

Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd.

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EXPLORING BORDEAUX & THE DORDOGNE

A tour hosted by Tony Aspler, and escorted by Stephen Pauwels & Cathy Martin.

Wednesday, May 18, to Saturday, May 28, 2016

Tour Cost: \$6,995 per person double occupancy, Land only: \$6,605
Single Supplement: \$1,295

PROPOSED ITINERARY:

Day 1 – Wednesday, May 18:

Departure for Paris from Toronto with Air France at 6:30 PM.

Day 2 – Thursday, May 19:

[B, D]

Via connection in Paris, 11:10 AM arrival in Bordeaux. Immediate transfer to our hotel for the next 5 nights, the Grand Hotel de Bordeaux (www.ghbordeaux.com), Bordeaux' top address with an unbeatable location in the heart of the city's historical centre, the "golden triangle." Free time to relax after the long journey. In late afternoon or early evening we will enjoy a welcome cocktail on our hotel's famous rooftop patio, to be followed by a welcome group dinner in a specially selected bistro nearby.

Day 3 – Friday, May 20:

[B, L]

Late morning visit to Chateau Smith Haute Lafitte in Pessac-Léognan, an appellation in the southern outskirts of the city and part of the Graves region of Bordeaux. Unlike most Bordeaux appellations, Pessac-Léognan is equally famous for both red and (dry) white wines. It includes the only red-wine producer outside the Haut-Médoc classified in the Bordeaux Wine Official Classification of 1855, the "primordial" and prototypical *premier cru*, Château Haut-Brion. Lunch with Smith Haute Lafitte's owners Daniel and Florence Cathiard at the Two-Michelin starred restaurant on the premises, *La Grande Vigne*. Late afternoon return to Bordeaux and free evening.

Day 4 – Saturday, May 21:

[B,D]

Morning guided sightseeing tour of Bordeaux, including the Place de la Comédie, which sits atop the ancient Roman forum, the beautiful Grand Théâtre, built in the late 1700's and now a venue for opera and events, the striking Place de la Bourse, and the ethereal 11th century Cathedral Saint-André. Free time for lunch. In the afternoon, optional tasting session in the Conseil des Vins du Médoc. Group dinner this evening in our hotel's fine restaurant, *Le Pressoir d'Argent*, recently taken over by Chef Gordon Ramsay.

Day 5 – Sunday, May 22:

[B]

Free morning to relax and enjoy the city at your leisure. Afternoon excursion to the Sauternes/Barsac region in the southern Graves, the only appellation in Bordeaux exclusively devoted to the production of white wine. The most famous wines of the area are the complex, sweet wines derived from grapes affected by a benevolent fungus known as Botrytis or “noble rot.” The luxurious, concentrated wines that result are the most labor-intensive and expensive wines in all of Bordeaux to produce! Visit to one of Sauternes top producers for a tour and tasting. Return to Bordeaux and free evening.

Day 6 – Monday, May 23:

[B, L]

A full day of tasting visits at specially selected estates in the Médoc sub-region of the Bordeaux, with famous villages such as Margaux, St. Julien, Pauillac, and St. Estèphe; details TBA.

Day 7 – Tuesday, May 24:

[B, D]

Departure after breakfast. We cross the “Entre-Deux-Mers” region between Dordogne and Garonne tributaries of the Gironde Estuary, then motor eastward into the magnificent Dordogne River Valley and via the town of Bergerac, to our base for the next two days, the Vieux Logis Relais & Chateaux in the tiny town of Tremolat (www.vieux-logis.com). In the afternoon we explore fairytale castles, storybook villages, and idyllic countryside that make the “Dordogne” region one of the most appealing in France. Dinner this evening in our hotel's acclaimed restaurant in arguably the most beautiful dining room in the Dordogne region.

Day 8 – Wednesday, May 25:

[B, L]

Further explorations through the Dordogne countryside including the beautiful medieval towns of Sarlat and the amazing medieval castle of Beynac. Group lunch in a specially chosen restaurant before visiting the spectacular village of Rocamadour, defying the laws of gravity on its clifftop perch 1,500 feet above the Alzou River gorge. Late afternoon return to hotel and free evening.

Day 9 - Thursday, May 26:

[B, D]

Departure from the hotel after breakfast. We return to the Bordeaux region in order to spend our final two days exploring the “Right Bank,” a region that is very different from the “Left Bank” of the Médoc Peninsula. Our base will be the historic Grand Chateau Barrail (www.grand-barrail.com), located just outside the incredibly charming town of St. Emilion. A brief tour of the town with free time for lunch and further explorations before a late afternoon tasting visit at one of St. Emilion's top estates. Group dinner this evening.

