

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

March 2015

Editor's Note

Contact me
@nathanlump
nathan@travelandleisure.com



Nathan Lump

JUST BEFORE STARTING AT T+L LAST FALL, I found myself with an entire week off. My first thought: Where could I go? I knew I wanted to leave the country, but I would need to be at my best upon return (so, no jet lag). I also had about 36 hours to put it all together.

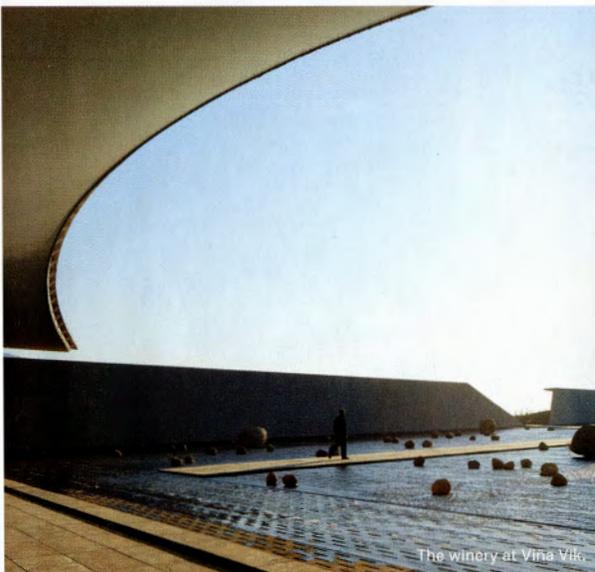
My husband, Charles, had written a guidebook to Chile years ago and knows the country well, so he suggested it as an easy last-minute option. Flights run overnight and

there was only a one-hour time difference from New York. And, as anyone who knows me knows, I'm passionate about wine. This would be the perfect opportunity to educate myself about a wine region I'd wanted to know better.

I'm also a serious hotel junkie, and I'd had my eye on Viña Vik, which was just opening its doors in Chilean wine country. I knew Alexander and Carrie Vik's clutch of art-filled hotels in Uruguay, so I couldn't resist the chance to be one of the first guests at their new venture. That was the clincher. Off we went to Chile.

Wine-country hotels the world over tend to follow a few familiar themes—intimate scale, lots of stone and rough-hewn beams, expansive views, good food—and if they often deliver a high degree of comfort, they also rarely offer many surprises. Viña Vik was the opposite, from its curvilinear winery designed by Smiljan Radic to rooms that pursue an idea (say, an homage to Piero Fornasetti) down to the smallest detail. It felt original, refreshing, and what started as a whim became one of my most memorable trips of the year, all because of where we stayed.

It was a reminder that a great hotel can be a destination unto itself. Which is why every year for the It List (page 99), T+L selects a group of the world's most important new properties. Viña Vik is there, along with other standouts that provide not just a place to rest your head but an entire rationale to get on a plane and explore someplace new.



The winery at Viña Vik.

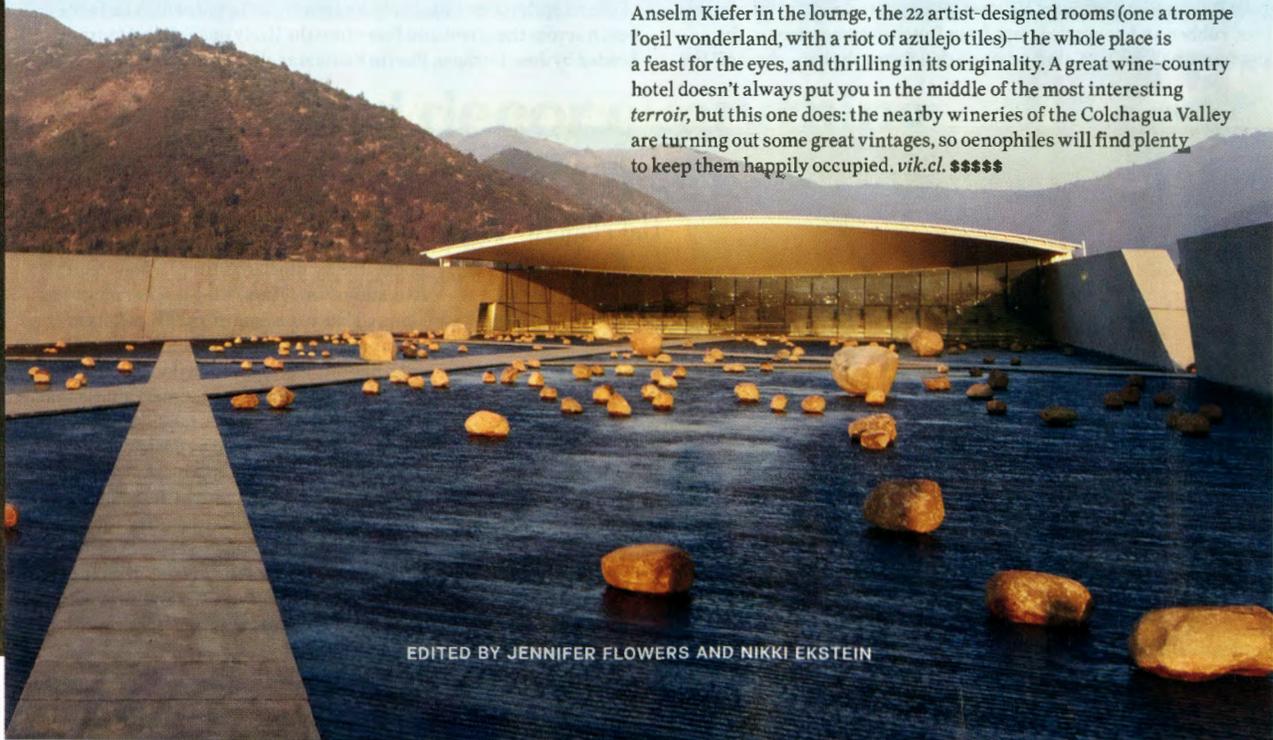
THE IT LIST

There are great new hotels, and then there are game changers. For our 10th annual editors' choice awards, we picked the 43 properties that are transforming their destinations, shining a spotlight here on the 11 most remarkable newcomers. Read about all the winners at tandl.me/itlist.

2015



The winery at Alexander and Carrie Vik's estate in Millahue, Chile, looks like a concrete-and-glass spaceship touched down amid the lush hills of Chilean wine country, a bit of architectural audacity that is matched by Viña Vik, the retreat they added on the hillside above it last fall. The swirl of titanium that marks its roofline, the room-size Anselm Kiefer in the lounge, the 22 artist-designed rooms (one a trompe l'oeil wonderland, with a riot of azulejo tiles)—the whole place is a feast for the eyes, and thrilling in its originality. A great wine-country hotel doesn't always put you in the middle of the most interesting *terroir*, but this one does: the nearby wineries of the Colchagua Valley are turning out some great vintages, so oenophiles will find plenty to keep them happily occupied. vik.cl. \$\$\$\$\$



COURTESY OF VIÑA VIK

EDITED BY JENNIFER FLOWERS AND NIKKI EKSTEIN