

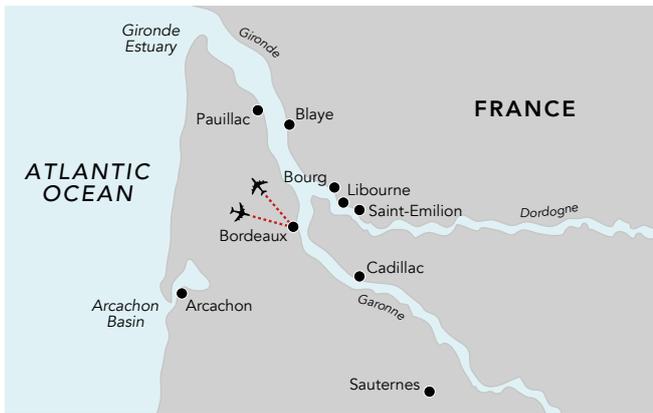
# SPLENDOURS OF BORDEAUX & AQUITAINE

A sumptuous wine tasting cruise along the Garonne & Gironde Rivers,  
from the grand city of Bordeaux to the Arcachon Basin  
aboard the MS Cyrano de Bergerac  
With Guest Speaker David Hunter

23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
£200  
PER PERSON

NOBLE CALEDONIA



Join us as we sail through charming scenery on a relaxing cruise through the region of France famous for its 'Art de Vivre'. Our weeklong trip combines the glories of the French landscape with the famous wine region of Bordeaux which produces the world's highest concentration of fine wines.

The success of wine production in the Bordeaux area is attributed to its proximity to sea and rivers which give it a moderate climate with a low risk of severe frosts. While the majority of attention is focused on the top Bordeaux wines, 1855 Classified Growths and the best wines from the prestigious Right Bank appellations, there are 54 different Bordeaux appellations in total with a combined acreage of more than 296,596 acres. Throughout the entire Bordeaux region, close to 450 million bottles of wine are produced in most years. At its heart, sitting alongside the Garonne River, the city of Bordeaux is surrounded in nearly all directions by its world-famous vineyards.

We have timed our river cruise through this picturesque region during the late summer when temperatures are warm and tourist sites less crowded. There will be a variety of wine tasting opportunities during our cruise including Château Lanessan and Château Gruaud-Larose (Haut Medoc), Château de la Dauphine (Fronsac) and Château Myrat (Sauternes). There are also opportunities for further wine tasting at the historic Château Pape Clément and the beautiful Château Carbonnieux. Other highlights include the remarkable Citadel at Blaye, the Basin d'Arcachon, the charming city of Bordeaux and the Great Dune of Pilat, the highest sand dune in Europe.

## Guest Speaker – David Hunter



David went to Germany in 1968 for three months' work experience abroad in the wine cellars of H Sichel Sohn, and ended up staying with the company for 25 years. After finishing his apprenticeship at Maison Sichel Bordeaux, he returned to London where he later became the company's purchasing director. This involved frequent trips to both Germany and to key wine producing regions in France, focusing in particular on Bordeaux,

Burgundy and the Rhône where on the commercial side he purchased wines both in bulk and in bottle for the Sichel portfolio. This also included buying classed growth clarets "en primeur" or "futures". Latterly this also involved visits to Oporto and Jerez. David has just retired from the Wine and Spirit Education Trust after 20 years of service. A holder of the Diploma qualification, David has lectured regularly in his specialist subjects of Bordeaux, France in general and Germany as well as fortified wines.



Château de Roquetaillade



The Great Dune of Pilat



Vineyards of Saint-Emilion



Palais de la Bourse, Bordeaux

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Bordeaux, France.** Fly by scheduled flight or travel by train from London St Pancras via Paris. On arrival transfer to the MS Cyrano de Bergerac and embark. This evening meet your fellow travellers for the welcome drink and dinner on board.

