



## Cruise Details

Name:	Bordeaux Affair with Madrid
Reference:	SCENICBORM250926-1
Operator:	Scenic River Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Diamond
Regions:	Garonne and Gironde
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Departs On:	25 Sep 26
Departs From:	Bordeaux
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Arrives On:	05 Oct 26
Arrives At:	Madrid
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Cruise Nights:	10
Total Vacation Days:	11

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Bordeaux (France)

Welcome to Bordeaux. Your friendly crew are ready to receive you on board the luxurious Scenic Diamond.

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. The quiet waterfront was a vestige of a once bustling port, shops were empty... it was a once beautiful city that lay dormant. In the late 20th century, the city was woken and restored to its former glory, a project headed by former mayor Alain Juppe. The city centre was pedestrianised, limestone was revealed under blackened facades, and Bordeaux was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site with more than 300 structures declared historical monuments. It's now one of the most desirable places in France to live and visit, with its waterfront rich in architecture and bustling with locals and visitors promenading, sipping coffee or wine from the surrounding renowned vineyards, a landscape that's also dotted with beautiful castles.

Arrives On: 25 Sep 26

## Day 2: Bordeaux (France)

This morning is spent on board relaxing as you cruise into the beautiful 13th century port of Libourne. Head up to the Sun Deck to bask in the sunshine and enjoy the scenery along the Dordogne River rolling by. Or perhaps drop into Scenic Culinaire for a French cooking class.

Spend the afternoon in the nearby town of Saint-Émilion, a World Heritage-listed medieval village with world-famous wineries, beautiful architecture and historic monuments. It's also the birthplace of macarons. The town bears the name of a monk who is said to have performed miracles, such as restoring a local woman's sight, and lived in a natural grotto here in the 8th century. You will enjoy a guided tour of the caves and catacombs beneath the city, including a Monolithic church built from limestone, whose 38-metre-long bell tower can be seen above ground.

This evening your Scenic Space-Ship will be docked overnight in Libourne, a 13th-century city located at the confluence of the Dordogne and Isle rivers.

Arrives On: 26 Sep 26

## Day 2: Saint-Émilion (France)

Arrives On: 26 Sep 26

## Day 3: Libourne (France)

This morning, why not ask your personal butler to wake you with a coffee delivered to your suite? Then enjoy a leisurely breakfast at Crystal Dining. Then, you'll have the opportunity to explore Libourne and its surrounding wine-growing region.

**Freechoice:** This morning, choose from one of these Scenic Freechoice activities:  
Walking tour of Libourne: Join your local guide for a walking tour of Libourne, the fortified harbour town with a rich history linked to the trade of wool, wine, salt and wood. As you stroll through the town, you'll see the quaint 16th-century town-house and Gothic church that boasts a 71-metre stone spire.  
Wine tasting at Château Siaurac: Located in the prestigious Pomerol wine-growing region, Château Siaurac is the largest and most iconic estate of the appellation. With a long history in winegrowing, the estate produces award-winning wines, which you will have the opportunity to taste. You will also explore the immaculate property, which is home to a 19th-century chateau and 15 hectares of rolling parklands, resplendent with century-old trees and landscaped woods.  
Excursion to Sturgeon Farm: Caviar production in the Aquitaine region of France is renowned the world over and you will have the opportunity to learn about how they produce fine quality caviar during a visit to a local sturgeon farm. Get up close to and even hold one of the sturgeon before sampling some of the caviar produced on site.

This afternoon, relax on board as you sail towards Blaye. Toast the passing scenery with a regional wine or beer in the Panorama Lounge & Bar or spend time in the exclusive Salt Therapy Lounge, which provides natural anti-viral, anti-inflammatory and

anti-bacterial properties.

Arrives On: 27 Sep 26

### Day 3: Blaye (France)

Arrives On: 27 Sep 26

### Day 4: Blaye (France)

Wake this morning in Blaye, a small town with a rich military history and surrounded by vineyards known for red wine production. Most famously, this petite hamlet is home to a World Heritage-listed citadel that was constructed to protect the city of Bordeaux, 50 kilometres upstream, from enemy attacks.

**Freechoice:**  
This morning, choose your Scenic Freechoice activity:

**Walking tour of Blaye:** Stroll through the charming city of Blaye with a local guide. Contained within the walls of the 17th-century Citadel of Blaye, a World Heritage-listed monument that overlooks the Gironde Estuary.

**Active walking tour of Blaye:** Tour the fascinating World Heritage-listed 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.

Afterwards relax on board your luxury ship as you sail towards Fort Medoc for tonight's classical concert.

