

Vine Gardens

Outdoor museographic areas

- Chouilly : grapevine pruning and varieties
- Cramant : the vineyard landscape
- Cumières : vine and the wine works



The EPERNAY PAYS DE CHAMPAGNE
Community Council welcomes you !

«an educational and playful experience»

The Vine Gardens reveal the terroir's specific wine-growing characteristics. These outdoor museographic areas display all the features of the Champagne area : the grapevine, its cultural practices, the subsoil and the vineyard landscape it shapes.

The first garden was born in Chouilly in 2009, at the end of Epernay's very famous avenue de Champagne. It can be considered as the introduction to the outdoor museographic areas network. The garden displays the characteristics of grapevine (a powerful climber), the evolution of pruning techniques through the ages, and the authorized Champagne pruning styles.

The idea is to get to know more about grapevines thanks to educational panels illustrated by the plant itself, in free form or cultivated, with or without support structure ... A small quizz for children is placed on each panel to arouse their curiosity.



This garden offers a rare occasion to come up close to cultivated grapevines and better understand the richness and the requirements of the winegrowing expertise. Along its fence, an exhibition of giant photos plunges the visitor into the world of grapevines and of champagne.

In less than an hour, you can acquire a few winegrowing concepts, which will be useful for the rest of your stay in the Marne region •

This Vine Garden was built with the support of

Access

Chouilly's west entry, Partelaines road at the end of Epernay's avenue de Champagne

RÉGION CHAMPAGNE ARDENNE



Chouilly Council



COME AND DISCOVER



a map of the french vineyards



a giant photo exhibition



the evolution of pruning techniques



vines "en foule" (in masses)



a small Champagne vineyard



calcicol plants

« panoramic view in the middle of the vineyard »



Continue your visit of the champagne vineyard up to the village of Cramant, perched in the middle of the vines. You will discover a beautiful panoramic view, at the crossroads of the three main winegrowing regions of Champagne : the « Côte des Blancs », the « Montagne de Reims » and the Marne Valley.

Here, the vineyard forms a garden, as far as the eye can see ...

This panoramic view-point built in 2011 invites you to contemplate a bird's eye view of the vineyard, man's regular tasks, the foliage evolution and the changing colour tones with the seasons. Time seems suspended.

Panels offer useful information to decipher the landscape, the rows of vines, the mosaic of parcels, the environment, the topography and the villages. The viewpoint indicator shows the highest peaks and other elements of interest, which can be observed in detail with the telescope.

Come and have a picnic under the pergolas or have a rest on one of the deck chairs while admiring the picturesque beauty of this typical Champagne vineyard.

the vineyard from season to season



© Jessy Clément



A vineyard hut has been rebuilt as a shelter but also as a testimony of these traditional constructions which could be found in the vineyard, and are now threatened to disappear. A small exhibition is presented in the hut •

This Vine Garden was built with the support of



Cramant Council

Access

D10, Grande Côte road, Cramant village

«sculptures of winegrowing traditional gestures»

Le village of Cumières exhibits the traditional gestures used in the making of champagne along the Marne river banks. These impressive steel sculptures reach 2 meters high. Interpretive panels describe each group of sculptures.

This peaceful walk along the Marne river completes perfectly the Vine Gardens of Chouilly and Cramant. Eric Sléziak, a regional artist known for his famous giant wild pig Woinic, built in the Ardennes region, worked for the Cumières council in 2005.

Eric Sléziak designed these two meter high steel sculptures with passion. Eight themes, related to the gestures necessary in the making of champagne, have been chosen : pruning and fastening, trimming, sulphating, harvesting in the vineyard and in the press, disgorging and dosing, riddling and finally, tasting.

The steel plates used to make the sculptures were formed by hand, with the artist's expertise, without using laser cutting. Eric Sléziak read a lot of documentation on the subject so as to transcribe accurately these champagne winegrowing scenes.



pruning



fastening



harvesting in the vineyard

Each group of sculptures is explained by an interpretive panel, with all the essential details of the champagne making process.

You will find this surprising sight while walking along the Marne river for about 800 meters, in the southern part of the village. The water in the background creates a relationship between the sculptures and unveils them with its reflexions. The luxuriant vegetation growing on the other side of the river creates a pleasant natural setting.

Just near the sculptures, cruises depart on the «Champagne Vallée» boat and its paddle wheel •



pressing the grapes

These sculptures were built with the support of



Accès

Marne quay
and Bac road,
Cumières
village



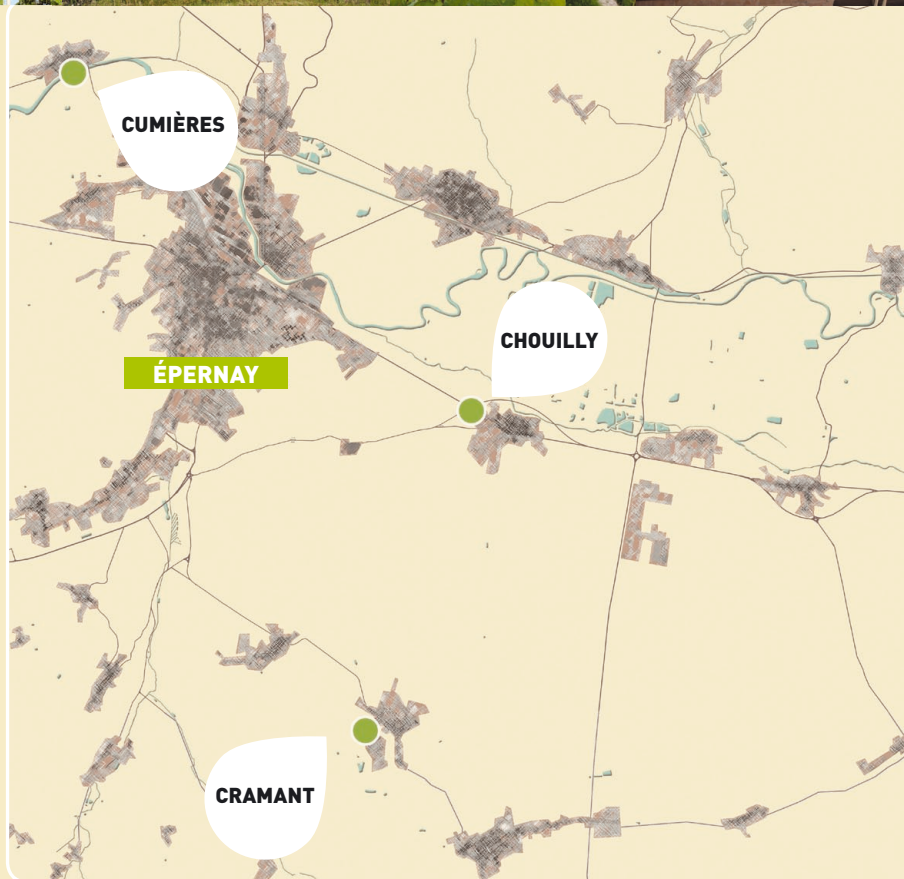
In 2004, the **Epernay Pays de Champagne Council Community** signed a Landscape Chart. Many gardens have been created since then,

The Vine Gardens help to reconnect with the region's roots through the celebration of the « **terroir** » and its winegrowing identity.

The Council Community thus continues to reveal the region's unique features, through outdoor museographic areas, displaying the grapevine, its cultural practices, the subsoil and the vineyard landscape it shapes.

Also available

« **HIKING TRAILS** »
leaflet



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