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Grape Escapes offers a range of exciting tours to Champagne as bubbly sales at home soar

As new figures reveal a surge in Champagne sales in Britain following a two-year slump, specialist Champagne tour operator, Grape Escapes is matching the demand with flexible Champagne tasting holidays and tours at a range of budgets in the Champagne-Ardenne region.

Figures released by the Champagne Bureau reveal that Champagne sales have rocketed in the past year with Brits drinking five million more bottles of fizz in 2010 than in 2009. Britain is also now the second biggest drinker of Champagne in the world behind France. To enjoy bubbly past the supermarket bottle, Grape Escapes invites all Champagne lovers to learn about and drink the popular beverage first hand in Champagne's houses, vineyards and cellars.

On selected weekends throughout the year (30 April – 2 May and 27 – 29 August being the next dates), Grape Escapes offers exclusive **Meet the Maker Weekends** where guests visit a Champagne House to learn from the owner about the fascinating Champagne making process. The annual **Harvest Weekend** (mid-September) allows guests to join in the 'vendange' process and help the grape pickers in the vineyards. Prices for both tours start at £299 per person.

Grape Escapes' two night **Champagne Château Break** at the 17th century Château d'Etoges allows guests to stay where royalty such as King Louis XIV have, whilst enjoying a glass or two of bubbly. Guests will visit Champagne Houses and vineyards and can then return to the fairytale château for a row in the private moat and a walk in its 18 acres of parkland. Prices start at £376 per person.

Those with tight budgets can visit Champagne affordably with Grape Escapes' **Budget Champagne Tour**. With prices starting at just £220 per person the two night stay includes a tour in the Montagne de Reims, a visit to one of the large, prestigious Champagne Houses with an exploration of its extensive cellars and a three course meal in Reims' main square.

For those who enjoy something more exclusive, Grape Escapes offers a little more luxury with the **Standard Plus Champagne Tour**. On top of everything in the Budget Tour, the three night stay includes a train ride to the historic city of Epernay for a stroll down the famous Avenue de Champagne and a VIP visit to Moët and Chandon. Prices start at £366 per person.

All tour prices include return Dover to Calais ferry crossings, accommodation and the tours.

For more details or to book visit www.grapeescapes.net or call 08456 430 860.

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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 12 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.

Media Information

For more details, please visit: www.grapeescapes.net or call 08456 430 860

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