



CHILE: TORRES DEL PAINE & WINE COUNTRY

February/March 2019

2 Travelers

DAY 1 | ARRIVE SANTIAGO

This charming boutique hotel, in the heart of downtown Santiago, is recognized for being one of the world's best new hotels in 2012 by the Condé Nast Hot List. One of the greatest features of Hotel Lastarria is its location; it is just blocks away from the cobblestoned, eclectic Barrio Lastarria, which is home to artisan vendors and many delicious restaurants. The hotel's rooms have been recently updated and restored, adding modern amenities while preserving the beauty of this stunning residence which dates back to 1927. The Hotel Lastarria also features its own restaurant, free WiFi, and a comfortable stay.

- Upon arrival, you will meet your driver and be transferred to your hotel
- After taking some time to freshen up, your guide will take you on a **half-day Santiago exploration!**
 - Your bilingual guide will lead you on a tour highlighting Santiago's most important historical sites, including the downtown area surrounding the **Plaza de Armas** and the **La Moneda Presidential Palace**.
 - You will also pass by the **Mercado Central**, one of Chile's largest fresh seafood markets and stroll by the many bustling stalls to see the tremendous variety provided by Chile's bountiful sea.
 - You will visit some of the lesser-known barrios of Santiago, including **República and Concha y Toro**, which were historically privileged neighborhoods and home to Santiago's high society.
 - There will be time to walk around and take photos of the varied styles of architecture dating back to the 19th and early 20th century.
 - Continuing through the cobblestoned Lastarria neighborhood, you will walk through the **Parque Forestal** and pass by the **Bellas Artes Museum**.
 - For a **panoramic vista of the city**, you will visit the top of Cerro San Cristobal Hill, 984 feet above the city.
- During the tour, you will have the option to visit one of Santiago's most famous museums, **La Chascona**, former home to beloved poet and Nobel Laureate **Pablo Neruda**. The whimsical residence provides a snapshot into the life and mind of Neruda, filled with art, eccentric collections, and even his Nobel Prize.
 - *Note: The Fundación Pablo Neruda does not permit purchasing tickets in advance, nor making reservations for visits. Visitors are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.*



ACCOMMODATION: Hotel Lastarria
(Deluxe Double Room)

DAY 2 | SANTIAGO TO TORRES DEL PAINE (B, D)

- Private transfer to the airport
- Fly Santiago to Punta Arenas
- Upon arrival, you will be picked up by your bilingual driver and transferred to the hotel Explora inside the national park of Torres del Paine.
 - Evening at leisure

ACCOMMODATION: Explora Salto Chico

DAYS 3-6 | TORRES DEL PAINE (B, L, D)

At the base of the Salto Chico waterfall, this all-inclusive hotel is located in the heart of the Torres del Paine National Park. Rated by Travel + Leisure magazine as world's best hotels for its service, the Explora Patagonia offers quality service and luxurious comforts in everything from its accommodations to its restaurant. The hotel also has a stable and invites guests to visit its ranch to explore the gaucho culture of Patagonia.

- These days are yours to **hike** with stunning scenery, **horseback ride** with experienced *gauchos*, **relax** at the spa, and enjoy **gourmet meals**. Every day you will be guided through amazing and diversified experiences of your choice.

- Here are a few of our recommendations:

- **French Valley** - This excursion starts with a **30-minute boat ride across Pehoé Lake**. We walk along a winding trail that passes the slopes of Paine Grande and the shores of Lago Skottsberg. There are great views of the Cuernos del Paine on the way. Upon reaching the Italian Camp, we will cross a bridge over the French river and head up the French valley to the view point that sits below the world famous French Glacier. We will return along the same trail and take the boat for the last 30 minutes to the point where the van will take us back to the hotel.



- **Base of the Towers** - This **world-famous hike** demands stamina, but the rewards are the impressive views of the **three granite towers**. This hike ascends steeply for one hour bordering the Rio Ascensio until reaching the Paso de los Vientos. From here it takes 30 minutes to reach Campamento Chileno where we can have a little rest. The walk continues to ascend through the forest for 1 ½ hours, gaining altitude very quickly and offering amazing views of the geological formations in the area such as folds, fractures, and granite intrusions. The last hour is the most challenging and difficult, where the trail winds up through a moraine section of loose rock, there is exposure to the wind, and the weather is unpredictable. Arriving at the lookout we will have the classic view of Torres del Paine; we can eat lunch with this fantastic landscape in front of us.



