

A DAY IN CHAMPAGNE

THE CHAMPAGNE REGION IS THE CLOSEST WINEGROWING AREA OF FRANCE TO PARIS. AFTER JUST ONE HOUR ON THE A4 HIGHWAY ONE STARTS TO NOTICE FIELDS OF VINES CHANGE THE LANDSCAPE, VINES WHICH ARE THE ENVY OF THE WORLD. BUT TO LIMIT THIS REGION TO CHAMPAGNE ALONE WOULD BE TO NEGLECT ALL THE OTHER MARVELS AND CURIOSITIES IT HAS TO OFFER. SUCH AS THE NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL OF REIMS, THE SAINT RÉMI BASILICA OR NUMEROUS MEMORIALS TO WORLD WAR I....



HAUVILLERS, A MAGNIFICENT VILLAGE PERCHED HIGH ON SLOPES AND SURROUNDED BY SOME OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS VINEYARDS IN CHAMPAGNE. THIS IS WHERE THE ABBOT DOM PERIGNON, IN THE 17TH CENTURY, IMPROVED THE CREATION AND PRODUCTION METHODS OF CHAMPAGNE BUT ALSO BECAME THE FIRST TO USE BOTTLES WITH THICKER GLASS AND THE USE OF CORK FOR THE BOTTLENECK, AS WELL AS STORING THE BOTTLES IN CELLARS DUG OUT OF THE CHALK GROUND WHICH WOULD INSURE AN AGING OF CHAMPAGNE AT A STABLE TEMPERATURE.

ARRIVING IN EPERNAY, SECOND LARGEST CITY AFTER REIMS IN THE REGION, YOUR ODYSSEE-PRESTIGE DRIVER-GUIDE CAN PROPOSE A CHAMPAGNE-TASTING AND VISIT OF SOME CELLARS OF ONE OF THE GREAT NAMES ASSOCIATED WITH CHAMPAGNE AND PRESENT IN EPERNAY : MOET & CHANDON, MERCIER, RUINART....)

THEREAFTER A PAUSE FOR LUNCH IN ONE OF THE RECOMMENDED GASTRONOMIC ESTABLISHMENTS LIKE LES BERCEAUX (EPERNAY), LE ROYAL CHAMPAGNE (CHAMPILLON), WITHOUT FORGETTING ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS NAMES OF FRENCH GASTRONOMY, LES CRAYERES IN REIMS, WHICH ALSO HAS A WONDERFUL BISTROT SET IN PARK SURROUNDINGS.

AFTERNOON CAN BE DEVOTED TO ANOTHER CHAMPAGNE-TASTING BUT THIS TIME IN HONOR OF ESTABLISHED NAMES IN REIMS LIKE VEUVE CLICQUOT, POMMERY, TAITTINGER OR RUINART, ADMIRING THE MILES OF CELLAR SPACE CUT INTO THE CHALK.

