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Travel

## Voyage to Champagne

By R. Couri Hay

*Royal Champagne Hotel*



It's a fast overnight flight to Paris, so once arrived, you are ready to jump into the luxury sedan sent by the Royal Champagne Hotel in Epernay.

They whisk you to the romantic world of castles, châteaux, and vast vineyards that produce the magic that ultimately becomes Champagne. There are over 370 Champagne houses using grapes from 20,000 farmers in the region. On the 90-minute drive from Paris, you roll through picturesque villages and miles of grapevines to arrive at a sleek, modern, low-slung Frank Lloyd Wright-esque hotel perched on a hill with the best views in Epernay, the seat of Champagne. The view from the Hotel is like a Cézanne painting. The hamlet's ecru and terracotta-colored roofs surrounded by endless vineyards is a perfect setting for this elegant 5-star hotel. My room is a minimalist wonder, spacious and chicly appointed in neutral tones, allowing the eyes to focus on the view through floor-to-ceiling windows leading onto the private balcony.

I arrived in late January, traditionally the quietest time of year, when the vineyards are asleep, but the Champagne still flows, and the area's nine Michelin-star restaurants are mostly still open as the region is becoming a year-round destination. The hotel also possesses a world-class spa with both indoor and outdoor Olympic-length pools heated to resemble a dip in the warm waters of St. Barts. There's a sauna and steam room and a wide variety of treatments. I had a massage, a facial, and a glass of Dom Ruinart Blanc de Blanc Champagne to put me in the perfect mood. The hotel has lovely restaurants and bars, including the one Michelin-star Le Royal, and a breakfast buffet that was nothing less than sublime. Dinner was also a treat, and the service was impeccable, both for the humans and dogs. Yes, I encountered two dogs, a brown Rhodesian Ridgeback and an adorable tri-color King Charles Cavalier Spaniel, who sat quietly at the table next to ours. *Très Français, n'est-ce pas? [royalchampagne.com](http://royalchampagne.com)*

### Cuisine Solutions' International Sous Vide Day

I spent my first day at the celebration of International Sous Vide Day hosted by Cuisine Solutions, the world's largest and most trusted producer of sous vide foods. The event, held at the picturesque Château Comtesse Lafond, also celebrated the 81<sup>st</sup> birthday of Dr. Bruno Goussault, the master of sous vide



Feature

## On Growing Up in the Bush Family

By Bennett Marcus

Sharon Bush Her Extraordinary Life By Bennett Marcus A Life of Giving Back Sharon Bush, a force in the



Bruce Weeber: Acclaimed

Photographer and Filmmaker Has Weaved a Web of Hollywood Relationships, Academy Award Nominations and A New Sexual Aesthetic



Reid Stowe Story



Miguel Angarita: The

Oscar Blandi Colorist that Gets Passed Down From One Generation to the Next