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Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Golden hour in Chianti: Autumn's fiery kiss over the meticulously tended vineyards of Tuscany.

Uncork the World: Extraordinary Wine Journeys for the Oenophile

Dear Friends,

As we look for travel inspiration for 2026, we dedicate this month's newsletter to an evocative and experiential theme: oenotourism. These journeys go beyond simply tasting wine and invite your travelers to step into the rhythm of a place, from the apple orchards of Somerset, England, that produce a refreshing cider, to Portugal's Alentejo region and its ancient wine-making secrets. Our portfolio of properties and DMCs are eager to introduce your wine enthusiasts to wine traditions, makers, and landscapes that give each bottle its story.

From the cool-climate estates of South Africa's Cape Winelands to the volcanic vineyards of Santorini, the cellar doors of Bordeaux, and the sun-drenched slopes of Croatia, you'll find experiences that redefine what wine travel can be. Napa Valley becomes accessible through expert talks with winegrowers and sommeliers, while Mexico's emerging wine routes take center stage, from the highlands around San Miguel de Allende and northern Baja California's Valle de Guadalupe. Down under, the terroirs of Barossa, Central Otago, and Marlborough come alive through private tastings, foraging lunches, and encounters with the winemakers shaping the future of Southern Hemisphere wines.

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The United Kingdom is quietly becoming one of Europe's most exciting sparkling-wine destinations, with vineyard hotels, guided tastings, and elegant estates ready to welcome your clients. And for those seeking something unexpected, Iceland and the ancient soils of Türkiye offer inventive, regionally rooted approaches to gastronomy and wine culture.

I hope this collection inspires you to craft wine journeys that linger well beyond the final pour. Our team and our exceptional partners worldwide are here to support your planning with insider access and tailored itineraries. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

Fondly,

Rebecca



Rebecca Slater, enjoying a delicious glass of Napa Valley wine at Meadowood.

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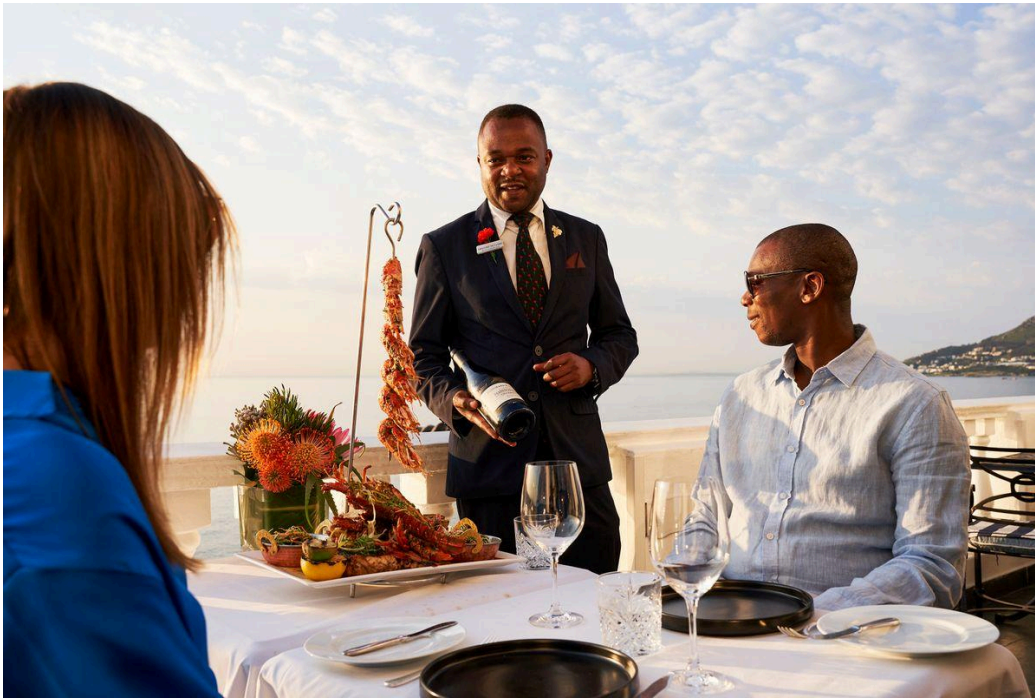
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[News from Africa](#)



Uncorking the Cape: Sunset, local flavors, and a perfect vintage on the deck of The Twelve Apostles Hotel & Spa, where the Atlantic meets Table Mountain.

[The Twelve Apostles Hotel and Spa](#) - Cool-Climate Wines and Culinary Pairings by the Sea

Set between the Atlantic Ocean and the majestic peaks of Table Mountain National Park, The Twelve Apostles Hotel and Spa offers the ultimate introduction to South Africa's celebrated wine culture. Just 20 minutes from the hotel lies Constantia Glen, a boutique estate renowned for its rich heritage, sweeping views, and elegant cool-climate wines, an ideal half-day excursion for guests wishing to discover South Africa's oldest wine-growing region.

Back at the hotel, oenophiles can indulge year-round in the Heritage Wine Tasting experience, which showcases the country's most distinctive grape varieties, including the iconic Chenin Blanc and bold Pinotage, each telling a story of terroir and time. For an immersive evening, look out for the hotel's regular wine dinners, such as the Riebeek Cellars Wine Dinner at the end of the season: a seven-course tasting menu by Executive Chef Christo Pretorius, with each dish paired perfectly to a Riebeek Cellars vintage.

Enjoy this [GUIDE](#) by Twelve Apostles Hotel and Spa's concierge to discover things to do in Cape Town and Beyond. Whether savoring sunset wines on the terrace or dining at Azure Restaurant overlooking the Atlantic, guests experience a journey through South Africa's remarkable landscapes and flavors one glass at a time.

