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DISCOVER RIOJA

Spain's Golf & Wine Destination



Imagine beginning the day among mountain-backed fairways, then ending it over a glass of Rioja and a leisurely tapas crawl through Logroño's old town. In La Rioja, golf is just one part of the holiday. Vineyards, historic towns and some of northern Spain's best-known food and wine make this an appealing choice for golfers looking to explore a different side of Spain.

Set around the Ebro Valley, La Rioja offers a change of pace from Spain's busier coastal golf resorts. Four 18-hole courses bring variety to a golf break, while the region's compact scale makes it possible to mix rounds with winery visits, cultural excursions and long lunches. Whether you're travelling with a group of golfers or with someone who wants plenty to enjoy away from the course, Rioja offers a rewarding balance.

A Different Side of Spain

La Rioja sits in northern Spain, where vineyards and historic towns meet the foothills of the Cantabrian Mountains and the Sierra de la Demanda.

Its landscape shifts from open valley to wooded hillside, with the Ebro River winding through the region and wine country stretching across the countryside.



Hotel Marques de Riscal



The name Rioja may be familiar from wine lists around the world, but the region itself is less familiar to many British golfers. That's part of its appeal. Days here can feel unhurried: play a round, take time over lunch, visit a bodega and explore a town whose streets have changed little over generations.

[La Rioja](#) also suits different kinds of golf group. The courses offer distinct settings and challenges, while Logroño provides a lively base for evenings out. Couples and mixed groups can build in winery tours, historic sights and regional dining, making the trip about more than the scorecard.

Four Courses, Four Different Settings



A Rioja golf break can take in courses that range from mountain foothills to parkland and woodland. Each provides a different perspective on the region.

Club de Campo Sojuela

At the foothills of the Sierra de Moncalvillo, [Club de Campo Sojuela](#) places golf in a dramatic natural setting of hills, forest and open views.

This 18-hole, par-72 course was designed by Spanish golf great Seve Ballesteros, with the rolling terrain shaping a varied round.





Mature trees, bunkers and water hazards call for thoughtful course management, while changes in elevation add character throughout.

The club also has practice facilities, a pro shop and a clubhouse with a bar and restaurant, making it a good place to settle in before or after your round. Its setting offers a striking contrast to the vineyards and city streets elsewhere on the itinerary.



Club de Campo Sojuela



Campo de Golf Logroño



Campo de Golf Logroño

Campo de Golf Logroño

Close to the regional capital, [Campo de Golf Logroño](#) is a convenient choice for golfers staying in the city. The course sits within the La Grajera parkland area, bringing open green space and natural scenery within easy reach of Logroño's restaurants and historic centre.

Its broad fairways offer room to play, while water features and expansive greens add interest. Different teeing options give golfers of varying abilities the chance to enjoy the course at their own pace.

After the round, the city's bars and restaurants are close by—an appealing combination for groups who like to pair golf with a lively evening.



Izki Golf Club

In the countryside of Rioja Alavesa, [Izki Golf Club](#) offers a memorable woodland setting. Designed by Seve Ballesteros, the course sits among native oak trees and mountain scenery, blending into the landscape rather than dominating it.

Its broad fairways offer a welcoming start, while the trees and natural contours make accuracy and thoughtful positioning important.

The peaceful surroundings make Izki a particularly scenic day out, and a natural fit for a wider itinerary through the vineyards and villages of Rioja Alavesa.





Rioja Alta Golf Club

Near Santo Domingo de la Calzada, [Rioja Alta Golf Club](#) brings another distinct landscape to the trip. The course uses the natural terrain to shape its fairways, with mature trees, bunkers and water hazards adding strategic interest.

The result is a round that rewards good decisions as much as distance, set against the quieter countryside of Rioja Alta.

Together, the four courses make it easy to vary the feel of each day: mountain views at Sojuela, a city-side round at Logroño, oak woodland at Izki and open countryside at Rioja Alta.



