

THE RIOJA WINE EXPERIENCE

Spain is one of the world's largest wine growers and boasts nearly 1 million hectares of vineyards that produce a huge variety of wine ranging from accessible and affordable to something a little more special.

On this tour you will discover RIOJA, probably the most important Denominación de Origen (Appellations of Origin) in Spain.

La Rioja is a small Spanish region known for its scenic beauty and cultural heritage but above all it has a renowned reputation for its wine as it is home to over 500 wineries.

In addition to the wine aspect of the tour, we suggest places to visit including Sajazarra, rich in history with a splendid castle and medieval Laguardia. La Rioja is also closely linked to the Camino de Santiago, with cities such as Logroño and Santo Domingo de la Calzada which are essential points on the route.

The hotel where you stay is surrounded by vineyards so you can discover the world of wine from their point of view. A tour of its winery is included and you will learn everything you need to know about their production including, of course, tastings.

Apart from this, we will provide details of other recommended wineries to visit where you can benefit from a reduced entrance fee if you present your Brittany Ferries ticket on arrival (pre-booking is necessary). You will also have the opportunity to purchase wine to take home.

And it won't be all about drinking, this tour also allows you to enjoy the rich local gastronomy such as Bacalao a la Riojana - cod with red peppers, tomato and garlic, Pimientos Rellenos - peppers stuffed with meat, seafood or mushrooms, Chuletillas de Cordero - lamb chops with vine shoots or Patatas a la Riojana - potatoes with chorizo and red peppers.



THE RIOJA WINE EXPERIENCE

■ Day 1 | Port > Navarrete

En route to Navarrete take a detour to Sajazarra, a charming village surrounded by vineyards which has an impressive, well-maintained castle. You can also make a stop at Santo Domingo de la Calzada which was founded in the 11th century by the saint after whom the town is named. Santo Domingo was built for the Compostela pilgrims and is one of the most important stopping points on the Way of St James. Its cathedral is by far its most famous landmark mainly due to its two unusual live residents - a rooster and a hen which are central to the miracle that supposedly took place here and visitors in their thousands come each year to see them.

■ Day 2 | Discovering Haro and its Train Station District

Haro is one of the most outstanding wine-producing towns in this region and known as the Capital of Rioja Wine. During the morning you can visit the Barrio de la Estación and discover the history of Rioja wine and admire many centenary wineries with lots of tastings of course! Most of them can be visited but pre booking is essential. To complete your stay in Haro, be sure to visit the old town, declared a Historic-monumental site, and discover its rich cultural, historical, scenic, and gastronomic offer.

Dont miss Herradura Street with its many bars and restaurants where you can taste local dishes and wines. Some suggestions are potatoes with chorizo stew, stuffed peppers, embuchados (pork tripe meatballs) or chuletillas al sarmiento (grilled lamb chops). If you still have time, you can spend part of the afternoon enjoying a fun and interactive learning experience at the Vivanco Museum of Wine Culture in Briones. This unique space has a permanent exhibition where you can learn the history and future of wine, as well as enjoy audiovisuals, temporary exhibitions, and the spectacular Bacchus Garden.

■ Day 3 | Exploring Laguardia and Logroño

During the morning explore the lovely medieval village of Laguardia where you have the opportunity to taste the famous Rioja wine and local pintxos at a large choice of bars. Be sure not to miss out on the Villa Lucía Wine Theme Centre, where you can enjoy a 4D experience and learn about the history and rituals of wine in Rioja Alavesa in a fun and educational way (pre-booking essential).

The afternoon can be spent in Logroño, the capital of La Rioja region. Perhaps not as well known as many of its more famous neighbours and therefore not as busy, Logroño has a charm all of its own and is a great place to explore. It was once an important stopping point on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago and has an impressive reputation for good food and drink. In particular it is well known for its pintxo (tapas) bars so don't miss a visit to Calle Laurel and Calle San Juan where you will find the vast majority of them.

THE RIOJA WINE EXPERIENCE

■ Day 4 | Navarrete > Port

Before leaving La Rioja, on your way to the port make a quick stop and visit Elciego, one of the Magical Villages of Spain. We recommend a pleasant stroll through its charming old town where you can discover different stately homes, palaces and its Plaza Mayor. And then move onto the Wine City of Marqués de Riscal, an essential stop. The iconic avant-garde building designed by Frank O Gehry is one of the main attractions. Explore its surroundings, visit the winery and enjoy some tasting if you still have time.

You can benefit from a discount on entrance fees and/or purchases at the following wineries on presentation of your Brittany Ferries ticket:-

Bodegas Cune - Viña Real (Laguardia)

10% discount on the entrance fee using the code Brittany-VR in their app

<https://cvne.com/>

Bodegas Luis Cañas (10km west of Laguardia)

5% discount on purchases when a visit is booked on line using the code BRITFER2025

<https://www.luiscanas.com/>

Finca Valpiedra, Fuenmayor (11km south of Laguardia)

10% discount on the entrance fee and purchases

<https://familiamartinezbujanda.com/>

Bodegas Izadi in Villabuena (13km west of Laguardia)

10% discount on purchases plus a welcome drink

<https://www.izadi.com> - booking via website required

Bodegas Rioja Alta (Haro)

5% discount on purchases

<https://www.riojalta.com/en/>

Bodegas Arizcuren in Logroño

10% discount on the entrance fee

<https://www.arizcurenvinos.com/>

Bodegas Altanza (15km west of Logroño)

15% discount on the entrance fee

<https://bodegasaltanza.com/>

Bodegas Marqués de Riscal (20km west of Logroño)

5% discount on entrance fee using the code BRITTANY25

<https://www.marquesderiscal.com/>