

# BURGUNDY & ALSACE 6 NIGHTS



**This trip brings us to Burgundy and Alasace. You will be stunned by the beauty of the colourful landscapes. The Route des Grands Crus is the best way to discover the “Climats”, terroirs of Burgundy, inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage. We drive through the Route des Grands Crus (Wine Route) pass through the most prestigious part of Burgundy's vineyards, between Dijon and Beaune. We will discover picturesque wine villages, wineries, and beautiful countryside. You will be filled with wonder by Colmar, also called the little Venice, and undoubtedly the most enchanting city of the Alsace region.with a long glorious history, Colmar also happens to be the birthplace , the man who sculpted the Statue of Liberty . The city of Strasbourg is traversed by the Ill River , which divides and surrounds the Grand which was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1988. It offers a unique blend of French and German art, architecture and culture.**

### **Day 1. The hometown - Dijon**

Arrival after lunch to the medieval city of Dijon, capital of Burgundy and world-famous for its mustard and its wine. We will have a guided visit of the city hall lounges: To host the meetings of the Burgundy Statesmen, the 'State Room' building was started in the 17th century, followed by the rehabilitation of the medieval Palace, which lasted until 1786. During the visit, you will discover the Palace halls which are housing today the City Hall; such as the Gabriel Staircase, the Apollo Room, the State Room, the Blue Room...Then we head to Chanceaux to visit a snail farm. You will discover the different facets of the snail, its history, its virtues, its morphology, then the different stages of production, from the breeding, through to the harvest, to the processing. You will have an in-depth glimpse into the life of the breeders of these atypical animals and their know-how! The visit will end with a snail tasting. Check in your hotel in the centre of Dijon or Beaune. Dinner in a nice restaurant with your colleagues to know each other.

### **Day 2. Dijon - Beaune**

After breakfast, Then drive through the road of great vintages, proudly called the Champs-Élysées of Bourgogne, with Paul Mathiot, our passionate wine expert. We will pass by the famous villages of Gevrey Chambertin, Vosne-Romanée, Nuit Saint Georges...During this wine discovery program, you will be taught the history of Burgundy wine region, the grape varieties unique to Burgundy region, the viticulture and vinification (winemaking) practices, and the uniqueness of individual French wine region and the art of tasting wine. Then, visit the Château du Clos Vougeot, a Historic Cistercian winery built in the 12th and 16th Centuries by monks, set in the heart of Burgundy's Grand Cru Vineyards. You can discover the Château with the help of the new touch-screen displays placed at key locations around the site that provide information about the Château and its history. The visit ends with a twenty-minute film that retraces the history of the Château and the Confrère des Chevaliers du Tastevin. Have lunch near Château de Pommard (Lunch box specially prepared for you) inside the vineyards and then the tasting Experience guides you through the three centuries of Château de Pommard which survived to the French Revolution and two World Wars. You will learn how to professionally taste wine with a Wine and Spirit Education Trust (WSET) trained professional wine advisor.

**Optional extra:** For the romantic couples, you may have a French romanticism & art of "hand kiss" workshop (1 hour). You will find out the origins of French romanticism and the proper way of making a hand kiss to a lady. Dinner in a restaurant to enjoy regional specialties such as Les escargots de Bourgogne, La truffe de Bourgogne, le jambon persillé, le bœuf bourguignon, les œufs en meurette...

### **Day 3. Beaune - Nuit Saint Georges**

After breakfast, we will have a guided visit of the "Hospices de Beaune" with a guide interpreter. Its glazed tile roofs of sparkling colours are the symbol of Burgundy and its Gothic architecture, an amazing throwback to the golden age of the Dukes. The Hospices created in the 15th century was a hospital for the poor. Lunch on your own. We now head to Fallot mustard factory. You will be able to discover for yourself all the steps involved in transforming the wild mustard seed: from the storage silo right up to packaging the end product. while "La Moutarderie Fallot" has been able to preserve its traditional and ancestral manufacturing methods, which involve grinding the seeds with a millstone, it is with pride that we now invite you to come and discover totally new experiences and sensations. After the guided visit you will enjoy a mustard tasting at the mustard bar. We will proceed to Cassissium factory where you will discover genuine art of liqueur-making. During the guided tour, you will see through the different steps of production that all the measures are taken in order to extract, capture and bring out the best of aromas and flavors of the fruits (8 euros)..

