



BEST OF CHAMPAGNE & BURGUNDY

SHARED PACKAGE - 8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS

Come and discover one of the most fascinating regions of France through one of our exclusive regional tours. Small group tours from Paris to Champagne & Burgundy, English-speaking guide, Tour of Reims Cathedral, sightseeing of Reims Grandes Maisons de Champagne, Entry fees and tastings at Veuve Clicquot and at a Family Estate, 1 Champagne tasting lunch with drinks included, Entry fees and tastings at Moët & Chandon and at Taittinger, Avenue de Champagne tour, Dom Perignon with a Hautvillers stop, Villages and landscapes of the Château du Clos de Vougeot. This very small group tour has been designed to make you discover the history, culture, food and wines through carefully chosen visits that combine the most significant sights to off the beaten path locations that only a very small group tour will permit.

ITINERARY

TGV (High-speed train) transport from Paris to Reims.

DAY 1 - ARRIVAL IN REIMS

Welcome to Reims!

Stroll through the storied streets of Reims: many sites, monuments and museums evidence the rich history here, from the Gallo-Roman to modern times, including the fabulous Art Deco period.

*Private transport from Reims Train Station to your hotel.
Check in at the Hotel de la Paix **** for three nights - with breakfasts.*

Day at your leisure to enjoy Reims

We suggest that you to visit the spectacular nearby Cathedral, the Old City Center, nearby Champagne houses, the Palace of Tau, and the Maison Fossier.



DAY 2 – TAITTINGER, MOET & CHANDON

Pick-up is at your hotel at 9:20 AM.

Sightseeing of the city of Reims: Grandes Maisons de Champagne, Cathedral...

We'll drive through the bustling streets of Reims to show you some famous Champagne Houses, the beautiful City Center and its imposing Cathedral, pointing out places like the Royal Square, the majestic City Hall, Roman Oratory Ruins and THE widest standing Roman Arch in the world! On the Unesco World Heritage List, the 13th-Century Notre-Dame de Reims is one of Europe's most important Gothic structures - and where nearly all of France's Kings were coronated through the ages.



Tour and Champagne tasting at Taittinger* (visit includes one glass of thier Brut Réserve)

Taittinger is one of the last Grandes Maisons de Champagne to be independently owned, in this case by the grandson of the founder, Pierre Taittinger. Taittinger's style is characterised by a high proportion of Chardonnay, synonymous with finesse and elegance in the Champagne region.

The Taittinger vineyards span 288 hectares (712 acres) which include some of the appellation's finest slopes. However, this Grande Maison's treasure lies not only in the millions of bottles carefully aging in its cellars below, but also in the remains of the 13th Century Benedictine Abbey of St Nicaise there, and even further back to the ancient subterranean Roman chalk quarries carved out by hand in the 4th Century AD. This location is listed and protected as a Unesco World Heritage Site - and you'll soon see why. Stunning!

The tour is followed by a lively tasting of a glass of their delicious Brut Réserve.

An option exists to enjoy their other great Champagnes - you simply pay for the extra tastings directly on our website or at their Welcome Desk upon arrival. Your Guide will assist if needed.



Hautvillers sightseeing

On the way to Epernay in the spectacular Marne River Valley, we'll pause in the picture-perfect Moët vineyards then go meet a prestigious personality of the area: Dom Pérignon, Champagne Wine's Spiritual Father. The iconic figure contributed heavily to the fame of Champagne and is now buried in the church of the former Benedictine Abbey in the charming hillside village of Hautvillers. We'll pay our respects there before heading down the meticulously manicured slopes into Epernay for lunch.



Lunch at your leisure in Epernay...

Or the optional Champagne Tasting and Lunch, (which will include a glass of Dom Pérignon +70 €, all inclusive).

Here we'll introduce you to some superb local food specialties paired with different types of Champagne. You will taste 3 glasses, as follows:

1 glass of the world-famous Dom Pérignon Champagne

1 glass of Blanc de Blancs or 1 glass of Blanc de Noirs

1 glass of Champagne Rosé or 1 glass of Riceys rosé wine (an exceptional product as it is produced in very small quantities)

During this special Champagne tasting you'll be treated to authentic regional products such as Chaource Cheese and Jambon de Reims (a local ham delicacy you must come to know), as well as some Foie Gras and delicately Smoked Salmon. Get a deeper taste of the French terroir while appreciating the legendary Dom Pérignon Champagne!

