



Champagne & Alsace

September 9 - 15, 2024



What to expect

This is a tour hosted by Jenny Siddall and 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.

Some visits are provisional due to it being the wine harvest in September

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

Taittinger, Bollinger, Alfred Gratien, Billecart-Salmon, Domaine Wienbach, Zind Humbrecht, Marcel Deiss, Domaine Cattin



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Trip Itinerary

Meet at 0845 at the Hotel Le Belmont, 30 Rue de Bassano, Paris 75116, France.

Monday 15th May

Leave Paris 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 Gyé sur Seine. We visit one of the small growers in Gyé, for a short visit and tasting before lunch at the delightful Green Michelin starred Le Garde Champêtre for a local lunch accompanied by a selection of local Aube wines. We then enjoy a sleepy afternoon drive to La Briqueterie, a beautiful Relais and Châteaux property near Epernay. We enjoy a light canapés style dinner to settle us in for our 3 nights stay.

Tuesday 16th May

At 0900 we set off after breakfast for a magical day in Reims, home to a magnificent Gothic cathedral and perhaps the ultimate destination for champagne lovers. We start with an informal visit to the cathedral before we head to Taittinger for a visit before a tasting. Taittinger was 007's original favourite champagne and is one of the last great independent champagne houses and after visiting the cellars, we have lunch at the property. We then have a short drive to Bollinger, James Bond's other favourite champagne house, renowned for pinot noir dominated muscular champagnes with a touch of oak. Evening is free.

Wednesday 17th May

Today we switch our attention to Épernay, the other historic pillar of the region. We set off at 0930 and start with a morning visit to Alfred Gratien, the Wine Society's Champagne of choice and a traditional producer of great renown since 1864. After our tasting at Gratien we enjoy a simple lunch at the delightful La Cave de l'Avenue in the heart of Épernay, sampling some more Champagnes from producers we don't visit. We then head for a visit at Billecart-Salmon, a longstanding family producer of top quality champagne. A producer since 1818, we have the chance to understand the story behind the wines as we sample a range of their champagnes, before we head back to the hotel before an elegant dinner in the hotel's restaurant.

Thursday 18th May

We check out and then leave at 0830 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 a local bistro L'Escale in the old town. We then enjoy an afternoon drive to Alsace where we stay at the delightful 5 star Maison des Têtes in Colmar. Colmar provides an enchanting fairytale taste of Alsace with its colourful wooden houses that were the inspiration for Beauty and the Beast. We enjoy a light evening dinner in L'Un des Sens wine bar in town, a short walk from the hotel.

Friday 19th May

We leave at 0930 and enjoy a morning visit to Domaine Weinbach in the colourful village of Ribeauville. Domaine Weinbach built by Capuchin Monks in 1612 is one of the grandest producers in Alsace, producing wonderful wines from their own vineyards. After a visit and extensive tasting we drive south through very picturesque wine country in the shadow of the Vosges Mountains. We lunch at Caveau Morakopf, a beautiful and traditional Alsatian restaurant in Niedermorschwihr, the perfect place for some classic Alsatian dishes and wine pairings. We then enjoy an afternoon vineyard walk to the grand cru vineyards overlooking the village before a tasting at Domaine Zind Humbrecht, a dynamic small producer in the village. After a short drive to Colmar, the evening is free.

Saturday 20th May

At 0930 We enjoy a short drive to a morning visit 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 drive back to Colmar where there's plenty of time to explore the old town. We meet for our last night dinner at Le Restaurant Girardin, an elegant and intimate 1 star Michelin renowned for an extensive wine list and modern Alsatian cuisine by chef Eric Girardin.

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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\$5995 per person double occupancy
\$1000 single supplement
\$500 deposit per person

Included

- 3 nights La Briqueterie, Epernay
- 3 nights Maison des Têtes, Colmar
- Private transport by luxury coach
- Tour manager
- Breakfast daily; 6 lunches/ 3 dinners
- Visits and activities as specified. Some visits are provisional due to it being the wine harvest in September

Not included

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



Contact us to sign up for this trip

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