

# CHILE & ARGENTINA FOR WINE ENTHUSIASTS

13 days

*This wine trip takes you from the wine valleys near Santiago, Valparaiso at the Pacific, Mendoza “the wine capital of Argentina”, to the metropolis of Buenos Aires. Taste some of South America’s best wines on this memorable vacation.*

**Day 1** Board Your Flight to South America

**Day 2 Santiago** Transfer from the airport to your hotel and check-in. Perched between the Pacific Ocean and the Andes, Santiago has evolved as the country’s political, commercial, and cultural capital. Tonight join your Tour Director and traveling companions for dinner. (D)

**Day 3 Santiago** Step back into the 16th century as your local guide traces the city’s history and heritage. Start at La Moneda, the official Government Palace, and nearby SAN CRISTOBAL HILL with its landmark statue of the Virgin Mary. At the ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM study a great collection of pre-Columbian art. Your tour ends at the Plaza de Armas, the main square, with a visit to the 18th-century CATHEDRAL. Tonight enjoy a CHILEAN FOLKLORE EVENING, a spectacular drive through illuminated downtown Santiago before reaching a restaurant popular among the locals. After a sumptuous four-course dinner with wine, relax and enjoy a lively folklore show of Chilean music and dance. (B,D)

**Day 4 Santiago. Excursion to Casablanca Valley, Valparaiso, and Vina del Mar** Today we head to the Casablanca Valley, known for its excellent white wines. Although white varieties such as Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc have been recognized world wide, local winemakers hope one day to be able to produce red wines of equally high quality in the valley. Visit VINA VERAMONTE, whose adjoining vineyards are the most extensive in Chile with a surface area of more than 840 acres. Enjoy wine tasting and lunch. Continue to Valparaiso, a picturesque seaport that has long been an inspiration for poets and artists. Enjoy a ride on the FUNICULAR (cable car) during your visit. Then on to Vina del Mar, a modern resort renowned for its lovely gardens. (B,L)

**Day 5 Santiago. Excursion to Santa Cruz and the Curico Valley** Today we travel to Curico Valley, home to some of the oldest—and newest – wineries. Colder than the neighboring Colchagua Valley, the Curico Valley is a bit off-the-beaten tourist trail—producing fantastic Carmeneres, Cabernets, and Merlot of a different style than the rest of Chile. Visit MIGUEL TORRES, who produces some of the best and most prized wines in Chile, followed by a visit to another local WINERY before returning to Santiago. (B)

**Day 6 Santiago. Excursion to Maipo Valley** Today encounter a part of Chilean history at the end of the 19th century, seen through a traditional Chilean family, the Cousino Goyenechea. This family is one of the most prestigious wine producers in the country. Visit the MANSION in Santiago before traveling to their vineyards to enjoy some of the best wines produced such as Cabernet Sauvignon or Merlot for reds, and Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay for whites. Next, enjoy a visit to UNDURRAGA WINERY, where a local guide demonstrates how Chile’s world-famous wine is produced. (B,D)

**Day 7 Santiago-Mendoza, Argentina** Today enjoy the journey from Santiago to Mendoza, Argentina crossing the Andes via motorcoach. Arrive in Mendoza, “the wine capital of Argentina,” also considered one of the prettiest cities of the country with beautiful trees and parks, wide shaded sidewalks and a friendly atmosphere. Transfer to your hotel and check-in. (B)

**Day 8 Mendoza** This morning enjoy a city sightseeing tour. Afterwards, take the short drive to the CATENA ZAPATA WINERY. This spectacular winery is a replica of a Mayan temple and five Catena wines rank in the top 50 wines of South America. This afternoon visit BODEGAS TRAPICHE and BODEGAS LOPEZ, one of the biggest wineries in Argentina, founded in 1883. It’s the first winery exporter of premium Argentine wines. (B)

**Day 9 Mendoza. Excursion to Uco Valley** Today tour the splendid UCO VALLEY area. This is a rural farming and vineyard region tucked up against the Andean foothills, approximately ninety kilometers south of Mendoza. The grapevines you find here are Chardonnay, Merlot, Malbec and Semillon, with different characteristics of its areas. Visit two local VINYARDS for tastings before returning to Mendoza. (B,D)

**Day 10 Mendoza-Buenos Aires** This morning transfer to the airport for your flight to Buenos Aires. En route to your hotel, an orientation drive acquaints you with the “Paris of South America” and its wide boulevards and outdoor cafes. The remainder of day is at leisure. (B)

**Day 11 Buenos Aires** Your included sightseeing this morning starts in La Boca, a colorful district and site of the city’s first port. A short walking tour of this unique neighborhood at the mouth of the river and then on to San Telmo—famous for its late colonial buildings and as a popular gathering spot for artists. At the Plaza de Mayo, see La Casa Rosada (the President’s Pink House) and the METROPOLITAN

CATHEDRAL, housing San Martin's Mausoleum. Drive past the ornate Colon Opera House before reaching THE CEMETERY OF THE RECOLETA, the burial site of Eva Peron. Savor the atmosphere of this cosmopolitan capital on the included evening excursion. Enjoy dinner at LA ESQUINA DE CARLOS GARDEL featuring succulent Argentine steaks and other specialties. The evening is topped off by a flawless performance of Latin America's most sensuous dance—the tango! (B,D)

**Day 12 Buenos Aires** A full day at leisure. Enjoy an optional excursion to the pampas. Experience the atmosphere of Argentine country life as you visit an estancia (ranch). Get acquainted with the lifestyle of the gauchos and enjoy a barbecue lunch and the warm hospitality of your hosts before returning to the city. Time left today to explore the city's downtown shopping gallerias for the best buys in leather goods and other local handicrafts. This evening, your Tour Director hosts a dinner to celebrate the success of this exciting Latin America vacation. (B,D)

**Day 13 Buenos Aires** The morning is at leisure. Later this afternoon your homebound flight departs. (B)

**Meals:** B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner