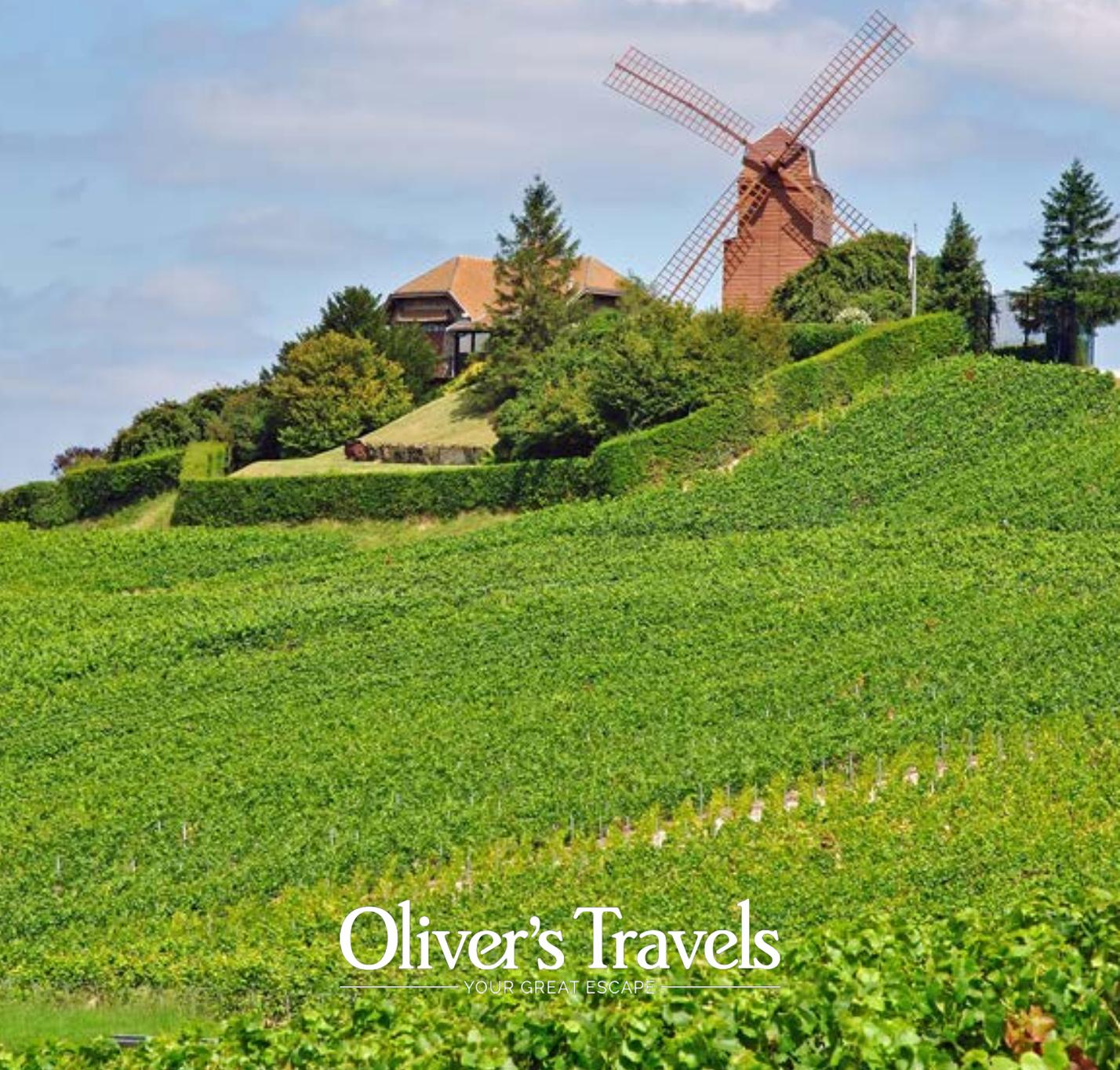


# Champagne

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## TRAVEL GUIDE



Oliver's Travels

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YOUR GREAT ESCAPE

The region of Champagne is inextricably tied to its most famous export, and much like the wine, it is a part of France that bubbles with life. From the sparkling lakes of its natural parks to the refined elegance of its cathedrals and castles, Champagne is a region that exudes class and appeals to all the senses. Drinking the fizzy wine is de rigueur, of course, and the region has become well equipped to deal with the hordes of connoisseurs who visit.

## CHAMPAGNE 101

<b>CURRENCY</b>	EURO	<b>TIME ZONE</b>	GMT +1
<b>ELECTRICAL</b>	TWO PIN ROUND	<b>HIGHEST TEMP.</b>	40° C
<b>LANGUAGE</b>	FRENCH	<b>LOWEST TEMP.</b>	10° C
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	112	<b>PEAK SEASON</b>	MAY - SEPT





## TRANSPORT TALK



### BY WHEELS

The most flexible way of travelling in Champagne is by car; this allows you the freedom to access smaller, more out-of-the-way destinations unreachable by public transport.



