



July 13, 2009

Take part in Champagne's annual grape harvest with Grape Escapes

This September, get out the secateurs and take part in Champagne's annual *vendange* (grape harvest) on specialist operator Grape Escapes' Harvest Weekend.

Grape Escape's one-off Harvest tour runs from 18 – 20 September and gives wine lovers the opportunity to spend time in a small, family run Grand Cru Champagne House and join the locals picking grapes, sample freshly pressed grape juice and share stories over a traditional harvester's lunch.

Grand Cru Champagne is considered the best of its kind and is only produced in 17 villages in the region. Each year armies of pickers take part in the annual 'vendange' to gather thousands of tons of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier grapes by hand.

The Harvest Weekend costs from £359 per person and includes a return Dover to Calais ferry crossing with P&O Ferries for a car and two passengers; two-nights' bed and breakfast accommodation; a full day private coach tour including a visit to a small Champagne House to pick grapes and taste the freshly pressed grape juice and a traditional three-course harvesters' lunch with Champagnes; a visit to a prestigious Champagne House, including tastings; a gala four-course dinner at a local restaurant in the evening; and an English speaking guide for the tour who will provide information on the region and the wines.

Grape Escapes target their breaks at the wine enthusiast, whether they are connoisseurs or amateurs wanting to find out more about good food and wine.

For more information please visit www.grapeescapes.net

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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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