

Champagne Travel Checklist

Must-Visit Spots

- Dom Pérignon Cellars in Épernay - Walk through centuries-old chalk cellars and learn about the craftsmanship behind one of the world's most iconic Champagne houses, ending with an unforgettable tasting.
- Reims Cathedral - Marvel at this stunning Gothic masterpiece where kings were crowned, and explore the rich spiritual and architectural history of Champagne's most famous cathedral.
- Avenue de Champagne, Épernay - Stroll one of the most prestigious streets in France, lined with grand Champagne houses, historic mansions, and miles of cellars beneath your feet.
- Village of Hautvillers - Visit the birthplace of Champagne, home to Dom Pierre Pérignon, and admire the charming streets, wrought-iron signs, and breathtaking vineyard views.
- Montagne de Reims Natural Park - Cycle or drive through scenic forested hills and picturesque vineyard villages, stopping for tastings and views along the way.
- Family-run Champagne Houses - Discover small producers off the beaten path where winemakers pour their passion into every bottle and welcome you with warm, personal stories.
- L'Artbanne in Saint-Hilaire-le-Petit - Stay at a countryside estate with spa amenities, saltwater pool, and vineyard tranquility, perfect for unwinding between tastings.

Packing Tips

- Comfortable shoes - You'll be walking through vineyards and on cobblestone streets. Choose shoes that are chic but practical.
- Layered clothing - The weather can shift throughout the day, so pack stylish layers that work for both sunny afternoons and cool evenings.
- Smart casual outfits - Many Champagne houses have elegant atmospheres. Think polished, effortless chic for tastings and dinners.
- Reusable water bottle - Hydrate between sips! Staying hydrated is key during long tasting days.
- Notebook or tasting journal - Jot down your impressions from each house and bottle so you can remember your favorites later.
- Portable phone charger - You'll be taking a lot of photos. A pocket-sized charger keeps you connected all day long.

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Tasting Etiquette

- Avoid perfume or cologne - Fragrance can interfere with your ability to smell the Champagne properly.
- Hold your glass by the stem - This keeps your hands from warming the wine and shows respect for the pour.
- Sip, don't chug - Take your time to swirl, sniff, and sip. Enjoy each nuance.
- Ask questions - Your guide or host will likely be excited to share the story behind the bubbles.
- Consider buying a bottle - While not required, purchasing a bottle is a nice way to support the house if you enjoyed the tasting.

French Language Cheat Sheet

- Bonjour - Hello (use this every time you enter a shop or tasting room)
- Merci - Thank you
- S'il vous plaît - Please
- Où est la maison de Champagne ? - Where is the Champagne house?
- Je voudrais un verre de Champagne - I'd like a glass of Champagne
- Combien ça coûte ? - How much does it cost?