

ARGENTINA'S NEW CROP

ON A JOURNEY THROUGH THIS UP-AND-COMING WINE COUNTRY, **BRUCE SCHOENFELD** DISCOVERS TWO VERY DIFFERENT WORLDS, FROM THE AMBITIOUS HIGH-DESIGN WINERIES OF MENDOZA TO RUGGED MOUNTAIN VINEYARDS OF THE SALTA REGION.

GUIDE: ARGENTINA'S WINE REGIONS



GETTING THERE Mendoza is accessible through Buenos Aires, but many itineraries require a mad dash across the capital from the city's Ministro Pistarini (Ezeiza) International Airport to the regional Jorge Newberry Aeropark to make a tight connection. The smarter option is to fly through Santiago, Chile, to Mendoza. From there, Cafayate and the wine region of Salta are a full day's drive over a wide range of roads. You can catch a flight directly to Salta in Buenos Aires. Both regions are best visited from November through April, the Southern Hemisphere's late spring to early fall.

STAY MENDOZA

Cavas Wine Lodge Ruta Nacional 7, Alto Agrelo, Luján de Cuyo; 54-261/410-6927; cavaswinelodge.com; doubles from \$460, including breakfast.

La Posada At the Vistalba winery, across from La Bourgogne restaurant. 3531 Calle Roque Saenz Peña, Luján de Cuyo; 54-261/498-9400; carlospulentawines.com; doubles from \$360, including one meal.

GREAT VALUE Park Hyatt Mendoza 1124 Calle Chile; 888/591-1234 or 54-261/441-1234; park.hyatt.com; doubles from \$229.

SALTA

Estancia Colomé Km 20, Ruta Provincial 53, Molinos; 54-3868/494-200; estanciaacolome.com; doubles from \$340, including breakfast and museum entrance.

Patios de Cafayate Collection Hotel 40 & 68, Cafayate; luxurycollection.com; including breakfast.

EAT MENDOZA

La Bourgogne Calle Roque Saenz Peña; 54-261/498-9400

La Posada del Juncal ham and house-made bread. Informal roadhouse. 14, Ruta 92, Vista Flores; 2622/492-053; luncheon

1884 Francis Mallman High-end adaptations of local cuisine. *Bodegas Escorihuela*, 1188 Calle Belgrano, Godoy Cruz; 54-261/424-2698; dinner for two \$80.

SALTA

El Restaurante Patios de Cafayate Hotel; 54-3868/422-229; dinner for two \$90.

Estancia Colomé Km 20, Ruta Provincial 53, Molinos; 54-3868/494-200; dinner for two \$90.

José Balcarce The best restaurant in the city of Salta. *Esq. Mitre y Necochea*, 54-387/421-1628; dinner for two \$50.

TASTE Though many of these properties cater to travelers, it's always best to make an appointment before arriving.

MENDOZA

Achaval Ferrer 2061 Calle Cobos, Perdriel, Luján de Cuyo; 54-351/425-3812.

Bodega Catena Zapata J. Cobos, Agrelo, Luján de Cuyo; 54-261/413-1100; catenawines.com.

Bodegas Salentein Ruta 89, Los Arboles, Tunuyán; 54-2622/429-500; bodegasalentein.com.

Bodegas y Viñedos O. Fournier Calle Los Indios, La Consulta, San Carlos; 54-2622/451-579; ofournier.com.

Clos de los Siete Calle Clodomiro Silva, Vista Flores, Tunuyán; 54-261/405-5606.

Viñedos y Bodegas Mendel 1863 Calle Terrada, Mayor Drummond, Luján de Cuyo; 54-261/498-4239; mendel.com.ar.

Vines of Mendoza Tasting Room 567 Calle Espejo, Mendoza; 707/320-2699 or 54-261/438-1031; vinesofmendoza.com.

The Winery A bottle store in a mansion. 888/591-1234

BRING IT BACK

Only 400 bottles of Bodega Mendel Malbec Mendoza Finca Remota (\$115), a firm but gorgeously floral single-vineyard Malbec, are allocated to the U.S. Seek one out in Argentina at Cavas Wine Lodge, which serves as a broker.

