



UNIQUE SMALL GROUP ADVENTURES  
[www.southernexposuretours.co.nz](http://www.southernexposuretours.co.nz)

## WINE & FOOD LOVERS TOUR

TRIP DURATION: 16 NIGHTS/17DAYS BUENOS AIRES TO BUENOS AIRES

NEAREST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT: Ministro Pistrani International Airport (Ezeiza)

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Feel the passion of Buenos Aires and the rhythms of a spectacular **Tango show**
- Wander the narrow twisting streets of the bohemian port of **Valparaiso and its street art**
- **Ride a vintage wine train** with Chilean Folklore and traditional cuisine
- Sample superb tastings of Malbec and Carmenere at **boutique wineries** and prestigious labels
- Indulge in delicious multi course **wine matching cuisine**
- Compare **4 distinct wine regions** of Argentina and Chile
- Relax and enjoy the **volcanoes, hot springs** and lakes of the **Chilean Lake District**
- **Meet local winemakers** as they show you their winemaking processes
- Experience a stunning **crossing over the Andes** on Emerald coloured lakes
- **Enjoy 3 highlight dinners** matched with wine and 3 lunches featuring delicious local cuisine

### IS THIS WINE & FOOD LOVERS TOUR FOR ME?

This is truly a great trip for anyone who has an amateur interest in wine and food as we don't pretend to be professional wine connoisseurs. We do however aim to provide a rather a unique way to travel and visit Chile and Argentina with an emphasis on the great variety of wine trails and cuisine with breath taking scenery along the way.... and experiencing all that this beautiful region has to offer.

Accommodation is in cozy family owned hotels, B&B's and wineries, with private facilities and a great ambience. It's a physically undemanding trip, however some travel days in Chile can be long and you will need to be able to manage your own bags from buses to taxis and hotels. We travel on a variety of transport from hired mini vans to public buses which are usually very comfortable, large coaches with reclining seats. As the emphasis is on seeing the countryside and doing the wine trails, we only fly the longest sectors between Buenos Aires – Mendoza and Bariloche - Buenos Aires.

## WELCOME TO THE SOUTHERN EXPOSURE TOURS EXPERIENCE

### ITINERARY

#### DAY 1

#### ARRIVAL DAY, BUENOS AIRES

Arrive in Buenos Aires. Your first taste of this stunningly vibrant Latin American city begins with a short orientation meeting in the evening followed by a welcome dinner of Argentinian Asado (BBQ). **B,D** Overnight Buenos Aires

## **DAY 2**

### **FLY BUENOS AIRES TO MENDOZA**

This morning we fly to the Argentinean wine region of Mendoza nestled at the foot of South America's highest mountain, Aconcagua. This balmy city has a very relaxed feel that lends itself to wandering the tree lined avenues. It features fine out door dining where you can sample the local delicacies, and some of the best steaks in Argentina matched with the region's fabulous Malbecs. **B**, Overnight Mendoza

## **DAY 3**

### **MENDOZA**

Our full day wine tour takes us around 90km south, to start at the fantastic Salentein winery for our first tasting. After that, Andeluna, a brand new winery and then a special lunch in La Azul, a small family winery, where we will be received by the owner, who will show us their vineyard and fruit trees. Lunch with the family and wine maker, in a very simple but unforgettable setting at the Finca, with the typical "asado" or Argentinian barbecue. In the afternoon you may participate in a optional cooking school before returning to Mendoza **B, L** Overnight Mendoza (Note: exact wineries visited may vary)

## **DAY 4**

### **MENDOZA**

Our full day tour to Lujan de Cuyo: is the most important wine region in Mendoza. The best Malbec in Argentina is in this region, at about 20km from the city of Mendoza where you will meet the winemakers and taste exquisite wines of the region. Today's you will be served a delicious multi course, wine matching lunch. **B, L** Overnight Mendoza (Note: exact wineries visited may vary)

## **DAY 5**

### **ANDES CROSSING TO SANTIAGO**

This morning we embark on a spectacular journey over the Andes range by bus to the Chilean capital of Santiago. To stretch our legs in the late afternoon we will do a short walking tour of the city center, and if time allows, the exuberantly landscaped Santa Lucia Hill and a visit to the traditional handicraft market Pueblito los Dominicos. **B** Overnight Santiago

