

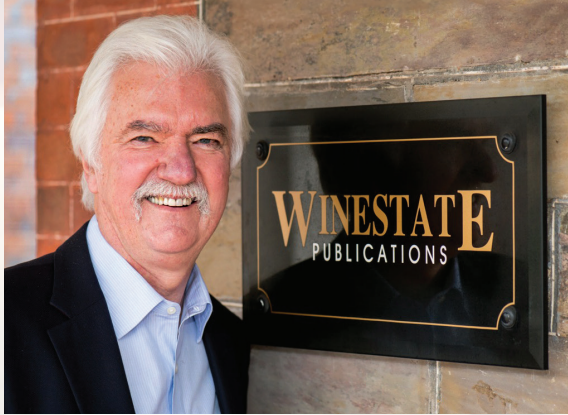
Join **Peter Simic**, Editor/Publisher of Winestate Magazine
and Travelrite International for the

2015 WINE TOUR TO FRANCE

September 12 to September 29, 2015

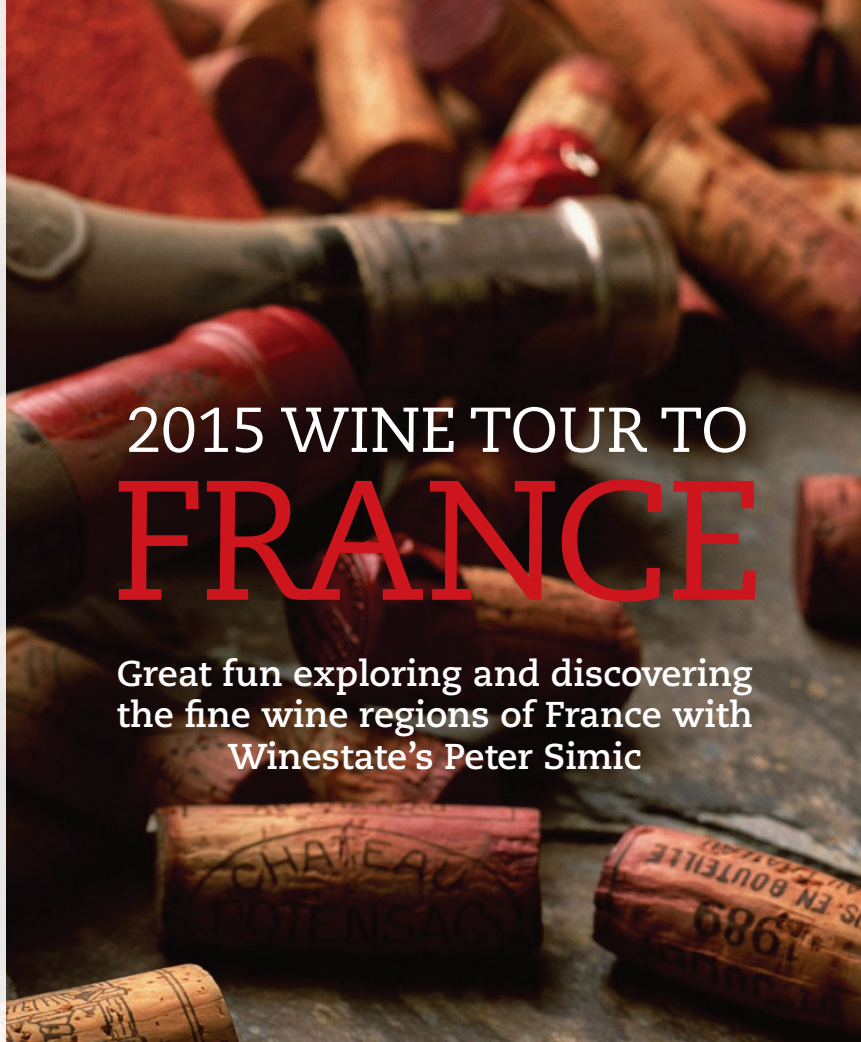
Two and a half wonderful weeks with Peter Simic, exploring
the best of French wine regions including visits to Champagne, Burgundy,
Dijon, Lyon, the Rhone Valley, Marseille, Toulouse and Bordeaux.





Tour leadership by Peter Simic

Peter Simic, your tour guide, is an ideal host for this trip. With a background in publishing and wine education over 30 years, his wine knowledge is vast. In addition to being the founding editor/publisher of Winestate, Peter was formerly the founding publisher of Wine & Spirit (US), manager of the SA Wine Information Bureau, and wine educator with SA Regency College. He is also a regular wine commentator in newspapers and on radio and television. Peter recently led a number of highly successful wine tours: the Winestate tours to France in 1999, 2003, 2006, 2007 and 2011, the QE2 Winestate cruise in 2001, the Winestate tours to Italy in 2002, 2005, 2009 and 2010 and the Winestate tour to Spain, 2000, 2004 and 2009.



