



TRAVEL MAKERS
Journeys beyond Imagination

France and Spain

31 AUGUST 2016
21 NIGHTS/22 DAYS

PERSONALISED ITINERARY

DAY 1 - 31ST AUG 2015: BORDEAUX – MEDOC

Added to the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2007, Bordeaux's historic sector offers stunning classical and neoclassical architecture, charming squares and fantastic museums and art galleries. This morning our tour leader will introduce us to some of the highlights of Bordeaux before we head out of the city and in to wine country. We venture through Medoc, where you will have the opportunity to try exceptional local wines and learn about the history of this region. (D)
Overnight: *Hostellerie les Criquets or similar*

DAY 2 – 1ST SEP 2015: MEDOC – SAINT EMILION – SARLAT

Our first stop today is Saint Emilion, an attractive little town of yellow limestone with narrow streets and old timber-framed houses. Surrounded by vineyards, this region is renowned for its 'reds'. We will have the opportunity to taste some of the local wines before continuing to Sarlat our base for the next 3 nights. (B) **Overnight: *Hotel de Selves or similar***

DAY 3 2ND SEP 2015: SARLAT

Sarlat is one of the most beautiful cities in France. An architectural gem, built in the golden stone of the surrounding countryside, it has stood the test of time despite a long and troubled history. Today we visit the Old Town lined with impeccably restored stone buildings. This afternoon we drive to Beynac-et-Cazenac, famous for its typical honey-coloured houses. Here we visit the impressive chateau, perched high on a cliff and overlooking the Dordogne valley. This evening we meet for dinner together in Sarlat. (B, D) **Overnight: *Hotel de Selves or similar***

DAY 4 – 3RD SEP 2015: SARLAT – VEZERE VALLEY – SARLAT

Today we go further into the Dordogne, a beautiful region full of chateaux, medieval towns and villages. We head first to the prehistoric Lascaux Caves, before continuing to the delightful village of Les Eyzies, in the heart of the Vezere Valley. For an unforgettable glimpse into our distant past, we follow the 'Royal Road', which winds between the river and the rocks, making a final stop at a local truffle farm. (B) **Overnight: *Hotel de Selves or similar***

DAY 5 – 4TH SEP 2015: SARLAT - ALBI – CARCASSONNE

This morning we make our way to the historic city of Albi. This small town is famous for its 13th century gothic Sainte Cecile Cathedral and the Toulouse-Lautrec Museum. Later we will arrive in the delightful town of Carcassonne. (B) **Overnight: *Hotel Le Donjon or similar***

DAY 6 – 5TH SEP 2015: CARCASSONNE

Today is at leisure to discover Carcassonne at your own pace. Explore this

magical town and everything it has to offer or simply relax in a street-side cafe to savour the sights and sounds of this beautiful town. From the Bastide Saint-Louis to the medieval walls, Carcassonne offers a wealth of monuments to visit and explore. (B)**Overnight: *Hotel Le Donjon or similar***

DAY 7 – 6TH SEP 2015: CARCASSONNE - MIDI-PYRENEES

Continuing through the Midi- Pyrenees, we arrive at some picturesque Bastides. These medieval towns, in the south west region of France, are one of the largest collections of well-preserved medieval townscapes still to be found anywhere in Europe. Driving through the Cathare country we enjoy sampling the local Blanquette fizzy wine. (B, D)
Overnight: *Hostellerie des Cedres or similar*

DAY 8 – 7TH SEP 2015: MIDI-PYRENEES - BIARRITZ

This morning we head west to Gavarnie where we admire the stunning views across the mountains and the valleys. We continue along the back roads stopping en route in the spiritual small town of Lourdes before we reach Pau, a charming town with an impressive castle where we have time for a few quick photos. (B, D)**Overnight: *Hotel Georges VI or similar***

DAY 9 – 8TH SEP 2015: BORDEAUX

After breakfast we travel north to Bayonne, the cultural capital of the Basque country. This beautiful fortified city is rich in history, heritage and culture. We then make our way back to Bordeaux for an evening at leisure. (B) **Overnight: *3* or similar***

NB OPTIONAL EXTRA: END TOUR IN BORDEAUX WITH TWO NIGHTS POST TOUR ACCOMMODATION. DEPARTURE TRANSFER TO THE AIRPORT FOR YOUR ONWARDS TRAVEL IS INCLUDED

DAY 10 – 9TH SEPT 2015: BORDEAUX – SAN SEBASTIAN

This morning we visit Cote Cours cooking school in Bouillac where we enjoy a professional cooking class. Later we drive south crossing the border into Spain to San Sebastian, the jewel of northern Spain's Basque Country. (B) **Overnight: *Hotel Astoria 7 or similar***

DAY 11 – 10TH SEP 2015: SAN SEBASTIAN - LEYRE – OLITE – LAGUARDIA

Our first destination today is the converted 9th century Monastery of Leyre, still occupied by Benedictine monks. We later head into the rolling hills and plains of Navarre, through fields of wheat and vineyards, to the medieval town of Olite which was the seat of the court of Navarre. Visit the fairy tale 15th century castle, where you'll have time to explore its hidden corners and towers with magnificent views over the surrounding

countryside. In Estella, you have free time to enjoy lunch at one of the many excellent local restaurants, before our journey continues along the Camino de Santiago to the world famous wine region of La Rioja. (B) *Overnight: Hospederia De Los Parajes or similar*

