



RIDE WORLD WIDE FRANCE

LE BOURDIL BLANC, DORDOGNE 2023

RIDE INFORMATION

These rides are based from an elegant 18th century manor house, Le Bourdil Blanc, not far from the town of Bergerac in the Dordogne in south west France. They combine accommodation in a lovely French manor house with daily riding out through the Dordogne's beautiful rolling countryside, exploring its forests of beech, oak and chestnut, its fields of maize and sunflowers and its famous vineyards. Much of the riding is within the private estates of beautiful chateaux and there are plenty of opportunities to try some of the delicious food and wine for which the area is renowned. The rides are led by Laurie Chaulet and Celia Pugliese, who are both experienced and fully qualified riding guides and have their own stables. When not riding, you are looked after by the owners of Le Bourdil Blanc, Stefan Mery & Tamiko Brown-Zablith, and also by Jane Hanslip, previous owner who set up these rides and who has lived in the Dordogne for many years. As well as welcoming you into their charming home, your hosts will introduce you to local residents and the owners of a local vineyard and chateaux, making your stay delightfully personal.

DATES

7 night stays are organised at Le Bourdil Blanc from specific dates between (generally) April to June, and September to November. Please contact Ride World Wide to check dates and availability.



HORSES

The horses used at Le Bourdil Blanc are owned by either of your guides and are mixed breeds many of which are home-bred crosses with Arab and Anglo-Arab blood. They average about 15hh to 16hh and are calm and reliable but also forward going and enjoyable to ride. They are also well mannered and sensible to handle.

TACK

Saddles are either English general purpose or specialised endurance style and the horses are usually ridden in snaffle bridles. Saddle-bags are provided where necessary.

RIDING

The 7 night riding itinerary from Le Bourdil Blanc includes riding on 6 days combined with visits to local places of interest such as chateaux, an organic herb and flower farm and vineyards. On riding days there will generally be between 4 and 6 hours in the saddle (there maybe a shorter ride on the first riding day when there is often also a market visit), with breaks to rest and for lunch - although as you return to the same base each night, riding hours can be varied on request to suit the group. Rides are usually run for a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8 riding guests and are lead by qualified riding guides. Horses are brought to Le Bourdil and allocated to the group at the beginning of the week. Riders will be shown the daily routine with the horses on the first day and are then very welcome to help prepare, tack up and un-tack their own horse each morning and evening, although this is not compulsory! Laurie (one of your guides) speaks good but not fluent English. Some knowledge of French will be a great help when riding. Jane, your English host, does not ride but will be on hand to co-ordinate your stay, will meet you for picnic lunches, organise sightseeing, chateaux visits and so on. **Please note** that all riders will be required to wear a hard hat when riding - you will need to take your own as these are not supplied.

WEIGHT LIMIT

There is a rider weight limit of 95kg (about 15 stone) - please contact us if you are close to this so we can ensure a suitable horse is available.



PACE

The rides are usually at a medium and well varied pace. Routes followed take you from village to village, through woodland and along forest tracks where there are regular opportunities to trot and canter and, although the local environment of forest, fields of crops, vineyards and small villages means canters may be short and you often need to ride in single file, you will move on well where the going allows. There is some tarmac road-work each day in the vicinity of Le Bourdil Blanc and local villages but this is generally on quiet rural roads where there is little traffic.

RIDING EXPERIENCE

Riding from Le Bourdil is aimed at reasonably experienced riders and as a minimum to take part you should be comfortable, balanced and secure in the saddle and able to control a well-schooled horse in open country at a walk, trot and fast canter. There is a good choice of horses for riders of an intermediate ability, and as the riding hours and pace can be adapted to suit riders' ability to a certain extent, some confident but more novice or young riders can also be taken - although all participants must have a reasonable amount of previous riding experience, including experience riding out in a group over varied terrain. Horses will be allocated on the first day and there is a chance to try them in the paddock, or on a short ride with your guide, to ensure a good match. You should be reasonably fit to join these rides and we recommend regular riding in the months before you go to get used to hours in the saddle. Children are accepted by arrangement with the minimum riding age generally 12 years old.

NON-RIDERS

Le Bourdil Blanc is an ideal venue for riders travelling with non-riding companions and those choosing not to ride can relax at the house, making use of the swimming pool and tennis court, or explore the local area, where there is much to see, by car (a hire car is recommended), meeting up with riders for picnic lunches if they wish. Walking and cycling (bicycles can be hired locally) is also possible, kayaking on the Dordogne river makes a great day trip and there are miles of forest tracks and footpaths in the area for keen walkers.

