

## Madrid - Toro - Rueda - Ribera del Duero - La Rioja

**Sample Itinerary** Arrival to Madrid airport. Meeting with the group guide / interpreter and short briefing about the trip. All participants will receive a welcome pack with detailed information about the programme. Depending on the arrival time, direct transfer to Toro area, or guided panoramic tour of Madrid. Madrid shows the onlooker multiple faces that history has left behind, such as its medieval origins as an Arab-fortress characterized by its ancient buildings and the smell of the taverns. We'll drive through the courtesan district of the Hapsburgs characterised by Phillip II and his Renaissance and Baroque style buildings like those in the Puerta del Sol, Plaza Mayor and Plaza de la Villa.



We will visit the Madrid of the Bourbons and the complex town planning schemes of Charles III, the Royal Palace, Cibeles and Neptuno Fountains and the Puerta de Alcala. We will admire the works of Jose Bonaparte in the XIX century, such as the elegant Plaza de Oriente and The Prado Museum. We will discover contemporary Madrid with avenues such as Gran Via, Castellana, the district of Salamanca, Plaza de Castilla, Parque del Oeste, commercial and financial zones of Modern Madrid, the emblematic Las Ventas Bullring and the Santiago Bernabeu Football Stadium. Dinner in a typical restaurant. **Accommodation** in 3 - 4\* hotel in Toro Area. If the arrival flight is early in the morning, after the guided panoramic tour of Madrid, we can arrange the visit to the winery of the morning of day 2. And then, continue the programme with day 3, putting one day more in Ribera or Rioja areas.

**Toro Morning:** visit to Domaine Magrez winery, (the owners are the French actor Gerard Depardieu and the world famous Bernard Magrez) where wine is handmade and exported to the Gerard Depardieu's restaurants in Paris. In this winery the visit (4 hours) will be made by Mr. Abdon Segovia who is the person in charge (it's a personal deference, he doesn't accept visits of any kind). He will be please to show the vineyards, cellars, etc. Do an exclusive tasting and explain all the group wants to know.



Free lunch. Short city tour of Toro including the delightful Romanesque Colegiata (collegiate church). A small garden behind the church affords a splendid view of the fertile plain below, known as the Oasis of Castile, and a Romanesque bridge over the Duero. In the afternoon visit to Vega Sauco Winery: guided tour round the winery, where the process of wine production is explained by Mr. Wences Gil, Owner, Winemaker and General Manager. Tasting and appetizer.

Short city tour of Zamora with its numerous Romanesque churches of the 12th and 13th centuries it has been called a "museum of Romanesque art". In the evening tasting and appetizer in our "Bodega" situated in Moraleja del vino. Tapas dinner (dinner in several bars / bodegas, each one offering different wines and appetizers specialities).

Overnight in 3 - 4\* hotel in Toro Area.

Early departure to **Rueda**. Visit to Grupo Yllera winery. Visit to the new cellar, where current Rueda wines are processed. Tasting of 3 Rueda wines, including Cantosan (Brut / Champagne method). Visit to the Grupo Yllera old cellar (XV century, 20 meters underground). Free lunch. After lunch, departure to Ribera de Duero Area, who is the main driving force of wine making in Castilla y León. The longevity of its red wines, their complex tannic structure, their strong fruit, and the contribution of the tempranillo grape variety have all provided foundations on which the new wines of La Ribera have been built. Visit to Arzuaga Winery in Quintanilla de Onésimo. Visit the vineyards, cellars and the impressive 5\* hotel & Spa Arzuaga (oenologist tourism). Tasting of two wines in the winery. Dinner in a typical restaurant. **Accommodation** in 3 - 4\* hotel in Ribera del Duero Area.



In the morning, visit Protos Winery (located under the Peñafiel Castle) and Wine Tasting. Free lunch. In the afternoon, visit of the Wine Museum of Peñafiel placed in a amazing 11th century castle: journey through the vine plant, which presents the parts of the vine, the grain, the type of grape... The ground, the climate, pruning and grafting... Cellars and types of press. Types of wine, bottling, labelling... Trades like the cooper, basket maker, glassmaker... Wine press, weights, liquids, reserve and vintage, casks, tasting and decanting... The visit will finish with a wine tasting: 40 minutes (white, rosé, young red and crianza wines are served, all of Denomination of Origin (Spanish appellation), accompanied with an explanation by an oenologist of each tasting) Continuation to La Rioja Region. Dinner in a restaurant. **Accommodation** in 3 – 4\* stars hotel in Logroño area.



In the morning, visit to Dinastía de Vivanco Winery and Museum (Rioja's Museum of wine culture). It's crucial difference is that it is a museum of wine culture (not just a museum of wine) and is product of 40 years of obsessive collecting by the Vivanco family, owners of the adjoining Dinastia Vivanco estate. Most important of all, it is a stunningly high quality realisation: a beautiful contemporary building and a museum collection spread over four huge floors of a purpose-built space that is absolutely world class by any standards. There are terrific interactive displays that really bring winemaking, wine aromas and flavours, barrel and cork-making to life. A big screen animation of the fermentation process, seen at molecular level from within the tanks, pipes and barrels, is brilliantly done. For those with a real academic interest there's also a historical literature archive (by appointment) that contains 5000 books on wine, including many extremely rare and valuable manuscripts from the pre-printing press middle ages. Free lunch.

In the afternoon, visit to Marqués de Riscal Winery with the Luxury Collection 5\* hotel and vinothérapie SPA (strong marketing with therapeutic treatments: pioneers in vinothérapie) Discover the Hotel Marques de Riscal, Elciego, a unique place where Grand Luxury becomes Art.

Located in the heart of Elciego village and designed by the architect Frank O. Gehry, creator of the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, the hotel has spectacular views of vineyards. Tasting of two wines.

Continuation to Logroño. Free time in Laurel Street, truly unique, is one of the places with more concentration of bars in Spain, and also a typical "tapas" place. Dinner in a typical restaurant. **Accommodation** in a 3 – 4\* hotel in la Rioja Area.

**Madrid** Depending on departure flight, city tour of Logroño including the Plaza del Mercado where you will see the Cathedral of la Redonda, with its “Twin Towers”, etc. or direct transfer to Madrid / Barajas airport or guided panoramic tour of Madrid.

After all the tastings made by an oenologist with the wines of Denomination of Origin (Spanish appellation) each winery produce, the group will be free to ask about any concern regarding grapes, machinery, pest control, quality...