



## "NEXT DESTINATION: LA RIOJA"



La Rioja, land of contrasts, of valley and sierra, of banks and deep canyons, amalgam of colors, of outstanding landscapes tinted by seasons, with tonalities that in the autumn show its maximum splendor: red, ochre, yellow, when the vines wait to be harvested.

Landscape watched, from the top of **Monte San Lorenzo**, by the forests of the Cameros or by that privileged enclave to stare the nature: the **Regional Park of Cebollera**. Panorama and scenario, which in low la Rioja makes you back in time more than 120 million years to discover the unique footprint of the path of dinosaurs by these lands.



Obliged visit in La Rioja is **San Millán de la Cogolla** and its monasteries of **Suso and Yuso**, declared World Heritage Site and recognized as "Cradle of Spanish language". Among their walls, in their important scriptorios, emerged the first testimonies in romance Spanish, in the so-called "**Glosas Emilianenses**", by the 11th Century. And very close from there the first poet in spanish language was born, **Gonzalo de Berceo**, who in the Monastery of Suso began to write his works.

This rendezvous with history scatters La Rioja with monasteries, churches, castles, walled villages, which allow you plunge into the roots of that land and to take a close look to its past.

Land that melts its name with the product that has awarded worldwide fame: **THE WINE**. In La Rioja, wine is passion, culture, art in its manufacturing and it is pride of a prestige well deserved. Being a privileged area for the harvest of the vine, the deep tradition inherited, makes each bottle of rioja possess a quality with a vocation to be shared.



Visiting some of the famed La Rioja wineries, entering the magic of their drafts, browse the penumbra, stillness and silence of its chambers of barrels and tasting a great wine is a must. Young wines or matured are part of a perfect marriage with a cuisine that has known how to respect the traditional flavors. A cuisine based on the excellence of its vegetables along with the colorful of some dishes such as rioja potatoes with chorizo, caparrones or the chops of lamb with sarmiento.



Logroño, its capital city, city of accommodation, member of the **Ruta Jacobea**, centuries of transit of pilgrimage have made it be known to be path. A 142,000 inhabitants city, small enough to be comfortable for walking around and get to know; big enough to provide all kinds of facilities.



A modern, comfortable, quiet and safe city. With a strength and vitality reflected in its nightlife, in its vocation as commercial city, in the indelible memories that leave on a visitor a cuisine that worships the wine in every corner.

In its historical center, streets like **Laurel or San Juan** surprise and demonstrate the way Logroño has known how to become enjoying into its identity.

So, with this warming, interesting and affable panorama, the Board of Directors has decided to organize the next **Annual Congress**, which will be held from **March 30 to 2 April 2011** in this beautiful community, establishing in Logroño the headquarters.

We will have the chance to enjoy attractive presentations and captivating workshops in the sober, elegant and resounding **Congress Palace "Riojaforum"**, located in the park of the Ribera del Ebro, in an area of easy access, which evokes, from its name, meeting space, open forum to contain interests and illusions; public forum capable of hosting the most various events.



In the next Congress, we will be able to combine interesting explanations and approaches with days of culture and leisure, having the opportunity to visit the **Franco-Españolas wineries**, indirect result of one of the most unfortunate incidents in the history of French wine. During the second half of the 19th century a plague of phylloxera ruined almost entirely the vineyards of France what motivated that winemakers of Bordeaux, region known by the high quality of their vineyards and the tradition in the development of some wines of universal prestige, moved to our country searching a suitable land and climate in which continue with the development and upbringing of wines that had made them known globally . La Rioja was the chosen area. To important factors such as the excellent land for growing vines and a climate that incorporates the beneficial influences of the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, they joined the concern of its people for the tradition and an ancestral wine



culture where the native varieties of one of the best defined natural regions from the Iberian Peninsula were present. All these reasons persuaded Frederick Anglade Saurat from the trade "Anglade" from Bordeaux to found in 1890 with spaniard associates, Wineries Franco-Españolas. Counselors as the Count of Venancourt, Alejo Lepine, Vicente Rodriguez Paterna, the Count of Romanones or A. Dupeyron belonged to the first board of directors.



