

# The route of the Argentine wine & cuisine

13  
DAYS

✈️  
NOT  
INCLUDED

📅  
SATURDAYS  
FROM  
SEPTEMBER  
TO MARCH

🚶  
TO  
BOARD

🗨️  
SPANISH  
AND  
BILINGUAL  
(English  
German  
Italian  
French)

We invite you to share our tour of the Argentine wine country.

The best known area is Mendoza, and but there is much more to offer and we will be delighted to show you a special program that will allow you not only to taste our wines but also to learn its intimate secrets.

## DAY 01 BUENOS AIRES

Meet & Greet at the airport and transfer to the hotel. Balance of the day at leisure. Dinner at Restaurant "Un Aplauso pa' l Asador", which is not only a dinner but a truly Argentinean experience. For Argentines, an Asado Criollo is a ritual, a tradition, a good excuse to meet with friends and relatives. That's why we invite you to discover the secrets of cooking a delicious Asado: lighting the fire, preparing the beef and the right dressing, the "Chimichurri" sauce. You'll also get tips on the proper temperature and cooking time. Then you'll enjoy the Asado you yourself cooked! In Argentina, we have another Tradition... if the Asado is really good and tasty, one of the guests at the table stands up and says "Un aplauso pa' l asador!" (Clap your hands and congratulate the cook!). Wine is also an important part of this experience. A basic principle of food and wine pairing is to match wines with regional dishes, as the local flavors tend

to have a natural affinity. This is never more true than when enjoying Argentine Malbec with the Asado. Dinner includes folk dance and music show. Accommodation at Hotel Sofitel.

## DAY 02 BUENOS AIRES

Sightseeing of Buenos Aires, a cosmopolitan city that shows the influence of the numerous waves of immigrants that formed it. The tour starts at the historic Plaza de Mayo Square, scenery of resonant politic manifestations. Wide avenues and green areas seem to try and slow down the rhythm of this vertiginous city. A sample of this is the 9 de Julio Avenue, with its eight lanes divided by small green squares with old leafy trees and enriched by sculptures and fountains. In the middle of this avenue, in the Plaza de la República, the Obelisk arises as a symbol of the city. Southwards, we reach the picturesque and colorful port neighborhood of La Boca with its famous street, "Caminito", whose architectonic characteristics and customs reflect the influence of the European citizens that came to this shores in the latest years of the

19th century, specially Genoese sailors. The visit continues towards San Telmo, one of the oldest neighborhoods in Buenos Aires, which was also a center of immigrant settlement and which keeps most of its architectonic patrimony untouched: its colonial houses, its cobbled streets. The visit then goes on towards the modern and well-off district of Puerto Madero; Palermo neighborhood with its elegant residences framed by wide green areas; reaching finally the district of Recoleta, the most sophisticated neighborhood in Buenos Aires. Cooking lesson and dinner at a five star hotel. Its Executive Chef opens the doors of its kitchen to show you the secrets of high gastronomy and Argentine Cuisine. You will be your own cook tonight and have the chance to delight on your own production. Accommodation at Hotel Sofitel.

## DAY 03 BUENOS AIRES

Tour of Remarkable Bars and Cafés: an interesting way to approach the spirit of Buenos Aires its through its bars and coffee shops, just following a urban route or discovering the magnificent patrimony they own. All the places that we will visit along this tour had been selected by their anti- quity, architectonic values, or their particular atmosphere. But mainly, they have been chosen because they are referents of Buenos Aires and its people. Guided wine tasting and dinner at "Bar El Querandi" At the beginning of the century, in 1920, an ancient colonial house turned into this traditional bar, with its Art Deco frontage, its dark boiserie and its Salomon-style columns. For six decades it was a meeting point for writers, artists and students. By the '80s it was on the rim of demolition but it would have a more promissory future. Nowadays this traditional corner of Buenos Aires has become one of those magic places of the city in which the spirit of the past comes back and invites its visitors and inhabitants. We invite you to share in this magical environment a Virtual Wine Route of Argentina featuring introduction to the grapevines in America and Argentina, description of the vine- growing regions and wine tasting and dinner. Northwest (Cafayate Area): Torrontés served with "empenaditas salteñas" (typical turnovers prepared in the way they are done in Salta) Patagonia (Rio Negro Valley): Pinot Noir (with mushroom crisps) Cuyo (Mendoza): Malbec (with veal appetizers) Accommodation at Hotel Sofitel.

