



TOUR ITINERARY

RIDING
LEVEL

2

Europe / Spain / Rioja

Rioja Bike Tour

Basque Country, Bilbao, and the Camino de Santiago in Northern Spain

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Pedal traffic-free roads through vineyards with majestic views of the Sierra del Cantabrico mountains
- Immerse yourself in the world of *Tempranillo*, *Garnacha tinta*, and *Mazuelo* varietals during tastings with local producers and visits to our favorite *bodegas*
- Savor Riojana and Basque dishes at the two-star Michelin restaurant known for launching the region's culinary renaissance
- Pamper yourself at a series of luxurious historic properties that celebrate the architectural heritage of La Rioja
- Embrace your inner pilgrim while riding a section of the Camino de Santiago to the Monastery of Yuso, a UNESCO World Heritage Site recognized as the birthplace of the Spanish language



ARRIVAL + DEPARTURE

Arrival Details

- ✈ **Airport City:**
Bilbao, Spain
- 📍 **Pick-Up Location:**
Hotel Gran Domine or Hotel Miró Bilbao
- 🕒 **Pick-Up Time:**
8:30 am

Departure Details

- ✈ **Airport City:**
Bilbao, Spain
- 📍 **Drop-Off Location:**
Bilbao Airport or your post-trip Bilbao hotel
- 🕒 **Drop-Off Time:**
11:00 am

NOTE: DuVine provides group transfers to and from the tour from the pick-up and drop-off locations stated on the itinerary. In the event your train, flight, or other travel falls outside the arrival or departure times or locations, you may be responsible for extra costs incurred in arranging a separate transfer.

Emergency Assistance

For urgent assistance on your way to tour or while on tour, please always contact your guides first. You may also contact the Boston office during business hours at +1 617 776 4441 or emergency@duvine.com.



TOUR ITINERARY

Tour By Day

DAY
1

To the Source

Your DuVine guides will greet you at one of our recommended hotels in downtown Bilbao, then we're off to our boutique Relais & Châteaux hotel. After a safety review and bike fitting, we'll head out on our first ride following the Rio Oja, the river that gives this famous wine region its name. In typical Spanish style, we celebrate the beginning of our adventure with a gastronomic lunch prepared by a two-Michelin-starred chef, Francis Paniego. This evening, join your guides for a stroll into the charming village of Ezcaray and enjoy a casual nightcap of *tapas* and local wine.

Meals: Lunch / Dinner

Destinations: Bilbao, Ezcaray

Accomplished: 16 miles / 25 km, elevation gain: 1,105 feet / 337 meters

Longer Option: 32 miles / 52 km, elevation gain: 3,986 feet / 1,215 meters

Accommodations: [Hotel Echaurren](#)

DAY
2

Saints and Cellars

Before we depart, choose to visit a luxury scarf and blanket weaver to stock up on a few souvenirs in Ezcaray. We bid farewell to Ezcaray and ride to the village of Santo Domingo de la Calzada. Stopping at a pilgrim's café, your guides will regale you with the story of Saint Dominic and recount the miracle of the rooster. Our own pilgrimage continues along vineyard roads and past medieval villages. Along the way, stop for photos at a 2,000-year-old Roman bridge before arriving in the town of Haro—the spiritual capital of the Rioja wine region. We'll break for lunch in the barrel room of a historic winery located in the heart of the railway station quarter. Inaugurated in 1863, Spain's first electric railway was built to transport Rioja wines to Bilbao and beyond, bringing them to export markets around the world—many of the region's best-known wine houses established their home base here. After lunch, opt for some extra miles or hop in the van to transfer back to our luxury hotel nestled in the heart of the charming town of Briones. Spend the afternoon exploring the town before dinner at the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Destinations: Santo Domingo de la Calzada, Briones

