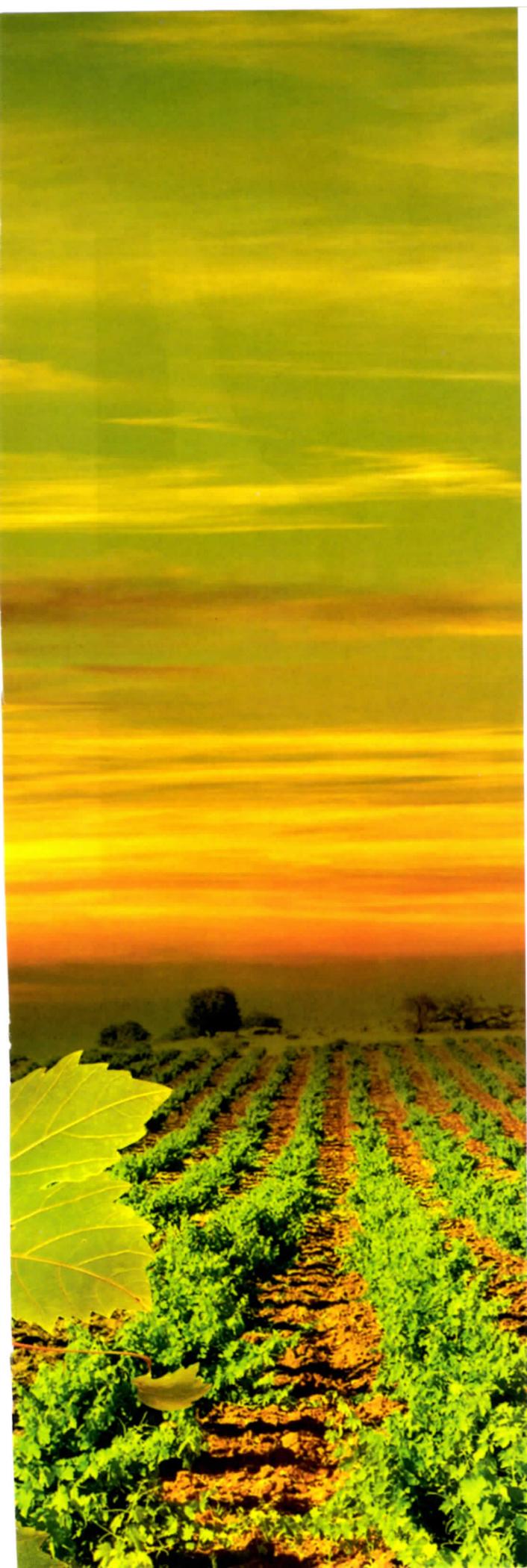


adventures





Sip, Savor & Explore!

Experience the world's finest wines in some of its most beautiful places with Brickell Travel's exclusive wine tours.

Text by **JACQUELYN BENSON**

Photos courtesy of **BRICKELL TRAVEL**

Book It: *Brickell Travel Management; 175 SW 7th St., Ste. 1400, Miami; 305.856.8889; BrickellTravel.com*

Is it a coincidence that the world's greatest wine-producing regions are also some of its most stunning vacation destinations? The quaint villages of Rhine Valley, the sweeping mountain landscapes of Chile and everything in between...it seems that following your grape-loving tastebuds when planning a getaway isn't at all a bad way to travel. But while anyone can stumble into a tasting room, crafting a truly memorable experience for wine lovers takes a bit more expertise.

In addition to their experience with corporate and leisure travel, Brickell Travel also houses a special division, Fine Wine & Gourmet Travel, that specializes in designing unique, personalized Wine & Culinary Tours. And since they're one of only 3 travel agencies to be awarded American Express Travel Insiders status for wine and culinary travel — and have a staff that includes certified sommeliers and food enthusiasts — the agency is perfectly positioned to create powerful wine-themed journeys for its clients. Itineraries can include world-class luxury accommodations, stays at exclusive wine resorts, hands-on cooking classes, private wine tastings, and perfect wine and food pairings. “Our tours and trips connect each traveler to each destination and culture through its local food, wine and people,” says Sylvie Tannhauser, one of the company's Wine & Culinary Travel Specialists.

