

GASTRONOMY, VINEYARDS & GRANDS CRUS



From Lisbon to Lorient, **PONANT** invites you to join an exceptional **gastronomic and oenological cruise** in partnership with **Artémis Domaines**, owner of **Château Latour**, among others.



DATE: April 11, 2020

DURATION: 9-DAYS/8-NIGHTS

EMBARK: LISBON, PORTUGAL

DISEMBARK: LORIENT, FRANCE

SHIP: L'AUSTRAL

FROM: \$5,370*

***First Time Ponant Cruisers receive
\$600 off these fares
Book and deposit by Mar 31, 2019**

In partnership with Artémis Domaines.

From Lisbon to Lorient, **PONANT** invites you to join an exceptional **gastronomic and oenological cruise** in partnership with **Artémis Domaines**, owner of **Château Latour, among others**.

Set sail for a 9-day cruise to the land of rich flavours. From the port of Leixões, you will first visit **Porto**. Capital of the northern region of Portugal, this “city of granite”, the centre of which is a UNESCO World Heritage site, is renowned for its wine.

You will then chart a course for **Bilbao**, not far from the La Rioja winemaking region, whose reputation goes before it.

Located in south-west France, **Bordeaux is the world capital of wine**. You will be enchanted by the rich oenological tradition of this region and will visit the Cité du Vin. The port of call in **Pauillac**, the capital of Médoc, will be an opportunity to discover some of the region’s most renowned wine estates.

Finally, you will call at the **Ile d’Aix** before disembarking at **Lorient**, the conclusion of a unique cruise combining refined gastronomy, vineyards and ocean.

HIGHLIGHTS

- An exceptional cruise focused on wine and gastronomy, in partnership with Artémis Domaines.
- Renowned chef and sommelier on board.
- Tasting of Grands Crus and conferences on board about wine.
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Tower of Belem and the Monastery of the Hieronymites (Jeronimos Monastery) in Lisbon (your boarding port), the historic centre of Porto, the Vizcaya Bridge in Bilbao, the Port of the Moon in Bordeaux and Fort Liédot in Ile d’Aix.
- An overnight stay in Bordeaux, capital of the Aquitaine region.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 — LISBON

NOTE: We can arrange pre- and post-cruise tour programs for you – see more while you are here! It is always advisable to arrive at least one day early, two or more is preferable.

Portugal’s capital city located on the banks of the Tagus, only a few kilometres from the Atlantic coast, is a city of exceptionally rich cultural diversity. At the

mouth of the river harbour, impose two UNESCO World Heritage monuments, **Jeronimos monastery** and **Belem tower**. Sample the local delicacies such as the *pasteis de nata*—delicious creamy bakery flans. On the Alfama hillside, as you explore the **Moorish streets**, you may well hear **sounds of fado** drifting from the bars. Along Chiado’s elegant streets, big fashion labels will entice in you for a bit of luxury shopping.



DAY 2 – PORTO

Located at the mouth of the Douro River, the port of Leixões lies less than 10 kilometres from Porto. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the historic centre of Porto is worth a visit for its famous **Ribeira district**, the metallic silhouette of the Dom-Luis bridge looming over its ancient houses, its richly decorated Baroque churches and its national **Soares dos Reis** museum. The **São Bentostation** is also interesting for its typically Portuguese decoration, using *Azulejos*, blue square ceramic tiles decorated with geometric patterns or figurative scenes.

DAY 3 – AT SEA

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship’s upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

DAY 4 – BILBAO

Bilbao, capital of the Spanish Basque country, is one of the most avant-garde cities in Europe. Its

architectural audacity as well as its ancient built heritage will take you on a journey between traditions and innovations. An unusual cable car will allow you to reach the magnificent **Guggenheim Museum**, a unique construction of stone, glass and titanium, designed by the architect Frank Gehry and home to a collection of modern art and contemporary monumental sculpture. The narrow streets of the **old city** and the unmistakable **Ensanche district** are also worthy of a visit, as is the **Vizcaya bridge**, the world's first ever transporter bridge, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



DAY 5 – PAUILLAC

Discover **Pauillac**, a town in southwestern France located a few kilometres away from Bordeaux, stretching along the Gironde. The undisputed capital of Médoc, Pauillac will open up its magical universe for you, from **culture and heritage to vineyards and châteaux**. This stop will be a voyage of myriad flavours, particularly during the tasting of the region's wines, revealing their soft ruby colours and reflections turning amber with time. Enjoy both a **sensorial adventure** and an adventure into the heart of the town. Don't miss the visit of Saint Martin's Church or the mysterious **grotto of Artigues**, dominated by a statue of the Virgin Mary. As for the **Aspic Tower**, it is topped with a dome from which the harvesters' work used to be overseen.

