



FRANCE

ESSENTIAL CHAMPAGNE REGION (TOUR CODE: 11980)

STARTS AND ENDS

in Reims

TRAVEL PERIODS

01 Apr 23 - 27 Oct 23

EXPERIENCE

Food & Wine

TRAVEL STYLE

Independent Holiday Packages

With this Champagne Experience from Reims, you will enjoy 2 days of Champagne Tours and taste some of the most famous bubbles in the world.

Highlights

- Stroll down **Avenue de Champagne** in Epernay
- Be welcomed at a beautiful **Champagne Grower's Family Estate**. More than 4000 family winemakers contribute to the prestige of Champagne!
- Enjoy a Guided tour of 13th century **Notre-Dame de Reims Cathedral**, listed in the UNESCO World Heritage and one of Europe's most important Gothic structures.

Conducted by local guides, experts in Champagne wines, spend a full day around Reims and take part in commented tastings of the best Champagnes of the region including world-famous Grande Maison de Champagne Vranken-Pommery. Visit the old town as well as the Reims Cathedral.

Your Champagne tour from Reims will also take you to Epernay, the Capital of Champagne. Here, discover the many famous Champagne Houses that line the Champs-Élysées of Epernay.



- ✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period
- ✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind
- ✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support
- ✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices
- ✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited
- ✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights in Reims at Hotel De La Paix - 4*
- 2 breakfasts
- Small Group (max 8 pax) Tour and Champagne tasting at Pommery and Sightseeing of Avenue de Champagne in Epernay
- Small Group (max 8 pax) Tour Reims Cathedral, Veuve Clicquot, Tour & tasting at a family domain

ITINERARY

Day 1

Reims Taittinger Epernay Reims

Upon arrival at Reims train station around 9.30 am and start **your tour and Champagne tasting at Pommery, family estate*** which includes *l'Instant Premier* with one glass of Champagne.

Pommery is the first Maison to propose a self-guided and commented tour of its cellars and Gallo-Roman crayères (chalk pits) thanks to a downloadable application and audio itinerary (paper support also available). Discover the magnificent Elizabethan style buildings in the depth of the cellars, at 30 metres below the ground. You will experience every aspect of the wine-making process and discover the contemporary art exhibition, Experience Pommery. At the end of your visit, you will be able to taste two glasses of the house's emblematic cuvées.

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

Drive through the bustling streets of Reims to show you some famous Champagne Houses, the beautiful City Center and its imposing Cathedral, and point 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 is where most of the Kings of France were coronated through the ages.

Hautvillers sightseeing.

On the way to **Epernay**, we take you to the Marne River Valley, we'll pause in picture-perfect vineyards then go meet a prestigious personality of the area: Dom Pérignon, Champagne Wine's Spiritual Father. He 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.

Located in the beating heart of Epernay, the town internationally known as the "Capital of Champagne", its stunning main street features a half-mile long exhibition of opulent mansions housing 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 below the pavement!

Guided tour and tasting at world famous Grande Maison de Champagne Moët & Chandon* (Visit includes: the Imperial Tour with 2 glasses of Champagne).

Founded in 1743 by Claude Moët, within fourty 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 Edwards 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 in 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 5:30 PM at the Reims Train Station forecourt.

Overnight stay in Reims at the **Hotel De La Paix** or similar.

**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, a sensorially pleasing, informative adventure is guaranteed as each house takes great pride in their unique history and fine champagnes.*



Day **2**

Reims Champagne Houses Reims

After breakfast, pick-up: 9:00 AM at the Reims Train Station forecourt to start your **guided tour of Reims, 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 included with 4 glasses of Champagne).

House founded in 1772 by Philippe Clicquot that became famous thanks to Madam Barbe Nicole Clicquot Ponsardin. You will learn about this visionary young widow who built an empire, and became a legend in her time "la Grande Dame of the Champagne region". For a while, take a dip into the heart of this House, its heritage, its savoir-faire. And discover its unique chalk-cellars and the making-process of Champagne.

Guided tour of the Cathedral of 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 hypnotizing stained glass windows and the exceptionally rich statuary (there are over 2300 figures - and among them the famous Smiling Angel). Here King Clovis was baptized late in the Fifth Century AD, giving birth to the Kingdom of the Franks and started a lasting tradition: between 1027 and 1825 all but two Kings of France were coronated here!

Lunch at leisure in Reims.

Then leave the city and drive through 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. Take a tranquil, picturesque pause in such a vineyard to take it all in with our own five senses. In the heart of the Champagne's Vineyards, you will 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. 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.

After heartfelt thank-yous and goodbyes, your guide will gently return you to the city of Reims. Drop off is at 5:00 PM at the Reims Train Station forecourt.

Overnight stay in Reims at the **Hotel De La Paix** or similar.

**According to their availability, lunch at the winery is subject to change and may be replaced by a comparable meal at a local restaurant. If an unforeseen circumstance arises affecting the Vranken Pommery tour, it may be replaced by one at the House of Mumm, Pommery or Taittinger.*

Breakfast



Day **3**

Reims

After a delicious breakfast, check out of your hotel and end of services.

Breakfast

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel De La Paix

Reims

Right in the heart of Reims, magical capital of the Champagne region, you'll find the Best Western Hôtel de la Paix. This island of calm is located just a stone's throw from the shops and the Cathedral. Between old stones & and new design, the Best Western Hotel de la Paix welcomes you with 169 fully equipped and air-conditioned modern bedrooms full of charm.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

French

LOCAL CURRENCY

EUR

- Order of Tours can be modified depending on days of travel.
- Adult tour only, no children accepted under the age of 18
- We work with a selection of hotels in each location. All bookings are subject to availability, which means our team will confirm your specific hotels upon confirmation and payment of deposit. The package price is based on 4-star accommodation.

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.)
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package