

# BORDEAUX

Always worth the visit.

## **BORDEAUX AS A CITY BREAK**

### **Why Bordeaux? And why now?**

Bordeaux is a clean, modern and vibrant riverside city that looks to the future whilst embracing its past. You can stroll through the elegant streets surrounded by stone columns and noble facades evoking the prosperity that has come from centuries of being the world's greatest wine centre. You can eat and drink well and then, in the evening, hit bars and clubs until dawn.

#### **The 'New Bordeaux'**

The transformation of Bordeaux City was thanks to a huge programme of renovation begun back in 1996 by Alain Juppé, the current Mayor of Bordeaux. While still elegant, the city was looking a bit tired. So the dark, dirty limestone buildings were cleaned and restored and the riverbank regenerated. As a result, **UNESCO World Heritage status** was awarded to Bordeaux in July 2007.

To maintain the city's pristine state, many 'green' policies were introduced, including one of the most environmentally-friendly tram systems in Europe. Bordeaux's light rail system was the first to incorporate Alstom's APS (*alimentation par sol*) ground power that avoids overhead wires and only uses energy when a tram is actually running over it.

Cycling is 'big' in the city with a wide network of bicycle lanes as well as a Boris style scheme and rickshaws to rent. "**Dimanche à Bordeaux**" takes place on the first Sunday of each month whereby the city centre is free of cars so pedestrians, cyclists and rollerbladers can take over.



The redesigned waterfront, along the quays of the Garonne, is now lined with bars, cafés, sports facilities and parks with free WIFI. The main centres on the left bank are on the **Quai de Chartrons**, with a skate park and an organic market which is held twice a week, and **Place de la Bourse**, with its beautiful central fountain and the innovative **Miroir d'Eau** (a shallow reflective pool that doubles as paddling pool for the city in hot weather).

The new and the old Bordeaux are typified in the newly-chic Chartrons area where the traditional wine merchants do business. But here you can also shop for antiques, take a break in coffee shops, visit the museum of modern art and eat in tapas bars and fusion food restaurants.

If you want great shopping, Bordeaux has the **longest pedestrianised shopping street in Europe** (Rue St Catherine) and a large pedestrianised Old Town.

## Getting There from the UK :



*BA from Gatwick* - [www.britishairways.com](http://www.britishairways.com)

*Easy Jet* from Luton and Gatwick as well as a limited service during the summer months from Bristol and Liverpool - [www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com)

*Flybe* operates a limited service of 'selected dates' from *Edinburgh; Glasgow; Belfast; Manchester; Newcastle; Guernsey; Jersey and Southampton* - [www.flybe.co.uk](http://www.flybe.co.uk)

*Ryanair* flies from Cork and Edinburgh - [www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com)

*Aer Lingus* flies from Dublin but not in mid winter – [www.aerlingus.com](http://www.aerlingus.com)

'Green option': *Eurostar via Lille or Paris* (takes about 7 hours each way) - [www.eurostar.com](http://www.eurostar.com)

## Getting around in Bordeaux:



**The Tourist Office** in the city centre (00 33 5 56 00 66 00 [www.bordeaux-tourisme.com](http://www.bordeaux-tourisme.com)) is the best place to start. They offer many short break deals and trips out to vineyards and wineries. They can arrange city tours, accommodation and give advice on current events/festivals.

**Walking:** The city is walking friendly. The tourist office organises guided tours of Old Bordeaux almost every day at 10am and in the summer there is also a 3pm tour.



**Tram:** Day tickets can be purchased for the trams. This is a good way to get your bearings in the city and perhaps take a visit to see the waterfront, and then walk back to your hotel. [www.bordeaux-tramway.veoliaenvironnement.com](http://www.bordeaux-tramway.veoliaenvironnement.com)

**Bicycle Hire:** VCub is a Boris Bike equivalent with a network of 1,500 cycles available for hire from over 100 places around Bordeaux. [www.vcub.fr](http://www.vcub.fr). On the first Sunday of every month there is a bicycle tour at 3pm.

**River Cruises:** These provide a good view of the city and its developments. Operating the first Sunday of each month, plus Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays throughout July and August, 3:30pm-5pm from a quay in the Bastide district on the right bank of the river Garonne – [www.evolutiongaronne.com](http://www.evolutiongaronne.com). Book via the tourist office (see above).

**Segway Tours: 'Gyropode'** – new this summer is a two and a half hour trip tasting red, white and rosé wines in three bars on a Segway – the commentary is in English and French. The operator is Mobilboard. Tél.: 00 33 9 81 90 50 80 | 033 6 99 50 20 80



## Recommended Experiences in the City

**Wine tasting at the École du Vin:** Based at the Bordeaux Wine Council (CIVB) HQ in Central Bordeaux, opposite the Tourist Office. There are ‘*Express Summer Courses*’ – these are two hours long and take place every day except Thursdays and Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The price is 25€. There are longer courses too, including visits to vineyards. [www.bordeaux.com/Ecole-Du-Vin](http://www.bordeaux.com/Ecole-Du-Vin)

**On the Waterfront:** There is a great market here every Thursday and Sunday morning.

The **Miroir d’Eau** water sculpture looks like a mirror and spouts water periodically – a must for photographers and those wanting to keep cool. There is also a fun skate board park nearby and many other sports are played by the riverside.



