

Five must-visit Santiago vineyards

By Sarah Gordon

Photography by Matt Wilson

Whether you like big round carménères, rich cabernets or a light fruity sauvignon blanc, Chile has a wine for you, and there's no better place to enjoy the best vintages than at the vineyards themselves. Local on the ground, Sarah Gordon, shares five of the best near Santiago.

Three of Chile's most famous wine regions lay just outside Santiago, making them perfect for a day trip from the capital. Closest to the city you'll find the Maipo Valley, where big commercial operations produce red wines, while the Casablanca Valley, set within the coastal cordillera on the way to Vaparaíso, is home to fresh whites. Further south, the sun-baked Colchagua Valley is another red wine heartland that's well worth a visit.

Viña Vik

The lowdown

A glinting swirl of gold on the horizon is how you spot [Viña Vik](#) in the Millahue Valley, two hours south of Santiago. This vineyard, created by Norwegian-Uruguayan businessman Alexander Vik, combines his dual passions for wine and art. The Frank Gehry-style gold roof you glimpse in the distance covers the restaurant and hotel of the light and airy winery created by famous Chilean architect Smiljan Radic.

Join a tasting and you can try cabernet sauvignon, carménère and syrah wines straight from the barrel, as well as the resulting blends of the Milla Cala or VIK lines. The standard wine tasting starts at \$40 (£33), while the VIK tasting costs \$60 (£49).

The upgrade

Combine a tasting with a tapas lunch looking out over the picture-perfect mountains from \$85 (£70).

Don't miss...

Alexander Vik's aim is for the VIK wine to become the best in the world and it is already scoring well, so it is worth upgrading your tasting to include the VIK line and getting in before the crowds.