



The Champagne Connection 2014 Tour de Champagne.

22 June – 1 July 2013

Join winemaker, Ian Leamon on a ten day tour of Champagne where you will visit some of the region's most prestigious champagne houses, as well as some of its most exciting grower producers.



Wine and dine your way through ten fabulous days in Paris, Reims, Aÿ and Epernay where you will visit Billecart-Salmon , [Charles Heidsieck](#), Deutz, [Goutorbe](#), Joseph Lorient-Pagel, [Veuve Clicquot](#), Godmé, [Krug](#) and GH Mumm.

The Champagne Connection, Tour de Champagne, takes you behind the scenes of some of the major champagne houses as well as some of the fabulous family operated boutique producers. You will taste a dazzling array of champagnes and champagne styles as well as dining at wonderful restaurants and brasseries. You will also have the opportunity to visit houses such as Krug and Charles Heidsieck which are normally closed to the public, simply by enrolling in the 2014 Tour de Champagne.



Lunch at Veuve Clicquot



Krug Grand Cuvée



Pre lunch drinks at Goutorbe.



Dinner at Brasserie Le Jardin, Les Crayeres

Day 1 Sunday 22 June 2014, Paris

Tour members will arrive in Paris and proceed to our centrally located four star tour hotel, **Hotel Le Mathurin** or equivalent. Tour members arriving early on Sunday morning will have the opportunity to leave their luggage with the concierge until their rooms become available at 2.00pm. The remainder of the day is free to explore Paris.

The tour group will come together later in the day for welcome drinks in the hotel bar. After our welcome drinks we will proceed to Le Mini Palais where we will enjoy our first tour dinner together.

Dinner plus accompanying wines are included in the cost of the tour.

Day 2 Monday 23 June 2014, Reims: Veuve Clicquot.

After breakfast we will board the tour bus and leave Paris for the city of Reims. We will go directly to Veuve Clicquot where we will enjoy a supervised tasting with Chief Oenologist, Philippe Thieffry. We will then enjoy a fabulous lunch in the Veuve Clicquot cellars where each dish will be matched with a wine from the Veuve Clicquot range.

After lunch we will tour the famous Veuve Clicquot underground cellars. Following the visit to Veuve Clicquot we will take the bus to Aÿ where we will check into the Hotel Castel Jeanson. Castel Jeanson is owned by the Goutorbe family and this will be our home for the next four days. A buffet dinner will be provided at Castel Jeanson.

Both the lunch and dinner plus accompanying wines are included in the price of the tour.

Day 3 Tuesday 24 June 2014, Aÿ: Billecart-Salmon and Henri Goutorbe.

After breakfast we will take the bus to the neighbouring village of Mareuil-Sur-Aÿ where we will visit the beautiful gardens and cellars of Billecart-Salmon. After our tour of Billecart we will return to our hotel. We will then have lunch with the Goutorbe family followed by a tour of their winery. Our family lunches with the Goutorbe's are irresistible as both the food and the champagne flows.

There will be a tasting of Blanc de Blancs champagnes in the evening followed by a buffet dinner at Castel Jeanson.

Both the lunch and dinner plus accompanying wines are included in the price of the tour.

Day 4 Wednesday 25 June 2014, Aÿ: Deutz.

We will have a leisurely start to the day as our first visit is at 10.00 am at Champagne Deutz. Deutz is located a mere 100 metre walk from our hotel.

Deutz make excellent champagne and they are a proud house with a long history. After the cellar tour we will receive a tasting of their champagnes in the stunning Deutz mansion. The afternoon will be free to visit Epernay.

There will be a tasting of cuvée champagnes in the evening at Castel Jeanson. The rest of the evening is free.

Day 5 Thursday 26 June 2014, Aÿ: Joseph Lorient-Pagel.

After breakfast we will take the bus along the Vallée de la Marne to the quaint village of Festigny. Here we will visit the Joseph Lorient-Pagel winery. Joseph and his son Jean-Philippe Lorient will take us on a tour of their vineyard and winery and we will learn about the significance of the Pinot Meunier grape in the Vallée de la Marne region.

After the tour we will enjoy a wonderful lunch with Jean-Philippe, Joseph and his wife Odile. The full range of Lorient wines will be matched with lunch including a Jeroboam of vintage Cuvée de Reserve.

Both the lunch and accompanying wines are included in the price of the tour.

We will have a Rosé champagne tasting in the evening at Castel Jeanson. The rest of the evening is free.

Day 6 Friday 27 June 2014, Reims: Godmé

After breakfast we will board the bus and drive to the village of Verzenay where we will visit organic producer, Champagne Godmé. The Godmés will explain their interest in organic viticulture, their location on the Montagne de Reims and the influence these factors have on their champagne.

If time allows we will visit Les Faux Forêt de Verzy on our way to Champagne Godmé. Here you will have the opportunity to see some highly unusual trees, only found in three locations in Europe.