### BY BIKE

During the summer, the best way to enjoy the rolling green landscape of Champagne is on two wheels. That way, you can venture down farm roads and stop off in undiscovered villages.



### BY TAXI

You'll find taxis in and around the towns at taxi ranks throughout Champagne. They are also available to pre book by phone through several companies.



### BY WATER

Travellers from the UK should catch a ferry from Dover to Dunkerque or Calais. From both these ports it's only a short drive south to the major towns like Reims and Troyes.



### BY AIR

You won't find direct flights to Champagne, though you'll find plenty to Paris. From Paris airport you can travel directly by train to the Champagne-Ardennes TGV station.



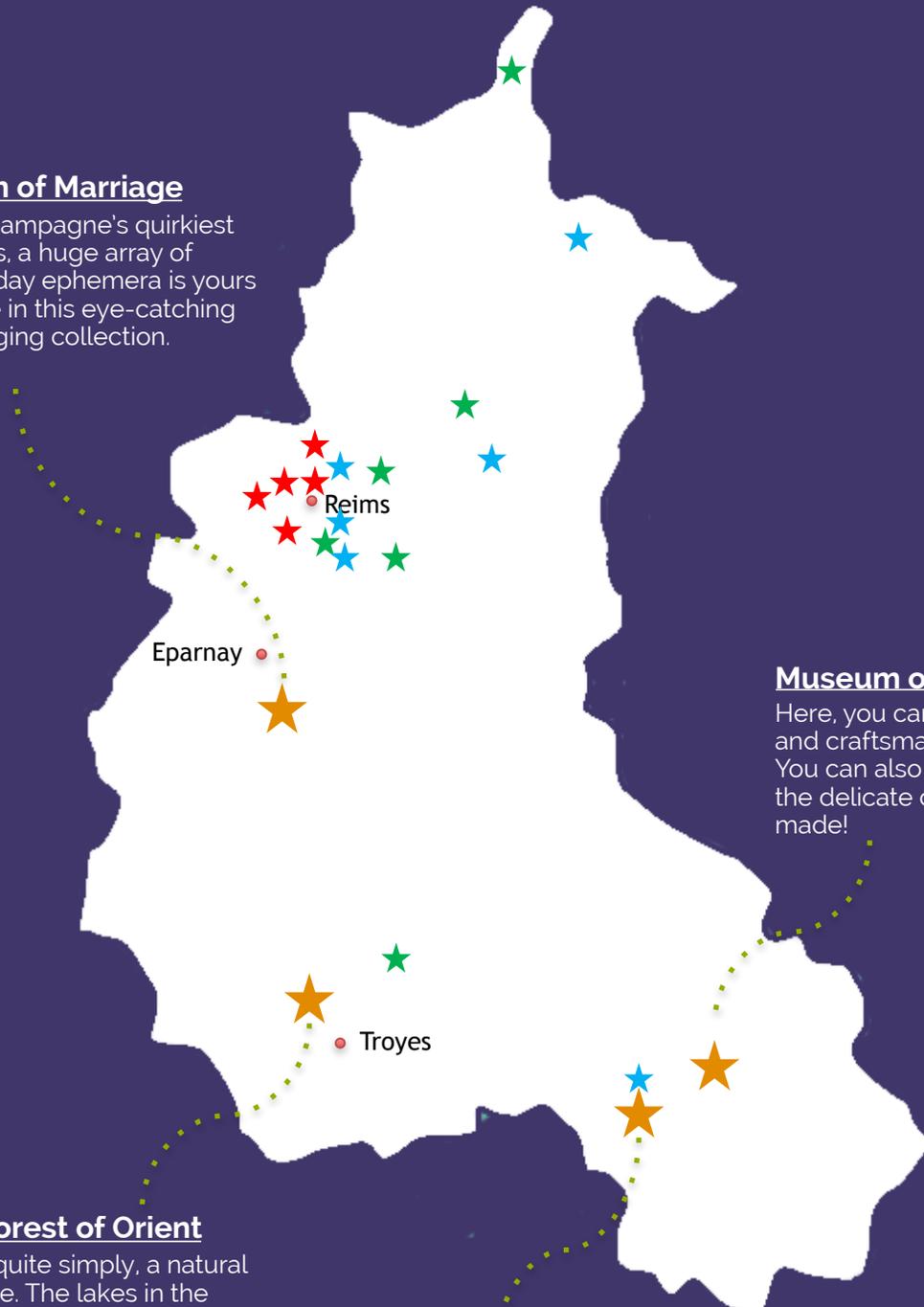
### BY BUS OR TRAIN

The bus system in France is coordinated by [TER](#) and routes run throughout the towns and villages of Champagne. They tend to be both frequent and reliable.

# HIDDEN GEMS AND ACTIVITIES

## Museum of Marriage

One of Champagne's quirkiest attractions, a huge array of wedding day ephemera is yours to explore in this eye-catching and engaging collection.



## Museum of Crystal

Here, you can admire the elegance and craftsmanship of the glass work. You can also tour the factory where the delicate champagne flutes are made!

## The Forest of Orient

This is quite simply, a natural paradise. The lakes in the middle are a haven for wildlife and an ideal spot for birdwatching!