DAY 12 – 11TH SEP 2015: LAGUARDIA - LA RIOJA - MADRID

Today is dedicated to visiting remarkable wineries and improving our knowledge of La Rioja's wine history and culture. The cultivation of wine in northern Spain was brought here as early as the 11th century by pilgrims from major French winemaking regions doing the camino. During the day we will visit Marques de Riscal, a pioneer producer, whose wines have earned some of the most distinguished international awards, as well as a small family producer. Later we continue to Madrid for an evening at leisure. (B) *Overnight: Quatro Puerta del sol or similar*

DAY 13 – 12TH SEP 2015: MADRID – TOLEDO

From Madrid we head south to Toledo, known locally as the "Imperial City", a Spanish capital where hundreds of years of history unfold. Here we see the magnificent cathedral as well as the Synagogue of Santa Maria la Blanca and the Monastery of San Juan de los Reyes. This evening enjoy dinner in a traditional Spanish restaurant. (B, D) *Overnight: Hotel Carlos V or similar*

DAY 14 – 13TH SEP 2015: TOLEDO – VALDEPENAS – CORDOBA

We travel south across the vast plains of La Mancha, famous for its delicious wines, manchego cheese and - of course, Don Quixote. When we reach Valdepenas we visit a local bodega to sample wines and tapas before continuing to the enchanting city of Cordoba, where we spend the next two nights. (B, L) *Overnight: Hotel Casas de la Juderia or similar*

DAY 15 – 14TH SEP 2015: CORDOBA

In Cordoba we begin our journey back in time to the Al-Andalus from over a thousand years ago with a walking tour and a visit to the Mezquita, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This afternoon explore the Old Town's narrow streets and private patios at your leisure, or perhaps pamper yourself this evening with a visit to an Arabic bathhouse. (B) *Overnight: Hotel Casas de la Juderia or similar*

DAY 16 – 15TH SEP 2015: CORDOBA – SEVILLE

In Seville, we enjoy a tapas cooking class and learn how to make the perfect sangria. This afternoon explore Seville at your own pace before preparing for an unforgettable Andalusian flamenco show. (B) *Overnight: Hotel Casas de la Juderia or similar*

DAY 17 – 16TH SEP 2015: SEVILLE

Explore the fascinating and vibrant city of Seville this morning. Highlights include a stroll through the Jewish Quarter to the impressive cathedral and the Alcazar de Sevilla, the oldest royal palace in Europe that is still in use today. After some time at leisure we meet up again for a tapas dinner with a contemporary twist. (B, D) *Overnight: Hotel Casas de la Juderia or similar*

DAY 18 – 17TH SEP 2015: SEVILLE – JEREZ DE LA FONTERA – RONDA

Leaving Seville behind, we head to the Costa de la Luz where we stop for lunch. Located on the Atlantic Coast it is a popular seaside destination for Spaniards and famous for its amazing seafood. In Jerez de la Frontera, famously the hub of sherry wine production, we discover the secrets of sherry wine with a guided tour of one of the oldest family wineries in the town. As well as an exclusive tasting we will also gain exclusive access to the bodega's private art collection. Our final destination today is Ronda, a beautiful town perched on the edge of a deep canyon cut out by the River Guadalevin. (B) *Overnight: Hotel Reina Victoria or similar*

DAY 19 – 18TH SEP 2015: RONDA – GRANADA

After a free morning to explore Ronda's ancient streets, we continue east to the unforgettable city of Granada, which was the last stronghold of the Moorish empire in southern Spain until it finally fell to the

Catholic kings in 1492. Enjoy an evening at leisure in Granada. (B) *Overnight: Hotel Palacio de los Navas or similar*

DAY 20 – 19TH SEP 2015: GRANADA

Our time this morning is dedicated to the magnificent Alhambra, a breath-taking Moorish palace and fortress perched on top of a steep hill adjacent to the city centre. A true tribute to the beauty of North African architecture in Andalusia, the Alhambra is a huge network of beautiful rooms, patios and gardens. The rest of today is for you to explore Granada at your own pace. (B) *Overnight: Hotel Palacio de los Navas or similar*

DAY 21 – 20TH SEP 2015: GRANADA – UBEDA – BAEZA

Today we explore Ubeda and Baeza. Situated just six miles apart, both towns have an outstanding ensemble of 16th and 17th century renaissance buildings, and have been declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. Nicknamed "queen" (Ubeda) and "lady" (Baeza) by the brilliant poet Antonio Machado, their quiet streets and plazas are lined with beautiful Spanish renaissance palaces. After an olive oil tasting we continue to our traditional 17th century mansion hotel where we enjoy a farewell dinner together. (B, D) *Overnight: Hotel Puerta de la Luna or similar*

DAY 22 – 21ST SEP 2015: BAEZA – MADRID

This morning we leave Baeza and transfer back to Madrid. (B)

Mobility: All of our tours involve walking and require our guests to board and disembark our vehicles several times a day making this tour unsuitable for those with reduced mobility.

PRICES:

FRANCE & SPAIN TOUR

\$8730 pp

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

POA

Terms and Conditions apply*

For more information call 02 6223 2780, visit www.travelmakers.com.au or see your travel agent at Shop 78/21 Eastlake Parade, Kingston Foreshore, ACT 2604