A top-down view of a breakfast table. In the top left, a white cup holds a cinnamon roll with powdered sugar. To its right, a white plate features a fried egg, a tomato slice, and mushrooms. In the center, a glass of milk sits next to a small jar of jam. Below the milk is a white bowl filled with sliced kiwi, orange, and grapefruit. To the right of the bowl is a small jar of jam and a small bowl of white cream. In the bottom right, a white plate holds a fried egg in a small metal pan, two slices of baguette, and a whole baguette. In the bottom left, a basket contains several slices of toast. A bouquet of pink and white roses is on the left side of the table. A silver fork and knife are also visible.

Bordeaux in Winter



While swims in the nearby Atlantic Ocean and bike rides alongside the Garonne River and through vineyards may be out of the picture in the colder months in the Bordeaux region, there are plenty of other activity options, as RUBY BOUKABOU discovers.

If you're planning a trip to southwest France during the Northern Hemisphere's winter, sumptuous dinners, wine tastings, spa treatments, delicious local dishes, and nearby ski resorts await.

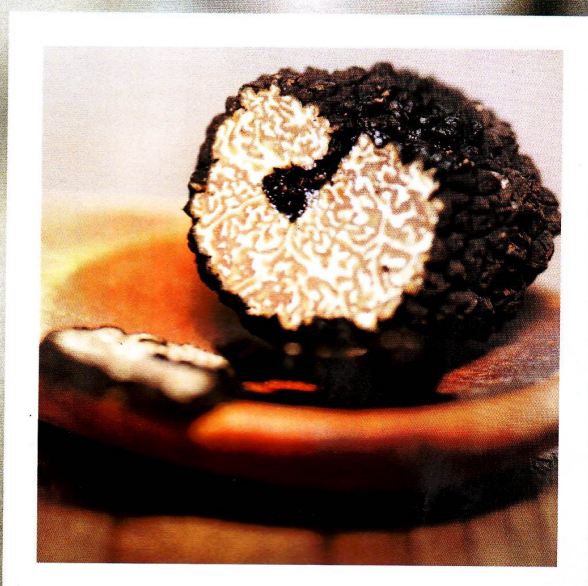
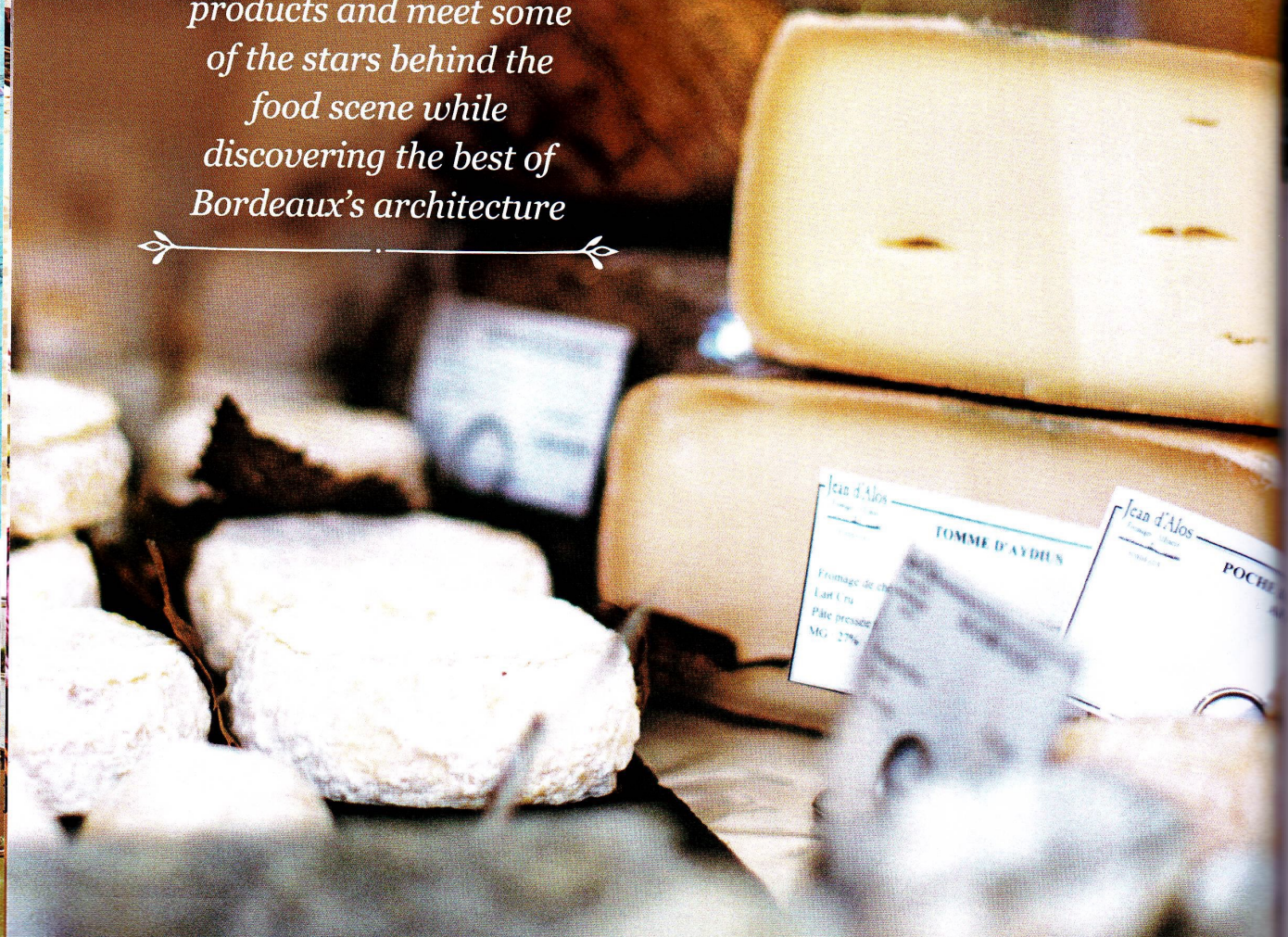
In the lap of luxury

