

France Destination Specialist Programme

Module 3 - Vineyards & Châteaux

A RENDEZVOUS WITH WINE ON AIR FRANCE

Each year Air France serves 800,000 bottles of wine in Business and 750,000 bottles of Champagne in Economy Class. Every two months, Air France renews its offer of Wines and Champagnes available on board its flights to enable customers to discover the wealth of French wine varieties. In all its travel cabins, Paolo Basso, voted world's best sommelier in 2013, in cooperation with Thierry Desseauve and Michel Bettane, authors of the *bettane&desseauve* French wine guide sign the Air France Wine and Champagne list.

Accolades and Awards

Air France won "The Best Airline Wine list" in the World award in September 2018, one of the most prestigious distinctions in this area awarded by the British magazine *The World of Fine Wine*.

CHAMPAGNE

Located at less than an hour by train from Paris, [Champagne](#) is the only region in the world that produces champagne. Its hillsides, houses and cellars have been bestowed with the UNESCO World Heritage Classification. Its verdant landscapes and topography are ideal for outdoor sports such as golfing, trekking, hiking, cycling etc.

Cities of Champagne

Reims

Restored to its glory after WWII, Reims is also known as the Coronation City as 33 French Kings were crowned in its Notre Dame Cathedral. Larger than the Notre Dame of Paris, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is adorned with 2,303 statues, including the famous symbol of the city - the Smiling Angel. Admire its famous stained-glass windows, some done by Marc Chagall, that bathe the cathedral in a unique light.



Segway, Champagne



Reims - Crayères Maison Ruinart

The famous Tau Palace located next to the Cathedral is also worth a visit as it was the residence of the Kings during their coronation. Sculptures, tapestries, costumes and pieces of gold and silver form part of its extraordinary treasures.

Reims is also home to prestigious champagne cellars that include G.H. Mumm, Pommery, Ruinart, Taittinger, Veuve Clicquot to name a few. A guided tour takes you to their cellars where you can learn more about the secrets of champagne making. The visit ends with a tasting of the flagship vintage of the House.



Vineyard Visits

The Routes of Champagne trail provides you with 5 exciting circuits that take you on a discovery of the drink through vineyards, authentic champagne villages and encounters with passionate wine-growers.

Take to the skies on a hot air balloon ride over Reims and its surroundings. You'll be treated to spectacular views of the iconic vineyards and hillsides of Champagne as you fly over the Champagne Tourist Route or the Montagne de Reims Regional Nature Park.



Epernay

Epernay

Nestled in the heart of vineyards and at 90 minutes from Reims, Epernay is renowned internationally as the Capital of Champagne. On its famous Avenue of Champagne, discover global brands such as Moët & Chandon, Perrier Jouët, Mercier, De Castellane and local brands such as Michel Gonet and others. Take a ride on the Avenue's latest attraction; a tethered balloon that offers panoramic vistas of the city and its vineyards.



Vineyards

Vineyard Visits

The town of Epernay invites you to discover its vineyards differently. Choose from funky tuk-tuk rides to vintage 2CV Citroens. Hop aboard a bus that has you attend a chocolate workshop and wine tasting all in the heart of verdant vineyards.

Famous Champagne Bars

Nestled in the heart of the regional park of the Montagne de Reims, enjoy a unique champagne tasting experience at the Perching Bar – a treetop bar that offers scenic vistas of surrounding landscapes.

For a classic experience, head to the C Comme Champagne tasting bar in Epernay or the trendy Au 36 located in Hautvillers - the place where Champagne was discovered by monk Dom Pérignon

Gastronomy

Reims' famous ham is a must-try specialty. Enjoy it with salad or simply in small cubes as an *apéritif* as the locals do.

Champagne has a couple of very good cheeses that are worth trying. Choose from the crumbly Chaource that pairs well with champagne or the Langres that goes well with red wine.

Savour delectable truffles from the Marne department. They are best used in their raw state to preserve their hazelnut flavor.

Dip Reims's famous pink biscuits into your flute of bubbly for a true mélange of flavours.



Pink Biscuits of Reims

© Fossier



Ifferswiller

ALSACE

Alsace, rich in heritage, forms an integral part of modern Europe. It is home to numerous towns that preserve its character and unique *art de vivre* making it one of France's most visited destinations.



Petite France

Cities in Alsace

Strasbourg

Fly to Strasbourg with daily Air France flights from Paris. Begin your discovery of this European capital with a visit to its Notre Dame Cathedral which is a masterpiece of Gothic architecture. Its interiors house the famous Astronomical Clock and the stained-glass windows dating from the 12th and 14th centuries form a particularly enchanting sight.