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Human ingenuity, earth's generosity. Discover the story of wine at Babylonstoren.

[Babylonstoren, Franschhoek Wine Valley, South Africa](#) - Immersive Wine, Food, and Farm Experiences in the Cape Winelands

Situated in the heart of the Cape Winelands, Babylonstoren is the ideal location for exploring South Africa's wine country. Send your favorite wine lovers on a daily cellar tour to discover the farm's history and winemaking heritage. The tour includes a visit to the subterranean wine tunnel, offering guests a journey through centuries of making and storing wine. After visiting the barrel cellar, it's time to taste the ten wines in the portfolio, served with delicious accompaniments sourced from the farm and its surrounds.

The Story of Wine Museum is woven into the experience. This interactive space documents the history and cultivation of wine, accompanied by an audio guide. From an antique collection of corkscrews to displays on the world's diverse terroirs and sensory exhibits exploring aroma and taste, it's a celebration of human ingenuity, the earth's generosity, and the cultural events that have shaped our collective winemaking and drinking heritage.

The Tasting Room appears to float above working vines, immersing guests in the landscape. It's cool in summer, with cozy fireplaces for winter days. Guests can enjoy generous grazing platters while tasting their way through the wines.

Beyond the vineyards, the olive oil tour offers a behind-the-scenes look at how the farm's table olives and extra virgin olive oils are made. For an unforgettable culinary experience, Babel Restaurant celebrates the harvest at its most abundant, perfectly rounded off by the estate's finest wines. Throughout the farm, the flavors of the season are celebrated in simple, generous ways.

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Beyond the tasting glass with Exeter Safari: stepping into the rhythm of a place where ancient traditions, rich soils, and unforgettable wine experiences meet. Photo credit - Greg Cox

[Exeter Safari Company, Africa](#) - Oenotourism in the Cape Winelands at La Residence

In the heart of the Cape Winelands, surrounded by mountain peaks and rolling vineyards, La Residence in Franschhoek stands as one of South Africa's most exclusive and enchanting retreats. With its elegant interiors, sweeping views, and personalized service, La Residence captures the romance of wine country like nowhere else.

Exeter Safari Company ensures your journey to this haven is as seamless as it is luxurious. Whether your clients are arriving from the wilds of a safari adventure or the bustle of Cape Town, their expert team will curate every step, arranging private transfers, scenic drives through the Winelands, and personalized touches that make the transition effortless. Their deep local knowledge allows them to craft a journey that blends South Africa's iconic wilderness with the refined sophistication of its wine country.

During your guests' stay at La Residence, they'll be perfectly positioned to explore the world-renowned wineries of Franschhoek and Stellenbosch. These neighboring regions offer a tapestry of tasting experiences, from boutique cellars tucked among the hills to grand estates producing some of South Africa's most celebrated vintages. Whether they are savoring a crisp Chenin Blanc, a bold Cabernet Sauvignon, or a Méthode Cap Classique sparkling wine, each glass reflects the region's rich terroir and artistry.

Each evening, they'll return to La Residence's serene beauty, where vineyard views, fine wines, and luxurious comfort create the perfect finale to a fabulous Cape Winelands journey with Exeter Safari Company.

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[News from Americas](#)



Where New York's story is told in every vine. Discover the heart of North Fork wine country, home to over 60 acclaimed wineries.

[American Stories Travel, East Coast, United States](#) - Sip, Savor, and Explore: A Taste of New York

Wine and food lovers, take note: [New York City](#) is a destination where every bite and sip tells a story. Whether your clients are seated in a candlelit dining room in Manhattan or tasting vintages among the vines of Long Island, this is a region made for those who love to indulge, explore, and connect.

New York City is home to an incredible 72 Michelin-starred restaurants (at last count!), each offering unforgettable culinary moments that blend precision, creativity, and global inspiration. From tasting menus to chef-driven seasonal fare, dining here is a form of storytelling where every dish reflects the city's cultural richness.

Got wine? We do! Our [Long Island Luxury Wine Tasting Experience](#) takes you to the heart of North Fork wine country, home to over 60 acclaimed wineries. Your travelers will be whisked away in a private luxury vehicle to enjoy exclusive access to two of the area's finest wineries, meet their founders or winemakers, and savor a curated flight of wines. On the way back, they'll stop at a local farmers' market filled with fresh, regional specialties, perfect for a delicious souvenir. Whether they're raising a glass in the city or sipping under the sunlit vines, wine and gastronomy tourism in New York is a celebration of flavor, place, and memory.

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Uncorking romance in the vineyards of San Miguel de Allende.

[Journey Mexico](#) - A Culinary and Viticultural Adventure, from Baja's Valleys to San Miguel's Vineyards

Wine enthusiasts can uncover Mexico's wine regions in the highlands around San Miguel de Allende and northern Baja California's Valle de Guadalupe with Journey Mexico's insider access and on-the-ground expertise.

Baja Sur's landscape of rocky desert and giant cactus forests gives way to the rolling hills and fertile valleys of Baja Norte. Guests may stay at a boutique luxury hotel overlooking lush views and sip their way around the area's vineyards. They'll discover the spirit of the growing viticulture scene through guided walks and wine tastings, and leisurely lunches paired beautifully with local bottles.

Paint a picture for your clients of eating beneath a century-old oak tree at Animalón, where service becomes an art form and chef Javier Plascencia's gourmet Mexican plates continue to set the standard. Inside Bruma Winery, chef David Castro's Fauna takes a relaxed, dynamic approach with creative dishes served on a long, social dining table. At Bodegas Santo Tomás, diners enjoy restaurant Villa Torél's beautiful vineyard setting alongside chef Alfredo Villanueva's elegant Mexican menu with contemporary European touches.

