

VINTAGE SPAIN

Rutas de vino

Rioja and Bilbao Gourmet Wine Break

4 days/3 nights

Summary: 3 nights combining rental car and guided wine tour. If you only have three days and you want to experience Spanish tradition and modernity in wine, food and architecture, we invite you to fly into the vibrant city of Bilbao and join us in this fantastic tour. This Gourmet Wine Break 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 Bilbao is one of the highlights of this tour. And of course the trip will include a guided tour and tasting in modern and traditional wineries to get a broad understanding of Rioja wines without worrying about drinking and driving.

Highlights: 3 nights lodging (one night Bilbao, 2 nights Rioja), 1 day guided wine tour, one traditional Riojan lunch with wine, one tapas tour, 4 days rental car, 3 winery visits combining modern and tradition, Guggenheim Museum and Wine Culture Museum.



Itinerary

Legend: H: hotel, B: breakfast, L: lunch, D: Dinner

Day 1: Arrival in Bilbao - Rioja. Overnight in Rioja (H)

Arrive to Bilbao. Pick up your rental car at Bilbao airport and drive to Rioja. Hotel checking and dinner on your own. Suggestions will be provided for activities and/or restaurant reservations.

Day 2. Guided Tour of Rioja Wine. Overnight in Rioja. (H, B, L, WV)

Today, your guide will pick you up to visit two Riojan wineries, enjoying the breathtaking views of the Riojan vineyards. You will also have a wine and tapas lunch in Laurel Street in Logroño, with talk on its history, Rioja and its wine culture.

After lunch we will visit the **medieval walled village of Laguardia** (13th century) and its church. 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. **Visit an artisan subterranean winery with underground cellars and taste the wine produce there.** Dinner will be on your own.



Day 2: Wine Culture, Bilbao and the Guggenheim. Overnight in Bilbao. (H, B, L)



After a full breakfast you can visit the Wine Culture Museum Dinastia Vivanco in Briones www.dinastiavivanco.com, and have a traditional lunch there. The museum is situated in the heart of the vineyards adjacent to their Bodega in Briones, a unique and historic location in the Rioja Alta, on the outskirts of Sierra Cantabria. Visit the town of Briones. This is one of the largest wine museums in the world



Depart to Bilbao and enjoy a wonderful drive through the green mountains of the Basque countryside. In Bilbao you can visit the **Guggenheim Museum** designed by the architect Frank O. Gehry (tickets not included). This Museum, together with the landscaping and buildings that surround it, can be considered as one of the best settings in Spain today, worth to spend some time admiring architecture at its best. A walk along the waterside of the Nervion river with the Calatrava bridge, and the spider or the flower puppy in front of the Museum are now landmarks in the new image of modern and artistic Bilbao.

Enjoy free time in Bilbao and dinner on your own (If you prefer you drop off the car this day)

Day 4. Back home and end of the trip. (B)

Transfer to Bilbao airport after breakfast

Price and conditions

Price per person in double room tax included:

- 945 euros per person for a group of 2 people
- 745 euros per person for a group of 4 people
- Discounts for larger groups

This price includes:

- 3 nights accommodation with breakfast in double occupancy. Rooms are standard double, upgrade is possible and single supplement applies, 1 night in Bilbao, 2 nights in Laguardia or Logroño.
- Rental car for 4 days
- Transport as per itinerary with a bilingual Spanish/English driver/guide for one day, the day of the guided tour
- Meals as per itinerary with wine. 1 traditional lunch and one tapas lunch or dinner in Logroño or Haro
- 3 Winery visits with wine tasting included
- Entrance ticket to the Wine Culture Museum Dinastia Vivanco.
- Tour information and detailed itinerary.
- Taxes

What is not included:

- Meals not included.
- Hotel expenses like mini bar, room service, laundry, telephone, etc., and expenses of a personal nature, cancellation insurance, health insurance, etc

NOTE: The tour can be chauffeured from Bilbao with a private driver/guide. Please contact us for price of this option.

Conditions

- The tour is fully customizable; you can have the first or the last night in Bilbao, depending on flight times. The final schedule will depend on winery availability and your personal preferences
- 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 30 days before the starting of the tour.
- **Cancellation policy:** More than 30 days before the tour starts full refund minus 100€ handling fee. Less than 30 days before the tour starts there is no refund. Tour cancellations must be made in writing.

LODGING:

Bilbao: A centrally located 4 star hotel. The hotel will be within walking distance of the Guggenheim Museum. We will give you the best available choice for the selected days

Rioja: A 4 star hotel in Laguardia or Logroño (in Logroño we can select a superior 3 star equivalent to a 4 star hotel). You can also select a bed and breakfast style lodging or a more countryside setting. Options will be given and suggestions made according to the dates

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!