

# ACT

AC Travel Group

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# The Grape Escape

## Discover English Wine

*An unexpected player, Team GB is gaining ground in the wine industry, today England has about 500 vineyards of which over 400 are located south of London. It is primarily white and sparkling wines that have become the hallmark of the English wine production, but a few have also mastered the skill to produce good red and rosé wines, too. Together with fellow wine lovers you will enjoy an array of English wines from a number of award winning wineries, while discovering more about English wine production.*

*In this sample program, we combine classic vineyard visits and wine tastings with a backdrop of southern England's beautiful countryside while travelling in style with steam train, glass in hand, absorbing all exquisite things Sussex has to offer.*



OUR TRIP. The best area to discover the wine trails in England are in the South East, which also have the greatest concentration of vineyards in the country. This is the reason to why we have decided to focus this program in the area, with Brighton as a base for your perfect Grape Escape.

Brighton is known as "London by the Sea" and the city is known for its beautiful promenade with a good selection of shopping, restaurants and attractions, not least Brighton Pier.

## EXAMPLE ITINERARY

### DAY 1 – ARRIVAL

Arrival at London Airport with check-in at Brighton Hotel.

Evening followed by a three-course welcome dinner with wine tasting and introduction to English wines.

### DAY 2 – SPARKLING WINES

We head north by bus and after about 30 minutes we arrive at Ridgeview Wine Estate. The winery is a family business that focuses on the manufacturing of the highest quality sparkling wines using traditional varieties and methods.

In the year 1994 the first vine was planted at the foot of the South Downs in Sussex. 13 French clones of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier were selected and planted on three different rootstocks. In this way they have a good foundation to mimic the farms in Champagne, and can also combine and create imaginative mixtures.

Return to Brighton, lunch at leisure, then meet up for an afternoon walking tour with an English local guide.

Dinner at leisure.

### DAY 3 – GRAPE HARVEST

Visit to Denbies Estate.

The winery is family owned and operated since 1984. The first vines were planted in 1986, and the farm has since then become one of the largest wine producers in the UK.

The idea of the visit is to give a deeper insight and a "behind the scenes" tour of a typical day of a working vineyard during grape harvest. The day includes a lesson in grape harvesting, a tour of the vineyard as well as lunch and wine tasting.

Back in Brighton in the afternoon and dinner at leisure.

### DAY 4 – ENGLISH STEAM TRAIN

Day trip with a classic English steam locomotive while admiring the English countryside. The Bluebell Railway is a landmark restored train line that runs along the border between East and West Sussex, England. The train line includes four heritage listed and restored train stations that allows passengers to travel back in time to the early 1900s.

Horsted Keynes, is one of the most well-known stations, perhaps not by name, but due to its appearance as it has served as a film location for many great movies and TV series. Films like Sherlock Holmes and most recently Downton Abbey, has used the station for filming.

Enjoy a light lunch of local produce, or why not a traditional English afternoon tea together with a glass of local Bluebell sparkling wine.

Return to Brighton followed by farewell dinner concluded with a blind Tasting of English wines.

### DAY 5 – DEPARTURE

Depending on flight times, we can arrange a visit at nearby Arundel Castle with lunch.

## AC Travel Group

are happy to help you taste your way through the UK!

For more information, ideas or for a bespoke itinerary for your clients, *please contact us at:*

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