Valle de Guadalupe fits naturally into a wider journey to Baja, weaving in the region's best-kept-secret locations. Send your clients out on a day in Tijuana to trace its evolving culinary scene; stop in Puerto Nuevo for its classic lobster; or head out with Ensenada's generational fishermen as they bring in the morning's catch. Farther south in coastal La Paz, they can swim alongside graceful whale sharks, bask in a cinematic Balandra Beach sunset, and discover the striking beauty of Espiritu Santo Island, UNESCO-recognized for its extraordinary biodiversity.

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The classic beauty of San Miguel de Allende, a perfect prelude to discovering Mexico's emerging wine and culinary routes.

[San Miguel de Allende](#) is a city shaped by artists, rooftop terraces, and an ever-evolving culinary landscape. Your clients get behind-the-scenes access to studios and galleries, can browse markets and artisans, and may admire the folk-art tradition rooted in nearby Atotonilco. Evenings unfold over cocktails overlooking the cathedral or a candlelit dinner at Aperi, where a modern, confident menu anchors one of the town's most compelling dining rooms. Beyond the city, travelers can get out into the countryside's leafy vineyards to meet sommeliers for vineyard walks and tastings, or sit down to chef Ricardo Luna's four-course menu at Cuna de Tierra, paired with the estate's wines. They'll spend a morning hiking through the canyons of the surrounding mountains, then settle into a hearty ranch lunch, a quiet, grounded counterpoint to San Miguel's artistic energy. A trip to the buzzing capital combines wonderfully with the charm of San Miguel. In Mexico City, soar at sunrise above the pyramids of Teotihuacan in a hot air balloon and explore Xochimilco's "floating gardens," hosted by the pioneering NGO working to restore this ancient farming technique. Trace Frida Kahlo's life in Coyoacán at Casa Azul, and step into Mesoamerican history during an exclusive after-hours exploration of the National Anthropology Museum.

Journey Mexico has created several inspirational itineraries to whet your clients' appetite for the country's best wine, cuisine, and culture. Use this as-is or for a jumping-off point for your travelers' personalized adventure.

- [Spirit of Mexico: San Miguel de Allende, Tequila Experience](#)
- [Explore San Miguel de Allende's Artistic Heritage](#)
- [Mexico City & San Miguel Allende: Culture, Food & Wine](#)
- [Food, Wine & Culture in Colonial Mexico](#)
- [4-Day Weekend Escape to San Miguel de Allende](#)
- [A Journey Through Mexico City, San Miguel de Allende, and Los Cabos](#)

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Unlocking the nuance of Napa Valley. A private moment of tasting with the experts at Meadowood, where every vintage tells a unique story of the terroir.

[Meadowood Napa Valley, California](#) - Unlocking the Region's Most Exclusive Wine Experiences

Napa Valley stands as one of the world's most distinguished destinations for refined hospitality, delivering unparalleled viticultural and gastronomic excellence. As the New World's preeminent wine region, it produces a mere 4% of California's total grape harvest, yet commands extraordinary influence - generating over \$50 billion for the U.S. economy and comprising 27% of California's wine industry valuation. With approximately 95% of its 500+ wineries remaining family-owned, many of these estates offer their wine solely through direct allocation. Meadowood's Estate Host curates bespoke itineraries for each guest, unlocking access to the valley's most coveted experiences.

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Since its inception, one of Meadowood's core values has been to be the common ground for the Napa Valley wine-growing community. The Wine Center at Meadowood and its educators put Napa Valley into context within the greater wine world, and highlight the nuances through private tastings, guided excursions, and special events scattered throughout the year that draw upon the expertise of a range of personalities, from writers to winegrowers, sommeliers, culinary leaders, and those at the forefront of thought in the arts, sciences, and humanities. Some 2025 highlights have included: Dawn Patrol with The Mascot, Wellness in Wine with Karen MacNeil and Kelli White, and Vintner Chat with Chris Howell and Rosemary Cakebread.

From elevated roadside establishments to three-Michelin-starred destinations, Napa Valley's culinary landscape is exceptional, with wine culture integral to almost every dining experience. The town of St. Helena, just five minutes from Meadowood, is home to some of the valley's most acclaimed restaurants. Several favorites include The Charter Oak, Gott's Roadside, Charlie's, Model Bakery, PRESS, Farmstead, and, of course, Forum at Meadowood.

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[News from Australasia](#)



The secluded Wine Cave at Blanket Bay: an intimate space for private dinners and bespoke wine tastings, central to New Zealand's celebrated Central Otago wine program.

[Blanket Bay, Glenorchy, New Zealand](#) - A Culinary Destination: Blanket Bay and the Central Otago Gastronomic Landscape

Blanket Bay is a benchmark for luxury hospitality, with its acclaimed wine and gastronomy program central to the experience. The commitment to culinary excellence is rooted in New Zealand's regional produce, led by award-winning local Chef Dan Reynolds. Chef Reynolds, who honed his skills in European Michelin-starred establishments, drives a philosophy defined by precision and freshness. Guests can choose from diverse dining environments, from the formal main dining room to the casual outdoor terrace with lake and Southern Alps views. For the most exclusive occasions, the secluded Wine Cave provides an intimate space for private dinners and bespoke wine tastings.

