



LUXURY WINE TOUR TO BORDEAUX

The Great Estates of Bordeaux

MAY 17TH – 21ST, 2021

— Hosted by James Cluer, MW —

US \$3,795 *per person*

Join us on a spectacular tour to visit some of the greatest wine estates in the world.

Experience private visits with tastings of exceptional wines, dine at a 2-star Michelin restaurant and stay at a luxury 5-star hotel nestled in historic vineyards. Your host, James Cluer MW, is a passionate expert on Bordeaux.

Each day includes visits and tastings at some of the most famous names in Bordeaux; châteaux that have a long history and whose wines are revered around the world. We will be shown inside these great estates, learning how they produce and operate, before enjoying spectacular tastings.

COME AND DISCOVER

GREAT GROWTHS OF THE MÉDOC with visits to the famous First Growths of **Château Margaux** and **Château Mouton-Rothschild**, and a private lunch with the owner at Super Second **Château Ducru-Beaucaillou**.

SWEET INDULGENCE IN SAUTERNES at First Growths **Château Guiraud** and **Château Coutet**, where we will also have a private lunch with the team and sip on multiple decades of Sauternes.

DISTINGUISHED ESTATES IN PESSAC-LÉOGNAN with visits to Cru Classés **Château Haut-Brion**, **Château Smith Haut Lafitte**, and a private lunch hosted by **Château Haut-Bailly**.

TOP-RATED RIGHT BANK with visits to 1er Grand Cru Classés **Château Angélu**s and **Château Pavie** in St-Émilion, a tasting at **Château La Conseillante** in Pomerol, and a 2-star Michelin dinner at **Hostellerie la Plaisance**.



FINE VINTAGE

BY JAMES CLUER MW

LUXURY WINE TOUR TO BORDEAUX

The Great Estates of Bordeaux

YOUR HOST



JAMES CLUER MW

James has 26 years of experience in the wine trade and now spends his time running Fine Vintage which operates in 15 countries. James spent several years working in Bordeaux, eventually becoming the Export Director for a leading French négociant.

Since 2010, James has personally designed each Fine Vintage tour, paying meticulous attention to the smallest detail.

PRICE

US \$3,795 (INCLUDING TAX)

The price includes accommodation at Les Sources de Caudalie, all meals except on Wednesday evening, superb wines at all meals, all châteaux visits and tastings, and local transport. Transportation to and from Bordeaux, items of a personal nature, and travel insurance are not included. We recommend that you contact your travel agent to arrange travel insurance.

There is a US\$850 supplement for single travelers for a single occupancy hotel room.

Deposit at booking: \$500

120 days from start: \$2,000

90 days from start: Remaining deposit (plus single supplement if applicable)



FINE VINTAGE

BY JAMES CLUER MW

www.FineVintageLtd.com

LUXURY WINE TOUR TO BORDEAUX

The Great Estates of Bordeaux

ITINERARY | DAY 1

MONDAY, MAY 17TH

Our hotel for the entire duration is the luxury **Les Sources de Caudalie** located about 25 minutes by taxi from the airport or train station. www.sources-caudalie.com

The 5-star Les Sources de Caudalie is a favourite place to stay because it is so gorgeous, surrounded by vineyards. The hotel also offers three excellent restaurants, swimming pools, fitness centre, and, of course, its world-class, grape-based Vinothérapie Spa.

2.00 PM

Meet James in the Tasting Tower above the lobby at Les Sources de Caudalie for a Champagne reception, introductions, and a review of the itinerary. James will also give a general overview of Bordeaux, some basic facts, and an idea of what to expect on the tour.

CHÂTEAU SMITH HAUT LAFITTE, AOC PESSAC-LÉOGNAN - CRU CLASSÉ DE GRAVES

We then kick off our program of winery visits just 100 metres from the hotel at Château Smith Haut Lafitte with a tour and tasting.

Smith Haut Lafitte is one of the leading chateaux in Pessac-Léognan. It's a stunning property run by the Cathiard family who sold a chain of sports goods stores to purchase the estate. Smith is one of my favourite wineries in Bordeaux with an amazing underground cellar and its own cooperage. The white wines rank in The Wine Spectator's top 100 wines of the world and the critics regularly score the reds well into the 90's. www.smith-haut-lafitte.com

In the evening we will have a lively dinner at the hotel's La Table du Lavoir bistro. The food is classic Bordelais and we will pair it with some great vintages of Smith as well as a Sauternes. It's a fun night getting to know others on the tour, a maximum of 20 people.



