

Decanter®
Wine Experiences

DISCOVER
CHAMPAGNE

WITH TOM HEWSON

October 7-12 2024



Host & Expert

Tom Hewson

Champagne Correspondent, Decanter

Tom is Decanter's Champagne correspondent, unpicking and reporting on the latest happenings in the region, bringing the most exciting stories to Decanter readers. Tom has been focusing almost exclusively on Champagne over the last four years, spending many weeks a year with small producers and celebrated houses alike. You'll find him writing about all the latest Champagne reviews online and in the magazine, as well as in his own personal newsletter, Six Atmospheres.

“Champagne is both one of the best-known wines in the world, yet one of the least understood; almost everything about it is completely unique, from the land itself to the creation of the wines. There's never been a better time to put aside any preconceptions about houses, brands, growers and styles and immerse yourself in a 360-degree picture of modern champagne in the hands of its most insightful creators”

Tom Hewson



Highlights

- Exclusive visits to private vineyards, including Maison Bollinger and Piper Heidsieck House
- Sample and savour special cuvées from top Champagne Houses including grower Champagnes such as Pierre Paillard
- Meet renowned winemakers personally known to Tom Hewson
- Dine on seasonal, traditional French cuisine with expert wine pairing selections including private lunches in the wineries

Introduction

Join Decanter Wine Experiences in Champagne, where sparkling wine is more than a beverage, it's an art form. Our tour of the Champagne region in France, based out of the charming city of Reims, offers the perfect blend of tradition and innovation, providing an unparalleled taste of the region's rich history and exciting future of champagne production. With visits to renowned champagne houses like Pommery and Champagne Bollinger, to vineyards with newer names on the scene, you'll get a chance to explore the secrets of world-class champagne production. Decanter Magazine's Champagne correspondent Tom Hewson will take you behind-the-scenes to discover the subtleties of each champagne house's unique style. You'll learn about everything from grape to bottle, all while enjoying tastings of some of the world's finest champagnes and pairing them with delectable French cuisine. Whether you're a champagne enthusiast or simply curious to learn more about what goes into the world's best bubbly, this tour is bound to leave you eager for more!



“Decanter trips with local experts like this trip are **EXCELLENT**”

Gregory Smith

Itinerary

Day 1

Welcome to Reims

Arrive in Reims independently and check into La Caserne Chanzy Hotel. You will have time to get settled and unpack. Transfer to Piper Heidsieck

for a private reception in the Residence Eisenhower followed by dinner.

Included Meals: Dinner



Day 2

Reims and Montagne de Reims

After breakfast we will head to one of the region's most exciting grower-producers Pierre Paillard in the Montagne de Reims for a tour of the winery and a tasting. We will stop for lunch at Le Bec Fin in Bouzy for a classic French menu before heading to Champagne Palmer for a tasting. Special walking tour of Reims is

planned for the afternoon, where guests will explore the gothic Notre-Dame Cathedral and the Palais du Tau, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here we will take in the rich history and striking architecture of the city. You will have an evening at leisure

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Itinerary

Day 3

Épernay and Grande Vallée

After breakfast we will be starting the day at Larmandier-Bernier overlooking the Côte des Blancs. Here savor a private tour and tasting, showcasing the organic wines that have earned the distinction of outstanding sustainability practices. Lunch will be at Avarum, one of Champagne's top new

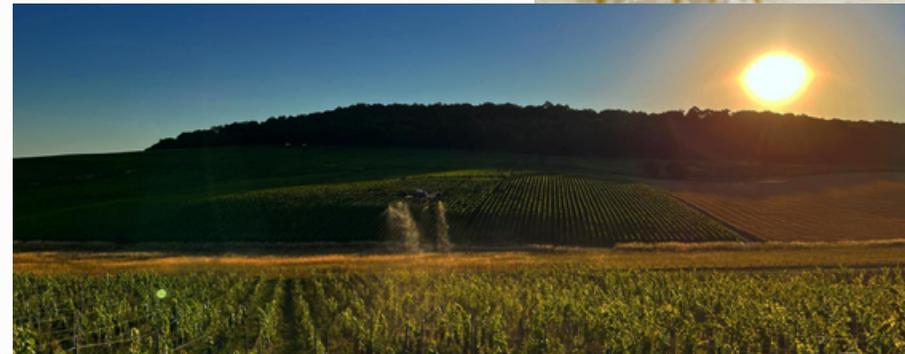
restaurants set in the iconic Grand Cru village of Aÿ. In the afternoon we will transfer to Leclerc-Briant, a celebrated boutique house practicing biodynamic viticulture and innovative winemaking, for a private tour and tasting. Your evening will be at leisure. **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch



Day 4

Marne Valley and Grande Vallée

Our morning visit will be to Moussé Fils where we will enjoy a private cellar tour before an exclusive lunch at the estate with a selection of wines selected by Tom. Moussé Fils is a family-run estate with fourth-generation winemaker Cédric Moussé at the helm. Once we have finished lunch we will head to Champagne Ayala, another family-run Champagne house in the heart of the Grand Cru village of Aÿ. Here we will enjoy a tasting experience and a



walk around the vineyard before an evening at leisure
Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Itinerary

Day 5 Côte des Blancs

Finishing the trip on a high note, we will head to the iconic Pommery after breakfast where we will tour the winery, visit the Crayères, followed by an indulgent farewell Luncheon at Villa Demoiselle. This afternoon we will

head to the beautiful estate of Champagne Bollinger for an exclusive experience. We will raise our final glass of bubbles at Legras and Haas. Your final evening will be at leisure.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Day 6 Departures

After check out we will Group transfer to Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris or individual arrangements for departures home

Included Meals: Breakfast

Hotel



La Caserne Chanzy Hotel & Spa, Reims (5 nights)

This former fire station has been turned into an elegant **5-star** boutique property that is part of the Marriott Autograph collection. The hotel sits in the centre of the city, overlooking the magnificent Notre-Dame Cathedral of Reims. It is the only luxury hotel in the city. Guest rooms are spacious

with an understated luxury; large windows allow plenty of natural light and some rooms offer views over the cathedral (for a supplement). There is a spa, indoor pool, and the champagne bar boasts an extensive wine and champagne list from local producers.

Pricing:

■ Price: \$7795
(single supplement \$990).

■ Deposit: \$750

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 BOOK NOW FOR OCTOBER 2024

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