

# Champagne & Alsace

April 25 - 1 May, 2021



## What to expect

This is a private tour with Allison and Chris Wallace, hosted by Jeremy Shaw and (for the Champagne leg) James Lawther MW. Starting in Paris, it spans 2 of the great wine regions, Champagne and Alsace and ends in the picturesque Alsatian town of Colmar. We enjoy the classic visits and the lesser known gems in each location, from hipster wine growers in Champagne's deep south to their aristocratic northern neighbours and we span the 400 year old grand winemakers and the innovative new producers of Alsace, France with a German accent. Prior nights are available in Paris.

The itinerary is provisional and subject to the hosts' policies in respect of the ongoing and evolving Covid situation, particularly with regard to the rules and laws in France. Our intention is to make a firm decision in January about whether the tour can go ahead and, assuming it can, at that stage we will review the itinerary and amend if necessary to ensure the best experience possible in the circumstances.

Although we expect that the itinerary would be very similar to that in the brochure, it is subject to more than usual uncertainty and it is possible that there could be a small price change and/or some changes to the itinerary. The tour will only go ahead with the approval of Chris and Allison of the final itinerary and plan.

Deposits are refundable until 31st December 2020. Once the tour go ahead is confirmed (probably in January) normal Iberian Wine Tours cancellation terms would apply.

## Highlights

- Visits and long lunches at the best wineries in Champagne and Alsace
- Access to wine expert James Lawther MW
- Walk around historic village of Nancy
- Walk around Reims Cathedral
- Michelin star dinner in Alsace

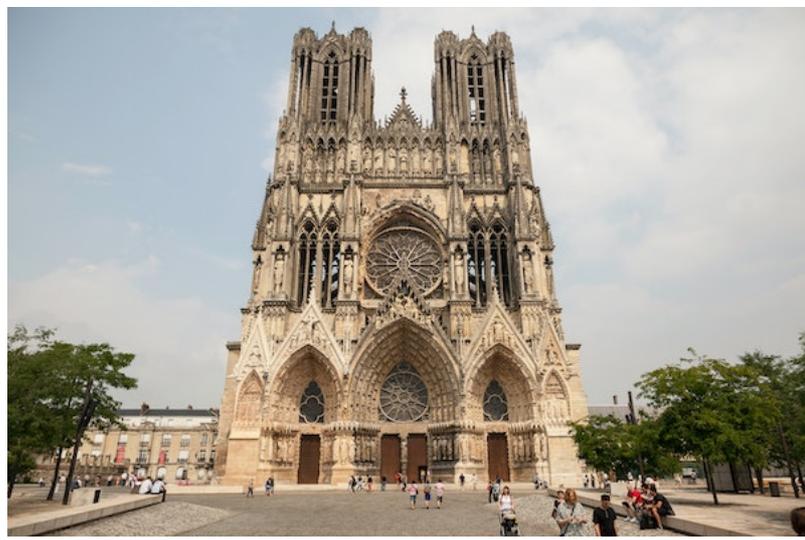
## Winery visits

Jean Josselin, Krug, Taittinger, Bollinger, AR Lenoble, Weinbach, Zind Humbrecht, Marcel Deiss, Domaine Cattin, Josmeyer



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## Trip Itinerary

Meet in Paris for departure at 0900 on the 25th of April. Rooms available at the boutique Hotel Recamier in the heart of the Latin Quarter in St Germain des Pres.

### Sunday 25th April

Leave Paris on Sunday morning for a grower lunch and visit in the Aube region in the south of Champagne. This is the scenic hidden side of Champagne, populated by a cluster of organic and biodynamic growers in the area around Gye sur Seine. We visit one of the growers in Gye, Jean Josselin for a short visit and tasting before lunch with Jean and Olivier Horiot, another local grower at the delightful Legardechampetre for a local lunch accompanied by a selection of our hosts' wines. We then enjoy a sleepy afternoon drive to La Briqueterie, a beautiful Relais and Chateaux property near Epernay where we have a light dinner and stay for 3 nights

### Monday 26th April

After breakfast we set off for a magical day in Reims, home to a magnificent Gothic cathedral and perhaps the ultimate destination for champagne lovers. We start with a private visit to Krug, one of the greatest champagne houses and known as the masters of champagne blending, followed by a stellar lunch at Taittinger's wonderful press house in Murigny, overlooking the 1er cru vineyards. Taittinger is one of the last great independent champagne houses and after a short bus ride, we follow lunch with an afternoon walk in the cellars under Reims, followed by a tasting and then an informal visit to the cathedral. Evening free

### Tuesday 27th April

Today we switch our attention to Epernay, the other historic pillar of the region. We start with a morning visit to Bollinger, James Bond's favourite champagne house, renowned for pinot noir dominated muscular champagnes with a touch of oak. After our Bollinger tasting we then head for an informal lunch and visit at AR Lenoble, a longstanding family producer of top quality champagne. A smaller producer, we have the chance to understand the story behind the wines as we sample a few older vintages with a simple lunch. After time to rest at the hotel, we conclude part 1

of our tour with dinner at La Briqueterie's renowned restaurant.

### Wednesday 28th April

Leave at 9 for a drive to a visit and lunch in Nancy, a delightful city in the heart of Lorraine. We have time for a picturesque walk around the old town, taking in the Stanislas Square before lunch at the Grand Cafe Foy. We then enjoy an afternoon drive to Alsace where we stay at the James Boutique 4 star in Colmar. Colmar provides an enchanting fairytale taste of Alsace with its colourful wooden houses that were the inspiration for Beauty and the Beast. Our boutique hotel is a little lower key than La Briqueterie but very well appointed and a perfect spot to explore the town and the region. We enjoy a light evening light dinner at L'Un des Sens wine bar in town.

### Thursday 29th April

We enjoy a short drive to a morning visit and tasting at Weinbach, a very grand and historic setting for a tasting of some wonderful wines. This sets the scene well in terms of both landscape and the broad range of styles of wine made in Alsace before a jolly lunch at La Taverne Alsacienne which is a fun and lively location offering Alsatian classic dishes. We then enjoy an afternoon vineyard walk leading to a tasting at Zind Humbrecht an innovate biodynamic producer in Turckheim. After a short drive to Colmar, the evening is free

### Friday 30th April

We enjoy a morning visit to Marcel Deiss in Bergheim, a winery that blends biodynamic wines in a way that contrasts with Alsace's more classic single varietal formula. We then head for a light lunch and visit at Domaine Cattin on its beautiful terrace making sure to taste some of their pinot before a short afternoon vineyard walk leading to a tasting at Josmeyer, another very fine producer that features local artists in the tasting room. We have our last night dinner at the Michelin starred L'Atelier du Peintre, although it may be necessary to split the group to comply with current restrictions.

### Saturday 1st May

Tour ends after breakfast. The train back to Paris is about 2.5 hours or you might like to head on to explore nearby Strasbourg for a day or two.

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€4300 per person double occupancy  
€700 single supplement  
€500 deposit per person

## Included

- 3 nights La Briqueterie, Epernay
- 3 nights James Boutique, Colmar
- Private transport by luxury coach
- Tour manager
- Breakfast daily; 6 lunches/ 4 dinners
- Visits and activities as specified

## Not included

Airfare; meals not mentioned above; travel insurance; gratuities for guides



*Contact us to sign up for this trip*

## Iberian Wine Tours

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