Cruise Details

Name:	Unforgettable Douro & Beautiful Bordeaux
Reference:	SCENICBODO100527-2
Operator:	Scenic River Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Azure
Regions:	Douro
Departs On:	10 May 27
Departs From:	Porto
Arrives On:	30 May 27
Arrives At:	Bordeaux
Cruise Nights:	20
Total Vacation Days:	21

Itinerary

Day 1: Porto (Portugal)

Fly from the UK for the start of your cruise.Welcome to Porto, Portugal’s second city. Built on the hills overlooking the mouth of the Douro River, this bustling city is the capital of the Northern region. The city was named by the Romans for its strategic harbour, which was an integral link to Lisbon in the south.

Your friendly crew are ready to welcome you on board your luxurious Scenic Space-Ship. Settle into your spacious suite and enjoy a cocktail reception this evening to toast the journey ahead. You will remain docked in Porto overnight, so you can go onshore and explore the city after the sun goes down.

Arrives On: 10 May 27

Day 2: Porto (Portugal)

Wake in the city of Porto, a 2,000-year-old city that lent its name to the nation of Portugal. It is recognised as a World Heritage Site for its striking urban landscape, with many well-

preserved buildings and monuments. And while it is awash in history, it has a youthful vibe. Porto showcases sensory delights, streets are lined with
restaurants showcasing local delicacies and historical buildings are decorated with intricate colourful tiles. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore the region with one of this morning's Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Guided tour of Porto: Discover the rich culture and history of Porto on this guided tour, which includes a visit to the iconic Palácio da Bolsa. After the tour, enjoy some free time to explore on your own. You may want to mingle with the locals in the 110-year-old Bolhão Markets.

Active tour of Porto including cable car: Travel from Porto to Gaia (or Vila Nova de Gaia) where you'll take a cable car ride to the Dom Luis bridge, which crosses the Douro River. Set out on an active walk across the bridge towards Porto Cathedral, São Bento railway station, and the bustling street of Rua das Flores.

Decorative blue tiles azulejos are synonymous with Portugal and this afternoon you will learn about their history while creating a masterpiece of your own during a tile painting workshop on board.

Arrives On: 11 May 27

Day 2: Entre-os-Rios (Portugal)

Arrives On: 11 May 27

Day 3: Entre-os-Rios (Portugal)

Your first port of call along the Douro is the quaint village of Entre-os-Rios. From here, you will set out to explore the verdant Douro Valley, with options to enjoy a hike, sample local wines, or visit a city known as the 'cradle of Portugal'. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose from one of today's Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Paiva walkways: Explore nature at its finest on an active hike along the Paiva walkways. This wooden boardwalk snakes its way down a rocky hillside in the World Heritage-listed Arouca Geopark, beside rivers and across the longest pedestrian suspension bridge in the world.

Quinta da Aveleda: Explore the fairytale-like property of Quinta Aveleda, a renowned sparkling wine producer set on an impressive estate with enchanting gardens.

Excursion to Guimarães: Visit this well-preserved World Heritage-listed city considered the birthplace of Portugal, and explore the palace, which dates to the 15th century, and is home to a historic collection of tapestries, furniture, weapons and more. Relax on board this afternoon as you cruise to Régua, the largest of the riverside towns. This region is famous for producing Port wine, with rolling vineyards on the terraced hillsides and wineries dating to the 18th century. This evening, enjoy a visit to the impressive Douro Museum.

Arrives On: 12 May 27

Day 3: Régua (Portugal)

Arrives On: 12 May 27

Day 4: Régua (Portugal)

Wake early to watch the sunrise illuminate the vineyards surrounding Régua, creating a magical golden hour of light through the mist. Explore more of the region today with multiple excursions on offer. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose from the following Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Visit Varosa Valley, Tarouca & Ucanha On this unique excursion, only available with Scenic travel further into Portugal’s authentic villages. Explore the Varosa Valley and visit the charming village of Tarouca where you'll explore the restored Monastery of Saint John of Tarouca. Walk the fortified bridge of Ucanha, Portugal’s first toll bridge.

