

# **Itinerary**

# Friday— Arrival, Welcome Barbecue & Wine Tasting at Château Thuriès

17:30 Wine tasting at Château Thuries with Wendy, owner of Vin en Vacances the company who will be running all the tours this week. During a tasting of 8 delicious wines from across the region, Wendy will give you a fascinating overview of the Languedoc wine region and set the scene for your gourmet week.



# Saturday - Canal du Midi Minervois Wine Tour

One of the Vin en Vacances team will pick you up at 8:30 for a day in the Minervois. You will start with a visit to an olive oil producer where you will learn about olive trees, the harvest and how the fruit is transformed into oil. This is followed by a tasting of both oils and olives.

It's a short drive from the olive grove to the Canal du Midi where you take a one-hour private wine tasting cruise. During the cruise you will hear about the history of the canal whilst sipping some delicious Languedoc wines. Next stop will be one of the best lunch spots in the region for a delicious lunch accompanied by Minervois wines. Then we take the scenic drive to the beautiful village of Minerve where you will have some free time to stroll through this tiny village before re-joining your guide for a visit to a nearby domaine for a private visit and wine tasting before returning to Chateau Thuries.

#### Sunday

Day off to explore by yourselves or just to chill at the Chateau (lunch will be provided). Dinner at a lovely restaurant nearby.

#### Monday—Carcassonne La Cité & Sparkling Wine

Pickup from Château Thuriès at 9:00 for the 40-minute drive to Carcassonne La Cité where your guide will take you on a 2-hour walking tour. The tour will include the ramparts where he will begin to tell the story of La Cité. You then have some free time to go off on your own for lunch or explore La Cité further.

In the afternoon you will head off to the Limoux region to visit one of the best sparkling wine producers in the area. The visit includes a tour of the winery where you will hear the fascinating explanation of how sparkling wine is made. This is followed by a tasting of the 4 styles of sparkling wine produced in this region.

Back to the Chateau to relax before cocktails and dinner.







**Tuesday - Corbières Vineyard Tour** 

At 9 a.m. you will be whisked off to the Corbières region, a magical place of contrasts and the largest wine district in the Languedoc.

The day begins with a visit to a small family-owned winery where you will enjoy a stroll in the vineyard followed by a tasting of their excellent range of wines made from Carignan, Grenache and Syrah for the reds and Grenache Blanc, Marsanne and Rousanne for the whites.

After this lovely visit we take the scenic drive to the beautiful village of Lagrasse, one of Les Plus Beaux Villages de France. Your guide will take you on a stroll around the village explaining some of its history that spans at least 1000 years. Your route will take you along the narrow cobbled 'ruelles' and along the way, between the town and the abbey, in squares and behind facades, there are stories to be told and a fascinating medieval history to be revealed.

Lunch takes place in the village and afterwards you have time to explore on your own before re-grouping for a delicious vinegar tasting before heading back to Chateau Thuries.for a gourmet dinner.



#### Wednesday - Gourmet Narbonne & Gruissan

A visit to the roman city of Narbonne to visit one of the best indoor markets in the south of France. You will be guided around many of the stalls including the 'traiteur' to taste olives, garlic confit, and anchoide; then on to a cheese monger to buy a couple of varieties of cheese to take with us to a honey producer, to experience a fabulous taste sensation! Next stop is a little pre-lunch apéro... accompanied by a plate of fabulous charcuterie.

After some free time we re-join our tour bus, and head down to the coast, passing the lagoons and inland waterways to reach our second stop – the salt pans at Gruissan.

Located at the water's edge is both our destination for lunch, and the Salt Museum; lunch is a pescatarian's delight. Oysters...shrimp...whelk served up with aioli and fresh bread, and followed by fish, baked in a salt crust and all washed down with a pichet of local wine. We then stroll across to the salt museum, where amongst the list of little gifts to buy is salt, scented with herbs and spices, salted caramel, and even little salt pigs – how better to remember your day out when you're back in your kitchen at home?

Back on the tour bus, and a short hop to a charming winery in the heart of the La Clape appellation where we learn all about the wines that grow on this stony land. This is where the Romans planted their vines and when you taste these wines you'll understand why they are so special.

#### Thursday - Cabardés Wines & Châteaux Lastours

Pickup is at 10 a.m. and today we head to Chateau de Pennautier for a stroll around the grounds of the château which is in the Cabardés wine region. This is one of the least known appellations but also one of the most interesting as the wines differ from the rest of Languedoc due to the inclusion of Bordelaise varieties such as Cabernet Sauvignon. Chateau de Pennautier is one of the leading producers and we will visit their beautiful winery and follow this with a superb tasting of top-class wines. The chateau also has its own bistro and it is here where we will enjoy a light lunch followed by a tasting and lunch in their restaurant.

Next stop is to a superb viewing area of Chateaux Lastours. Here your guide will recount the story of the Cathars, the crusade to rid Languedoc of them and the part Lastours played in this history.

You will return to Chateau Thuriès by 4pm to relax before dining out at a special restaurant nearby.

# Friday—Homeward Bound!

According to your flight time you will be returned to the airport. You are welcome to chill at the Chateau until it's time to leave. Breakfast and lunch will be provided if required.

Contact: Jayne at Chateau Thuriès to reserve your place:

# bookings@chateauthuries.com

Tel: 00 44 (0)7736 255205

### Terms and Conditions

The prices listed are based on two people sharing a suite (super king-size beds in all suites; however, the Renaissance suite can be equipped with twin beds by request). A 25% deposit is required in order to secure a place and then the remaining balance is due one month prior to arrival. All deposits are refundable in the eventuality that you require to cancel if it is more than three months prior to travel. However, we regret that we will be unable to provide a refund if it is within the three-month time frame unless the place can be filled.