**Enrich:**  
Tonight's Scenic Enrich:

**Classical Concert at Chateau d'Agassac:** Set in spectacular surrounds in the Médoc countryside, Château d'Agassac is truly enchanting. Dating back to the 13th century the Château is one of the oldest winemaking establishments in the region and is the venue for your unforgettable evening concert. Wander through the château and its gardens and soak in the ambiance of this magnificent property before a string quartet performs classical masterpieces for your enjoyment.

Arrives On: 28 Sep 26

### Day 5: Cussac-Fort-Médoc (France)

Wake up this morning in Fort Medoc, located between Bordeaux and Pointe de Grave, at the northern end of the Médoc winegrowing region. This appellation grows some of the world's most famous and expensive wines, particularly cabernet

sauvignon.  
**Freechoice:**  
Explore your way with one of these Scenic Freechoice excursions:  
**Medoc wine tasting by coach:** The name Médoc is synonymous with exceptional wines. Considered the world's leading red wine producer, Médoc has been a winemaking region since the 18th century, with more than 16,000 hectares of vineyards across eight appellations. The epic 'Route des Chateaux', which translates to the 'Route of Castles', which winds through undulating countryside from Bordeaux to the Pointe de Grave, at the northern end of the Médoc region. On this coach tour you will travel through this scenic region to a local

winery and enjoy a tasting of their wines.

Medoc wine tasting by bicycle: Discover the spectacular Médoc countryside by e-bike today and see many fine aristocratic châteaux in the world's leading red wine producing region. Afterwards, sample the region's finest at one of the prestigious estates.

Back on board, enjoy lunch as you cruise to Bourg, a picturesque town set on a rocky promontory. Built as a defensive château, it's a maze of ancient alleyways, moats and bell towers on the Dordogne. This quiet village sits among many famous World Heritage-listed sites and, though it is just as charming, remains largely undiscovered by the masses.

**Freechoice:**

This afternoon's Scenic Freechoice

Bourg tour with carriages Museum: Situated inside the grounds of Bourg Castle, visit the carriages Museum with a local guide and discover the unique collection of horse-drawn carriages on display. In addition, visit the 16th-century passageway to the guard's rooms and immense WWII oil tanks.

Guided cycling along the Captain's Road: Join an active cycling tour along the Captain's Road, which is named in honour of the WWI captains who chose to purchase their homes along this beautiful stretch of waterway in the early 20th century. Cycle through beautiful riverside villages before returning to the ship.

Visit to a local estate: Enjoy magnificent panoramic views of Gironde Estuary from the right bank while tasting Côtes de Bourg wines at a local winery.

This evening your ship will continue its journey towards Cadillac, stopping overnight in Bordeaux before sailing onward.

Arrives On: 29 Sep 26

#### Day 5: Bourg (France)

Arrives On: 29 Sep 26

#### Day 6: Cadillac (France)

Departing Bordeaux early, your Scenic Space-Ship will sail along the Garonne River to Cadillac. Relax in your suite, many of which have a window that converts into a Scenic Sun Lounge, allowing you uninterrupted views of the passing landscape, some of the most picturesque in the Bordeaux region. Or perhaps you'd rather spend the morning in the state-of-the-art gym doing an invigorating workout before a day of sightseeing in and around Cadillac. Founded in the 13th century, this charming, fortified city is centred around its magnificent château.

**Freechoice:**

Explore your way with this morning's Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Cadillac walking tour: Enjoy a walking tour of Cadillac, a small town with architecture dating to the 16th century. On this tour you will visit Château de Cadillac, a well-preserved monument with decorative fireplaces, more than 30 tapestries and painted ceilings. Between the early 19th century and the 1950s, the château was used as a women's prison.

Sauternes by coach: Venture into the Sauternes region with a visit to either Château Rayne Vigneau or Château La Tour Blanche (the group will be split into two). Enjoy a

delicious tasting of the chateau's fine wines as you take in the stunning views of the vineyard and surrounds.

Sauternes by bike: Cycle through the rolling vineyards of Sauternes to the Grand Cru Classé estate of Château Mayne la Merci for a tasting. Learn the history of winemaking here and the process involved in production from time of harvest, grape to wine, length of maturing and, of course, the tasting pleasure.

Back on board this evening, fabulous local entertainers perform live in the Panorama Lounge for a night of entertainment as you cruise back to the beautiful city of Bordeaux.

Arrives On: 30 Sep 26

#### Day 7: Bordeaux (France)

Waking this morning in Bordeaux, you will have several options to explore this incredible city. Founded by the Celts around 300BC and became part of Julius Caesar's Roman Empire in the 1st century. It has been an important trading port since the Middle Ages, thanks to its strategic location on the river flowing to a sea port, and even acted as the seat of French government at the start of both the First and Second world wars.

