



Sideways Through Eastern France

Burgundy...Alsace...Champagne

8 days / 7 nights tour

Tour Highlights: *Combine guided and self-driven tours of three of France's most scenic and famous wine regions...explore the vines and villages of the Route des Grands Crus in Burgundy...learn regional history and techniques of winemaking on guided tours with scheduled tastings in Burgundy and Alsace...admire the architecture and charm of the villages which are embroidered into the fabric of France's wine countryside...marvel at the breathtaking beauty of Alsatian towns with their uniquely Germanic influence...sample the wonders of France's finest champagne while relaxing and dining in the heart of the Champagne region: Reims.*

Day 1 - Arrival

Begin your trip in Paris. You may depart directly from Charles De Gaulle airport, or you may decide to first spend a few days in the wondrous City of Light. From Paris, climb aboard the comfortable and fast TGV, which will whisk you to your first stop, Dijon. Overnight in Dijon.

Day 2 – Dijon and the Cote de Nuits

In the morning, depart from Dijon for a small, guided group tour of Burgundy's villages and wineries. The tour includes two cellar visits and wine tastings. Wind your way through the vineyards of the Cote de Nuits, famous for its exquisite red wines. In the afternoon and evening, explore Dijon and enjoy dinner on your own at one of its many excellent restaurants. Overnight in Dijon.

Day 3 - Colmar

This morning after breakfast, pick up your rental car in Dijon and drive through the countryside of Franche-Comte to Colmar, in the heart of Alsace. After checking in at your hotel, why not take a leisurely drive through some of the villages on the Route des Vins? Use the evening to relax, enjoy dinner, and wander Colmar's picturesque streets. Overnight in Colmar.

Day 4- Alsatian Villages and Wines

On the morning of your fourth day, embark on an adventurous full-day guided tour of Alsace and some of the many beautiful villages along its Route des Vins. You will visit Ribeauville, a charming 13th century town with many Renaissance fountains. Stop in Kayersberg, the birthplace of renowned humanitarian Dr. Albert Schweitzer. Return to Colmar for lunch. After lunch, continue on your tour to the famous castle of Haut Koenigsbourg. You will wend your way along the wine route to Riquewihr, considered one of the most beautiful villages in France. Finish your day with a cellar tour and wine tasting at Doppf & Irion. Overnight in Colmar.

Day 5- Strasbourg

No visit to Alsace would be complete without exploring Strasbourg, the region's capitol and seat of the European Parliament. After breakfast at your hotel, take the 40 minute train ride to Strasbourg and enjoy its many activities. In the evening, return to Colmar to prepare for your next day's journey to Champagne. Overnight in Colmar.

Day 6- Reims

After breakfast, drive to Reims to immerse yourself in the world of Champagne-Ardenne. Visit the Cathedrale Notre-Dame de Reims, the Musee des Beaux-Arts (Fine Arts Museum), or any of the multitude of cultural and religious buildings in this city. Dine at one of its fine brasseries. Overnight in Reims.

Day 7- Champagne

This day will be dedicated to the exploration of champagne, the magical bubbly which can only come from this region of the world. Visit some of the famous *caves* (cellars) located right in Reims, or travel to nearby Epernay to visit Moet et Chandon or Mercier. Be sure to stop in the little village of Hautvillers, where Dom Perignon is said to have invented champagne. Your day includes a tour and tasting at the renowned Celliers Ruinart. Overnight in Reims.

Day 8- Return Journey

After breakfast, drive your rental car to Charles de Gaulle airport (only 1 and ½ hours journey) to meet your return flight.

4-star package price from \$2229* includes:

- 2 nights accommodation at the Sofitel La Cloche in Dijon
- 3 nights accommodation at the Maison des Tetes in Colmar

- 2 nights accommodation at the Chateau d'Etoges in Epernay
- Daily breakfast
- 1st class France Railpass (2 days)
- 5-day compact car rental, manual, a/c, insurance
- Full day semi-private Cote de Nuits tour in Burgundy, including 2 wine tastings
- Full day semi-private tour of Alsatian villages and wine routes, including 1 wine tasting
- Visit and tasting at Celliers Ruinart in Reims
- Welcome Pack
- Service & VAT

3-star package price from \$1299* includes:

- 7 nights accommodation in 3 star boutique properties
- Daily breakfast
- 1st class France Railpass (2 days)
- 5-day compact car rental, manual, a/c, insurance
- Full day semi-private Cote de Nuits tour in Burgundy, including 2 wine tastings
- Full day semi-private tour of Alsatian villages and wine routes, including 1 wine tasting
- Visit and tasting at Celliers Ruinart in Reims
- Welcome Pack
- Service & VAT

*Price is per person, double occupancy. Rates subject to availability and change due to trade shows, weekend or holiday periods, and currency exchange rate. Other hotels may be substituted at different rates.

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