The Quartier des Tanneurs also known as "La Petite France" is renowned for its winding maze of canals and narrow old streets lined by perfectly maintained half-timbered houses. One of the

must-see attractions in this quarter is the Rue du Bain-aux-Plantes, where the emblematic Maison des Tanneurs (now an authentic Alsatian restaurant) is located

If you happen to visit Strasbourg during Christmas, revel in Christmas festivities at its Christmas Market which is the oldest in Europe.



Colmar

Colmar

Easily accessible by train from Strasbourg, picturesque Colmar is famous for its half-timbered houses. Discover its charming Petite Venise district interspersed by canals and best visited in a glass-bottomed boat.

On your Colmar agenda include a visit to the Unterlinden Museum that houses the renowned Retable d'Issenheim (the Issenheim Altarpiece).

Museum enthusiasts will also enjoy the charming Toy Museum that houses a collection of toys from the 19th century to date.

What to Drink in Alsace

Alsace Wines are fine white wines with intense and fresh aromas. Its famous wines include: the Sylvaner, Pinot Blanc, Riesling, Muscat, Pinot Gris, Gewurztraminer and Pinot Noir.

Vineyard Visits

Discover the famous Alsace Wine Route that stretches for over 170 kms and links the cities of Colmar and Strasbourg. This wine route is home to emblematic sites of Alsace such as the Haut Koenigsbourg castle, the Hohlandsbourg castle, Museum of Vineyard and Wine, Ecomuseum and many more. On your journey you will come across picturesque towns and villages with a distinct architecture, several wine growing cellars and enjoy an immersive experience of the Alsatian way of life.

Gastronomy

Home to delectable gourmet specialties, do not miss these appetizing treats from the region:



Alsace Wine Route

© Tristan Vuano

The *tarte flambée* (bacon or onion tart), the *baeckeoffe* (a traditional casserole), the *Choucroute* (sausages) and dishes made from the famous Munster cheese. Enjoy authentic Alsatian cuisine at traditional *winstubs*, particularly those awarded with Alsace stars.

Those with a sweet tooth will enjoy the *kouglof*, a yeast-based cake baked in a distinctive circular mould. If you happen to visit Alsace during Christmas, try its delectable *pain d'epices* (gingerbread).

Alsace is also famous for its production of beer with breweries located in and around Strasbourg. Some famous names include Kronenburg, Karlsbrau and Heineken International.



BURGUNDY

Located in central-eastern France, [Burgundy](#) delights with its great outdoors, UNESCO World Heritage sites, exceptional food and the oldest wine trail in France. Burgundy's vineyards have been granted UNESCO World Heritage status in recognition of the region's history of viticulture and the remarkable diversity of its winegrowing *terroir* (land). Burgundy is accessible by train or even by car from Paris. Air France offers direct flights to Paris from three gateways in India: New Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru.

Burgundy Through Its Cities

Dijon

A 90-minute train ride from Paris brings you to Dijon – the former capital of the Dukes of Burgundy. Its city-centre is pedestrian friendly and is lined with beautiful timbered buildings, Romanesque and Gothic churches and beautiful mansions.

Follow the Owl's Trail that takes you on a 22-stage trail allowing you to discover the key areas of this very beautiful city.



Philippe le Bon Tower

© Rozenn Krebel



Fine Arts Museum

Located in the heart of the city, the Palace of the Dukes remains the most emblematic monument of Dijon. In the center, it houses the town hall topped by the tower Philip le Bon that provides a panoramic view over the Golden City.

The Fine Arts Museum occupies the east wing of the Palace since 1799. Completely renovated, it features a collection of 1,500 works of art in 50 rooms and is among the richest French museums.

Beaune

Take a trip back in time in Beaune which preserves some excellent historic monuments. The Hotel-Dieu, one of the most prestigious historical monuments in France, is a medieval masterpiece with a fanciful tiled roof and much of the old city-wall is intact.

A walk through the winding streets of the city center is a great way to spend the day while the evening offers all sorts of culinary temptations in this renowned hotspot of gastronomy and viticulture.



Cour jour Hospices

© Beaune Tourisme - F. Vauban

At 30 minutes from Beaune is located the Château du Clos Vougeot which welcomes history, architecture and wine buffs. This historic monument, located in the vineyards, is the headquarters of the Confrérie des Chevaliers du Tastevin (Brotherhood of the Knights of the Tastevin).