## DAY 04 BUENOS AIRES / SALTA

Transfer to the domestic airport for flight to the city of Salta, one of the most pictures cities in the country probably due to the eye-catching contrast of its old colonial buildings with its modern urban architec- ture. Salta is, beyond any doubt, the Argentine city which has best preserved its colonial heritage, with its one-storied houses and its typical balconies and patios. Accommodation at Hotel Solar de la Plaza.

## DAY 05 SALTA

The visit will make it possible to have a look at the most precious gems dating back to colonial times, such as: the Church and Monastery of San Francisco, rebuilt in the mid XVIII century, declared Minor Main Church by the Vatican in 1997; the 'Cabildo and Historic Museum of the Northwest' (old seat of the vicerealty government and of the provincial government later on), main attraction in the city whose construction started the same day of the foundation, but whose current building was completely rebuilt by the late XVII century; the San Bernardo Monastery, dating back to the late XVI century, which boasts a carobtree main gate considered a jewel of the local colonial art; and the Italian-style building of the Main Church, built in the XX century, that houses the mortal remains of the hero of the Independence Wars, General Martín Miguel de Güemes. The tours goes on towards the city outskirts, up to San Bernardo Hill, where stands the Monument

to General Martín Miguel de Güemes. From the hill you will get a great view of the city and the Lerma Valley. Accommodation at Hotel Solar de la Plaza.

#### DAY 06 SALTA / COLOME

Early departure from your hotel toward the enchanting village of Cachi, driving southward passing by Cerrillos, El Carril, Chicoana and up the Escopio River Gorge to enjoy the imposing scenery of Cuesta del Obispo (Bishop's Slope) up to 'Piedra del Molino', the highest point in the road at about 3,600 meters above sea level. From there the so-called Recta de Tin Tin, westbound along the bleak high plateau towards the terrain of the sleek, giant 'cardón' (cactuses) protected by 'Los Cardones National Park'. The pre-Columbian village of Cachi brights in a colorful clear atmosphere with its old houses, its radiant sun, good wines and attractive hills, where the air is so pure that locals are said to live longer than usual. Once there you will visit the XVIII century Parish Church and the Archaeological Museum. From their the road goes south along a winding and narrow mountain road skirted by mud houses on one side and the view of the green Calchaquí valleys downhill on the other till reaching the small town of Molinos. Dinner and Accommodation at Finca Colomé. Finca Colomé is located just 15 miles from Molinos, at an altitude of 7500 feet and offers the most comfortable and luxurious accommodation in the area. It is surrounded by beautiful vineyards and is owned by a Vintner who also owns vineyards in California. Finca Colomé has only 7 suites in total, each charmingly decorated and with striking views of the surrounding countryside. Accommodation is based on full board and includes full use of the estancia's facilities, including a meditation and yoga room, swimming pool, tennis court, bikes and walking trails. Indulge yourself in Finca Colomé with the fabulous local wine and homecooked food in this wonderful setting.

#### DAY 07 COLOME

Get in touch with the history of the winery. The film "Virtual Tour of Colomé" played at the auditorium will introduce you to the winery and the long tradition in wine making of one of the oldest wineries in the country. You are invited to enjoy a wine tasting experience, to sample the flavour and aroma and appreciate the body of the local wines. Lunch, Dinner and Accommodation at Finca Colomé.

#### DAY 08 COLOME / CAFAYATE

Morning at leisure to enjoy the superb surrounding scenery, relaxing and walk in the vineyards. After lunch, we will depart across the moon like landscape of Quebrada de las Flechas towards Cafayate, a beautiful colonial at the very heart of the Calchaquí Valleys, surrounded by rivers and vineyards. Seize the chance to walk around to admire its nice old houses that gracefully combine colonial and Baroque styles, the parish church, the town-hall and the Regional and Archaeological Museum. The region is well known because of its wine production among which the 'torrontés' variety stands out. Stay at Patios de Cafayate Hotel & Spa and experience true elegance. It is located on the same grounds as the state-of-the-art El Esteco Winery, at more than 1,700 meters above sea level. Its strategic location, optimal height, thermal amplitude (100F° maximum and 53F° minimum in the summer), stony and sandy ground, and proximity to mountain water generate a unique microclimate which is ideal for growing grapevine. Accommodation at Los Patios de Cafayate Hotel & Spa.

