



October 18 2010

## **Grape Escapes offers cutting edge Champagne openings**

Champagne lovers can gain a cutting edge technique to opening a bottle with the opportunity of tuition in the ancient art of Sabrage, now being added to selected tours from specialist wine tour operator Grape Escapes.

Renowned as Napoleon's favoured way of opening a Champagne bottle, Sabrage is the art of taking out the cork with a well-aimed sweep of a sword. This swashbuckling tradition is now being added as an extra option to a number of Grape Escapes' established tours.

The £20 per person add-on provides expert tuition by a Commandeur of Sabrage – and the opportunity to drink the contents of the newly-opened bottle – as well as the chance to be inducted into the Confrérie du Sabre d'Or – the society of Sabreurs, which today keeps alive the tradition.

Sabrage is also being demonstrated by Grape Escapes when it takes part in The Wine Show, being staged at London's Olympia from November 12 to 14.

For those preferring to experience it in the home of Champagne, Sabrage tuition will be available during Grape Escapes' Christmas Market tour, based in the regional capital Reims from December 10 to 12, priced from £299 per person, based on two nights' twin share accommodation. This price includes return Dover to Calais ferry crossings for those wishing to drive and stock up on festive fizz; however alternative transport can be arranged.

Sabrage will also be available once a month as part of the company's established two-night Prestige Champagne tours, which include visits to three Champagne houses and a four-course gourmet lunch. Available dates to the end of the year are October 29 -31, November 12-14 and December 10-12.

And for those aiming to impress a partner, the Sabrage option will feature in next year's Valentine's tour (February 11 to 13), which also provides guests with a bottle of champagne on arrival in their hotel and a four-course dinner in a restaurant in the heart of Reims.

**ENDS**

### **About Grape Escapes**

Grape Escapes is a specialist in travel to wine regions of France and Spain offering a selection of gourmet wine-tasting weekends in Champagne, Burgundy, Bordeaux, the Loire and the Rhone and Spain's Ribera del Duero. Catering for all food and wine lovers from the serious connoisseur to enthusiastic beginner, Grape Escapes' small group tours average just 12 guests and blend tastings at prestigious bodegas, 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](http://www.grapeescapes.net)

### **For further media information contact:**

The Saltmarsh Partnership

Tel: 0207 928 1600

Jenny Groutage: [jenny@saltmarshpr.co.uk](mailto:jenny@saltmarshpr.co.uk)

Dan Allen: [dan@saltmarshpr.co.uk](mailto:dan@saltmarshpr.co.uk)