

Wine and castles tour

Rioja - Ribera del Duero - Salamanca

Stay in real castles and discover the charm of Spain's wine regions



by Casas Cantabricas

Summary

Live like a king, staying in authentic castles, and discover Spain's great wine regions.

Follow the great rivers Ebro and Duero and explore the lands of Rioja, Ribera de Duero, Toro and Rueda.

And so much more - you'll find a rich heritage from Roman and Moorish Spain, monumental cities, villages lost in time and a rich gastronomic tradition.

Discover the mountains of the Sierra de Toloña and the magical landscape of the Dehesa where Iberian pigs are bred for the best ham in the world.



Your Route

Tour Highlights:

- Rioja, Ribera de Duero, Toro & Rueda wine regions
- Stay in romantic castle hotels
- Walk or cycle amongst the vines
- Laguardia, Peñafiel, Torredesillas
- Monumental Salamanca, Spain's greatest university city
- Prehistoric dolmens to ultra-modern bodegas

Travel tips:

Fly

To / from Bilbao

Stansted or Manchester with Easyjet
Heathrow with BA
Gatwick with Vueling
Dublin with Aer Lingus

To / from Madrid

Gatwick, Luton, Bristol, Liverpool & Edinburgh with Easyjet
Stansted Manchester, Liverpool & Dublin with Ryanair
Dublin with Aer Lingus

Ferry

Portsmouth or Plymouth to Santander or Bilbao

Please consult for other travel options





Itinerary Overview

Stage	Itinerary	Region	Location	Hotel, Room	Travel/drive time
			Arriving Bilbao		
1	Day 1 & 2	Rioja Alavesa	Laguardia	HLAG2 Historic castle style hotel, Double room (2 sharing)	1hr 30mins from Bilbao airport
2	Day 3 & 4	Ribera del Duero	Curiel	HCUR1 Castle hotel at the heart of the Ribera de Duero, Double room (2 sharing)	2hrs 40mins
3	Day 5 to 7	Salamanca	Topas	HTOP1 Castle amongst the vineyards of Salamanca, Twin room (2 sharing)	2hrs
			Departing Madrid		2hrs 30mins

Your tour includes

What the tour includes:

- Two people in rooms as detailed, bed & breakfast accommodation in each of the hotels
- 4 door economy class car hire for the duration
- Regional roadmap
- Point-to-point directions
- Complementary copy of Cadogan's Guide To Northern Spain
- NB Flights not included

If you would like to book this itinerary please call us at your earliest convenience.

If, on the other hand, you require further help or information or wish to investigate alternatives please don't hesitate to contact us.

Stage 1



Region: La Rioja wine region

La Rioja Alavesa, where the mountains give shelter to the best wineries
Riojan cuisine- excellent local ingredients with a touch of Basque flair
A history of architecture from cave-dweller to Gehry
Medieval towns such as Laguardia, thriving centers of the wine trade
Dinastia Vivanco Museum of Wine Culture, one of the finest private collections in the world.
Izki Golf, two courses in the midst of the beautiful Nature Park of Izki

Historic castle style hotel

Though built in 1863 in the Modernista style this striking building with its imposing watchtower was constructed with stones from a 12th century barracks and has the feel of a small medieval castle. The location is excellent, built into the town wall and at the same time set up and back from the road, with views from the tower, over vineyards to the Sierra de Toloña and the town itself, which are truly second to none The rooms are quite luxuri...[Read More](#)



Stage 2



Region: Ribera del Duero

The 'Golden Mile' - legendary wine trail with Vega Sicilia and many more.
Peñafiel's magnificent castle cum wine museum and unique square 'el Viejo Coso'.
Richard Rogers' modernista bodega at Protos
Valladolid at the hub of five wine regions. Lovely Old-town with great tapas!
Fine Roman remains at Clunia, vestiges of Moorish struggles in Peñafiel
Cycle or stroll along the banks of the Duero river

Castle hotel at the heart of the Ribera de Duero

Perched upon its little mountain overlooking the village of Curiel this pocket-sized fairy tale castle is now a stylish and comfortable hotel and a perfect base from which to discover the Ribera de Duero wine region. Once part of Eleanor of Aquitaine's estate, the castle played a key role in the Islamic wars of the 11th century, later becoming a nobleman's prison before falling into ruin after the Christian re-population of the area and the bu...[Read More](#)



Stage 3



Region: Salamanca

Magnificent Salamanca Spain's foremost university town
Walking in the Sierra de Francia
Gijuelo ham, one of the best in Spain
Site of Wellington's famous victory at the Battle of Salamanca and nearby Ciudad Rodrigo
Via de la Plata - ancient Roman route linking Sevilla with Gijón on the north coast.
Arribes del Duero Nature Park - breathtaking catamaran journey on Duero river
Wines of Sierra de Salamanca and nearby Toro and Rueda

Castle amongst the vineyards of Salamanca

The moat is now a lovely walled garden with a glimmering pool, the battlements sunny terraces for guests to relax and take in the views, and the armoury a cool shady patio but in every other way this hotel is a very 'proper' castle indeed. This XV century castle, at various times owned by Ferdinand, the Catholic King, the Duke of Alba and Cardinal Fonseca (who's stay here with his lover is said to give the castle its curious name) was ...[Read More](#)



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