Or to know the **"Museum of the culture of Wine "Dynasty Vivanco"**, located in a landscape and historical site in the heart of the vineyards and of the Cave of the family Vivanco. It offers the possibility of discovering an exciting world: wine, how it is born, how it is made and its religious, cultural and artistic symbolism. The



museum displays the cultivation of the vine, the harvest, the techniques of wine, the work in the cellar through an important set of ethnographic objects. A valuable archaeological and artistic



collection evokes the role of wine in the religious rites of different cultures and in the inspiration that artists have found in this drink in the course of history. In addition, outside the winery you can visit a representation of varieties of vines from Spain and the rest of the world.

A must Visit are the **Monasteries of Suso and Yuso**, located in San Millán de la Cogolla, in the valley of the river Cardenas, a tributary of the river Najerilla, in the foothills of the Sierra de la Demanda. The **Monastery of Suso**, the one at the top, emerged from the caves that inhabited the hermits, disciples of San Millán, back in the VI century. Successive enlargements that became those caves into monasteries can be seen in the different architectural styles that were overlapping between



VI and X centuries: visigothic, mozarab and romanic. The cultural importance of Suso is manifested in the collection of manuscripts and codices that came out from its scriptorio, one of the most notable of the Middle Age in Spain, place in which arises the oldest demonstration written in the Spanish Language. **The Yuso Monastery**, the one below, was built to enlarge the Suso Monastery in the X-XI, it highlights its large dimensions. It was built in the XVI, XVII and XVIII centuries and it combines different styles: renaissance and baroque mainly. It keeps plenty of artistic treasures in its museum and it is worthy the whole formed by the library and the archive.



Time for leisure and knowledge of local behaviours shall be imperative, being able to enjoy the unique **"Pinchos" in "Laurel Street"**, making a tour through 'The Path of the Elephants', where you may not find any elephant, but no one is free to catch a good "trunk". Unlike other streets in different cities this tour has several peculiarities:



- Each bar has one or two gastronomic **specialties**. Even among the logroñeses, bars are known by their specialties. These "Pinchos" may be cooked with a single basic ingredient or they are 'author tapas' with several ingredients.
- The street is very busy and it is not difficult to get lost among the people. It is advisable to suggest a possible route and comment with your colleagues.



- Despite the fact that there is a bar every two meters, make no mistake, 'The Laurel' is not an area of cups and is located in the heart of the capital.

To end this great event we will have our traditional **Gala Dinner in the Electra Rioja Grand Casino**, located in the old downtown, it is an exceptional witness of the passage of the



pilgrims on their way towards Santiago. Its excellent facilities, make it be a must for logroñeses and foreigners. The shelter building has been completely restored recovering in the interior some wineries of the XVI century and a few arches of the 12th century that now decorate the facade. For all these reasons, the building has been recognized by the Government of La Rioja as point of tourist interest.

For all these things we have come to several agreements with two hotels, undoubtedly high quality hotels, and close to the Palace of Congress "Riojaforum", in which you can make your reservations, without much delay, as the infrastructures hotel accommodations of Logroño do not offer large capacity, so problems might arise if reservations are not made soon.

- **Hotel AC La Rioja \*\*\*\*** - C/ Madre de Dios, 21 - 23 - 26004 Logroño (La Rioja). Tel. +34 941 272 350 – [aclogrono@ac-hotels.com](mailto:aclogrono@ac-hotels.com)

. Double Room single use, bed and breakfast --- 80.00 € + 8% vat .

. Double Room, bed and breakfast --- 87.20 € + 8% vat .



In both options the use of the heated swimming pool, fitness center, turkish bath, sauna and mini-bar is included in the price.

- **Hotel F&G Logroño \*\*\*** - Avda. Viana, 2-6 - 26001 Logroño (La Rioja) Tel. +34 941 008 900 – [reservas.logrono@fghotels.com](mailto:reservas.logrono@fghotels.com)

. Double Room single use, bed and breakfast --- 65.00 € + 8% vat .



. Double Room, bed and breakfast --- 70.00 € + 8% vat .

In both options the use of the spa, sauna and fitness center is included in the price.



We will soon give you further information regarding the Annual Congress, where professional communications and representative rapporteurs will be combined with days of culture and entertainment, in which we will be able to exchange impressions with the rest of the assistant colleagues.

**We are looking to meeting you in La Rioja!**