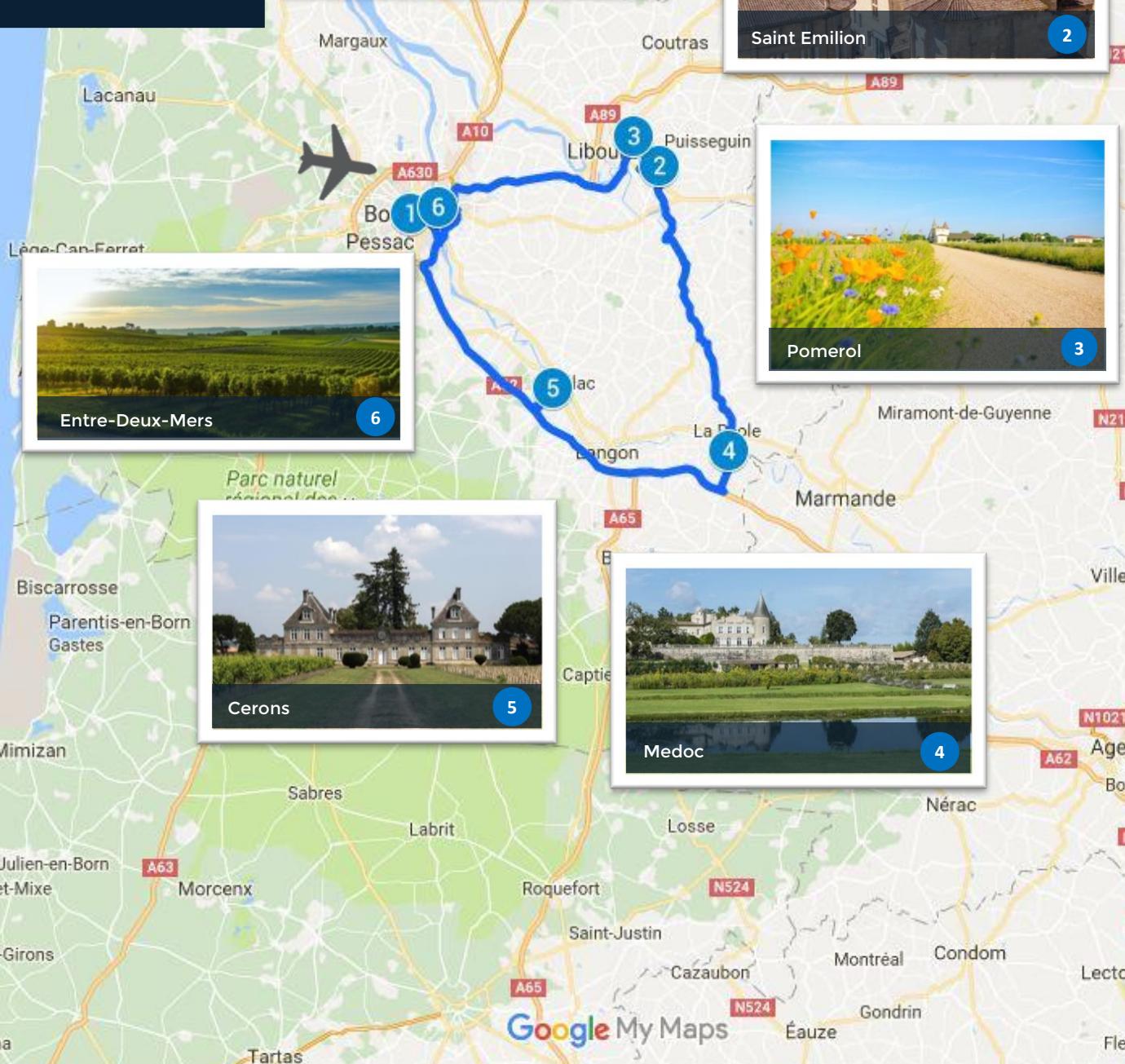
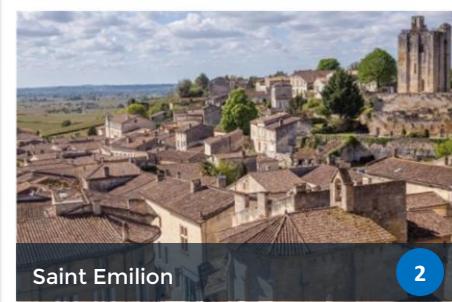




