



FOOD  
& WINE  
TRAILS  
EPICUREAN TOURS

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Biale Vineyards -  
Mendoza, Argentina  
*Pre-Pre-Cruise Tour*

February 28 – March 2, 2024

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## Mendoza

### *3-Night/4-Day Pre-Pre-Cruise Program*

This is Mendoza, Argentina's most famous and important wine region. Situated at the foot of the Andes, it is recognized as one of the world's eight great wine capitals, an accolade that it richly deserves. Less than 2 hours flight away from Argentina's capital, Buenos Aires, Mendoza is surely one of the world's most beautiful vineyard regions, an exotic mix of mountains, lush oases of green, and arid semi-desert.

The best time to visit Mendoza is all year round! Sun is part of everyday life, shining over 300 days a year. Summer temperatures can reach over 90 degrees, but the heat is dry with low humidity. Rain is a rarity; average annual rainfall is just over eight inches.

This weather not only benefits the visitors but also the winemaking. The climate in Mendoza, from the sunshine to the rainfall and low humidity, all contribute to the delicious production of various wines including some of Mendoza's most popular white wines made from Chardonnay and Torrontes. Wineries or "bodegas", as they are called in Mendoza, are all shapes and sizes. Some reflect the traditional styles of architecture while others take on a very modern spin.

The Mendoza region produces three-quarters of the Malbec that Argentina offers to the world and is delivering flavors and textures that are totally unprecedented, just waiting to be discovered. The two most important sub-regions – Valle de Uco and Luján de Cuyo – are places where one encounters some of the world's highest vineyards. In fact, the altitudes at which Argentine vineyards flourish would be unthinkable high in Europe: from 2300 to 4600 ft, and even up 9900 ft in the northern province of Salta. This is a winemaker's paradise indeed.



# Day 01

Bienvenidos!

Your Argentine adventure starts here in Mendoza. Upon arrival in Mendoza, you will check into **Entre Cielos Hotel**, a luxury wine hotel & spa. It is set in the midst of the Mendoza countryside, surrounded by nearly 1,200 vineyards, beneath the snowy peaks of the Andes.

Plan to arrive to your hotel by 5 p.m. so you are able to take part in tonight's activities. Your evening begins with an exquisite welcome dinner at the intimate **Brindillas Restaurant**, highlighting incredibly refined dishes with superb culinary attention. This intimate restaurant is the creation of chef Mariano Gallego and sommelier Florencia D'Amico. Their cuisine and wine selection, having spent a few years living in Spain and Japan before resettling in Argentina, reflects their own evolving tastes. The sophisticated tasting menu comes accompanied by Florencia's selection of wine pairings, which often include exclusive labels sourced from neighboring wineries in Lujan de Cuyo. {D}



*Entre Cielos Hotel*



*Brindillas Restaurant*

# Day 02

Your first day's adventure begins after breakfast in the beautiful City of Luján de Cuyo, located in a valley just south of Mendoza City. This region is home to some of the most famous names in Argentinean wine, including Catena Zapata, Bodega Septima and Cheval des Andes.

Today's itinerary starts with wine tasting at **Matervini Winery**. The winery itself is a modern architectural masterpiece featuring floor-to-ceiling plate glass windows, loads of Modernist paintings on the walls, and built-in terraces perfect for drinking in the views. In this winery, all electricity and heat needs are generated by solar panels and all organic waste is composted and returned to the vineyards. Matervini is a pioneer in using 100% renewable energy sources.

The next tasting will take place at **De Angeles Viña 1924 Winery**, whose vines were planted more than a century ago at an altitude of 1,000 meters above sea level. This vineyard is located in Vistalba, the first historic winemaking region of Argentina, holding the name "national land and home of malbec" for comprising the largest number of hectares of malbec in the world.