DAY 6-7 – BORDEAUX

Bordeaux stretches along the banks of the Garonne river, in South-West France. Its rich wine tradition makes it the **world capital of wine**. You can uncover this city's secrets in the Bordeaux Wine and Trade museum as well as in the bars housed in the historical wine cellars of the old city centre. Let yourself be carried away by the history of the made a UNESCO World Heritage site for its prestigious classical architecture. On the famous Place de la Bourse, the past and the present unite: here you can observe the majestic old buildings reflected in the contemporary **Miroir d'eau** creation.

DAY 8 – ÎLE-D'AIX

A small crescent of land, 3 kilometres long, the **Île d'Aix** is a fragile area listed as an outstanding natural site. The use of cars here is restricted, thereby enabling nature to reign supreme. Set off to discover the treasures of the island by using the "sentier des douaniers" (Customs officer path). Between **marshes, vines, creeks and cliffs**, you will quickly become aware of this stretch of land's exceptional heritage. This enchanting place invites you to visit its village and its museums, the **Napoléon Museum or the African Museum**. A fine diversity of landscapes of small pastel-coloured houses adorned with multi-coloured shutters and hollyhocks... It's just like a postcard.

DAY 9 – LORIENT

Rebuilt after the bombings of the Second World War, Lorient is known as the town of five ports: the military port (the Keroman submarine base is designed to hold twenty or so submarines and their crew), a pleasure port, a fishing port which is the second largest in France, a commercial port and a passenger port. There are two unmissable visits: the museum space dedicated to submarines, home to a submarine named Flore and located in the former German military base, and the **Cité de la Voile Éric Tabarly**, an interactive sailing museum about yachting and the great sea races. Let yourself fall under the charm of the view from the **Port-Louis citadel** and the quays, evoking the prosperous past of this Breton town, coloured with silks and spices.



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ALL SUITES HAVE PRIVATE BALCONIES

(Except Deck 3 Superior)

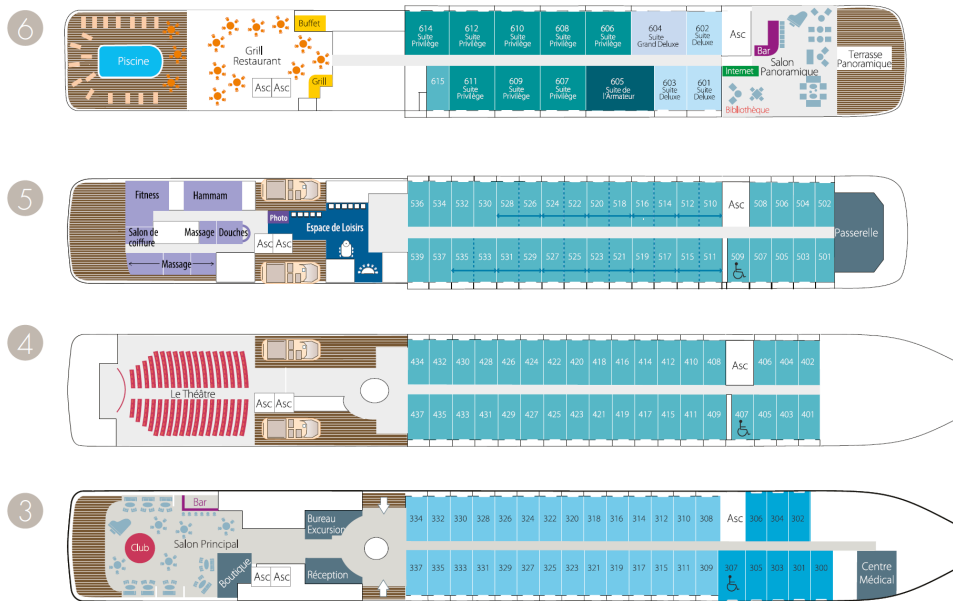
Book early to get UP TO 25% Savings. Rates are per person, Double Occupancy
Pre- and Post-Cruise tours are available to suit your interests.

Included features:

- All accommodations, meals, and excursion described above
- Gratuities to crew guides and drivers on included excursions
- Comprehensive 7-night cruise aboard the deluxe L’Austral, with all the amenities for which Ponant ships are famous.

Not included:

- Meals and beverages other than those specified above
- Optional excursions
- Personal expenses (such as laundry, telephone, Internet, etc.)



Reservations & Information
1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671)

Email - info@explorcruises.com

www.explorcruises.com

SUITE – 2020 Rates	
Superior – Deck 3	WAITLIST
Deluxe – Deck 3	\$5,370
Prestige – Deck 4	\$5,960
Prestige – Deck 5	\$6,240
Prestige – Deck 6	\$6,530
Deluxe Ste – Deck 6	WAITLIST
Prestige Ste – Dk 5	WAITLIST
Prestige Ste – Dk 6	WAITLIST
OWNER SUITE	WAITLIST