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## The Best of **Northern Spain** Escorted 2022 Basque Country & Biarritz

8 Nights | 4 Rounds | May 19 - 27

### Tour **Pricing** Per Guest

Golfer: \$8,695 | Non Golfer: \$6,795 | Single Supplement: \$0

This golf and wine vacation features the Basque Country located in the western Pyrenees, straddling the border between France and Spain along 100 miles of the Bay of Biscay. The inhabitants here are the oldest surviving ethnic group in Europe. Their traditions for excellent wine and pintxos, or tapas, will produce lasting memories of your visit along with a rich list of experiences. We will tour the magnificent **Guggenheim Museum** in **Bilbao**. Equally interesting for this tour is our lodging. The **Hotel Marqués de Riscal** is Frank Gehry's vision of a 43 room hotel as a contemporary 21st century château, plus the **Maria Cristina Hotel** in **San Sebastián**, the address of choice for the international film industry when their annual festival comes to town in September. We'll tour two leading wineries for guided tastings at the spectacular **Txomin Etxaniz winery** and **Eguren Ugarte**, which is one of the major producers of Rioja red wines. Better still, we have four exceptional clubs scheduled for our golf. While Spain's Costa del Sol gets more attention, the game took shape here more than 50 years earlier. **Neguri Golf Club** was founded in 1911. **Pedreña Golf Club** is a Harry S. Colt design that Seve Ballesteros called home. Jon Rahm's club at **Larrabea** plays through a heavily wooded site among streams, lakes and meadow. **Biarritz Golf Club - Le Phare** is located in France just north of Biarritz and dates back to 1888. It was the original home of the Biarritz green design which was later used at a number of courses in the USA.

If you enjoy combining your love of golf with a passion for travel, you'll find a relaxing and highly rewarding experience on this Escorted Tour for a party of 24 - 30. Every aspect is fully managed from the handling of your luggage and equipment to hotel and golf course check ins. Various meals, guided sightseeing, carts / caddies, local taxes, service charges and gratuities (excluding caddies) are included in addition to sandwiches, snacks plus an open bar for beer and wine during our time at each of the golf courses. Best of all, this PerryGolf vacation promises an ideal opportunity to join a group of like-minded new friends.

### **Detailed Itinerary**

#### **THURSDAY, MAY 19: BILBAO, SPAIN**

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Arrive **Bilbao** where you will be met at the Bilbao airport by PerryGolf staff who will assist you to your private transfer awaiting to take you to your hotel .

Check-in to **Gran Hotel Domine**, a 5-star property overlooking the famed **Guggenheim Museum**. The rest of

the day is free to relax.

Welcome drink and dinner at Nerua, the Michelin starred restaurant at the Guggenheim Museum. You shall enjoy a tasting menu this evening.

OVERNIGHT: **Gran Hotel Domine** – Guggenheim View Room

## FRIDAY, MAY 20: BASQUE COAST, SPAIN

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GOLF: Today play **Neguri Golf Club**, or as it is known here, the Real Sociedad de Golf de Neguri. The club was founded in 1911 and has been at its present site since 1961. Boasting wide fairways and few hazards, this layout measures 6,900 yards from its championship tees. The nines are decidedly different. The front nine works its way along open terrain to the Cantabrian Sea where two holes play along 200 foot cliffs. The back nine is routed through a forest of towering Atlantic pines. Good luck on the 14th, a 211 yard uphill par three guarded by a single, magnetic bunker!

After the round, golfers shall enjoy a light lunch in the clubhouse.

SIGHTSEEING: We begin with a brief stop at the **Vizcaya Bridge** which was built in 1893 as the world's first transporter bridge. Fewer than two dozen were ever built, and only 12 still operate. The unusual design features a gondola suspended by cables about 30 feet above the Nervion River that can ferry six cars and several dozen people to the other side in 90 Seconds. We will then enjoy the magnificent views of **San Juan de Gaztelugatxe** from a viewpoint. In the middle of the Basque coast and far away from any urban area, San Juan de Gaztelugatxe is a protected habitat. This idyllic place is located between the coastal towns of Bakio and Bermeo joined to the coast by a stone bridge and a 241-step staircase. Continue to **Gernika** where we will visit the Assembly House's gardens to learn more about the Basque history.

Non-Golfers will enjoy a light lunch en route to the hotel in Bilbao where they will return mid-afternoon with time to relax.

This evening as is the custom in Basque region, we shall enjoy a walking dinner degustation tour that visits selected restaurants to enjoy a drink and their speciality pintxos. With a local guide, this is an immersive experience!

