

Travel report "Two days in Burgundy Nature Park"

Provence, Brittany and Alsace are among the most famous regions in France. But very few people know about a region that has much more to offer than full-bodied wine – Burgundy! We spent two days at our partner's family-run guest farm and were able to experience the beauty of the area and the professionalism of the riding centre on two half-day rides. The excellent food rounded off our stay perfectly. The warm summer sun was already shining brightly on our way there. Passing through typical villages, beautiful colourful gardens and lush hills, our journey finally led us to the farm. The beautiful farmhouse has been modernised and spacious, functional guest rooms have been created in the main building. Each room has its own bathroom. The wooden furniture exudes warmth and cosiness. Everything is very well maintained, tidy and prepared with love for the guests. There is another house with shared rooms. There is also a small cottage with several rooms and a small kitchen, which is very popular with families or groups looking for a little more privacy. The large courtyard and garden between the three buildings are available to all guests. This green oasis of calm invites you to linger and relax. Tables, chairs and deckchairs are available for guests to sunbathe, read a book or end the evening with a glass of wine in good company. After we had moved into our room, we were served a delicious lunch. The dining room is located in the main building. It is possible to eat outside on request, but due to the midday heat, we preferred the cool dining room. The stone walls of all the buildings ensure that it remains pleasantly cool inside even on hot summer days. The long dining tables can seat several guests. The starter consisted of a juicy green salad and a tomato quiche. The main course was pork steaks, ratatouille and potato and celeriac purée. We were also given as much baguette as we wanted. Water and a jug of red wine were also served. The delicious lemon pudding rounded off our first meal perfectly. The food was a treat for the taste buds. It was freshly prepared and lovingly arranged with the finest ingredients. Of course, the extensive cheese platter was a must. A selection of more than ten different cheeses made every cheese lover's heart beat faster. After a short break to digest our meal, we devoted ourselves to what we had come for – horse riding, of course. León, our friendly riding guide, speaks German, English and French. However, the horses rarely see the stable in summer. They spend their days in the herd on huge paddocks that surround the farm. After a ten-minute walk, we arrived at the horses. The 30 or so horses looked at us trustingly and friendly and slowly approached us. All of them are well-fed, have an athletic build and shiny coats.

It immediately becomes clear that they want for nothing here. Today's programme includes a very brisk gallop. León knows his horses very well and immediately selects three suitable ones for us. We take the three to the stable and prepare them for the ride. There is a choice of English saddles and trail saddles. León gave us a brief introduction to today's ride. So even before we finally swung ourselves into the saddle, it was clear to us that we would be travelling at a brisk pace today and covering almost 45 km in 4-5 hours. We rode up and down, across meadows and through forests, over stubble fields and through small villages. The Burgundy Nature Park is truly beautiful and peaceful. We hardly encountered a single person during the entire ride. The horses are sure-footed, strong-nerved, enduring and absolutely obedient. Our companions were also spirited, eager to run and just right for this demanding gallop tour, which is aimed exclusively at advanced riders. A certain level of physical fitness is definitely recommended, as it is quite common to gallop for several minutes/kilometres at a stretch. The horses show no signs of tiredness, quite the

After what feels like ten minutes of galloping across a stubble field, our four-legged partners even pick up speed towards the end. It's great fun for both horse and rider. After this lively tour, we return to the farm in the evening, tired but happy. After we have taken care of the horses, a hearty three-course meal of salad, meat, vegetables and side dishes awaits us. Baguette, cheese platter, wine and water are a given here in Burgundy. A vegetarian option is always available. Even non-riders get their money's worth here. The nature park offers enough variety for long walks and hikes. There are many small villages to discover in the middle of the nature park. For city lovers, Dijon is in the immediate vicinity.



Tired but happy and looking forward to the next day, we went to bed. Woken by the rays of the sun, breakfast was waiting for us. Typically French, there was fresh, slightly warm baguette, butter, jam, honey and Nutella. Coffee, tea and water were also waiting for us. It promised to be another beautiful day in Burgundy. Today, a more leisurely ride for intermediate and advanced riders was on the agenda. We went to the paddocks and Léon once again selected three horses for today's ride. Once we were ready and mounted, we set off. Once again, we were riding in the nature park. The sun accompanied us the whole time. The horses that carried us today were strong-nerved, sure-footed, absolutely obedient and knew their job. They were calmer than yesterday's horses and seemed totally balanced. They were optimally selected for intermediate riders, as they gave us a very secure feeling in the terrain. Nevertheless, the horses did not lack speed when we wanted it. However, the ride was generally a little calmer than yesterday's gallop tour. This tour consisted of a good combination of walking, trotting and galloping. We were able to enjoy the landscape to the fullest and, especially today, observe the differences in the vegetation of the nature park. Along the way, Léon told us a lot about the region and the

special features of Burgundy. He responded to questions and requests at all times. We felt completely at ease. We had good conversations and laughed a lot. After three hours, we were back at the farm. We said goodbye to our horses, all of whom did a very good job. Finally, we had lunch. As usual, it included everything we had come to expect from the food here. Simply delicious! It was time to say goodbye, and although we didn't want to leave, duty called us back home.

For us, it was two unforgettable days in Burgundy – a region of France that I will not forget anytime soon. The absolutely delicious and rich food, the lovely and reliable horses and, of course, the friendliness and warmth of our hosts made this stay something very special. Thank you very much!

You can find more information about the programme here
www.reiterreisen.com/bursta.htm

