



THE BEST OF ARGENTINA

Exploring the high-altitude vineyards and wineries of Mendoza

MARCH 30th - APRIL 4th, 2025

YOUR HOSTS



Geoffrey Moss earned his Master of Wine in Fall 2020. He was awarded the prestigious Villa Maria Trophy for his outstanding knowledge of viticulture and the Robert Mondavi Winery Award for the best performance across all the theory papers in the MW exam. This is an extremely rare achievement. He is one of ten Masters of Wine in Canada.



Amanda Barnes is a leading expert on the wine regions of South America and author of the award-winning book, *The South America Wine Guide*. She is a correspondent and critic for Decanter magazine among other international publications. She is currently finishing her Master of Wine, writing her thesis on the wine regions of Argentina and Chile.



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ITINERARY | ARRIVAL

SUNDAY, MARCH 30TH - MENDOZA

Please arrange your own flights to Mendoza. Our accommodation for the first night will be at the Park Hyatt Mendoza, located in the heart of the city of Mendoza. The Park Hyatt is the top hotel in the city and has easy access to the city's attractions, providing a perfect base for our explorations. If you wish to stay at the hotel prior to the start of the tour, you can reach out to them directly.

Park Hyatt Mendoza, Chile 1124, Mendoza, Argentina, 5500, Mendoza

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/argentina/park-hyatt-mendoza-hotel-casino-and-spa/menph>

Tel + 54 261 441 1234

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM – WELCOME TASTING

We start the tour with a welcome tasting hosted by Amanda and Geoffrey. As a regional specialist on the wines of Argentina, Amanda will provide an in-depth overview of the country's dynamic wine scene from Mendoza and beyond. This session will give you a comprehensive introduction to the local wines and enhance your appreciation of the upcoming winery visits and tastings.

The rest of the evening is free for you to explore the city centre of Mendoza or rest up at the hotel from a long journey to Argentina.



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ITINERARY | DAY 1

MONDAY, MARCH 31ST - REACHING THE HEIGHTS OF THE UCO VALLEY

10:00 AM – MEET GUIDES AND DEPART

Meet Amanda and Geoffrey in the lobby of the Park Hyatt Mendoza for a prompt departure for our trip to the high-altitude vineyards of the Uco Valley. Please ensure you have completed check-out by this time as the next 2 nights of this tour will be in the beautiful Casa de Uco Vineyards & Wine Resort.

SALENTEIN

Founded in 1998, this beautiful, modern winery harvests its grapes from altitudes as high as 1,700 meters above sea level – among the highest in Mendoza. Salentein stands out amongst the crowd with their restrained and elegant Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, sourced from these cooler high-altitude vineyards. We begin the tour by focusing on growing top-quality grapes in Argentina.

www.bodegasalentein.com

LUNCH AT BODEGA DIAMANDES

Bodega DiamAndes, located at the foot of the Andes Mountains, sits at an altitude of 1,100 metres above sea level. The bodega boasts breathtaking architecture and offers classic wines crafted by Bordeaux's esteemed Bonnie family. Notably, the Bonnie family is also behind Michel Rolland's renowned Clos de los Siete winery. Indulge in an exquisitely crafted 4-course lunch menu where we try their top wines alongside older vintages from their library. Following lunch, we'll embark on a tour of the winery.

www.diamandes.com/en/

CASA DE UCO VINEYARDS & WINE RESORT

Nestled at the foothills of the mighty Andes Mountains and surrounded by vineyards offering endless panoramic views, Casa de Uco Vineyards & Wine Resort pays homage to the natural splendor of the Uco Valley. Spread across 320 hectares in the heart of the valley, the architecture seamlessly blends with the surrounding landscape. After checking in at Casa de Uco upon arrival, you'll have free time to relax before a 4-course dinner paired with wines from their own vineyards.

www.casadeuco.com/en/home-en/



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ITINERARY | DAY 2

TUESDAY, APRIL 1ST – REACHING THE HEIGHTS OF THE UCO VALLEY

10:30 AM – MEET GUIDES AND DEPART

Enjoy a relaxing morning with a range of activities to choose from, including a spa experience to rejuvenate your senses. We depart at 10:30am for our first visit of the day.

LA MORADA

Our first visit of the day is to La Morada, a boutique winery located in the heart of the Uco Valley. Our visit will begin with a cooking class on *empanadas*, a classic savoury stuffed-pastry that is a staple in Argentine cuisine. After mastering the art of empanada-making, we move on to a walk-around tasting of different producers from the Los Chacayes area of the Uco Valley. Winemakers will be on hand to present their wines and to discuss the art of crafting wine in this vast and unique region. A stand-up lunch of light dishes will be served to accompany these wines as you peruse the wine selection and mingle with your fellow travelers and local experts. This is an excellent opportunity to immerse yourself in Argentine gastronomic culture. www.lamoradalodge.com/en/home-english/

After the visit we will return to the hotel for a short siesta and time to get ready for an evening of a sunset visit followed by a special dinner at one of the most famous names in Argentine wine.