Day 10 – Friday, May 27:

[B, D]

Visits in St. Emilion and neighbouring Pomerol (Vieux Château Certan and Château Figeac confirmed to date). Farewell group dinner this evening at the legendary, Michelin-starred Hostellerie de Plaisance in St. Emilion.

Day 11 - Saturday, May 28: :

[B]

Transport to Bordeaux Airport to catch the 10:20 AM flight for Toronto via Paris.

Tour Cost: \$6,995 per person double occupancy, Land only: \$6,605
Single Supplement: \$1,295



Included in the price are:

- Return flight on Air France
 - Accommodation, based on double occupancy, in 4 & 5 star/first-class hotels – the surcharge for single use of a double room is \$1,295;
 - Buffet breakfast daily and a total of eight dinners (or full lunch);
 - All drinks with lunch or dinner;
- Transfers and all visits and sightseeing as described in the itinerary;
- Gratuities to guides.

Not included:

- *****The usual combination of airport taxes, fuel surcharges, and security fees, presently (November 2015) approximately \$625. but subject to change;**
- All items of a personal nature;
- Travel Insurance now available with Manulife Insurance Company, please call for rates.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$1000.00 is required at the time of registration. **Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and application form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed application form.**

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made in full if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$750.00 non refundable fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 46 days before departure:	25% of tour cost
45 to 31 days before departure:	50% of tour cost
Within 30 days prior to departure:	100% of tour cost

RESPONSIBILITY:

Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. reserves the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary as outlined. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable. Any savings realized by these changes will be passed on to the passengers, any resultant expenses shall be borne by the passenger. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. acts only as an agent in securing hotel, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotel, transportation and other travel services are provided to tour members subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally. The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. also reserves the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour, in which case equitable refund will be made at the discretion of the tour operators.

AIR TRANSPORTATION:

Transatlantic economy flight by scheduled IATA carrier(s), based on an economy class group fare. All fares are subject to specific rules and regulations, to changes and to government approval. Deviations from the group flights are possible but subject to higher rates. Pauwels Travel will research any request for date or routing changes at the time they are requested. Should any individual rate be less than the group fare plus airline and administrative fees, the lower rate will be offered to the tour participant. Individual airfares are subject to immediate ticketing and the fare plus taxes must be paid at the time the ticket is issued by the participant requesting the change. Should the group airfare be the lowest available rate, an administrative fee of \$50.00 plus any airline charges will apply.

APPLICATION FORM

Please book _____ seat(s) on the "Aspler Bordeaux Tour" May 18 – 28, 2016.

Enclosed is my/our deposit of _____ (\$1,000 per person, *plus* insurance premium if taken.)

Please indicate with an X if you intend to travel on Group flights _____ or Land only _____

Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for an interim payment of \$1,500.00 and the balance 45 days prior to departure.

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) VALID 3 MONTHS AFTER TOUR DATE TO BE SENT IN WITH YOUR APPLICATION.

PASSPORT NAME(S): **Please** indicate the appropriate title (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. "Liz" for "Mary Elizabeth") _____

ADDRESS _____

Postal Code: _____ PHONE: _____ (Email) _____

If traveling alone, is a SINGLE ROOM REQUIRED? YES _____ NO _____

If sharing, what is your bed preference: twin _____ double _____?

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: We find the earlier a request is made, the more success we have in filling it, so please list any dietary requests, allergies, any special physical needs or frequent flyer numbers etc here. **Please be advised that due to Airline policies, individual seat selection is not always available on group fares and cannot be guaranteed by our agency.**

We cannot ensure requests made 30 days or less prior to departure will be possible.

Insurance, Please call the office for premiums then record it on application and add premium to deposit.

I /we would like to purchase (please check and record your rate):

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

All-inclusive Package \$ _____ Non-medical Package \$ _____

Other \$ _____ **OR** Decline Insurance _____

PAYMENT: Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel Visa Mastercard American Express

Amount Paid: _____ Card Number: _____ Expiry: _____

Security Code: _____ Signature: _____

"I/we agree to the terms and conditions attached to the program, have indicated our insurance choice, indicated any special requests and included payment". Date _____

(Signature)(s) _____

Please forward this completed and signed form, copy of passport and payment to:

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