

AFAR

This Picturesque Chilean Wine Region Pairs World-Class Reds with Luxurious Digs

By Zoe Baillargeon 09.25.19

The Colchagua region, set within easy striking distance of Santiago, produces some of the world's finest reds in a beautiful mountains-meet-vineyards setting that's met by a bevy of luxury resorts. A lush region of valleys and rolling hills planted with roughly 50,000 acres of vines, where Mediterranean climes prevail, Chile's Colchagua wine region unfolds roughly two hours south of Santiago, and has long served as a getaway for the city's well-to-do—with the luxury lodging to match...Bordered by the Andean foothills to the east and the Chilean Coastal Range to the west, Colchagua forms the southern arm of the Rapel Valley wine region, but its diverse microclimates and varied soils—scattered throughout Colchagua's smaller valleys like Apalta and Lolol—proved worthy of its own Denomination of Origin (Chile's wine region designation system). All fed by the Tinguiririca River, plump harvests of richly concentrated, slow-ripened grapes are transformed into powerhouse single-grape varietals and blends.

NEYEN



The Neyen winery is one of Colchagua's heritage vineyards

Today, nearly 20 wineries call Colchagua home, from pioneering family-run operations on historic estancias to modern, experimental upstarts in innovative facilities. Dig in at the roots by discovering some of the valley's original 19th-century vines at heritage vineyards like Casa Silva, [Neyen](#), and Viu Manent. At Los Vascos, home to septuagenarian old-world vines, perhaps the ultimate endorsement of Colchagua's fine-wine pedigree can be found: It's an outpost of the Lafite Rothschild empire (the famed red wine royalty from Bordeaux). From there, branch out to other choice vineyards like the feng shui-inspired Viña Montes, the women-run Viña Las Niñas, or Viña François Lurton, whose head vintner and namesake comes from a respected Bordeaux winemaking clan.