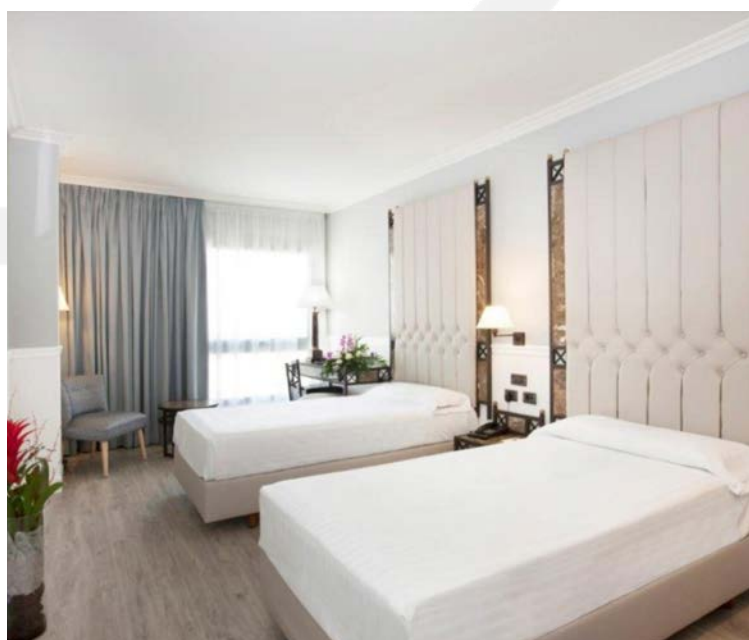
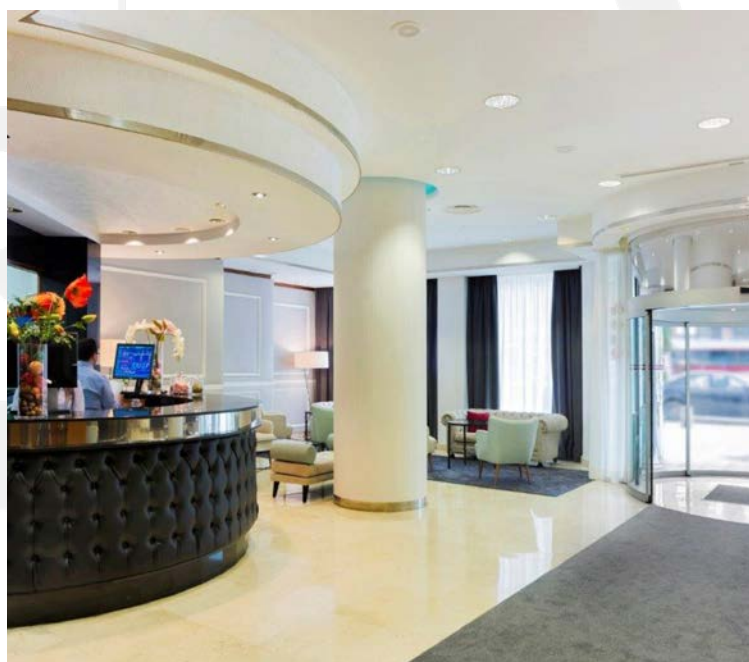


Two Ways to Make Rioja your Base

Hotel Gran Via Logroño

For golfers who want restaurants, bars and sightseeing close at hand, [Hotel Gran Vía](#) Logroño offers a central base on one of the city's main avenues. From here, it's easy to explore the historic centre and Calle Laurel, the celebrated street for pinchos and tapas. The hotel also has a restaurant and fitness centre, with wine tours available locally.

Staying in Logroño makes evenings easy: no need to choose between a memorable dinner and a convenient journey back to your room. The city also provides a practical starting point for day trips to the region's courses, wineries and historic towns.





Hotel Eguren Ugarte

For a stay immersed in wine country, [Hotel Eguren Ugarte](#) is a boutique hotel set within the Eguren Ugarte winery in Rioja Alavesa. The vineyard setting, on-site winery and restaurant make the hotel an experience in its own right, with the surrounding landscape providing a peaceful backdrop after a day on the course.

A stay here brings the region's wine heritage to the doorstep. Guests can explore the winery and its cellars, enjoy local food and take in the views across the vineyards. It's an especially appealing option for couples or groups who want to make wine and countryside a central part of their escape.



Make Time for Wine

A visit to Rioja would hardly be complete without learning more about the wine that made the region famous. Wineries range from historic cellars to contemporary estates, offering tours and tastings that reveal how the landscape, grape varieties and ageing traditions shape the wines.

Haro is one of the best-known wine towns, with a long-established bodega quarter and historic wineries. In Rioja Alavesa, Laguardia makes a memorable stop, its medieval streets concealing underground cellars carved beneath the town. Winery visits often need to be booked in advance, so it's worth planning them around tee times and arranging transport if you'll be tasting.



For a different view of wine country, look into guided vineyard experiences. Depending on the operator and season, options may include walking, cycling or off-road tours among the vines. The changing scenery—from spring's fresh growth to autumn's harvest colours—gives the landscape a different character throughout the year.



Hotel Eguren Ugarte Winery



Logroño: Pinchos, Rioja and an Evening Well Spent

Logroño a welcoming and easy-to-explore city, with its historic centre, gastronomy and wine culture all within walking distance is one of Spain's most enjoyable cities for an informal evening out. Its old town is known for Calle Laurel, a lively cluster of bars where locals and visitors move from one stop to the next, sampling a small dish and a drink along the way. Pinchos are a highlight: compact, flavourful bites that invite you to try several rather than settle in for one long meal. Look out for local specialities and pair them with a glass of Rioja. The city is also a good place to try heartier regional cooking, including slow-cooked meats and seasonal dishes, with menus often reflecting the produce of the surrounding countryside.

Start with a stroll through the historic centre, choose a few bars that catch your eye, and let the evening unfold one small plate at a time.



Evenings in Calle Laurel

Historic Towns and Cultural Discoveries

Rioja's wine country is dotted with places worth lingering in. Laguardia is among the most striking: a walled medieval town on a hilltop, stone buildings and sweeping views across the vineyards.



Laguardia



Below the streets lies a network of wine cellars, a reminder that wine has long been part of daily life here.