FINE VINTAGE

BY JAMES CLUER MW

www.FineVintageLtd.com

LUXURY WINE TOUR TO BORDEAUX

The Great Estates of Bordeaux

ITINERARY | DAY 2

TUESDAY, MAY 18TH – THE MÉDOC

8.30 am – Depart Hotel

The morning departures get later during the trip, but today we're raring to get to the Médoc.

CHÂTEAU MARGAUX, AOC MARGAUX – 1ST GROWTH

One of the finest names in wine, Château Margaux is an elegant and stately property that many visitors flock to see – but few get in. We are privileged to be invited to visit the 250-hectare estate followed by a tasting of among the very best Bordeaux has to offer. You can finally check “Taste Wine at Margaux” off your bucket list. www.chateau-margaux.com/en/

CHÂTEAU DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU, AOC ST.-JULIEN – 2ND GROWTH

Ducru-Beaucaillou is often considered to be St.-Julien's top château and worthy of a First Growth status. The stunning property sits atop a gravelly rise on the banks of the Gironde that lends its name to the château itself: *beaux cailloux*, or “beautiful stones.” A tour and tasting will be followed by a long lunch in the owner's private dining room, and lots of vintages of Ducru. www.ducru-beaucaillou.com

CHÂTEAU MOUTON-ROTHSCHILD, AOC PAUILLAC – 1ST GROWTH

Mouton-Rothschild, famous for the artistic labels that change with each vintage, is the only Médoc château to ever see promotion since the Classification of 1855. The Baron also created a stunning wine museum with a collection of sculptures, portraits, tapestries, and antiques. The beautiful estate yields a background of Zen-like calm as we taste wines from 3 of the Rothschild estates: Château d'Armailhac, Château Clerc-Milon, and of course, a bottle of the Baron's finest. www.chateau-mouton-rothschild.com

TAPAS DINNER AT LES SOURCES DE CAUDALIE

After a great day in the Médoc we will return to Les Sources de Caudalie and relax. In the tower tonight there we have a lovely tasting of other Medoc wines, both big names and smaller lesser known chateaux. Lots of delicious tapas are served with the wines and it's a nice chance to mingle. After a big day filled with great wines and a serious lunch in the Médoc, tonight is a laid-back evening at our hotel.



FINE VINTAGE

BY JAMES CLUER MW

www.FineVintageLtd.com

LUXURY WINE TOUR TO BORDEAUX

The Great Estates of Bordeaux

ITINERARY | DAY 3

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19TH – GRAVES & SAUTERNES

9:45 am – Depart Hotel

Board our luxury coach for a day visiting the great estates of Pessac-Léognan and Sauternes.

CHÂTEAU HAUT-BRION, AOC PESSAC-LÉOGNAN – 1ST GROWTH

Our first stop is Château Haut-Brion, the only 1st Growth (1855) outside of the Médoc. It is a fascinating property because the city of Bordeaux has now surrounded the vineyards, and the wines are often rated as THE very best in Bordeaux. After the visit, you'll have a tasting of their much-coveted wine. www.haut-brion.com

CHÂTEAU COUTET, AOC BARSAC – 1ST GROWTH

It's time for a change of pace from the dry reds and whites by heading to Sauternes to discover the honeyed dessert wines of this classic region. We start our visit to the area with a visit to Château Coutet, the leading producer in the sub-region of Barsac. Their wines are exceptionally refined, and we will enjoy them paired with a private lunch hosted by the estate. This is an experience of a lifetime. www.chateaucoutet.com

CHÂTEAU GUIRAUD, AOC SAUTERNES – 1ST GROWTH

One of the most dynamic châteaux in Sauternes, Guiraud is a motivating force in this sweet wine appellation. Organically run and environmentally friendly, there's even a nursery for cultivating vine stock. The wines maintain a special character with a pinch more Sauvignon Blanc in the blend than is usual. www.chateauguiraud.com

FREE EVENING

We return to Les Sources de Caudalie at around 7.00 pm. Tonight is a free evening to relax at Les Sources de Caudalie or take a taxi into Bordeaux for an evening on the town.



