



Grape Escapes unveils new 'Rhône by Rail' wine tour

London, 11 July 2011: Wine tour operator, Grape Escapes is pleased to announce the launch of its brand new six day 'Rhône by Rail' tour, which visits a selection of prestigious wineries and domains in the Rhône Valley, travelling between each by train. The tour costs £775 per person and is available throughout the year, mid week and at weekends.

Guests travel to the Rhône Valley by train or a flight to Lyon followed by a train to Vienne where the first and second nights are spent. The northern Rhône is explored first with a train ride through the vineyards to the world famous Chapoutier domain. The group has the opportunity to taste its wines and climb the vineyard covered Hermitage Hill to the iconic "La Chapelle". Guests are also taken to the oldest active Maison in the valley for tastings and an exploration of its recently built cellars.

The group continues into the Southern Rhône with a train ride to Avignon. The first stop is to the award winning Châteauneuf-du-Pape appellation visiting the vineyards and a wine maker's curverie. Tastings of the wines are followed by a three course lunch in the local village.

Wine enthusiasts are then led to the well renowned wine producing villages of Vacqueryas and Gigonas which are overlooked by the spectacular, jagged Dentelles mountains. The visit will start in the vineyards and then pass though the winery and caveau, followed by tastings of the appellation's powerful red wines.

As well as the winery and vineyard visits, guests have free time to explore the historical sights of Avignon such as the Papal Palace and Pont D'Avignon. There is also the chance to stock up on local goodies including quenelles, coq au vin and Lyon sausage at the popular market.

The price of £775 per person is based on two people sharing and includes an English speaking guide, all rail and taxi transfers throughout the region, five nights bed and breakfast and all tours, visits and tastings but excludes travel from the UK. The nights are split between stays in Vienne, Tournon-sur-Rhône and Avignon in a mixture of two star to four star hotels. Upgrades are available.

Ends

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

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