

# Gastronomy & Wine

## 4 night tour - B&B

### Your itinerary

The following pages contain general information about your car or motorcycle tour and the locations where you will stay. The order in which they appear on these pages may not be the order your hotels have been confirmed for you - for your individual itinerary please refer to your holiday documentation.





**Maps and guide books** Included with your travel documents you will find an excellent map of Spain to help you plan your journeys. For route planning you may wish to

visit a travel website such as Google maps, viamichelin.com\* or www.theaa.co.uk.

\*Motorway tolls, where applicable, are indicated on this site.

**Hotel directions** With your travel documents you will find an information sheet for each hotel which has been booked for you giving directions together with some further details.

**Arrival** Unless stated, you will be expected to arrive at each of the hotels pre-booked for you by 6pm each day. This should allow you time to have a fairly leisurely drive between hotel stops but if you find you will be arriving later than this please ring and advise the hotelier so that your room is held for you.

**Extra charges** This tour includes breakfast. All additional meals, drinks, phone calls etc must be paid for prior to departure from the hotel.

This tour takes you through 3 different regions of northern Spain, where you will have the opportunity to spoil your taste buds experiencing some of the country's most prestigious wines and cuisine and also to enjoy some superb accommodation in excellent locations. There's the added bonus of some wonderful and very varied scenery to take in along the way.

## Santander



Hotel Bahia, Santander

Standing along the north shore of a great bay of stunning natural beauty, Santander is a sophisticated resort with much to offer. King Alfonso

XIII began spending his summers here back in the 1900s and the local people gave him the Magdalena peninsula upon which he built a palace which sits in a prime position overlooking the bay. This is one of the most traditional holiday resorts of northern



Santander

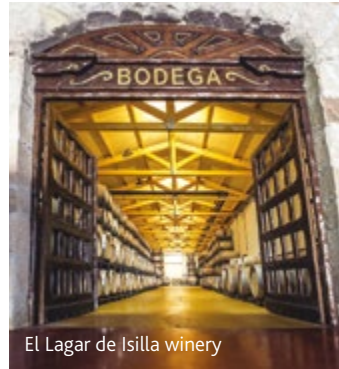
Spain where many of the Spanish themselves choose to holiday, escaping the more arid inland areas. There is a superb sandy beach, modern leisure amenities and an attractive promenade laid out with flower borders and trees, popular with the locals who stroll along it in the early evening and at weekends. The city has wonderful restaurants, tapas bars and shops plus a variety of nightlife and entertainment.

## La Vid



El Lagar de Isilla, La Vid

Heading south to La Vid from Santander you may like to stop for lunch at Burgos, the capital of the Castilla y León region. It has a particularly impressive cathedral which can be seen for miles around. The Ribera del Duero region enjoys a worldwide reputation for its high quality wines, in particular Tempranillo, from the most famous of Spain's native grapes which produces a rich purple colour. Your overnight stay at the charming boutique hotel El Lagar de Isilla may well be one of the highlights of your tour. It is part of a well renowned bodega where you can expect a friendly welcome and take a guided tour in English with tastings. You can of course also buy some wine to take home if you choose.



El Lagar de Isilla winery





## Laguardia



Hotel Villa de Laguardia

Driving from La Vid to Laguardia we suggest you take the route heading slightly to the east so that you have a chance to see one of Spain's undiscovered treasures, El Burgo de Osma. This small



Villa Lucia museum, Laguardia

city has a fantastic cathedral, a castle and medieval walls, floodlit at night. Also along the way if you choose to take this route you will come to another historic city, Soria, on the Duero river, which is well worth a visit. Built high on a rocky outcrop, the lovely walled village of Laguardia has not changed much since the 13thC with its walls

and 4 entrances remaining intact. This is a gateway for exploring the Rioja wine region and with the Villa Lucia bodega and museum here in the village it's an excellent starting point. In the Middle Ages residents dug deep into the rock below their homes to create places for storing food and to take refuge during times of siege. This resulted in a maze of tunnels later found to be ideal for fermenting and storing wine. As well as wine tasting you might like to try one of the many spa treatments popular here, based on wine and olive oil

## San Sebastián



Hotel Silken Amara Plaza

Also known as Donostia, this is a stylish, beautiful city built around a bay with fantastic sandy beaches, fine architecture and an endless choice of places to enjoy some of the best cuisine in the world. Some of the greatest views of the city can be seen from Monte Igueldo, reached in 3 minutes by funicular (an experience in itself) or on foot



taking the road and a few shortcuts up some steps every so often. There's also an old fashioned funfair at the top. La Concha beach is the top attraction in the city which crowds of people head for in summer to cool off, relax, sunbathe, swim or surf. Another part of the city not to be missed is the Parte Viejo, a network of streets filled to the brim with bars, restaurants, cafés and pintxo bars (the Basque equivalent of very delicious tapas) - there's a great atmosphere here by day or night. San Sebastián is also famous for its many Michelin starred restaurants so you are really spoilt for choice when it comes to dining.



Monte Igueldo, San Sebastián