Quinta visit with olive tasting: Visit a Quinta, a traditional rural estate, and learn about the production of olive oil that has been handed down through the family for 11 generations. Afterwards, enjoy a tasting of their produce.

Back on board indulge with a delicious lunch before exploring the region further with a selection from the following Scenic Freechoice activities.

Excursion to Lamego: Take a coach to the town of Lamego, nestled among terraced vineyards that were the first to produce world-famous Port wine. Visit the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Remedies, walk down the staircase lined with mosaic tiles and taste local delicacies in a bodega. Finish with some free time.

Mateus Palace: Transfer by coach to Mateus Palace, built in the early 18th century and considered to be one of the best examples of Baroque civil architecture in Portugal. Admire the original furniture, ornate ceilings and manicured gardens.

Port wine blending class: Visit Quinta de Pacheca to marvel at the glorious vineyards and old cellar. Then take a hands-on workshop on the Port blending process, followed by bottling, capping, and labelling with a personalised label.

Arrives On: 13 May 27

Day 5: Régua (Portugal)

Take things slowly today as you enjoy a relaxed cruise through the spectacular Vinhateiro wine growing region. You may wish to absorb the view from the Vitality Pool or book a massage in the wellness area. Terraced vineyards line the sides of the Douro Valley, dotted with traditional red-roofed farmhouses and tiny villages. Vinhateiro was the first demarcated wine region in the world, established in 1756, and this stretch of river is World Heritage listed for its historic significance and importance in wine cultivation. Arrive in Vega de Terrón this evening.

Arrives On: 14 May 27

Day 5: Vega de Terrón (Spain)

Arrives On: 14 May 27

Day 6: Vega de Terrón (Spain)

Wake this morning in the city of Vega de Terrón, located on the border of Portugal and Spain and at the confluence of the Douro and Águeda rivers. This small town remains beautifully unspoiled, with quiet streets, lush landscapes and welcoming locals. It’s a popular gateway to the university town of Salamanca, which you will have the opportunity to explore. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore your way with one of today’s Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Salamanca full day excursion: Known as the Golden City for its honey-coloured sandstone, Salamanca is famous for its university, the third oldest in the world. It's home to two cathedrals, one dating back to the 12th century and the other to the 16th century, which you will see on today’s guided tour. You will also visit a market to taste local delicacies, and you’ll have free time to explore and enjoy lunch at your leisure.

Freixo de Espada à Cinta with silk museum: If you would like a more relaxed day, take a half-day tour to the village of Freixo de Espada à Cinta., This is the only place in Portugal where handcrafted silk is still processed entirely by hand, and on this guided tour you will visit a silk museum before returning to the ship for lunch.

Arrives On: 15 May 27

Day 6: Pocinho (Portugal)

Arrives On: 15 May 27

Day 7: Pocinho (Portugal)

Wake in the tiny village of Pocinho. Established as the terminus of the Douro Railway in 1887, it’s a great base for exploring more of the Douro Valley. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore your way with one of this morning’s Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Côa Valley Museum: Opened in 2010, this museum is the largest open-air Paleolithic rock art site in the world. Inside the striking contemporary building, experience an introduction to rock art through original artefacts and digital technology. You’ll also enjoy a pre-historic workshop.

Village life in the Côa Valley: Visit the traditional village of Freixo Numão, where life has remained unchanged for centuries. Then visit Casa Painova estate for a demonstration on how sweet almonds are produced and enjoy a tasting of almonds, olives and fruit products.

This afternoon, relax as you cruise towards Pinhão. Perhaps meet new friends as you enjoy a refreshment in Panorama Lounge and Bar.

Arrives On: 16 May 27

Day 7: Pinhão (Portugal)

Arrives On: 16 May 27

Day 8: Pinhão (Portugal)

Wake this morning in Pinhão, set on one of the most picturesque parts of the Douro River. This small village is surrounded by terraced vineyards and produces exceptional Port wine.

