

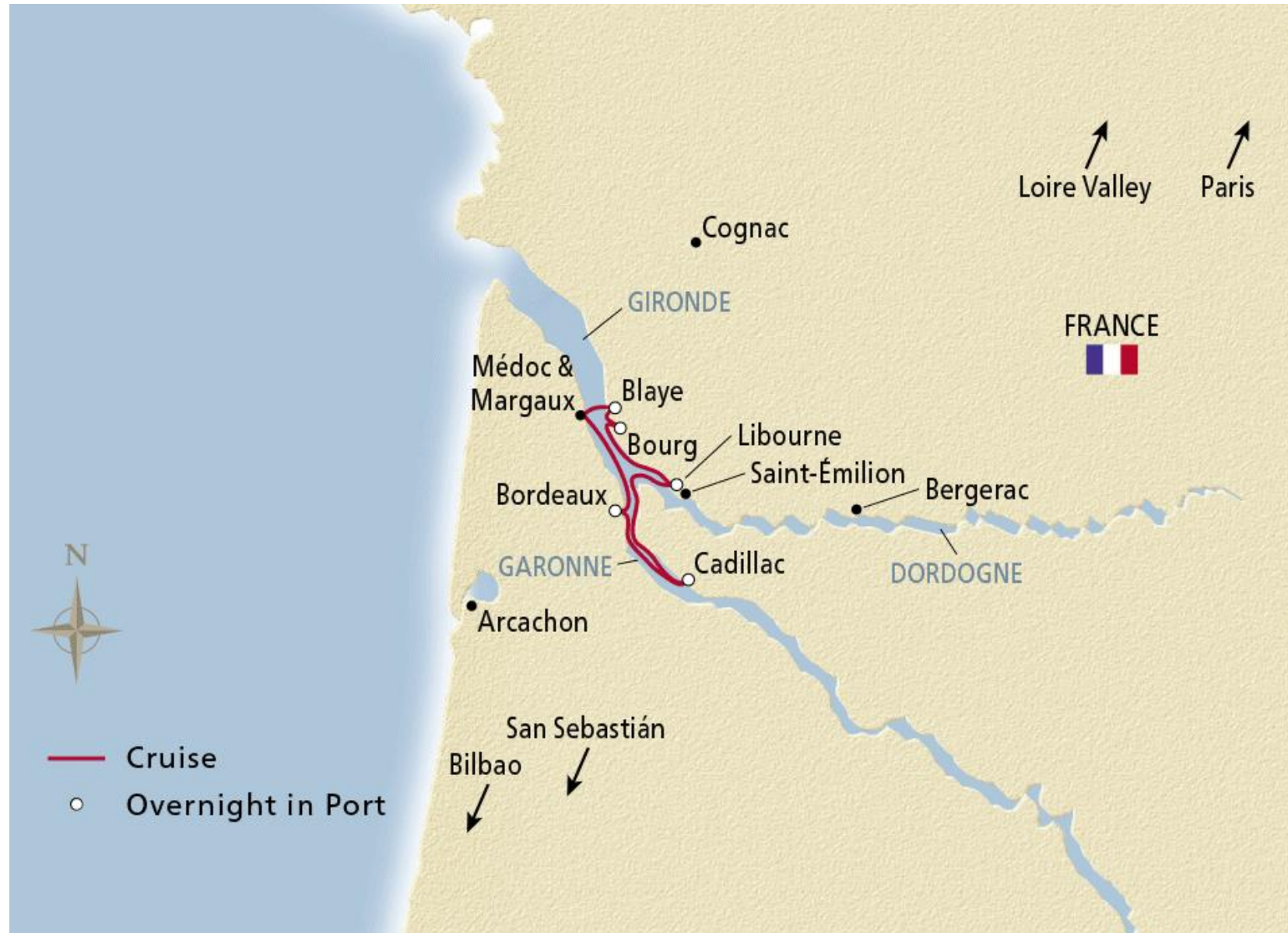
# Châteaux, Rivers & Wine Viking River Cruises

By

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# Map from Viking River Cruises



# Overview

- Discover the ports, vineyards, farms and forests of Aquitaine, once Europe's richest kingdom.
- See Bordeaux's fountains and cellars. Hunt for truffles in Périgord, and create your own personal blend of Cognac at the Camus distillery.
- Savor France's finest oysters fresh from the bay at Arcachon.
- Sip Saint-Émilion, Médoc and Sauternes in their own "*terroir*" on an 8-day cruise through Bordeaux—a region synonymous with fine wine and finer living.

# Day 1 Bordeaux

- Fly to Bordeaux. We meet you at the airport and take you to your ship.\*
- The rest of the day is yours to relax or explore Bordeaux on your own. Second only to Paris in French historic monuments,
- Bordeaux's thoughtfully preserved 18th-century urban areas make it a desirable film location, and its graceful port on the Garonne River is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- While its monuments are beautiful during the day, they are stunning at night. (D)

# Day 2 Bordeaux

- Tour the city center this morning and see some of Bordeaux's highlights, including the Place des Quinconces, one of the largest squares in Europe; the neoclassical Grand Théâtre de Bordeaux; and several spectacular churches.
- Afterward, enjoy free time to explore the city's vibrant pedestrian area.
- Later this afternoon, we sail upstream along the Garonne River to Cadillac, a small town with a towering castle that gave its name to the American car brand.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 2 Shore Excursions

- Panoramic Bordeaux—included--Tour the capital of the namesake wine-growing region that, save Paris, boasts more protected buildings than any other French city
- Bassins des Lumières: Sound & Light Show--Immerse yourself in a multimedia art installation featuring the works of Salvador Dalí and Antoni Gaudí.
- Bordeaux by E-Bike--Admire the historic sites of Bordeaux during a panoramic pedal by e-bike around this vibrant port's city center.