- **Laguna Linda** - This **horseback ride** is the hardest of the “beginners” explorations due to its climbs and descents. We leave from the stables and ride across an area of small hills, gaining altitude until we reach the Linda Lagoon, with panoramic views of the Paine Massif. Throughout this ride we will see small southern beech trees and birds such as coots and southern lapwings.

ACCOMMODATION: Explora Salto Chico

DAY 7 | PUNTA ARENAS TO SANTIAGO (B)

- Enjoy a leisurely morning before your private transfer back to the airport
- Fly Punta Arenas to Santiago
- Private transfer upon arrival
- Spend the evening on your own, exploring the city (ask the concierge for dinner recommendations!)

ACCOMMODATION: Hotel Lastarria (Deluxe Double Room)

DAY 8 | WINE COUNTRY (B, L, D, TASTINGS)

Built in the early 1900's, the beautiful casona at Matetic is located in San Antonio Valley and has easy access to Santiago, Viña del Mar, and Valparaíso (the central Chilean coast). The casona, located on the Matetic vineyard property, is characteristic of the typical Chilean countryside of colonial times and offers ten spacious and elegantly decorated rooms. Be sure to take time to relax poolside in the lovely outdoor garden area or curl up with a book in their cozy living room, complete with a fireplace, pool table, and honesty bar. Matetic also features its own, on-property restaurant, Equilibrio.

- This morning, your guide will meet you at your hotel to head out to the **renowned Casablanca Valley**.
- Chile's move toward cool-climate viticulture began 25 years ago when innovative winemakers dared to suggest planting in the pre-coastal Casablanca region. The valley is now world-famous for its commitment to terroir, **producing some of Chile's best white wines and cool-climate reds**.
- Your first visit will be to **Villard Wines**, one of Casablanca Valley's premium boutique wineries.
 - Villard was founded in 1989 by Thierry Villard, and is still run by this French-Chilean family, which prides itself on making traditional, elegant wines. With mineral rich *terroir* cooled by Pacific breezes, they are known for their whites, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, and both of their Pinot Noirs score high, including two 95 point scores from James Suckling.
 - Perhaps their most unusual wine (for Chile) is the L'assemblage Gran Vin, a blend made with Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Mourvèdre, Petit Verdot and Grenache, some of which comes from other valleys including Maule and Aconcagua.
 - Charlie Villard says it's a great wine to use for a blind tasting to test your palate. We will enjoy a tour and tasting here.
- Afterwards, we will make our way to a **local restaurant** near the town of Casablanca to sit down for a delicious lunch.
- Our last stop of the day is at **Kingston Winery** for a tour and tasting.



- Since its first vintage in 2003, Kingston has been turning heads with its **small production of Pinot Noir, Syrah, and Sauvignon Blanc**.
- While coastal Casablanca is known for its white wines, Kingston is pioneering the production of cool-climate, artisan-style reds.
- Wines from the **300-acre family ranch** are handcrafted and bottled on site.
- *Wine Spectator* commended Kingston for “bringing diversity and excitement to Chile” and *Wine Enthusiast* heralded the vineyard as the “Sommelier’s’ New Chilean Favorite.”
- In 2016, Chile’s most prestigious wine magazine, *Descorchados*, awarded four of their wines 91 points or above, including 94 points for their Lucero Syrah.
- Kingston is also a member of MOVI, a Chilean organization of small, independent winemakers.
- You will return to your hotel in the later afternoon and spend the rest of the day at leisure

ACCOMMODATION: Matetic

DAY 8 | DEPART SANTIAGO (B)

- Private transfer to the airport for your flight home today
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PRICE: starting at \$9,850 per person

ACCOMMODATIONS:

- [Hotel Lastarria](#)
- [Explora Salto Chico](#)
- [Matetic](#)

INCLUDED:

- All ground transportation
- Domestic flights as noted
- Accommodations and meals per itinerary
- All experiences as listed in itinerary
- All entrance fees
- Professional, bilingual guide throughout
- Comprehensive trip preparation materials
- 24/7 Access to Thomson Collection Boston team

NOT INCLUDED:

- International flights (\$1,000 – 1,400 per person, r/t economy)
- Travel insurance
- Laundry, bar beverages, and other items of a personal nature
- Gratuities