The lodge's geographical position near Queenstown is key to its comprehensive wine experience, acting as a gateway to Central Otago, renowned for its Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Aromatics. Guests benefit from a curated in-house wine program alongside the opportunity to explore the surrounding vineyards and the wider wine tourism of the Southern Alps. This dedication ensures a sophisticated and unforgettable gastronomic encounter.

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Taste the legacy. Going behind the scenes for a private vintage tasting in the rarefied atmosphere of the Penfolds Magill underground. Photo credit - Tourism Australia

[Southern Crossings, Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji](#) - Discover the Southern Hemisphere's Most Exceptional Wine Experiences

Whether weaving wine experiences into local adventures or designing whole itineraries around wine, Southern Crossings' travel designers can curate tailored wine tastings and wine-centric touring experiences to delight the casual wine lover and the wine-curious through to the most dedicated and sophisticated oenophiles traveling in Australia and New Zealand.

From the Barossa to Wairarapa, Hawkes' Bay to the Hunter Valley, Clare Valley or Central Otago to the Margaret River, Mudgee or McLaren Vale, Mornington Peninsula, Martinborough and Marlborough, there are dozens of picturesque wine regions to be explored right across Australia and New Zealand. These are regions producing everything from big bold reds and buttery Chardonnays to crisp Sauvignon Blancs and sophisticated sparklings.

Beyond simply introducing travelers to some of the regions' stunning cellar doors, the Southern Crossings team takes great delight in inviting visitors to go behind the scenes, meet the makers, and enjoy tailored tasting experiences that provide personal connections and lasting memories.

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From garden to glass - forage, savor, and indulge in a winemaker-hosted lunch that celebrates the fresh, seasonal flavors of the Barossa Valley. Photo credit - Tourism Australia

AUSTRALIA

In Australia's oldest wine country, the Hunter Valley (just 2 hours north of Sydney), wine enthusiasts walk between the Tyrrells Estate vines with fifth-generation winemaker, Chris Tyrrell, for a privileged and private grape-to-glass experience. They'll enjoy rare samplings from his family's private cellar and round out the experience with a private lunch served in the barrel room. Alternatively, in the Barossa Valley, guests may tour St. Hugo's kitchen garden, glass of sparkling in hand, to forage and sample local produce to be used in the winemaker-hosted seasonal lunch to follow; or combine a Terroir Masterclass with a restorative visit to local geothermal springs for a wine and wellness introduction to the Mornington Peninsula.

Taste one's birth-year with a private tour of Seppeltfield's centenary cellar or create a signature blend under the expert guidance of Penfolds' talented winemakers and let the Southern Crossings team introduce your clients to Australia's "Young Guns of Wine," "Barons of the Barossa," the international "Sparkling Winemaker of the Year" and other passionate characters behind Australia's celebrated labels.

Your clients might explore Petaluma's pretty, rolling vineyards on horseback before enjoying a guided private tasting of their award-winning wines in the Adelaide Hills or learn the art of fly-fishing on Printhe's picturesque lake before sitting down to a four-course lunch showcasing Orange produce and the estate's celebrated wines. Or, for a fully immersive wine experience, they can enjoy a multi-day hosted stay in Western Australia's Margaret River, including hands-on, behind-the-scenes and exclusive experiences:

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winemaking masterclasses and truffle hunts (in season), private meals among the vines, and introductions to local makers and artisans.



The ribbon of rows: A bird's-eye view of a Hawke's Bay vineyard, home to New Zealand's celebrated Chardonnays and Cabernet Sauvignons. Photo credit - Graeme Murray

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand's wines, from Marlborough's Sauvignon Blancs to Central Otago's Pinot Noir, have earned world acclaim, and the cellar doors behind the wines reward visitors equally so.

In New Zealand's North: Cruise the beautiful Bay of Islands to tour the Landing's sights of natural and historic significance before sitting down to enjoy spectacular views with a private chef-prepared lunch and paired with estate wines; heli over Auckland's sparkling harbor to enjoy a long vineyard lunch at one of Waiheke Island's waterside wineries; or cycle between Hawkes Bay wineries sampling the region's awarded Chardonnays and Cabernet Sauvignons. Don't miss the opportunity to arrange for your clients a privilege premium tasting experience of Church Road's iconic TOM range in their underground museum or barrel hall, with sommelier-led samplings of Smith and Sheth's limited production fine wines.

Those who are keen to stay a little longer will soon (Q1 2026) be able to enjoy a new premium serviced villa experience with the opening of the new exclusive-use, four-bedroom Lodge at Craggy Range, which also includes a range of special-access wine experiences, including tastings of rare Giants Estate wines in their underground cellar.

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Similarly, in the nation's south, the Southern Crossings travel design team can introduce travelers to a collection of personalized and privileged wine experiences:

- Begin the day with a hosted walk of Cloudy Bay Estate's vineyards, then Sip and Sail on the Marlborough Sounds, enjoying fresh local seafood and Cloudy Bay wines aboard a luxury 54-foot sailing yacht.
- Enjoy one of New Zealand's stunning Central Otago vineyards all to oneself, enjoying a guided vineyard walk, personalized wine tastings, and a wine-paired lunch with the winemaker; or visit a collection of closed-door vineyards to go behind-the-scenes where few have traveled before to learn about local viticulture practices, from grape to bottle.



A view worthy of its name. Discover the majestic Craggy Range Giants Winery, set against the stunning backdrop of Hawke's Bay. Photo credit - Craggy Range Giants Winery

Again, those looking to sleep among the vines will soon have a new option in New Zealand's South Island, too. On the eastern slopes of the South Island's main divide, in one of New Zealand's largely unsung wine regions, The Lindis Group (the team behind the Lindis, Mt. Isthmus, and Paroa Bay) is preparing to unveil a new accommodation offering on their Clos Ostler vineyard estate in the Waitaki Valley. Clos Ostler's Pinot Noirs have collected consecutive Gold awards at the London International Wine Challenge, making this one a one-to-watch for serious wine lovers.

