



A Journey Through French Wine Country with OLLI CSU

15 days | Apr 15 2027—Apr 29 2027

Few countries wear their culinary identity as proudly as France—and this tour peels back the label to reveal the rich, layered story behind every swirl and sip. Curated exclusively for OLLI CSU, this food and wine journey threads together some of the country's most celebrated regions, from the sun-drenched vineyards of Bordeaux and the medieval charm of Saint-Emilion to the characterful villages and rolling countryside of the Dordogne Valley. Discover the golden dessert wines of Barsac, go nose-to-nose with your fellow travelers during a blind tasting at Monbazillac, and indulge in the earthy, indulgent flavors of Perigueux. Wind through the volcanic highlands of the Auvergne to Laguiole before descending into Burgundy's hallowed wine country around Beaune. Finally, raise a flute in the effervescent Champagne region, toasting the journey across Reims and Epernay—where the bubbles never stop flowing.



For more information, contact

<https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/france-2027-olli-csu> | 1-800-438-7672

Your tour package includes

- 13 nights in handpicked hotels
- Breakfast daily
- 2 lunches with wine or beer
- 6 dinners with beer or wine
- 8 wine tastings
- 4 food tastings
- 1 cooking lesson
- 6 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Saint-Emilion & Bordeaux wine tasting
- French cooking class
- Monbazillac blind wine tasting experience
- Historic district of Perigueux
- Visit to Laguiole
- Auvergne fromagerie visit & tasting
- Hospices de Beaune
- Burgundy cellars & wine tasting
- Mustard mill sensory experience
- Chablis wine tasting
- Chateau Boursault wine tasting
- Champagne cellar visit & tasting

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including cobblestone streets and unpaved paths, with some steep stairs and hills.

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15 days

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Bordeaux today.

Bordeaux → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Bordeaux

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to France! Meet your fellow travelers and Tour Director during a welcome dinner at a local restaurant this evening, served with beer or vin—the French word for wine, in case you want to order in the local language.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Bordeaux & Saint-Emilion with tastings

Included meals: breakfast, tasting, wine tasting

Meet your local guide for a panoramic tour of Bordeaux, the capital of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region, venerated for its wine and elegant architecture.

- Stop at the Place des Quinconces, one of the largest squares in Europe, filled with statues and bubbling fountains.
- See the Place de la Bourse. Teeming with 18th-century architecture, the square is home to a reflecting pool that creates a surreal mirror effect of the surrounding buildings.
- Cross the Pont de Pierre, the iconic stone bridge spanning the Garonne River, and take in sweeping views of the city's graceful waterfront and facades.
- Pause at Cours Victor Hugo, a lively thoroughfare lined with cafes and boutiques, before arriving at the stately Palais Rohan, Bordeaux's neoclassical city hall.
- Stroll through the vibrant Place de la Comedie, the beating heart of Bordeaux's social life, where elegant terraces buzz with conversation. Here, admire the Grand Theatre, an architectural masterpiece crowned with Corinthian columns and statues of muses—a cultural landmark that has hosted operas and ballets for over two centuries.
- Wrap up your guided tour by sampling local

treats like merveilles (diamond-shaped beignets), canelés (caramelized pastries spiced with rum and vanilla), and bouchons de Bordeaux (almonds and grapes macerated in brandy and wrapped in thin dough).

Perched on a limestone plateau, Saint-Emilion has been coaxing extraordinary wine from its sun-soaked soils since the days of the Roman Empire—a legacy so remarkable that both the town and its surrounding viticulture landscape earned UNESCO World Heritage status. This afternoon, your Tour Director leads the way through one of Bordeaux's most celebrated "Right Bank" wine towns.

- Stroll through Saint-Emilion's medieval old town with your Tour Director, taking in the honey-hued stone buildings, Romanesque church spires, and narrow lanes that have changed little over the centuries.
- Break off on your own for a stretch of free time to wander at your own pace—peek into boutique wine shops, pick up a macaron de Saint-Emilion (the town's signature almond treat), or simply settle onto a terrace and watch the world go by.
- Transfer to a local Bordeaux vineyard, where terraced vines and rolling countryside set the scene for an afternoon of discovery.
- Descend into the wine cellars for a guided tour, uncovering the centuries-old vinification process that transforms these storied grapes into some of the world's most sought-after bottles.
- Raise a glass during a tasting of celebrated Bordeaux varietals—including a Grand Cru—and let each sip tell the story of the land that produced it.

