

4* Hotel de la Paix

Reims and Champagne



Price: £2184.00
Departing from: Eurostar - St Pancras
Destination: France - Reims
Travel dates: 20/11/2022 - 23/11/2022
Nights Stay: 3
Board Type: Varied Meal Plan

Offer valid from: 09/03/2022
Offer valid to: 31/10/2022

Other departure airports:

Airport Name:	Price
Eurostar - St Pancras	£2184

This new tour offers an insider's view of Champagne in the company of wine expert Tim Clarke. The heart of the Champagne region is a relatively compact area to the east of Paris around Reims and Epernay. Here you will find the 'caves' of the most prestigious marques including Bollinger and Tattinger, as well as excellent smaller houses and growers out in the vineyard villages – and on this tour, you will explore both in comfort and style, going behind closed doors for private tastings and exclusive meals at the cellars. During the course of the holiday, Tim Clarke will share his 30 years of Champagne insights with you and host a series of enjoyable tutored tastings in the evenings, which demonstrate the complexity of Champagne. In just four days you will significantly increase your understanding of this most pleasurable of wines.

DAY 1 - ARRIVAL IN REIMS & CHAMPAGNE TASTING

We head to the Champagne region in the fastest and most convenient way, travelling from St. Pancras by Eurostar to Lille. Here we will be met by our coach for the drive to Reims in the heart of Champagne, arriving mid-afternoon. We will then check into the 4* Hotel de la Paix, which is perfectly located in the centre of the city and will be our base for the duration of the holiday. The rest of the afternoon is free for you to relax or explore the town. This evening, Tim Clarke will host a Champagne tasting, comparing the styles and quality of a selection of wines, describing styles, evaluating the quality and judging which suit our taste. He will also discuss tasting technique, explain how the production methods used affect the style and no doubt spring a surprise or two. After the tasting we shall dine together.

DAY 2 - VILMART & BOLLINGER

This morning we will drive to the Montagne de Reims villages outside Reims to visit Vilmart, one

of the leading small estate Champagne makers. Next we visit famed Champagne house Bollinger, for a tour of the cellars and lunch, paired with various Champagnes served with the meal. The rest of the afternoon is free before we meet at the hotel for our second masterclass with Tim Clarke, this time focussing on the new face of Champagne. We will examine Champagnes from single vineyards and look at village styles, estate producers and the increasingly important role of organics and bio-dynamics. Dinner will be taken independently or you may wish to join Tim at his choice of restaurant.

DAY 3 - REIMS & TAITTINGER

Today we will have a guided tour of Reims including the magnificent Reims Cathedral, setting for the coronation of many monarchs of France. Late in the afternoon, we visit the beautiful cellars at Taittinger, which date back to the Roman period, before driving to Taittinger's Chateau de la Marquetterie near Epernay, where we have a fabulous private dinner.

DAY 4 - VISIT TO GOSSET & RETURN TO LONDON

On our final morning we will drive to the oldest wine house in the region, Gosset, and enjoy a tour and tasting. We will then enjoy a visit to Philipponnat, a smaller house that is a favourite of connoisseurs, for lunch and a tour of their famous 'Clos des Goisses' vineyard. We leave the region in the afternoon returning by Eurostar to London.

What's included

- Return Standard Premier (first class) Eurostar tickets from London St Pancras to Lille Europe
- Three nights' accommodation with breakfast
- Two dinners & two lunches
- Champagne tastings and talks as described
- The services of the Tour Lecturer, Tim Clarke

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