

PAUWELS TRAVEL BUREAU LTD.

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TICO # 1257995

Food Focus: Bilbao & San Sebastian, Spain
Wednesday, October 16 - Friday, October 25, 2019



(photos courtesy of Lori Chisholm)

Join tour host Lori Chisholm for a foodies' exploration of Basque Country, Spain. The pintxos culture dominates the gastronomy scene here: enjoy small bite after small bite as we taste our way around the neighbourhoods of the two beautiful cities of Bilbao and San Sebastian. Learn about their history and architecture, visit markets, and create our own pintxos with a professional chef. Spend a day in the Rioja wine region and another in a biosphere reserve. Dine at both a Michelin star restaurant and at a farm. Shop in your free time or visit galleries and museums.*

*Please note: Most meals will include fish and/or shellfish. If you are allergic to seafood or don't like seafood, this trip is not for you. *Pintxos are small bites, usually bread-based, made with local ingredients such as tuna, ham, beef, and seafood.*

Tour cost: \$3,780 CAD per person sharing twin accommodation

(Flights not included)

(If paying the full amount by cash or cheque, deduct \$140 from the tour cost)

Single supplement: \$790

Proposed Itinerary (subject to change):

Day 1 – Wednesday, October 16: Bilbao (D)

Meet at our 4 star hotel, Silken Indautxo (<http://www.hotelessilken.com/destinos/bilbao/>), located in the city centre. The group will gather in the hotel bar at 6pm for cocktails and greetings. Then, we'll head off for our pintxos tour with my friend Elke Panneels who will introduce us to the essentials of this incredible food culture. We'll eat and drink our way to the Old Town of Bilbao learning about wine, cider and the iconic traditional and modern small bites.

Day 2 – Thursday, October 17: Bilbao (B)

After breakfast, we will explore the Old Town, including a visit to the food market. These are Bilbao's origins. Afterwards, we will make our way to the *Ensanche*, the area built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and the actual centre of town. Bilbao has won awards for its successful transformation from an industrial city to a service-based centre. Key to this success was the *Abandoibarra* neighbourhood, playground of architects like Gehry, Moneo and Pelli. The rest of the day is free.

Day 3 – Friday, October 18: Bilbao (B/D)

After breakfast, we will use the morning to visit the Guggenheim Museum for a private guided visit. We'll be on our own for lunch and the afternoon but will re-group at the hotel at 5pm to experience our cooking class with an award-winning chef. Tonight we will be busy in the kitchen with a good glass of wine to learn about the secrets of Basque cuisine. Naturally, we will sit down together to enjoy the results of our work!

Day 4- Saturday, October 19: Urdaibai (B/L)

Today after breakfast, we embark on our first wine journey which will lead us to a beautifully designed winery in oak-forested biosphere reserve Urdaibai. On our way, we will be stopping off at Guernica, where the Assembly House and sculptures of Chillida and Henry Moore stand. It is a unique opportunity to explore this stunning region with our cultural guide and to discover Txakoli, an unusual Basque white wine. Our award-winning sommelier and winemaker will activate all your senses during our tasting of Txakoli, made with the unique Basque grape variety Hondarribi Zuri and of limited production. We get a taste of a region rich in history and biodiversity, matched with a wine as enticing as its surroundings. A gourmet lunch is part of the adventure!

Day 5 – Sunday, October 20: Rioja (B/L)

Today after breakfast, Elke will be taking us on our full-day Rioja wine adventure: "A wash with rolling vineyards, quaint medieval hilltop towns and striking state-of-the-art wineries, La Rioja is a wine lover's dream destination. Spain's prestigious wine region is home to more than 150 wineries and winemaking infuses its soul and terraced landscape. In the last years the innovative spirit that has been blowing through La Rioja bodegas, has created superb red wines, but also eye-catching design." We'll enjoy the beautiful scenery, visit lovely LaGuardia and several wineries, and indulge in a gourmet lunch.

Day 6 - Monday, October 21: Bilbao to San Sebastian (B,L)

After breakfast and check out, we'll head east by private coach to San Sebastian. On the way, we'll visit another txakoli producer to taste the lovely DOC white wine of this region. Afterwards, near Getaria, we'll have a tasting lunch at Elkano, a Michelin-starred restaurant famed internationally for its grilled turbot. From Getaria, we'll move on to the resort city of San Sebastian, our home for the next 4 days (<https://www.barcelo.com/en-gb/barcelo-hotels/hotels/spain/san-sebastian/barcelo-costa-vasca/>). The evening is free to begin our pintxos exploration.