Transfer to the charming village of Provesende, located on a plateau with spectacular views of the region’s fertile rolling landscape. Wander through the village and visit the church, discover the old bakery, witness traditional handicraft being made, and look inside the historic manor house, Morgadio da Calçada, where you’ll enjoy a tasting of delicious bola. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose one of this afternoon’s Scenic Freechoice activities:

Kayaking along the Pinhão River: Explore this beautiful region from a different perspective as you glide past impressive landscapes of terraced vineyards, patchworked farmland and sprawling estates via kayak on the Pinhao River, a tributary of the Douro.

Quinta vineyard hike: Take a guided hike through the breathtaking vineyards of a quinta. Enjoy stunning views across the Douro River, learn about the winemaking process, and sample some of their blends.

Quinta tasting: Visit a local estate for a tasting of the region’s most famous export, Port wine. On a guided walking tour, you’ll learn the secrets of the vineyard and take in the magnificent landscapes.

Arrives On: 17 May 27

Day 9: Pinhão (Portugal)

Enjoy time at leisure as you continue to cruise along the spectacular Douro River. Your Scenic Space-Ship will arrive back in Porto this afternoon, where you’ll experience an exclusive classical concert tonight. Scenic Enrich
Classical concert in São Francisco Church: From the ship, take a short walk (with some stairs) to São Francisco Church, which is one of the most iconic sites in Porto. Built in the 13th century, the Gothic church has an altar decorated with intricately carved wood swathed in intricate gold detailing. In these magnificent surrounds, enjoy a performance of classical music.

Arrives On: 18 May 27

Day 9: Porto (Portugal)

Arrives On: 18 May 27

Day 10: Porto (Portugal)

Enjoy a full day in Porto, with more time to explore the city and be immersed in authentic Portuguese culture. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore your way with one of today’s Scenic Freechoice activities:

Excursion to Aveiro with a cruise: Enjoy a guided walking tour of Aveiro, famed for its canals and Art Nouveau architecture., Cruise the waterways in a brightly coloured moliceiros flat-bottomed boat, that are unique to the city.

Excursion to Braga: Travel north through the green, rolling countryside of Minho to the historic city of Braga, one of Portugal’s oldest and most elegant destinations. In the historic centre, join a guided tour past the Sé de Braga Cathedral, graceful plazas, and centuries-old residences that reflect the city’s ecclesiastical heritage.

Wine tasting in Vila Nova de Gaia: Travel to Vila Nova de Gaia to visit one of Porto’s most famous cellars, Cockburn’s Port. Enjoy a guided visit and a tasting. This afternoon you will have free time in Porto to explore the city at your own leisure. Return to your Scenic Space-Ship this evening for an illumination cruise through Porto, passing the beautiful city skyline and travelling beneath the six bridges that span this stretch of river.

Later, toast a memorable journey with your fellow guests at a farewell dinner.

Arrives On: 19 May 27

Day 11: Porto (Portugal)

Board an included flight from Porto to Bordeaux where you will be welcomed on board by the friendly crew of the Scenic Diamond.

Arrives On: 20 May 27

Day 11: Bordeaux (France)

Arrives On: 20 May 27

Day 12: Bordeaux (France)

Admire the tranquil riverside scenery as you cruise towards Libourne this morning. After lunch, join a tour to nearby Saint-Émilion. This World Heritage-listed village has thousands of years of history and beautifully preserved medieval buildings. Explore the unique Monolithic Church, which is mostly underground and carved directly into the limestone.

This evening your Scenic Space-Ship will be docked overnight in Libourne, a beautiful 13th century port and winemaking capital of northern Gironde. Take a moonlit stroll along the river or visit one of the city’s many cosy pubs and wine bars.

Arrives On: 21 May 27

Day 12: Libourne (France)

Arrives On: 21 May 27

Day 13: Libourne (France)

Wake early this morning to enjoy the tranquil landscapes. Today, spend some time exploring Libourne and its surrounds. Scenic Freechoice:
Today choose from the following Scenic Freechoice options.

Walking tour of Libourne: Take a guided tour of Libourne, delving into its rich history linked to the trade of wool, wine, salt and wood. As you explore the charming streets, your guide will reveal stories of the town's vibrant past. Admire the enchanting 16th century maison de maître, or townhouse, and the striking Gothic church, distinguished by its soaring stone spire that reaches 71 metres into the sky.

