

# *French Wine*

## EXPLORERS



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

Travel to Champagne for **VIP tastings at exclusive Champagne houses**, including a very special **private tour and tasting of the latest Dom Perignon vintage** at Moët and Chandon. Enjoy private tastings at some of the most prestigious estates of **Burgundy's Côte d'Or**, including **Premier and Grand Crus** in legendary appellations like Vosne Romanée, Chambertin and Meursault. Discover Burgundy's rich cultural heritage in the medieval city of Beaune with its beautiful Renaissance architecture and famous **Hotel Dieu** (famous for the Hospices de Beaune), and at the historic **Chateau de Clos de Vougeot**, where winemaking began in this region. This luxurious voyage includes exceptional dining and beautiful, first-class accommodations. An unforgettable wine and food vacation for the discriminating wine lover!

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### 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 bistro in the heart of Reims. 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** (these visits are usually with the winemaker him or herself). Check in late afternoon to your **luxury Relais and Chateau member hotel, Chateau Hotel Les Crayeres** 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, Gimmonet or Varnier-Fanniere**. Enjoy lunch along the way. Explore the charming hilltop village 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, CHABLIS, AND BURGUNDY

B

The morning is yours to **discover Reims** or simply relax and enjoy the views and amenities of your hotel. Morning or early afternoon, check out and head towards Burgundy. We’ll stop along the way in **Chablis**. Known for its dry white wines made from **100% Chardonnay grapes**, these wines are among the most elegant and sought-after in France. Continue to **Beaune** in the heart of Burgundy. Check into the elegant **5-star Luxury Hotel Le Cep**, ideally located in the very center of Beaune, just around the corner from the Hôtel Dieu (Hospices). You have the evening free tonight to enjoy this charming town and discover its great restaurants, with our suggestions.

### DAY 4

### CÔTE DE NUITS

B,L

Your exploration of Burgundy starts in the place where winemaking first began in this region, the historic **Clos de Vougeot**. This beautiful 13th century monastery is now owned by the famous wine brotherhood of Burgundy, the **Confrérie du Tastevin**. During a fascinating guided tour of the Clos, learn how wine was made in the Middle Ages and see their massive 13th century wine presses that still work to this day! Afterward, you’ll taste **Premier and Grand Cru** wines at one of the best producers of Grand Cru appellation Clos de Vougeot. **Lunch will be at a charming country inn (wines included)**. This afternoon includes tastings at one or two star producers of the **Côtes de Nuits** (we often visit Domaine Bertagna, Domaine des Lambrays, among others). Following your tastings, enjoy a stop along the vineyards of

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Domaine de la Romanée-Conti to view the iconic plots of La Tache and Romanée-Conti. You have the evening free to enjoy this charming town and discover its great restaurants, with our suggestions.

### DAY 5 B,L CÔTE DE BEAUNE

Explore the **Côte de Beaune** today, home to the greatest Grand Cru white wine vineyards like the legendary Montrachet, as well as the famous appellations of Meursault, Puligny-Montrachet and Volnay. **The Côte de Beaune** is best known for its great white wines made from **100% Chardonnay** grapes, perfectly suited to the limestone soils. The whites of the Côte de Beaune are full-bodied, with tremendous elegance, complexity and minerality. The reds are generally more feminine and lighter bodied than in the Côte de Nuits with softer tannins. Enjoy a fun and informative **wine tasting lunch** of delicious local specialties at a local domaine or restaurant, with **wines beautifully paired with your meal**. This afternoon you will have your choice of one or two more tastings in the **Côte de Beaune's** most famous appellations. Return to your hotel for an evening on your own.

### DAY 6 B TRANSFER TO TRAIN STATION

Following breakfast, enjoy free time discovering Beaune at your leisure. Enjoy a **private transfer to the Beaune or Dijon train** station at a time that suits you, and continue your journeys with fond memories of Champagne and Burgundy, and all their 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.*

*Had some of the best meals of our lives . . . the wine tastings were superb, all the grand crus – wonderful. The (tour) hosts were wonderful: extremely knowledgeable, very accommodating and friendly, delightful. Mark and Marilyn H.*

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### YOUR PRIVATE LUXURY TOUR OF CHAMPAGNE AND BURGUNDY INCLUDES:

- A customized itinerary featuring the best hotel, estate and touring elements tailored to your preferences
- Private transfer on the last day of the tour
- The services of an English-speaking wine expert guide throughout the tour
- 2 nights at 5-Star Luxury Relais & Chateau member Les Crayeres in Reims, double occupancy, in Premium room
- 3 nights at 5-Star Luxury Hotel le Cep in Beaune, double occupancy, in Suite category
- Buffet breakfast each day
- 2 Wine tasting lunches with premium wines
- Admission and guided tour at the Clos de Vougeot
- All VIP tours and tastings at the best estates of these regions
- A full packet of information on the region and wine tasting, All local taxes

**Price based on 2 guests, double occupancy: US \$6990.00 per person**

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

**Price based on 6 guests, double occupancy: US \$5590.00 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](mailto: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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