

Wine Lovers Argentina

Group or Individual journey

Friday, March 9

Depart Minneapolis/Arrive Buenos Aires

Saturday, March 10

AM arrival in Buenos Aires

The Paris of South America, Buenos Aires has become known as the style capital of the continent. A wander through the streets reveals a fantastical mix of stunning republican architecture, fine restaurants, excellent art galleries and a distinctly Latin feel to the exuberant street life. Buenos Aires is a destination within itself and a few days here allows the visitor to appreciate the boutiques and coffee shops of Palermo, before exploring the elegant corners of Recoleta and San Telmo. Throughout any visit, the evenings are easily filled with the chance to see the sensual tango danced in true Argentine style, or a visit to one of the many fine restaurants where the true quality of Argentine wines and beef can be appreciated.

Transfer from the airport to hotel

Two nights Buenos Aires – Caesar Park Hotel

The Caesar Park Buenos Aires is located in the city's fabulous Recoleta business and entertainment district, across from the city's top mall (Patio Bullrich) and close to many restaurants, cafes, shops and other attractions. The privileged location allows quick access to any part of the city. The hotel's 175 rooms are classical with Argentinean flair, embracing Argentina's historic past and passion for art. Guests enjoy the hotel's casual sophistication and heartfelt tradition of personal service.

The hotel offers excellent food at Agraz for haute cuisine, La Patisserie for lighter fare, and The Lounge Bar.

The Caesar Park presents a range of fine amenities, including an on-site antique store, an art gallery, a cigar store, and an excellent wine cellar. Guests of this hotel can take their tea or drinks in the 17,000 square feet of gardens. An indoor pool and fitness center, solarium, sauna, and spa services provide opportunities for exercise and relaxation. Hotel conveniences at Caesar Park include 24-hour room service, currency exchange, translation services, high-speed Internet access (for a fee), a high-tech business center, and car rentals.

Spend the afternoon seeing the highlights of the city with a private tour.

A perfect introduction to the most elegant capital city in South America, this half-day city tour will show you the highlights of Buenos Aires. The tour begins with a drive along 9th of July Avenue, with its 8 lanes, the widest avenue in the world. In the middle of the avenue is the Obelisk. A symbol of the city, it was built in 1936 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the founding of the city. Another landmark is the Colon Theatre, the famous opera house of the city. Continue to the historic center, to the Plaza de Mayo, a lovely plaza with flower gardens and tall palm trees; the scene of many of the historic political events of the city. Surrounding the plaza are colonial buildings of interest: the Casa Rosada (Pink House), the seat of the executive branch of the government; the Cabildo (Town Council) with its historic museum; the Metropolitan Cathedral, which holds the tomb of General Jose de San Martin, the father of Argentine independence. No tour would be complete without a visit to the picturesque La Boca district, the old port area that reflects its Italian heritage. You will see Caminito Street, famous for its colorful

houses. Continue to San Telmo, one of the oldest neighborhoods in Buenos Aires. Originally a center for immigrant settlers, it is a neighborhood of colonial houses, cobblestone streets, and antique shops. On Sundays there is an antique fair in Plaza Dorrego. The area has also has a lively nightlife as there are many restaurants, bars and tango houses. The tour passes the developing new district of Puerto Madero (the port area), and continues through Palermo where the Zoo, Botanical Garden, Palermo Woods, the National Polo Field, and the Planatarium are located. Palermo is also a fashionable residential area. On the way back, we will visit another residential area, the sophisticated district of Recoleta, with its restaurants, coffee shops, nightclubs and boutiques. We will visit the famous Recoleta Cemetery with its ornate memorials, including the tomb of Eva Peron. The tour finishes at your hotel.

Enjoy the rest of the afternoon on your own to explore the shops, cafes, and sites of the Recoleta or San Telmo neighborhoods then enjoy local cuisine at one of the many restaurants near the hotel.

Sunday, March 11

9am: If you are a get up and go type of person join us as we enjoy a tour of the remarkable bars and cafes of Buenos Aires with a 4 hour tour through the coffee shops and night spots with historical significance, ambiance, architectural uniqueness, or those known as hallmarks of local culture. You can sip and munch your way through the morning before returning to the hotel.

The afternoon can be spent with a cooking lesson learning to prepare traditional Asado barbeque, exploring the city's finest collections and art scenes, learning to Tango from those who know it best, or just relaxing before a final evening out on the town before moving on to our next destination.