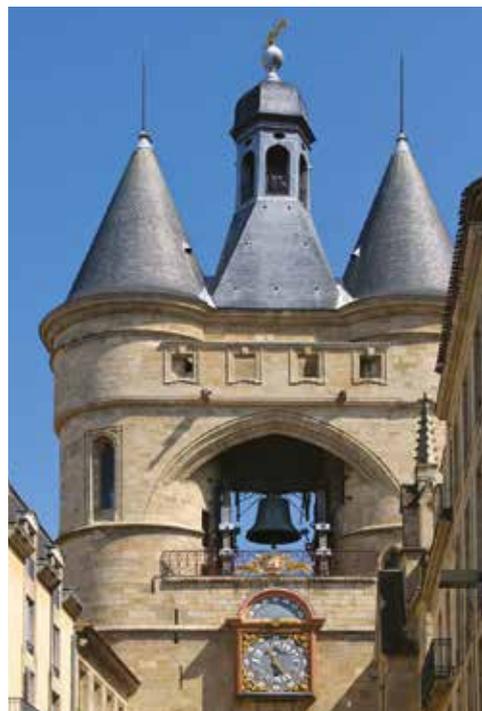
**Day 2 Bordeaux to Pauillac.** Enjoy a leisurely morning on board as we cruise along the Garonne and Gironde Rivers, arriving into the small town of Pauillac this afternoon. Pauillac is possibly the most famous of all the Bordeaux wine producing appellations with a total of 115 different chateaux producing wine. Pauillac wines are rich, full bodied and tannic. After lunch on board, there will be a choice of two fabulous wine estates to visit. The first choice is Château Lanessan, an estate which dates from 1793 and houses a famous cellar and a sophisticated horse museum with superb stables and a collection of horse-drawn carriages dating back to the "Belle Epoque". Alternatively visit Château Gruaud-Larose, an estate with a long history in the St Julien appellation dating back to the days when the property was first owned by a knight known as Joseph Stanislas Gruaud. Today the Château produces an average of 18,000 cases of wine each year, offering a powerful Bordeaux wine in a traditional style. Each visit will include the estate's cellars, followed by a wine tasting. The excursion to Château Lanessan also includes a visit to the Horse Museum. Afterwards we travel along the Route des Châteaux (Mouton-Rothschild, Lafite-Rothschild, Cos d'Estournel, Saint Estephe) with several photo opportunities en-route of these magnificent châteaux. Return to the ship in Pauillac and enjoy dinner on board this evening and an overnight mooring.

**Day 3 Pauillac to Gironde Estuary & Blaye.** We set sail early this morning, cruising along the Gironde to the estuary. After lunch on board we will arrive in Blaye. The wine appellations in the Blaye area cover a total of 6000 hectares, with no fewer than 700 winegrowers. Red Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux are mainly Merlot based, deep-coloured wines with fruity aromas. Sauvignon Blanc, the star grape variety in White Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux wines, has lovely citrus acidity, and a long after taste. We will set off on our excursion along the Corniche, or cliff route, stopping in the village of Bourg, a charming city built on a rocky outcrop enclosed by Medieval ramparts. Here, we visit the superbly located Château Tayac, overlooking the river, for a wine tasting. Continue on to visit the Citadel at Blaye before returning to the MS Cyrano de Bergerac.

**Day 4 Blaye to Libourne & Saint-Emilion.** We set sail early this morning, join the river Dordogne and head for Libourne where we arrive in the early afternoon. After lunch on board, we set off by coach on our excursion to Saint-Emilion. Enjoy a guided visit of the underground monuments of Saint-Emilion village. We then visit an exceptional Troglodyte settlement – the cave of Emilion. Continue to Château de la Dauphine at Fronsac, for



