

# CATALONIA CULINARY

## Barcelona & Priorat

### *Day 1*

Upon your arrival in Barcelona, you will be met at the airport after clearing customs and your English speaking driver will escort you to your elegant hotel for check in. Some free time to relax after your time. Then once refreshed, enjoy on your own one of Europe's most exciting and walkable cities, and a place of extraordinary architectural dazzle, exemplified by the work of architects Gaudi, Domenech i Montaner and Puig i Cadafalch, exponents of Catalan Art Nouveau and Modernisme.

Monumental sculptures by local masters like Joan Miro adorn public spaces, and museums house extraordinary treasures ranging from works of the ancient Romans to those of Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dali. Focusing on Gaudi there are three constructions that should not be missed. The Guell Park, covered with brightly coloured tile mosaics, will provide you with a fascinating and relaxing stroll. Casa Mila or 'La Pedrera' at the centre of the Eixample district is full of Gaudi designs. The Sagrada Familia, the most unconventional church in Europe and symbol of the city is the most famous of Gaudi's buildings. For the evening we suggest that you enjoy Barcelona's tapas bars, Michelin starred dining, and traditional Catalan eateries.

### *Day 2*

After a leisurely breakfast, you will enjoy a comfortable and scenic drive in your private chauffeur driven vehicle to the region of El Priorat. The Priorat is one of the oldest and also one of the least densely populated districts of Catalonia, and although it is only one hundred miles from Barcelona, it is as remote from a bustling city as could be possible. This region sits in a natural amphitheatre of low mountains that surround it on all sides. The twenty three towns that form the Priorat are all relatively small and quite close to each other. The economy of the Priorat has always relied on agriculture and the production of wine and olive oil, making it an ideal location for wine tours, winery visits and culinary tours. They have been exporting wine since the fifteenth century, and wine production remains its most important activity along with the production of olive oil. You will arrive at your charming countryside hotel, a family house built in stone located in a very small town in El Priorat; the house has been completely restored and transformed into a small hotel fitted with all of the amenities necessary to make your culinary vacation stay as



comfortable and enjoyable as possible. Upon arrival you will enjoy a welcome aperitif. In the afternoon we will make a detailed introduction about the activities of the week, before starting with a cooking class followed by an excellent welcome dinner.

### *Day 3*

After breakfast, you travel to Gratallops, a quaint old village overhanging the Siurana River. Gratallops is in the heart of a licorella (slate) basin, irrigated on the other side by the Montsant River. You will begin by a visit to “Costers del Siurana” winery, which produces the famous wine “Clos de l’Obac”, considered among the best reserve wines in the world. You will have a taste of their products before enjoying a typical lunch at “El Celler de Gratallops”. In the afternoon, time for relax in your hotel room, in the nice patio of the private house or maybe enjoy a stroll in the lovely village. In the afternoon you will enjoy a private olive oil tasting presentation made by a professional taster. Later you will participate in another cooking class which is then followed by a dinner.



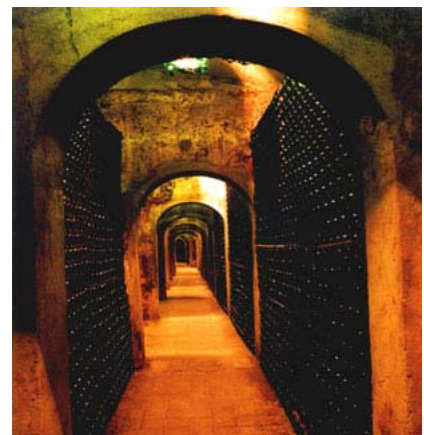
### *Day 4*

After a leisurely breakfast, this morning you will enjoy a visit to the ancient ruins of Scala Dei Monastery, dating back to 1154. Being a priorate, the region itself takes its name from here; the monks teach the locals in the production of wine, and the prior did decide where the vineyards could be settled, and did take the final profit. The monastery was abandoned on 1853, and recently has been restored. Very close to the old monastery, you find “La Conrería de Scala Dei” winery, a very young winery where you will enjoy a nice taste of products before returning to your private hotel. Lunch will be enjoyed in the charming town of Falset, which is considered the capital of “el Priorat”. Afterwards, you will have leisure time to discover the town on your own before return to your hotel. Later you will enjoy the next cooking class, followed by a fantastic dinner.



### *Day 5*

Enjoy a full breakfast in your beautiful hotel. The highlight today will be a visit to the Penedés wine region, homeland of “cava”, the strongest competitor to the French “champagne”. Here you will enjoy a VIP winery visit which includes tasting some of their finest wines and cava. Lunch time will be a regional three course meal in a traditional countryside house.



In the afternoon you have time to walk about the lovely town of Sitges, which is strategically located between the mountains and the sea. The old historic quarter brings history to life. Upon your arrival in Barcelona, you will check into your beautiful hotel. Dinner and evening on your own in Barcelona.

## Day 6

Full breakfast at leisure. Today, you'll receive an unforgettable private cooking class, in the heart of Barcelona. The chef will meet you right at the hotel, to lead you on a pre-class guided visit to the famous Boqueria Market which is located right in the medieval quarter of Barcelona, on the bustling "Ramblas" boulevard. The Boqueria is one of Europe's most impressive markets. He will show you where Barcelona chefs source the best truffles, freshest seafood, most boutique olive oils, etc. For lunchtime classes, he will also take you to the most famous bar in la Boqueria, where celebrity spotters have seen Ferran Adriá (Spain's most famous chef) and Jean Paul Gaultier (French fashion designer), to have a glass of Catalan champagne, cava. After the colorful market tour, you'll take a taxi to the venue for the gourmet cooking class. This class will show you the best of traditional Catalan cuisine. His specialties include Fideua (a noodle version of Paella) and Crema Catalana (Barcelona's most famous dessert). This is an unforgettable "taste" of Barcelona! Evening on your own to discover Barcelona's nightlife and dazzling array of restaurants.



## Day 7

Today, after a nice breakfast, we offer a private transfer to Barcelona airport for your departure flight. Adios to Spain!

### INCLUSIONS:

- 6 nights deluxe accommodations (3 nights in Barcelona; 3 nights in Priorat)
- all transfers in luxury vehicle with English speaking driver
- private airport transfers
- 4 private hands-on cooking classes
- market visit with chef
- professional olive oil tasting
- private wine/cava tastings as per itinerary
- cultural excursions as per itinerary
- daily breakfasts; 4 lunches; 3 dinners
- all applicable taxes

**PRICE PER PERSON:** based on double occupancy  
\$4195 Cdn. (2 people)  
\$3945 Cdn. (4 people)