Accomplished: 36 miles / 58 km, elevation gain: 1,453 feet / 443 meters

Longer Option: 45 miles / 72 km, elevation gain: 1,443 feet / 440 meters

Accommodations: [Hotel Santa Maria De Briones](#)

TOUR ITINERARY

DAY
3

Origins of the Spanish Language

Today we cruise south to the 11th-century UNESCO World Heritage Monastery of Yuso, considered the birthplace of the Spanish language. We'll pass pilgrims as they hike this section of the 500-mile Camino de Santiago, stopping for our own visit at this historic monument. Following our visit to this historic monument, we hop on our bikes for a short ride to an old flour mill for a *tapas* lunch accompanied by fruity local wine or an ice-cold *cerveza*. The mill has been preserved in working order and can be visited if you wish. After lunch, choose to bike back to our hotel, or transfer by van for some downtime or a Spanish *siesta*. Tonight, we transfer to downtown Haro for dinner at a family-owned restaurant that's been serving its famous wood-oven roasted lamb since 1870.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Destinations: San Millan de la Cogolla

Accomplished: 21 miles / 34 km, elevation gain: 1,692 feet / 516 meters

Longer Option: 40 miles / 64 km, elevation gain: 2,667 feet / 813 meters

Accommodations: [Hotel Santa Maria De Briones](#)

DAY
4

The Dynasties of Rioja

We begin the day with a relaxed start before making the short descent to the Dinastía Vivanco, a family winery that's also Spain's largest private museum of wine *accouterments* and art. Back on our bikes, we'll pedal through undulating vineyards to the small town of Elciego where we'll have lunch with our friend Irene at her family-run winery. She'll prepare a barbeque of fish or meat grilled over wood cuttings from her vines, paired with a selection of her estate's wines. On the short ride to our iconic hotel designed by Frank O. Gehry, you can't miss the ribboned titanium roof set among vineyards. Relax by the pool, or pamper yourself with a wine-infused treatment at the Caudalie vinotherapy spa. Tonight enjoy a glass of wine and a snack at the hotel bar or transfer to the city of Logroño to try out a few of nearly fifty tapas bars that line Calle Laurel.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch

Destinations: Briones, San Vicente de la Sonsierra, Elciego

Accomplished: 14 miles / 23 km, elevation gain: 1,184 feet / 361 meters

Accommodations: [Hotel Marqués de Riscal](#) or [Palacio de Sumaniego](#)

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DAY
5

The City of Cellars

Today, take your pick between an easygoing or a more challenging route. We'll climb out of Elciego along a ridge high above the vineyards, then meet the Ebro River after descending through the town of Lapuebla de Labarca. Our destination is the medieval town of Laguardia, which sits upon a warren of 300 cellars carved from rock during the Middle Ages. These cellars—called *calados*—were once hideaways to protect townspeople in times of turmoil but also served as subterranean wineries and wine storage. The ancient *calados* are a striking contrast to the ultra-modern wineries that have cropped up since Spain joined the European Union in the mid-1980s. We're headed to a small family-owned winery for a terracetop *tapas* lunch of cheese, cold meats, olives, and croquettes with dreamy views overlooking the family vineyards and the town of Laguardia. Tonight, we will finish our Rioja and Basque country adventure in style with a celebratory aperitif at the hotel, followed by a gorgeous dinner at the Riscal 1860 restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Destinations: Lapuebla de Labarca, Laguardia, Elciego

Accomplished: 24 miles / 38 km, elevation gain: 2,000 feet / 615 meters

Longer Option: 29 miles / 47 km, elevation gain: 2,600 feet / 797 meters

Accommodations: [Hotel Marqués de Riscal](#) or [Palacio de Samaniego](#)

DAY
6

Adios Rioja

Bid "adios" to La Rioja, its wines, medieval architecture, sumptuous gastronomy, and stunning landscapes. After breakfast, we transfer back to Bilbao where your guides will take you to your post-trip hotel or the Bilbao airport.

Meal: Breakfast