2015 WINE TOUR TO FRANCE

Great fun exploring and discovering the fine wine regions of France with Winestate's Peter Simic

Tour Itinerary

Day 1 Saturday September 12, 2015

Departure

Tour members depart Australian capital cities and travel on Singapore Airlines overnight services to Paris. It will be possible for tour members to depart Australia on an earlier day – accommodation will be offered at the Paris hotel for clients arriving early. Please call for details.

Day 2 Sunday September 13, 2015

Paris

On arrival early morning at Paris airport, the tour group will be met and transferred to the centrally located, four-star Millennium Hotel Paris Opera Hotel. After time to freshen up we will enjoy a sightseeing tour of the main sights of Paris with a local guide. Lunch will be at leisure before we return to the hotel for check-in. Peter Simic will host a Welcome Drinks Party before recommending interesting nearby restaurants for dinner.

Day 3 Monday September 14, 2015

Reims

After breakfast the tour group will travel by private coach to Reims, the capital of the Champagne wine region, for a two-night stay at the four-star Holiday Inn Reims Centre. The Champagne vineyards are located south of Reims, with the main producers near Reims and around the villages of Epernay and Ay, close to the banks of the River Marne. There are approximately 27,500 hectares of vines in the Champagne region, with more than 19,000 producers. Only about 10 percent of the vines belong to the great international producers.

The tour will commence with visits to the vine-growing areas and to some of the very best producers. We will meet the winemakers and enjoy a series of tastings under the guidance of Peter Simic. We will travel to our tour hotel late-afternoon for check-in. Good quality local restaurants will be recommended for dinner.

Day 4 Tuesday September 15, 2015

Reims

After breakfast we will travel to Epernay and Ay for a full day of vineyard visits. We will drive through the vines along the picturesque 'Champagne Route' and visit two of the region's main producers. We will meet the winemakers and sample a range of the best crus. Local restaurants will be recommended for dinner.

Day 5 Wednesday September 16, 2015

Dijon

After breakfast the tour group will travel south to Dijon for two nights, staying at the four-star Mercure Dijon Centre Clemenceau hotel. Dijon is capital of the Burgundy wine region and is famous for mustard and other culinary delights. It sits at the north of the region comprising the Cote de Nuits in the north and Cote du Rhone in the south, with the town of Beaune in the middle. Burgundy produces ethereal, silky, cool-climate elegant wines of pinot noir and chardonnay grapes in regions such as Romanee Conti, Chambertin, Vougeot and Chassagne Montrachet. The exploration will commence after lunch with a vineyard and cellar visit combined with a structured tasting led by Peter Simic.

Day 6 Thursday September 17, 2015

Dijon

This morning we will visit a prestige winery and enjoy tastings with Peter Simic. The afternoon will be free for wine bar exploration in this fabulous town, or a quiet rest. This evening we will enjoy a Celebration Dinner at a Michelin-starred restaurant hosted by Winestate's Peter Simic with superb wine and food from the region.

Day 7 Friday September 18, 2015

Lyon

After breakfast the tour group will travel to Beaune, the delightful main town in the Burgundy wine region. There will be time for individual sightseeing and early lunch before we continue south to visit a prominent Beaujolais producer to taste the Gamay Beaujolais variety at its source. Late afternoon, we travel on to Lyon, the second largest city in France, superbly located at the junction of the Soane and Rhone rivers. It is a lively cultural city with a history extending back beyond Roman times. Today it is an important centre for scientific research, higher education and high-tech industries. Late afternoon, we will check in for two nights at the four-star Mercure Hotel Carlton. Interesting restaurants will be recommended for dinner.

Day 8 Saturday September 19, 2015

Lyon

A full day of exploration in the Rhone Valley, where the familiar shiraz (syrah), so well-known in Australia, is the main variety. Famous names include Guigal, Chapoutier and Paul Jaboulet. We will visit some of the finest producers of this great variety from Cote Rotie and Hermitage. Good quality restaurants will be recommended for dinner in Lyon.

Very Special Experiences

Following great success of previous wine tours to France, Italy and Spain, Peter Simic and the staff at Winestate Magazine have arranged for a series of very special visits in the historic and impressive fine-wine areas of France. We will visit vineyards that are rarely open to the public and sample special vintages and meet people responsible for their skillful production. It will be a unique time to meet the characters and expand our knowledge in most enjoyable and pleasant surroundings.