Sightseeing of Avenue de Champagne in Epernay

Located in the beating heart of Epernay, the town internationally known as the "Capital of Champagne", the stunning main street here features a half-mile long exhibition of opulent mansions presenting some of the most illustrious "Maisons de Champagne": Moët & Chandon, Perrier-Jouët, Pol Roger, Mercier, etc. Not to mention the miles and miles of naturally climate-controlled champagne production and storage tunnels deep and directly below the pavement!



Guided tour and tasting at world famous Grande Maison de Champagne Moët & Chandon* (visit include the Imperial Tour with two glasses of their Champagne)

Founded in 1743 by Claude Moët, within forty years it became the first international brand in the world. Its history is linked with famous figures as The Marquise de Pompadour and Napoleon the 1st, as well as many historical events such as King Edward the 7th's coronation, the Cannes Film Festival, the Golden Globes, the 120th Anniversary of the Statue of Liberty and more!

Here you will be inside the largest champagne cellar in existence. The House will open its secrets to you and as the Tour ends you'll be invited to taste a glass of Moët's Impérial and a glass of Moët Impérial Rosé in a refined Tasting Room. Happy and full of heady knowledge, you'll be gently whisked back to Reims for your next destination.



Drop-off is at approximately 5:40 PM at your hotel (the time may change according to local traffic). Dine at your leisure.

*All subject to availability, the Taittinger Tour may be substituted by a House Tour at Mumm or Pommery, Moët & Chandon by Mercier, Feuillatte or De Castellane. In this unlikely event, an informative and sensorially pleasing adventure is still guaranteed as each house takes great pride in their unique history and fine champagnes.

DAY 3 – REIMS SCENIC TOUR

Pick-up is at your hotel at 8:45 AM.

Guided tour of Reims - The City of Coronations

Your day will start by sightseeing the vibrant City Centre, a place full of charm, layers of unique history and regional culinary delights.



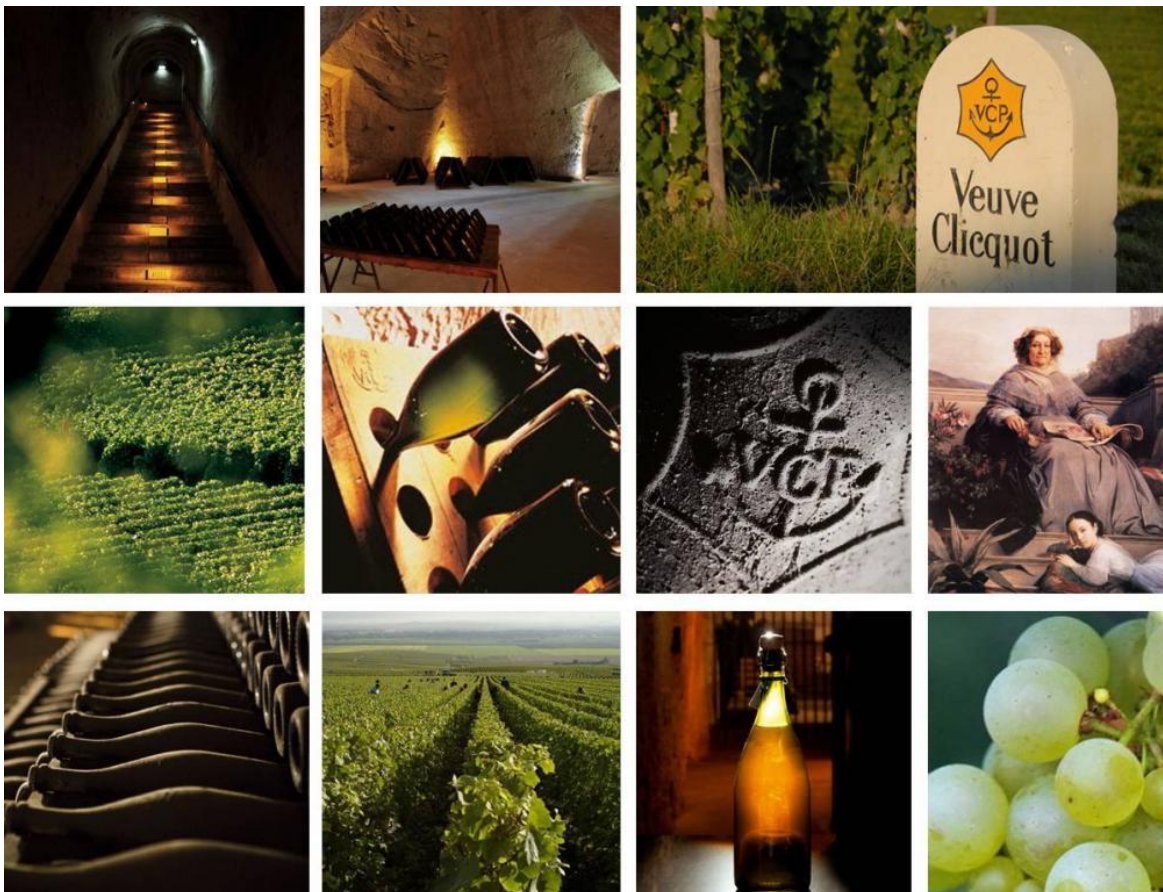
Guided tour and tasting at world famous Grande Maison de Champagne Veuve Clicquot* (Visit includes the Discovery Tour with a glass of Champagne)