Wharekauhau Country Estate (recent recipient of two Michelin Keys) invites wine lovers to enjoy the best of North and South Island wines with their Signature Foley Wine Flight that visits three of their Foley Family vineyards across Martinborough and Marlborough, including meeting the winemakers, sampling the signature styles of the region, and connecting them with scenic helicopter flights.

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[News from Europe](#)



Where wine and wonder meet. Experiencing a perfect moment on Santorini, tasting fine vintages with a view as breathtaking as the wine's story.

[Curated Greece](#) - In the Footsteps of God Dionysus: Wine in the Greek Terroir

Οἶνος εὐφραίνει καρδίαν, as the ancient Greeks said: “Wine gladdens the heart.” It reflects the belief that wine nourishes both body and spirit. Curated Greece aims for intimate wine experiences, supporting small, family-owned producers and allowing travelers to connect directly with the land and the people who care for it.

Nemea, one of Greece’s most important wine regions and the largest red wine producer, is nestled in the northern Peloponnese. Its rolling hills and fertile soils shape the character of the Agiorgitiko grape. Visiting its renowned vineyards and boutique wineries reveals centuries-old traditions rooted in the myths of Hercules and the Nemean Games.

Paros is becoming a rising wine destination in the Cyclades. The island’s drier, more rugged landscape gives wines a distinct saline and mineral profile. Travelers can explore both heritage and innovation, from the island’s oldest family winery, founded in 1910, to a newer, community-driven estate applying modern sustainable practices to winemaking.

Santorini could not be missing from this mix. Its volcanic soil and strong sea winds shape the iconic Assyrtiko, grown in the traditional kouloura basket form to protect it from the elements. Here, wine can become part of a larger creative expression, with tastings held in a gallery-style space where art installations accompany the glass.

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The taste of Bordeaux, rooted in history. Witnessing the Grand Cru Classé vineyards of Château de Pressac.

[Découvertes, France](#) - Sip, Savor, Discover: Oenotourism in France

Wine is a journey through history, landscape, and culture. Découvertes DMC France crafts itineraries that bring oenotourism to life, blending vineyard visits, private tastings, and culinary experiences into seamless journeys.

Your clients can explore Bordeaux or Burgundy, where centuries-old wineries offer private tours and tastings of exceptional vintages. They'll wander through sunlit Provence vineyards before joining a master chef in preparing a traditional Provençal meal, paired perfectly with local wines. In the Rhône Valley, they'll savor a curated dinner at a hidden gem restaurant, chosen for its excellence and authenticity, where every dish reflects the terroir.

Oenotourism is most rewarding when woven into the rhythm of travel: strolling historic villages, visiting iconic wineries, or sharing a long lunch overlooking rolling hills. Each experience combines flavor, culture, and scenery, leaving travelers with memories as rich as the wines themselves.

With Découvertes DMC France, every sip, every bite, and every encounter is curated for connection, elegance, and discovery, ensuring wine tourism becomes an unforgettable chapter of your clients' journey through France.

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Unforgettable taste, ancient tradition. Raise a glass to generations of Croatian winemaking mastery.

[Dinaric Adventures, Croatia and Beyond](#) - Discover the Flavors of Wine in Croatia

Croatia, a true Mediterranean country from head to toe, is unimaginable without its wines ... or its fish. Locals say fish “swims three times”: first in the sea, then in olive oil, and finally in wine. No one here can imagine their grandfather’s dinner without a glass of wine; a tradition carried through generations.

Are your oenophiles ready to experience Croatia travel in the most delicious way possible? Planning your clients’ itinerary around the country’s wine regions turns any trip into a full sensory journey, immersing them in vineyards, wineries, and unforgettable wine tastings.

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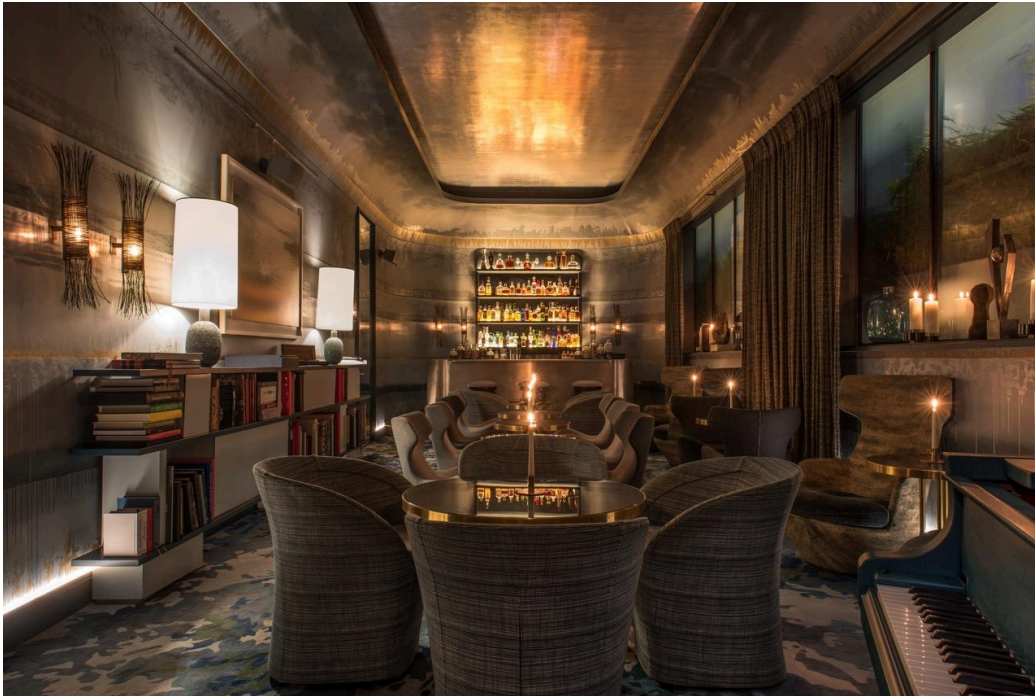
Sun-drenched drama: The famously steep, south-facing slopes of Hvar, where the Plavac Mali grape thrives, overlooking the Adriatic Sea near Sveta Nedjelja.

