



Vélofiche n°5

Prix : € 0,50

Cycle trail n°5

The Western Coteaux

This trail will take you through three towns and villages with distinctive identities: Pierry, with its outstanding architectural heritage; Epernay, the undisputed capital of Champagne and Mardeuil, a wine-growing village in the Marne Valley.

- Pierry's history is bound up with the «divine beverage». Brother Oudart, who emulated Dom Perignon, exercised his wine-making talents there. This village has fine houses and châteaux bearing witness to Court life - which took place there mainly in the 18th century.

- The town of Epernay, which is dedicated to Champagne, is home to the headquarters of the most prestigious Champagne firms. The so-called «Spartan town», set at the heart of the wine-growing region with the river Marne flowing through it, enjoys exceptional natural surroundings.

- The village of Mardeuil reaches 73m altitude at its highest point, offering a number of panoramic views from the slopes of its vineyards.

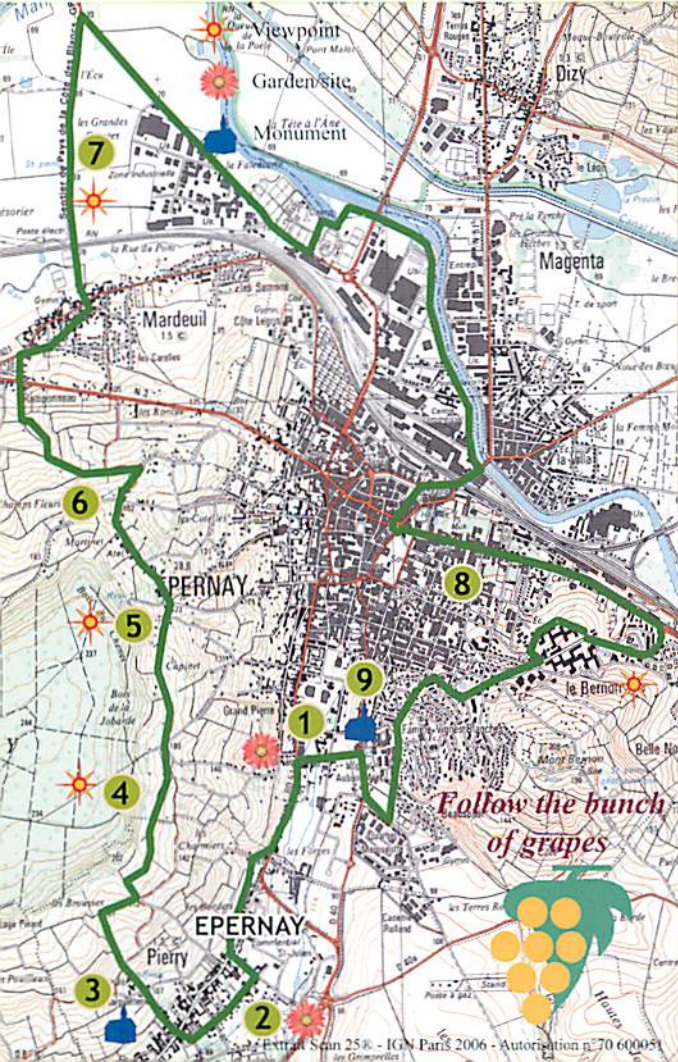
Recommendations from the French cycling federation

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

Mountain bikers: please wear protective gear.»

Distance: 20 Km
Length: 2 hours
Level
of difficulty: hard





1 Departure point: From the BULLEO leisure pool, follow the cycle track to Pierry.

2 On arrival in this village, you can take a break at the Jardin de l'Hors du Ru*, a garden with a variety of atmospheres offering outstanding views of the Aulnois property, an 18th-century wine-grower's house

3 Now begins the arduous climb up the western coteaux. You will have the opportunity to take a break close to the Domaine de la Marquetterie, the private property of a prestigious Champagne *Maison*.

4 Your efforts will be rewarded! This trail invites you to discover superb viewpoints in the heart of the vines, whatever the season:
- You will be overlooking Epernay, nestling at the bottom of the valley;

5 - On your right, you will see the village churches of Chavot and Cuis.

6 Begin your descent carefully towards Mardeuil, a peaceful wine-growing village, where 170 growers have 180 hectares of vines between them.

7 You are now entering the Marne Valley, with its array of greenery...

8 Next, set off for the Capital of Champagne and the famous Avenue de Champagne, which used to be called the «rue du commerce»... 19th-century prosperity led to mansions being built along this street - now the home of the most prestigious champagne firms.

9 Finally, before returning to BULLEO, admire the chapel at Epernay Hospital, built in the 19th century with funds donated by the benefactor, Victor Auban-Moët, a partner in Moët et Chandon Champagne.

* The Jardin de l'Hors du Ru is the departure point of a trail around the architectural heritage of Pierry - the guide booklet is available from the village hall and from shopkeepers for €2