

Bokisch Wine Club Spain Tour Itinerary 2024

Tour 1: May 20-27, 2024

Tour 2: June 3-June 10, 2024

2024 Price: \$3,750.00 per person

Payment Terms:

15% Non-refundable deposit due October 1, 2023

85% Non-refundable balance due March 1, 2024

7 nights/8 days hotel with Mediterranean views

Day 1: Monday

Visit the Penedes Wine Region; home of Spanish Cava

The day begins at 8:30 am. We will pick you up in Barcelona in front of the Soho House Hotel Barcelona, 4 Placa del Duc de Medinaceli at 8:45am. From there we will drive directly to the Monastery of Montserrat, home of the famous Black Virgin, and the spiritual center of all Catalunya and where Markus's parents were married. We will explore the Monastery and take a tram to the top of the mountain for spectacular views! Our next stop will be the quaint town of Sant Sadurn d'Anoia, the capital of Cava production, where Markus and Liz lived during 1993-1994. We will enjoy a delicious gourmet wine pairing lunch at Cal Blay, a local wine-themed restaurant in town and toast to our new adventures together! After lunch we will have a private guided tour inside the caves of the winery Bodegas Pere Ventura and an extensive Cava tasting. Catch a siesta as we make the two hour drive south to your new home of Sant Carles de La Rapita ("La Rapita") where you will be treated to a welcome reception and dinner of authentic Catalan tapas at the Miami Hotel. This will be your new home away from home for the rest of the week. Sleep to the sounds of the gentle sea waves....

Day 2: Tuesday

Discover the Delta of the Ebro, Rice Fields and Paella Tasting Extravaganza

Today you will get oriented to your new surroundings. Our first stop at "La Torreta" which is a historical vista point overlooking the town. Afterwards we will wind our way through the rice fields of the Delta. The Delta of the Ebro is home to Catalunya's largest Nature Park, and is full of birdlife and bird watching stations where there is a good chance we will catch a glimpse of the wild flamingos! Our second stop will be a tour of "El Moli de Rifalet," a historical functioning rice mill. You will learn everything about the different kinds of rice grown in the region and will be treated to a tasting of various rice products. Afterwards we will make our way to "Lo Pati d'Agusti" restaurant for a paella tasting extravaganza in the tiny popular summer vacation town of Poble Nou. On our way back to La Rapita, we will stop at the fishing port to watch the fishermen delivering their catch of the day and selling it at the "La Llonja" live fish auction. Restaurants and buyers from all over Spain come here to buy their seafood directly off the boats! The day will end with a bit of free time to relax, go shopping or walk along the seaside boardwalk. We encourage you to go out and discover the many local tapas bars and grab a Spanish style Gin and Tonic!

Day 3: Wednesday

Discover the Terra Alta Wine Region; home of old vine Garnacha Blanca

Today is a busy day with so much to see! We will board the bus at 9:00 am, after a continental breakfast at the Miami Hotel, and drive directly to the spectacular hillside village of Miravet. Miravet is nestled between steep cliffs and the Ebro River, and is home to the historic Templar castle that controlled this region in the early Middle Ages. We will explore the town and the castle before heading off to the Ferran Family Ceramics shop (*Liz can't pass up an opportunity to make her pilgrimage to this wonderful shop to add to her collection of hand painted Spanish ceramics*) Get ready to shop and find room in your suitcase! Then we will make our way through the vineyards of the Terra Alta Wine Region to Edetària Winery where we will be treated to a private tour by owner Joan Lliberia. We will enjoy a catered lunch of authentic regional cuisine of the Terra Alta region paired with selected wines of Edetària winery. On our way home we will make one last stop to pay homage to "Lo Parot," the 2000-year old olive tree near the town of Horta Sant Joan. We will arrive home to La Rapita around 7:00 with plenty of time to go out on the town and enjoy the nightlife.

Day 4: Thursday

Historic Tortosa and Ebro River Day; home of the Markus's grandmother

We will begin the day with a short drive to the nearby historic town of Tortosa which is still home to Markus's grandmother's side of the family. This historic 2,000+ year old town was a strategic location for Romans and after a 400-year rule by the Muslims was conquered in the second crusade by Ramon Berenguer, count of Barcelona in 1148. Markus will be our guide, taking us on a walking tour of the medieval section of the town, the beautiful cathedral, and the open market where we will have a Jamon Serrano v. Jamon Iberico tasting. We will leisurely drive up the Ebro River to the small village of Pinell de Brai to visit the Cathedral of Wine, a modernist architectural masterpiece designed by Cesar Martinell, a disciple of Antoni Gaudi. We will tour the winery and enjoy a tasting of the local wines produced in the Terra Alta Wine Region. Then we will make our way to the nearby village of Xerta where we will be treated to an early dinner/late lunch, 7 course culinary experience by the Michelin Star, Award Winning Restaurant of Villa Retiro. The chef, Fran Lopez, combines traditional local ingredients of the region at a gastronomic level. You will be happy to have some free time to walk off the culinary delights of the day and rest up for Friday's new adventures!