FINE VINTAGE

BY JAMES CLUER MW

www.FineVintageLtd.com

LUXURY WINE TOUR TO BORDEAUX

The Great Estates of Bordeaux

ITINERARY | DAY 4

THURSDAY, MAY 20TH - ST-ÉMILION & POMEROL

10.00 am – Depart Hotel

Depart for the chateaux of the Right Bank.

CHÂTEAU ANGÉLUS, AOC ST-ÉMILION GRAND CRU - 1^{ER} GRAND CRU CLASSÉ (A)

Our visit to the Right Bank begins with this prestigious Premier Grand Cru Classé “A” estate. The wines of Angélus rank alongside those of Cheval Blanc, Ausonne, and Pavie. Here we have a tour and tasting of the stunning estate. www.angelus.com

CHÂTEAU PAVIE, AOC ST-ÉMILION GRAND CRU - 1^{ER} GRAND CRU CLASSÉ (A)

I admire the work of owner Gérard Perse who has shaken up the sleepyhead traditionalists in the region. He has certainly put Pavie on the map, up-grading it to 1er Grand Cru Classé (A) and has spent a fortune building a new winery. After the tour we have a luxurious lunch in the sumptuous dining room complete with a tasting of Pavie and sister estate Monbousquet. www.vignoblesperse.com/en/chateau-pavie/home

CHÂTEAU LA CONSEILLANTE, AOC POMEROL

Pomerol is the smallest of the Right Bank appellations and produces Bordeaux’s most expensive wines. Château La Conseillante is one of the icons. Family-owned for more than a century, the new cellars are stunning, and our visit and tasting will be hosted by the cellar master. www.la-conseillante.com

VISIT TO ST-ÉMILION

We’ll then head into the historic town of St-Émilion, a UNESCO World Heritage site and perhaps the most beautiful wine village in the world. Steep cobblestone streets wind their way through the medieval center. This is a great spot to buy wine as most châteaux do not sell when you visit.

DINNER AT HOSTELLERIE DE PLAISANCE

Refreshed from our town visit, at 7.00 pm we regroup for a Champagne reception followed by our final dinner in St-Émilion at the Michelin 2-star restaurant La Table de Plaisance. This beautiful hotel is also owned by Gérard Perse and we will celebrate our last evening together with a multi-course menu paired with a stunning flight of wines. The outdoor terrace will capture your heart and the impeccable service and exquisite food are second to none. www.hostelleriedeplaisance.com



FINE VINTAGE

BY JAMES CLUER MW

www.FineVintageLtd.com

LUXURY WINE TOUR TO BORDEAUX

The Great Estates of Bordeaux

ITINERARY | DAY 5

FRIDAY, MAY 21ST – PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

You can either check out of the hotel or arrange to stay additional day(s).

10.00 AM – CHÂTEAU SMITH HAUT LAFITTE

After a slow start and a delicious breakfast there's an optional walk back over to Smith Haut Lafitte to meet the winemaker and see the barrel-maker in action. Or you can sleep in, have a swim, and catch us after the visit.

11.15 am – Depart Hotel

If you are checking out, we'll put your bags on the bus.

CHÂTEAU HAUT-BAILLY, AOC PESSAC-LÉOGNAN – CRU CLASSÉ DE GRAVES

To wrap up the tour we visit with Château Haut-Bailly, just down the road from our hotel in the commune of Léognan. Haut-Bailly is considered one of the top producers of red wines in the Pessac-Léognan appellation; a fact that was cemented in 1953 when it was included among the Classified Growths of the Graves region. This is our final visit of the tour and we will send you off with a sumptuous 4-course lunch paired with some Champagne and the wines from their estate. www.haut-bailly.com

THE TOUR WINDS DOWN

The bus will then go back to the hotel if anyone is staying on, then to the train station arriving at 4.00 pm, and then on to the airport by 5.30 pm. Leave yourself some extra time for unexpected traffic delays when booking trains and planes.

Price: \$3,795 US including tax per person based on double occupancy.

There is a \$850 US per person single supplement.

Space is limited to 20.

It will be a great trip with lots of fine wine, great food, amazing chateaux, a luxury hotel, a nice amount of wine education and many, many laughs. If you have any questions please email David, your personal travel concierge, at david@finevintageltd.com

www.FineVintageLtd.com



FINE VINTAGE

BY JAMES CLUER MW

www.FineVintageLtd.com