Veuve Clicquot-Ponsardin is a Champagne House founded in 1772 by Philippe Clicquot and grew to fame thanks to Madame Barbe Nicole Clicquot Ponsardin. You will learn about this young widow who pursued a vision, built an empire and not only became a legend in her own time but still helps women entrepreneurs to this day - "the Grande Dame of Champagne". Take a journey into the heart of this House, its heritage, its savoir-faire, and discover its unique Roman chalk-cellars holding the Clicquot process of making Champagne.

At the end of the tour, enjoy a tasting of one glass of their Brut Yellow Label cuvée.

English being the most common language for our customers, the tours in the Grandes Maisons de Champagne follow suit.

*If an unforeseen circumstance arises affecting the Veuve Clicquot tour, it may be replaced by one at the House of Mumm or Pommery.



Guided tour of the Cathedral de Reims

A Unesco World Heritage Site, the 13th century Notre-Dame de Reims Cathedral is one of Europe's most important Gothic structures. You will be captivated by the enormity, the variety of ancient and modern stained glass, the organs, and the exceptionally rich statuary (there are over 2300 figures - among them the famous Smiling Angel). Here Clovis, the 1st King of France was baptized in the 5th Century, giving birth to the Kingdom of the Franks starting a lasting tradition: between 1027 and 1825 all but two Kings were coronated here.



Reims Mountain Grand Cru Vineyards

Then we'll leave the city and driving up through a forest and emerge in the Grand Cru vineyards on the Mountain of Reims, where the Scenic Route of Champagne winds its way between fields of barley, vineyards, forests and picturesque villages such as Verzy, Verzenay and Mailly. Realm of the Pinot Noir varietal, the Mountain of Reims is known for its special "terroir" that gives Champagne much of its power and character. We'll have a tranquil, picturesque pause in one such elevated vineyard to take it all in with our five senses.



Champagne Tasting Lunch* & Cellar Tours at a Champagne Grower's Family Domain

In the heart of the Champagne's Vineyards, you'll be welcomed at a beautiful Champagne Grower's Family Estate. More than 4000 family winemakers contribute to the prestige of Champagne, keeping the Tradition alive from generation to generation with a common goal: the true expression of Champagne.

First you will experience a refined meal with authentic French ingredients paired with different glasses of Champagne (Brut non-vintage, Blanc de Noirs, Rosé). This Family of Growers is a Champagne Expert in assembling Pinot Noir with Chardonnay and Meunier grapes from Grand Cru and Premier Cru vines in the Mountain of Reims.

*This is according to their availability - lunch at the winery is subject to change and may be replaced by a comparable meal at a local restaurant.

Visit of the Production Site and Second Champagne Tasting

After Lunch we'll stroll to the production site to see how Champagne is made: the press, the winery's vats and barrels, the chalk cellar, the labelling machine. This lovely afternoon will conclude with another tasting of 2 glasses of different Champagne wines from the same Family Grower, and a glass of their Ratafia (a sweet liquor made with Champagne brandy mixed with grape juice and aged in barrel). After heartfelt thank-yous and goodbyes, we'll gently return you to the city of Reims.

