

TRAVEL, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Package holidays and tours come in all shapes and sizes, but one of the more unusual must be the "Wine Trail". ABTA member, "Blackheath Wine Trails" based in the Olde London village specializes in wine tours visiting the vineyards and tasting the fruits of the Isle of Madeira, France, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Germany and Israel. The agency has been established for over 20 years and organizes tours for groups of 20 or 30 people of all ages (couples or singles are most welcome). Prices start from £259 per person for the 4-day "Champagne Coach" tour, to £990 a 9-day holiday in Spain. Or, if you want to take the holiday of a lifetime, there is the £2,499 "Great Australian Wine Experience" which includes a stopover in Singapore and visits to an Australian sheep station, the famous Bondi Beach, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney, with the option of taking in Ayers Rock, the Great Barrier Reef and Alice Springs.

As well as wine tasting, these tours include escorts, local guides, excursions and a chance to soak up some history and culture.

"Blackheath Wine Trails" can be contacted on 081 463 0012