Wines and vineyards of Saint-Émilion: Journey through the bucolic countryside of Saint -Émilion to one of its famous vineyards. Explore the property before tasting some of the Châteaus exceptional wines, which are primarily red blends dominated by merlot and cabernet franc grapes.

Secrets of the Dordogne - Château de Vayres legends: Château de Vayres is a remarkable historic monument that showcases a fascinating blend of medieval, Renaissance and 17th century architecture. Admire an impressive collection of tapestries and period furnishings, all brought to life through a guided tour giving insight into the châteaus rich history and its role in regional power struggles.

Cycling from Libourne: Cycle from the port of Libourne through the rolling hills, vineyard-covered slopes and medieval châteaux of Fronsac. En route stop for a refreshment with sweeping view over Libourne.

Paint and pour: Welcome a talented local artist on board Scenic Diamond and join them for an inspiring art class on the Sun Deck, where creativity meets breathtaking panoramic views. Learn the delicate techniques of watercolor painting, from mastering brush strokes to blending colours, while sipping on local wines. Set sail this afternoon for Pauillac, where you'll dock overnight.

Arrives On: 22 May 27

Day 13: Pauillac (France)

Arrives On: 22 May 27

Day 14: Pauillac (France)

Set on the Gironde estuary at the heart of the Médoc wine route, Pauillac is surrounded by some of the best vineyards in Bordeaux. The town itself is quiet with elegant architecture that speaks to its powerful past in the winemaking industry. Scenic Freechoice:
Today choose from the following Scenic Freechoice options.

Médoc wine tasting by coach: With more than 16,000 hectares of vineyards across eight

appellations, Médoc is home to the iconic ‘Route des Chateaux’, or ‘Route of Castles’. On this coach tour you will travel through this picturesque region to a local winery and enjoy a tasting of their wines.

Médoc wine tasting by bicycle: Discover the spectacular Médoc countryside by e-bike today on this active tour that takes you past many grand aristocratic châteaux in the world’s leading red wine producing region. Afterwards, sample the region’s finest at one of the prestigious estates. Scenic Enrich
Classical Concert at Château d'Agassac: Set in spectacular surrounds in the Médoc countryside, Château D'Agassac dates to the 13th century and is one of the oldest winemaking establishments in the region. Enjoy a glass on arrival and soak in the ambience of this magnificent property as live musicians perform classical masterpieces for your exclusive enjoyment.

Arrives On: 23 May 27

Day 14: Cussac-Fort-Médoc (France)

Arrives On: 23 May 27

Day 15: Cussac-Fort-Médoc (France)

Relax on board as you cruise towards Cadillac. You could enjoy a massage^ treatment or learn more about French cuisine in the Scenic Culinaire cooking demonstration.

Cadillac was founded in 1280 and retains many of its grand historic buildings. In 1701 French explorer Antoine de la Mothe, sieur de Cadillac took his name from the town and established the port of Fort Pontchartrain du Détroit, which would become modern day Detroit where the American auto industry began. The Cadillac car is named in his honour.

Scenic Diamond will be docked in Cadillac overnight, so you can appreciate its quiet village charm after the other tourists have left for the day.

Arrives On: 24 May 27

Day 15: Cadillac (France)

Arrives On: 24 May 27

Day 16: Cadillac (France)

Cadillac is close to the Sauternes wine region, which is known for its sweet, fortified styles. Today, choose between a variety of experiences in the region surrounding Cadillac, from its peaceful countryside to its historic castles. With a full day here, you have the option to choose multiple excursions. Scenic Freechoice:
This morning, choose from the following Scenic Freechoice activities.

Sauternes by coach: Drive through the picturesque Sauternes region. Along the way, expert guides share insights into

the intricate winemaking process, from the careful harvesting of botrytised grapes to the skilled techniques used in fermentation and aging. Enjoy a guided tour of a local wine estate followed by a tasting.

