

Champagne

POP 1.3 MILLION

Includes ➔

Reims	296
Champagne Routes of the Marne	301
Épernay	306
Troyes	309
Colombey-les- Deux-Églises	314
Essoyes	315

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Anna-S – La Table Amoureuse (p300)
- ➔ Racine (p300)
- ➔ La Grillade Gourmande (p308)
- ➔ Claire et Hugo (p312)
- ➔ Le Valentino (p312)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Les Telliers (p299)
- ➔ Château Les Crayères (p299)
- ➔ Le Relais St-Jean (p311)
- ➔ La Villa Eugène (p307)
- ➔ Hostellerie La Montagne (p314)
- ➔ Les Avisés (p305)

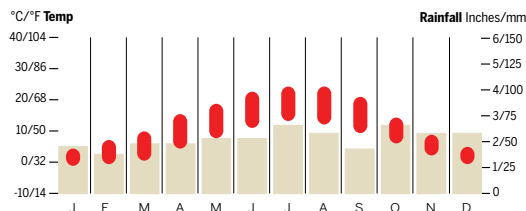
Why Go?

Champagne arouses the senses: the eyes feast on vines parading up hillsides and vertical processions of tiny, sparkling bubbles; the nose breathes in damp soil and the heavenly bouquet of fermentation; the ears rejoice at the clink of glasses and the barely audible fizz; and the palate tingles with every sip. The imagination and the intellect are engaged as Champagne cellar visits reveal the magical processes – governed by the strictest of rules – that transform the world's most pampered pinot noir, pinot meunier and chardonnay grapes into this UNESCO World Heritage-listed region's most fabled wines.

Despite the prestige of their vines, the people of Champagne offer a warm, surprisingly easy-going welcome, both in the stylish cities and along the Champagne Routes, which wind their way through villages to family-run cellars and vineyards.

When to Go

Reims



Jun Reims pays homage to Joan of Arc with medieval re-enactments at the Fêtes Johanniques.

Aug Cellars open for free tastings during the Côte des Bar's Route du Champagne en Fête.

Sep Golden autumn days and cork-popping harvest celebrations.



Champagne Highlights

- 1 Côte des Blancs Champagne Route** (p304) Ramble through hillside vineyards and comely villages.
- 2 Épernay** (p306) Toast the end of a cellar tour with a glass of fizz.
- 3 Cathédrale Notre Dame** (p296) Climb the tower of Reims' Gothic wonder.

- 4 16th-Century Troyes** (p309) Slip back to the Middle Ages in half-timbered streets.
- 5 Atelier Renoir** (p315) Tread in Renoir's impressionistic footsteps in pretty-as-a-painting Essoyes.
- 6 Musée de la Vigne et du Vin** (p305) Marvel at

Champagne-making techniques in Le Mesnil-sur-Oger.

- 7 Avenue de Champagne** (p306) Revel in the mansions and Champagne houses on Épernay's grandest avenue.
- 8 Mémorial Charles de Gaulle** (p314) Immerse yourself in mid-20th-century France.