

French Wine

EXPLORERS



GREAT ESTATES OF CHAMPAGNE AND BORDEAUX 6 DAYS, 5 NIGHTS | PRIVATE TOUR AVAILABLE YEAR ROUND

DAY 1

REIMS

Arrive in the morning on your own in Reims, the “capital” of the Champagne region, where you’ll visit the spectacular Reims Cathedral, where the Kings of France were crowned for 800 years. Visit one of the best major Champagne houses in Reims: **Veuve Clicquot, Pommery, Ruinart, Taittinger or Mumm**. You’ll visit their majestic cellars, most dating back to Roman times with huge chalk pits and miles of galleries; then enjoy a tasting of their fine champagnes and some time for shopping in their boutique. Enjoy a lovely lunch at a casual local bistrot in the heart of Reims (lunch additional). This afternoon, you’ll travel into the beautiful **champagne vineyards** to visit one of the top boutique Champagne houses, like **Tarlant, Billecart Salmon or Vilmart**. Check in late afternoon to your **luxury Relais and Chateau member hotel, Chateau Hotel Les Crayères** conveniently located in Reims. We suggest a delicious dinner at your hotel’s excellent casual restaurant, Le Jardin.

DAY 2

GRAND CRUS OF THE CÔTES DES BLANCS

B

Today you’ll explore the finest (and loveliest) wine-growing region of **Champagne, the Côte des Blancs** (“hillsides of the whites”), which are covered with Chardonnay grapes. Visit and taste at two of the finest boutique producers of the **Côtes des Blancs**, like **Champagne Agrapart et Fils or Gimmonet**. Enjoy lunch along the way. Explore the charming hilltop village

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of Hautvillers. Visit the abbey and tomb of Dom Perignon, the famous monk so well known for his contributions to the development of champagne as we know it today. End the afternoon in Epernay with a tour of the legendary Champagne house of **Moët et Chandon**. Here, you'll have a **private tour devoted to the cuvée Dom Perignon**, which is only made in the best vintage years from 100% Grand Cru grapes. A **tasting of one of the finest vintages of Dom Perignon** will close your visit, **in a private salon with one of Moët's distinguished sommeliers**. We suggest dinner at your hotel's excellent gourmet restaurant, Le Parc.

DAY 3 REIMS AND BORDEAUX B

The morning is yours to **discover Reims** or simply relax and enjoy the views and amenities of your hotel. Late morning or early afternoon, check out and head towards Bordeaux. Check into the elegant **5-star Luxury Hotel Intercontinental Grand Hotel de Bordeaux**, ideally located in the very center of the city. Transfers to and from the train stations included. You have the evening free tonight to enjoy this charming city and discover its great restaurants, with our suggestions.

DAY 4 GRAVES AND SAUTERNES B

Travel south to the vineyards of the **Graves Region**. The Romans planted some of the first vineyards in the Bordeaux area here, just outside what is now the city limits. Here you will be the guests of a **Classified Grand Cru chateau**, such as **Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte or Chateau La Louviere** where a great tour and tasting awaits you.

Continue to **Sauternes**, the most famous sweet dessert wine appellation in the world. Learn how these delectable wines are made using grapes that have developed the "Noble Rot" during a fascinating tour at one of the best chateaux in the area (like **Guiraud, or Suduiraut**), followed by a tasting. If you prefer not to discover the sweet wine region of Bordeaux, we will explore more estates in the Graves region.

Return to your hotel in the late afternoon for evening on your own.

DAY 5 THE MIGHTY MEDOC B,L

Today we explore the **Médoc**, world-renowned for its Classified Growth chateaux, following the "Route des Chateaux" through the famous villages of **Margaux, Pauillac and Saint Julien**.

Your first tour and tasting will be at a **Grand Cru chateau as their VIP guests** at a classified estate in Margaux such as **Chateau Palmer**. The 1,470 or so lucky people who live there reside in one of the most famous wine making regions on earth. We continue towards Pauillac and St. Julien. **Pauillac** is maybe the best-known appellation of Bordeaux with three first great growths out of five: Chateau Lafite, Chateau Latour and Chateau Mouton-Rothschild.

Slightly less powerful than Pauillac yet not as rustic as Saint-Estèphe, **Saint-Julien** wines are harmonious and well balanced red wines. A special treat awaits you today: a **private wine tasting lunch** at one of the best estates in the region. Your meal will be served in the kitchen or dining room of the chateau, prepared especially for you by the **private chef of the estate, and paired beautifully with library wines of the estate**.

Return to your hotel in the late afternoon for evening on your own.

DAY 6 SAINT EMILION B

Known since Roman times for the quality of its wines, the village and vineyards of Saint Emilion are designated today as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Saint Emilion produces well-structured wines with great character that comes from a judicious **blending of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot** grapes.

VIP tours and tastings at two great Grand Cru estates await you this morning, like **Chateau Beausejour Becot** with its ancient underground cellars, or the great Classified Growths such as **Chateau Figeac or Chateau Angelus**.

Following lunch on own, **explore the beautiful medieval village** on your own, its monuments and its many shops and galleries (including some of the region's best wine shops).

End your day with a **transfer to the train station or Bordeaux Merignac airport**.

Continue your journeys with fond memories of Champagne and Bordeaux, and their entire splendor.

LEGEND FOR MEALS INCLUDED IN YOUR TOUR: B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

**Itinerary subject to change: every effort will be made to keep the itinerary as close as possible to what appears here; however, the final itinerary may vary due to wine producer schedules, availability and factors beyond our control.*

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YOUR PRIVATE LUXURY TOUR OF CHAMPAGNE AND BORDEAUX INCLUDES:

- A customized itinerary featuring the best hotel, estate and touring elements tailored to your preferences
- The services of an English-speaking wine expert guide throughout the tour
- 2 nights at 5-Star Luxury Relais & Chateau member Les Crayères in Reims, double occupancy
- 3 nights at 5-Star Luxury Intercontinental Grand Hotel and Spa de Bordeaux, double occupancy
- 1st class train tickets Champagne-Bordeaux, transfers to and from train station in Reims and Bordeaux
- Buffet breakfast each day, one private wine tasting lunch
- All VIP tours and tastings at the best estates of each region
- A full packet of information on the region and wine tasting, All local taxes

Price based on 2 guests, double occupancy: US \$6490.00 per person

Price based on 4 guests, double occupancy: US \$5990.00 per person

Price based on 6 guests, double occupancy: US \$5490.00 per person

(Monday through Friday tour dates are preferable, as more wine estates are open. Saturday is also possible if necessary.) Subject to availability. Single supplement: please inquire. For groups of 7 or more guests: please contact us for a price quote. Not included: any personal expenses, or any services not specifically mentioned above as included in the price of your tour.

WINE CHATEAUX AND ESTATES

We include only top-quality wine chateaux and estates in our programs. Chateau visits are scheduled by special arrangement, and some chateaux or estates, including any mentioned in the Itinerary, may not be available on your dates. Once you book your program with us, we will contact the estates to determine which are available. If there are specific chateaux or estates you would like to visit, please let us know, and we will contact your preferences first when arranging visits and tastings for you.

To reserve this program: contact us at info@wine-tours-france.com

Tel.: 1-877-261-1500 or 410-745-5406 (outside the USA)

We look forward to meeting you!

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