

Tastes of France

A wine appreciation exclusive holiday

Insight Vacations has specifically designed this exclusive itinerary to show you the hidden treasures of the French countryside and the most famous wine producing areas. Stay in first class hotels, be chauffeured in a luxury coach and visit romantic cities, glorious vineyards and majestic castles.



Escorted by Paula Tewksbury

from All About Wine & coordinator of the Brisbane Wine Festival

Adding to your wine appreciation experience in France is your expert Tour Escort, Paula Tewksbury, from all about Wine & coordinator of the Brisbane Wine Festival. Paula is a wine educator and promoter with 19 years experience. To name just a few, she has worked in conjunction the Australian Wine Selectors, Brisbane Wine Festival, Wine Selector Magazine, The Sunday Mail Appetite Magazine, Grape Escapes and Liquorland/Vintage Cellars. She has also been a committee member and presenter for associations such as the Wine Press Club and The Wine Guild of Australia. Paula brings with her a wealth of knowledge on the wine industry and is looking forward to travelling to France in 2004 to share with you the pleasures of appreciating wine!

'Savour the moments. Share the memories'

Enjoyment

The enriching and exciting itinerary will include visits to all the major wine regions of France with special visits to:

- House of Pommery
- Moët et Chandon cellars
- House of Nicholas Feuillatte
- Klipfel Domain
- A visit to a Chambertin world famous grand cru vineyard in Burgundy
- Domaine of William Fevre
- House of Michael Laroche
- House of Guigal in Ampius, Rhone Valley
- Chateau Mouton-Rothschild
- Chateau Palmer
- Distillery of Remy Martin and so much more

Quality

As honoured guests you can sit back and enjoy your experience knowing you're in capable, experienced hands. You'll stay in superb hotels in superior locations. You can be assured of exceptional quality and value for money.



INSIGHT VACATIONS

16 leisurely days, departing 18 July 2004 from \$3,999* per person twin share land content. Your local travel agent will advise you of the best available airfares.

*Spoil yourself and make 2004
the year you live out your dreams.*

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Your exclusive 16 day itinerary.

Day 1 Arrive Paris – Reims

This morning at 9am we meet our Tour Director and Driver at the airport and head to Reims. Here we visit the 13th century Gothic cathedral. This afternoon relax and recover from the flight. Tonight enjoy a welcome drink and dinner with your fellow travellers. (D)

Day 2 Champagne Excursion

After breakfast we enjoy a visit to the historical **House of Pommery** - the only domain of its kind in the Champagne region. Descend the magnificent 116-step stairway and travel through the cellar's 18 km of labyrinths to discover the art of Champagne making. Later today visit the **House of Piper Heidsieck**. This fun and hi-tech place is a medium-size champagne house owned by Rémy Martin. Finally today we take a beautiful drive through the vineyards and arrive in Epernay where we will tour the **Moët et Chandon** cellars - the largest champagne house in France, best known for its premium brand Dom Perignon. Later we return to our hotel in Reims. (B)

Day 3 Reims – Strasbourg – Colmar

After breakfast we drive to the House of **Nicholas Feuillatte**. We then continue to Strasbourg where our Tour Director will show us the Palais de l'Europe and the incredible Gothic cathedral before continuing to the Alsace countryside. This afternoon we will enjoy a visit to the **Klipfel Domain**. Created in 1824 by Eugène Klipfel, it is today a family business that has sole ownership of 40ha of vineyards. Finally we continue to our hotel in Colmar and enjoy dinner together. (B,D)

Day 4 Alsatian Vineyards Excursion

Today we take the 'wine-road' into the countryside to see the delightful villages, fine vineyards, beautiful half timbered, flower-decked houses and perhaps a stork for which the province is famous. We stop in the tiny town of **Riquewihr**, home of fine Riesling wine and Kugelhupf cake! We then travel via the town of Munster and continue back to Colmar where a train ride shows us the Old Town and Little Venice. Later there is time to wander along the picturesque streets at leisure. (B)

Day 5 Colmar – Dijon – Beaune

Continuing on beneath the foothills of the Vosges Mountains, we enter another famous wine growing district of France, Burgundy! In Dijon stroll the cobbled streets, see the Palais des Ducs and colonnaded Place de la Libération. We then continue through the scenic village of Gevrey-Chambertin, containing approximately 1,460 vineyard acres, all focused on producing red wines from pinot noir grapes. Here we will visit the **Domaine of Seguin Gerad** before travelling onto the town of Nuits-Saint-Georges. Finally we arrive at the charming walled town of Beaune. (B,D)

Day 6 Burgundy Excursion

We drive through leafy Burgundy countryside to the town of Vézelay, continuing to Chablis. Our first visit is to the **Domaine of William Fevre** who is famous for his fight to stop the use of the word "Chablis" as a generic term for white wine. Later we visit the **House of Micheal Laroche**, a listed ninth century monastery. (B)