### Shopping:



**Wine** – There are many wine shops including

**L’Intendant** with its air conditioned wine tower housing over 15,000 bottles of Bordeaux wines exclusively (2 Allées de Tourny, [www.intendant.com](http://www.intendant.com)). **Max Bordeaux** wine bar and gallery boasts 48 grand crus by the glass (14 Cours de L’Intendance, [www.gallery@maxbordeaux.com](mailto:www.gallery@maxbordeaux.com)), and **La Vinothèque** which sells wines from other areas as well as Bordeaux (8, Cours du XXX Juillet, opposite the Wine School <http://www.la-vinotheque.com>). **Badie** is a local favourite, founded in 1880, with a wide selection of wines from Bordeaux and beyond. <http://www.badie.com/accueil.html>

**‘Any Teas’** – A tea shop in the elegant Passage Sarget that will also serve a glass of wine at lunch. It has a spiral staircase from the Gustave Eiffel workshop near Bordeaux. [www.anyteas.fr](http://www.anyteas.fr). If you walk along the Rue des Remparts you will find tea shops, olive oil shop **Oliviers et Co** and **M le Macaron**. Next door is Rue Bouffard where you can have tea in the **Musée des Arts Decoratifs**.

**Canelés (Bordeaux equivalent of Madeleines)** – You will find these delicious local treats all over but the **Baillardran** shop in the Place des Grands Hommes, makes particularly good ones. You can also see them being made.



**Cheeses** – Take a visit to the 15<sup>th</sup> Century ageing cellars of the Jean d’Alos shop (near Baillardran) to try some of the best cheeses from the local region and further afield in France. <http://www.jeandalos.com/>

The **Marché des Capucins** is the wholesale market where the chefs go to buy their ingredients. This is also open to the public <http://marchedescapucins.com>.

For **chocolate**, there are many beautifully decorated chocolate shops including **Cadiot Badie** and **Saunion** [www.cadiot-badie.com](http://www.cadiot-badie.com), [www.saunion.com](http://www.saunion.com). This photo shows **Larnicol** opposite the Opera house and (almost everything is made of chocolate). <http://www.chocolaterielarnicol.fr>

**Spice Emporium** – Bordeaux used to do a lot of trading in spices and a visit to **Dock des Epices** (20 Rue St James) is great fun for food lovers. <http://www.dockdesepices.com>

### Eating & Drinking:



**Le Chapon Fin** – This is grown up food from the talented young chef Nicolas Frion who also hosts a cookery school here. [www.chapon-fin.com](http://www.chapon-fin.com)

**Café de l'Opera in the Grand Theatre** - Beside the opera house. Run by a pony-tailed Scotsman, Colum Crighton-Stewart, it serves afternoon teas and has jazz evenings at the weekend. [www.jegher.fr/pages/opera.php](http://www.jegher.fr/pages/opera.php)

**La Tupina** – Traditional food from the region, with a rotisserie which is a good photo opportunity. Make sure that you're really hungry so that you can try their platters of desserts. [www.latupina.com](http://www.latupina.com)

**Restaurant Café du Port**, - On the right bank of the river Garonne, (Stanislas tram stop) with a spectacular view of the city and very good for groups. [www.lecafeduport.com](http://www.lecafeduport.com)

**Gravelier** – [www.gravelier.fr](http://www.gravelier.fr) – Anne-Marie Gravelier is the daughter of celebrity chef Pierre Troisgros and serves contemporary chic French food in very comfortable surroundings.

**Chez Greg** – Varied international food with a modern vibe. Watch out, the bright young things of Bordeaux descend at weekends (Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights) and the DJ slowly pumps up the volume from 11pm onwards. [www.chezgreg.fr](http://www.chezgreg.fr)

**Brasserie Bordelaise** – Always extremely busy, so try to get there early or book in advance. A great rendezvous for the wine trade, especially on a Thursday evening. Authentic food from the Sud-Ouest. [www.brasseriebordelaise.fr](http://www.brasseriebordelaise.fr)

**Le Petit Commerce** – Fish restaurant in the back streets of old Bordeaux, filled to the gunnels with locals enjoying the daily menu scribbled on blackboards. This is an insider glimpse of real Bordeaux. Open late. [www.le-petit-commerce.info](http://www.le-petit-commerce.info)

**Au Bonheur du Palais** – Word has it that this is one of France's best Chinese restaurants, although it does not look smart from the outside. [www.aubonheurdupalais.com](http://www.aubonheurdupalais.com)

**Comptoir Cuisine** – On the Place de la Comédie opposite the Grand Théâtre. Open every day for lunch and dinner, there is a great buzz with an all-in-one lunchtime menu with a starter, main course and dessert presented prettily on one plate. It has La Cave, a wine cellar with over 1,200 bottles and tutored tastings every Friday evening from 7-8pm. [www.comptoircuisine.com](http://www.comptoircuisine.com)

