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BREAK OUT THE BUBBLY: CHAMPAGNE ESCAPES MEETS THE MAKERS

Uncork the history and mystique of one of the world's noblest wines this May Bank Holiday with a new Meet the Maker tour available from specialist operator Champagne Escapes.

Giving an opportunity to chat with families who for generations have produced this most cherished of wines, enjoy tastings and traditional French cuisine, the one-off two-night tour is available from 2 - 4 May, 2009 and is priced from £299 per person.

The focus of the tour is provide a sampling of the widest variety of champagnes, created by the smaller family-run houses to which Champagne Escapes has exclusive access.

The tour includes visits to three such houses, among them one which can trace its roots to the 17th Century and whose early wine was served at the Château de Versailles from the time of Louis XIV to Louis XVI. These will be champagnes not readily found in supermarkets or High Street wine shops – more likely to be served at the Fat Duck or La Gavroche.

Champagne Escapes target their breaks at the wine enthusiast, as well the experienced connoisseur and participants are generally those who simply enjoy good wine and food and the company of like-minded souls.

The new Meet the Maker tour is one of a number of champagne-themed breaks the operator runs every weekend from April to October.

It includes a return Dover to Calais ferry crossing for car and two passengers; two nights' bed and breakfast accommodation at a choice of hotels in Reims, in the heart of Champagne and about 2.5 hours drive



from Calais; a full day luxury private coach tour; visits to three small, family-run champagne houses, including tastings; traditional three-course lunch as a guest at one of the houses; a visit to a larger, prestigious champagne house, including a cellar tour and tastings; an English-speaking guide throughout the tour, providing information on the region and the wines.

For more information go to www.champagneescapes.com or call 08456 430860.

About Grape Escapes

Grape Escapes is a specialist in travel to the French wine regions offering a selection of gourmet wine-tasting weekends in Champagne, Burgundy, Bordeaux, the Loire and the Rhone. Catering for all food and wine lovers from the serious connoisseur to enthusiastic beginner, Grape Escapes' small group tours average just 16 guests and blend tastings at prestigious chateaux and Champagne houses with more intimate invitations as the guests of smaller family-run estates. Grape Escapes also offers longer tailor-made self-drive itineraries, private group tours for friends or social groups such as hen weekends and weddings. www.grapeescapes.net

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