TERRAIN

This region of France has a huge density of private chateaux and much of the riding is through these large country estates and over private land, with some routes passing through villages and farmyards. The countryside itself is rolling with forested hills, valleys, vineyards and grassy meadows and there are miles of wide tracks through the forest as well as narrower paths that wind through woods, along river banks and around fields, vineyards and meadows. Low branches and fallen logs provide occasional obstacles and a chance to jump for those who wish! In spring and early summer, new leaves on the trees give the landscape a lush verdant look, whilst in autumn, the area is full of colour with the changing leaves.

ACCOMMODATION



Accommodation during the week is at 'Le Bourdil Blanc', a lovely manor house, set within 7 acres of grounds. Bedrooms are double / twin, all different, a good size, comfortable and most with en-suite bathroom with bath, shower and loo (some have a private bathroom close by). Most bedrooms are in the main part of the house but some are in the 'pigeonnier' and other outbuildings. The house is attractively furnished with antique furniture and has polished wooden or terracotta tiled floors in some rooms as well as a small patio balcony overlooking the lawn that sweeps down to the lake - an ideal spot for evening drinks. It also has a large drawing room with open fireplace and a dining room with a long dining table. It is a 'home' rather than a hotel and overall has a relaxed 'house party' atmosphere. You are encouraged to treat it as your own and to enjoy it in your own way. The grounds, which are mainly lawn, are well kept and there is a good-sized heated swimming pool (open from 1st April to the end of October) and a well-maintained tennis court a short walk from the house. There is also a lake with boat as well as 11 loose boxes in the converted barn / coach house close to the main house. Overall it makes a charming base.



MEALS

The Dordogne is held as a place of the finest food and wine and with superb locally grown produce, the area is a foodie's paradise! You will be extremely well fed during your time at Le Bourdil with a local chef preparing meals that include many of the delicious regional specialities. Breakfast is usually French style, with croissants delivered daily and plenty of coffee or tea provided. Lunch is either a substantial picnic, freshly prepared and typically including country salads, local cheeses, meats and regional delicacies, locally baked bread and fresh fruit, or if the weather is bad, you might stop at a local 'auberge' for lunch. Dinners are three courses, often including a speciality of the region, such as a truffle omelette or magret de canard, followed perhaps by duck confit and finishing with a tarte tartin or selection of local cheese. Both lunch and dinner are accompanied by wine and you will have a chance to try different wines from some of the vineyards you may pass, during your stay.

WEATHER

Rides can be organised between April and June and then from September to November. In June, September and October daytime temperatures average between 15 degrees C and the mid 20s C. In April, May and November it is usually between 10 and 15 degrees C in the day. The coldest months are December, January and February with daytime temperatures between about 5 and 10 degrees C. It seldom drops below freezing but cold winds can make it seem quite harsh. It can rain at any time although rainfall is higher in the winter months - but even in mid-winter, there can be wonderful warm sunny

WHAT TO BRING

We will send you a list when you book.

ITINERARY

The standard 7 night itinerary generally includes riding on 6 days, following a different route each day and half day free to visit local sites or simply to relax by the swimming pool. Day by day arrangements and routes may be varied by your host and guide depending on the season, the ability and interests of the group and also local conditions. Final decisions are left to the discretion of your guide and host. An example of the itinerary planned for a week's stay is set out below but **please note that this is just an example**, both the riding and places visited may be varied.

Day 1 (Saturday) You will be met at the airport or train station in Bergerac and driven the 20 minutes or so to 'Le Bourdil Blanc' for dinner and to settle in for the week. Dinner with Jane your host and overnight at Le Bourdil. (D)



Day 2 (Sunday) After breakfast at the house, as Sunday is market day, set off by car at about 10.00 to visit the street market in Issigeac which is great fun and full of local colour. The morning shopping in the market before returning to the house for lunch. After lunch you will be driven a short way (about 2kms) to the stables to meet the horses and to try them in the paddock under the expert eye of your riding guides. This will be followed by a hack of between 2 and 3 hours. Return to the manor house in the late afternoon for drinks and dinner, then overnight at Le Bourdil. (B,L,D)

Day 3 (Monday) - After breakfast, a short transfer to the stables to mount up for your first day's full riding. The route takes you through the Caudeau Valley visiting the villages of Montclard, Saint Georges, St Martin des Combes and Clermont Beauregard and passing the Chateau de la Gaubertie stopping at an idyllic picnic site. After lunch ride back to the stables and return to Le Bourdil for drinks and dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 4 (Tuesday) - Breakfast in the house, then transfer to the stables. Today's ride takes you through the village of Lamonzie Montastruc and across la Forêt de Liorac to the private Chateau Garraube with its formal gardens, then on to the pretty village of Saint Marcel du Perigord where you stop for a picnic lunch near a stream. After lunch ride on to where the horses will stay overnight Le Cournou, a chambre d'hote for riders. Return to the 'Bourdil Blanc' by vehicle for dinner, a delicious, typical local dish to be washed down with some great local wines! Overnight Le Bourdil. (B,L,D)

ITINERARY cont.

