

# Le Pays de Champagne

## à vélo

Vélofiche n°2

Bicycle ride n°2

Prix : 0,50 €

### In the heart of the « Côte des Blancs »



South of Epernay, the « Côte des Blancs » is a cliff at right angles to the Montagne de Reims and one of the most beautiful wine-growing areas of Champagne production.



As its name indicates, it produces mainly white Chardonnay grapes, the only white grape variety authorised in Champagne, that gives to « Blanc de Blancs » Champagne finesse, elegance and floral aromatic notes.



This ride takes you through Chouilly, Avize, Cramant and Cuis. These wine-growing villages are blessed with hillside vineyards, forests and offer many spectacular points of view.



Come and discover these flowered villages with charming churches, attractive frescos and monuments to the supreme wine. Have a tasting break at wine producers', who like to share their passion for the territory and their products. Consume in moderation!



#### Recommendations from the French Cyclists' Federation

« Don't forget your helmet. Always follow the highway code and ride two abreast only under appropriate circumstances.

Mountain bikers: please wear your body protection.»



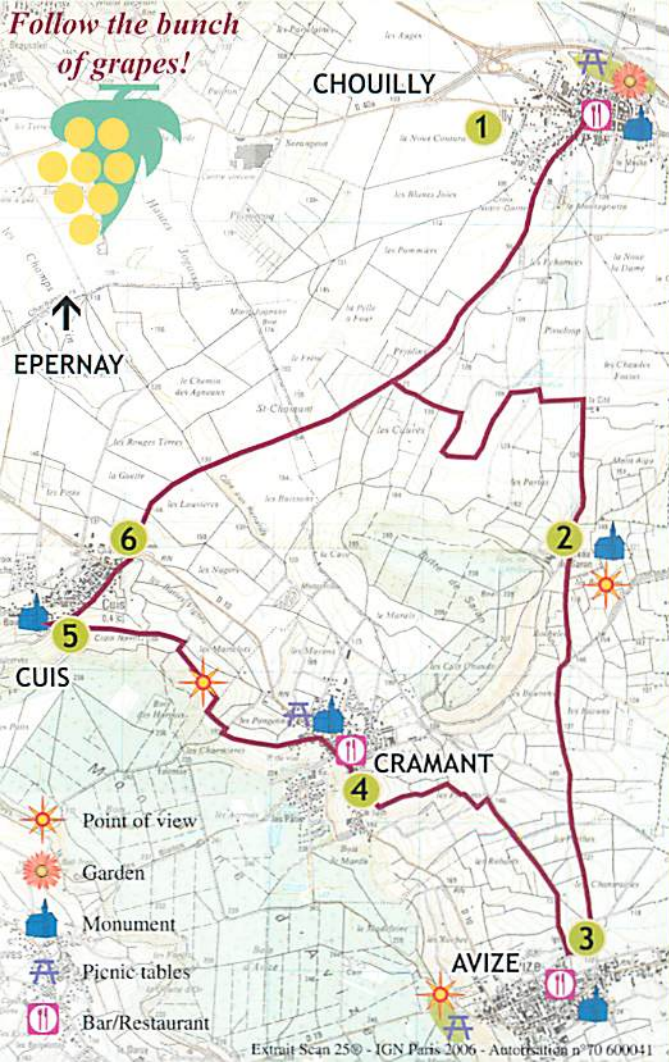
Distance : 20 Km  
Length : 2h  
Level of  
difficulty: moderate  
(with a few climbs)



# Follow the bunch of grapes!



↑  
EPERNAY



- 1** Departure: in Chouilly, from the main street (Grande Rue), follow the bunch of grapes painted on the ground, which leads to the village of Cuis. You'll soon find yourself on an excursion through the vineyards of the second most important wine-growing village in Champagne.
- 2** Enjoy the beautiful view on the hills overlooking the village of Chouilly, dominated by its romanesque church. Just above you, the 19<sup>th</sup> century Château de Saran sits on the verdant hillside.
- 3** You will now arrive in Avize, positioned on the wooded « Montagne d'Avize » that slopes towards the plain of Champagne. This village with its 270 hectares of vineyards is dotted with charming winegrowers houses, some of which were built at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Just above, a huge bottle of Champagne continuously pours the king of wines into its glass. Ride along « Rue du Rempart du Nord », whose medieval fortifications have now disappeared, and then back onto the road through the vineyards again.
- 4** At the top of the hill, you will discover Cramant, whose name means « Chalk Mount ». Crossing the main street, you'll see the numerous wine-grower signs and a fresco representing bottles of Champagne being riddled on their rack. If you ride through the village, do not miss the 8 metre bottle of Champagne (north village limit) and a sculpture modeled in chalk located in « Rue des Grappes d'Or » (Golden Bunch of Grapes Street). Then take « Rue Ferdinand Morêt » to a path giving you a splendid view over Epernay and the « Côte des Blancs ».
- 5** A beautiful 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century romanesque church welcomes you at the entrance to Cuis. Built on the hillside, Cuis is a flowered village possessing a 174 hectare vineyard. Take « Rue de l'Égalité » and « Rue des Moulins » to ride down to the lower part of the village.
- 6** Take care crossing the road to Epernay and go back to Chouilly where the ride ends.