### **Day 4. Beaune - Besançon - Colmar**

After breakfast, set off for Besançon: A historically fascinating city, Besançon is on the UNESCO World Heritage List because of its Vauban fortifications. Visit the citadel of Besançon, one of the most beautiful citadels in France: The fortress is one of Vauban's masterpieces, and it is said that its construction was so costly that Louis XIV enquired as to whether the walls had been made out of gold.

Then, we will visit the birthplace of Victor Hugo: The house where Victor Hugo was born is on the same square where Charles Nodier and the Lumière brothers were born and where Gustave Courbet lived. After lunch, we will proceed to Colmar city, the most Alsatian city of Alsace! Nestled among vineyards, its traditional houses, canals, floral displays, amazing cuisine, famous wines and charming accommodation make Colmar an outstanding microcosm of Alsace. Let's discover otherwise Colmar and its surroundings, with a local guide to admire the Alsatian heritage. In the evening, check in the hotel. Dinner in a nice restaurant to enjoy local specialties such as: foie gras, baeckaoffe, the sauerkraut, the metabolite du Rhin fish dish, and Kougelhkopf, and, of course, Munster cheese.

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## **Day 5. Excursion in the Vineyard**

You will take part in the grape harvest in Alsace. The harvest is for all those who are not afraid of boots and rain, who love the countryside and are patient in the effort! Indeed, even if the actions are simple, the grape is picked by hand and requires perseverance. All these efforts are largely rewarded by the friendly atmosphere of the teams of the harvest and the closeness to nature that renews whoever rubs!

You will know the joy of the harvest by becoming a "Grape-picker for a day" during which you can spend half a day with a winemaker. This is an absolutely special time during which you can discover the world of wine, the charm of hand-picking in Alsace and even qualify for a cellar visit and a wine tasting. The evening is free for your own trekking in Colmar.

## **Day 6. Alsatian wine route – Colmar – Riquevihr - Kaysersberg**

After breakfast, we will discover The Alsatian wine route. At first sight, the Alsatian Wine Route offers a true picture-postcard image; fresh vines climbing to the forests of the Vosges, ruins of castles dating back to the Middle Ages, villages with old ramparts that only protect the happiness of the flowered lanes, hospitable winstubs, lively cellars. But it also pictures ancient abodes, Romanesque churches or fountains generously left by the Renaissance. You will meet wine-growers, taste their wines, wander in the streets of the medieval city, then, far from the multitude, go through the wine-growing paths and admire, in perched vineyards, the panorama that will belong to you. Have lunch on your own. Then, you will visit the Munster cheese house: Discover a terroir and a cheese. You will have a demonstration of the making of Munster, and tasting ... We now go to Riquevihr village and stop by Gustave Jung & fils, a little wine bar, always full of people and serving delicious wine at a great price. We head to Kaysersberg village where you can wander around this lovely town and marvel at the imperial castle ruins that dominate the town. We now go back to your hotel and have dinner.

## **Day 7 Strasbourg – Hometown**

On the way we stop for a few hours in Strasbourg, the capital of Alsace, and enjoy a walking tour in the historic and charming district named "Petite France"; then, we will discover the gothic style Notre Dame cathedral, the second most visited in France, and the European Parliament. During a canal boat trip you can see the mediaeval city on the Rhine that has survived through the ages to become anchored in the contemporary era.

This is the end of your journey. You will go back to your hometown. **HAVE A SAFE TRIP BACK HOME**