A wine-paired lunch is to follow at **Lagarde Winery**, one of the oldest bodegas in the Mendoza district. Today the winery and estate is run by third generation sisters Sofia and Lucila Pescarmona. Within the past few decades, Lagarde has focused on defining its particular style of wines. Striving to consistently innovate, Lagarde was the first Latin American producer to plant non-traditional varieties such as Viognier and Moscato Bianco, adding to its unique style. Feast on tender Argentine steaks and plates that blend the traditions of Mendoza cuisine with typical Italian flavors. Enjoy a wine pairing with each course and choose to dine in a garden set adjacent to the vineyards or inside with splendid panoramas.

Enjoy a free evening with a shuttle into downtown Mendoza and time to explore on your own. Dinner reservations can be secured by your guide ahead of time.



*Matervini*



*De Angeles Viña 1924*



*Lagarde*

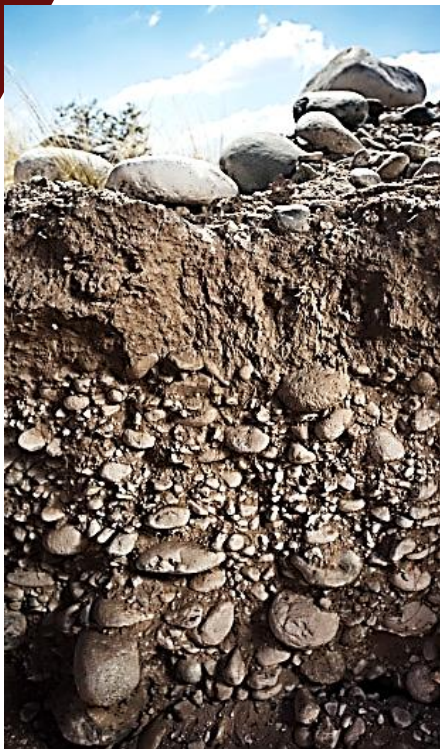
# Day 03

After breakfast, we will spend a full day in Valle de Uco. This is one of the most important and prestigious wine regions in Argentina and one of the newest. Some of Mendoza's finest white wines come from Uco Valley vineyards, as the relatively cool climate allows the requisite slower ripening period and the harsh extremities in day/night temperatures maintain good balance between sugar and acidity levels in grapes.

The first tasting today will lead us to the **Zuccardi Valle De Uco Winery**. This is the only winery in Argentina with three wines awarded 100 points from Robert Parker Wine Advocate. It was also honored as the “New World Winery of the Year” by Wine Enthusiast and awarded the #1 best vineyard in the world for three years. Here you will enjoy a wine-paired lunch at the **Piedra Infinita Restaurant**, set against the unique backdrop of the mountains and the Zuccardi vineyards.

The second winery on the itinerary is the **Corazon de Sol**. This vineyard has been at the forefront of innovation, pioneering some of the very first Grenache and Mourvèdre plantings. After success in both Napa Valley (Revana Family Vineyard) and the Willamette Valley (Alexana Vineyards), Dr. Madaiah Revana sought to extend his portfolio of terroir-driven, vineyard-specific wines to the southern hemisphere. After visiting the Uco Valley in 2008, he discovered untapped potential for world class wines. With surgical precision and a quality driven philosophy, he continues to produce outstanding wines from these inspiring landscapes.

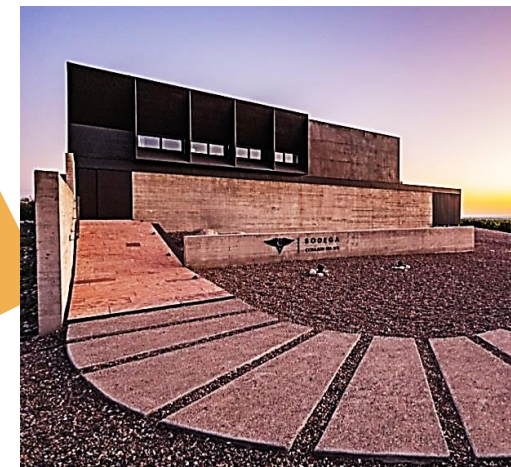
Back at the hotel, the evening is yours to relax, explore, or enjoy some onsite dining at the Entre Cielos Restaurant. {B,L}