**Freechoice:**  
The choice is yours with this morning's Scenic Freechoice:

Guided tour of Bordeaux: Join your local guide on a tour of Bordeaux. Discover the highlights of the city by coach and on foot, such as the magnificent Gothic cathedral and Place de la Bourse, which is home to the famous 'Water Mirror'. Along the way, you'll learn interesting facts about the city's history, culture and way of life. Afterwards you'll have free time to explore the streets and go shopping at your leisure.

Cycling tour of Bordeaux: Pedal through historic Bordeaux on a guided cycling tour. Cross bridges to see the Royal Gate and the Palais Rohan, relax in pretty public gardens and sample delicious treats such as Canele, a custard cake.

Shop with a chef & Scenic Culinaire: Gourmands can join Scenic's on board chef on a visit to a local food market where you will have an opportunity to shop for and taste the best ingredients this region has to offer. Upon returning to your Scenic Space-Ship, head to the Scenic Culinaire cooking school for an interactive cooking demonstration making some of France's most popular and delicious dishes using the ingredients you have just bought.

This afternoon is at your leisure to wander the streets of Bordeaux. Spend your final hours in France wandering along the waterfront past 18th century buildings, make a beeline for the city's Golden Triangle district for beautiful architecture and shopping, or visit La Cite du Vin, an interactive and sensory wine museum.

Arrives On: 01 Oct 26

#### Day 8: Bordeaux (France)

Board your included flight from Bordeaux to Madrid where you will stay three glorious nights.

Arrives On: 02 Oct 26

### Day 8: Madrid (Spain)

Arrives On: 02 Oct 26

### Day 9: Madrid (Spain)

There's so much to discover in just a short time in Madrid, so spend this morning on a guided tour of the highlights. Start in Madrid de los Austrias (the Austrian Quarter), the most historic area of the city that dates back to the reign of the Habsburgs. Discover the iconic Plaza Mayor, a 400-year-old square surrounded by neat rows of brightly coloured buildings; the impossibly picturesque Plaza de la Villa; and the bustling Plaza de la Paja, lined with restaurants and bars. Wander through the elegant Sabatini Gardens, built in front of the Royal Palace in the 1930s and admire the formal garden, fountains and statues. More classic fountains await in the leafy plaza near the famed Prado Museum, the 19th-century Cibeles and Neptuno fountains.

**Freechoice:**

Today's Scenic Freechoice:

Get arty at The Prado: The Prado Museum is renowned as one of the best in the world, with more than 1,500 artworks on display from a collection of over 7,000. See works from Spanish grand masters Goya and Velázquez as well as other prominent European artists like Rubens, Bosch, Rafael and more.

Explore the spectacular Royal Palace: Covering more than 135,000 square metres, Madrid's exquisite 18th-century Royal Palace is the largest in Western Europe. Walk through the grand rooms and airy courtyards, admire the incredible artworks on the walls, and see the weapons and armour on display in the armoury.

Tonight, enjoy a special Spanish dinner with your fellow guests and toast a wonderful day of exploring.

Arrives On: 03 Oct 26

### Day 10: Madrid (Spain)

Today is yours to enjoy at leisure. Madrid is truly one of Europe's most inclusive, engaging and entertaining cities, meaning there is something that appeals to every type of traveller. If the sun is shining (as it usually is), head for the lake at the centre of El Retiro Park. Rent a rowboat to paddle lazily past the grand monuments, water features and leafy forest that line the shores.

There's an excellent crop of museums and galleries where you can while away the day, like the Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Museo Lazaro Galdiano and the National Archaeological Museum. If you'd prefer to be able to buy the beautiful things on display, join the crowds at Gran Via, look for luxury labels in Barrio de Salamanca, or find vintage treasures in the Chueca and Malasaña districts. Foodies should make their way to the Mercado de San Miguel, a century-old cast iron covered market filled with the finest produce from all over Spain. The market draws more than 10 million visitors a year to sample meat, cheese, fruit, vegetables, ice cream and

more.</span></p>

Arrives On: 04 Oct 26

### Day 11: Madrid (Spain)

<p><span>Madrid is famous for its nightlife, but the mornings can be just as special. Take some time on your last day for one last walk around the tranquil grounds of Sabatini Park, just a few minutes from your hotel, or sit at a pavement café for one last cup of strong Spanish coffee. </span></p><p><span>After check out, you'll transfer to the airport where you will farewell Madrid, taking with you memories of an unforgettable journey.</span></p><p><span>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.</span></p><p><span>Please note: Preview itinerary subject to change.</span></p>

Arrives On: 05 Oct 26

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

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