Sauternes by bike: If you are feeling active, choose to cycle through the rolling vineyards of Sauternes to visit a local wine estate for a guided tour and tasting. The trail is mostly flat and you'll cycle for around two hours, including rest stops. Scenic Freechoice:
This afternoon, explore further with the following Scenic Freechoice activities.

Roquetaillade Castle: Château de Roquetaillade is a magnificent medieval fortress with a history stretching back to the 8th century when Charlemagne reputedly built the first wooden fort on the site. Tour the ancient castle, which has been inhabited by the same family for more than 700 years.

Biking in the Loupiac wine region: Join a local guide as you cycle the lush landscapes of the Gironde in the wine region of Loupiac, from where you can admire the breathtaking Château Benauge. You'll ride through gently rolling backroad to Sainte-Croix-du-Mont for an impressive view of the region

Château Toulouse-Lautrec: Accompanied by a knowledgeable guide, you will explore the rich history of the château and delve into the life of its most famous resident, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. You'll have the rare opportunity to wander through the rooms, including the artist's private apartments, which still showcase some of his remarkable artworks.

Arrives On: 25 May 27

Day 16: Bordeaux (France)

Arrives On: 25 May 27

Day 17: Bordeaux (France)

You'll return to Bordeaux City today to discover more of its culinary and cultural delights. Foodies will relish the opportunity to visit a local market with a Scenic chef before an interactive demonstration on board in Scenic Culinaire. There are also options for military buffs and active travellers. Scenic Freechoice:
Discover more about Bordeaux with one of these excursions:

Guided tour of Bordeaux: Join your local guide on a tour of Bordeaux. Discover the highlights of the city by coach and on foot whilst learning interesting facts about the city's history, culture and way of life. Admire the magnificent Gothic cathedral, Place de la Bourse and Cailhau Gate, before some free time to explore on your own.

Cycling tour of Bordeaux: Pedal through historic Bordeaux on a guided cycling tour. Cross beautiful bridges, admire sites such as the Royal Gate and the Palais Rohan, and ride through beautiful public gardens. Sample delicious treats such as canelé, a custard cake.

Shop with a chef and Scenic Culinaire: Join one of Scenic's on board chef at a local food market to shop for and taste the best ingredients this region has to offer before returning to Scenic Diamond for a cooking demonstration in Scenic Culinaire to learn the art of French fare. This activity is not available on Mondays, as markets in France are closed.

Bordeaux in the shadow of

WWII: Step back in time and uncover Bordeaux’s dramatic World War II history on this immersive walking tour. On an unforgettable journey through the city’s most turbulent chapter, you’ll uncover new stories of resistance, sacrifice, and survival beneath the polished surface of Bordeaux’s charm. Back on board, your Cruise Director will organise a special treat for you, with a tasting of fresh oysters delivered straight from the waters of Arcachon Bay. Scenic Enrich
Bassins des Lumières: After the doors have closed to the public, you will be welcomed with a glass of Champagne to Bassins des Lumières, Bordeaux’s former WWII submarine base, now an impressive digital art installation. Be treated to an exclusive show, customised and curated just for Scenic guests.

Arrives On: 26 May 27

Day 18: Bordeaux (France)

Continue your exploration of Bordeaux today with a variety of intriguing options. The moniker 'Sleeping Beauty' or La Belle Endormie was given to Bordeaux when industry was moved to the outskirts and the city was all but abandoned. In the late 20th century, the city was revived and restored to its former glory. The city centre was pedestrianised, limestone was revealed under blackened facades, and Bordeaux was listed as a World Heritage site with more than 300 structures declared historical monuments. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose how you want to explore today with one of these Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Cité du Vin museum: Take a local tram to the Cité du Vin museum where you’ll enjoy an engaging and interactive journey of wine discovery. With nearly 20 themed exhibits, you’ll gain new perspectives on the global journey of wine across different times and cultures.

Tour Bordeaux by motorbike & sidecar: Join your host as you ride through Bordeaux in the side car and/or on the back of a motorcycle. Beginning in the historic Chatrons district, you’ll see the stylish Rue Notre Dame, explore the riverside quays along the Garonne and cross over to the right bank to visit vibrant Saint-Pierre.