Day 7 Beaune at Leisure

Today you are at leisure to relax and explore at your own pace. Perhaps visit the Hospice de Beaune Museum, alternatively enjoy a degustation at one of Beaune's Tasting House Restaurants. Joseph Drouhin and Joseph Faiveley both have wines from several Burgundy Regions and offer these degustations. The choice is yours! (B)

Day 8 Beaune - Beaujolais – Lyon

After breakfast we travel south to the region of Beaujolais, where the focus on the gamay grape for its red wines, instead of pinot noir. Here we are introduced to the cellars of **Georges Duboeuf**. An included visit to **Le Hameau Museum** will showcase winemaking in the Beaujolais area. Later we arrive into Lyon, where we enjoy an orientation tour and some time at leisure before dinner at the hotel. (B,D)

Day 9 Rhone Valley Excursion

After breakfast we travel to the village of Condrieu, in France's northern rhone region. Condrieu AC produces only white wines made from the rare viognier variety. These dry, rich wines have a perceptible spiciness and aroma. We take the opportunity to visit the **House of Guigal** in Ampius. We then travel to Tournon Sur-Rhone and across the Rhone River to the centre of Tain-l'Hermitage. Here both red and white wines of excellent repute are produced. We visit possibly the most impressive cellar in France, that of **Paul Jaboulet Aine** before returning to our hotel. (B)

Day 10 Rhone – Cahors

After breakfast we travel west to Clermont Ferrand and tour the old town before continuing via Brive La Gaillarde to the medieval town of Cahors. The principal grape variety of the area is the Auxerrois. Tonight we enjoy a **highlight dinner** at the hotel with the opportunity to sample some of the local wines. (B,HD)

Day 11 Cahors – Bordeaux

We depart Cahors and travel to the village of St Emillion. After lunch we may get the opportunity to taste the wines of the Chateau Cheval Blanc before continuing to the bustling seaport of Bordeaux. Our orientation tour of the city shows us the quays, the Cathedral, boulevards and pedestrian shopping streets. Tonight you are at leisure. (B)

Day 12 Medoc Excursion

Our excursion today takes us through the narrow enclosed valleys, where the vine growers exploit the stony soil and cut the vines short and avoid frost damage. See charming buildings and farmhouses as well as visit the magnificent **Chateau Mouton-Rothschild** in Pauillac, famous for the premier crus, in the hamlet of Pouyalet, with its wine museum in the ancient cellars. We also visit the **Chateau Palmer** in Margaux before this evenings highlight dinner and tasting. (B,HD)

Day 13 Bordeaux – Loire Valley

We depart Bordeaux and cross the coastal plain arriving in Cognac where we will visit the brandy distillery of **Remy Martin**. We then continue past Poitiers and onto the Loire Valley. On arrival into Tours our orientation tour shows us the Basilica of St Martin and the old town. (B)

Day 14 Loire Valley – Paris

Another splendid day brings us first to Chartres to marvel at stained glass windows which flood the cathedral with colour and light. Now we continue through the rich farmlands of the Ile de France to visit the beautiful Renaissance **Chateau of Fontainebleau**. From here a short drive through the picturesque villages and forest of Fontainebleau, brings us back to Paris. Tonight don't miss the chance to visit one of the world-famous cabaret shows for an evening of excitement and glamour! (B)

Day 15 Paris Sightseeing

Sightseeing with a **local guide** this morning shows us the highlights of the city, including the Arc de Triomphe, Opera House, Invalides and the immense facades of the Louvre Palace. We also visit the 13th century Gothic cathedral and see the famous Eiffel Tower. This afternoon is at leisure to shop in the great department stores, visit one of the great museums or alternatively perhaps ascend the Eiffel Tower. Enjoy a highlight farewell dinner together at a **local Parisian bistro**. (B,HD)

Day 16 Depart

This morning you are at leisure until the group is transferred to the airport for the onward flight. Alternatively you may like to extend your trip and see more of the wonders Europe has to offer. (B)

(B) Breakfast (D) Dinner (HD) Highlight Dinner

INSIGHT VACATIONS

The Art of Touring in Style

Departure/Return Date: 18 July - 02 Aug 04
Twin Share: \$3999 pp Single Sup: \$999 pp

Pre/Post Accommodation: IN PARIS
AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT

Conditions - Tour price is based on per person land only & is subject to availability. Tour is subject to minimum numbers & should these numbers not be met or circumstances beyond our control prevail, Insight Vacations reserves the right to reschedule these arrangements. Please Note: Insight Vacations reserve the right to alter or deviate from the tour itinerary should circumstances dictate. Cellar tours & winery visits are to be used as a guide only & may alter while on tour. Tour is subject to the terms & conditions in the Europe & Britain Premium First Class Escorted Vacations 2004 brochure.

Travel Agents: For bookings & enquiries please call Insight Vacations on 1300 727 767 or the Groups Department on (02) 9512 0785