



50

TOP WINE
EXPERIENCES

Our band of wine experts share their favourite regions, cellar doors, watering holes and the most rewarding vinous exploits the world has to offer. Here they are in no particular order.



Château de Sacy, Champagne.

44. Château de Sacy, Champagne

For a truly breathtaking outlook of the Champagne region, head to the commune of Sacy just outside of Reims to the hotel Château de Sacy. Surrounded by vineyards, this mid-19th century chateau was originally called Villa Maria and was built by one of the region's most famous architects, Pierre Louis Gosset. With four types of rooms all with views of the entire city of Reims out of the hotel's 54 windows, there's no dud diggings here. A restaurant on site also means you won't have to travel in to the city every day of your stay – just grab a glass of Champagne and kick back in the beautiful surrounding gardens. JULIAN RIFKIN

» TIP: There's even a spa! chateaudesacy-reims.fr



Castello di Brolio in Tuscany. Photography by Dom Sweeney.

8. Italy's Oldest Winery

Welcome to the birthplace of Chianti Classico – truthfully. It would be easy to while away an entire day at Castello di Brolio, home of the famed Barone Ricasoli label. Grab a light lunch of local cheese and meats, pickles and bread at AgriBar Brolio, and maybe a game of foosball, or for a classier experience book a table at the top notch Osteria.

Work it all off with a trek up the hill to the 877-year-old castle, taking in both the history of the decorated Brolio family and the most magnificent views across the patchwork-like Tuscan countryside. Round out the afternoon with a tasting of the superb range of wines at the enoteca. This may be one of Chianti's high-volume producers, but the wines are excellent, and the experience is second to none. DOM SWEENEY

» TIP: Beneath the tasting room you'll find a fascinating and quirky collection of vintage race cars and velocipedes dating back to the 1800s. ricasoli.com/en

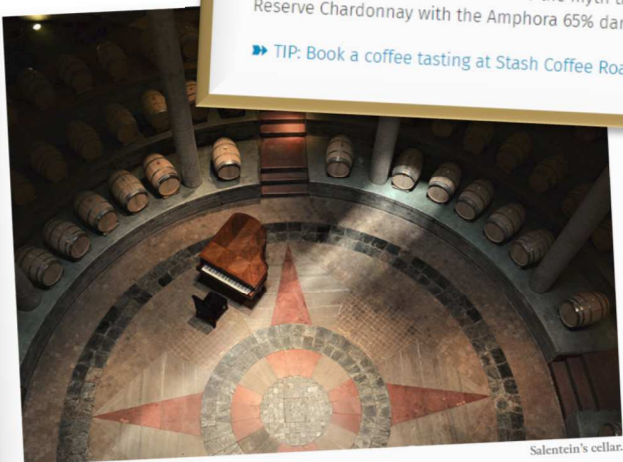


Singlefile vineyard.

45. Singlefile, Great Southern

In the Great Southern subregion of Denmark, Singlefile is a boutique winery that makes some of the area's finest chardonnays. The cellar door's Coco d'Vino tasting flight has four wines paired with artisan Cuvée chocolates handcrafted by chocolatier Deniz Karaca. It shatters the myth that red wine best matches chocolate; the standout pairing is the Family Reserve Chardonnay with the Amphora 65% dark chocolate. DANIELLE COSTLEY

» TIP: Book a coffee tasting at Stash Coffee Roasters. singlefilewines.com



Salentein's cellar.

50. Argentina

Heading to Buenos Aires in the company of wine man Peter Bourne can't be a bad thing. He and a local tourism expert will take a small group of 10 travel companions to the high altitude desert of Salta, to the lush valleys of Mendoza and to the lakes of Patagonia. There will be cellar entry and wine tastings at some of Argentina's best wineries as well as curated dining experiences exploring the different wines and cuisines from the three distinct regions. There are other cultural experiences to be had as well including a cooking class and a traditional tango show. The trip runs from 29 September to 12 October 2019. JUDY SARRIS

» TIP: Patagonia produces stunning pinots in the Rio Negro region so be sure to try some. lirawineexperience.com



RH Wine Vault.

36. Tasting in the Napa

Here's a brand new twist on a top spot to taste wine, which *GT WINE* visited on the recommendation of Penfolds' Napa-based winemaker Stephanie Dutton. *Mai(s)onry* by Restoration Hardware, which provides a food, wine, art and design experience all across three beautiful buildings located in the Napa town of Yountville, opened late this year.

Taste wine at the two-storey RH Wine Vault, housed in a historic stone building, or enjoy choosing from the list of limited production wines and Champagne while lounging in the trellised outdoor living rooms. Or dine on chef Brendan Sodkoff's seasonal menu in the indoor/outdoor restaurant, surrounded by heritage olive trees and illuminated by cascading chandeliers.

Restoration Hardware's main business is quality home furnishings that you can view in the Design Gallery, as well as all around you as you enjoy this unique setting and a great selection of local wine. JUDY SARRIS

» TIP: Make a reservation as the best spots go fast. maisonry.com