

Champagne & Alsace

May 15 - 21, 2023



What to expect

This is a tour 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 subject to the hosts' policies in respect of the ongoing and evolving Covid situation, particularly with regard to the rules and laws in France.

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, Veuve Clicquot, Taittinger, Bollinger, AR Lenoble, Trimbach, Zind Humbrecht, Marcel Deiss, Domaine Cattin



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Trip Itinerary

Meet in Paris for departure at 0900 on the 9th of October. Some visits are provisional at this stage.

Monday 15th May

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

Tuesday 16th May

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 Taittinger one of the last great independent champagne houses followed by a stellar lunch at their wonderful press house in Murigny, overlooking the 1er cru vineyards. Afternoon visit to Veuve Clicquot, and after a short bus ride, we enjoy an afternoon walk in the cellars under Reims, followed by a tasting and then an informal visit to the cathedral. Evening free

Wednesday 17th May

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.

Thursday 18th May

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 dinner at L'Un des Sens wine bar in town.

Friday 19th May

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. After that a short tasting at Trimbach, a family winery since 1626. This sets the scene well in terms of both landscape and the broad range of styles of wine made in Alsace before lunch at Caveau Morakopf, a traditional Alsatian restaurant in Niedermorschwihr. We then enjoy an afternoon vineyard walk in Riquewihr. After a short drive to Colmar, the evening is free

Saturday 20th May

We enjoy a short drive to a morning visit at Zind Humbrecht an innovative biodynamic producer in Turckheim for a tasting of some wonderful wines. 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. Visit to the picturesque village of Eguisheim with the option of then walking back to Colmar. We have our last night dinner La Nouvelle Auberge, an elegant and intimate 1 star Michelin in Wihr au Val, renowned for an extensive wine list and modern Alsatian cuisine that hints at the Breton origin of chef Bernard Leray.

Sunday 21st 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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\$5700 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

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