Day 4: Free day in Bordeaux & cooking class

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Today is yours to enjoy at your own pace—though we highly recommend taking your Group Coordinator up on the organized winery visit somewhere among the sun-drenched vineyards of the Bordeaux region. Swirl, sniff, and sip your way through one of the world's most celebrated wine landscapes. This evening, join a local chef for a cooking class to learn how to craft French cuisine. Then, enjoy eating the meal you've prepared while sipping wines from the region.

Dordogne Valley → 1 night

Day 5: Périgueux via Barsac & Château de Monbazillac

Included meals: breakfast, wine tasting, dinner
Pass through breathtaking countryside scenery as you make your way to the Dordogne Valley, a region steeped in history and culinary tradition.

- Stop in Barsac, a charming commune in the Bordeaux wine region renowned for its exceptional sweet wines. Here, visit Château Coutet, a historic estate where centuries of winemaking tradition unfold in elegant cellars and sun-drenched vineyards.
- Savor a tasting of famous Grand Cru wines, paired with artisanal charcuterie, as you learn about the intricate process that transforms grapes into these world-class vintages.
- Enjoy free time in Barsac to wander the village at your own pace, perhaps stopping for a coffee or exploring the quiet streets of this lesser-known corner of wine country.
- Continue to the Chateau de Monbazillac, renowned for its sweet wines and panoramic views. Here, take part in a unique blind wine tasting, designed to heighten your senses and deepen your appreciation for the subtle complexities of each pour.

Sit down for an included dinner, served with beer or wine, at a local restaurant in Perigueux, a quaint city in the Dordogne Valley.

Clermont-Ferrand → 2 nights

Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Perigueux & transfer to Clermont-Ferrand

Included meals: breakfast, tasting, wine tasting

Take a walking tour of Perigueux with a local guide, immersing yourself in the rich layers of history that define this enchanting town.

- Stroll through its winding streets, where Roman ruins and medieval facades stand side by side. This town was once a thriving Roman settlement known as Vesunna, and its legacy lives on in ancient amphitheaters, baths, and

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the remnants of fortified walls. Later, during the Middle Ages, Perigueux blossomed into a bustling market town, its prosperity reflected in the Gothic spires and Renaissance mansions that still grace its skyline.

- Pause for a tasting of the region's culinary specialties, savoring duck magret, rich rillettes, and a glass of local wine. These flavors—earthy, indulgent, and steeped in tradition—capture the essence of Perigueux's gastronomy and offer a glimpse into what has made this corner of France a cornerstone of French cuisine.

Afterward, make your way northeast to Clermont-Ferrand, a city of dark volcanic stone and cathedral spires tucked into the heart of the Auvergne region. Settle in and spend the evening as you please—whether that means seeking out a cozy bistro for a regional meal or simply taking a leisurely stroll through the city's lively center.

Day 7: Visit to Laguiole

Included meals: breakfast

The village of Laguiole punches well above its weight—and today, you'll discover exactly why. Sit down to lunch at the legendary Maison Bras Le Suquet, a culinary landmark that has earned its place among France's most revered dining destinations, where each dish feels as thoughtfully composed as the sweeping countryside views that surround it. Afterward, browse the village's charming boutiques and pick up a piece of Laguiole's most famous export—the elegantly crafted knives and corkscrews that have been shaped by local artisans for generations. Whether you're a seasoned collector or simply in search of a beautifully made keepsake, it's the kind of souvenir that tells a story long after the trip is over.

Please note: Today's visit to Laguiole is arranged by your Group Coordinator with Go Ahead providing transportation.

