

RIOJA WINE TRADITION TOUR 2009

Semi guided tours - 4 days/3 nights or 3 days/2 nights

The tour will give you a good experience in Riojan wines, while showing some of the landmarks of Riojan history and art. The famous Guggenheim museum in the nearby city of Bilbao can be a nice complement to the tour.

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.



The tour can start from Bilbao or from Madrid or the town of your choice

SUMMARY: You will arrive to Rioja and check in your hotel. The next day your guide will be waiting for you at the hotel for a wonderful guided wine tour. The last day you are free to continue your vacation. The tour can be extended an extra night and an extra guided wine tour for another day.

HIGHLIGHTS: 2 or 3 nights, 2 winery visits, 1 lunch, 1 full guided day of wine tour. The tour starts and finish in Madrid or Bilbao or the city of your choice

We strongly recommend spending more days in Rioja where you can enjoy the countryside, the wineries, the monasteries.

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:

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

Day 1. Drive to Rioja. (H) Night in Rioja

Start the drive from Madrid or Bilbao to Rioja (Madrid – Rioja: 4h, Bilbao – Rioja: 1h and 30 min).

Depending on the time we can plan some visits for you either in the way to Rioja or in Rioja, and we can also make lunch or dinner reservations. Dinner on your own.

Day 2: Guided wine tour in Rioja. (H, B, L, WV) Night in Rioja

After breakfast your guide will pick you up from your hotel to start the tour. 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.



If you only visit 2 wineries you can visit one of the small medieval villages of Rioja as well. **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. Dinner on your own

Day 3: Back to Madrid. (B).

Breakfast and end of our services. After breakfast you can visit a winery on your own before driving back to Madrid or Bilbao, or stop in the way from Rioja to Madrid, like Lerma, Burgos, or Segovia. We can make reservations for visits or restaurants.

NOTES: This is a very intense trip from Madrid since Rioja is not close. It will be better if you can add an extra day, visiting Ribera del Duero in the way or stopping in Burgos and arriving in Rioja in a more relaxed way. It will be 2 days in Rioja. (4 days/3 nights)

Suggested activities:

- **BILBAO:** Visit the famous **Guggenheim Museum** in Bilbao designed by architect Frank Gehry. This unique Museum built in the center of Bilbao represents an amazing construction feat. The perfect setting: architecture for Art's sake. Gerhy has also designed the new hotel and wine spa for the winery Marques de Riscal. You can select this hotel as well
- **Visit Burgos and 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.
- **In Rioja you can visit the new Wine Culture Museum Dinastia Vivanco**
<http://www.vintagespain.com/dinastiavivanco.htm>.

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PRICE AND CONDITIONS:

The price per person for the standard tour is based on the number of people

OFFER:

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

Number of people	2		4	
	Original price	Discounted price	Original price	Discounted price
Price per person in euros	595	475	495	395

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

including:

- 2 nights accommodation with breakfast in double occupancy in a 4 star hotel in the selected region. Rooms are standard double, upgrade is possible. Prices may vary depending on the dates.
- Other lodging options will have different prices, lower or higher depending on your choices.
- 1 day of guided wine tour as per itinerary. Each wine tasting day includes, lunch with wine and winery visits, and a guide with transport.
- Meals as per itinerary with wine, 1 lunch. Winery visits with wine tasting included.
- Wine tasting in wineries is usually one or two wines; more extensive tasting or appetizers can be included.
- 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 100€ per person non-refundable deposit is due at the time of booking. 100% of the total tour price (the 100€ deposit is then applied) must be received 20 days before the starting of the tour.
- **Cancellation policy:** More than 20 days before the tour starts full refund minus 100€ 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!