world.
- Meet the truffle hunter and his specially trained dog and gain an understanding of how these truffles are found.
- While in the region you'll also enjoy an orientation tour of the small town of St. Croix du Mont.



# Roquetaille Castle



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# Good View of the Keep (big tower) Roquetaillade Castle



Photo Hank Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Another View of Roquetaillade Castle



Photo Hank Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Back Entrance Drawbridge



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# Another View of the back Moat Entrance



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# Main Castle Entrance



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# Another View of the Main Entrance



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# Day 7 - Bordeaux

- This morning you will wake in the fascinating city of Bordeaux, which you can explore by foot, bike or through a cooking class.
- The city of Bordeaux was founded by the Celts around 300BC and became part of Julius Caesar's Roman Empire in the 1st century.
- It has been an important trading port since the Middle Ages, thanks to its strategic location on the river flowing to a seaport, and even acted as the seat of French government at the start of both the First and Second world wars.
- Back on board, your Cruise Director will organise a special treat for you, with a tasting of fresh Oysters delivered straight from the waters of Arcachon Bay.

# Day 7 Excursions

- Guided tour of Bordeaux: Join your local guide on a tour of Bordeaux. Discover the highlights of the city by coach and on foot, such as the magnificent Gothic cathedral and Place de la Bourse, which is home to the famous 'Water Mirror.'
- Along the way, you'll learn interesting facts about the city's history, culture and way of life.
- Afterwards you'll have free time to explore the streets and go shopping at your leisure.

Cycling tour of Bordeaux: Pedal through historic Bordeaux on a guided cycling tour.

- Cross bridges to see the Royal Gate and the Palais Rohan, relax in pretty public gardens and sample delicious treats such as canelé, a custard cake.

Shop with a chef & Scenic Culinaire: Gourmands can join Scenic's on board chef on a visit to a local food market where you will have an opportunity to shop for and taste the best ingredients this region has to offer.

- Upon returning to your Scenic Space-Ship, head to the Scenic Culinaire cooking school for an interactive cooking demonstration making some of France's most popular and delicious dishes using the ingredients you have just bought.



# Bordeaux, France



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# Bordeaux, France



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# Enrich

- This evening's Scenic Enrich:

Les Bassins de Lumiere: You will be given after-hours access to Les Bassins de Lumière this evening, Bordeaux's former submarine base which has been transformed into an impressive art installation.

- On arrival, you will be welcomed with a glass of champagne and be immersed in the exhibit with an exclusive show.

## Day 8 - Bordeaux

- Today you'll continue your exploration of Bordeaux and its surrounding regions
- This afternoon you'll enjoy time at leisure on board as you sail towards Bourg.
- You may want to relax in your suite, many of which have a window that converts into a Scenic Sun Lounge, allowing you uninterrupted views to watch a rolling tapestry of river life as you cruise the Gironde.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## Day 9 - Bourg

- Your luxury Scenic Space-Ship will be docked in Bourg today, a picturesque town set on a rocky promontory.
- Built as a defensive château, it's a maze of ancient alleyways, moats and bell towers on the Dordogne.
- This quiet village sits among many famous World Heritage-listed sites and, though it is just as charming, remains largely undiscovered by the masses.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



# Day 9 Excursions

- Bourg tour with carriages Museum: Situated inside the grounds of Bourg Castle, visit the carriages Museum with a local guide and discover the unique collection of horse-drawn carriages on display.
- In addition, visit the 16th-century passageway to the guard's rooms and immense WWII oil tanks.

Full day excursion to Cognac: The fortified city of Cognac is renowned for producing some of the world's finest brandy.

- You'll be taken on a walking tour of the town and have some free time to explore on your own, followed by lunch at a local restaurant.
- After lunch, you will travel to the breathtaking estate of famed Rémy Martin, which you will tour before sampling some of the cognacs.

## Day 10 - Blaye > Bordeaux

- This morning your luxury Scenic Space-Ship will sail towards Blaye, a small town with a rich military history and surrounded by vineyards known for red wine production.
- Most famously, this petite hamlet is home to a World Heritage-listed citadel that was constructed to protect the city of Bordeaux, 50 kilometers upstream, from enemy attacks.
- In the morning, you have 4 choices for excursions.
- This afternoon your Scenic Space-Ship will make its way back to Bordeaux for your final evening on board.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



## Day 10 Excursions 1 & 2

- Walking tour of Blaye: Stroll through the charming city of Blaye with a local guide.
- Contained within the walls of the 17th-century Citadel of Blaye, a World Heritage-listed monument that overlooks the Gironde Estuary, you will see its defensive system.

Active walking tour of Blaye: Tour the fascinating World Heritage-listed Citadel of Blaye on an active walking tour with a local guide.

- Gain an understanding of the defense system created by the famous architect Sébastien Vauban.

# Blaye Citadel

Photo Hank Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)





# Diagram of the Fortifications



Photo Hank Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Day 10 Excursions 3 & 4

- Guided cycling along the Captain's Road: Join an active cycling tour along the Captain's Road, which is named in honor of the WWI captains who chose to purchase their homes along this beautiful stretch of waterway in the early 20th century.
- Cycle through beautiful riverside villages before returning to the ship.

Visit Chateau de la Roche Courbon: In the 15th century Château La Roche Courbon was built on a high cliff overlooking the River Bruant.

- The fortified castle was transformed into a grand residence in the 17th century.
- Guests will discover this historic château and its sprawling manicured gardens during a guided visit.
- Prehistoric caves have also been found in the thousand-year-old forest surrounding the property.

# Day 11 - Bordeaux

- Disembark after breakfast and transfer to Bordeaux airport or train station for your onward journey.
- Please note: The Gironde, Dordogne and Garonne waterways are part of a tidal river system which results in changing water levels in the region.
- Every effort is made to keep to the brochure itinerary however based on tides it will be amended or modified. Please refer to our terms and conditions.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast

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- [hschrader@visitdd.com](mailto:hschrader@visitdd.com)
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