Day 5 (Wednesday) - Breakfast and drive back to le Cournou to meet the horses. Today's ride takes you down to the Dordogne river and across the bridge at Lalinde - a spectacular ride with wonderful views to Couze, Stop on the bank of the river for a drink and a picnic lunch. In the afternoon ride past Chateau de Lanquais to a nearby riding stables near Faux where the horses stay for two nights You will be driven back to Le Bourdil for a well-earned drink before dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 6 (Thursday) - After breakfast you return by car to re-join the horses. You will then either ride around Faux or to Issigeac and then back to Faux for a picnic; or back to the Bourdil for a late lunch. The afternoon is free for sightseeing or to relax. Jane will discuss the options and will happily arrange group visits to local sites of interest, book restaurants and organise hire cars - or you can just relax at the house, using the heated swimming pool and tennis court or perhaps try the boat on the lake - the choice is yours. Dinner is not included today and will be eaten out, either on the way back from the places you visit or you will be driven to a local restaurant, or even at the house if someone wants to cook! (B,L)



Day 7 (Friday) - Set off in the car to the stables near Faux to meet the horses for your last day's riding. You will ride through the forests and vineyards, stopping for a delicious picnic lunch along the way either in Issigeac or in Tuilieres and return to your guides stables. There may be a possibility for an informative wine tasting at Terre Vielle in the Pecharmant area and then back to Le Bourdil in time to change and relax before enjoying a final delicious dinner. Overnight at Le Bourdil. (B,L,D)

Day 8 (Saturday) - Breakfast and transfer to Bergerac airport or train station (about a 20 minute drive). Own arrangements for onward travel. (B)

DATES & RATES 2023

Please note that due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, ride rates are now quoted in euros. The sterling price will be the equivalent sterling rate using the euro/sterling exchange rate in force when you book/pay.

DATES

13th to 20th May

24th June to 1st July

16th to 23rd September

Other weeks may be possible on request for private groups.

7 night stays are Euros 1850 per person

This **INCLUDES** twin accommodation at Le Bourdil Blanc, all riding, guiding and equipment, meals from dinner Day 1 to breakfast on the last day 8 (except dinner on Thursday night), wine with lunch and dinner and also transfers from / to Bergerac on first & last days.

Rates **EXCLUDE** - Travel to Bergerac, personal medical / travel insurance (which you must have), any visa fees, dinner on Thursday night, extra drinks during the ride and any tips you may wish to leave.

Single supplements Single rooms are sometimes available for single riders at no extra charge - but if the week is full there may be a supplement of 120 Euros payable.

RATES 2023 cont

Group / family bookings - Le Bourdil Blanc is a wonderful place for a family holiday and the house can be booked on request for private groups / families either on a catered or self catering basis with itineraries tailored to suit. Please call us to discuss your requirements.

FLIGHTS & TRAVEL INFORMATION

The meeting point for the rides is Bergerac and the ride rates quoted above include collection from Bergerac on Day 1 and return to Bergerac after breakfast on Day 8.

Flights - The airport in Bergerac (about 20 minutes drive from Le Bourdil Blanc). Ryanair (www.ryanair.com) and Jet2 operate direct flights to Bergerac from various regional UK airports. British Airways fly from London City Airport. There are also options via Amsterdam and Paris from various UK regional airports. Generally flights with the low cost / budget airlines are the most convenient to use (transfers from / to Bergerac airport are included in the ride price) and fares, booked direct over the internet, are usually good value.

You can also fly to Bordeaux and then take a train or taxi to Bergerac from there. British Airways fly from London Gatwick, EasyJet and Ryanair also fly from regional airports. Air France also have flights to Bordeaux via Paris. Trains from Bordeaux to Bergerac take about one hour and 30 minutes and cost about £15 - £20. Bordeaux airport is about 11 kms from the city centre / train station and transfers from the airport are by airport shuttle bus or by taxi taking about 20 to 30 minutes. A taxi all the way from Bordeaux to Bergerac takes about 90 minutes and costs around 250 to 350 Euros. There are also train services from London St Pancras to Bergerac, changing in Paris or Lille and again at Libourne. For more train information and timetables please check with International Rail at <https://www.internationalrail.com/> or see the French rail website: www.sncf.com - or Rail Europe website: www.raileurope.com

GENERAL VISA & HEALTH INFORMATION

(NB this is a brief outline - further information will be sent to you if you make a confirmed booking.)

Visas If you hold a full British passport you do not need a visa for visits to France whatever the length of stay, although for visits of over 90 days residence permits are required.

Health Health No vaccinations are needed by UK or EEC residents to enter France. If you have a particular condition requiring special medical treatment, in case of emergencies you should carry a letter from your own doctor translated into French describing your condition and the medicine / treatment required.

(DRAFT 06/07/23)