Day 5: Friday

Tour of the DOC Priorat Wine Country; home of impossibly steep, slate hillsides & dark powerful reds

We will depart the Miami hotel at 9:00 am and drive to the Priorat Wine Region which is located about 1 ½ hours north-east of La Rapita. The region is famous for its steep terrain and black slate soils known as "llicorella." It is one of only two wine regions in Spain to qualify as DOCa, (*Denominacion de Origen Calificada*) the highest qualification level for a wine region according to Spanish wine regulations, The only other region with this recognition is the famous Rioja. Our first stop will be at the original winery of the entire Priorat region to tour the ruins of the Scala Dei Carthusian Monastery. We will have a self-guided tour (aka Markus Bokisch) of the ruins and end up at the tasting room of Scala Dei Winery located offsite in the small village next door. We will tour their original cellars and enjoy a private tasting of their Garnacha. By now you will be wondering how you could ever eat again, and yet once you lay eyes on the beautiful VIP setting of the hillside property of Mas Igneus, you will find yourself ready for another food and wine frenzy! Mas Igneus is known for their new, modern take on winemaking and you will enjoy a guided tasting during lunch with the winemaker. You will be thankful for the leisurely drive

home to catch a Spanish style siesta as we wind our way back down the River of the Ebro to Sant Carles de la Rapita. It's Friday night and we recommend walking around to see all of the locals out on the town! If you feel like dancing, head to some of the local bars by the port. But don't forget, things don't really get started until 11:00 or 12:00pm!

Day 6: Saturday

Taste of La Rapita and the Alfacs Bay

Today you have the option to sleep in or to join us for a walking tour of La Rapita. We will begin at 10:00 to do some shopping at the "Mercadillo" open market (*this is Liz's favorite place to pick up cute clothes, purses and scarves*)! It's all cash, so be ready to spend and wear something casual you can try things on over the top! Once we are done shopping, Markus will guide us through the town plaza, passing his grandfather's home where his mother grew up. We will wind our way through the fisherman's quarter and end up at the port. At 12:00 we will all meet up together to board the Golondrina Tour Boat to take a guided tour through the bay to the mussel farms. We will stop at L'Avi Augusti mussel farm located literally on top of one of the mussel farm platforms in the mediterranean, with stunning views of the coastline where we will sit down for a tasting of fresh mussels and oysters washed down with crisp, refreshing Cava. At 1:30 we will boat taxi back to town and enjoy a light tapas style lunch together at a local restaurant near the port. Lunch will be from 2:00-4:00 after which you will have free time to head back to the hotel and enjoy the pool. Plan to go out for tapas to some of the many restaurants, be ready to show up early (8:00) to get a table unless you have reservations!

Day 7: Sunday

Mediterranean Relaxation and Farewell Party at the Bokisch Family Home

It's Sunday Fun-Day! Enjoy the beach, walk the boardwalk, rent paddle boards or kayaks. The day is yours to enjoy the many relaxing activities of La Rapita. You have the whole day free until our farewell dinner. We will meet you at the hotel and walk along the beach (or drive) to Markus's grandfather's beachside Chalet where Liz and Markus spend their summers with their family. Our dinner will begin with a cocktail hour and will be catered by a local chef. Markus and Liz will open some wine purchased on the trip and we also encourage you to bring along something to share with the group if it doesn't fit in your suitcase! We will do our best to lighten your load!

Day 8: Monday

Adios La Rapita, Hola Barcelona!

Enjoy your continental breakfast at the Miami Hotel and say your "goodbyes" to La Rapita and your "hellos" to Barcelona! Markus, Liz and Meme will wave you off as the bus departs at 10:00 am to make the two-hour journey back to Barcelona, Catalunya's Capital. We will arrange two drop off locations. First stop will be the Barcelona International Airport at 12:00. The next stop will be the Soho House Barcelona, Placa del Duc de Medinaceli in Barcelona at 1:00. Adios Amigos! See you back in Lodi!