Day 7– Tuesday, October 22: San Sebastian (B/D)

Today mid-morning, we'll have an introductory walking tour of this elegant city with its gorgeous Playa de la Concha, lovely parks and quaint old town. Our guide will highlight the architecture, history and culture, and of course point out her favourite pintxos bars. We'll be free for lunch but will be gathering together late in the afternoon for an unusual dinner experience in the countryside. We'll take our private coach to a *sagardotegi* – a cider farm - where we will have a tour, a tasting, and a traditional meal with fish and steak. We'll learn the txotx ritual of cider tasting – you are not going to believe this experience!

Day 8– Wednesday, October 23: San Sebastian (B)

Today is totally free and what you do is up to you. Book a day tour to Biarritz, France or join a bike tour or a hiking tour. Take another cooking class – this is the food mecca of Europe with more Michelin stars per capita than any other city in the world! Take the funicular up to Monte Igueldo. Shop. Hang out at the beaches. Siesta! Book a fancy dinner at one of many Michelin-starred restaurants.

Day 9-Thursday, October 24: Hondarribia (B/D)

Today mid-afternoon, we'll head east along the coast to the colourful port town of Hondarribia. We'll have the afternoon to visit the old town inside the fortified walls, and explore the Marina neighbourhood with its fabulous restaurants and competitive pintxos bars. The beach is beautiful and there is a coastal hike. We'll enjoy our farewell dinner at a renowned Basquais restaurant before heading back late to the guesthouse to finish up our packing.

Day 10- Friday, October 25: San Sebastian (B)

Check-out is noon.

WELCOME HOME or CARRY ON!

Included in the tour price:

- 9 nights' accommodation in centrally-located, 4-star hotels
- All private coach transportation in Spain (upon arrival at the Bilbao hotel until check-out in San Sebastian)
- 9 breakfasts
- Welcome cocktails
- Welcome dinner (pintxos tour)
- Farewell dinner at a traditional Basquais restaurant
- Private city tour of Bilbao with headsets
- Private city tour of San Sebastian
- Private cooking class with dinner and wine
- Private Urdaibai tour with art and winery visits and gourmet lunch
- Private, full-day Rioja tour with winery visits, tastings and gourmet lunch

- Private winery visit, followed by lunch at a Michelin-starred restaurant (Getaria)
- Private cider house visit followed by dinner
- Day trip to Hondarribia
- Admission to and private tour of Guggenheim Museum
- Driver and guide gratuities
- Lounge pass for Toronto airport if you book your flights from Toronto with Pauwels

Not included:

- Flights to and from Spain
- Transfers to and from the airport to hotel
- All expenses of a personal nature
- Meals other than those mentioned above
- Beverages with meals other than as per itinerary
- Travel insurance - please phone the office for rates

TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$750.00 required at the time of registration. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and registration form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed registration form.

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non-refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 61 days before departure: 25% of tour cost

60 to 31 days before departure: 50% of tour cost

Within 30 days prior to departure: 100% of tour cost

RESPONSIBILITY:

The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. We also reserve the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. We reserve the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, travel warnings by the Canadian Government etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable.

By commencing the tour, I agree to the release and agreement as included below.

RELEASE & AGREEMENT:

By placing my deposit and commencing the tour I understand and agree to the following:

1. That all tours are delivered in conjunction with other service providers, including but not limited to travel agent and booking services, airlines, hotel and accommodation providers, transportation providers including but not limited to coach, train and ferry services, restaurant providers, and local guides. We shall not be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotels, transportation and other travel services are provided subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally.
2. I know that tour programs include walking, and may including hiking and fitness programs that have potential hazardous activities associated with them. I should not participate prior to approval by my physician. I assume any and all other risks associated with these events included but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather including high heat and/or humidity.
3. To release, indemnify and hold harmless Pauwels Travel Bureau and their affiliates (which term shall include parents, subsidiaries, officers, directors, shareholders, agents and employees of Pauwels Travel Bureau as well as Pauwels Travel themselves) (the "Released Parties") from, and agree not to sue the Released Parties for, any claims that I may have arising from, or in connection with, any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from any cause whatsoever related in any way to my participation in this tour. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from, and agree not to sue them for any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from the Released Parties' negligence other than from intentional or reckless acts by such parties. I further agree to release,

indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all acts of God, war (whether declared or undeclared), terrorist activities, incidents of politically motivated violence, illness or quarantine, strikes or government restrictions or the acts or omissions of any other agents over which the Released Parties have no direct or indirect control, including, without limitation, airlines, railways, bus companies, hotels, shipping companies, guides and sub-contracted agents or tour operators. This release also includes activities not offered that may be considered risky. I further release any Tour Directors, bus drivers or other individuals involved in my tour.

4. That the air carrier's liability for loss of or damage to baggage or property, or for death or injury to person, is limited by their tariffs, or the Warsaw Convention, or both.
5. That Pauwels Travel Bureau shall have no liability or responsibility for me when I am absent from activities, such as visits to friends or relatives or during stay-ahead/stay-behind option periods if the stay-ahead/stay-behind period does not include the services of a Tour Director.
6. To abide by directions of my Tour Director or other leadership personnel during my tour. Failure to do so may result in my termination from tour immediately. I understand that to disobey such rules or directions are to waive the right to any refund, and that I may be sent home at my own expense. The participant and family undertake full financial responsibility for any damage caused by the participant and agree to pay his/her return home on the first available flight, should his/her behavior be deemed detrimental to the welfare of the group.
7. To abide by all local laws when in Canada and abroad, including those concerning drugs and alcohol. (Minors must have parents' permission to use alcohol even if the local law would otherwise permit them to.) I understand that if I abuse or disobey such laws, even unintentionally, I waive my right to a refund, and Pauwels Travel may send me home at my own expense. I also understand that should local authorities be involved, I will be subject to the laws of the country I am visiting.
8. That if I become ill or incapacitated, Pauwels Travel and its employees, or a designated chaperone may take any action they deem necessary for my safety and well-being, including securing medical treatment (at my own expense) and transporting me home. Pauwels Travel retains the right, in its sole discretion, to contact the traveller's parent(s) and/or guardian or emergency contact with regard to health issues or any matters whatsoever that relates to the traveller's tour. These rights transcend any and all privacy regulations that may apply. In the event of a medical emergency, Pauwels Travel will attempt to cause appropriate treatment to be administered, and the traveller authorizes Pauwels Travel to do so. Pauwels Travel, however, makes no warranty that it will be able to cause effective (or any) emergency treatment to be administered.
9. That Pauwels Travel may use any film likenesses taken of me and any of my comments while on a tour for future publication and also use my contact information for future Pauwels Travel communications.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please book ___ seat(s) on the "Food Focus: Bilbao & San Sebastian, Spain" travelling October 16 – 25, 2019.

Enclosed is my/our deposit of _____ (\$750 per person, **plus** insurance premium if taken.)

Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced an interim payment of \$1000.00 and the balance due 45 days prior to departure.

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) VALID 3 MONTHS AFTER TOUR DATE TO BE SENT IN WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM.

PASSPORT NAME(S): **Please** indicate the appropriate title (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. "Liz" for "Mary Elizabeth") _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

PHONE: _____ (Email) _____

If traveling alone, is a SINGLE ROOM REQUIRED?: YES ___ NO ___

If sharing, is there a Bed preference?: twin _____ double _____

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: We find the earlier a request is made, the more success we have in filling it, so **please list any dietary requests, allergies, any special physical needs or frequent flyer numbers etc here.** We cannot ensure requests made 30 days or less prior to departure will be possible.

Insurance, Please call the office for premiums then record it on application and add premium to deposit.

I /we would like to purchase (please check and record your rate):

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

All-inclusive Package ___\$_____ Non-medical Package ___\$_____

Other _____\$_____ **OR** Decline Insurance _____

PAYMENT: Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel Visa Mastercard American Express

Amount Paid: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiry: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

"I/we agree to the terms and conditions attached to the program, have indicated our insurance choice, indicated any special requests and included payment".

Date _____ **(Signature)(s)** _____

Please forward this completed and signed form, copy of passport and payment to:

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