From the Godmés we then travel on to Reims and check into the Hotel de la Paix, located in the very heart of Reims, this will be our Hotel for the next four nights.

After lunch we will meet at the Hotel and then take the bus to the Charles Heidsieck cellars. Charles Heidsieck do not conduct public tours and they have requested that no more than ten people plus the guide participate in the visit. For this reason we ask you to nominate your preference for either a visit to Charles Heidsieck or Krug when you fill in your booking form.

In the evening we will have a group dinner at Brasserie Boulingrin. Boulingrin is a local institution and it is located within walking distance of our hotel.

Both the dinner plus accompanying wines are included in the price of the tour.

Day 7 Saturday 28 June 2014, Reims.

This is a free day to relax and explore the city of Reims. There is a wonderful produce market located near the centre of Reims where you will see a stunning array of fresh produce as well as charcuterie and cheeses. You will also have the opportunity to visit a number of the tourist attractions as well as the many wine shops. This is also the traditional 'Sale' time in France and you will find some tremendous shopping bargains wherever you see the sign 'Soldes'. Discounts up to 75% are not unusual.

In the evening we will be dining at the fabulous Le Millénaire restaurant. Le Millénaire is a One Michelin star restaurant. Our dinner there on the 2013 tour was one of the high lights of the tour.

Day 8 Sunday 29 June, 2014: Ghent.

We will board the bus after an early breakfast and sit back and relax as we head off to the city of Ghent for the day. Ghent is a fabulous old city located in the south of Belgium. You will have the day to explore this beautiful old city as well as enjoy a change from champagne to Belgium beer over lunch if you so desire.

Day 9 Monday 30 June 2014, Reims: Krug and GH Mumm.

Monday is the last day of winery visits and we will certainly be finishing on a high.

In the morning ten members of the group will visit the prestigious house of Krug. Normally Krug do not conduct public tours and they have requested that no more than ten people plus the guide participate in the visit. For this reason we ask you to nominate your preference for either a visit to Charles Heidsieck or Krug when you fill in your booking form. I must also warn you that our visit to Krug will not be confirmed until January. However I am not anticipating any problems as this is normally the case.

After lunch we will conclude our winery visits with a tour of GH Mumm. One of the highlights of the Mumm visit is the opportunity to visit their champagne museum.

In the evening we will have a wonderful farewell dinner at Le Jardin Brasserie to round out our Grand Tour de Champagne.

Both the dinner plus accompanying wines are included in the price of the tour.

Day 10 Tuesday 1 July, 2014

The bus will return tour members to the Charles de Gaulle airport. For those tour members staying on in Europe the bus will also make a stop at Gare de Nord in Paris where you can catch a metro train or Taxi to a preferred destination in Paris or the Eurostar to London. Should you be continuing your journey from Reims then you will find the railway station and hire car dealerships located a short distance from our Hotel.

****If you are flying out of Charles de Gaulle or catching the Eurostar to London I strongly recommend that you book your departure time after 13.00 so as to leave enough time to travel from Reims to Paris and allowing for check in time.**

Tour Guide.

Ian Leamon is your tour guide. Ian is a winemaker and founding partner of Champagne Connection. His experience with champagne precedes the founding of Champagne Connection in 2002. Ian can still remember tasting his first champagne which was a bottle of Laurent Perrier NV, consumed in December 1978. This was like no other sparkling wine Ian had tasted before and so it wasn't long before he was embarking on a never ending journey to discover more and more about champagne. Ian has twice worked during vintage in Champagne; once in 1985 for Veuve Clicquot in the village of Bouzy and secondly in 2007 with the Lorient family at Champagne Joseph Lorient-Pagel in the village of Festigny. Altogether Ian has visited Champagne on eleven separate occasions over twenty eight years (ten times in the last thirteen years) and has built up an excellent understanding of the region and its people.

Tour Accommodation

We have selected centrally located, three and four star hotels. All hotels have clean and modern facilities and breakfast is provided each day at each hotel on the tour.

Tour Costs

The tour is a land only package and costs **\$5,400 per person twin share or \$6,200 for a single traveller.**



We understand that many tour members will be extending their time in Europe beyond the length of the Champagne tour. For example some tour members may wish to travel in Europe prior to the commencement of the Champagne tour in Paris or they may wish to continue their holiday after the Champagne tour concludes. Either way we feel that it will be easier for tour members to make their own flight arrangements with their preferred carrier.

Included in the tour price;

- Tour leadership.
- Accommodation in three and four star hotels including breakfast each day.

- At least three lunches including lunch at Veuve Clicquot and six dinners
- Three Champagne tastings in the evening at Castel Jeanson.
- Entrance and tasting fees at all wineries visited.
- All bus transport, Paris to Paris.
- Gratuities
- Day trip to Ghent.

Not included in the tour price.