Know your Burgundy Wine

The most famous wine produced here are dry red wines made from the Pinot Noir grape and white made from Chardonnay grapes.



Chablis Vineyards

The region offers a selection of 5 wine routes that can be discovered by bike, boat and even by foot. The most well-known ones include:

The Côte de Nuits, nicknamed "The Champs Elysees of Burgundy," which is home to renowned appellations and produces the best red wine in the world.

The Côte de Beaune follows on from the Côte de Nuits and is home to the Chardonnay grape and also some of the best dry white wines of the world.

The Route of the Grands Vins de Bourgogne combines villages with nature, vineyards with wooded countryside, Romanesque churches and castles.

© Alain Doire Bourgogne Tourisme



Discover Burgundy Differently

Burgundy boasts nearly 1000km of signposted and safe cycling trails, that usually run alongside canals along the towpaths, but also travel down former railway lines or across small roads and pathways through the vineyards.

Burgundy offers the very best in river tourism, having the largest network of inland waterways in France. Sail along the renowned Canal de Bourgogne or take a trip on the Canal du Nivernais

where you can admire the ingenious series of locks known as the "Echelle de Sardy."

Burgundy on A Plate

Include a meal in a gourmet or a Michelin starred restaurant in Burgundy.

Relish authentic specialties that include the Beef Bourguignon (beef stew), poultry from Bresse and the famous French coq au vin (chicken braised in wine).



Dijon Mustard

There is also Burgundy's famous mustard, gingerbread and the famous crème de cassis liqueur and the Kir (the traditional *apéritif*) which deserve a mention and a taste!



Bordeaux

BORDEAUX

Located at an hour's distance from Paris on Air France, [Bordeaux](#) is well-known as the capital of French wine. Its distinct and

exceptional 18th century architecture has earned the city the UNESCO World Heritage classification. Well renowned for its gastronomy, culture and shopping, Bordeaux is home to some of the world's most famous vineyards.

Must See in Bordeaux

Miroir d'Eau and Place de la Bourse: The iconic Place de la Bourse has become the symbol of the city and is home to several buildings. The Miroir d'Eau or the Water Mirror across the Place de la Bourse is the most photographed site in Bordeaux and is a hit with children thanks to its spectacular pool that alternates mirroring and artificial misting of water on a gigantic slab of granite.

Left Bank Quays: They are reputed to be one of the best waterfronts of the world with 18th century facades and historic buildings lining the river. The lawns, parks and gardens are ideal for walks and strolls and even some shopping.



Cité du Vin

© Ananka

The Opera House: One of the most beautiful 18th century concert halls in the world, this emblem of Bordeaux has delighted visitors and been the pride and joy of Bordeaux for over three centuries.

Cité du Vin: This wine shrine celebrates wine in its diversity through a playful multimedia journey, which does not lack spectacular or sensorial attractions.

Rue St Catherine and Chartrons: Enjoy a walk along the Rue St Catherine, the longest shopping street in Europe. Shop for vintages and antiques at the Quartier des Chartrons which is also home to several bars and promises a good night out in town.



© Deepix

Famous Bordeaux Wines

While Bordeaux produces both red and white wine, it is most renowned for its red wine. Its famous red wines originate from the vineyards of Saint Emilion, Médoc, Margaux and Yquem. Some famous wines include Pétrus, Mouton Rothschild, Cheval Blanc, Pomerol to name a few. Try its chilled sweet white wine Sauternes which is essentially a dessert wine.

On the Bordeaux Wine Route

St Emilion: One of the most legendary vineyards of Bordeaux, St Emilion is famous for its fine, elegant wines, as well as its medieval village, UNESCO World Heritage vineyards and the largest monolithic church in Europe, carved out of solid rock.

Discover: The St Emilion vineyards on a Harley Davidson! Prolong the vineyard experience with an overnight at a B&B such as Château Prieuré-Marquet or Château Soutard.

Médoc: Otherwise known as the "Route des Châteaux", this 80 km

trail through the Médoc vineyards, offers views of the varied architecture of Bordeaux's best-known wine estates.

Discover: In the heart of the Pauillac vineyards, the restored hamlet of Bages is a delightful place for a stop which offers you a chic bistro, a bakery-gourmet food shop, and several boutiques.



St Emilion Aquitaine

Graves and Sauternes: To the south on the left bank of the Garonne River lie the origins of the Bordeaux vineyards. These appellations produce wine in three colours: red, white, and gold.

Discover: In Château Sigalas-Rabaud, taste wine directly from the barrels just as the pros do!