*Stoney lime subsoil*



*Zuccardi Valle De Uco*



*Corazon de Sol*

# Day 04

Once you have had breakfast, your private group transfer will meet you at the hotel at 8 a.m. and escort you to the airport. Your flight to Iguazu Falls is included. You can choose to add on the Iguazu Pre-Cruise Program, where you will continue with the group to Iguazu Falls, ending with 1 night in Buenos Aires. You can also choose to travel directly to Buenos Aires on your own and meet up with the group upon their arrival or on the cruise ship.

Either way, this brings an end to your flavorful exploration of Mendoza. If you are adding on the Iguazu Falls package, your transfer to the Gran Melia Iguazu Falls will be waiting to take you on your next Argentinean adventure – to see one of the top 10 natural wonders of the world! If you are not continuing to Iguazu Falls, you can either have your advisor assist with making your own arrangements for 3 nights or add the Buenos Aires Hotel and Welcome Dinner package and request an additional 3<sup>rd</sup> night. Please reach out to your advisor to ensure you have all components covered.

While your cruise hosts, Bob and Wendy Biale, will not be joining you on this portion of the trip, they encourage your exploration of this incredible wine region.

**Buen Viaje!**

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# ACCOMMODATIONS

A tranquil sanctuary where wine meets wellness. Set in the midst of the world's premier wine capital, Entre Cielos is the place to discover the real Argentina, where enjoying life to the fullest is the priority.

See firsthand why this is one of the most luxurious hotels in Mendoza featuring an authentic hamam and spa, a stunning outdoor pool, an elegant bistro and a wine cellar packed with the very finest Malbecs in the region. Set against a backdrop of the Andes, Entre Cielos is a daringly modernist Euro-Argentinean resort with tall floor-to-ceiling windows that bring the outside in, presenting a mix of solitude and sophistication.



## Entre Cielos Wine Hotel and Spa

3 Nights / February 28 – March 02, 2024



**Standard rooms** have king size beds, their own sitting area, and private outdoor terrace overlooking the lush Mendoza countryside



**Vineyard Loft rooms** offer king size beds and endless views as each faces onto the Malbec vines and the soaring Andes beyond them.

\*\*Additional room nights and upgrades will be subject to availability and pricing.

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**STANDARD ROOM**

**PER PERSON PRICE:** \$3,399.00 double occupancy

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:** \$775.00

**VINEYARD LOFT ROOM UPGRADE**

**PER PERSON PRICE:** \$248.00 double occupancy

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:** \$496.00

**TOUR INCLUDES:** Three (3) nights hotel accommodations at the Entre Cielos Wine Hotel & Spa in a Standard Room category, three (3) breakfasts, two (2) wine-paired lunches and one (1) dinner with wine, English-speaking guide, departure hotel portorage, group transfer to airport day of departure only, airfare to Iguazu Falls as well as the cost for one (1) 50 lb suitcase, all winery tours, tastings, and entrance fees, transportation on deluxe A/C motorcoach, bottled water on the motorcoach and all local taxes.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Arrival transportation into Mendoza, gratuities for the guides and drivers, hotel upgrades, additional hotel nights, expense of any kind for required PCR or Antigen tests (or covid related expenses) and all items of a personal nature.

**ACTIVITY LEVEL:** There will be some walking on uneven surfaces to negotiate throughout the tour.

**NOTE:** Times and providers are subject to change.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** F&WT highly encourages protecting your travel investment in case of an emergency requiring you to cancel your trip. Your F&WT's Travel Advisor can assist you with procuring the appropriate coverage. Please make sure to read the cancellation policy on the registration form outlining our cancellation policy.