

NORTHERN
Spain
FOOD AND WINE



 Commonwealth
Club Travel

SEPTEMBER
9-18, 2016

Witness the contrasts of culture, food and wine on a sumptuous journey across northern Spain, from the **Basque Country** to **Catalonia**, during the beautiful fall harvest season.

WINE TASTING TRIP

ITINERARY

Friday, September 9

Depart the U.S. on flights to Spain. (A group transfer is provided from Bilbao airport).

Saturday, September 10

SAN SEBASTIAN (BASQUE COUNTRY)

Arrive in San Sebastian today. Gather this evening for a guided orientation walk around the main sights of the city, including the old town. Enjoy a welcome dinner at the magnificent Rekondo, named by *Wine Enthusiast* as one of the world's top five restaurant wine cellars. Savor classic Basque cuisine as an accompaniment to some legendary younger and older vintage Spanish wines. *Astoria Hotel (D)*

Sunday, September 11

SAN SEBASTIAN (BASQUE COUNTRY)

Today marks the end of the 'Euskal Jaiak' fiesta week of Basque sports activities. The city vibrates towards the rowing finals across the bay, and we hope to watch a race. Learn about Basque cuisine during an interactive cooking class. Enjoy the *pintxos* (Basque tapas) we create along with main courses and fine wines. After some free time, meet for a guided tapas tour and enjoy the Gros district behind Zurriola beach, as well as the revelry of the local fiesta. *Astoria Hotel (B,L,D)*

Monday, September 12

BILBAO/ VILLABUENA DE ALAVA (RIOJA)

Depart for Bilbao to visit the famed Guggenheim Museum designed by Frank Gehry, and emblematic of the cultural dynamism of the Basque country. Continue to the picturesque Rioja Alavesan village of Labastida for a lunch of traditional dishes such as chorizo, lamb, potatoes, and peppers. Then visit Remelluri an icon in Rioja, where Telmo Rodriguez, and his sister Amaia run the family winery. Telmo

Rodriguez is the most influential flying winemaker in Spain. This evening enjoy a presentation on the wines of Rioja with light tapas. You are then free to enjoy the rooftop terrace or some Riojan specialties at a local restaurant. *Viura (B,L,T)*

Tuesday, September 13

VILLABUENA DE ALAVA (RIOJA)

Visit Lopez de Heredia, a winery which is more like a museum, with its underground cellars that stretch several miles. After a tour and tasting, continue Luis Cañas, a family winery in Villabuena de Alava since 1928. Five of Spain's seven three-star Michelin restaurants carry their wines, a testament to their quality. Explore the vineyards and feel the harvest season in the air during lunch here. Tonight visit the Marques de Riscal Hotel (designed by Frank Gehry) one of the great names in Spanish wines but now also synonymous with the architectural wonders of Rioja. Continue to Daroca de Rioja, the smallest village in the world to possess a Michelin restaurant. Enjoy a full tasting menu dinner with eclectic wine pairings at Ventamoncalvillo.

Viura (B,T,D)

Wednesday, September 14

ALQUEZAR (NAVARRA & SOMONTANO)

Head south to Navarra, the cradle of many of Spain's best vegetables and culinary delicacies, clustered around the town of Tudela. Visit one of Spain's best olive oil producers, Hacienda Queiles followed by a lunch that showcases the oils, local produce, and Navarran wines. Travel further east to Aragon and the foothills of the Pyrenees, to Alquezar in the Sierra Guara National Park. Alquezar is a well-kept secret, a postcard perfect town built around an 11th century Arab fortress. Enjoy a free evening. *Santa Maria de Alquezar (B,L)*



Thursday, September 15

ALQUEZAR (NAVARRA & SOMONTANO)

Visit the Colegiata de Santa Maria, a church that was formerly an Arab fortress. The Colegiata holds many treasures from its rich and varied history, as well as affording lovely views of the Vero Valley. We then leave town for a hike in the Sierra de Guara, a hidden world of canyons and waterfalls, lost villages and shepherds' trails. We stop for a picnic lunch during the hike. In the early evening explore Somontano, a small wine region that has grown in stature over recent years, with the influence of the Pyrenees giving the wines a freshness that makes them very food friendly. Tonight we enjoy a well-earned Michelin dinner at Blecua Winery, catered by Las Torres de Huesca restaurant.

Santa Maria de Alquezar (B,L,D)

Friday, September 16

BARCELONA (CATALONIA)

Head south to Catalonia, and stop at the majestic Milmanda Castle in the Conca de Barbera wine region. The Milmanda Castle is home to the Torres chardonnay and the Grans Muralles red wine. The Torres family led the Spanish wine revolution after Franco's death in 1975 and their single estate wines (like Mas La Plana and Muralles) broke new ground in gaining international acceptance of the potential of modern Spanish wines. Enjoy a tour, tasting and brunch. En route to Barcelona we stop to visit one of Catalonia's best family cava producers. Check in to our hotel, well-located for visits to the Ramblas, the port, the old town and the Boqueria Market. Tonight we set off along the Ramblas to a dinner of Catalan specialities.

H10 Montcada (or similar) (B,L,D)

Saturday, September 17

BARCELONA (CATALONIA)

Explore the wonders of Gaudi's creations, starting with a visit to his La Pedrera house (Casa Mila), followed by his masterpiece, La Sagrada Familia. Enjoy an independent lunch and free afternoon. Tonight we go to Tibidabo Hill to conclude our trip at the 2-star Michelin restaurant Abac, Jordi Cruz's beautiful creation on the edge of the city. Toast to the adventures of our journey from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean.

