



Chef Todd's
Epicurean Adventures

Champagne Anyone?

April 15-21, 2019

Join me on an unforgettable journey through one of the world's most celebrated wine regions, Champagne. Together we will travel the back roads and discover the rich history of this incredible region.

The week's itinerary includes: tours and tastings at the world famous producers **Taitinger** and **Moet Chandon**, a walking tour of **Reims** to see two **UNESCO World Heritage** sites including **Notre Dame Cathedral** and the **Palace of Tau**, make a pilgrimage to visit the **Abbaye Saint-Pierre d'Hautvillers** to visit the grave of **Dom Perignon**, feast at **Michelin** starred restaurants, visit **Thibault Artisan Chocolates** and explore the town of **Epernay** to stroll down the famous **Avenue de Champagne**. We will also discover small family owned producers like **Champagne Launois Pere et Fils** and **Ployez Jacquemart** which will also be our home for the week.

The week is limited to 8 guests. The price is \$3,900 per person based on double occupancy or \$4,500 for a single. The price includes accommodations for six nights and all meals as well as transportation and transfers from the Champagne-Ardenne train station. Make your reservations early as the tour fills up quickly. Airfare is not included. Please contact Todd of Chef Todd's Epicurean Adventures at 707-329-6940 or ktkniess@gmail.com for more information and reservations. We look forward to exploring the back roads of this very special region.



Champagne Itinerary 2019

Monday

You will be picked up at the **Champagne-Ardenne** train station in **Reims** at 3:30 p.m. Space is at a premium so please pack accordingly. The small village of **Ludes** is approximately a 20 minute drive from the train station. Once we arrive at **Domaine Ployez-Jacquemart** you will be shown to your rooms and have a chance to settle in. We will have a tour through the cave under our hotel at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will commence at 7:30 p.m. and will be paired with the wines of the Domaine including several Vintage Champagnes. **Laurence Ployez** will give us a presentation of the Champagne Region and what makes it so special and we will taste the result of her meticulous work. You will have an opportunity to have all your questions answered.

Tuesday

Breakfast is at 8:30 each morning and we will depart at 9:30 for our day's adventures. Today we will start with a walking tour of **Reims**. Reims is among the most interesting cities in northern France and a history dating back to 80 BC. It is also the city where most of the King's coronations have taken place. Today it's best known for its booming Champagne industry and serves as the unofficial capital of the Champagne region. We will explore two **UNESCO World Heritage** sites including **Notre Dame Cathedral** and the **Palace of Tau**. We will walk to **Le Foch**, a **Michelin One Star** for lunch. I enjoyed a wonderful lunch here last year as part of my research! The afternoon will consist of a tour through the caves at **Taittinger** followed by a tasting. We should arrive back at our hotel by 5:30 to freshen up before we walk into the village for dinner.

Wednesday

Today we will explore the village of **Hautvillers** and more specifically the **Abbaye Saint-Pierre d'Hautvillers** a small Abbey that houses the remains of none other than **Dom Perignon** the Benedictine monk whose work helped establish Champagne. Next we will visit **Champagne Geoffroy** just outside of **Epernay**. We will make our way into Epernay for lunch at **Cook'in** a unique Thai French fusion restaurant highly touted in the Michelin guide. We will work off lunch with a brisk walk down the **Avenue de Champagne** to **Moet Chandon** for a tour of their caves as well as a tasting. We will make our way back to the hotel in late afternoon and have a rest before a traditional Champagne dinner at home.

Thursday

Today we will visit **Château Villers-au-Bois and Champagne Launois Pere et Fils** in the village of **Mesnil-sur-Oger**. Here we will tour the museum followed by a tasting and then lunch. The afternoon will feature a visit to **Thibault Artisan Chocolates** to learn about the art of chocolate making. We will stop in Epernay for some down time and shopping before making our way to **Restaurant Les Fises** in the small village of **Avize**. We will be out all day on this day with no time to freshen up before dinner.

Friday

Today will be mostly a free day, all are welcome to join me though. I will be heading to the village of **Fismes** after breakfast. There is a very interesting Memorial there about World War 1. It is a self-guided walking tour that takes about an hour to visit. There was a battle between German and US forces in the village and most of the US soldiers were from Pennsylvania. After that visit I will be heading into Reims to visit the famous **Les Halles de Boulingrin**. Lunch is up to you on this day, I suggest buying some provisions at the market and having a picnic. If anyone would like to do some shopping this would be a good day for it. We will rendezvous at 4:30 in the afternoon and head back to the hotel to start preparing the evening meal for the hotel staff. Everyone gets involved in helping serve, clear and clean up. It is our way of saying thank you to our hosts.

Saturday

Today we will leave by 9:00 a.m. en route to **Challons-en-Champagne**. Our day will commence with a walking tour of the rich history of the old city. We will have lunch at **Au Carillon Gourmand** followed by a scenic boat tour. We should arrive back to our hotel around 5:00 p.m. You will have time to pack up before we head out to our farewell dinner at **La Grand Cerf**, a **Michelin one star restaurant** a few villages from our hotel.

Sunday

Guests will depart after breakfast. Guests should make arrangements for a train later than 10:30 a.m. to ensure we get everyone to the station in time.

- The weather will be a mixed bag for our visit so please be ready for rain. It looks like the 50's during the day and a bit cooler at night.
- This is your vacation so you are free to take a day off and just relax. No one will be offended.
- Our hotel is very nice with large rooms and updated amenities. There are stairs to climb with no lift. The wi-fi is very good and reliable. The village of Ludes is great for walking in the early morning.
- Breakfast is served in the main dining room at 8:30 each morning and we will be on the road by 9:30 every day.