OVERNIGHT: **Gran Hotel Domine** – Guggenheim View Room

## SATURDAY, MAY 21: BILBAO, SPAIN

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This promises to be a memorable day as we tour the **Guggenheim Museum**. Our private guide lead us through one of the most admired masterpieces of contemporary architecture. Design by famed architect Frank Gehry, the titanium-clad structure opened in 1997 to a rare reception of unanimous approval. Afterwards, we'll enjoy a walking tour of the Old Quarter. Bilbao was awarded the 2018 European City of the Year, in part surely because of the culinary experience. There are over 40 Michelin-starred restaurants in town and the surrounding Basque country!

Lunch at San Mames Stadium Restaurant.

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After lunch, the remainder of the day is at leisure to relax or explore Bilbao on your own.

Enjoy dinner this evening on your own.

OVERNIGHT: **Gran Hotel Domine** – Guggenheim View Room

## **SUNDAY, MAY 22: AÑANA SALT VALLEY – ELCIEGO, SPAIN**

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Check out of the hotel.

Golfers shall enjoy a light lunch in the clubhouse prior to teeing off.

GOLF: Today play **Pedreña Golf Club**. Many people think of the Costa del Sol as the place to play golf in Spain, and it surely is, but the game on the northern coast predates most of the Mediterranean courses by fifty years. One of the gems here, designed by none other than Harry S. Colt, is Pedreña, which happened to be the home club of none other than Seve Ballesteros. Opened in 1928, the course enjoys a spectacular setting on a small peninsula jutting into the Bay of Santander. While only 6,340 yards, Mr. Colt cleverly presents risk/reward opportunities that the thinking golfer will be challenged to master.

SIGHTSEEING: Non Golfers will head to La Rioja in order to enjoy a leisurely tour in the Añana Salt Valley, a cultural and natural salt landscape over 7,000 years old. In the midst of a recovery process to restore its sustainability, you will learn about the history, architecture, archeology and biodiversity of the salt works. This visit offers the possibility of enjoying the outdoor Salt Spa where you can submerge your feet and hands in hypersaline waters from the springs that are said to offer beneficial effects of salt water.

Non-Golfers will enjoy lunch at a traditional restaurant in Añana. After lunch, travel to our next hotel and relax or enjoy the spa until the golfers' arrival.

Tonight, everyone shall enjoy a light, casual dinner together at our hotel.

OVERNIGHT: **Hotel Marqués de Riscal** - Deluxe Spa Room

## **MONDAY, MAY 23: LAGUARDIA, SPAIN**

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This morning we visit **Laguardia** or a walking tour of this walled medieval fortress town that was founded in 1164 in a region with history documented to the twelfth century BC. One of the highlights is the Portico of Santa Maria Church which is made of stone and consists of a double Gothic arch that forms five archivolt, all of them elaborately decorated.

From Laguardia we travel to the **Eguren Ugarte winery**. It is a sixth-generation traditional family Rioja winery where we will enjoy a guided visit and hosted tasting of their wines followed by a traditional Rioja style lunch.

Later we will enjoy a private guided visit to the **Marques de Riscal Winery** with wine tasting included.

This evening, a private dinner is included at the hotel.

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OVERNIGHT: **Hotel Marqués de Riscal** - Deluxe Spa Room

## TUESDAY, MAY 24: VITTORIA, SPAIN

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Check out of the hotel.

GOLF: Today play **Larrabea Golf Club**, the home course of PGA Tour star Jon Rahm. The course is played over uneven terrain on an estate sheltered from the northerly winds that overlooks the marshes of Urrunaga and Ullibarri. The fairways are generous but the green complexes are demanding. It's a heavily wooded site with holes that wind their way among streams, lakes and meadows.

Golfers shall enjoy a light lunch in the clubhouse followed by transfer to San Sebastian.

SIGHTSEEING: This morning the full group will depart the hotel together for Larrabea Golf Club where the Golfers will play. Non-Golfers will continue to **Vitoria**, the capital city of the Basque region. Here we will meet our local guide for a private, walking tour highlighted by the medieval quarter home to the Gothic-style Santa María Cathedral with its sculpted facade and towering columns. The Church of San Miguel has a large, baroque altarpiece and houses a statue of the White Virgin, the city's patron saint.

Afterwards, journey to your next hotel in San Sebastian to eat on your own, relax and enjoy the city, and possibly shopping!

In the early evening enjoy a walking tour of the cobblestoned streets of the Old Quarter (Parte Vieja) where you'll find vibrant pintxo bars pairing local wines with specialty tapas.

Enjoy dinner this evening on your own.

