



66, Rue de Verdun
11000 Carcassonne - France
Tel. 04 68 26 92 47
Fax.04 68 26 92 54
E-mail: nathalie.cielbleu@orange.fr.
Site: www.voyages-carcassonne.com

ANIMATIONS MEDIEVALES ET OENOLOGIE 4 jours / 3 nuits

MEDIEVAL SHOWS AND OENOLOGY 4 days / 3 nights

This tour starting from Carcassonne will enable you to discover the Cathar Country and Carcassonne City in the form of a game.

DAY 1: ARRIVAL AT CARCASSONNE AND STAY AT COUIZA

In **Carcassonne** you will be welcomed and transferred in a comfortable coach to where you are staying: a superb castle built in the 16th century. This monument is in an exceptional environment in the middle of the Cathar Country, close to Carcassonne. The castle witnessed the wars of religion between the Protestants and the Catholics. The rooms have a refined look with medieval charm. Gourmet dinner and night at the hotel.

DAY 2: MEDIEVAL VILLAGES OF THE CORBIERES

After breakfast you leave for Corbières where you will visit some remarkable medieval villages. Arrival at **Lagrasse** (“one of the most beautiful villages of France”). Tour of the fortified village, with paved streets, which wind around the Benedictine abbey, “Ste Marie d' Orbieu”, currently inhabited by canons. Lagrasse is home to many craftsmen (potters, watercolorists, leather workers, etc.) You go on to **Villerouge-Terménès**, where you lunch in the heart of the castle. Authenticity is the order of the day. Located in the castle, the **Medieval Rôtisserie**, unique in Europe, will transport you to the life and times of the castle in the 16th century. The surroundings as well as the food were recreated according to a book of that epoch. You will eat this astonishing cuisine in the chimney corner with an ancient bread chopping board or with utensils discovered during excavations in the castle. ... a journey back in time.

After lunch: guided tour of the **castle of Villeroche-Termenès**.

In 1321, Guilhem Bélibaste, the last known Occitan Cathar Parfait, was burned alive here. **Guilhem Bélibaste** had been initiated into Catharism, and became a “Parfait” in Catalonia, where he had fled to. Only Parfaits could pass on the religion, and his death meant the end of the Cathar religion.

After this historical sally, you enter the vineyards of Corbières where your own oenologist awaits you for a **wine tasting** session and an initiation into the flavours of these vintage wines.

Corbières: The entry to Carcassonne in the old island of Leucatel. Corbières is a vast quadrilateral space with traces of turbulent geological history. The “terroir” (soil) is especially good for producing red wines. The Carignan grape type is used up to 50%. More and more often the wine is matured in oak casks. This bears witness to the high quality approach used by the vine growers of Corbières for over a century. The red wines are rich, aromatic, balanced and fruity. Although in competition today with Coteaux of Languedoc and Saint Chinian, the wines of Corbières continue to offer good bargains.

At the end of this initiation, you will return to your hotel.
Gourmet dinner and night at the hotel.

DAY 3: TREASURE HUNT

After breakfast you go to **Carcassonne** in a luxury coach, where you will go on a guided tour of the City, a UNESCO world heritage site. Its 52 towers and 3 kilometres of ramparts point to its dominant role in the history of the Languedoc.

At the end of this visit, a wine **tasting** session will be organised for you in the City club: an introduction to the wines of Aude, and tasting sessions.

Gourmet lunch in the medieval city of Carcassonne.

Sample menu:

Green Asparagus Soup with Turmeric

Sea bass with Garden Peas , Beans and Lemon Conserve

Pan-fried Loin of Lamb with gravy cooked in Tagine style

Moist Chocolate Cake with Caramel

The afternoon will be a memorable one, as you will take part in a **treasure hunt** in the Carcassonne City theatre, in costume. You have to find the treasure by following the clues. Good luck!

The stay ends on a high note, as a **lively medieval meal** (with jugglers and fire eaters) awaits you at the hotel.

Night in the hotel.

DAY 4: DEPARTURE

Departure after breakfast.

**PRICE PER PERSON WITH AT LEAST 30 PARTICIPANTS(Us to consult)
including all taxes**

THE PRICE INCLUDES:

- Stay in a medieval castle (based on a double room)
- Meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 4
- Services of a personal oenologist and a personal guide for day 2
- Transport by coach
- The guided tours indicated in the program
- Wine Tasting sessions at the estates

THE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Personal expenses
- Drinks with meals
- Supplement for an individual room (Us to consult)