Briones and San Vicente de la Sonsierra offer further glimpses of the region's history, with stone-built streets, old churches and castle remains set above the Ebro Valley. They make rewarding stops between winery visits or on a scenic drive through Rioja Alta and Rioja Alavesa.

Further afield, the monasteries of San Millán de la Cogolla—Suso and Yuso—are recognised as UNESCO World Heritage sites. They are closely associated with the early written forms of Spanish and provide a fascinating cultural counterpoint to the region's vineyards and golf courses.

For fresh air away from the fairways, the wider region has walking and cycling routes, including in the Sierra de la Demanda and around the Ebro. The best option will depend on where you're staying and the time of year, so ask locally for routes and conditions.

Monastery of San Millán de la Cogolla



Set near San Vicente de la Sonsierra, the 12th-century Hermitage of Santa María de La Piscina is one of La Rioja's best-preserved Romanesque buildings. Its quiet hilltop setting and views over the Ebro Valley make it a rewarding cultural stop between rounds.

Ermita de Santa Maria de la Piscina

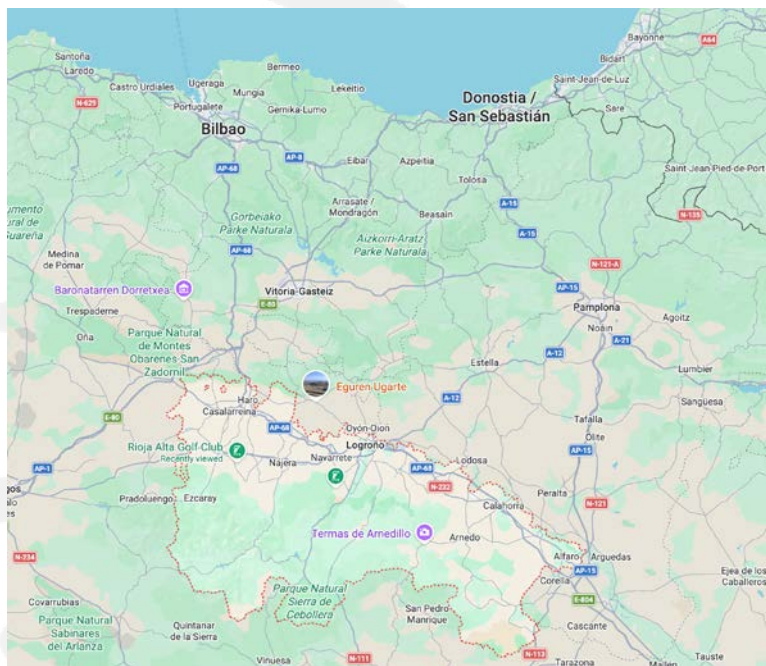




Getting There and Getting Around

[La Rioja](#) is reached through several northern Spanish airports, with Bilbao often used as an international gateway. Santander and Zaragoza may also be options depending on flight schedules and the season. Routes change, so check current services from your departure airport before making plans.

A hire car is a useful way to explore the region, particularly if you want to combine golf with winery visits and smaller towns. It gives you more flexibility between courses and accommodation, though golfers planning wine tastings should arrange a driver or guided excursion. Another option is to travel by ferry from the UK to northern Spain and continue by car; sailing times and routes vary by service and date.



Allow time for the journey between destinations when planning your rounds and excursions. The courses, hotels and attractions are spread across the region, and travel times depend on your chosen base and route.

A Spanish Golf Holiday with Room to Explore



Rioja offers a distinctive alternative for golfers who have already enjoyed Spain's coastal resorts or are looking for a trip with more than golf at its heart. Here, four varied courses sit alongside vineyard experiences, medieval towns and a food scene made for lingering over. Stay in the centre of Logroño for lively evenings, or among the vines for a quieter winery escape. Either way, you'll find plenty to fill the hours between rounds—and a very good reason to make space in your luggage for a bottle or two.



Planning a Trip to La Rioja: Travel & Access Options

[La Rioja](#) is straightforward to reach from the UK and Europe, with flexible travel options available by air or sea.

Transport	Access Hubs	Details & Onward Connections
By Air (Direct)	Bilbao Airport (BIO)	Closest major international hub, featuring direct year-round flights from UK airports including London Heathrow, London Stansted, and Manchester.
By Air (Regional)	Santander (SDR) / Zaragoza (ZAZ)	Alternative northern hubs served by low-cost carriers providing direct seasonal flights.
By Ferry and Car	Portsmouth to Bilbao/Santander	Brittany Ferries operates direct sailings (24–32 hours average crossing time), accommodating both cars and foot passengers.
Driving Access	Highway from Bilbao Port	A scenic drive connects Bilbao port or airport to Haro and Logroño in approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Whether you fly in for a long golf weekend or sail across for an extended self-drive holiday, La Rioja promises an unforgettable blend of fairways, fine wine, and warm northern Spanish hospitality.

For more information on a golf holiday to the Rioja Region, get in touch with our golf travel team by calling us on **01342 811777**, email us at **info@golf-escapes.com** or head over to our website www.golf-escapes.com. Alternatively you can request a call back from the team through this [Contact Form](#).