We've included the details on sample itineraries for some of our favorite Brickell Travel wine destinations on the ensuing pages. Don't see what you're looking for? The agency also welcomes challenges to create journeys to off-the-beaten-path or unconventional wine and food destinations, carefully designed with the traveler's interests, goals and budget in mind.



Gastronomic Delight

Gourmet Flavors of Italy

11 days

If food and wine are rivals for your attention, this Italian gastronomic experience might just be a dream come true. Enjoy indulgent fare in Rome, Florence and Parma. Learn the tricks of the trade from Italian chefs. Visit olive oil and wine producers, shop at traditional markets, and experience some of the world's most famous sights — from the Roman forum to the canals of Venice. On your way, you'll soak up the beauties of the Tuscan countryside, see some of the finest artwork in history, and maybe sneak in a little outlet shopping in between.



PICCINI
UGO

TAFFI

TELLUR
FELI
LATI

HOTEL
IMPERIA

PIZZERIA

RESTAURANT

RESTAURANT

TAFFI

GLOVES
TIES

T
SALI TABACCHI
VALORI





Western Elegance

San Francisco & Wine Country

8 days

Sit back, relax and enjoy this expedition through America's own world-class wine country: Napa & Sonoma Valleys. You'll picnic on vine-dotted hillsides, explore quaint boutiques, tour, taste, and even have the chance to blend your own wine in a private session at Ravenswood Winery. Brickell Travel's experts have packed this tour with exclusive winery tours and tastings, but left plenty of time for experiencing the vibrancy and beauty of historic San Francisco. The trip includes first-class hotel accommodations and travel by way of a luxury air-conditioned coach.



Southern Cross

Grape Harvesting in Argentina & Chile

7 days

Old World tradition meets New World innovation in the mouthwatering wines of Argentina & Chile. Explore the beauties of historic Santiago, from seafood markets to world-class museums, then take off from some of South America's finest wine regions. Learn about the soil conditions in the Maipo Valley that enable it to produce its gorgeous cabernets and carmeneres. Visit boutique wineries where bottles are each labeled by hand. Soak up stunning vistas of The Andes of Mendoza, exploring quaint mountain villages and ancient bodegas along the way. Other stops include scenic Mendoza City, Lujan de Cuyo and Uco Valley, where you'll enjoy wine-paired gourmet lunches and a bevy of tours and tastings.





Pure Indulgence

Barcelona Wine & Spa Getaway

4 days

Treat both your body and your tastebuds to some truly sublime experiences during this 4-day escape to some of Spain's most stunning locales. Just outside Barcelona, you'll indulge at a 16th-Century villa converted into a 5-star luxury wine spa. You'll be whisked through the gorgeous scenery of the Montserrat Mountains for vineyard excursions, gourmet dining and Mediterranean views, and a stay at yet another world-class spa. The tour then continues with more private vineyard tours, fine dining in quaintly beautiful restaurants, breathtaking Catalan scenery and plenty of time at night to be pampered with massages and other treatments. Of course, you could always simply just relax over a glass of cava.





Relaxation Bound

Paris & French River Cruise

11 days

Starting April 2013, experience the world's most famous wine country in a new way: by river. While aboard the stunning *AmaLegro*, you'll enjoy cooking demonstrations, wine lectures and tastings as you pass through beautiful Northern France — from villages beloved of painter Monet to the dramatic beaches of Normandy. The riverboat has all the comforts you'd expect from a world-class hotel: spa, fitness room, sauna and entertainment rooms. Our favorite feature? Almost all the staterooms have French balconies — the perfect place to sip and watch the world go by. The trip concludes with a couple of nights in Paris, enjoying champagne tastings and the city's legendary attractions. [✚](#)

