

# Champagne Ties to Wallace Fountains in Épernay



Photos: *L'Hebdo du Vendredi* 2016

**Place des Boucheries  
51200 Épernay  
FRANCE**

**Pol Roger Champagne House  
1, Rue Winston Churchill  
51200 Épernay  
FRANCE**

In March 2016, a newly manufactured Wallace Fountain with a push button to dispense water on demand was inaugurated at Place des Boucheries. The ceremony was attended by the mayor of Épernay and other dignitaries including members of the Pol Roger champagne family who received tribute at the event.

While water flows from the fountain, it is champagne that is part of the story behind this fountain. Épernay is champagne country and the Pol Roger champagne house is one of its most prominent labels. The Pol Roger family has important links with Sir Richard Wallace, the creator and donor of the first Wallace fountains installed in Paris in 1872. Odette Pol Roger was the great granddaughter of Sir Richard Wallace and also a personal friend of Winston Churchill. She served as an ambassador of the Pol Roger champagne house for more than 40 years. Pol Roger is the official champagne of the British Royal Family.

An investment of more than €24,000 was required to install this new public drinking fountain. Together, the City of Epernay, Pol Roger Champagne and the Rotary Club covered the expense by each providing one-third of the cost. Access to clean drinking water is a priority of the Rotary Club. In the true spirit of Richard Wallace and his generosity, this was another public/private/civic partnership for the common good.

The Pol Roger family also purchased an additional Wallace Fountain that now stands in the gardens of the Pol Roger Champagne house in Épernay.

If anyone has photos or additional information about the history or origin of this fountain, please share it by contacting us at [admin@wallacefountains.org](mailto:admin@wallacefountains.org).