

# Chile & Argentina Wine Tour

9 days/8 nights

Private Tour: Date of your choosing, 6 person minimum

Tour Price: \$4,250 (does not include internal flight)



## Daily Itinerary

**Day 1:** We meet in Chile's capital city of Santiago this morning. After a brief orientation, we begin our travels south, ultimately arriving in the town of Santa Cruz at the end of the day. Along the way, we will visit Vina Undurraga, in the Maipo Valley. Undurraga is one of the most prestigious and longest-operating wineries in Chile.

We'll also enjoy a tasting and lunch at the 100% family-owned Casa Silva estate. Here, you will have your first views of the most highly decorated wine valley in Chile – the Colchagua Valley – also known as the "Napa" of Chile. Additionally, we'll be treated to views of the surrounding Andes Mountains, the vineyards, and the estate's polo field!

After checking into our beautiful hotel among the vines, we will head to a lovely al fresco welcome dinner at MontGras Winery.

**Day 2:** After a leisurely breakfast, we make our way to Clos Apalta for our first tour and tasting of the day. Owned by the Lapostolle' family, there is not a more picture perfect and architecturally stunning winery in all of the Apalta Valley. Clos Apalta produced what Wine Spectator Magazine named the Wine of the Year in 2008. They were also featured on the cover of Wine Enthusiast's March 2015 issue for their Clos Apalta 2011. We'll end our visit here with a delicious lunch.

This afternoon, you'll have your choice of exploring the village of Santa Cruz, visiting the incredible Colchagua Anthropological Museum (a unique museum considered to be the most important in Chile by many), or sitting and relaxing by the pool.

We'll then reconvene and return to the Colchagua Valley for a delectable wine-paired dinner with panoramic views of the Viu Manent vineyards.

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**Day 3:** We drive north from Santa Cruz this morning, toward the cooler Casablanca Valley, several hours to the northwest. This stretch of land nearer to the coast has become Chile's top white wine region.

Our first stop, Veramonte, is set in the beautiful Casablanca Valley. Their facility is built for small-lot wine production where individual vineyard blocks are fermented and aged separately prior to final blending, allowing winemakers to produce vineyard-expressive wines. We'll enjoy lunch and wine at their local-ingredient focused restaurant.

We came all this way to taste wine, didn't we? Of course, we did! So we will head to another fun tasting, this time at Emiliana, which focuses on biodynamic practices. Then, it is on to the coast and the seaside town of Viña del Mar, where our hotel is right on the ocean.

Tonight's dinner is on your own – if you are up for more exploration, we recommend taking a taxi to Valparaiso, just a few minutes away. Otherwise, there are plenty of great options right out the door of the hotel. In either case, you'll fall asleep listening to the crashing waves below.

**Day 4:** After a relaxing morning near the ocean, we move to our final (and prettiest, we think!) wine valley visit in Chile: the Aconcagua.

Our first stop will be a visit to Vina Von Siebenthal, with a tasting of their eloquent wines led by the lovely Soledad. With a backdrop of the snow-capped Andes and the fresh spring vines spread out in front of us, you will wonder if you will ever see a prettier vineyard!

Dinner tonight is at a private wine estate and our husband (winemaker) and wife (chef) hosts will ensure it will be one of the trip's most memorable.

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**Day 5:** After breakfast, we visit Viña San Esteban, where Maria Jose will lead us through a blending course and where you will make your very own cuvee'. Be warned, if you don't like your wine, you can only blame the winemaker - yourself!

We then depart Los Andes for Santiago to catch our flight over the Andes Mountains to Argentina. (This flight is estimated to cost \$400 – we will purchase this for you and include this cost in your invoice). From the plane, we just might see the impressive Mount Aconcagua, the highest peak in the Americas!

We land in the city of Mendoza, which is surrounded by hundreds of wineries and includes three wine areas: the Maipu, Lujan de Cuyo, and the Uco Valley, home to the highest-altitude vineyards in the province. We depart directly for the stunning Uco Valley, where we will spend two nights, with the massive dormant volcano Tupungato staring down at us! Depending on our flight arrival time, we may be able to slip in our first wine tasting in Argentina before tonight's dinner at our lovely hotel.

**Day 6:** We begin our day with a private tasting at a wonderful boutique winery, Bodegas y Viñedos O.Fournier. Next, we head over to the private vineyards and luxurious resort at The Vines of Mendoza, which is also home to Siete Fuegos, a restaurant of internationally acclaimed chef Francis Mallman. Mallman creates inspired regional dishes that showcase Argentina's famous beef (he has also been featured in the Netflix series, Chefs Table). Our early dinner here is an event and has us looking out at the snow-capped peaks of the Andes while we sip on their private label wines - a true oasis in the desert.

**Day 7:** After breakfast, we'll visit Bodegas Salentein for a tasting. This cross-shaped building was made as a tribute to the Jesuit missionaries who settled here in the 16th century. The shape also allows for careful management of the grape and the wine, ensuring that both spend very little time in transit throughout the winemaking process.

We then make our way back to Mendoza, stopping at Bodegas Ruca Malen for a lovely wine-pairing lunch that includes their award-winning, modern-style wines. Finally we will arrive to the lively main square of Mendoza, one of our favorite cities in the world, and check into our hotel. Our lodging is perfectly situated and we purposely give you free time this afternoon and evening for exploring this vibrant city on your own. We recommend the lively Aristides Street for dinner, where you can get a big helping of Mendocino culture and join the locals as they live it up.

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**Day 8:** We begin our day by heading to the foot of the mountains and the mouth of the Mendoza River to Bella Vista Vineyard of Achaval Ferrer. They are known for their century-old vines and their philosophy of intervening with nature as little as possible.

Afterward, we will have a multi-course lunch with wine at a different winery. Mendoza's three wine areas are home to close to a thousand wineries, with new ones rising to fame all the time, so we often wait to see what is new and hot before deciding exactly where to go this day. Later this afternoon, you can partake in a siesta, or explore the very walkable neighborhood near our hotel on your own.

Tonight, we have a farewell dinner in Mendoza. It's time to share your wine country adventures and stories over a glass of your favorite varietal(s), a wonderful meal, and great company!

**Day 9:** After a restful last night in the hotel, we will say our goodbyes on this final day of our Taste Vacation, depart for the airport, or continue on to your own South American wine journey!

[www.tastevacations.com](http://www.tastevacations.com)

Questions? Call 888-758-8687 ext 3

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