Travelers can start their day exploring the sun-drenched slopes of southern Hvar above Sveta Nedjelja, where even Zlatan Plenković once celebrated the iconic Plavac Mali. This bold red continues to capture hearts on the southern Pelješac peninsula. Istrian wines offer elegant whites and robust reds, while Slavonian wines delight with their fruity, aromatic flavors, making each tasting unique.

Arrange for a lunch at a traditional konoba, where diners savor authentic dishes perfectly paired with local wines. Wander through inspiring Kaštela, where historic charm meets excellent wines, and visit boutique wineries to experience Croatia's rich winemaking traditions firsthand. From vineyards to tasting rooms, from the coast to inland regions, every glass tells a story.

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The soundtrack to romance in Paris: A moment of intimate luxury at the Nolinski bar, centered around the evening's piano music. Photo credit - Guillaume de Laubier

[Evok Collection, Nolinski Paris, Cour des Vosges, Nolinski Venezia, Brach Paris, Brach Madrid](#) - Experience the Allure of Paris and the Legacy of Champagne

Paris, the captivating “City of Lights,” offers an experience enhanced by The Evok Collection. Their three distinctive properties, Nolinski Paris in the 1st arrondissement, Cour des Vosges in Le Marais, and Brach Paris in the 16th, blend breathtaking design with exceptional surroundings. Each hotel offers a well-defined, sophisticated lifestyle, deeply connected to the local Parisian culture.

Just a two-hour journey from the bustling center lies the serene Champagne region. Invite your clients to immerse themselves in history with a visit to Champagne Ayala. Dating back to 1860, The House boasts an incredible heritage, beginning with a visionary spirit. The melodious name, AYALA, seems perfectly suited for the village of Aÿ, where the House was first established. A true testament to its quality, the brand is loved around the world and received a prestigious Royal Warrant in 1908, following the coronation of King Edward VII.

From the sophistication of a Parisian stay with the Evok Collection to the historic elegance of a Champagne Ayala tasting, your clients will be captivated by this delightful experience in France.

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The crowning glory of Venice. Float in our gold mosaic-tiled pool on the third floor, offering a unique 360° view of the Venetian skyscape and rooftops.

Click on the links in the [EVOK SUITES BROCHURE](#) and discover the distinctive character of the group's signature suites across three brands: Brach, Nolinski, and Cour des Vosges in Paris, Venice, and Madrid.

- [Nolinski Paris - Suites Virtual Tour \(ENG\)](#)
- [Nolinski Venezia - Suites Virtual Tour \(ENG\)](#)
- [Brach Paris - Suites Virtual Tour \(ENG\)](#)
- [Brach Madrid - Suites Virtual Tour \(ENG\)](#)
- [Cour des Vosges - Suites Virtual Tour \(ENG\)](#)

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A Swiss spectacle: Precision-tended Lavaux vineyards climb the slopes above the serene blue of Lake Geneva, a UNESCO-listed landscape of wine and wonder.

[Hotel d'Angleterre, Geneva, Switzerland](#) - Swiss Wine by the Lake

Perched on the shores of Lake Geneva with sweeping views of Mont Blanc, Hotel d'Angleterre invites guests to discover one of Europe's most quietly remarkable wine regions. Just beyond the city lie the vineyards of the Canton of Geneva, producing Switzerland's third-largest wine output. Villages such as Satigny, Russin, and Jussy invite exploration, offering tastings of distinctive local grapes like Chasselas, a refined white known for its subtle minerality, and Pinot Noir, grown in cool Alpine conditions. Switzerland's diverse microclimates and mountain terroirs give its wines extraordinary purity and depth.

You can easily incorporate a half-day vineyard tour into your clients' Geneva itinerary before they return to the hotel to relax at Windows Restaurant. Here, refined European cuisine meets a carefully curated wine list, all enjoyed against the glittering backdrop of Lac Léman and the snow-capped peaks beyond. A glass of Swiss Chasselas at sunset paired with elegant seasonal dishes perfectly captures Geneva's harmony of sophistication, flavor, and serenity.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Taste the artistry of Iceland: MOSS Restaurant's meticulously crafted seafood, showcasing the island's fresh catches.

[Nine Worlds, Iceland, and Greenland](#) - A Taste of Iceland

Iceland may not be a wine-producing nation, but its capital offers a world-class food and wine scene that's perfect for weaving into a luxury itinerary. With Nine Worlds, your clients can experience Reykjavík through its flavors on a privately guided wine and gastronomy tour.

This curated walk through the city's vibrant culinary district blends expertly selected wine tastings with Iceland's finest cuisine. Guests might begin with a crisp sparkling wine paired with delicate Arctic char, then continue to bold reds alongside slow-cooked lamb, or finish with dessert wines complemented by rich, locally made chocolate.

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Bubbles and beauty: celebrating with champagne in the heart of Iceland. Photo credit - MOSS Restaurant

Along the way, the tour reveals Reykjavík's thriving dining culture, from small chef-owned restaurants to stylish wine bars known for their cellars as much as their ambience. Sommeliers and chefs share insights into pairing techniques, sourcing, and the inspiration behind their menus.

For travelers who appreciate the art of food and wine, Iceland offers a gourmet journey as memorable as any scenic excursion.

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Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



The Bairrada Baga vines, ablaze in the colors of a Portuguese autumn. A perfect vintage view.

[Patamar Select, Portugal](#) - Portugal Beyond the Cellar

For travelers seeking a deeper, more meaningful connection with Portugal, Patamar Select curates culinary and wine experiences that go far beyond the typical tasting room. Their approach is rooted in authenticity, sustainability, and regional heritage, and every experience is fully tailored to each client.

One of their signature offerings brings guests into the heart of Alentejo's ancient wine-making traditions with a Talha experience. Talha wine, made in large clay amphorae using techniques that date back to the Romans, is still produced today in only a handful of villages. Patamar Select invites guests to enjoy a private picnic among the vineyards, accompanied by cante alentejano, the traditional polyphonic singing recognized by UNESCO. This is a rare opportunity to understand not only the wine but the culture, people, and flavors that define this region. The experience can be paired with classic Alentejano dishes such as açorda, migas, or locally raised black pork.

In Colares, one of Europe's most unique coastal appellations, Patamar arranges private visits and tastings at Viúva Gomes, a historic producer working with ramisco vines planted directly in sandy soils. Here, guests discover a style of wine found nowhere else in the world, guided by the winemakers who safeguard these near-extinct traditions.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Alentejo's liquid gold, aged to perfection: Inside a classic Portuguese wine cellar, a tribute to the region's winemaking heritage.

For clients eager to meet Portugal's legendary wine personalities, you can arrange exclusive encounters such as a lunch of succulent Bairrada leitão (suckling pig) paired with top sparkling wines hosted by Luis Pato himself. It's an unforgettable way to explore one of Portugal's most distinctive gastronomic regions through the eyes of its most iconic producer.

These experiences represent only a small glimpse of what Patamar Select designs and writes about in their book, *Foot Trodden*. As specialists in gastronomy and wine, they craft entirely bespoke journeys that connect travelers with the people, places, and traditions that make Portugal exceptional.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Sip and savor the Aegean: From Istanbul to Izmir, explore the rich history, coastal scenery, and exquisite vintages of Türkiye's Urla wine trail with Sea Song.

[Sea Song, Türkiye](#) - Taste the Past, Savor the Present

Wine and gastronomy are a wonderful surprise in Türkiye. The country's wines are world-class and from ancient grapes, some from 3,000 BC. While not generally well known, as Türkiye does not export, the beautiful wines can be enjoyed at seaside and countryside vineyards and restaurants.

Production is small, and Turkish wine drinking has increased over the years. There are many grapes that are indigenous to Turkey and have very special flavors. Picture your clients following the wine trail along the Marmara Sea to the Aegean Sea, tasting the wines and the best olive oil in the country, taking local cooking classes, visiting ancient cities, dining at multigenerational family-owned restaurants, windsurfing in Alacati, and touring local farms and Saturday farmers' markets. There are many small villages with stone houses and cute pastry shops, and boutiques to discover, and an authenticity that makes one feel as if they have traveled back in time. Sea Song highly recommends OD URLA restaurant in the Urla wine country, where Chef Osman Sezener serves amazing Michelin-starred cuisine on his farm with the best wines, served in his lovely olive grove.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



The authentic flavors of Tuscany: Hands-on pasta, Chianti, and villa life in a cooking class with Vakay.

[Vakay in Tuscany, Italy](#) - Tuscany in a Glass: Italy's Wine & Culinary Soul

Whether curating a festive Milanese adventure, a Renaissance art journey in Florence, a moonlit gondola ride in Venice, or a private wine escape through Chianti, Vakay crafts Italian experiences that linger long after the journey ends.

In Montalcino, Vakay guests might follow their host into a family-run winery, where oak barrels line candlelit cellars. The winemaker will pour a glass of Brunello still aging in wood, describing how the vineyard's stones and sunlight shaped its character. Seated beneath vines heavy with autumn grapes, guests taste not just wine, but generations of devotion.

Elsewhere in the Chianti hills, travelers can spend the day in a villa kitchen, welcomed by a local cook who guides them through rolling picci pasta and simmering ragù. Between laughter and flour-dusted aprons, cooking becomes an unexpected window into Tuscany's soul.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence

[News from the United Kingdom](#)



The promise of an excellent vintage begins here.

Explore the sprawling vineyards of Denbies Wine Estate. Photo credit - Denbies Wine Estate

[Dream Escape, United Kingdom and Ireland](#) - Sipping into Luxury: Vineyard Hotels

In England, vineyards across Sussex, Hampshire, Surrey, Devon, and the Cotswolds provide unique opportunities to explore the growing genre of wine tourism. Dream Escape guests can enjoy guided tours through picturesque estates, learn about sustainable and biodynamic practices, and indulge in tastings of award-winning sparkling and organic wines. Many destinations elevate the experience with luxury accommodations, such as vineyard lodges, restored barns, and even treehouses, paired with curated dining, from Michelin-starred menus to casual tapas-style plates.

