Cruise Details

Name:	Beautiful Bordeaux with Madrid
Reference:	SCENICBOMA121027-1
Operator:	Scenic River Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Diamond
Regions:	Garonne and Gironde
Departs On:	12 Oct 27
Departs From:	Bordeaux
Arrives On:	25 Oct 27
Arrives At:	Madrid
Cruise Nights:	13
Total Vacation Days:	14

Itinerary

Day 1: Bordeaux (France)

Fly from the UK for the start of your cruise.Welcome to the city of Bordeaux, at the heart of one of the world’s most famous wine regions. It’s famous for its’ 18th century architecture that inspired the design of Paris, for which it has since been recognised with World Heritage status. The landscape is also dotted with beautiful castles.

Step on board the luxurious Scenic Diamond to cruise the waters of the Gironde, Garonne and Dordogne. Meet your fellow guests and toast to the start of an exceptional journey. The ship will remain docked in Bordeaux City overnight, giving you time to join the locals for a glass of wine by the water.

Arrives On: 12 Oct 27

Day 2: 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: 13 Oct 27

Day 2: Libourne (France)

Arrives On: 13 Oct 27

Day 3: 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: 14 Oct 27

Day 3: Pauillac (France)

Arrives On: 14 Oct 27

Day 4: 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: 15 Oct 27

Day 4: Cussac-Fort-Médoc (France)

Arrives On: 15 Oct 27

Day 5: 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: 16 Oct 27

Day 5: Cadillac (France)

Arrives On: 16 Oct 27

Day 6: 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: 17 Oct 27

Day 6: Bordeaux (France)

Arrives On: 17 Oct 27

Day 7: 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: 18 Oct 27

Day 8: 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: 19 Oct 27

Day 8: Bourg (France)

Arrives On: 19 Oct 27

Day 9: 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: 20 Oct 27

Day 10: 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: 21 Oct 27

Day 10: Blaye (France)

Arrives On: 21 Oct 27

Day 10: Bordeaux (France)

Arrives On: 21 Oct 27

Day 11: Bordeaux (France)

Board your included flight from Bordeaux to Madrid. Upon arrival, transfer to your luxury hotel. Settle in and explore the city at your leisure.

Arrives On: 22 Oct 27

Day 11: Port information not found

Arrives On: 22 Oct 27

Day 12: Port information not found

Enjoy a tour of Madrid with a local guide this morning. You’ll explore the 17th century Austrian Quarter, the Sabatini Gardens, and the famous Cibeles and Neptuno Fountains. There will also be stops to see a traditional bullfighting ring that have been engrained in Spanish culture for centuries, admire a panorama of the Royal Palace and visit the unique Templo de Debod, an Egyptian temple from the second century BC that was given to the city by the Egyptian government.
This evening, join your fellow guests for a delicious dinner in a local restaurant.

Arrives On: 23 Oct 27

Day 13: Port information not found

Today spend a full day delving deeper into the charms of Madrid or travel further afield. Scenic Freechoice:
Today chose how you want to explore with the following Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Excursion to Toledo: Take a journey into Spain’s rich multicultural heritage in Toledo, where Christian, Muslim and Jewish traditions have coexisted for centuries. Take a guided walking tour of the ancient walled city, with its stunning medieval architecture, cobbled streets, historic gates like Puerta de la Bisagra, and bustling plazas such as Plaza del Zocodove.

Tastes of Madrid walking tour: This morning let your local guide introduce you to the flavours of Madrid. Walk through the streets tasting local cuisine as you go. Make a stop at the bustling Mercado de San Miguel, where vendors sell gourmet tapas, cheeses, and sweets, to learn about the importance of Mercadon in Spanish culture. Move around the buzzling streets to taste various local produce including jamón ibérico (cured Iberian ham) and pinchos (traditional open faced sandwich), while learning about their history.
Spend the afternoon strolling the fashionable boutiques that adorn the city centre’s many plazas, relaxing in one of Madrid’s manicured gardens or simply exploring the surrounding area at your leisure.

Arrives On: 24 Oct 27

Day 14: Port information not found

After breakfast, transfer to Madrid airport for your return flight to the UK. taking with you memories of a truly unforgettable journey. This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons. As such, the itinerary may operate altered from that stated above. Please refer to our terms and conditions.

Arrives On: 25 Oct 27

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

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