Gastronomy

In Bordeaux, must try dishes include: cèpes or mushrooms, oysters, Blaye, foie gras, duck confit, oysters and shellfish.

Those with a sweet tooth will enjoy canelés – caramelized brioche styled pastries and Noisettines du Medoc – roasted hazelnuts rolled in sugar.



© Alain Benoit - Orangerie Jardin Public

THE LOIRE VALLEY

Once the powerhouse of French royalty and now home to 22 châteaux, the resplendent [Loire Valley](#) invites you for a royal rendezvous. The Loire is also the largest area in France ever to be included on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Discovering the Loire

An Escapade in Tours: Easily accessible from Paris, Tours is set in the heart of the Loire valley and is regarded as City of Art and History.

In Tours, visit: Its most famous square, Place Plumereau, surrounded by typical half-timbered houses and cafes that attract locals, students and tourists alike.

The renovated Musée du Compagnonnage that houses a unique collection of masterpieces from the craftsmen guild.

The Saint-Gatien Cathedral renowned for its magnificent stained-glass windows.



Château de Chambord



Château de Chenonceau

© Atout France - Maurice Subervie

Must Visit Châteaux of the Loire

Château de Chambord

Nestled in the heart of Europe's largest park, the Château de Chambord is twinned with Udaipur's City Palace. Discover its double helix staircase, its panoramic views from the rooftops and its well-furnished rooms. Rent a Histopad to add a virtual reality element to your discovery of this UNESCO classified monument.

Château de Cheverny

This château, which became the model for Marlinspike Hall in Hergé's Adventures of Tintin will surprise you with the richness and diversity of its furniture and the authentic charm and refined decoration of its rooms.

Château de Chenonceau

Most visited after the Château de Versailles, this jewel of the Renaissance period shares a very special association with women who have played an important role in its history. Explore its richly furnished rooms, Flemish tapestries and a vast gallery overlooking the Cher river.

Château de Azay-le-Rideau

Built in the sixteenth century on an island in the middle of the river Indre, this château is one of the best examples of Renaissance architecture. The furnished apartments are decorated with a marvelous collection of Flemish and French tapestries from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Panoramic Discoveries of Château

Enjoy a hot-air balloon ride over the Château of Chenonceau, Blois, Château of Chaumont, the Château of Azey-le-Rideau and Villandry to name a few. Balloon rides in the Loire valley are possible daily in the morning and evening (weather permitting) from April to October.

Discovering the Loire aboard a bicycle

La Loire à Vélo (The Loire by Bike) cycle trail is one of the most attractive ways to discover the treasures of the Loire Valley. From one château to the next, follow the course of the Loire as you pedal along perfectly signposted and well-surfaced paths and roads suitable for all.



Wine Guide to the Loire Valley

The Loire Valley is the third largest French winegrowing region and is famous for still, sparkling, dessert and rosé wines.

Vineyards of The Loire

Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé

Admire the vineyards of Pouilly - Fumé, Menetou - Salon, Quincy, Reully and the steep landscape of Sancerre. The best wines in Sancerre are made from Sauvignon Blanc grapes and pair well with local goat cheese.

Touraine

Located close to the castles of Chenonceau and Cheverny, pay a visit to wineries and appellations of Chinon, Cheverny or Vouvray that produce white, red, rosé or sparkling wines.

Chinon

The wines around Chinon are typical of many Loire vineyards – rich reds based on Cabernet Franc grapes, and fragrant white wines based on the Chenin Blanc. Enjoy a wine tasting on the Vienne River on a “gabarre”, a typical wine boat, with a well-deserved picnic.

Gastronomy

Among the numerous specialties, taste the andouillettes [sausage] from Jargeau, freshwater fish from the Loire and green lentils from Berry. Fans of cheese will enjoy the local goat cheese, “Crottin de Chavignol”. Famous desserts include the Tarte Tatin – a caramelized apple tart and the Gâteau Pithiviers – almond cream in a buttered puff pastry.



In order to become a certified France Destination Specialist, you must complete all four modules. To get started, **REGISTER HERE** and download the study material to get acquainted with France.

If you have already registered yourself and would like to test your knowledge on France as elaborated in this study material, please **LOGIN** your details here to take test.

To successfully complete the test, please note below:

- You must answer all the questions in each module.
 - There is only one correct answer per question.
 - Click the submit button to move on to the next module.
 - You must qualify for each Module in chronological order with min. 60% (Module-1 >> Module-2 >> Module-3 >> Module-4) before you can proceed to the next module.
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