H10 Montcada (B,D)

Sunday, September 18

BARCELONA (CATALONIA)

Depart on flights home or extend your stay in Barcelona on your own. (B)

TRIP LEADER

JEREMY SHAW, the managing director of Iberian Wine tours, splits his year between a family dairy farm in the hills near Saintfield in County Down, Northern Ireland and a home in the Spanish student city of Salamanca. He studied at the Sorbonne, put up by his aunt and French uncle from Bordeaux, which provoked an interest in good wine. This was stimulated further when Jeremy worked as a stagiaire at Steven Spurrier's much renowned Academie du Vin in Paris followed by several jobs in the wine industry. He received a distinction in the WSET Advanced Certificate in Wines and Spirits, achieving the highest score in Northern Ireland in 2005. Today he leads wine tours all over the world, with a particular focus on Spain and Portugal.

WHAT TO EXPECT

To enjoy this program travelers must be in overall good health and able to walk 1-3 miles a day (on average) and be able to stand for several hours during touring. Our hike in the Sierra de Guara is 3-4 miles over uneven terrain. Participants should be comfortable walking on uneven surfaces such as cobble stone streets, and getting on and off tour buses without assistance. Drive times are 1 ½ to 3 hours on days we move hotels. Dinners in Spain are served late and are lively affairs. Hotels on this program are 3 to 4 star boutique hotels chosen for their locations.

DETAILS

DATES: September 9-18, 2016

GROUP SIZE: Minimum 12, Maximum 25

COST: \$5,195 per person, double occupancy
\$800 single room supplement

INCLUDED: Tour leader and food and wine expert Jeremy Shaw; activities as specified; airport transfers on designated group dates and time; transportation throughout; accommodations as specified (or similar); meals (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner, T=tapas) per itinerary; wine at lunches and dinners; bottled water on buses and during tours; special guest speakers; local guides; gratuities to local guides, driver, and for included group activities; pre-departure materials.

NOT INCLUDED: International air; meals not specified as included; optional outings and gratuities for those outings; alcoholic beverages beyond wine at lunches and dinner; travel insurance (recommended, information will be sent upon registration); items of a purely personal nature.



RESERVATION FORM

September 9-18, 2016

NAME 1 _____

NAME 2 _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____

CELL _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

SINGLE TRAVELERS ONLY: If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

I plan to share accommodations with _____

OR I wish to have single accommodations.

OR I'd like to know about possible roommates. I am a smoker / nonsmoker.

PAYMENT:

Here is my deposit of \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person) for _____ place(s).

Enclosed is my check (make payable to Commonwealth Club). OR Charge my deposit to my Visa MasterCard American Express

CARD# _____

EXPIRES _____

SECURITY CODE _____

AUTHORIZED CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

Mail completed form to: Commonwealth Club Travel, 555 Post St., San Francisco, CA 94102, or fax to (415) 597-6729. For questions or to reserve by phone call (415) 597-6720.

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for this program and agree to them.

SIGNATURE _____

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Commonwealth Club (CWC) has contracted with Iberian Wine Tours (IWT) to organize this tour.

Reservations: A \$1,000 per person deposit, along with a completed and signed Reservation Form, will reserve a place for participants on this program. The balance of the trip is due 90 days prior to departure and *must be paid by check*.

Cancellation and Refund Policy: Notification of cancellation must be received in writing. At the time we receive your written cancellation, the following penalties will apply:

- 91 days or more prior to departure: \$250 per person
- 90-60 days to departure: \$1,000 deposit
- 59-1 days prior to departure: 100% fare

Tour can also be cancelled due to low enrollment. Neither CWC nor IWT accepts liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets purchased in conjunction with the tour.

Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance: We strongly advise that all travelers purchase trip cancellation and interruption insurance as coverage against a covered un-

foreseen emergency that may force you to cancel or leave trip while it is in progress. A brochure describing coverage will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation.

Medical Information: Participation in this program requires that you be in good health. It is essential that persons with any medical problems and related dietary restrictions make them known to us well before departure.

Itinerary Changes & Trip Delay: Itinerary is based on information available at the time of printing and is subject to change. We reserve the right to change a program's dates, staff, itineraries, or accommodations as conditions warrant. If a trip must be delayed, or the itinerary changed, due to bad weather, road conditions, transportation delays, airline schedules, government intervention, sickness or other contingency for which CWC or IWT or its agents cannot make provision, the cost of delays or changes is not included.

Limitations of Liability: CWC and IWT its Owners, Agents, and Employees act only as the agent for any transportation carrier, hotel, ground operator, or other suppliers of services connected with this program ("other providers"), and the other providers are solely responsible and liable for providing their respective services. CWC and IWT shall not be held liable for (A) any damage to, or loss of, property or injury to,

or death of, persons occasioned directly or indirectly by an act or omission of any other provider, including but not limited to any defect in any aircraft, or vehicle operated or provided by such other provider, and (B) any loss or damage due to delay, cancellation, or disruption in any manner caused by the laws, regulations, acts or failures to act, demands, orders, or interpositions of any government or any subdivision or agent thereof, or by acts of God, strikes, fire, flood, war, rebellion, terrorism, insurrection, sickness, quarantine, epidemics, theft, or any other cause(s) beyond their control. The participant waives any claim against CWC/IWT for any such loss, damage, injury, or death. By registering for the trip, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical, or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants. CWC/IWT shall not be liable for any air carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket to or from the departure city. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the traveler. Reasonable changes in the itinerary may be made where deemed advisable for the comfort and well-being of the passengers.