

CLASSICAL WINES GOURMET TOUR 2009

Madrid - Ribera del Duero- Burgos - Rioja
Semi guided tours - 4 days/3 nights or 5 days/4 nights

These tours are perfect for people who want to experience Spanish wine and Spanish culture. It includes visits to wineries in two of the main regions of Spanish wines: Ribera de Duero and Rioja. The tour will also take you through the history and art of Spain, including monasteries, cathedrals and historical sites that will be visited and admired.

For independent travelers we suggest Semi-Guided Gourmet Wine Tours. You can rent a car (driving is not difficult in Spain) and we plan the trip for you. We provide local transport and a guide for the days with wine tours, since we don't encourage drinking and driving. You will have some days on your own and some days with a chauffeured guided wine tour.

These tours are an excellent choice for people who want to have the freedom of traveling on their own, seeing the Spanish countryside and deciding how they want to spend their own time, but, at the same time, they want some expert planning, the confidence of having telephone assistance and they do not want to risk a wonderful wine day with problems caused by drinking and driving.

We customize the tour according to your preferences, and we make all the necessary travel arrangements like hotel and restaurant reservations. We will send you a detailed itinerary with directions and suggestions to enjoy your Spanish Wine Experience. You can also include other activities like commented wine tasting, cooking classes, golf, bicycling, horse riding or hiking. These tours can start anywhere in Spain and the duration is up to you.

SUMMARY: You will depart Madrid to Ribera del Duero, your guide will be waiting for you at the hotel for a wonderful guided wine tour. Spend the night in Ribera. The next day drive to Burgos and Rioja, night in Rioja. Get up on the third day to enjoy another guided wine tour of the Rioja wineries. Night in Rioja. The last day you are free to go back to Madrid or continue your vacation.

HIGHLIGHTS: 3 nights, two in Rioja and one in Ribera, 4 winery visits, 2 lunches, 2 full guided days of wine tours. The tour starts and finish in Madrid but can be changed



NOTES:

- This is a preliminary itinerary that can be changes according to your preferences.
- Please keep in mind that Sunday is the worst day to visit wineries, Saturday is not great either but better than Sunday.
- More or less wineries can be included
- The final schedule will depend on winery availability and your personal preferences
- This is a customized itinerary for a private tour, so we can adapt it to your preferences.
- Hotels can be changed. We can send you more hotel suggestions. Price will change accordingly
- We can also arrange for lodging in Madrid or any other Spanish cities. For example we can add an extra day to your tour:

Day 0. Night in Madrid. Arrive in Madrid. Free time to enjoy Madrid

We assume you will want some time to explore the city and its museums. We can give you some suggestions about things to do in Madrid and will book the hotel and restaurants for you. We consider two full days in Madrid is good, one of the days we can plan a day trip to Toledo. **Toledo** is just a short 1h drive from Madrid and it is one of the prettiest towns in Spain. You will have a private guide that will show you Toledo and will take you to they best spots Or even you may want to spend a night in Toledo.



Legend: H: hotel, B: breakfast, L: lunch, WV: Winery Visits

Day 1. Guided wine tour in Ribera. (H, B, L, WV) Night in Ribera del Duero.

You can drive to Ribera the previous day and sleep there making it a 4 night tour. If you are spending the night in Ribera you can get up and have breakfast and start the tour earlier, if you are spending the night in Madrid or other places you have to drive to Ribera del Duero on your own to meet with your guide (You should leave Madrid around 8.30).



Your guide will pick you up from your hotel to start the wine tour. Then you will have a **guided wine tour where you will visit two or three wineries** and have lunch (one or two wineries before lunch and another winery after lunch). **For lunch you will enjoy the typical meal from Ribera**, roasted lamb in a wood fired oven with Ribera del Duero wines in one of the best restaurants of the area. Depending on the time and if you don't mind visiting less wineries you will have time to visit the small walled medieval town of **Peñaranda or the castle of Peñafiel**. Dinner on your own.

NOTE: There is the option of sleeping in Burgos this day. Burgos is a lovely city and very lively in the night. You could even get our driver to pick you up from Madrid in the morning, do the wine tour and then drive you to Burgos.

Day 2: Burgos and Rioja. (H, B) Night in Rioja

Drive to **Burgos and visit its cathedral**, begun in the 13th century and completed in the 15th and 16th centuries. Our Lady of Burgos sums up Gothic architecture in all its beauty with a unique collection of reredos, tombs, choir, stalls, stained glass, etc. It has been also declared World Heritage monument by UNESCO.

Lunch on your own. Depart to Rioja

In Rioja you can visit for example the new Wine Culture Museum Dinastia Vivanco <http://www.vintagespain.com/dinastiavivanco.htm>. You can also dedicate some time to visit the small towns of Rioja like: **Medieval walled village of Laguardia** (13th century), capital of La Rioja Alavesa. Under the stone paved streets and homes of Laguardia it is full of old subterranean bodegas, and over them there are many historic monuments and sites, like the Gothic facade of Santa Maria de los Reyes church from the 14th century.



