



FRANCE

CHATEAUX AND CHAMPAGNE (TOUR CODE: 11799)

STARTS AND ENDS

Paris to
Reims

TRAVEL PERIODS

17 Apr 2023 - 23 Oct 2023

EXPERIENCE

Food & Wine
Cultural

TRAVEL STYLE

Independent Holiday Packages

Step back in time as you visit the Chateaux of Loire Valley and visit the Champagne region with its renowned Champagne houses.

Highlights

- Discover the most beautiful **Chateaux of the Loire Valley**
- Tour and Tasting at **Avenue de Champagne in Epernay**
- Enjoy a guided tour of the **Cathedral of Reims**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Tasting at world famous **Grande Maison de Champagne Vranken-Pommery**

Indulge in an exquisite wine tasting experience and visit the most renowned chateaux of the beautiful Loire Valley. Skip the line entry to Chateau Chenonceau and take in the timeless beauty of the centuries-old estate. Admire the stunning French Renaissance architecture of Chateau Chambord, the largest chateau in the region and be astonished by the majestic Royal Chateau of Amboise.

Then, your journey will continue to Reims, famous for the production of Champagne and for its the Notre-Dame de Reims Cathedral, one of Europe's most important Gothic structures. Explore the Avenue de Champagne in Epernay, home to the worldwide famous Grande Maison of Veuve Clicquot, Dom Perignon, Moët & Chandon, Perrier-Jouet, Pol Roger, Mercier, and many more.



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

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights at Le Choiseul Hotel - 4* or similar
- 3 nights in Reims at Hotel de la Paix - 4* or similar
- Return Private Transfers from Tours Station to Amboise Hotel
- Private transfer from Train Station to Hotel in Reims
- Daily Breakfast
- Train TGV from Paris-Gare Montparnasse to Tours
- Small Group Tour of Chateau of Blois, Chateau of Cheverny and Chateau de Chambord
- Small Group Tour of Château de Chenonceau, Royal Castle of Amboise and Chateau du Clos Lucé
- Small Group tour of Reims Scenic
- Small Group Tour: Bubbles day tour from Reims
- Wine tasting in the Loire Valley

ITINERARY

Day 1 Paris-Gare Montparnasse Tours Amboise

Welcome to Paris and take TGV train from Paris-Gare Montparnasse to Tours. Arrive to Loire Valley and private transfer from train station of Tours to Hotel Le Choiseul in Amboise. Rest of the day is at leisure.

Overnight stay in Amboise at **Le Choiseul hotel**.



Amboise Chenonceau Amboise

Today, you will enjoy an **Elegant Loire Valley small group tour**.

In the morning, transfer to the Loire Valley and start your day with a stunning tour of the **Château de Chenonceau**. Also known as the “Chateau des Dames” is famous for the great feminine figures who lived in it like *Diane de Poitiers*, *Catherine de Medicin* and for the beauty of its Renaissance gardens. You will be welcomed by Pascal and his team to his caves, the ancient tuff-stone quarries, for a tour followed by a *tasting of 3 local wines and lunch (lunch not included)*.

After lunch, you will tour the **Royal Castle of Amboise**, residence of Charles VIII and young François d'Angoulême, future François I. You will discover in this wonderful castle, perfect example of transition from Gothic to Renaissance, the Saint Hubert Chapel which shelters today the grave of Leonardo Da Vinci.

The tour would not be complete without taking you to meet The Genius in his **Chateau du Clos Lucé**, only a few short steps away from the Royal Castle. This is where **Da Vinci** spent the last three years of his life and passed there in 1519. After touring his bedroom, office, reception room and kitchen, stand in awe at the Invention Room, where models of Leonardo's most spectacular machines are on display.

At the end of the tour, your guide will drop you off at your hotel.

Overnight stay in **Amboise** at Le Choiseul hotel.

Breakfast

**Amboise Loire Valley Amboise**

Enjoy breakfast and then join the **Royal Loire Valley small group tour**.

Pick-up at your hotel at 8.45am and visit the **Chateau of Blois**, a unique combination of 4 styles: medieval, gothic, renaissance and classical. Home of kings Louis XII and François I, it keeps the souvenir of a tragic historical event. Then, proceed to a **tasting at an organic local winery**, where you'll enjoy an exclusive and convivial tasting of Cheverny and Cour-Cheverny wines, King François the 1st 's favourite wines, at a local winery. Then, wines of the domain and terroir specialities. Lunch is at leisure (*lunch not included*).

