



Grape Escapes announces tour dates for earliest Champagne Harvest in four years

London, 20 June 2011: Champagne lovers will jump at the chance to join Grape Escapes on its one off VIP and Deluxe Harvest Weekend for the earliest harvest in four years. The three night escorted tour takes place over the August Bank Holiday from 26-29 August and offers an intimate visit to Champagne's vineyards to join in the annual vendange (harvest) and visit Houses which are generally unavailable to the public. The weekend includes two full days of tours with prices starting at £575 per person.

Guests spend a day learning the Champagne making process in a Grand Cru Champagne House. This starts with harvesting grapes in the vineyard followed by seeing the press in action and trying some fresh Chardonnay juice. The group then continues onto a traditional harvesters lunch, sampling the full range of Champagnes from the estate. The final step of the maturation process is seen with a visit to one of the prestigious Houses in Reims or Epernay.

Other excitements include a visit to Mœt and Chandon outside its opening hours for a private tour of the cellars, which are seldom seen by the public. There is also a walk through Veuve Clicquot's cellars, which date back over 1600 years and a visit to another prestigious Champagne House. Tours on both days of the weekend are accompanied by multiple tastings and guests are treated to one four course gourmet lunch at a highly regarded restaurant.

During the visits, Grape Escapes clients are accompanied by a local English speaking tour guide and transported in a luxury mini coach. Typical group sizes are between ten and 15 guests.

Prices per person range from £575- £1,342 depending on accommodation, which varies from a two star hotel to a suite in the spectacular Château Les Crayères. The price includes return Dover to Calais ferry crossings for a car and two passengers, three nights bed and breakfast, a full day luxury tour to three Champagne Houses, a full day Harvest Tour and harvester's lunch and the gourmet meal.

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

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

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