

Bokisch Wine Club Discover Our Catalunya! Itinerary 2023

**Tour 1: May 22-28, 2023
Tour 2: June 5-June 11, 2023**

2023 Price: *is not finalized* but expected to be between \$3,400-\$3,500 per person based on double room. We are waiting on some final quotes!

Payment Terms:

15% Non-refundable deposit due October 1, 2022

85% Non-refundable balance due March 1, 2023

Day 1: Visit the Penedes Wine Region; home of Spanish Cava

Monday: 5/22/23 or 6/5/23

The day begins at 8:45 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 tour the cathedral where Markus's parents were married. Our next stop will be the quaint town of Sant Sadurni d'Anoia, the capital of Cava production, where Markus and Liz lived during 1993-1994. We will enjoy a delicious lunch at Cal Blai, 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.

Day 2: Discover the Delta of the Ebro

Tuesday: 5/23/23 or 6/6/23

Today you get to enjoy a relaxing morning at the hotel to get settled or an early morning swim in the Mediterranean. We will begin our day at 11:00 with 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. Afterwards we will make our way to "Raco del Rio" restaurant for an authentic paella lunch overlooking the Ebro River. On our way back to La Rapita, we will stop at the fishing port to visit 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. Dinner will be non-inclusive, allowing you to explore small cafés or restaurants for tapas.

Day 3: Discover the Terra Alta Wine Region; home of old vine Garnacha Blanca
Wednesday: 5/24/23 or 6/7/23

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 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. A stop at the Ferran Family Ceramics shop is a must! (*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*) Then we will drive through the vineyards of the Terra Alta Wine Region to Edetària Winery where we will be treated to a private tour and tasting by owner Joan Lliberia. We will enjoy a catered lunch of typical foods of the Terra Alta region paired with selected reserve wines of Edetària. Depending on our timing, we may stop at Horta Sant Joan to visit this historic village and pay homage to the 2000 year old olive tree called "Lo Parot". After visiting the town, we will drive back to La Rapita. Dinner will be non-inclusive, allowing you to explore small cafés or restaurants for tapas.

Day 4: Historic Tortosa and Ebro River Day; home of the Markus's grandmother
Thursday: 5/25/23 or 6/8/23

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 cathedral, the bishop's palace, the open market and much more. 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 a multi-course gourmet lunch of the Terres de l'Ebre 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. After arriving back at the hotel, the evening has been designed for you to have some free time to explore on your own the local flavors of La Rapita. That is... if you are still hungry! Or rather, enjoy a traditional Spanish style "Gintonic" at a bar.

Day 5: Tour of the DOQ Priorat Wine Country; home of hillside, dark powerful reds
Friday: 5/26/23 or 6/9/23

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, the highest qualification level for a wine region according to Spanish wine regulations, alongside the 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. By now your stomach's will be hungry and we will enjoy a catered lunch at the winery of Mas Igneus along with a private tour and tasting 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!

Day 6: Taste of La Rapita and the Alfacs Bay

Saturday: 5/27/23 or 6/10/23

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*)! 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 a sea taxi and take a guided tour through the mussel farms located in the Alfacs Bay. We will stop at L'Avi Augusti mussel farm located literally on top of one of the mussel farm platforms in the bay, with stunning views of the coastline where we will get to 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. Our dinner that night will be a special farewell celebration at Markus's grandfather's beachside Chalet where Liz and Markus spend their summers with their family. Markus and Liz will open some wine purchased on the trip. We 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 7: Adios La Rapita, Hola Barcelona!

Sunday: 5/28/23 or 6/11/23

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!