Comfortable Tour Hotels

We have carefully selected well-located four and five-star hotels (with top class comfort and very comfortable Michelin ratings) that provide high quality and good value for money. All the hotels have clean, comfortable rooms with private facilities. Some of the hotels will provide an enjoyable "European style" experience, rather than the uniformity of standardised modern hotels.



Inset image: Deutz Champagne House © Thomas Raffoux 2005.

Day 9 Sunday September 20, 2015

Marseille

Today we travel south along the Rhone Valley to Marseille for a two-night stay at the four-star Grand Hotel Beauvau, Vieux Port. We will visit wineries in the southern Rhone Chateau Neuf du Pape region and taste some distinctive and delicious grenache and syrah blends under Peter Simic's guidance. Restaurants and wine bars will be recommended for an evening at leisure.

Day 10 Monday September 21, 2015

Marseille

A leisurely, free day to enjoy Marseille. Take a side trip to Aix en Provence or relax in nearby Cassis. This evening we will enjoy a Celebration Dinner at a Michelin-starred restaurant, at which Winestate's Peter Simic will showcase the best wines from the regions we have visited.

Day 11 Tuesday September 22, 2015

Toulouse

After breakfast we will travel west to the modern city of Toulouse for a one night stay at the four-star Grand Hotel de l'Opera. We will enjoy a winery visit in the vast Languedoc wine-producing region, noted for high-volume production and rapidly improving quality. We will stop in the medieval town of Carcassonne for sightseeing at leisure.

Day 12 Wednesday September 23, 2015

Bordeaux

After breakfast, we travel west to the famous Bordeaux region. Bordeaux, located on the grand Garonne River just after it joins the Dordogne River, is the sixth-largest city in France and is the centre of the most renowned wine region in the world. On the outskirts of Bordeaux we will visit the famous Chateau Climens First Growth Barsac winery before checking into the wonderful five-star Grand Hotel de Bordeaux & Spa (Michelin's highest rating hotel in Bordeaux) for a five-night stay. This evening we will enjoy the Celebration Dinner at a Michelin-starred restaurant, hosted by Winestate's Peter Simic.

Day 13 Thursday September 24, 2015

Bordeaux

This morning we travel north to the left bank of the Gironde to spend a day of exploration in the Pauillac and St-Estephe regions. Pauillac is the home of top rate producers such as Chateau Lafite-Rothschild, Chateau Latour, Chateau Mouton Rothschild, Chateau Lynch-Bages and Pontet Canet. Cabernet Sauvignon is the prominent variety here, often blended with some Merlot and Cabernet Franc.

Day 14 Friday September 25, 2015

Bordeaux

Today the tour group will return to the Medoc to visit wineries and taste wines in the southern regions of Margaux and St Julien. Peter Simic will lead the group on visits to a range of top-level producers and guide us through enjoyable and informative, structured tastings. The regions are home to Chateau Margaux, Chateau Beychevelle, Palmer, Brane Cantenac and Chateau Talbot among others. We return to Bordeaux for an evening at leisure. Good-quality restaurants will be recommended.

Day 15 Saturday September 26, 2015

Bordeaux

Today we will visit the right bank St Emilion and Pomerol regions to the east of Bordeaux. The regions are home to many fine producers that include Cheval Blanc, Troplong Mondot, Vieux Chateau Certan, Canon, Pavie, Petrus and Latour Pomerol. Their wines are based mainly on merlot, with cabernet franc and cabernet sauvignon also involved. Peter Simic will introduce us to some of the most important producers and guide us through structured tasting sessions. There will be some free time in the delightful small town of St Emilion.

Day 16 Sunday September 27, 2015

Bordeaux

A free day for relaxation or further exploration. We will come together for our Farewell Celebration Dinner at a Michelin-starred restaurant, with local wines carefully selected by Winestate's Peter Simic. We will celebrate the success and enjoyment of our time in France with Peter. It will be a most enjoyable evening.

Day 17 Monday September 28, 2015

Departure

After breakfast the tour group will be transferred to Bordeaux airport for an Air France flight to Paris to connect with Singapore Airlines flights to Australia.

Day 18 Tuesday September 29, 2015

Australia

Early morning arrival in Australia and the tour concludes.

Relax and enjoy

2015 WINE TOUR TO FRANCE

September 12 to September 29, 2015

Avenue de
CHAMPAGNE

The price for the 15-night tour is \$10,275 per person twin-share.

Single supplement is \$1,950 per person.

The land-only price for the tour (no flights) is \$9,135 per person twin-share.

International and general travel taxes and fuel surcharges are additional.

At November 2014 they were approximately \$950 per person.