Visit Arcachon: Join your local guide for a walking tour of the charming bayside town of Arcachon, renowned for its charming seaside atmosphere and unique architectural style. Your tour ends near the Baltard Market, where you’ll have free time to savour local delicacies and seafood fresh from the Atlantic.

Eleanor of Aquitaine - Story of the Queen who ruled France and England: Step into the world of Eleanor of Aquitaine, the most powerful and influential woman of the Middle Ages. No other woman before or since has held the crowns of both England and France. This immersive journey through Bordeaux’s historic heart makes Eleanor’s extraordinary legacy come alive. Later, enjoy time at leisure on board as you cruise towards Bourg.

Arrives On: 27 May 27

Day 18: Bourg (France)

Arrives On: 27 May 27

Day 19: Bourg (France)

Your luxurious Scenic Space-Ship will be docked in Bourg today, a picturesque town set on a rocky promontory. It began life as a defensive château in the 12th century and has expanded over the centuries. Today, it’s a maze of ancient alleyways, moats and bell towers on the banks of the Dordogne. Scenic Freechoice:
Today, choose from the following Scenic Freechoice activities.

Bourg with Carriages Museum: Your guided walk will lead you through the village’s charming streets to the bustling main square. Explore the historic Citadel, a symbol of the village’s strategic importance through the centuries, and then step inside its grounds to visit the fascinating Horse Carriage Museum.

Historic Saintes: Take a tour of Saintes, a charming town that’s steeped in 2,000 years of history. Admire the Arch of Germanicus, a testament to its Roman past, and the World Heritage-listed Saint-Eutrope Basilica. This immersive walking tour offers a blend of Roman history, medieval architecture and local charm on this tour exclusively available for Scenic guests.

Full day excursion to Cognac: The fortified city of Cognac is renowned for producing some of the world’s finest brandy. Enjoy a guided walking tour of the town, an included lunch, and tour the estate of famed Rémy Martin before sampling some of the Cognacs.

Arrives On: 28 May 27

Day 20: Bourg (France)

This morning you will arrive in Blaye, set at a strategic position on the confluence of the Dordogne and Garonne rivers. Most famously, this petite hamlet is home to a World Heritage-listed citadel that was constructed to protect Bordeaux city from enemy attacks. Scenic Freechoice:
Today, choose from the following Scenic Freechoice activities.

Walking tour of Blaye: Join a local guide to stroll through the charming town of Blaye, proudly recognised as a World Heritage site. Walk through the town’s most iconic feature, the impressive 17th-century Vauban Citadel, and through picturesque streets that reveal its historical significance, cultural traditions, and architectural treasures.

Active walking tour of Blaye: Tour the fascinating Citadel of Blaye on an active walking tour with a local guide. Gain an understanding of the defence system created by the famous architect Sébastien Vauban.

Cycling along the Captain’s Road: Join an active cycling tour along the Captain’s Road, named in honour of the WWI Captains who chose to purchase their homes along this beautiful stretch of waterway in the early 20th century. Pass charming riverside villages, the ruins of ancient villas, splendid manor houses and limestone quarries.

Visit Château de La Roche Courbon: Originally a fortress, Château La Roche Courbon has been transformed over centuries and is now an elegantly restored Renaissance château. Family owned and still inhabited, this beautiful property and its superb gardens will allow you to leap back in time.

Arrives On: 29 May 27

Day 20: Blaye (France)

Arrives On: 29 May 27

Day 20: Bordeaux (France)

Arrives On: 29 May 27

Day 21: Bordeaux (France)

Your cruise concludes this morning in Bordeaux. Disembark after breakfast, taking with you a lifetime of memories.Transfer to the airport for your return flight to the UK. Please note: The Gironde, Dordogne and Garonne waterways are part of a tidal river system which results in changing water levels in the region. Every effort is made to keep to the brochure itinerary however based on tides it will be amended or modified. This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons such as high and low water. As such, the cruise may operate altered from that stated above. Please refer to our terms and conditions.

Arrives On: 30 May 27

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.

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