- Airfares
- Passport and visa fees.
- Travel insurance.
- International airport and general travel taxes.
- Sightseeing and general expenses not specified in the itinerary.
- Lunches and dinners unless where specified.
- Laundry
- Items of a personal nature including drinks and snacks consumed from the mini bar in your hotel room.
- Additional travel arrangements.

General Information and booking conditions.

Champagne Connection Pty Ltd ABN 90190711630 is the tour operator.

****Deposits and Payments.** A deposit of **\$2,700** per person is required at the time of booking.

Full payment will be required by 30 March 2014.

****Cancellations.** Cancellations advised more than 60 days from the date of the tour commencement will incur a cancellation fee of \$500 per person. Cancellations advised less than 60 days prior to the date of commencement of the tour will result in the loss of all monies paid. **Travel insurance is strongly recommended to cover the cost of cancellation fees that could result from a death in the family, illness etc.**

In the event that you cancel and another person is able to take your place then all monies will be refunded. This may be possible up to 60 days prior to the commencement of the tour. Whilst it may be possible to find a replacement for the tour it should be noted that your airfare cannot be transferred to another name. A \$100 administrative fee will apply where a cancellation is offset with a replacement.

Please note that cancellation of the tour applies exclusively to the land component of your trip. Airfares come with their own conditions and cancellation/changes of airfares will be completely separate from the Champagne Connection tour. It should be remembered that the Champagne Connection tour commences in Paris. Conditions of airfares will be advised at the time of airfare purchase.

Refunds The tour is based on arrangements that do not allow for any refunds in respect of sightseeing, accommodation, meals or other services **not** utilized after the tour has commenced.

Travel Documents. All passengers will need to be in possession of a valid passport with more than six (6) months validity from return date. Passengers holding other than Australian passports should check visa requirements with their travel agent when they book their flights.

Changes to the Tour Itinerary. Champagne Connection reserves the right to make changes to the tour itinerary to fit in with operational requirements. Any changes to the itinerary will be replaced with similar arrangements with an equal or greater value.

How to Book.

Bookings can be made by completing both pages and signing the booking form and submitting it to Heike Duggin at Harvey World Travel Bendigo complete with a deposit of **\$2,700** per person. Payment by Visa or Master Card will attract a 2% fee. There are **no** fees for a personal cheque or EFT payment.

Bank details **BSB: 633000 ACC: 148168735 Account Name Champagne Connection**
REF: *clients surname*

Cheques can be posted to
Champagne Connection
PO Box 487
Bendigo Victoria.
Australia 3552

E. champagneconnection@gmail.com Ph 0419 89 66 22 Fax 03 54 41 48 41

Tour Numbers

The tour is strictly limited to a maximum of sixteen (16) guests. Bookings will be taken on a first come first served basis. The booking will not be secured until the deposit of \$2,700 per person has been paid. **Please note that a minimum of 10 guests is required for the tour to proceed.

Booking: Bookings are now open and will continue until all 16 places are filled.

Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out personal travel insurance at the time you book your tour. The cost of the tour does not cover you for travel insurance. For your protection we recommend that you purchase adequate comprehensive insurance that includes coverage for medical expenses, loss of luggage, land content as well as airfare charges that may occur due to cancellation, loss of deposit, volcanic activity or strikes.

****Caution**

Visits to most wineries will involve the climbing of stairs which will require tour members to be capable of such a task.

Booking Form

Champagne Connection's Tour de Champagne. 2014

To secure your place on the tour please complete this form and return it to Ian Leamon at

Champagne Connection

PO Box 487

Bendigo Victoria.

Australia 3552

E. champagneconnection@gmail.com Fax 03 54 41 48 41

	First Passenger	Second Passenger
Last Name (as printed on your passport)		
Given Names (as printed on your passport)		
Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms,etc.)		
Address		
Email		
Phone number		
Fax number		
Mobile number		
Date of Birth		
Accommodation Twin Share; Double or single beds.		
Single room.		
Physical limitations / medical conditions		
Please indicate your preference for a Charles Heidsieck or Krug visit		

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Please reserve _____ place(s) on the 2014 Champagne Connection Tour de Champagne
22 June to 1 July 2014.

Enclosed is a deposit of \$2,700 per person.

Please find enclosed a cheque for \$_____ being a deposit for _____ person(s).

*Cheques should be made payable to Champagne Connection.

Please debit my credit card for the amount of \$_____ being a deposit for _____ person(s).

Credit Cards Visa, Mastercard,

Card Number ----- Exp-----/-----

****I acknowledge that Visa and Mastercard payments attract a fee of 2%**

I will make a direct EFT payment to Champagne Connection,

Bank details **BSB: 633000 ACC: 148168735 REF: *clients surname***

I/We have noted the tour terms and conditions and agree to be bound by them.

*Signed _____ Date _____

*Signed _____ Date _____

*A signature must be provided for each tour member.