Saint-Emilion

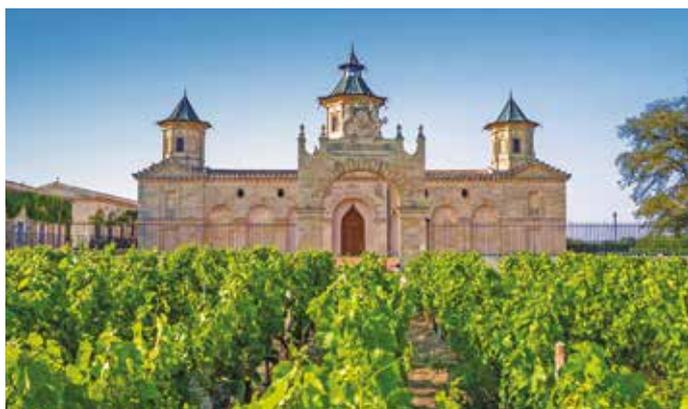


Great Bell of Bordeaux

a tasting of their fabulous wines. Since the 18th century, the wines of Fronsac and Canon-Fronsac enjoyed the best of reputations in the Libourne region, and even rated higher than their neighbours in Saint-Emilion and Pomerol. We also visit the first floor of the château, which is truly majestic, built by 1750 in the classical style and set within beautiful gardens. We rejoin our vessel in Libourne and moor overnight.

**Day 5 Libourne to Bordeaux.** Enjoy breakfast and lunch on board as we continue our cruise back to Bordeaux, where we arrive in the early afternoon. After lunch there will be a choice of included tours. Join a city tour which will include highlights such as the cathedrals of Saint Andre and Saint Michel followed by a visit to the world-class Cité du Vin with its imaginative and interactive approach to wine, as well as its extraordinary wine shop offering over 800 wines. Alternatively, join our tour to nearby Château Pape Clément, one of the oldest Grand Crus in the whole Bordeaux region. The vineyard was planted in the 13th century by Bertrand de Goth, who went on to become Pope Clement V. Return to the vessel for dinner and moor overnight in Bordeaux.

**Day 6 Arcachon Basin or Pessac-Léognan Region.** After breakfast on board, we set off on our full day excursion to the centre of the Arcachon basin. We begin our tour by boarding local boats for a mini cruise of the Basin d’Arcachon, touring around Bird Island, ending at Le Canon where we visit an oyster farm. Here we learn about the farming and history of the oyster, after which we will enjoy an oyster tasting. Return to Arcachon for lunch and, for those who wish, the tour will continue with a visit to see the Great Dune of Pilat. Alternatively, take a more leisurely half day morning tour to the nearby Pessac-Léognan region, where we will visit the beautiful Château Carbonnieux. On arrival enjoy some free time to explore the winery which



Château Cos d’Estournel

offers a permanent exhibition of classic cars, wine worker’s tools and a boutique selling the estate’s produce. Afterwards there will be a delicious cheese and wine pairing session before the drive back to the vessel for lunch and an afternoon at leisure in Bordeaux. Moor overnight.

**Day 7 Cadillac.** After a leisurely morning of cruising and lunch on board, we will depart for a tour of Château de Roquetaillade where the dungeon tower dates from the 11th century, and the quarters of the Seigneurs from the 12th century. The “new castle” was refurbished by Viollet le Duc, initiator of the Gothic Revival Movement in France 1840-1870 and well-known for his interpretive restorations of Medieval buildings such as Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, and the ramparts of Carcassonne. We conclude with a visit to nearby Sauternes for a tasting of this delicious sweet wine at Château de Myrat, property of family De Pontac who have been involved in Bordeaux vines since 1533. Since 1960 it has produced the famous sweet white wine of Sauternes, ranked as a Grand Cru of Second Growth (Deuxième Cru) class in the original Bordeaux Wine Official classification of 1855. This evening join your fellow travellers on board for a farewell dinner as we cruise back to Bordeaux.