Included in the tour price:

- Return economy-class air travel from east coast Australian capitals to Paris and return from Bordeaux via Paris. Long-haul travel will be on Singapore Airlines. Please call for other departure cities. Passengers will be able to travel early or extend their stay in Europe at no extra airfare.
- Accommodation in four and five-star hotels with private facilities. Hotel taxes and service charges.
- Breakfast daily and four special celebration lunches and dinners.
- Entry and tasting fees and special services at vineyards in each of the regions visited. Sightseeing and general entry fees as detailed in the itinerary.
- Tour leadership by Peter Simic, editor/publisher of Winestate Magazine.
- Tour management by Travelrite International Pty Ltd, with an experienced staff member travelling with the group.
- A Travelrite International travel bag.

Not included in the tour price:

- Passport and visa fees.
- International airport and general travel taxes.
- Travel insurance.
- Sightseeing and general expenses not specified in the itinerary.
- Items of a personal nature.
- Additional travel arrangements – these will be quoted for separately.

General information and booking conditions

International touring can involve a considerable amount of walking and stair climbing in the places visited and it is important that all tour participants have a level of physical fitness that allows them to take part in this activity without the need of assistance from others.

TOUR OPERATOR: Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ABN 64 005 817 078) is the tour operator.

TOUR PRICES: The tour prices are based on airfare, general transport, accommodation and other costs at foreign exchange rates at October 2014. Travelrite International reserves the right to alter the tour price or modify the tour if any of these factors change, giving any passenger who has booked the right to withdraw with a full refund of monies paid. No alteration to the tour price will be made within 65 days of departure from Australia.

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS: A deposit of \$500 per person is required at the time of booking. Full payment will be required 65 days before departure.

CHANGES: After confirmation of travel arrangements, one change to travel arrangements will be provided free of charge. Subsequent changes to travel arrangements will incur a fee of \$ 25 for each change.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellation advised more than 65 days from the date of departure from Australia will incur a cancellation fee of \$ 300 per person. Cancellations advised 65 days or less from the date of departure from Australia will result in the loss of all monies paid. Travel insurance is strongly recommended to cover the cost of cancellation fees that could result from a death in the family, illness, etc.

MINIMUM TOUR NUMBERS: The tour has been priced on the basis of a minimum number of passengers having booked on the tour 65 days prior to departure. Travelrite International reserves the right to cancel the tour if insufficient passengers have booked by 60 days prior to departure, giving a full refund of all monies paid, or offering arrangements to proceed with the tour at a modified price.

REFUNDS: The tour is based on arrangements that do not allow for any refunds in respect of sightseeing, accommodation, meals, airfare or other services not utilized after the tour has commenced.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: All passengers will need to be in possession of a valid passport. Passengers holding other than an Australian passport should check requirements with Travelrite International.

BAGGAGE: Economy class passengers qualify for a 20kg. airline baggage allowance.

CHANGES TO THE TOUR ITINERARY: Travelrite International reserves the right to make changes to the tour itinerary to fit in with operational requirements. Any change to the itinerary will be replaced with similar arrangements with an equal or greater value.

RESPONSIBILITY: Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ABN 64 005 817 078, ATAS A10538) is the tour organiser. Neither Nationwide News Pty Limited nor any of its subsidiaries, nor any of its newspapers have any involvement in the tour, and have no liability of any kind to any person in relation to the tour. Travelrite International acts only as agent for passengers in making arrangements with carriers, hoteliers and others for the tour. As a result, we cannot accept liability for any act or omission whatsoever, whether negligent or otherwise of those carriers, hoteliers or other persons providing services in connection with the tour over whom we have no direct or exclusive control. We do not accept responsibility for any injury, damage, loss, delay, change of schedule, or any other events that are beyond our direct control, such as, but not limited to, war, terrorism, flood, fire. Civil disturbance, acts of God, acts of Government, or any other authorities, accidents to or failure of machinery or equipment, or industrial actions.



The passage contract in use by the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies or firms and the purchasers of these tours. Baggage is at owners risk throughout the tour. The contract between passenger and Travelrite International shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Victoria.

HOW TO BOOK: Bookings can be made by completing a booking form and sending it with a deposit of \$500 per person to:

Travelrite International Pty Ltd
423 Whitehorse Road
Balwyn, Victoria 3103

Further information can be obtained by telephoning

Toll free: 1800 630 343

Phone: (03) 8803 6868

Fax: (03) 9836 8068

Email: balwyn@travelrite.com.au

www.travelrite.com.au

ABOUT TRAVELRITE INTERNATIONAL: Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ABN 64 005 817 078) is a well-established travel company which has been marketing throughout Australia for over 30 years. It has two ATAS No A10538 accredited offices at Balwyn and Heathmont which are also accredited with IATA. As such they directly represent the major airlines of the world and all major domestic and international hotel, tour and transport operators. Travelrite International Pty Ltd is a full member of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents – AFTA.