## **DAY 6**

### **VALPARAISO DAY TRIP**

**Valparaiso**, with over one and a half million inhabitants, is the "port of Santiago" and the most important Chilean port. An enchanting and bohemian city with funicular railways that tirelessly climb and descend the hills and comand a view of the pretty harbour. Valparaiso is known for its' colourful houses and grafitti which has become an attraction in its own right. We take our time walking the twisted hilly streets and will find a spot to enjoy a wonderful seafood lunch with equally wonderful views. To top off our day we'll stop at one of the Casablanca area wineries on our way back to Santiago . **B** Overnight Santiago

## **DAY 7**

### **TREN DEL VINO – SANTA CRUZ**

After breakfast you will be taken to San Fernando 140km south of Santiago. Where the Wine Train will carry you back to the time when railroads were the primary way of transportation. It was built in the last century, an old steam engine which was one of the last models constructed in Chile in 1913. The Wine Train will be traveling through the vineyards of the Colchagua Valley. On board the train you will enjoy a wine tasting with great colchaguino appetizers, accompanied by Chilean Folklore with popular songs.

After 1 ½ hrs you arrive at the railway station Santa Cruz. Here you will visit a vineyard for wine tasting and all aspects of its cultivation, production and art of tasting. Later you'll visit the museum "Museo de Colchagua" located in the front of the hotel. It is an old colonial building and one of South America's biggest private museums. The exposition shows largely a pre Colombian art

collection of Chile, Peru and Colombia as well as archaeological collections. **B, L** Overnight Santa Cruz

#### **DAY 8**

##### **COLCHAGUA VALLEY WINE TRAILS**

We spend the day on the “Ruta del Vino del Valle de Colchagua” in other words, the winery route of the Colchagua valley. This is a group of wineries, which have banded together to offer this great little tour and it can include a visit to the Colchagua museum displaying amber, fossils, pre Colombian pottery and relics from the Chilean Independence movement. We visit some of the most interesting of the wineries in the valley which may include: Vina Viu Manet, Montes and Vina Bisquertt. **B** Overnight Santa Cruz (Note: exact wineries visited may vary)

#### **DAY 9**

##### **TALCA**

Transfer from Santa Cruz to Talca in the heart of the Maule Valley, the wine growing region with the largest extension of vineyards totaling over 46,000hectares under cultivation. Most vineyards here produce red wines like carmenere, malbec, merlot, and cabernet sauvignon. You will spend the night at the Casona de las Chilcas on the Vina San Rafael a lovely boutique hotel built in 1920 with only 9 rooms and a very relaxing and personal atmosphere. Enjoy the winery, it's excellent wines and a special highlight dinner with wine matching cuisine tonight. **B,D**

#### **DAY 10**

##### **MAULE VALLEY WINE TRAILS**

Our tour today is a full day tour of the Maule Valley's rustic wineries. This is a real local experience as it is a much less commercialized area and offers an interesting look into the smaller wineries of Chile. We may visit Casa Donoso, Hugo Casanova and Calina. Also the very interesting Huiquilemu Museum. **B** Overnight Casona Las Chilcas (Note: exact wineries visited may vary)

#### **DAY11**

##### **PUCON AND THE LAKES DISTRICT**

Today we leave behind the wine regions and continue south by comfortable long distance coach along the western slopes of the Andes, to the picturesque Chilean Lakes District and the gorgeous resort town of Pucón. It sits at the foot of the Villarica Volcano and has a focus on outdoor activities such as rafting, horse riding, fishing and for the more active, climbing the volcano itself, the choice is yours. **B** Overnight Pucón

#### **DAY 12**

##### **PUCON**

A welcome free day to experience the variety of activities that Pucón has to offer, from climbing Villarica volcano, to horse riding through lush farm country, rafting the Trancura river, fly fishing or soaking in the hot springs of Termas de Huife. There is something here for everyone and a welcome break from traveling. We spend the evening at the hot springs soaking our well-traveled bodies in some lovely outdoor hot pools **B** Overnight Pucón.

#### **DAY 13**

##### **PUERTO VARAS**

Our journey now takes us through the lush green dairy pastures of Chilean Patagonia as we come to the lakeside town of Puerto Varas. This is a fantastic place to sample the local seafood and soak up the spectacular views of the Osorno Volcano, which dominate the landscape. **B**, Overnight Puerto Varas

#### **DAY 14**

##### **LAKES CROSSING TO BARILOCHE**

This is truly one of the highlights of the trip. The spectacular Lakes crossing to Argentina's alpine resort town of Bariloche, is a combination of boats and buses over the mighty Andes, sailing on

lakes of every imaginable color with magnificent peaks on each side. Bariloche, which is known for its Swiss, style architecture and its fine chocolate even has an entire supermarket devoted to only chocolate. During the winter Bariloche turns into a bustling ski resort and in summer offers an alpine village feel seldom found outside of the European Alps **B Overnight Bariloche**