**Day 8 Bordeaux to London.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport or train station for your return journey to London.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £200 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
1	Main Deck Twin Cabin	£2695	£2495
2	Middle Deck Twin Cabin	£2795	£2595
3	Upper Deck Twin Cabin	£2895	£2695
4	Main Deck Single Cabin	£2695	£2495
5	Middle Deck Single Cabin	£2795	£2595
6	Upper Deck Single Cabin	£2895	£2695

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air or train travel  
 • Seven nights aboard the MS Cyrano de Bergerac on a full board basis  
 • All-inclusive drinks from 10am to 11pm daily (exclusions apply)  
 • Shore excursions • Wine tastings as described • Cruise Director  
 • Tour Manager • Guest Speaker • Transfers • Gratuities • Port taxes  
 • Airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

## PRE & POST CRUISE EXTENSIONS

For those passengers wishing to spend more time exploring this region, we are offering the opportunity to join our pre-cruise extension in the historic maritime city of La Rochelle and a post-cruise extension to the charming city of Bordeaux.

Please note that train travel is not available in conjunction with the extensions.



The pretty village of Ars-en-Ré on the Ile de Ré



The Medieval Towers and Old Town, La Rochelle

### LA ROCHELLE & ILE DE RÉ PRE-CRUISE EXTENSION

21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

Renowned as one of France's foremost seaports from the 14th to 17th centuries, La Rochelle offers a beautiful heritage with arcaded walkways, half-timbered houses, stately residences and a fabulous collection of lighthouses – all rich reminders of its prestigious seafaring history. Our visit will include a trip to nearby Ile de Ré, a peaceful and exquisite corner of France's Atlantic Coast with picturesque harbour villages, golden beaches and a rare tranquility.

#### The Itinerary

**Day 1 London Gatwick to La Rochelle, France.** Fly by scheduled flight with Easyjet from London to La Rochelle, and on arrival transfer to our centrally located hotel for a two night stay. The harbour area is a lovely place for an evening stroll with many restaurants to choose from.

**Day 2 Ile de Ré.** After breakfast at the hotel, depart for a full day visit to nearby Ile de Ré. Once in the island's capital, St-Martin-de-Ré, we will enjoy a walking tour of this atmospheric fishing port with its whitewashed houses, followed by some free time to explore the pretty streets or relax in one of the local cafés and watch the world go by. After lunch in a local restaurant, we will drive back to La Rochelle stopping at the Les Marais Salants (Salt Marches) Museum. Arrive back in La Rochelle in the late afternoon. (B, L)

**Day 3 La Rochelle to Bordeaux.** After breakfast at the hotel enjoy some time at leisure to explore at your own pace. The old town, just behind the harbour, is extensive and very well preserved and dates mostly from the 17th and 18th centuries. Also worth visiting are the Towers of La Rochelle, the Cathédrale St Louis in Place de Verdun, and the Maritime Museum. La Rochelle's main shopping streets and the surrounding area has many fine buildings with houses constructed in the local light stone. Later this afternoon we will transfer to Bordeaux and embark the MS Cyrano de Bergerac (approx. 3 hours' drive). (B)

#### Prices per person

Twin: £695; Single: £945

**Price Includes:** Two nights hotel accommodation, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), full day tour to Ile de Ré, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

### BORDEAUX POST-CRUISE EXTENSION

30<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

If you would like to spend some more time in Bordeaux after your cruise, we are offering a two night post-cruise extension staying at the renowned 18th century Hotel de Seze. Bordeaux is a grand city with many magnificent 18th and 19th century buildings as well as the cathedrals of Saint Andre and Saint Michel which were recently selected as World Heritage listed monuments by UNESCO. During the extension, your time will be at leisure to explore this beautiful city at your own pace.

#### Prices per person

Twin: £545 Single: £795

**Price Includes:** Two nights hotel accommodation with breakfast, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.



Cathedral of Saint Andre at dusk, Bordeaux



# MS CYRANO DE BERGERAC

The MS Cyrano de Bergerac is a stylish and elegant vessel built to embody comfort and relaxation with attentive personal service for cruises in the Bordeaux region. The vessel can accommodate up to 174 passengers but for the purposes of these cruises we are limiting the passenger number to 150 to allow for more space on board and a convivial atmosphere. Original paintings throughout the ship and French design touches give the ship a unique character. The vessel is owned and operated by our associates CroisiEurope and we have chartered the ship for this fascinating voyage.

