

# Rugby World Cup France 2023

## Ireland's first two pool matches and Wine Tour Itinerary 14 Day /13 Nights – 4\* Hotels

### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September

Depart Dublin for Bordeaux. On arrival coach transfer to your hotel. That evening we have booked dinner in a local restaurant, making it an ideal opportunity to meet the rest of the group.



## Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September

Morning at leisure in Bordeaux. In the afternoon, return private coach transfer to Stade de Bordeaux for Ireland's first Rugby World Cup pool game. Ireland V Europe 2. Kick off at 15:30



## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September

Today is dedicated to Médoc and the Wine Geese, a term derived from the flight of the Wild Geese, when 14,000 Catholic Jacobite soldiers fled Ireland for France for political and economic reasons after their defeat at the 1690 Battle of the Boyne and the Treaty of Limerick in 1691. Many soldiers and their immediate descendants flourished as merchants, traders and later owning properties, estates, and vineyards around Bordeaux.

Fourteen Chateaux vineyards in Bordeaux bear an Irish name including Chateau Kirwan which is our first stop today. You will be introduced to the world of a family that has been involved in Bordeaux wine production and trade for eight generations. It is a genuinely warm, private world, but also very prestigious. The visit includes 2 wine tastings with "cannelés", a typical pastry from Bordeaux.

Continue north for another visit and wine tasting, where you will have a picnic lunch in the beautiful gardens of the property.

Before heading back to Bordeaux, immerse yourself in the world of barrels and discover some of its many manufacturing secrets.





## Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September

We leave Bordeaux and travel to La Rochelle. Along the way we will spend some quality time visiting one of the best wine appellations in Bordeaux: Saint-Emilion. It is the first vineyard to have earned UNESCO status in the world! So, without exaggeration or bias, we can honestly say that this is the chance to taste some of the world's most respected wines. Enjoy lunch while tasting the very best of Bordeaux wines!



## Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September

Today, embark on a visit to learn all there is to know about cognac, the 'Eau-de-Vie' or 'Water of Life', as you will visit historic distilleries, stroll the vineyards, and sample the unique spirit at family-run cellars. During your tasting, enjoy a lunch in a breath-taking location.

## Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September

Morning at leisure in La Rochelle. Then, we will take some time to have an oyster tasting! Oysters are an integrated part of the local heritage, you must try them...Oléron, Ré, the La Rochelle area... discover an area that is spread over 3000 hectares of sea enclosures and 2000 hectares of oyster beds in Charente-Maritime. This is the best moment of the season! Rest of the day at leisure.



## Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September

After Breakfast we will depart for Nantes. On your way, we will make a stop in the Muscadet's region! Between Loire and farmland, a green and nuanced landscape through the seasons is revealed in the detours of plateaus and hills. From these vines come the Muscadet, emblematic of the vineyards of Nantes. Enjoy a wine tasting and a lunch.

Nantes is located in the heart of the vineyard of Nantes, at the junction of the Loire-Atlantique, Vendée and Anjou, you will admire Clisson and its castle. The city is well known for its medieval air and Tuscan influence, the remains of the castle, which is a former fortress flanked by towers.



## Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September

In the morning we will take a half-day tour of Nantes, including visits to the Palace of the Dukes of Brittany and the Machines of the Isle of Nantes! The Palace of the Dukes of Brittany is an immense castle, located right in the centre of town. You will also head over to the city's old shipyards, where the city's famous Machines of the Isle of Nantes "live"! This unique collection of mechanical animal machines includes a merry-go-round made of sea creatures and a giant elephant that you can ride, among others that are housed in the Hangar à bananes, a space formerly used to treat imported bananas.





## Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September

Enjoy a free day in Nantes. In the evening return coach transfer to Stade la Beaujoire for Ireland's second pool game against Asia/Pacific 1. Kick off at 21:00.



## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September

After breakfast we will head from Nantes to Saumur. On the way, we will make a stop in Chinon, little known compared to other French cities, Chinon is a beautiful medieval town nestled in the heart of the Loire Valley. Besides being an important designation of origin for French wines, it is an extremely charming city located in a region that is a UNESCO world heritage site and that combines history, gastronomy, and oenology. Enjoy lunch while tasting some wine. Then onto Saumur in the afternoon.

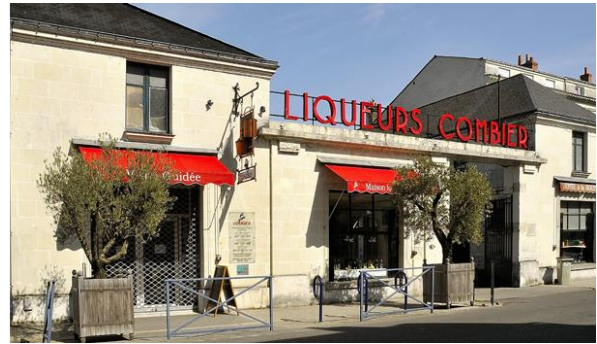
## Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September

Today is dedicated to Loire Valley Castles. After a lunch on your own, you will visit the famous castles of Chenonceau and Chambord. Exceptional by their design, richness of collections and their history, both Chenonceau and Chambord castles will amaze you. Crown property and royal residence, they are the symbol of power and richness of kings during this wealthy period. A true legacy of French History and a UNESCO's world heritage site.



## Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September

In the morning enjoy some free time in Saumur to stroll the narrow streets and enjoy lunch in a local restaurant. In the afternoon, head to the oldest distillery in the Loire Valley, which is still in activity. It was here, in 1834 where the Triple Sec was developed. The visit takes you through the room housing the magnificent, 19th century stills which were made by the engineers of the Eiffel company. Then, head to Saumur's castle for a visit. In the evening we have organised a farewell dinner -cruise, enjoy the sights and sounds as we cruise along the Loire river, at our own pace.



## Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September

Private coach transfer in the morning to Nantes where you have the rest of the day at leisure to enjoy some last-minute shopping.



## Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September

After checking out we will transfer by private coach to Nantes airport for our return flight to Dublin.