

ITINERARY: Food-Wine-Fun

Santiago-Mendoza-Buenos Aires

Burnt Pine -safari

(B): Breakfast; (BB): Bed & Breakfast; (L): Lunch;
(D): Dinner; (b): Bed only

Day 1

Depart the US for the overnight flight to Santiago, Chile.

Overnight flight

Day 2,

You will arrive Santiago Chile in the morning the following day. After Customs, our ground staff will meet you. Your morning then starts by driving to the south of Santiago into Chile's wine country. You are heading to the heart of the **Colchagua Valley** and "huaso" (Chilean cowboy) country. This region is arguably the most important red wine producing valley in Chile. You will visit **Viu Manent** one of the oldest wineries in the valley. The visit to the winery includes a ride through the vineyards on a horse-drawn carriage for an expert overview of the interior of the Colchagua Valley. After a private wine tasting, you will enjoy a relaxed lunch in the patio gardens on the estate.

After your lunch you will drive around the corner to the **Apalta** region of the Colchagua Valley where you will be staying the next two nights. The **Clos Apalta Residence**, the best address in the valley, is composed of four exclusive cabins nestled into the native forested hillside, very private. There is no better way to relax than to be in one of the casitas while appreciating the spectacular views they provide you. Dinner is at the lodge tonight with their wines.

Clos Apalta Wine Lodge (BLD)

Day 3,

The Colchagua Valley is emerging as the new king of Chilean reds, and today's winery visits will no doubt demonstrate the quality.. Your day will start with a visit to **Viña Clos Apalta**, created in 1994 by Alexandra Marnier-Lapostolle (of the Grand Marnier family) and produces some of the best QPR (quality/price ratio) wines in Chile. In 2008, they were awarded a 96 in Wine Spectator for their *Clos Apalta* wine which was also chosen as the top wine of the year. Next, you will visit **Montes**, one of Chile's most internationally-recognized wineries. You will have a light lunch at the Montes' café before your final visit of the day. At the end of the road in Apalta, is the **Neven** winery which focuses all its production on one Bordeaux-style blend from their 115 year old Carmenere vines.

For dinner tonight you will visit La Posada vineyard tucked away in a far corner of Santa Cruz. Here we will find **Veta Bistro** that was recently opened by Chef Roberto Neira, from the French Laundry Restaurant of Napa Valley fame, as well as Manhattan's ultra-exclusive restaurant, Per Se. The outdoor patio is surrounded by vineyards and makes for a great setting.

You will enjoy a sunset toast on your last night in the valley before sitting down for some of Robert's simple yet delicious dishes. This is sure to be a gastronomic highlight of your visit Chile.

Clos Apalta Wine Lodge (BBLD)

Day 4,

You depart this morning for Santiago in order to check into your downtown hotel. Lunch is open, but there are many nearby restaurants. After lunch you will depart for a Santiago city tour. You will visit most important historical sites of Santiago including the downtown area surrounding the **Plaza de Armas** and the **Presidential Palace**. You will also pass by the **Mercado Central**, one of Chile's largest fresh seafood markets and take a stroll by the many bustling stalls to see the tremendous variety available from Chile's bountiful sea. Then, visit some of the lesser know barrios of Santiago including, **Republica** and **Concha y Toro**. Initially constituting the outskirts of the city, the capital's constant growth transformed the area into a privileged neighborhood and home of Santiago's high society. There will be time to walk around and take photos of the many styles of architecture from dating back to the 19th and early 20th century. Continuing through the **Lastarrias** neighborhood you will walk through the **Parque Forestal** passing by the **Bellas Artes Museum**. Perhaps you will go to Akarana for dinner tonight.

Ritz -Carlton Santiago (BB)

Day 5,

This morning you will catch a flight to Mendoza. There you will meet our Argentine wine guide and make a stop at either Achaval Ferrer or Alta Vista winery on our way to Cuyo Maipu. Lunch at Melipal winery, not only is the food outstanding, but the setting is fantastic, and the wine is a perfect complement to the great meal. The balance of the afternoon is at leisure I suggest you have dinner at your lodge Tapiz tonight, on our own account.

Club Tapiz (BL)

Day 6,

As in Chile the wine tours are fully guided. The wine area around Mendoza features Malbec which are Argentina's claim to wine fame. Today you will be visiting two wineries. First, you visit Nieto Senetier for a premium wine tasting and then lunch and tasting at Finca Decero winery. You can expect a 4 course 2.5-hour lunch paired with appropriate wines. The Mendoza experience is as much a food experience as it is a wine one. After lunch you will travel to Valle de Uco where we will check into your hotel.

Antucura is an amazing property. It seems that they had an unlimited construction/decorating budget and managed to even exceed that! The library has over 7,000 volumes. The whole atmosphere from the grounds to the accommodations reeks quality (spell that money) It's small and you will find the dinner and wines exceptional.

Antucura (BBLD)

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chuck@burntpine-safari.com

Day 7,

Today you will be visiting two wineries, with special tasting at O Fournier (premium wines), then visit and have lunch at Andeluna with the appropriate wines. At lunch, if the chef is still doing it (surprise) it will probably be a first for you as it most definitely was for me! You then will transfer back to the lodge. Dinner at the lodge

Antucura (BBLD)

Day 8,

Today catch a flight to Buenos Aires, arriving in the domestic terminal downtown; our will take you directly to your well situated Hotel. Then for dinner may I suggest you head down to Porto Madero and have dinner at Bici tonight.

Marriott Plaza (BB)

Day 9,

After breakfast you will be taking a half day guided city tour to get acclimated to Buenos Aires. Lunch and the afternoon are at leisure. Maybe it's a stroll from your hotel down Florida street which is a shopping paradise. The area is known for leather and wool. Depends what you're up for this evening, one option is a Tango dinner show. Most people think its well worth the money.

Marriott Plaza (BB)

Day 10,

Today is your last day in Argentina unless you are extending. You might want to stop at Happening for an early dinner on the way to the airport. .

Overnight Flight

Day 11,

Arrive early morning in the US where you will clear US Immigration & Customs.

HAVE A GREAT TRIP & A FANTASTIC TIME!

Add-ons to this wine and food experience:

More time in Buenos Aires to finish exploring the city.

Iguazu Falls, the second largest in the world.

The glaciers in El Calafate

Dude ranch in Patagonia