Combine vineyard visits with local attractions and seasonal activities. Options include yoga among the vines, artisan picnics, and harvest experiences in autumn. Pair tastings with regional cuisine for a deeper sense of place, or choose immersive experiences that include accommodation, tours, and food pairings. Whether as a day trip from London or a countryside escape, oenotourism adds authenticity and indulgence to any travel plan, offering guests the chance to connect with nature, savor exceptional wines, and discover the stories behind England's thriving wine industry.

Read about our favorites [HERE](#).

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



A decadent finale to a day of luxury: The warm embrace of a chocolate soufflé, paired with the perfect vintage at the magnificent Hartwell House, England.

[Historic House Hotels, Hartwell House & Spa, Buckinghamshire, England](#) - A Taste of English Provenance

Set in the heart of Buckinghamshire, Hartwell House provides an ideal base from which to explore the growing reputation of English viticulture. The long, warm summer has provided exceptional conditions for grape ripening, promising a particularly fine vintage across the region's vineyards.

Within easy reach of the house are several notable estates producing award-winning English wines. Chiltern Valley Winery & Brewery in nearby Hambleton offers informative tours and tastings, while Oaken Grove Vineyard near Henley and Artelium Wine Estate in Sussex each demonstrate the craft and quality now synonymous with English sparkling and still wines. Guests may wish to incorporate a visit to one of these producers within their stay, combining vineyard discovery with the comfort and hospitality of Hartwell House.

Dining at Hartwell reflects the same respect for regional provenance. Menus showcase locally sourced ingredients from trusted suppliers: artisan cheeses from the Chiltern Hills, breads from independent Buckinghamshire bakeries, and seasonal produce from neighboring farms. The carefully curated wine list includes a selection of English wines chosen to complement these ingredients, offering guests a genuine sense of place.

Whether exploring the vineyards of southern England or enjoying a glass of local wine in the elegant setting of the dining room, Hartwell House provides an authentic introduction to the country's evolving world of wine and gastronomy.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



London, illuminated: The perfect vintage and even better company at The Hari's Bar, where sophistication meets comfort.

[The Hari, London, England](#) - Elegance in Every Glass

For travelers seeking to blend a city break with oenotourism, The Hari London offers the ideal setting. Within the book-filled walls and low lighting, guests looking for a calm space in the hustle of London can relax and savor delicious wines in the intimate Hari Bar.

The hotel's in-house Italian restaurant, il Pampero, also features an extensive, curated wine list, with a selection ranging from crisp whites and full-bodied reds to sparkling and dessert wines. Guests can relish both Old and New World wines by the glass or by the bottle.

The long list of wines is best enjoyed when paired with the exceptional house dishes such as the Filetto Di Spigola, the Tagliata Di Manzo, or the table-side Cacio e Pepe made in an "Oro-nero" cheese wheel.

For a lighter option, guests can savor wine with Cicchetti, plates often described as the Italian version of tapas. These sharing plates are common in Venice, and a tradition that is deeply tied to its culture of social eating and drinking. These, combined with delightful wines and good conversation, create the perfect evening.

When booked in advance, The Hari also offers a wine-tasting masterclass at either the restaurant or The Hari Bar.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Cheers to an unforgettable night. The perfect wine, the perfect meal, the perfect London address at The Milestone Hotel.

[The Milestone Hotel & Residences](#) - England's Sparkling Secret: Explore World-Class Vineyards Just Beyond London

Just beyond London's landmarks lies one of Europe's most exciting wine regions. From The Milestone Hotel & Residences, it's an easy escape to the rolling vineyards of East and West Sussex, Surrey, and Kent, where chalky soils and a cool climate mirror those of the famed French Champagne region. These conditions nurture the classic trio, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Pinot Meunier, which are behind England's now world-renowned sparkling wines.

Your clients may spend the day touring acclaimed estates such as Ridgeview, Nyetimber, or Chapel Down, whose vintages have triumphed in blind tastings against Champagne. Many offer guided tastings, picnics among the vines, and behind-the-scenes tours for true oenophiles. Return to the hotel for an evening of fine dining at Chenestons Restaurant, where classic British dishes are elegantly paired with English wines. The warm, wood-paneled setting and a glass of sparkling Ridgeview Bloomsbury or Gusbourne Brut Reserve provide the perfect finale to an English wine adventure.

You can also arrange for your travelers private transfers and personalized itineraries through The Milestone's concierge team, ensuring a seamless blend of culture, cuisine, and countryside charm.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



A taste of the Somerset orchards: Savor the elegant, complex flavors of The Newt's estate cyder, proving that the perfect pairing doesn't always need a vine.

[The Newt in Somerset, United Kingdom](#) - From Orchard to Glass: Explore Somerset's Heritage Apples

At The Newt in Somerset, guests experience wine and gastronomy through the unique lens of the estate cyder. Just as one would explore vineyards and cellars in a traditional wine region, guests wander through beautifully maintained orchards, learning how over 70 varieties of heritage apples become refined, vintaged cyder. The Cider Tour & Tasting in the state-of-the-art cellar offers an immersive look at pressing, slow fermentation, and the craft behind each bottle, offering a fresh, orchard-led twist on classic oenotourism. Specialist tastings in the House Cellar provide a deeper, more intimate encounter with the full character and flavor of the cyder styles.



If guests prefer a more traditional wine focus, sister estate Babylonstoren in South Africa offers world-class wine that can be enjoyed at The Newt. Their award-winning estate, renowned for its cellars, vineyards, and Cape Dutch heritage, adds a beautiful complementary note to any gastronomic itinerary. Whether savoring Babylonstoren's elegant wines or the estate's own expressive ciders, travelers can conclude their day with a seasonal meal in the Botanical Rooms, where estate-grown produce completes a sensory journey through flavor, craft, and terroir.