

FRENCH FLAVOURS

Champagne & Paris

Day 1

Upon arrival at Charles de Gaulle airport, you will be met after clearing customs by your English-speaking driver to whisk you off towards Reims, often considered the capital of Champagne, an old French province made world-famous by its sparkling champagne. Check into your luxurious hotel in Champagne. Afternoon at leisure to discover the beautiful gardens of your hotel where vast landscaped gardens are a natural extension of the house. Completely redesigned, they are an invitation to musing and strolling their beckoning paths. A majestic 1300 foot rose garden but also seasonal flowers like tulip or peony are expecting you at the end of the path. Purple maple, olive trees, laurels of Caucasus, Sylvan weeping willow, pines or lime trees are in abundance at this serene countryside retreat. Finally, there is the scented garden composed of numerous aromatic plants which completes this beautiful setting. Enjoy a wonderful meal prepared with great delight at your Relais & Chateaux.



Day 2

After a delicious breakfast, meet your guide and driver in the lobby of your hotel in Champagne. They will whisk you away to visit the Reims Cathedral classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is a 13th-century masterpiece, with 2,500 statues of great interest and quality, including the famous smiling angel. You will continue on to visit the Ruinart Champagne House. An impressive staircase leads you 30 meters below ground into the network of cellars. The cellars include chalk pits that are listed as historic monuments. The Ruinart cellars are often compared to underground cathedrals, lit by a pale shaft of light. They have a constant temperature of 11°C/50°F. At the end of your visit you will enjoy a Champagne tasting. We suggest lunch at La Vigneraie, a charming restaurant with a glass façade and a stylish, contemporary dining room, decorated in sunny colors. Next you will drive to the outskirts of Epernay and visit Champagne Launois, a family-owned vineyard. It was founded in 1872 by the Launois family and is located in the heart of the prestigious Côte des Blancs area (a hill south of Epernay that produces Champagne's finest Chardonnays). The wine is dry with finer bubbles, apple and pear aromas and a crisp acidity on the palate.



During your visit, you will discover the museum's caves and will learn about all the different stages of winemaking. At the conclusion of your visit you will partake in a champagne tasting of three different vintages. At the end of this bubbly day, you will be returned to your charming hotel for dinner at leisure. Sweet dreams!



Day 3

After a wonderful breakfast, enjoy a morning at leisure. Your hotel is a real harbour of tranquility that is dedicated to wellness. You may wish to pamper yourself with relaxing therapies at the relaxing spa.



After lunch you will enjoy a hands-on cooking class in a Michelin-starred restaurant located opposite the Gothic style cathedral --Notre Dame de l'Epine. The chef and his dedicated team will share their "savoir faire" with you. What about a *filet mignon de veau roti, emulsion au Chaource et legumes du moment* (filet of roasted veal with seasonal vegetables) or a chocolate-walnut cake? You will sample your creations at the end of the visit.



The rest of the day is at leisure.

Day 4

After a leisurely breakfast and hotel check out, your chauffeur will come to collect you for your trip to Paris. You will arrive at your charming Parisian hotel where you will have time to relax and refresh and enjoy some lunch.



In the afternoon you will have a personal tour of this incredible French capital. Take in all the sights that make Paris such a fascinating city: The Eiffel Tower, Montmartre, Notre Dame Basilica and so much more. The city is like a living art gallery where you can stroll its streets and find your own special place. And then there is the great variety of shops and boutiques. Explore some of the best haute couture shops in the world – Cartier, Chanel, Dior, La Croix and many more. And don't forget about the many art and antique shops where searching for your special treasure is half the fun. For dinner there are a variety of wonderful dining spots to suit your tastes. Bon Appetit!



Day 5

Enjoy a leisurely morning and get ready for your afternoon experience – a fun and informative presentation on the delights of cheese. You will learn everything about cheese – from the secrets of making and maturing to the different types of cheeses to tasting a variety of delicious cheeses. You will return to your hotel for an evening in town. Your concierge can provide you with a variety of wonderful options.



Day 6

Morning at leisure for sightseeing or shopping. The afternoon brings a sweet treat -- you will enjoy a “Parcours initiatique” at the famous Maison du Chocolat: Follow your guide and discover collections that incorporate works dating from 1955 of the great Maison du Chocolat in Paris. Robert Linxe is the spirit and creator of la Maison du Chocolat. After an apprenticeship in Bayonne then in Switzerland, he settled in Paris at la Marquise de Presles and made himself a reputation as a creator of chocolate delicacies. You will discover chocolate making from the fruit harvested on the cacao tree to the creation of subtle and delicate chocolates. Your sensory journey will include tasting different chocolates and ganaches. The visit will end with the making of a ganache and its tasting while it is still warm! A treat for chocolate lovers! Your last evening in Paris – take advantage of all the wonderful dining possibilities and choose one recommended by your guide for your final dinner in the City of Lights.



Day 7

Private transfer to Charles de Gaulle Airport. Au revoir France!

INCLUSIONS:

- 6 nights deluxe accommodations (3 nights in Champagne; 3 nights in Champagne)
- all transfers in luxury vehicle with English speaking driver
- professional English speaking guide in Champagne and Paris
- private airport transfers
- private panoramic half day tour of Paris
- hands-on cooking class in Michelin-starred restaurant
- premium champagne tasting
- private cheese tasting class
- chocolate tasting experience
- daily breakfasts
- all taxes

PRICE PER PERSON: based on double occupancy
\$7,859 Cdn.