



LUXURY WINE TOUR TO BORDEAUX

The Great Estates of Bordeaux

MAY 20TH – 24TH 2024

— Hosted by Mini Constant, MW —

US \$4,395 *per person*
+ US\$100 administration booking fee

Join us on a spectacular tour to visit some of the greatest wine estates in the world.

Experience private visits with tastings of exceptional wines, dine at a Michelin starred restaurant and stay at a luxury 5-star hotel nestled in historic vineyards. Your host, Mini Constant MW, has lived near Bordeaux for many years.

Each day includes visits and tastings at some of the most famous names in Bordeaux; châteaux that have a long history and whose wines are revered around the world. We will be shown inside these great estates, learning how they produce and operate, before enjoying spectacular tastings.

COME AND DISCOVER

GREAT GROWTHS OF THE MÉDOC with visits to **Château Brane-Cantenac** and **Château Pichon-Baron**, and a private lunch with the owner at **Château Leoville Barton**.

SWEET INDULGENCE IN SAUTERNES at First Growths **Château Suduiraut** and **Château d'Arche**, where we will also have a private lunch with the team and sip on multiple decades of Sauternes.

DISTINGUISHED ESTATES IN PESSAC-LÉOGNAN with visits to Cru Classés **Domaine de Chevalier**, **Château Smith Haut Lafitte**, and a private lunch hosted by **Château Haut-Bailly**.

TOP-RATED RIGHT BANK with visits to 1er Grand Cru Classés **Château Beau-Séjour Bécot**, **Château La Dominique** and **Château Bélair-Monange**.



FINE VINTAGE
BY JAMES CLUER MW

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YOUR HOSTS



MINI CONSTANT MW

Mini started her career at the Harrods wine department in London before moving on to working in fashionable restaurants, the Oporto-based Symington Port family, and eventually to Southwest France where she has been living since 1987.

Since 2003, Mini has been running Tastevin du Monde, a multi-facet company that includes wine education in France and abroad, and wine blending services for local producers.

PRICE

US \$4,395 (plus \$100 administration booking fee)

The price includes accommodation at Les Sources de Caudalie, all meals except on Wednesday evening, superb wines at all meals, all châteaux visits and tastings, and local transport. Transportation to and from Bordeaux, items of a personal nature, and travel insurance are not included. We recommend that you contact your travel agent to arrange travel insurance.

There is a US\$900 supplement for single travelers for a single occupancy hotel room.

Deposit at booking: \$100 non-refundable administration booking fee.

120 days from start: Remaining deposit (plus single supplement if applicable).



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ITINERARY | DAY 1

MONDAY, MAY 20TH – WELCOME RECEPTION AT LES SOURCES DE CAUDALIE

Our hotel for the entire duration is the luxury **Les Sources de Caudalie** located about 25 minutes by taxi from the airport or train station. www.sources-caudalie.com

The 5-star Les Sources de Caudalie is a favourite place to stay because it is so gorgeous, surrounded by vineyards. The hotel also offers three excellent restaurants, swimming pools, fitness centre, and, of course, its world-class, grape-based Vinotherapie Spa.

2.00 PM

Meet Mini in the Tasting Tower above the lobby at Les Sources de Caudalie for a Champagne reception, introductions, and a review of the itinerary. Mini will also give a general overview of Bordeaux, some basic facts, and an idea of what to expect on the tour.

CHÂTEAU SMITH HAUT LAFITTE, AOC PESSAC-LÉOGNAN - CRU CLASSÉ DE GRAVES

We then kick off our program of winery visits just 100 metres from the hotel at Château Smith Haut Lafitte with a tour and tasting.

Smith Haut Lafitte is one of the leading chateaux in Pessac-Léognan. It's a stunning property run by the Cathiard family who sold a chain of sports goods stores to purchase the estate. Smith is one of my favourite wineries in Bordeaux with an amazing underground cellar and its own cooperage. The white wines rank in The Wine Spectator's top 100 wines of the world and the critics regularly score the reds well into the 90's. www.smith-haut-lafitte.com

In the evening we will have a lively dinner at the hotel's La Table du Lavoir bistro. The food is classic Bordelais, and we will pair it with some great vintages of Smith as well as a Sauternes. It's a fun night getting to know others on the tour, a maximum of 20 people.