Drop off is at 5:20 PM at your hotel.

DAY 4 – LET'S GO TO DIJON!

Check-out after the nice breakfast.

Private transport from your hotel to the Reims or Champagne-Ardenne Train Station.

TGV transport to Paris.

Private transport from Paris-Gare de l'Est to Paris-Gare de Lyon.

TGV transport to Dijon.

Welcome to Dijon!

In Roman times Dijon was at the crossroads between northern Europe and the Mediterranean.

In the 14th century it was here that the Valois Dukes of Burgundy founded one of the most brilliant courts in Europe. Dijon then became the seat of the Order of the Golden Fleece.

From the Renaissance onwards, the townhouses of the Nobles of the Robe reshaped this “city of a hundred towers”.

Dijon's pedestrian streets wind between medieval houses, churches and Renaissance townhouses. The Place de la Libération, created by Hardouin-Mansart, is one of the loveliest squares in France. In summer, its sunny café terraces are perfect for a city break....

*Check in at Hotel Oceania Le Jura**** in Dijon for 2 nights - with breakfasts.*

Suggestions: The Owl's trail, Philippe le Bon Tower, Palace of the Dukes...

DAY 5 – LANDSCAPE AND VILLAGES

Pick up is at 1:30 PM at Maison Divia, 16 Place Darcy, 21000 Dijon.

Auxois, Burgundy canal

Escape through the rolling landscapes of the Auxois, along the Burgundy canal and on the small back country roads.

Semur-en-Auxois city

Walk in the medieval fortified city of Semur-en-Auxois with stop at the foot of the city for a breathtaking view of the ramparts.



Abbey of Fontenay

Then enjoy a visit of the 12th century Abbey of Fontenay.



Flavigny-sur-Ozerain & "Flavigny anise" factory.

We'll pass through Flavigny-sur-Ozerain, officially ranked among "the most beautiful villages in France" and where the modern classic movie *Chocolat* was filmed. We'll take a brief "gourmet detour" at the famous Flavigny Anise factory (if they happen to be open that day).



Drop off is at 6:30 PM at Maison Divia, 16 Place Darcy, 21000 Dijon.

DAY 6 – DEPARTURE TO BEAUNE

Check-out after breakfast.

Train transport to Beaune.

Private transport to your hotel.

Check in at the (Four-Star) Hotel le Cep***** in Beaune for two nights - with breakfasts.

Suggestions: Old City Center, Hospices de Beaune...



DAY 7 – DIVINE DAY TOUR

Pick-up is at 9:20 AM at your hotel.

Tour and wine tasting in a local domain* in Beaune

Discover a fabulous estate situated in the heart of Beaune. Join the owner for a tasting of the white wines such as Saint-Aubin, Meursault Premier cru “les Charmes” or the famous Grand cru Corton–Charlemagne.



Lunch at leisure upon your guide's suggestions in Beaune.

Route des Grands Crus

We'll do some sightseeing on the Grands Crus road and a stop at the famous Romanée-Conti. Considered the most prestigious name in Burgundy, this plot of 1.8 hectares (4.5 acres) produces the most expensive wine in the world!

Then a picturesque drive along the Côte de Nuits through the villages of Nuits-Saint-Georges, Vosne-Romanée and Vougeot. Discover why it's called the "Champs-Élysées" of Burgundy. We'll take advantage of being in these prestigious vineyards as the best way to explain the Terroir and the various steps required throughout the year to harvest the best Pinot Noir possible. "L'expression du Terroir".



Guided tour of the Château du Clos de Vougeot.

Founded in 1098 by the monks of the abbey of Cîteaux, the vineyard of the Clos de Vougeot currently occupies more than 50 hectares (124 acres) with 80 different owners. Its wine is some of the most famous Grands crus of Burgundy. Today, the castle welcomes the different "chapitres" (dinners) of the Confrérie des Chevaliers du Tastevin (the Brotherhood of the Knights of Tastevin).



Tour and wine tasting in a local domain* around Nuits-Saint-Georges

In the heart of the town which gave its name to the Côte de Nuits, you will discover another fine estate. Here you'll glean the different techniques which give these wines their exceptional quality!