NOTE: You can skip the visit to Burgos and just drive from Ribera to Rioja in the morning and skip this day. To help you decide here is the approximate driving distances:

Ribera del Duero – Burgos: 1h

Burgos – Rioja: 1h and 30 min

Day 3: Guided wine tour in Rioja. (H, B, L, WV) Night in Rioja

Guided wine tour. Visit two or three wineries in Rioja and have a **traditional lunch**. One can be a traditional winery with wine tasting in Haro or nearby villages. The tradition of Rioja is very well represented by these centenary wineries that keep in their cemeteries bottles from the time of their founders. The other one will be a more modern winery.

Day 4: En of our services. (H, B).

Breakfast and end of our services

OPTION. Drive to Bilbao and visit the Guggenheim while you are in Rioja (Bilbao – Rioja: 1h 20 min)

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PRICE AND CONDITIONS:

OFFER: We have a 20% discount per person if you book before May 2009

The price for the standard tour with 4 days/3nights and 2 days of guided wine tour is:

Number of people	2		4	
	Original price	Discounted price	Original price	Discounted price
Price per person in euros	995	795	870	695

Extra night: from 55 euros per person (breakfast included)

Includes

- 3 nights accommodation with breakfast in double occupancy. Two nights lodging in 4* hotel in Rioja and one night in Ribera del Duero. Rooms are standard double, upgrade is possible. Prices may vary depending on the dates: weekends and national holidays may be extra. (Hotels in Madrid are not included).
- Other lodging options will have different prices, lower or higher depending on your choices.
- 2 days of guided wine tour, one in Ribera and one in Rioja. Each wine tasting day includes, lunch with wine and winery visits, and a guide with transport.
- Meals as per itinerary with wine, 2 lunches. Winery visits with wine tasting included.
- Wine tasting in wineries is usually one or two wines; more extensive tasting or appetizers can be included for an extra price.
- Organization of your trip and planning. All documents and information needed for the tour
- Taxes

What is not included:

- Hotels outside the wine areas.
- Meals not included.
- Transport outside the wine regions
- Activities suggested.
- Hotel expenses like mini bar, room service, laundry, telephone, etc., and expenses of a personal nature.
- Rental Car

Conditions

- The tour is fully customizable, we can include more or less wineries upon request
- If for any reason any given establishment is not available during the dates requested, we will change the winery, hotel or restaurant for a different one within the same category and level of service.
- We accept credit cards (Visa and Mastercard) and bank transfers
- **Deposit:** A 150€ per person non-refundable deposit is due at the time of booking. 100% of the total tour price (the 150€ deposit is then applied) must be received 30 days before the starting of the tour.
- **Cancellation policy:** More than 20 days before the tour starts full refund minus 150€ handling fee. Less than 20 days before the tour starts there is no refund. Tour cancellations must be made in writing.

Terms and Conditions

In these conditions "the company" means RUTAS DE VINO S.L. who acts as the tour organizer and an agent for all carriers and services. The company cannot be held responsible for expenses outside the tour itinerary, or liable for weather conditions, acts of God, natural disasters, strikes, terrorism, injury, property loss and/or damage or other events beyond control. The company is not liable for personal injury or property damage due to occurrences, negligence, or omissions caused by tour suppliers such as but not limited to: establishments frequented, hotels, product producers, restaurants or transportation companies. The company reserves the right to adjust the itinerary if necessary and substitute services of an equitable or better quality if required. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the company reserves the right to cancel a tour at any time before departure and supply participants with a full land refund. This does not include additional expenses such as but not limited to: passport fees, nonrefundable airline tickets.

- **Payment has to be made to Vintage Spain - RUTAS DE VINO S.L. by:**
 - Credit Card: Visa or Mastercard (we do not accept American Express)
 - Bank Transfer to Rutas de Vino SL.
- **Deposits:** We require a non refundable deposit to secure the reservation. The amount will depend on the characteristics of the tour
- **Final Payment of Balance:** Full payment is due within 30 days of tour. If tour date is less than 30 days away, full payment is required upon booking confirmation.
- **Cancellation Terms:** More than 30 days before the tour starts full refund minus deposit. Less than 30 days before the tour starts, cancellation charge is 100% of the tour cost. Tour cancellations must be made in writing.
- Health/accident insurance is strongly recommended. We do not assume any responsibility or liability for any loss or damage of personal effects or for any injury or loss during the duration of the tour.
- We do not make any reservations of wineries or restaurants before the confirmation of the tour. We will always try to accommodate your request.

Testimonials/ References: **You can review past client comments in our web page:**
<http://www.vintagespain.com/reviews.htm>

References are always available upon request.

Many thanks for your interest in our tours!