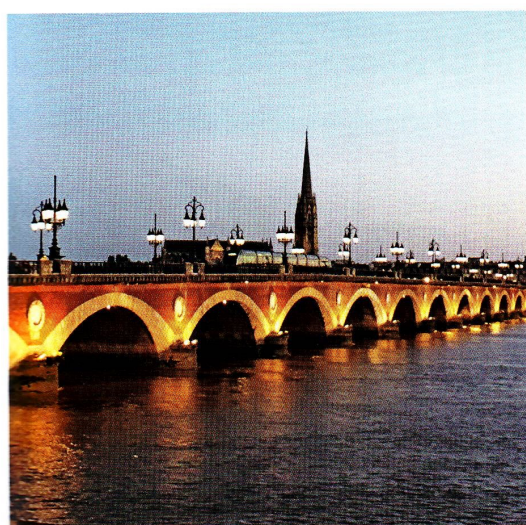
Escape the cold in the haven of the Intercontinental Bordeaux Le Grand Hôtel (bordeaux.intercontinental.com). While the luxurious Royal Suite with its own terrace and outdoor Jacuzzi may be affordable only to the rich and famous (Céline Dion and the late French rock star Johnny Halliday being prior clients), you don't need to be staying here to enjoy the hotel's facilities. The spa is the perfect remedy for a cold day, especially after travelling. Gaze over the rooftops of Bordeaux from the sauna, detox with a herbal tea in the relaxation room and take a serene dip in the heated pool surrounded by neoclassical columns. Warm up with a hot chocolate in the downstairs bar or, if the pocket permits, book in for dinner at the hotel's Michelin-starred Gordon Ramsay restaurant, Le Pressoir d'Argent. >>

IMAGES

Page 14: brunch at Brasserie Le Bordeaux Gordon Ramsay © Carla Gradisk • page 15, top to bottom: Brasserie Le Bordeaux © M. Mamontoff • Gordon Ramsay and Gilad Peled © Julien Faure

Sample the best of local products and meet some of the stars behind the food scene while discovering the best of Bordeaux's architecture





Bordeaux's food and wine scene

Wine lovers can visit La Cité du Vin (laciteduvin.com), the unique wine museum and culture complex designed by architects Nicolas Desmazières and Anouk Legendre, overlooking the Garonne River. Sign up for a wine tasting and pick up a few bottles to try later or as gifts for friends and family.

Alternatively, take a two-hour wine-tasting masterclass at the Musée du Vin et du Négoce (museedevinbordeaux.com). This wine museum in the historic district of Chatrons is housed in semi-underground cellars built in 1720.

Then let experts like the bubbly Sylvie Berteaux from Miam Bordeaux (miam-bordeaux.fr) or the passionate Virginie Macabet from Bordeaux Food Tour (bordeaux-foodtour.com) organise a delicious food tour for you. Sample the best of local products and meet some of the stars behind the food scene while discovering the best of Bordeaux's architecture. Several themed tours are available, including Sunday markets, Saturday morning tastings, apéro tours and lunch surprises.

City of culture

Museums tend to have good heating, so why not warm up while checking out the art and history of Bordeaux?