## Haute-Marne

This beautiful area offers a tantalising escape from the grind of modern life. Thermal spas, typically excellent French cuisine and miles of empty footpaths!

- ★ Hidden Gems
- ★ Picks for Kids
- ★ Best Activities
- ★ Foodie Delights



## TOP PICKS FOR KIDS

### Climb trees and Battle



[L'Allée des Couleurs](#) is a day out with a difference – the family can take to the treetops and try out the high-altitude assault course, or they can strap on their camouflage and try their hand at paintballing.



### Be Brave



[Terraltitude Adventure Park](#) is a park where you can take to the heights, with bungee jumping, an impressive kilometre-long zip line and plenty of other attractions to keep the whole family entertained.



### Kid Friendly Vineyard



[Champagne Mercier](#) can introduce the family to the wonders of wine making, and the kids will be transfixed by the train journey through the 18 miles of caves where the Champagne is stored as it ferments.



### Run Wild



At [Royal Kids](#), the soft play area of this indoor adventure centre gives adults the chance to sit back and unwind as their kids run riot. A disco room and mini sports fields add extra distractions into the mix.



### Inspect Vintage Cars



If your little one has a soft spot for cars, the Reims [Musée Automobiles](#) will be their idea of heaven. Over 200 lovingly preserved models from throughout the 20th century make up this collection.



### Ride Rollercoasters



With almost 40 attractions to choose from, you'll certainly get a full day of entertainment at [Nigloland](#) that the whole family will love! The traditional coasters on offer include, Alpine Blitz and Mine Train.



MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR KIDS



## CROWD-PLEASERS: BEST ACTIVITIES

### Go Off-Road



If you really want to get your pulse pounding try going off-road! [Arden-Rando-Quads](#) hires out quad bikes and ATVs, and if you're up for an afternoon of getting muddy there's nothing to beat it.



### Float in the Skies



If you want to get a really good look at the landscape of Champagne – venerable vineyards and all – head up to the skies [Les Montgolfieres Champenoises](#) is the place to start if you fancy a birds-eye view!



### Champagne Tour



A tour is a great way to spend a day in new place. [Instants Tours](#) offer a range of tours that delve into Champagne's, well... Champagne! Choose from a Grand Cru, Premiere Cru or a Private day tour, all starting from Reims.



### Puzzle Games



Fancy a tour that's more hands-on? [Escapium's](#) tours are engineered to be challenging, with a Polaroid challenge and a gourmet tour full of puzzles awaiting adventurous travellers.



### Remember the Past



With an impressive history behind it, Champagne has its fair share of museums! The [Marne 14-18, Centre d'Interpretation Suippes](#) takes a look at the role Champagne played in the First World War.



### Fashion Secrets



For something a little more fashion-orientated, try [Le Moulin de La Fleuristerie](#). It's where handmade flowers and fruits are crafted to decorate some of the world's finest haute-couture hats and dresses.



# MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR GROUPS



## BEST FOODIE DELIGHTS



### Janisson Baradon

And of course, it wouldn't be a visit to Champagne without indulging in a little tasting! Why not try [Champagne Janisson Baradon](#) in Épernay? They will sort you out with an unforgettable tasting you're sure to love!



### Café du Palais

[Café du Palais](#) in Reims doesn't just serve deliciously tempting French classics, such as foie gras, snails, morels, and cheese and meat spreads - the decor is stunning, with a very chic Art Deco vibe.



### Raw France

[Raw France](#) Champagne visits in Sacy offer a far less formal and more intimate look at wine making in Champagne. The owners, Rachel and Alexis will show you around their small, independent vineyard.



### Restaurant Racine



[Restaurant Racine](#) serves up an intriguing fusion of French and Japanese cuisine. Foie gras with passion fruit and orange and pepper ice cream are just two of the intriguing dishes you can expect.



### Dishes to Try

**Chource** is a typical soft cheese from Champagne made from cow's milk. You should also try **Boudin Blanc de Rethel**, a white sausage. Each butcher has their own special recipe, so shop around and find your favourite!

### Le Parc Les Crayères



At [Le Parc Les Crayères](#), you can choose between a brasserie meal or full on Michelin-star dining. Set in an impressive 20th Century mansion, both options are well worth the trip! All the food is fantastic and cooked to perfection.



# MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR FOODIES





We'd like to think we know travel pretty well. Since we first hatched [Oliver's Travels](#) in 2003 it's been essentially all we've talked about. You could call us obsessed.

Our extensive [blog](#), Oliver's Journal has got tons of information and inspiration on locations across Europe and the Caribbean. It's a one-stop shop for family-friendly holiday fun, the best group activities, foodie finds and a good dose of adventure. If you found this travel guide useful, (we hope you did!), you can find a whole host more on the blog, too!

At Oliver's Travels we don't do ordinary. From family [villas in Champagne](#) and [luxury cottages in the UK](#), to Mediterranean [villas with pools](#) and [Caribbean beach villas](#), we have something for everyone, everywhere.



*Oliver*

Get in touch

0800 133 7999

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