#### **DAY 15**

##### **CIRCUITO CHICO AND BUENOS AIRES**

We have time to experience the magnificent national park which is easily accessible on an organized trip called the Circuito Chico (small circuit) to some of the areas most spectacular lookouts, including a chairlift for a birds eye view of the surrounding lakes and mountains. On our way back to Bariloche we may have time to stop at one of the well known boutique breweries to sample their delicious beers before catching our afternoon flight back to the capital Buenos Aires. **B Overnight Buenos Aires**

#### **DAY 16**

##### **BUENOS AIRES**

Our final day in this vibrant city takes us to the colorful La Boca district and the upmarket neighbourhood of Recoleta and its famous cemetery where Eva Peron is buried. Then you have free time to do some last minute shopping of great wines, leather goods and clothes. Tonight our final dinner combined with the passion of a spectacular Tango show, celebrates the conclusion of this fabulous trip. **B, D Overnight Buenos Aires.**

#### **DAY 17**

##### **Departure Day**

For those flying out on the midnight flight to New Zealand, we have all day to enjoy the city and maybe travel out to the Parana River delta for another unique perspective of Buenos Aires **HASTA LUEGO AMIGOS, see you again soon.**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** S.E.T reserve the right to run this tour in reverse order.

##### **TRIP COST INCLUDES**

- \*All wine tours and tastings
- \*3 highlight dinners with wine
- \*Tango show in Buenos Aires
- \*Complimentary bottle of wine and chocolates
- \*Lakes crossing from Chile to Argentina
- \*Guided tour of the circuito chico around Bariloche
- \*All land and internal air transport during the itinerary
- \*The cost of entry for all scheduled tours and national parks
- \*S.E.T tour leader throughout the tour
- \*All hotel accommodations\* (on a twin share basis including all continental breakfasts).
- \* Additional accommodations can be arranged at the clients' request

**WHAT THE TOUR DOES NOT INCLUDE** Your transfers to/from your international flights, **domestic and international airport departure taxes**, pre & post tour accommodation, visas, vaccinations, personal insurance, meals (except those listed), drinks, laundry, souvenirs, tips, and other items of a personal nature.

#### **JOINING INSTRUCTIONS**

##### **Buenos Aires**

ART HOTEL

Azuenaga 1268

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Tel/Fax: Int. Dialing Code + 54 11 4821 4744

Officially the airport is called **Ministro Pistarini International Airport**, but it is commonly referred to as Ezeiza. It is situated 35 km from the city, about 40 minutes in a taxi. A taxi to the centre

costs approximately \$20 USD and can be arranged from the official counter inside the Arrivals area.

There are a few bus companies that can take you to the hotel of your choice in the centre of Buenos Aires. Manuel Tienda Leon is the most well known, and the most expensive at about \$15. Their counter is at the customs exit. Ecuador buses are after this, and charge about \$12 USD. San Martin is after the exit to the hall right as you leave, and charges about \$12 USD. Students get a discount.

There are exchange facilities in the Banco de la Nacion with 1.5% commission, ATM Visa and Mastercard facilities available in all major towns and cities.

Please note that Day 1 is an arrival day and no activities except meeting and dinner have been planned, so you may arrive at any time. Similarly the last day is a departure day in which no activities are planned.

Your Tour Leader will organize a short meeting around 6pm, during which you will meet other tour participants and receive information about general and specific aspects of the trip. Your Tour Leader will contact you at the hotel on Day 1 and make sure you are settled comfortably. If you arrive late, s/he will leave you a message detailing what time and where you should meet the next morning.

**ITINERARY** All itineraries are given as a guideline only as our tour leaders may need to adjust the travel plan as the tour progresses due to changes in transport schedules or unforeseen circumstances. The Tour leader will also try to be in the best place for local holidays and festivals, etc. We endeavor to incorporate any permanent changes into these dossiers as they happen. Therefore, we ask that you consider downloading the very latest dossier for your tour from our website just before traveling (as stated above, at [www.southernexposuretours.co.nz](http://www.southernexposuretours.co.nz)).

**TRANSPORT** - There is quite a lot of traveling involved and you must be prepared to travel partly on local transport which are very comfortable coaches with reclining seats. The transport network is generally very good and also very safe. Wine trail routes are in privately hired mini buses and wine trains. You will need to be able to move your own luggage onto and off buses and taxis.