# Bordeaux, France



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## Day 3 Cadillac (Sauternes), France

- Begin your day with a walking tour of Cadillac and then head across the river for your excursion to Sauternes.
- View picturesque landscapes where vineyards blanket the countryside hills and visit a château to learn how their prized wines are made.
- Enjoy a tasting before returning to your ship. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 3 Shore Excursions

- Cadillac Walking Tour—included--Discover the charming town of Cadillac and sample some of France's sweetest wines in the town that produces them.

# Cadillac



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# Chateau de Cadillac

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





## Day 4 Libourne, France

- Disembark this morning for a leisurely stroll to Libourne's picturesque city square, lined with buildings dating as far back as the 16th century;
- or take part in one of two optional excursions: an exploration of the Bergerac area in the Dordogne to learn more about truffles, a great French delicacy;
- or a wine tasting, at a nearby château, of some local vintages from the Saint-Émilion and Pomerol appellations.
- Later this afternoon, take a tour to Saint-Émilion, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where you see the town's superb medieval lanes and delightful views of the surrounding vineyards from the upper town. Spend a pleasant afternoon exploring the town's streets and shops.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 4 Shore Excursions

- Libourne Walking Tour—included--Get to know this fascinating town where the Dordogne and Isle Rivers meet.
- Saint-Émilion Walking Tour—included--Saint-Émilion is one of Aquitaine's must-see wine-growing towns, an open-air museum where it is easy to feel as though you have stepped back in time.
- The World of Truffles: Hunting & Tasting-- Learn the art of truffle hunting from a local farmer and his hound and take a stroll around Saint-Émilion.
- Historic Saint-Émilion Chateau Vineyard Visit-- Discover the UNESCO World Heritage listed Saint-Émilion region and enjoy a three-course lunch with wine tasting.

# Saint Emilion

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## Day 5 Bourg & Blaye, France

- Enjoy a leisurely morning in Bourg as you take a stroll through the historic village.
- Or, you may choose to take an optional excursion to the charming medieval town of Cognac, birthplace of one of the world's best-known types of brandy. Here, you take a tour of the Camus family business, one of the most tradition-steeped Cognac houses in the area and try your hand at blending.
- During lunch, your ship sets sail for Blaye.
- This afternoon, take a guided tour of the extraordinary 17th-century citadel, dramatically set on a rock beside the river. The citadel of Blaye, its city walls and two other forts are collectively listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



# Day 5 Shore Excursions

- Blaye Walking Tour & Citadel—included--Explore Blaye's scenic citadel complex, a grand fortress built on the orders of Louis XIV.
- A Taste of Cognac: Camus—privileged access-- Walk through the historic town of Blaye and learn the history of Cognac during a Privileged Access visit to a distillery.
- Bourg & Gironde by E-Bike-- Cycle through the scenic landscape of southwestern France's wine country on a panoramic tour by e-bike.

# Blaye Citadel

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



# Outside Walls

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# More Outside Walls

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# Day 6 Medoc & Margaux Wine Country

- Cussac-Fort-Médoc is a gateway to the Médoc wine country, home to the famed wine growing villages of Pauillac, Margaux, Saint-Estèphe and Saint-Julien.
- Collectively, they produce some of the world's most prestigious wines with four of the five *Premier cru classé* hailing from the Médoc region; Château Margaux, Château Lafite Rothschild, Château Latour and Château Mouton Rothschild.
- In addition, there are 60 Grand cru classé vineyards and many more incredible wineries, each offering insight into their rich winemaking heritage that has been passed on for generations.

# Day 6 Shore Excursions

- Médoc & Margaux Wine Country--included--Sample some of France's best wines in the Margaux appellation and savor dinner at the elegant Château Kirwan.
- Blaye: A Local Perspective--Discover the hidden treasures of Blaye and pause at places of interest along the town's oldest commercial street.



# Day 7 Bordeaux

- Enjoy a final morning of cruising as we make our way back to Bordeaux.
- You have the afternoon at leisure, giving you more time to appreciate the well-preserved architecture of Jacques Ange Gabriel and son, and to taste the city's cuisine and wine appellations.
- Perhaps pick up a few bottles to take home with you.
- Alternatively, you may choose from a number of optional excursions.
- Take a full-day tour to Arcachon, a commune on the Atlantic coast.
- Enjoy a boat ride along the estuary to Cap Ferret, and taste the oysters, a local delicacy.
- Perhaps learn how wine barrels are made and enjoy the vintage aged within them on an insightful excursion.
- Or participate in a market visit with the Viking Chef to see where the local chefs of Bordeaux find their fruit, vegetables, meats and fish.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 7 Shore Excursions (All Extra Cost)

- Arcachon: A Day on the Bay--Travel to the elegant resort town of Arcachon to experience the daily life of an oyster farmer.
- Maison Bourgeois Visit--Admire the beauty of a classic *maison bourgeois*, or “elegant home,” while sharing a glass of wine with its owners.
- Bordeaux Wine & Barrels--Learn how wine barrels are made and enjoy the vintage in which they are aged on this insightful excursion.
- Wines of Bordeaux Master Class--Taste a selection of wines from the famed Bordeaux region during a visit to the Wine and Trade Museum.
- Le Marché des Capucins--Accompany our onboard chef on a shopping excursion, experiencing France’s unique market culture for yourself.

# Day 8

- After a final onboard breakfast, disembark and we take you to the airport for your flight home.\*
- Or extend your journey with three nights in Paris. (Breakfast)



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