

Condé Nast
Traveler

 **The Daily Traveler**

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8:00 AM, FEBRUARY 21 2013

BETTER THAN BORDEAUX?

A New Crop of Hotels in South America's Wine Countries



COURTESY LAPOSTOLLE

The pool at Lapostolle, in Chile.

For more than a decade, South American winemakers have been striving to put their bottles on a par with those from Napa or France. As we all know, they've made great strides—Argentinean wines climbed *Wine Spectator's* Top 100 lists in recent years—so what more do they require? New hotels. In Argentina's Mendoza Province, **Vines Resort & Spa** sells small plots to amateur oenophiles: You can develop your own vintage with the help of an in-house wine consultant. Vines' glassy villas have Andes views, and the spa is ideal for unwinding after a hard day of tasting (54-261-438-1031; doubles from \$500). Another Mendoza newcomer, **Entre Cielos**, has 16 rooms built around a luxurious hammam (54-261-498-3377; doubles from \$400). Across Chile's snowcapped peaks, near Santiago—less than an hour from Mendoza by plane—the couple behind Uruguay's fabulous Vik hotels are opening the 22-room **Viña Vik**. On nearly 11,000 acres with 12 valleys of vineyards, the hotel opens fully late this year, with horseback riding, wine tastings, and hiking; at the moment, only four rooms are open (56-99-534-9437; doubles from \$1,000). Viña Vik has competition in Clos Apalta Winery—a highly rated vineyard—and its four-casita hotel, **Lapostolle Residence**. The winery's new restaurant has a vine-swathed pergola and hillside vineyard views (56-72-953-360; doubles, \$1,200, all-inclusive).

THE DRINK

Viña Vik's wine master Patrick Valette names the five Chilean bottles to buy stateside...

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