

VINEPAIR

The Essential Chilean Wine Country Guide

Rachel Tepper Paley | December 17, 2018

If you venture just outside of city limits in Santiago, Chile's bustling capital, the scenery quickly shifts from urban to agrarian. Rolling valleys extend in all directions, lined with neat rows of curled grape vines. This is Chilean wine country, a long and skinny stretch of countryside that spans more than 2,600 miles from top to bottom. Chilean wine country at large is not a single region at all, but a series of valleys differing in size and elevation, all noted for their micro-climates and transversal rivers that guide cooling breezes from the Pacific Ocean, which provide ideal temperatures for ripening grapes.



VERAMONTE

"Next up is Viñedos **Veramonte**, an all-organic operation approximately two hours southwest by car. The Casablanca Valley is known for a cool morning fog that rolls in from the sea, making it ideal for growing white wines grapes like Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay, plus cool-climate reds like Pinot Noir, Merlot, and Syrah. Taste all these at Viñedos Veramonte; afterward, bike through the vineyards on a guided cycling tour or drop into the winery's Calicata Restaurant for a lunch of steak sandwiches and ruby-red beef tartare."