Burgundy Region → 3 nights

Day 8: Burgundy Region via Auvergne

Included meals: breakfast, tasting, lunch, dinner

Spend a free morning in Clermont-Ferrand, perhaps paying a visit to La Grande Coutellerie Clermont Claude Dozorme. Then travel through the rugged, mountainous landscapes of the Auvergne region, a land of volcanic peaks and lush pastures, as you make your way north toward the world-famous Burgundy wine country.

- Visit a traditional fromagerie, where you'll learn the art of crafting small-batch cheeses that have been perfected over generations.
- Sample regional specialties such as Saint-Nectaire, semi-soft cow's milk cheese with a nutty, earthy flavor; Fourme d'Aurieres, a blue-veined cheese with a delicate balance of tangy and buttery notes; and Caperon Fermier, a rustic farmhouse cheese with a firm body and a robust, slightly tangy taste.
- Sit down for a lunch featuring Auvergnat specialties, where hearty dishes showcase the region's rustic charm.

Check into your hotel in the Burgundy region and freshen up before reconvening for this evening's included dinner at a local restaurant, accompanied by beer or wine.

Day 9: Hospices de Beaune, wine tasting & Fallot Mustard Mill

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, wine tasting, tasting

In the heart of the Burgundy wine region sits the walled town of Beaune. Pay a visit to this charming locale and take a guided tour of the Hospices de Beaune.

- Step into history at the Hospices de Beaune and learn about Nicolas Rolin, the Duke of Burgundy's chancellor, who built the Hospices with a vision of giving back. Admire the colorful, patterned rooftops and intricate architecture that make this historic hospital unforgettable.
- Sip Burgundy in the Patriarche cellars. You'll taste the region's renowned wines while hearing how proceeds from the vineyards and annual wine auctions continue to support the Hospices today.
- Sit down at a nearby restaurant for an included meal, savoring traditional Burgundian flavors that reflect the region's culinary heritage.

Later, pay a visit to the famous Fallot Mustard Mill.

- Join a local guide to explore this historic facility, where you'll see mustard seeds crushed and blended into the tangy condiment the region is known for.
- End your visit with a sample of the sharp, flavorful mustard produced on-site—a perfect garnish to your day in Burgundy.

Day 10: Free day in Burgundy Region

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day in the Burgundy region, relaxing in your hotel or following your Tour Director's

recommendations. Or, join us for an optional excursion and spend the day exploring the Burgundy wine region along the famous Cote d'Or route. Begin in Cote de Beaune with tastings of world-renowned white wines, including chardonnay, followed by free time for lunch. Then head north to the Cote de Nuits to sample bold reds like pinot noir, all while enjoying the stunning vineyard scenery.
+ Burgundy Wine Route Tastings

Champagne Region → 2 nights

Day 11: Reims via Chablis

Included meals: breakfast, wine tasting, dinner

On your way to Reims, in the heart of the Champagne region, pause in the celebrated wine village of Chablis—a name synonymous with some of France's most distinctive and food-friendly whites. Stop at a local vineyard for a tasting of three expressions of Chablis Chardonnay, each one a reflection of the region's flinty, mineral-rich soils.

Then, continue on to Reims and take some time to settle in and get your bearings before the group comes back together for an included dinner this evening—paired, of course, with a glass of beer or wine.

Day 12: Sightseeing of Reims & Château de Boursault

Included meals: breakfast, tasting, wine tasting

Join a local guide and explore Reims, the unofficial capital of the Champagne region. For centuries, this was the coronation site of French kings. It's also where Joan of Arc forever etched her name in history by leading Charles VII to his crowning after a victory during the Hundred Years' War.

- Visit the Gothic-style Reims Cathedral, a UNESCO-recognized site built in the 13th century where French monarchs were traditionally crowned.
- Snap photos of the Palais de Tau, the former archbishop's palace where kings prepared for their coronations.
- Walk past the Carnegie Library, Royal Square, Forum Square, and the Town Hall as your guide shares stories of the city's past.
- Pass the Covered Market and the Roman Gate, a triumphal arch dating back to the 3rd century.
- Sample the delicate pink confection known as biscuit rose de Reims. Traditionally dunked in Champagne, it once sweetened the tables of French nobility

Head to Chateau de Boursault, which was built by the original owner of Veuve Clicquot, and remains one of the only chateaux in the Champagne region. You'll tour the estate's wine cellar and join a sommelier for a wine tasting featuring wines made from pinot noir, chardonnay, and pinot Meunier grapes.