**Le Cochon Volant (Flying Pig)** - 22 Place des Capucins, next door to the Marché des Capucins. Open from 7.30pm to 4am for those who want to end the night late, or get to the market early. [www.bordeaux-restaurant-cochon-volant.com](http://www.bordeaux-restaurant-cochon-volant.com)

**Gabriel restaurant**- great views at this bar and bistro in the picturesque Place de la Bourse, overlooking the Miroir d'Eau. [www.bordeaux-gabriel.fr](http://www.bordeaux-gabriel.fr)

### Wine Bars



**Bar À Vin:** This is a wonderful bar, also based at the CIVB offices, where wines from all areas of Bordeaux can be tasted by the glass, accompanied by lovely plates of cheese and charcuteries. Visit [www.bordeaux.com](http://www.bordeaux.com) and click on 'the wine bar' to see their full list. WIFI available.

**Wine & Soul** - A wine bar in the trendy Chartrons district with soul music and many wines by the glass. Good for 'chilling out' with lots of tapas style food. At lunchtime they serve sushi, sandwiches and picnic boxes with the option to take-away. [www.wineandsoul.fr](http://www.wineandsoul.fr)

**BU Bar à Vin** – A terrific selection of wines by the glass with lots of tasting events and concerts. Tuesday to Saturday till 2AM <http://www.baravin-bu.fr>

**Aux Quatre Coins du Vin** – Wines by the glass from many winemaking regions and plates of charcuterie, cheese etc. <http://aux4coinsduvin.com>

### Cookery Classes



These can be found at the Michelin Starred **Le Chapon Fin**, <http://www.chapon-fin.com>, where they do themed cookery such as 'local produce' or 'shellfish' or for a very hands-on, cheap and cheerful approach **Ateliers des Chefs** ([www.atelierdeschefs.com](http://www.atelierdeschefs.com)).

On the Right bank of Bordeaux the **Saint James hotel** in Bouliac has started very up-market cooking classes in their school called 'Côté Cours' . <http://www.saintjames-bouliac.com/uk/index.php#ecole-de-cuisine.php>

### Where to Stay?



### In Bordeaux

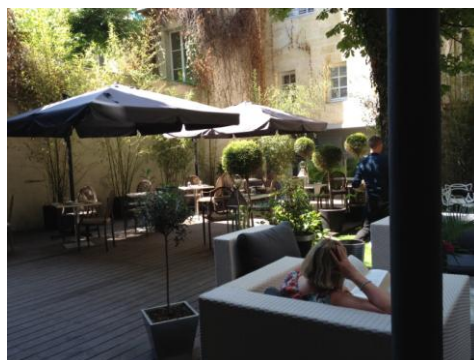
**Hotel Normandie** – Reasonable and very central with small bedrooms (right next to tourist office, tram station and CIVB, Bar à Vin). [www.hotel-de-normandie-bordeaux.com](http://www.hotel-de-normandie-bordeaux.com)

**The Grand Hotel de Bordeaux** – Opened in 2008, Bordeaux's first five star hotel. It is very central, opposite the opera house. A new spa on the roof (opened July 2011) with a black swimming pool and a fantastic panoramic terrace with sun loungers and relaxing massages. At night it becomes the Night Beach bar. <http://www.ghbordeaux.com>

**Seekoo** – this contemporary white hotel is based in *Quai de Bacalan* opposite the renovated hangars. The bar man is ex The Savoy and makes great cocktails! [www.seekoo-hotel.com](http://www.seekoo-hotel.com)

**'Le Boutique hotel'** is new and serves Tapas style meals on their beautiful courtyard. There are baths within the bedrooms and mod cons like iPods, free WIFI and large flat screen TVs. The bar/bistro is open to non residents. <http://www.hotelbordeauxcentre.com>

**La Cour Carrée** opened in May 2012 – it has inexpensive rooms and WIFI throughout. <http://lacourcarree.fr>



**La Maison Bord'eaux** – High class bed and breakfast owned by the owner of Château d'Yquem. [www.lamaisonbord-eaux.com](http://www.lamaisonbord-eaux.com)

**Le Chartron de Notre Dame** – This apartment is in a great area with two double bedrooms, one small shower room with separate WC. <http://appartement-bordeaux-centre.com>

**Les Chambres d'Hôtes** - In the heart of Old Town, this is completely renovated mansion dating back to the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. It overlooks the Cathedral of St. Andrew and the City Hall. [www.lhotel-particulier.com/chambreHote.asp](http://www.lhotel-particulier.com/chambreHote.asp)

**Hotel Particulier** is beautiful with very glam B&B rooms and small studios and flats <http://www.lhotel-particulier.com/>

**Self Catering Apartments** - A great website for those who want to stay in town a little longer. This agency has privately owned apartments throughout Bordeaux centre. <http://www.bordeauxapart.com/>

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