

Decanter

PASSIONATE ABOUT WINE SINCE 1975

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THE 50 BEST WINE TRIPS

The definitive list of travel must-dos for wine lovers

+
239
wines tasted
in this issue

Perfect picnic pairings

Recipes for summer days out
with the ideal wines to match

Champagne & oak

Why it works so well – plus
20 bottles you need to try

Tasted & rated

NZ reds beyond Pinot Noir,
German dry Riesling & Valpolicella

THE 50 BEST WINE TRIPS

COMPILED BY ALICIA MILLER

What are the best wine travel experiences on Earth? It's a tricky question. But, undaunted, we decided to find the answer. After all, if *Decanter* can't, who can?

We've been inspiring readers with our wine travel ideas in print for nearly 50 years, and on *decanter.com* since it was launched 20+ years ago. So whether you're looking for last-minute inspiration, planning the trip of a lifetime or just dreaming, *Decanter* is here to help.

We ranked every travel feature on *decanter.com* according to popularity over

the past year (the previous couple of years were rather atypical, for obvious reasons). For the sake of simplicity we've stuck to regional guides, rather than include city, restaurant and wine bar guides.

So here are the 50 best wine trip ideas, as ranked by you, our readers. We've picked an excerpt from each to give you a flavour, but you'll find the complete versions of all these articles on our specially created hub page: decanter.com/top-50-travel-2023

So keep your finger poised over your travel agent's 'book now' button, and enjoy our reader-curated choices.

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The wineries of Kent

'Southeasternmost county Kent is often described as the Garden of England. Stretching from the Thames estuary to the English Channel, you'll find a verdant landscape of rolling hills, blossom-filled orchards and white-cowled oast houses. It gets more sunshine and higher temperatures than most of the UK, which



Castelvetro, Modena

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Lambrusco landscapes

'With under-explored cities of art, supreme sports cars and glorious countryside, a trip through the land of Lambrusco is a must. Today's Lambruscos are shedding the stigma of cheap-and-cheerful predecessors thanks to a new wave of small, independent wineries. In Modena (Emilia Romagna) – home to Ferrari and balsamic vinegar – Lambrusco is present everywhere. There is a huge sculpture of grapes made of Murano glass (on the main roundabout along the Via Vignolese towards Vignola),

as well as restaurants and bars including Lambruscheria, on Calle di Luca in the city (lambruscheriamodena.it). North of Modena, pale Lambrusco di Sorbara is traditionally made as a field blend of the Sorbara grape and Lambrusco Salamino. Across the regional border in Lombardy, Franco Accorsi at Fondo Bozzole named his Giano wine (£18 Villeneuve Wines), a 100% Lambrusco Salamino with notes of black cherry and chocolate, after Janus, the god of new beginnings.' **Sarah Lane**



Arbois village

A weekend in the Jura

'Neighbouring Burgundy may seem the more obvious travel choice, but Jura has its own delicious flavour. Driving is your best bet for exploration. Head straight for Arbois village to intimate chambre d'hôtes Closerie les Capucines, refurbished by importer Neal Rosenthal. Evening aperitifs await at Le Bistrot des Claquets, a no-frills wine bar (a favourite with local producers), and dinner at Le

Bistronôme (*le-bistronome-arbois.com*). Next morning head southwest to the scenic Château-Chalon or L'Etoile area for a breathtaking drive to local wineries such as Domaine de Montborgeau or Domaine Berthet-Bondet. Later, visit forward-thinking Valentin Morel or tour the Musée de la Vigne et du Vin du Jura (*arbois.com*) back in Arbois.' **Vicki Denig**



Chateau Tumbleweed

Verde Valley, Arizona: names to know

'The Grand Canyon may always be Arizona's biggest drawcard, but among the jagged red-rock formations, the state's newest AVA (American Viticultural Area), Verde Valley, is turning heads, too. Arizona wine dates back to the 16th century when Spanish missionaries planted grape vines, but the advent of Prohibition in the early 20th century halted production. The first official AVAs included Sonoita and Willcox, near the Mexican border, but the more recently recognised Verde Valley (*verdevalleyava.org*) is two hours' drive north of Phoenix. This used to be a sleepy part of the state, overlooked by travellers on their way to Sedona, but the wine industry's growth has led to a significant uptick in tourism. Look out for names such as Caduceus Cellars, producer of Monastrell and Tempranillo, and Chateau Tumbleweed, bottling Rhône and Italian varieties. Page Springs Cellars, from trailblazer Eric Glomski, Javelina Leap Vineyard & Winery and DA Ranch should be on your list, too.' **Jessica Dupuy**

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Top Healdsburg wineries

'At the centre of three diverse Sonoma County wine regions – Russian River Valley, Dry Creek Valley and Alexander Valley – Healdsburg has it all. Cool-climate Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, old-vine Zinfandel, and world-class Cabernet Sauvignon. For a taste of Bordeaux and Burgundy in Alexander Valley, head straight to Jordan Winery's ivy-clad, French-inspired chateau (*jordanwinery.com*). Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay are made here in an Old World style focusing on approachability and food-friendliness. The 485ha estate is known for its picnics, vineyard hikes and food pairings made with ingredients sourced from the estate gardens.

At the other end of the spectrum, J Vineyards (*jwine.com*) in Russian River Valley has built its reputation on traditional-method, cool-climate sparklings. The J Bubble Room hosts five-course food and wine pairings on weekends. Finally, Dry Creek Valley estate Ferrari-Carano (*ferrari-carano.com*) is one of the most beautiful in California. Bottlings run the gamut from Italian varieties to sweet dessert wines. But the main event here is the gardens. Meander through 2ha of Italian and French-style geometric hedges and grand fountains. Every spring a flood of colour stems from 10,000 tulips and daffodils blooming.'

Jess Lander



Villa Fiore tasting room, Ferrari-Carano