ALFA CRUX

Our first winery visit of the day is to an architectural masterpiece, Alfa Crux. Named after the brightest star in the Southern Cross (Alfa Crux), the winery was designed in perfect harmony with the earth and its magical surroundings. Laying at the foot of the imposing Andes, you will experience a tour and tasting of this incredible shrine to wine that specializes in Malbec and red blends.

www.agostinowinegroup.com/alfa-crux-wines

DINNER AT ZUCCARDI, PIEDRA INFINITA

In 1950, Alberto Zuccardi moved to Mendoza from Italy. He planted his first vines in 1963 and, using his engineering background, experimented with an irrigation system based on modern Californian methods of the time. Alberto was a pioneer in Argentinian viticulture and the winery remains one of the leading quality producers in the country. Our visit includes a tour of their new iconic winery, where we'll have the pleasure of tasting some of the top wines produced in Argentina and experiencing an exceptional dinner at their renowned restaurant, Piedra Infinita.

<https://zuccardiwines.com/piedra-infinita-cocina-zuccardi-valle-de-uco/>



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ITINERARY | DAY 3

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2ND – THE LEGENDS OF LUJÁN DE CUYO

10:00 am Depart Hotel

We check out of the Casa de Uco and make our way back to Mendoza, stopping off at legendary wineries in Luján de Cuyo along the way.

MATERVINI

Launched by winemakers Santiago Achaval and Roberto Cipresso in 2008, Matervini is a boutique winery specializing in terroir-driven Malbec. Starting with the classic Perdriel vineyards of Luján de Cuyo, whose vines dating to 1938 are among Argentina's oldest, Matervini sources their Malbecs from other districts in Luján de Cuyo and from among the world's highest altitude vineyards of the province of Salta in northern Argentina. This visit will be a fascinating journey through how one grape variety can manifest in so many ways based on its growing environment. A must for any Malbec fan.

<https://matervini.com/>

LUNCH AT ZONDA, LAGARDE WINERY

Founded in 1897, Lagarde Winery was acquired by the Pescarmona family in 1969, establishing a legacy of high-end winemaking. Today, Sofia and Lucila Pescarmona, the third generation, lead this charming traditional winery in the heart of Lujan de Cuyo. Enjoy a tour of this historic family-run winery, followed by a Michelin-starred dining experience at Zonda restaurant, showcasing Lagarde's exceptional wines. It is one of only four Michelin-starred restaurants in Mendoza and this promises to be a long, lingering gourmet affair.

<https://www.lagarde.com.ar/experiencias/zonda>

ARRIVE AT THE PARK HYATT MENDOZA FOR A FREE EVENING

We return to the Park Hyatt Mendoza for the remaining 2 nights of the tour. Tonight is a free evening for you to enjoy at your own pace. Keep in mind the local dining culture. Argentines typically dine late, with many restaurants not opening until 8PM at the earliest.



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ITINERARY | DAY 4

THURSDAY, APRIL 3RD – THE LEGENDS OF LUJÁN DE CUYO

10:00 AM – MEET GUIDES AND DEPART

Located in a valley just south of the city of Mendoza, Luján de Cuyo is home to some of the most famous names in Argentine wine.

TASTING AT CHEVAL DES ANDES

This is a Bordeaux Grand Cru experience in the heart of Mendoza. Recognizing the potential of old-vine Cabernet and Malbec, Pierre Lurton of St.-Émilion's renowned Cheval Blanc was among the first Europeans to combine Argentina's New World character with French finesse.

www.chevaldesandes.com.ar

TASTING AT BODEGAS MENDEL

Immerse yourself in a tasting adventure at Mendel, where Roberto de la Mota's craftsmanship unfolds. Discover the rich heritage of Argentine winemaking in his beautiful boutique winery, a testament to both Luján de Cuyo's ancient vines and Roberto's forward-thinking vision for the Uco Valley. Mendel is ranked as a first growth by Tim Atkin MW. Our visit and traditional Argentine lunch will include a tasting of a range of their top wines, including an older vintage of their premium red blend, Unus.

<https://mendel.com.ar>

DINNER AT CASARENA

Experience the essence of Luján de Cuyo's terroir at Casarena, renowned as the guardians and interpreters of the region. Enjoy their exceptional single vineyard range during a leisurely dinner, exploring the diverse sub-regions of the area. Casarena is ranked as a second growth of Argentina by Tim Atkin MW, with some of the top Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon in the country.

<http://www.casarena.com/>



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ITINERARY | DAY 5

FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH – THE GRAND FINALE

11:00am Depart Hotel

We had a big night so there is time to sleep in before setting out on our final day with a return to Luján de Cuyo and visit to Argentina's most iconic winery. You will need to check-out of the hotel this morning if you are .

CATENA ZAPATA

Did we save the best for last? Arguably. If Argentina is synonymous with Malbec, then we have Nicolas Catena to thank for showing the world that Argentina can produce world-class, premium Malbec-based wines. We begin our visit in the vineyards surrounding this iconic, meso-American pyramid inspired estate. We will be led through the history of this revolutionary bodega and focus on the subtle variations of Malbec in the Catena portfolio. Our visit will continue with lunch at their newly created restaurant with the sky-soaring Andes as a backdrop. It's the perfect end to a perfect week.

www.catenawines.com

5:00PM

After lunch, we will return to Mendoza with our first stop at the airport around 5pm for guests who may have onward flights to Santiago or Buenos Aires. Otherwise, we will then drop you off at the Park Hyatt. The final night is not included in the tour, but you are welcome to extend your stay by reaching out to the hotel directly.