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ITINERARY | DAY 2

TUESDAY, MAY 21ST - MÉDOC

9.00 am – Depart Hotel

The morning departures get later during the trip, but today we're raring to get to the Médoc.

CHÂTEAU BRANE-CANTENAC, AOC MARGAUX – 2ND GROWTH

Recognised as a Second Growth in the 1855 Classification, Château Brane-Cantenac is today very ably run by Henri Lurton, who inherited the property from his father, Lucien. Over the last 30 years, Henri has been investing extensively in new tanks and renovating the winery as well as substantially improving the vineyard management. It is now one of the best performing chateaux in Margaux, with wine that has the structure to age with elegance and a lovely, perfumed nose. www.brane-cantenac.com

CHÂTEAU LÉOVILLE-BARTON, AOC ST.JULIEN – 2ND GROWTH

Léoville-Barton is one of the most sought-after wines by Bordeaux lovers, not only for quality reasons but also out of respect for the late owner of the estate, Anthony Barton. We will hear first-hand about the amazing history of the estate and get an inside scoop on Bordeaux. Yes, the wines have had 100-point scores and yes, the cellars are beautiful. But most of all the atmosphere at this family property and fantastic hospitality will be a treasured memory, including a delicious Bordelais lunch with a member of the Barton family. www.leoville-barton.com

CHÂTEAU PICHON-BARON, AOC PAUILLAC – 2ND GROWTH

Our day in the Médoc wraps up with a visit to Pichon Baron, one of the most architecturally stunning properties in the region. The majestic chateau, replete with turrets, flags flying, and water features epitomizes the Médoc. The wines at this 2nd Growth can be on par with the 1st Growths with Latour, Lafite and Mouton surrounding the property. www.pichon-longueville.com

CANAPES & WINE EVENING AT LES SOURCES DE CAUDALIE

After a great day in the Médoc we will return to Les Sources de Caudalie and relax. In the Rouge wine bar tonight we have a lovely tasting of other Médoc wines, both big names and smaller lesser known châteaux. Delicious canapés are served with the wines and it's a nice chance to mingle. After a big day filled with great wines and a serious lunch in the Médoc, tonight is a laid-back evening at our hotel. If you wish to have dinner after, we recommend making a reservation at one of the 3 restaurants ahead of time.



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ITINERARY | DAY 3

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22ND - GRAVES & SAUTERNES

10:15 am – Depart Hotel

Board our luxury coach for a day visiting the great estates of Pessac-Léognan and Sauternes.

DOMAINE DE CHEVALIER, AOC PESSAC-LÉOGNAN – CRU CLASSÉ DE GRAVES

We start the day with a visit to Domaine de Chevalier in Pessac-Léognan. This is an enlightening tour given by the estate manager who offers one of the best explanations you'll ever hear. Domaine de Chevalier white is certainly one of the very best in the region and is capable of long-term aging. The Cabernet-dominated reds are superb too. www.domainedechevalier.com

CHÂTEAU D'ARCHE, AOC SAUTERNES – GRAND CRU CLASSE

It's time for a change of pace from the dry reds and whites by heading to Sauternes to discover the honeyed dessert wines of this classic region. We start our visit to the area at Château d'Arche, which is an attractive property, well situated on a little ridge in Sauternes. They produce a lighter style to appeal to a younger consumer, as well as their very fine first label. We will enjoy a selection of their wines carefully paired with the menu, at a private lunch hosted by the estate. www.chateau-arche.fr

CHÂTEAU SUDUIRAUT, AOC SAUTERNES – 1ST GROWTH

With a history as rich as their wines, a visit to Château Suduiraut is a great way to end the day. The estate dates back to the 16th century and in 1855 their wines were classified as a Sauternes Premier Cru Classé. Sémillon and Sauvignon Blanc here combine to create wines that can evolve for decades in bottle. It's an experience to see how they make this stunning wine and then have the opportunity to taste different vintages. www.suduiraut.com

FREE EVENING

We return to Les Sources de Caudalie at around 7.00 pm. Tonight is a free evening to relax at Les Sources de Caudalie or take a taxi into Bordeaux for an evening on the town.



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ITINERARY | DAY 4

THURSDAY, MAY 23RD – ST-ÉMILION & POMEROL

10.00 am – Depart Hotel

Depart for the châteaux of the Right Bank.

