

# Wine Tasting Tours in France



## Highlights

Discover the world-renowned 'black wine' of the AOC Cahors vineyards on this superb wine tour! The five-day break takes you to Lot, one of southwest's France's hidden gems, where you'll find rolling farmlands, forested valleys, endless leafy lanes and wine of the highest quality.

Lot is one of the least populated and least polluted departments in France. It is also one of most picturesque, with gently rolling farmlands, lush river valleys, shady groves and rocky limestone causses. The rustic landscape is scored by mile upon mile of leafy lanes that converge occasionally in a sleepy hamlet; old men sip cassis, boys play pétanque and other idyllic clichés unfold before your eyes! The region is also home to the medieval yellow-stone town of Gourdon, with its impressive hilltop vistas, and the stunning cliff-side citadel of Rocamadour. In recent years Lot has gained critical acclaim from wine critics for its 'black wine' of Cahors, which currently graces many of the world's finest restaurants and dining tables.

This five-day tour gives you a chance to kick back, relax and enjoy some of the finest wines France has to offer. From your base at the beautiful Mas de Flory, a converted farmhouse and barn complex, you'll visit a range of vineyards and chateaux with your guide, an English-speaking Cahors expert who will impart to you the secrets and complexities of the Malbec grape and its flavours! Among the stunning ports of call are the Chateau Chambert, which uses biodynamic methods in its wine production, the chateaux around Puy l'Eveque and Vire sur Lot, home to multi-award-winning vintages, and the Cevenne de Caix with its sweeping views over Lot's winding rivers and patchwork of vineyards and farmlands. In true French style, each day finishes with a lazy four-course meal complete with, you guessed it, a selection of wonderful Cahors wines.

## Is it for me?

Like wine, good food, fine weather and beautiful surroundings? Then yes, this one's for you! It's as simple as that. Lot is as charming and relaxing a tour destination as one could wish to find; combine that with luxurious accommodation and exquisite food and you've alchemised holiday gold! Clearly, this isn't one for thrill-seekers or avid sightseers – if that sounds like you then there are definitely more suitable tours to look at – but for everyone else, well, what more could you want? Bring on the bonhomie et joie de vivre!

The maximum group size for this tour is 8.

## Accommodation

Yes, oh yes! You'd be hard pressed to find a holiday with more sensual allure than this one! Besides the excellent wines, you can be assured of some truly awesome food, from fantastic breakfast spreads to aperitifs and four-course dinners on the terrace! You'll also enjoy a couple of meals at carefully selected local restaurants, as well as a picnic lunch among the vines with ingredients bought fresh from the market an hour or two before!

Nestled in a wooded countryside between the Dordogne and Lot rivers, the Mas de Flory is a wonderful place to stay, with its charming stone farmhouse and lovingly renovated 18th century barn. The latter contains several elegantly furnished en suite rooms, the perfect compliment to the stunning setting.

## Itinerary

Prices from

**995** GBP (5 days) per person

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The following is a planned itinerary and may be subject to minor changes:

**Day 1:**

Arrive at either Bergerac airport or Gourdon rail station where you'll be met and driven to beautiful Mas de Flory. Settle into your spacious and airy room (with smart en suite shower room), then relax and enjoy a glass of bubbly on the terrace while you meet your fellow wine-tasting guests. Later you'll all share a long, lazy, delicious four-course dinner accompanied by a selection of wonderful Cahors 'black wine'.

**Day 2:**

After a substantial breakfast you'll be driven to the Lot Valley for your first day of touring a range of vineyards and visiting wine chateaux for tastings. Your first stop will be to meet an English-speaking Cahors wine expert who will introduce you to the complexities of this noble wine and talk you through a tasting session. You'll then have lunch in a great restaurant set in a beautifully restored 19th century house near the Lot River. Next you'll be driven to the higher ground of the limestone causeway to visit beautiful Chateau Chambert. Here they use biodynamic methods to produce their wine and it is certainly some of the finest Cahors wine you will taste. After a degustation and a walk in the grounds you'll return to Mas de Flory for dinner.

**Day 3:**

Today you'll be driven through lovely countryside to the lively and bustling Prayssac market to pick up some fresh provisions for a picnic lunch among the vines. You'll visit chateaux around Puy l'Eveque and Vire sur Lot which produce some of the best, award winning wines and have tastings and a tour. You'll also have time to meander the vineyards and see the vines heavy with their ripe, deep purple Malbec grapes, almost ready for harvesting - or, depending on conditions, possibly even la recolte - the gathering of the grapes. Later, you'll take your evening meal at the renowned restaurant La Recreation in Les Arques, made famous through the book by Michael Sanders, 'From Here You Can't See Paris'.

**Day 4:**

Saturday begins with a drive along the spectacular Cevenne de Caix which overlooks the winding River Lot and its bordering patchwork of vineyards below. After another tasting you'll take lunch in a rustic auberge by the river followed by a further visit and tasting in the afternoon. You'll enjoy a final delicious home-cooked four-course meal at Mas de Flory this evening.

**Day 5:**

Departure day and after a leisurely breakfast you'll be taken to Gourdon rail station or Bergerac airport to meet your homeward connection.

**Details**

**Getting there**

Transfer from Bergerac Airport (flights from all around UK) or Gourdon Rail Station (trains from Paris Gare du Nord or Toulouse Airport)

**Price includes**

Accommodation, all meals, expert guide, at least five tastings, transfers

**Typical Duration**

5 days

**Comfort level**

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

**Experience required**

A reasonable interest is all that is needed