Paris → 2 nights

Day 13: Paris via Épernay

Included meals: breakfast, wine tasting

Travel to Epernay, the sparkling soul of the Champagne region. There, you'll tour a historic Champagne estate and learn about the meticulous process that transforms chardonnay, pinot noir, and pinot meunier grapes into the world's most beloved bubbles.

Then, continue to Paris where you'll have a free evening. Ready to hit the town? Take a stroll through Montmartre's art-filled streets to peek into artists' studios. As you explore, dip into a sandwich shop for the deceptively simple jambon-beurre: a crusty baguette slathered in butter and topped with freshly carved ham. For a more elevated experience, opt into the evening's dinner and Seine River cruise. As the sun sets and the city's streetlamps begin their nightly twinkle, you'll see Paris' monuments in a whole new light.

+ Dinner in Paris & Seine River Cruise

Day 14: Free day in Paris & farewell dinner

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Today, seek royal refuge from the city by adding an optional afternoon outing to the Palace and Gardens of Versailles. You'll encounter gilded walkways, fresco-adorned ceilings, and close to 2,000 acres of immaculate green space—all just a few miles west of Paris.

To continue exploring the city at your own pace, you can visit the National Library of France and its grand, restored reading room, or head underground to learn the secrets of Paris' legendary catacombs.

Whatever you choose, you'll regroup in the evening to celebrate your trip at a farewell dinner, served with beer or wine.

+ Versailles Palace & Gardens

Flight Home

Day 15: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

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Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: <https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/france-2027-olli-csu> | 1-800-438-7672

Day 10: Burgundy Wine Route Tastings

From \$169.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (7 hours, departs in the morning)

Get a taste for the flavors of Burgundy wine during a visit to historic estates along the famous Côte d'Or wine route. Your daylong journey begins with a stop at the 12th-century Château Clos de Vougeot, a storied wine estate at the heart of Burgundy heritage. Explore its ancient wine cellars and presses, steeped in centuries of winemaking tradition. Then, head south to Château de la Créé for a guided tasting of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, where you'll gain insights into the region's unique microclimates and how they shape each grape's expression. Afterward, enjoy free time for lunch nearby. End your day in Beaune with a visit to Domaine Chanson, a family-owned estate dating back to 1750. Built into the city's historic ramparts, this winery blends time-honored winemaking with sustainable practices. Taste a selection of red and white wines, including Grand Cru, that reflect both classic and modern styles. Then, wrap up your journey by soaking in the beautiful vineyard scenery as you make your way back to your hotel.

Day 13: Dinner in Paris & Seine River Cruise

From \$139.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (5 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Take in the nighttime allure of the City of Light on a special evening excursion. The event begins with dinner at a local restaurant. After you dine, board a boat cruise along the Seine. As you coast along the river and under Paris' bridges, you'll behold the illuminated monuments of the city glittering alongside the riverbanks. Please note: The dress code may vary depending on the restaurant for your dinner. Your Tour Director will advise you on what to wear, but shorts and sneakers are likely to be considered inappropriate attire.

Day 14: Versailles Palace & Gardens

From \$139.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (5 hours, departure time varies)

The reign of Louis XIV, known as the "Sun King," set new standards for decadence among the crowned heads of Europe. It took 50 years and 35,000 workers to turn Versailles, once a small hunting lodge, into the most magnificent chateau in all of France and the envy of royalty worldwide. On this excursion, you'll see the palace in all its glory as you tour the State Apartments and the glittering Hall of Mirrors. Then, stroll through the lavish gardens to admire their fine statuary, splendid fountains, and colorful flowerbeds. Please note: Versailles Palace is closed on Mondays. The optional excursion may be moved to a different day on tour to accommodate schedules.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. Go Ahead Tours accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at <https://www.goaheadtours.com/about/terms>.