## Your Cabin/Suite

All cabins are well appointed with bright and modern decor and feature either twin or double beds and are equipped with private en-suite facilities, satellite television, hairdryer, safe, radio, individually controlled air conditioning and heating and telephone (for internal calls only). Twin cabins measure 12 square metres and single cabins measure 8.55 square metres. Main Deck cabins feature portholes (non-opening), Middle Deck cabins have large picture windows (can be opened partially) and Upper Deck cabins have large picture windows which can be opened fully.

## Your Space

Facilities on board include the restaurant, lounge, and bar with dance floor on the Middle Deck, a small Terrace Lounge on the Upper Deck, and a large Sun Deck from where you can relax and enjoy the passing scenery. The ship has a lift which serves the Main, Middle and Upper Deck. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available in the ship's lounge though there may be sections of the river where internet connection is slow or not available.

## Your Dining

Meals are taken in the ship's restaurant on the Middle Deck. The open seating restaurant serves local dishes in addition to an international menu, and tables seat four to six guests. Breakfast and afternoon tea are buffet-style, lunch is a mix of served and buffet-style service, and dinner is a served set menu. Wine, beer and soft drinks are included with lunch and dinner. Please note that due to galley restrictions, your dinner menu is "set" with fixed starter and dessert courses and a limited choice of main course.

## Life On Board

The atmosphere on board is friendly and informal and within days you will have made new friends in the open-seating restaurant, on the shore excursions or whilst relaxing in the comfortable public areas. You will find yourself amongst like-minded people in an English speaking environment, but still always free to explore at your own pace. A daily briefing by the Cruise Director will provide you with information on the next day's activities and expert, English-speaking local guides provide insider insights into local culture, history and traditions. You will also be accompanied by a Guest Speaker who will provide entertaining and informative talks as you sail along.



Restaurant



Upper Deck Cabin



On Deck

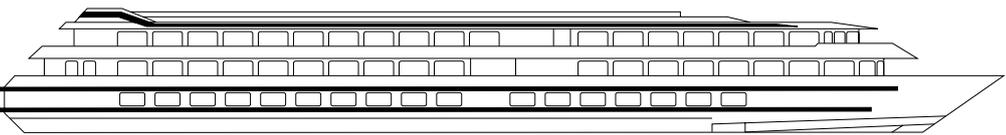


Lounge



Main Deck Cabin

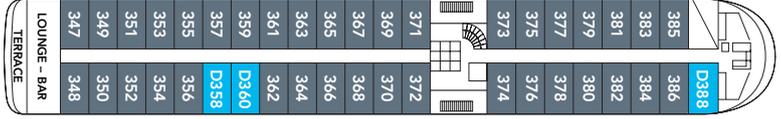
DECK PLAN



SUN DECK



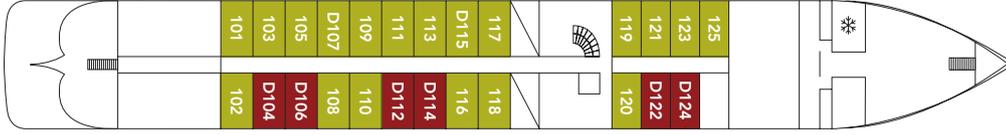
UPPER DECK



MIDDLE DECK



MAIN DECK



- CATEGORY 1
- CATEGORY 2
- CATEGORY 3
- CATEGORY 4
- CATEGORY 5
- CATEGORY 6

Please note that 'D' indicates cabins which have a fixed double bed.



Lounge



Bar



Reception

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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request. Ports and itinerary subject to change.  
 Cover image: Château Lafite Rothschild on the Route des Châteaux.