

10 Must-Visit Vineyards Around Chile's Colchagua Valley

Specialized wineries, endless vineyards and the unique Carménère variety will leave you thirsty for more



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Photo courtesy of Jillian Dara

Only two hours from Santiago lies Colchagua Valley; Chile's paradise of red wine. The long and hot summers, cooling mountain breezes and moderate spring rains produce the ideal growing conditions for stressing vines and petite grapes. The wineries are particularly known for producing Carménère, a bold red wine whose grape variety was first mistaken for Merlot when it was discovered in Chile.

With vineyards everywhere you turn, this populated valley may be difficult to navigate. Here are 10 wineries that you can't miss. If you can't get to Chile anytime soon, these vineyards export the majority of their wines internationally, so scope out your local wine stores for these labels and possibly discover a new favorite bottle for wine Wednesdays.

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Nestled among eucalyptus trees, this winery has a quaint, cabin feel. The tasting reflects quality over quantity with a comparison between two consecutive years of their Carménère/Cabernet Sauvignon blend. The wine's high quality is attributed to the vines that were imported from Bordeaux, before the phylloxera outbreak, that have thrived at the estate for over 100 years. You can tour the barrel room at your leisure, with a glass of wine in hand or relax in the cozy tasting room, centered with a table fit for a king but modestly decorated for the superior wine they produce.

Personal Recommendation: I sided with the 2010 blend, which was smoother and presented less tannins than the 2009 version.

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Photo Courtesy of Jillian Dara



HUNEEUS VINTNERS
[THE WINES OF AGUSTIN HUNEEUS]



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