



Gascogne, in the hoofprints of Henri IV and the Musketeers

6 days/ 7 nights



In the heart of Gascony, the region of Armagnac was dear to the good King Henri IV.

Essentially situated in the Department of Gers, its vineyards extend to Albret (south of Lot and Garonne) and into a portion of Le Landes. Around 50 bastides (fortified villages) of the 13th century remain in the region including Tenareze, Bas-Armagnac, Haut-Armagnac. If it is true that in Armagnac happiness is in the meadow, the deep Landes forests and the rolling terrain of l'Albret offers our riders a great diversity of trails. The climate of this region, its welcoming culture and the traditional gastronomic delights make this area one a great privilege to enjoy.

Program : *Arrival: Riders arriving by train will be picked up at the SNCF train station in Agen in the late afternoon. Riders with vehicles are welcome to arrive by late afternoon to the guesthouse of M. and Mme de Mentque: Chateau of Saint Loup en Albret (Montagnac-sur-Auvignon) via Agen and Nerac.*

Day 1



After breakfast, we leave the valley of l'Auvignon and climb the hills of d'Espiens all the way to the vineyards of Gueyze (trade name of Buzet) which dominates the valley of the Garonne. Our picnic lunch awaits us. For the afternoon, we make a stop at the Château de Salles for a wine tasting of Buzet wines, then we visit Vianne, a magnificent fortified village of the 13th century. Dinner and overnight stay in guesthouses.

Day 2

By traveling through the vineyards of Buzet and the oak woodlands of Xaintraillles, we arrive at Chateau d'Ambrus and we lunch at its highly rated and charming church. In the afternoon, we cross the Landes forest to reach the Lac de la Lagüe at Fargues/Ourbise. Dinner and overnight stay in guesthouses.



Day 3

Another day in the Landes Forest takes us to the banks of the Gelise River for our picnic lunch. We pass by the Chateau de Lisse before descending to Mezin, a small fortified village dating back to the 13th century. Dinner and overnight stay in guesthouses.

Day 4

Riding by Mezin, and always in the forest, we reach the village of Poudenas and its chateau overhanging the valley of Gelise. If clear skies allow, we can admire the chain of the Pyrenees mountains. Then we will descend into the valley of Fources where we will enjoy our picnic lunch near the only known circular bastide. In the afternoon, we ride to the village of Montreal. Dinner and overnight stay in guesthouses.



Day 5

Today we follow the pathway of Saint Jacques de Compostella to the village of Larresingle, the site of a chateau, a fortified church, and our picnic lunch. In the afternoon, we ride to Moncrabeau, the “village des Menteurs” on the banks of the Baise River. Dinner and overnight stay in a hotel.

Day 6

After having crossed the fertile hills of l’Albret, where sunflowers, corn, melons, grapevines, and more, grow on this very hilly terrain, we reach the small village of Calignac for our lunch at the Chateau of Casal du Bosc. In the afternoon, we descend into the valley of l’Auvignon where we follow the little river until we arrive in Moulin de Berguefave. Dinner and overnight stay in guesthouses.

Day 7

After breakfast, riders are taken to the train station.

PRICING is per person in double occupancy rooms for 6 days and 7 nights. Single rooms may be possible with supplemental fee. All meals and transportation to/from accommodations are included. All riding tack is included. You must bring your own riding helmet. The tour price does not include: tourism visits, wine tastings, or drinks in restaurants or hotels. The information in this itinerary is given for information purposes. The itinerary can change as needed to accommodate logistical issues, safety concerns, weather related conditions, or any other unavoidable circumstances.

LIST OF ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations (depending on availability)



- **Night 1 Château Saint Loup** in Montagnac sur Auignon www.stloupenalbret.com



- **Nights 2 and 3 Le Pavillon du Moulin** à Lavardac <http://www.tourisme-lotetgaronne.com/fr/chambres-d-hotes-hebergements/lavardac-HLOAQUo47FSoo2J2-detail.html>



- **Night 4 Le Relais de Gascogne à Mézin** <http://etienne.soufflet.free.fr/>



- **Night 5 La Ferme de Couloumé** www.lecouloume.com



- **Nights 6 and 7 Hôtel Henri IV** www.hotelhenriiv.fr