OVERNIGHT: **Maria Cristina Hotel** - Premium River View Room

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 25: GETARIA - SAN SEBASTIÁN, SPAIN

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This morning we'll meet our guide and depart for **Getaria**, a charming fishing village famous for its beaches and Txakoli white wine which enjoys a protected designation of origin and pairs wonderfully with the grilled fish that this town is known for. Our walking tour includes a tasting when we visit the Anchovy Maisor workshop. We conclude with a guided tasting at the spectacular **Txomin Etxaniz Txakoli winery**.

[View Google's "Model Your Town" Tour of Getaria](#)

Lunch at a local restaurant that specializes in grilled fish.

After lunch, we return to **San Sebastián** while enjoying the panoramic views from the bus. Before going to the hotel, we will go up to Igeldo Mountain where we shall enjoy marvelous views of Peine de los Vientos and La Concha Bay.

Dinner this evening will be enjoyed in the Michelin starred EmeBe Garrote Restaurant.

OVERNIGHT: **Maria Cristina Hotel** – Premium River View Room

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## THURSDAY, MAY 26: BIARRITZ, FRANCE

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**GOLF:** Golfers will play their final round on this tour in France, at **Biarritz Golf Club - Le Phare**, just to the north of Biarritz. It was originally built in 1888 for British expatriates living in the region. It has seen many modifications over the years and interestingly was the original home of the Biarritz green design which was later used at a number of courses in the USA. Unfortunately, the original hole was lost during the Second World War.

**SIGHTSEEING:** Non-Golfers will enjoy a half-day tour of Saint-Jean de Luz and Biarritz. We will start with a walking tour in **Saint-Jean de Luz** and allow some free time for shopping. The town's fortune has long been linked to its fishing and port. Today the enclave has managed to preserve its heritage while at the same time integrating modern creations. 'Karrika Handi', or The Great Street, leads you to the church of Saint-Jean-Baptiste where King Louis XIV married Marie-Thérèse of Spain in 1660. Facing Saint-Jean-de-Luz is Ciboure, the birthplace of composer Maurice RAVEL, and its church Saint Vincent with its fortress-like appearance. **Biarritz** is an elegant seaside town overlooking the Bay of Biscay. Since the 1800's, it has been a popular vacation destination with European royalty who have been followed by modern global jetsetters, even attracting the G7 summit held here in 2019. Biarritz is also a major surfing destination which has produced an interesting blend of swanky dinner jacket only restaurants with hip boutiques.

Golfers and Non-Golfers will enjoy lunch in the Clubhouse of Biarritz Golf Club.

After lunch, return to the hotel to rest and relax.

Our farewell dinner this evening shall be at Mimo which is ideally located in our hotel. We will enjoy a medley of a cooking class, private dinner and memorable dining experience of the very best of Basque food.

OVERNIGHT: **Maria Cristina Hotel** – Premium River View Room

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## FRIDAY, MAY 27: SAN SEBASTIÁN, SPAIN

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Check-out and private transfer to the Bilbao or San Sebastian airport.

## Golf Schedule

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### NEGURI GOLF CLUB: GEXTO, SPAIN

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## PEDREÑA GOLF CLUB: PEDREÑA, SPAIN

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## LARRABEA GOLF CLUB: LEGUTIO, SPAIN



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## BIARRITZ GOLF CLUB: BIARRITZ, FRANCE

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## Accommodations

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### GRAN HOTEL DOMINE: BILBAO, SPAIN



The Gran Hotel Domine is the only 5-Star hotel located next to the Guggenheim Museum. Having been completely renovated in 2019, luxury can now be found in its spacious ambience, its extraordinary service, the passion for art and design, as well as an elegant and cosmopolitan style.

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### HOTEL MARQUÉS DE RISCAL: ELCIEGO, SPAIN

Frank Gehry has out done himself yet again with the **Hotel Marqués de**



**Riscal.** His vision was to create a contemporary 21st century château -- with 43 rooms and suites, a spa and two restaurants – to accentuate one of the oldest wineries in the Rioja region, Vinos de los Herederos de Marqués de Riscal. It is very literally a luxurious work of accommodation art.

## MARIA CRISTINA HOTEL: SAN SEBASTIAN, SPAIN

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Late in the 19th century San Sebastián turned from sleepy fishing village to playground for European royalty. This coincided with the height of the Belle Époque era, or Beautiful Age, which led architect Charles Mewes (the man responsible for the Ritz in Madrid and Paris) to design and build the **Hotel Maria Cristina** in this style. It opened in 1912 and remains to this day firmly in command of its grand dame status in the Basque Country.