CHÂTEAU BÉLAIR-MONANGE, AOC ST-ÉMILION GRAND CRU - 1^{ER} GRAND CRU CLASSÉ (B)

Our day of exploring the best of the Right Bank begins with a visit to Château Bélaïr-Monange. A Premier Grand Cru Classé (B), 58-acre Bélaïr-Monange is an amalgamation of two estates, Bélaïr and Magdelaine, and is the flagship St.-Émilion property of négociant JP Moueix. Over the past decade, the property has undergone an extensive renovation program involving replanting their vineyards, reinforcing the walls of their underground quarries, and the building of a new barrel room. The wines not only have the finesse and freshness imparted by the limestone soils but also greater density and depth thanks to the changes to the vineyard and significant financial investment. Ageing potential of the wines is guaranteed. www.belairmonange.com

CHÂTEAU LA DOMINIQUE, AOC ST-ÉMILION GRAND CRU - GRAND CRU CLASSÉ

The property was bought by the Fayat family in 1969. It is right next-door to Cheval Blanc and indeed the two properties have swapped the odd parcel of vines to rationalize their holdings. The new winery, with its striking red metal exterior, was designed by Jean Nouvel in 2012 and one could say the wines have been getting better and better since that date. We will be lunching in the 'Terrasse Rouge' restaurant on the roof of the winery, with its excellent view of the surrounding properties. www.chateau-ladominique.com/

CHÂTEAU BEAU-SÉJOUR BÉCOT, AOC ST-ÉMILION GRAND CRU - 1^{ER} GRAND CRU CLASSÉ (B)

We end the day at Château Beau-Séjour Bécot, a highly-respected family-run (Bécot family) First Growth in St.-Émilion. The 54-acre property has a viticultural history that dates back to Gallo-Roman times and is located on St.-Émilion's famed limestone plateau. The wines are rich and powerful yet delicately balanced with an aging capacity of at least 20 years. www.beausejour-becot.com

VISIT TO ST-ÉMILION

We'll then head into the historic town of St-Émilion, a UNESCO World Heritage site and perhaps the most beautiful wine village in the world. Steep cobblestone streets wind their way through the medieval center. This is a great spot to buy wine as most châteaux do not sell when you visit.

DINNER AT LOGIS DE LA CADÈNE

We will be dining at the charming restaurant in the center of St. Emilion, the Logis de la Cadène, which is owned by the Bouïard family of Angéhus. We will start with a glass of Champagne before enjoying the 5-course menu which highlights local produce, with the chef sourcing top quality, fresh ingredients as close to home as possible. The cooking has a delicacy, together with beautiful presentation and the staff are attentive and friendly but discrete. The restaurant already has 1 Michelin rosette and it is certainly aiming for another!



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ITINERARY | DAY 5

FRIDAY, MAY 24TH – PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

You can either check out of the hotel or arrange to stay additional day(s).

10.00 AM – CHÂTEAU SMITH HAUT LAFITTE

After a slow start and a delicious breakfast there's an optional walk back over to Smith Haut Lafitte to meet the winemaker and see the barrel-maker in action. Or you can sleep in, have a swim, and catch us after the visit.

11.15 am – Depart Hotel

If you are checking out, we'll put your bags on the bus.

CHÂTEAU HAUT-BAILLY, AOC PESSAC-LÉOGNAN – CRU CLASSÉ DE GRAVES

To wrap up the tour we visit with Château Haut-Bailly, just down the road from our hotel in the commune of Léognan. Haut-Bailly is considered one of the top producers of red wines in the Pessac-Léognan appellation; a fact that was cemented in 1953 when it was included among the Classified Growths of the Graves region. This is our final visit of the tour, and we will send you off with a sumptuous 4-course lunch paired with some Champagne and the wines from their estate. www.haut-bailly.com

THE TOUR WINDS DOWN

The bus will then go back to the hotel if anyone is staying on, then to the train station arriving at 4.00 pm, and then on to the airport by 5.30 pm. Leave yourself some extra time for unexpected traffic delays when booking trains and planes.

Price: \$4,395 US plus \$100 US administration booking fee per person based on double occupancy.

There is a \$900 US per person single supplement.

Space is limited to 20.

It will be a great trip with lots of fine wine, great food, amazing chateaux, a luxury hotel, a nice amount of wine education and many, many laughs. If you have any questions, please email us at info@finevintageltd.com.

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