You can't leave this city of passion and dance without enjoying a Tango Show and Dinner. At 9:45pm we will depart the hotel for one of the city's best tango spots to enjoy the sounds that date back to 1880. Their lyrics, difficult to be understood and impossible to be translated, are deeply poetic and have a story to tell about the city, its history and its people.

Despite its humble origins, in the 1920s, tango left the brothels and the underworld districts, and moved into the high-class ballrooms. But in order to do this, it had to travel to Paris, and return to Buenos Aires as a popular dance form. During this period in history, high society has always looked at Europe for its models. Tango then became firmly entrenched in the culture, values and traditions. Tango is still very much alive. To feel its spirit, visit one of the restaurants that offer a high-quality tango show, and enjoy the sensual magnetism of tango performed by some of the best dancers, singers and musicians in Buenos Aires. (Return to the hotel around midnight).

Monday, March 12

Enjoy a leisurely morning after our late evening of dining and dancing.

Transfer from the hotel to the airport for your flight to Mendoza.

Depart Buenos Aires /Arrive Mendoza

The attractive city of Mendoza, located in the foothills of the Andes' eastern slopes, is the gateway into Argentina's most important wine region and home to its signature grape, Malbec. The city itself is without doubt an interesting cultural and gastronomic centre and well worth a short stay in order to fully appreciate both these facets, before

heading beyond the city walls into the wine country which sits in the shadow of South America's highest mountain, Aconcagua. With 70% of Argentina's wine production coming from this area, a number of excellent vineyards are found in close proximity to the city, allowing for day trips into the countryside. However those wishing to explore the Argentine wine country more in depth can easily spend a number of days staying on the winemakers' properties throughout the region.

Transfer from the airport through the beautiful hills and vineyards to your hotel for a five night stay.

Five nights Mendoza staying among the vineyards and wines of the region – Cavas Wine Lodge

This new wine lodge is located twenty minutes from the center of Mendoza. Its famous wine cellar has many rare labels from Argentina and Chile. The hotel's restaurant is run by Chef Sebasti Flores, who specializes in South American dishes such as Rib eye with Chimichuri.

The lodge is set in a private valley where most spend their days horseback riding, hiking in the Andean mountains, and rafting. The lodge can arrange lunches and dinners in local bodegas and wineries, or in the vineyards themselves. The 14 rooms are freestanding bungalows. Some of the deluxe cabanas have stone walls, an outdoor shower, and a private plunge pool.

Relax and enjoy the beautiful surroundings and delicious cuisine of an area that celebrates the majesty of the Earth and the wines it produces.

Tuesday, March 13

3 winery tours – your private guide will take you on a journey of the valley where you can visit wineries geared towards your preferences.

Wednesday, March 14

Enjoy a morning at leisure or head out for a private half day Los Andes horseback ride with regional breakfast. Ride through the Mendocinian Foothills and mountains taking in the magnificent views and peacefulness.

This afternoon enjoy an overview of the city of Mendoza , well known for its beautiful streets and avenues full of trees and nice parks. The visit includes the Government House, San Martin Park, Independence Square surrounded by the Municipal Theatre and the Modern Art Museum and from there to Plaza Espana , Plaza del Castillo and then a stop at La Rosaleda, a wonderful rose garden with more than 4500 rose plants. The tour ends at Cerro de la Gloria where a monument commemorates the Crossing of the Andes conducted by General Jose de San Martin during our fight for Independence. Get in some local shopping, site seeing, or just enjoy a little people watching.

Thursday, March 15

Today start in the cozy village of Chacras de Coria, a quaint town located about 20 minutes from downtown Mendoza. A traditional weekend and vacation escape for Mendozans, Chacras de Coria is a beautiful area surrounded by vineyards and orchards. At the plaza your guide will help you to get settle into your bikes as we explore the area on two wheels.

We will blend our own wine at Clos de Chacras, an antique winery build in 1921 and still going strong with a small, but award winning operation. Enjoy lunch at La Bourgogne, named Best Restaurant in a Winery by Great Wine Capitals of the World. After lunch we head to Alta Vista winery to enjoy its warm atmosphere and secret tales.

After an enjoyable day among the vines the group can discuss their blends and favorites over a leisurely authentic Argentinean dinner.

Friday, March 16

For your final day in Mendoza we get off to a mid-morning start with a few final winery visits and lunch among the vines.

The final evening we dine together one last time over empanadas, asado, and an abundance of local favorites.

Saturday, March 17

Spend your final morning in Argentina at leisure. Enjoy a spa treatment, make a final wine run, or just sit back and soak in the views.

Transfer from your hotel to the airport for your flight home.

Depart Mendoza /Arrive MSP