After lunch, take part to a guided tour of the **Chateau of Cheverny**, that has been owned by the same family since the XIII. The Marquis Hurault de Vibraye, thanks to one of the most beautiful furnitures in the Loire Valley, has succeeded in giving warmth and life to his chateau. The Chateau, which led to the creation of Moulinsart in the famous comic book Tintin, is also famous for the tradition of the horse-back hunt and its impressive pack of 100 dogs. You may have a chance to witness the

spectacular daily event of “the dogs’ soup”.

Continue to the Estate of Chambord, a national game reserve as large as the town of Paris. Visit with a guide **the Chateau de Chambord**, a unique monument by its architecture and proportions. Leonardo da Vinci probably took part in the conception of the project. With more than 400 rooms and its double spiral staircase, Chambord is a highlight of the Loire Valley.

At the end of the tour, your guide will drop you off at your hotel.

Overnight stay in Amboise at **Le Choiseul hotel**.

Breakfast



Day 4

Amboise Paris Reims

After breakfast, meet your driver in the hotel lobby for your transfer to the train station in Tours.

Board your train to Paris, then private transfer from Paris-Gare Montparnasse to Paris-Gare de l'Est and board your train to Reims. Once at the train station in Reims, a representative will wait for you and escort you to the hotel.

Overnight stay in Reims at **Hotel de la Paix**.

Breakfast



Day **5**

Reims Epernay Reims

Today around 09:15am you'll meet at the hall of your hotel your driver to start your Bubble day excursion.

First stop is for a tasting and a visit of **Vranken Pommery's** producer. It is an outstanding Gallo-roman cellars still in use for Champagne making (listed as an UNESCO World Heritage Site).

We'll 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 most of the Kings of France were coronated through the ages there.

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. During this special Champagne tasting you'll be treated to some authentic regional products such as the *Chaource Cheese* and *Jambon de Reims* (a local ham delicacy you must come to know), as well as some *Foie Gras* and *Smoked Salmon*.

Enjoy a sightseeing of Avenue de Champagne 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-Jouet, Pol Roger, Mercier**. Take part to a guided tour and tasting at world famous Grande Maison de Champagne Moët & Chandon and the visit includes: 2 glasses of Champagne!

At the end of the tour, your driver will drop you off at your hotel at 5.45pm in Reims.

Overnight stay in **Reims** at Hotel de la Paix.

Breakfast, Lunch



Day **6**

Reims Champagne Region Reims

After breakfast, you will join a guided small group tour of Reims, City of Coronations.

Your day will start at 09.15am by sightseeing the vibrant City Centre, a place full of charm, layers of unique history and regional culinary delights.

Then, enjoy a guided tour and **tasting at world famous Grande Maison de Champagne Veuve Clicquot*** (Visit includes: Discovery tour with 1 glass of Champagne). Veuve Clicquot-Ponsardin is a Champagne House founded in 1772 by Philippe Clicquot and grew to fame thanks to Madame Barbe Nicole Clicquot Ponsardin. You will learn about this young widow who pursued a vision, built an empire and not only became a legend in her own time but still helps women entrepreneurs to this day - "the Grande Dame of Champagne". Take a journey into the heart of this House, its heritage, its savoir-faire. And discover its unique Roman chalk-cellars and their process of making Champagne. At the end of the tour, enjoy a tasting of one glass of Brut Yellow Label cuvée.

Continue with a 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.

Then we'll 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. We'll 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. After lunch, we'll stroll to the production site to see how Champagne is made: the press, the winery's vats and barrels, the chalk cellar, the labelling machine. The lovely afternoon will finish with another tasting of 2 glasses of different Champagne wines from the same *Family Grower*, and a glass of their *Ratafia* (a sweet liquor made with Champagne brandy mixed with grape juice and aged in barrel). After heartfelt goodbyes we'll gently return you to the city of Reims around 5.30pm.

Overnight stay in **Reims** at Hotel de la Paix.

**If an unforeseen circumstance arises affecting the Veuve Clicquot tour, it may be replaced by one at the House of Mumm, Pommery or Taittinger.*

Breakfast, Lunch



Day **7**

Reims

After breakfast, check out and end of the services.

Breakfast

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Le Choiseul

Amboise

Located at the edge of the Loire and at the foot of the Royal Castle of Amboise, homeland of Leonardo da Vinci, the hotel Le Choiseul is a charming house typically from Tours built in 18th century. The hotel enjoys an exceptional location in the heart of the Valley of Loire castles. Le Choiseul has 30 rooms of 5 different categories, from the most elegant apartment to the most delightful room. They offer pleasant views over the Italian garden, the Loire and the Château d'Amboise.



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

- 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.

Blackout dates may apply during festive season.

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