



## **GRAPE ESCAPES SUPPORTS NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS TO TRY NEW WINES... NEW YEAR, NEW YOU (WITH A DIFFERENCE)!**

This month, Grape Escapes is encouraging wine lovers everywhere to make a New Year's resolution to try new wines! Are you bored of tasting the same grapes all the time? Then 2017 is the time for change! Swap your Chardonnay for a Viognier, Pinot Grigio for a Riesling, Merlot for a Grenache, or Cabernet Sauvignon for Touriga Nacional. You'll be taking your taste-buds on a wine tasting adventure this year, and you could even take it further by taking them on a wine-tasting holiday, in one of the regions producing your 'New Wine', to find fresh favourites and discover the home of their production!

Grape Escapes suggests Alsace as the perfect place to head to this year, to get those New Year's resolutions started in style! Home of the Riesling grape, Alsace is a beautiful destination in its own right- with quaint villages and half-timbered houses lining the streets there's plenty of fantastic culture to soak up. Their latest tour in the region – Essential Colmar – is available mid-week and weekends from April through to October, and can be taken as a three or four day break.

The package includes an introductory tutored tasting session of five local wines (the perfect opportunity to start treating your taste buds!), and a full day guided and transported tour to discover the Alsatian vineyards, visiting four fabulous wineries to learn the traditional wine-making process. In the evening, an authentic Alsatian dinner will be served, washed down with two more local wines. Those opting for the four day break will have the chance to visit two more wineries as part of their package. Prices start at £392 per person.

If red wines are more your cup of tea, then Grape Escapes has the perfect substitute for Cabernet Sauvignon slurpers... make the switch today with a tasty Touriga Nacional; a hidden gem of a grape from Portugal, the high tannins and black fruit favours make it a great replacement for your Bordeaux-bred Cabernet. With the Grape Escapes four day/three night Essential Porto and Douro tour, you'll be able to discover this tantalising wine in the stunning Douro Valley!

Based at a choice of 3-5\* hotels, the trip gives guests the chance to spend two nights in Porto itself, visiting the renowned Sandeman Port Lodge, and take an idyllic river cruise in a traditional Rabelo boat, before heading to the Douro Valley, where wine lovers will be welcomed for the night as the guests of a local wine estate! With

tours and tastings at two Quintas, there's plenty of opportunity for trying the local wines, and the trip is rounded off with a delicious three course dinner served at the estate where guests will stay, accompanied by a selection of no less than five of the Quinta's wines and ports! Prices start from £391 per person.

For more information on taking a tour to spice up your taste buds, call +44 (0) 1920 46 86 66, e-mail [info@grapeescapes.net](mailto:info@grapeescapes.net) or visit [www.grapeescapes.net](http://www.grapeescapes.net).

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**Notes to Editors:**

Grape Escapes is a specialist wine tour operator, offering wine tours to France, Spain, Portugal and Italy. Grape Escapes offer a broad range of wine tasting tours and trips to vineyards in Ribera del Duero and Rioja in Spain, Tuscany in Italy, Porto in Portugal and the main French wine regions: Champagne, Bordeaux, Burgundy, The Rhône and The Loire. Grape Escapes run numerous wine tasting trips for individuals, groups (social groups, hen weekends, wine clubs, car clubs, and birthday trips among others) as well as wine tasting trips for corporate clients. [www.grapeescapes.net](http://www.grapeescapes.net)