As we are moving every two days or so, it is recommended that you pack lightly and only take what you can carry, plus make room for some wine. I recommend you buy from Buenos Aires, Argentina's finest wines at great prices on the last leg of your journey and are less readily available in NZ than their Chilean counterparts.

**CULTURE** - There is not a great culture shock factor in Chile and Argentina as they are the two most European of the Latin American countries. You will find people very friendly and willing to help, especially if you try and speak a few basic words of Spanish. We will provide you with a "Cheat sheet" of basic Spanish vocabulary.

**ACCOMMODATION** - The accommodation is mostly in small hotels, a winery and bed and breakfasts. There is hot water and private facilities in all locations. Generally the rooms are fan cooled in the warmer areas. We do not usually stay in large 4 and 5 star hotels as this is all about a more unique experience in places we have chosen for their friendliness and atmosphere. You will find that the accommodation varies widely in style though they are always clean, safe comfortable.

**GROUP SIZE** - Our groups are small with a maximum of 12 passengers plus your kiwi tour leader who speaks fluent Spanish and acts as your translator throughout the trip. Both Silvana and Nick have lived in Latin America for years and are passionate about the region. We like to run trips which have that special feeling that you are not part of mass tourism and hence our aim is to interact with locals as much as possible, rather than stay apart from them. Your trip will feel like it is a true one off experience.

**WHAT TO TAKE** You will be on the go a great deal, so our advice is to pack as lightly as possible. Most people automatically assume that the weather is hot in South America, but

because we are going quite far south, the temperature can be a little chilly in the evenings. We recommend the use of a wheely bag or backpack; whichever is easiest for you to carry. A daypack for you rain jacket, camera and day to day essentials is recommended as is a rain jacket as the southern Chilean regions have a high rainfall.

### **Suggested List:**

#### **Documents:**

- \*Airline tickets (with photocopies)
- \*Travel insurance (with photocopies)
- \*Passport (with photocopies)
- \*USD cash and travelers cheques (see personal spending money)
- \*Credit card (see spending money)
- \*Debit card (see spending money)
- \*any entry visas or vaccination certificates required

#### **Items Clothing**

- Sandals
- Fleece top/sweater
- Sun block • Sunglasses • Sun hat
- Windproof/waterproof jacket
- Small towel and swim wear
- Toiletries (biodegradable)
- 4 shirts/t-shirts
- Watch or alarm clock
- Water bottle
- 2 pair of shorts/skirts
- 2 pairs of long trousers
- Pocketknife• Small flashlight
- 2 sets nice clothes for evenings out
- Sturdy walking shoes
- First-aid kit\*\*

\*\*First aid kit should contain lip salve, Aspirin, Band Aids, anti-histamine, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, re-hydration powder, extra prescription drugs you may be taking.

Optional camera, film, reading/writing material, binoculars.

**TRIP PREPARATION** Please contact your physician or travel clinic for the most up-to-date health requirements. Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO HAVE THE CORRECT TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION.

#### **OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES LIST:**

All prices are per person in US dollar amounts. Prices are subject to change, and can fluctuate in relation to the high/low season and the number of people on a specific excursion. Not all excursions listed here may be available due to season or weather conditions.

##### **PUCON**

Full day Villarica climb \$55

Fly Fishing \$120

Half day horse riding \$45

Rafting from \$25

Araucaria forest sanctuary walking tour \$20

##### **BARILOCHE**

Mountain bike rental \$5/hour day tour  
Horseback riding \$25-\$45  
MENDOZA  
Cooking class during wine tour \$190  
City tour \$30  
Half day horse riding \$55  
BUENOS AIRES  
Local train to the Parana river delta \$10  
City Tour \$25

### **SPENDING MONEY**

We recommend US\$30 per day to cover the cost of meals, snacks, drinks, some souvenirs, laundry, tips etc. It is necessary to bring your spending money in US\$ only. This should be in the form of cash (small denominations are advisable for every day use and debit cards for cash withdrawals. In 2002 the currency of Argentina has devalued dramatically and there is now also a black market to change cash. Credit cards are also widely accepted especially Visa & MasterCard. Both credit and debit cards are often the best way to carry your money although we do not recommend that you rely on this as your ONLY means of bringing funds in case authorization is denied due to poor computer connections or other problems, which are quite common!