#### DAY 09 CAFAYATE

Day at leisure. Beautiful views of the vineyard and hills or spectacular garden scenes create long-lasting memories of your stay at Patios de Cafayate Hotel & Spa. Take a stroll in the hotel extensive gardens and admire traditional architecture and antique colonial patios. Ancient traditions of the Calchaquí Valley promote relaxation, health, and pleasure. We suggest you to indulge yourself at the Winespa (own expense), which take advantage of the benefits of the grape to reach all of the senses. The enhancing properties of the Andean cereal, "quinoa", together with the typical products of the Valley, such as the carob tree, the cactus, and molle, are united with the skin of the grape to revive the ancestral treatments of the old Calchaquí culture. Accommodation at Los Patios de Cafayate Hotel & Spa.

#### DAY 10 CAFAYATE / LA RIOJA

Departure southward towards the province of La Rioja. After a drive of some 60 km, the first stop will be for a visit to Quilmes Aborigine Ruins, located 1,980 meters above sea level where a flourishing civilization lived till mid XVII century when they were forced to emigrate to Buenos Aires. The archeologic site shows remains of their city, a real example of urban and defensive planning, which had been carefully restored to show the architectonic perfection of the settlement. Then the journey continues for some 380 km south and then

westwards to Chañarmuyo state along a region of small wineries.

At 1,720 meters above seal level, where Chañarmuyo Estate's vineyards lie, there's a perfect combination of height, climate and soil (rock, sand and slime). In the middle of this sublime landscape, there lies Chañarmuyo Estate Lodge. A unique place with a distinct taste. An ideal place to grasp the particular spirit of La Rioja, taste regional dishes and local wines, wander around in the hills, visiting the winery and the vineyards and regain energies. Dinner and Accommodation at Chañarmuyo Estate Lodge.

#### DAY 11 LA RIOJA

Day at leisure to enjoy different activities: visiting La Mexicana mine, sight seeing Talampaya National Park, visiting the Inca Ruins of Shincal, Trekkings, Biketours and horseback riding in the Famatina mountain range or 4WD expeditions at the Aimogasta dunes. Lunch, Dinner and Accommodation at Chañarmuyo Estate Lodge.

#### DAY 12 LA RIOJA / SAN JUAN

Enjoy the day travelling the amazing beauty of the winding Cuesta de Miranda mountain road which reaches its maximum height near Chilecito, 2,020 meters above the sea level. A 480 km drive towards the city of San Juan. Accommodation at Hotel Alkazar.

#### DAY 13 SAN JUAN / MENDOZA

Today we will continue to the final destination of our itinerary, Mendoza, the prime and best known wine growing area of Argentina, where many leading Argentine and foreign wineries are located with its vineyards spread in the surrounding area. Mendoza has over 140 hectares of vineyards (68% of the total surface in Argentina cultivated with grapevines). A most privileged area for high quality wine production due to its location at the foot of the Andean Cordillera which creates the perfect blend of latitude, altitude and soil combined with a superb craftsmanship that takes the best of both modern and traditional winemaking strategies in order to produce top level fine wines. Club Tapiz Lodge is a small hotel housed in an estate built in 1890 and surrounded by extensive vineyards. The house was restored preserving a Renaissance-style villa structure; maintaining vintage elements, such as its pinewood floors and the patio. The Club also has one of the best restaurants in Mendoza: Terruño, where the famous chef Max Casa

prepares regional and dishes to pair great wine with great food. We invite you to stay at Club Tapiz located within the grounds of Fincas Patagonicas whose signature wine is the worldwide awarded Tapiz Malbec. Accommodation at Club Tapiz Winery Lodge.

#### DAY 14

A full day devoted to visiting some of the best wineries in Argentina with guided wine tasting in all of them and lunch. This tour allow the visitors to learn more about harvesting, wine-making process and history of the viticulture in Mendoza. You will visit today three wineries, in one of which you will participate in an introductory talk about wine tasting to understand its properties, all these guided by an expert. Afterwards, at the restaurant, we will participate in a cooking class and we will prepare our own dishes guided by a real gourmet. The chef will teach the participants how to elaborate some regional dishes in a couple of hours. Everyone will have a place and the necessary kitchen utensils. Then we will enjoy the menu, accompanied by house wines. At the end of this experience we have known some of the wine and Argentinean cuisine secrets. Every tourist will obtain a certificate of "Wine tasting & cuisine experience" and a wine tasting cup of "Los Vinos de los Andes". Wine tasting is included in all the wineries visited. Accommodation at Club Tapiz Winery Lodge.

#### DAY 15

Transfer to the airport. END OF OUR SERVICES.