Drop-off is at 05:40 PM at your hotel.

DAY 8 – CHECK OUT

Check out after the nice breakfast.

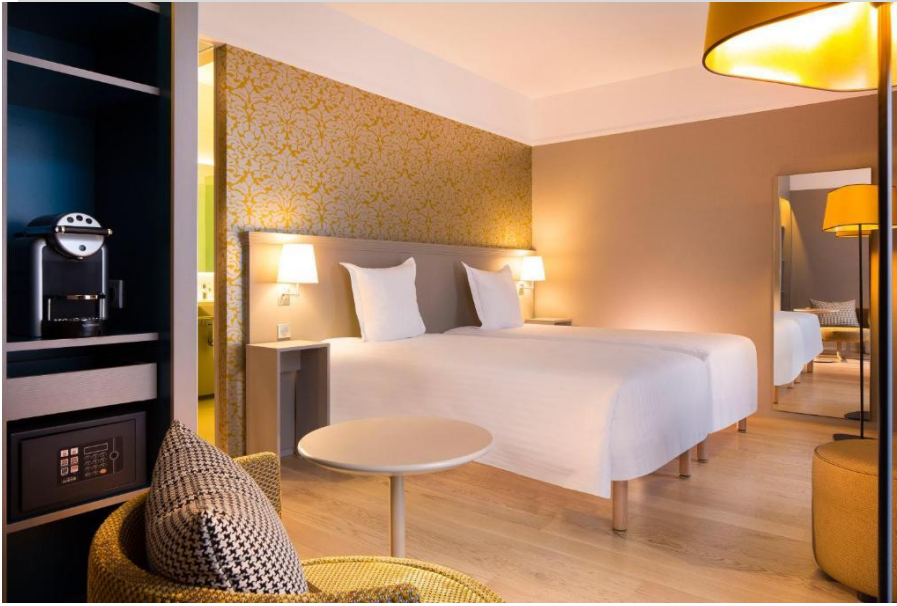
Accommodations

Champagne: (Four-Star) Hotel de la Paix**** in Reims for two nights

In the heart of Reims, the delightful capital of the Champagne region, you'll find Best Western's pride, the Hôtel de la Paix. This island of calm is a stone's throw from the Cathedral and a host of charming shops. Between old masonry & and new design, the Hotel de la Paix welcomes you with 169 well-appointed, air-conditioned modern rooms.

Burgundy: The Four-Star Hotel Oceania Le Jura in Dijon for two nights

Right in the center of Dijon, the Oceania Le Jura hotel welcomes you to a world of elegance and chic design, perfectly setting off its historic character with Burgundy stonework and wrought iron accents.



Burgundy: The Five-Star Hotel Le Cep in Beaune for three nights

Ideally located, the hotel is in the very heart of historic Burgundy, just a stone's throw from the center of Beaune. The Hotel is two minutes walking distance from the famous Hospice de Beaune and its magnificent Cathedral Notre Dame.



This package includes

- Two nights in the Hotel de la Paix**** in Reims with breakfasts
- Two nights in the Hotel Oceania Le Jura**** in Dijon with breakfasts
- Three nights in the Hotel Le Cep***** in Beaune with breakfasts
- TGV (fast train) tickets - as mentioned
- Private transportation - as mentioned
- Additional transportation
- An English-speaking guide
- A tour of Reims' grand Cathedral
- Sightseeing of Reims Grandes Maisons de Champagne
- Entry fees and tastings at Veuve Cliquot and at a Family Estate
- A Champagne and tastings lunch - with drinks included
- Entry fees and tastings at Moët & Chandon and at Taittinger

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- Avenue de Champagne tour
 - Resting place of Dom Perignon - a stop in Hautvillers
 - Villages and landscapes afternoon day tour in Burgundy
 - Two tours and wines tasting at local domains
 - Route des Grands Crus
 - Guided tour of the Château du Clos de Vougeot

This package does not include

- Extra meals and drinks
- Personal expenses
- Other visits not listed
- Guide appreciation gratuities

Additional information

Providers are subject to change according to their availability upon reservation. Should this occur, we will offer a parallel alternative at the same standard.

This tour requires a minimum of two adults to commence.

monuments, museums, attractions other than mentioned in the program