You can use your debit or credit cards to draw out cash in local currency from ATM's in all but one of the towns we visit on this tour. However credit card commission charges can be high and you should check with your bank about their particular charges on foreign transactions, before leaving home. As a backup an amount of US\$ travelers cheques are handy, though more time consuming to exchange. Make sure you record your travelers cheques numbers and to cross them off when used. All US\$ cash bills should be in good condition and torn or dirty notes are not usually accepted. You should only carry amounts you feel comfortable with. Please note all cash and travelers cheques should be in small denominations of US\$ only - no other currency is widely accepted for exchange.

### **BUDGET TO HELP YOU:**

Meals not included - \$400 USD.  
Additional sightseeing – please see optional activities list above  
Local Payment - \$450 USD  
Departure tax Buenos Aires - \$18 USD,  
Tipping suggestions- Local guide tip pool: \$30-\$40USD approx S.E.T. leader: \$5-10 USD / week

### **PAYING LOCALLY**

Most of our adventure tours involve a local payment. Paying locally allows us to keep the overall cost of our tours competitive and pass the savings on to you. These funds are put towards local expenses. In some developing countries the transferring of funds is at times problematic so this is a way to help us serve you whilst saving you money. This is especially true of Argentina after their devaluation. Payment is to be made to your leader upon arrival in cash.

### **TIPPING**

Many restaurants expect a tip (10%) for service. Also, there may be times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides or drivers. You may do this individually, or your Tour Leader may offer to collect the money and tip as a group. Also at the end of each trip, if you felt your S.E.T Tour Leader did an outstanding job, a tip is always appreciated but never expected.

### **DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY/FITNESS**

This tour unlike our others, focuses on food and wine so the level of activity is not high, though you will need to deal with your own luggage and be prepared to walk for 1 or 2 hours at some of the places visited. A physically undemanding trip, however travel days can be long and you will need to be able to carry your own bags from buses to taxis. Buses here are usually very comfortable and are large coaches with reclining seats. As the emphasis is on seeing the countryside and doing the wine trails, we only fly the longest sectors Altitude is not a factor here, you will be below 1000m mostly. Please be aware that we are NOT allowed to administer first aid or drugs to clients for legal reasons so please be fully prepared with your own medical kit.

## **FOOD**

Eating out is one of the highlights of any tour to Latin America; especially this one which has a focus on the wine and cuisine of the region. Your tour leader will make suggestions and book restaurants for the group which have a local flavour. However you are free to eat as a group, with friends or with the locals so you can cater for your own tastes and around your budget. Generally the food in this region is not spicy and be prepared for simple breakfasts of toast and jam. Argentinian and Chilean wines local beers and soft drinks are obtainable everywhere as is bottled water, though tap water is drinkable here.

## **WEATHER**

This tour covers 3 main climatic zones; east of the Andes which is hot and can be quite dry in summer (Nov to March), with temperatures of around 25 to 35C. Patagonia is cooler and can be very windy, especially in Bariloche and you will probably experience 5 or 6 variations in weather during the course of one day. Then the area west of the Andes in Chile which is warm and generally wetter than the other areas. Layers are the best way to go and will ensure you can be warm, dry and comfortable no matter what the elements have in store for you.

## **SECURITY**

Like anywhere in the world, you can be in the wrong place at the wrong time. However, traveling with a Latin American expert increases passenger safety greatly because our crews know the good and bad places in each city and can warn our clients about the local tricks. You should be especially careful when wandering about the capital cities on your own, particularly at night. Tourists are easy prey for individual pickpockets or groups of two or more people working as a team on the streets. Pay particular attention to anyone who "accidentally" spills anything on your clothes or belongings (mustard, etc.), then apologizes and offers to help clean up. They will clean you out instead! Be safe and leave your passport, credit cards, travelers cheques and cash funds you won't be using immediately, within the hotel's safety deposit box. Most people we encounter are honest and genuinely helpful and friendly, but be safe and enjoy the cities! We suggest clients always use the hotel safes wherever possible and obtain a good money belt before leaving home. Security of our passengers is our tour leaders' number one concern. They provide all necessary information during the pre-departure meeting.

## **EMERGENCY CONTACT**

Should you need to contact S.E.T during an emergency situation. Emails are checked daily and a list of contact numbers and itinerary will be left with the joining hotel and given to all tour participants on day1.

Email [info@southernexposuretours.co.nz](mailto:info@southernexposuretours.co.nz) or [smgkiwi@yahoo.com](mailto:smgkiwi@yahoo.com)

Call NZ 006435281330, Cell phone in South America 00593 9 1501240

The information supplied in this dossier is subject to change. It is an indication only and cannot be viewed as a contractual obligation on the part of the company.