



FLAVOUR OF THE ALPS AN AUTHENTIC GOURMET STAY



5 Days/ 4 nights

Arrival : Chambéry, Lyon ou Genève

Departure : Chambéry, Lyon ou Genève

Highlights of the program

- Savoy wines & Cheese tastings
- Short hikes to be immersed in the Savoyard Art of Life
- Private guide services
- Wine tasting with a wine specialist
- Boat trip on the Bourget Lake

Program

Introduction to the Savoie wines

In the foothills of the Northern French Alps, vineyards with atypical landscapes and enchanting ancestral vines now produce rare wines that attain the highest levels of quality.

The Savoie region holds the French record of the number of grape varieties used (of which 8 are unique) and the number of cru or vintages which allows the production of all types of wines (from

young to ageing wines to late harvest and effervescent and everything in between). Recently, a Savoie Crémant (sparkling Chardonnay) was placed 8th overall in France. Our wines have won the most prestigious awards in many International competitions. Since 2011, 25 renowned tasters of the prestigious American guide Parker have classified Alpine our Savoie wines in the "excellence" category. Their comment: "one of the best quality / price ratios in the world". Even two great French and American presidents have been very fond of them.

You will taste wines that will surprise you by their quality, their originality and their rarity.

Day 1

Arrival in Chambéry.

Lunch in the heart of the medieval city of Chambéry.

During the afternoon, guided visit of the Old Town of Chambéry. Chambéry is located right in the heart of the French Alps and has been the historical capital of the Savoy region since the 13th-century.

Dinner and night at the selected hotel.

Day 2

NP La Chartreuse, Pointe de la Gorgeat et Mont Joigny, wine tasting in the vineyards of Chartreuse with a view

From the **Mont Granier pass** (1134m), we hike to the **Gorgeat peak** and then to the **Mont Joigny** (1556m), the view of the **Chartreuse mountain range**, its highest peaks, the Bourget Lake, the **Savoie vineyards** and the surrounding Belledonne mountain ranges will amaze you.

Terroir Picnic including the vineyard's specialty : "Diots" (local pork sausages) marinated and cooked in local red wine, along with food from local producers with wine, coffee and liquor « Vulnérable de Chartreuse ».

After the hike, we'll visit the historical "**Abymes**" and "**Apremont**" vineyards. A mythical area at the bottom of Mount Granier, where one of the biggest disaster in the Alps occurred (a little more about that later).

After a short hike around **St André Lake** (where you can even jump in for a swim if you like) we'll visit the famous little church of **Myans**, a place of pilgrimage since the Black Virgins miracle in 1248. Then we'll stop in a wonderful spot with a view for a tasting of the famous **Crémant of Savoie** and other local young/primeur wines (Abymes and Apremont).

Day 3

Epine mountain range with the Dent du Chat (Cat's tooth at 1390 m) which over looks the Bourget Lake and the vineyards of Jongieux

A morning of light exercise and an afternoon of tastings. The French like to say "Effort/Réconfort".

We'll start out with a hike on the peak of "**la Dent du Chat**" at 1390m which overlooks the **Bourget Lake** and offers wonderful 360° views - even on a good day we'll be able to see the **Mont-Blanc - lake to vineyards**.

We'll take a ride along a charming road that overlooks the Chevelu lakes and the **Rhone River**. After all of this exercise we'll visit the lovely and famous vineyards of **Jongieux** which has recently been recognized with a special European label for the beauty of its landscapes and you can even up in to enjoy a swim.

After a terroir picnic on to some more tasting of a famous local wine **Marestel Cru**.

Day 4

NP Les Bauges, Les Arêtes de la Savoyarde, la Roche du Guet (1209 m), La Thuile Lake & an awarded cellar

After hiking along the ridge of the Roche du Guet (1209 m) you'll have the possibility to jump into the Thuile Lake (900 m).

We'll have terroir picnic at the summit of **La Savoyarde**.

Wine tasting of famous and rare Savoie wines in a beautiful vineyards' cellar. Some of these wines have received the highest awards in France.

Day 5

Boat cruise on the Bourget Lake, which is the biggest natural lake in France. The lake was dear to the 19' century romantic poet Alphonse de Lamartine.

We will stop and visit the Abbaye de Hautecombe, burial place of former Princes and members of the House of Savoy. This is a highly spiritual place, surrounded by magical views, it is totally isolated between the lake and the mountains.

A perfect place for a terroir picnic.

Then we'll be ready to set sail back to Aix-les-Bains and drive back to your departure city.

Includes

- ❖ All transfers in minibus during the stay
- ❖ 4 overnights at a 19th century mansion in the heart of the Savoyard countryside, just 10 minutes from Chambéry, this mansion is turning hospitality into an art form. A certain lifestyle, a special way of taking care of guests...
- ❖ Full-board meals and picnics of local products
- ❖ Private guide services of a wine and mountain specialist
- ❖ Guided visit of Chambéry on Day 1

- ❖ 3 wine tasting including 2 outside (the tasting can take place in a cellar in case of bad weather)
- ❖ Boat Cruise on the Bourget Lake on Day 5
- ❖ Visit of the Abbaye d'Hautecombe on Day 5
- ❖ Full technical documentation about Savoie wines and cheeses
- ❖ A 21cl tasting glass offered with the Savoie flag. The tasting glass goes with its neck-support. You can place your glass inside the pocket of the neck-support and have your hands free during the wine tasting.

This program doesn't include

- Cancellation insurance
- Optional activities
- Transfers from Geneva or Lyon (airport or train station)
- Personal expenses

Don't hesitate to ask your destination expert to pick you up in Geneva or Lyon (at an additional cost)

Add on or more Options on this tour:

- Additional nights in a charming hotel or a typical inn
- Cooking class
- Visit of an artisanal cheese factory
- Visit of an artisanal chocolate factory
- Heritage visit
- Visit of Annecy

Cancellation Policy

- More than 30 days before departure: 60 € per person.
- 30 to 22 days before departure = 25 % (min. 60 €).
- 21 to 8 days before departure = 50 % (min. 60 €).
- 7 to 3 days before departure = 75 % (min. 60 €).
- Less than 3 days before departure and after day of departure = 100%.