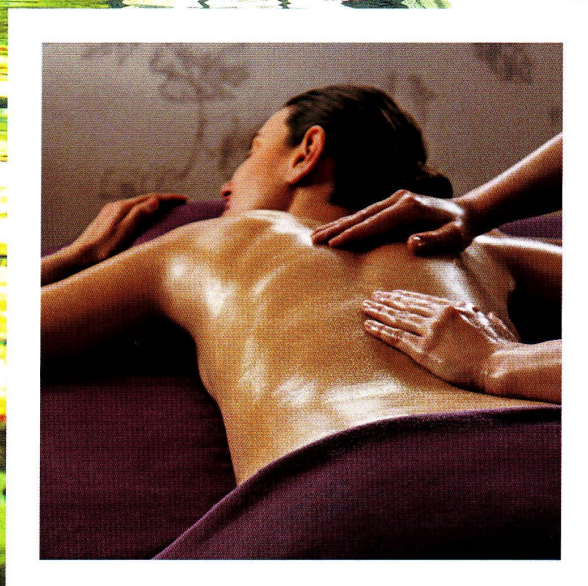
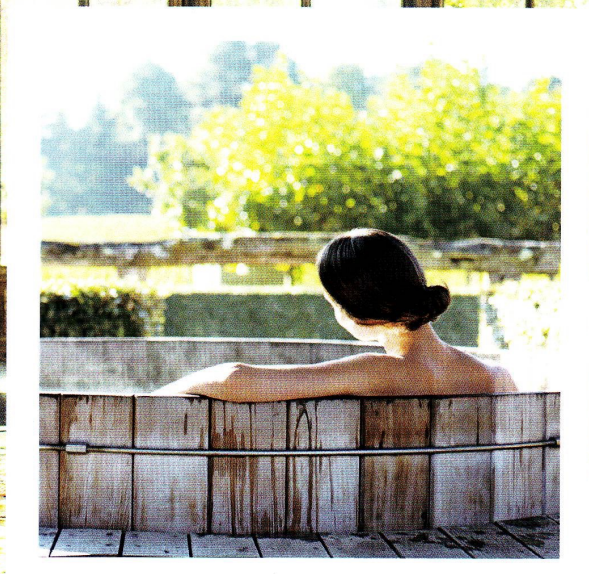
Learn about the history of Bordeaux and the region at the Musée d'Aquitaine (musee-aquitaine-bordeaux.fr) that specialises in archaeology, history and ethnology. The museum includes a room dedicated to 18th-century maritime trade and slavery, and one devoted to the 19th century with innovative multimedia presentations, as well as temporary exhibitions.

Created in 1973 by Jean-Louis Froment in an old colonial food warehouse, CAPC, the Bordeaux Museum of Contemporary Art (capc-bordeaux.fr), was one of the pioneers of contemporary art celebration in France. It continues to present engaging temporary group and solo exhibitions for the appreciation of both international and local art lovers.

In the evenings, rub shoulders with the locals at a concert in a local music venue or club. As well as discovering the local talent, you'll be surprised at the number of stars who come to the city on tour. There are plenty of kid-friendly shows also, an impressive ballet program, or how about a classical recital at a winery or château? The best way to find out what's on is by checking the Clubs et Concerts website, clubsetconcerts.com. >>

IMAGES

Page 16, main image: cheeses © Bordeaux Food Tour • bottom, left to right: wine © Bordeaux Food Tour • truffles © Miam Bordeaux • page 17, top to bottom: Place de la Bourse © Pixabay • Pont de Pierre © Pixabay



Daytrips from Bordeaux

Just under 30 minutes south of Bordeaux, you can experience vinotherapy at Les Sources Caudalie and Château Smith Haut Lafitte (sources-caudalie.com) in Martillac. The owners have created a divine environment for total relaxation and regeneration by a lake in the vineyards. First, rug up and take a revitalising walk in the nearby forest. Then, try one of their famous natural treatments and afterwards dive into the pool filled with natural spring water. Stay the night and enjoy the local drop at one of the château's restaurants or bars; have a cosy, fireside dinner at La Table du Lavoir, taste local cuisine at the Michelin-starred La Grand Vigne, or try the south-west France-style tapas at Rouge wine bar. Cooking classes are also available, as are wine tastings and visits to the vineyard and cellars.

Visit Pair-non-Pair cave (pair-non-pair.fr) at Prignac-et-Marcamps, north of Bordeaux, to see the fascinating engraved depictions of animals, including cows, horses, giant deer and mammoths. Discovered by the archaeologist François Daleau in 1881, the caves were occupied for 60,000 years.

Or you could hit the slopes in the Pyrenees, which are only a few hours from Bordeaux. La Mongie, in Bagnères-de-Bigorre below the Col du Tourmalet (grand-tourmalet.com), is a good spot for skiing, snowboarding and cosy dinners. French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte spent their first presidential winter holiday there. Indulge in a cheese fondue at La Mama restaurant (lamama-lamongie.com).

Visit bordeaux-tourisme.com for more great winter activity ideas in and around Bordeaux. ♣



IMAGES

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