## DRIVE TO DISCOVER FRANCE

### BORDEAUX WINE TOUR: A WINE LOVER'S ROAD TRIP

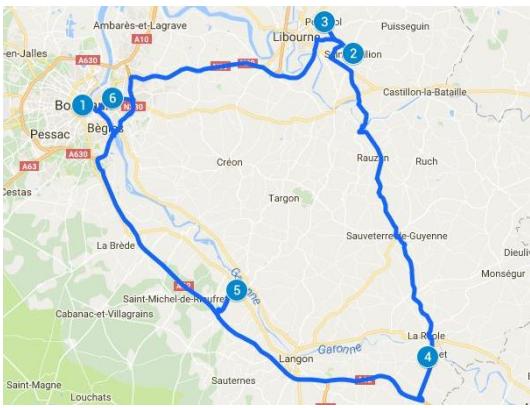


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Road Trip Drive	Distance	Driving Time
Bordeaux to Saint Emilion	34 miles	53 minutes
Saint Emilion to Pomerol	4 miles	8 minutes
Pomerol to Medoc	31 miles	51 minutes
Medoc to Cerons	24 miles	27 minutes
Cerons to Entre-Deux-Mers	26 miles	29 minutes
Entre-Deux-Mers to Bordeaux	4 miles	18 minutes
<b>Total Distance Covered:</b>	<b>123 miles</b>	

This blog post was created in partnership with Atout France, the official tourism board of France.

Bordeaux wines enjoy a history nearly TEN TIMES as long as the United States of America. The first vineyards were planted by knowing cultivators during the days of the Roman Empire, and the name Bordeaux is from the French “au bord de l’eau” – meaning “along the waters,” a fitting name for the vineyards which line the region’s famous waters of the Gironde estuary: fed by the Dordogne and Garonne rivers.

On this exciting Bordeaux wine tour, you’ll spend a day in 6 distinct and famous areas in the Bordeaux wine region, discovering the unique qualities imparted on the wine by the soil, vineyard location, and the traditional winemaking practices observed there.

#### TO/FROM: Bordeaux-Merignac Airport

In this road trip guide, you’ll begin and end your journey at the Bordeaux-Merignac Airport.

#### 1. Arrive in Bordeaux

While it's nearly impossible to explore the entirety of Bordeaux's wine country in a single week, on the first two days you'll have time to walk the city of Bordeaux, dine at 5-star restaurants, and enjoy short drives to excellent vineyards just outside the city limits. This romantic corner of the world is ideal for wine growing and is uniquely suited to exploration by car. Each turn in the road or bend in the river will transport you into a unique micro-climate, where the wines that are produced offer a delightful new twist on those you may have tasted at a nearby vineyard.

#### 2. Bordeaux to Saint Emilion

Saint Emilion is a region many wine lovers in America have probably heard of. It's one of the most famed sub-regions in Bordeaux, renowned for the production of Merlot and Merlot blends with rich, soul-renewing flavor profiles. A short drive to the east of the city will bring you to this “Right Bank” region. We recommend going straight to the Saint-Emilion Appellation, though its neighbors Montagne-Saint Emilion, Saint Georges-Saint Emilion and Lussac-Saint Emilion all offer unique takes on the Merlot blends which have made this region so famous.

#### 3. Saint Emilion to Pomerol & Fronsac

Pomerol and nearby Fronsac are located just Northwest of Saint Emilion, and each of these small sub-regions contain 2 appellations: Pomerol (pictured above), Lalande-de-Pomerol, Fronsac, and Canon-Fronsac. Our advice is to split day four equally between these appellations. Select a vineyard in each, and schedule 4 tastings, spread throughout the day. This will make for a very educational tasting experience – whether you're a connoisseur or a beginner, you'll learn to identify subtle differences in mouthfeel, tannins, and the character imparted by the fruit.

#### 4. Drive Northwest to Cabernet Country

If you love a big, robust cabernet, then Day 4 of your Bordeaux road trip might be your favorite. Driving Northwest, back through Bordeaux to the Medoc sub-region will allow you to discover some of the most famous Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards in the Bordeaux region. There are more than twice as many Merlot vines planted in this region as Cabernet, which makes Cabernet from the Medoc appellations of Saint Stephe, Saint Julien, Margaux, and others especially sought-after.

The Medoc sub-region runs North to South along the left bank of the Gironde, so we recommend driving to Medoc (the northernmost appellation), and then stopping at wineries for tours and tastings as you drive south, spending the night in Bordeaux.

#### 5. Enjoy the Sweet Wines of Graves

Throughout the Graves sub-region, located on the left bank, south of the city of Bordeaux, you'll find historic vineyards and beautiful appellations to explore. Drive south through Pessac-Leognan, through Graves, Cerons (pictured above), Barsac, and Sauternes, spending the night in Langnon before crossing the river for Day 6.

#### 6. Final Day of Tastings: Entre-Deux-Mers

Bordeaux's southern, right bank sub-region is known as Entre-Deux-Mers. Entre-Deux-Mers's six appellations are known for inexpensive, but high-quality dry white wines, light, fruity red wines, and sweet white table wine production. Start your day by exploring the Bordeaux Haut-Benauge, Loupiac, Cadillac and Sainte-Croix-du-Mont appellations before working your way north through the heart of Entre-Deux-Mers and back to Bordeaux, for a relaxing dinner on your final evening in France.

The beautiful thing about planning a wine-country road trip is that you can and should keep things flexible. Rather than offering a strict vineyard-by-vineyard tour of the region, we've outlined a relaxed, flexible schedule which invites travelers to speak with locals, get recommendations about the best vineyards in the sub-region they're planning to drive through, and pull over to explore any chateaux or restaurant which piques their interest.