

*“To visit Bordeaux, leave your car at La Bastide, in the right bank of the city and take the tram into the city centre, along Bordeaux’s quays, it’s a beautiful journey...”*

## BORDEAUX

# Gabriel Bui Van

Restaurant Manager, Café de L’Espérance

### What’s your connection to Bordeaux?

When I was young, my parents had a restaurant in Bergerac, close to Bordeaux. They often brought me with them to Bordeaux to meet the different suppliers. Working in the catering industry since my childhood, I started my studies in the catering school in Talence near Bordeaux. I’ve lived in Bordeaux for 10 years now.

### What inspires you about Bordeaux?

Bordeaux is a dynamic city with exceptional architecture, and of

course, it is the world capital of wine. We have a fantastic ‘terroir’ with amazing products. In my opinion, Bordeaux is an inspiring city.

### Tell us about Le Café de L’Espérance?

Le Café de l’Espérance is an authentic bistro in a picturesque village, Bouliac, which is known as the balcony of Bordeaux because it has an incredible view. The bistro is an ideal place to enjoy a selection of quality meats grilled in BBQ, with family or friends, and finish with an unlimited, home-made buffet of

desserts. You will also find a very good selection of wine, with some of the best wines of Bordeaux at moderate prices. It is a bistro as we love them in France, with quality, simplicity and a warm welcome.

### What do you enjoy most about your role there?

What I like in my role of Restaurant Manager is to establish a link with the guests in order to create customer loyalty. In my opinion, to manage this bistro is a real privilege.

### Can you name one place you go to regularly in Bordeaux, and why you like it?

One place where I often go is Le Café Populaire. It is a friend’s bar/restaurant. When I go there, I relax: you eat, you drink and you get on

with different people; this is actually their slogan! Otherwise, I like to go to Le Café Belles Roses in Bègles with my son. It’s my canteen every Saturday for lunch.

### Where would you go for a special treat?

I like to go to La Cape in Cenon, the previous restaurant of Nicolas Magie, chef at the hotel that we’re linked to, Le Saint-James. A few years ago, I used to work in this restaurant as a waiter. The cellar man, Christophe Mitton, is one of my friends, and every time that I go there, he suggests exceptional wines for me.

### What’s the best-kept secret in Bordeaux?

My best-kept secret in Bordeaux is the Esplanade in Bouliac, close to Le Saint James and Le Café de l’Espérance. From the Esplanade, there is an incredible and wonderful view of all Bordeaux. During my days off, I like relaxing at the Bay of Arcachon, which is an hour’s drive from Bordeaux.

### Can you recommend three top tips for visitors to Bordeaux?

To visit Bordeaux, I advise you to leave your car at La Bastide, on the right bank of the city, and take the tram into the city centre, along Bordeaux’s quays. It’s a beautiful journey. In the city centre, don’t miss Les Allées de Tourny, the Golden Triangle of Bordeaux. You can also see the city from a small train which runs tours every day, telling you more about the story of Bordeaux. If you want to be freer, Bordeaux Métropole has set up free urban bikes, so visitors can enjoy the lovely sites.

[www.saintjames-bouliac.com](http://www.saintjames-bouliac.com)



 **FLY** Flybe has flights to Bordeaux from Birmingham