



SHERIE READ

TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

Starting my working life as a travel agent in Esperance, I got the taste for curated holidays. Familiarisation tours to Bali, Noumea, the Gold Coast and Thailand got my feet itching and I left the industry to embark on my own travels. I spent four years living in Europe, travelling the far reaches of the world before resettling in Darwin. Not a particular wine rich location, I found myself spending my holidays in wine regions and finally decided to change careers, moving back to Margaret River and studying winemaking. Now my diverse history has led me to roll all life's experience into Travelling for Wine.

NOV 24 SAN FRANCISCO, NAPA, SONOMA, USA

Costal road trips through hills, along river edges, all roads lead to Napa and Sonoma, the wine mecca for BIG Cabernets, bold Pinots and Chardonnays unlike anywhere else in the world. These regions are not for the faint hearted. Leave the budgets behind, you can expect some big tasting fees and big personalities to lead you astray in the USA.

OCT 24 NIAGARA, CANADA

An idyllic setting by Lake Ontario for growing grapes. The lake holds heat in its waters to keep the surrounding vineyards in a moderate climate before the true winter chill sets in. With elegant Chardonnays and fine Pinots, this region has many varieties available for tasting. Tasting some of the unique hybrid varieties is a must along with a visit to Niagara Falls.

SEPT 24 KEFALONIA, GREECE

Life is a dream on this Greek island rich with wine history and culture. The first time tasting Robola, a light citrusy wine, from the limestone soils at elevations of 300 m and above. Driving across the island takes you over a mountain stretching over 1100m elevation and there is little that can stop you spending a few moments looking out at the views of ocean, vineyards and idyllic villages.

SEPT 24 SICILY, ITALY

Volcanic soils, coastal breezes and some of the best seafood dishes you can imagine. This is a small island with a big personality. No length of time is enough to taste all the delights on offer, as every region, village and producer can put their own spin of a local classic to make it their own. The wines from cooler years had elegance, whilst the warmer years packed in all the flavour to pair perfectly with the bold dishes on offer from the dedicated local chefs.

AUG 24 TUSCANY, ITALY

If there is a heaven on earth, we found it here in Tuscany. Rolling hills covered with vineyards, medieval villages perch on the hill tops, wine tastings at every corner complimented with the best snacks of cured meats, hard cheese and time it right truffles galore. This is one of those regions that keeps a little of my heart and I will return regularly to sample more delights.

FEB 23

TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA

A small island, I thought a week would be plenty to see most of Tassie. Oh, how I was wrong. So many wine regions spaced out around this magical isle. Driving can take hours to cover 100km due to the scenery, winding roads and so many places to stop to sample local seafood, sip lovely pinot, take a photo of a cow paddock and hike to a waterfall. Have a plan, make some bookings and be prepared to send a stash of vino home!

OCT 22

VANCOUVER ISLAND & KELOWNA, BC, CANADA

Some of the most picturesque vineyards I've ever seen, with snowcapped mountains in the backdrop, you'd be forgiven for questioning 'how can vines survive here?' But they do well and some of the warmest summers and coldest winters give rise to lovely wines. The restaurants, state of art wineries, and exquisite wine lounges with views for any season with a dash of nature and Canadian hospitality, makes a great wine holiday.

SEPT 22

DENMARK, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The deep south of WA is not only a long way for most to travel but requires some planning to ensure wineries are open and restaurants are serving. This is my backyard, but for many it can seem challenging to traverse. Cracking wines, rugged coastline, and towering forests make for an exciting wine holiday surrounded by natural beauty.

EARLY 20

VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

So many regions and so little travel allowed, due to Covid. My timing may have been off, but I still managed to visit an array of regions in this wine-centric state. Working in the Grampians, I visited the Pyrenees, Mornington Peninsula, Geelong, Yarra Valley, King Valley, Heathcote and everywhere in between.

NOV 19

CHAMPAGNE, VOUVRAY, JURA, BURGUNDY, FRANCE

They say, 'once in a lifetime', gosh I hope not. These are some exceptional wine holiday destinations, you'll need time, a stash of cash and stretchy pants. Eating and drinking around these regions is exceptional, or terrible. There is a vast range, bookings are always required, and if you don't know how to get into that Cave – you're not getting in there by walking in off the street

OCT 19

WEST SUSSEX, UNITED KINGDOM

Don't miss the excitement of English sparkling, there is rapid grown and some of the most stunning estates to visit just an hour south of London. English countryside, high tea and delicious bubbles.

SEPT 19

CZECH REPUBLIC & HUNGARY

The destination was Tokaj, but on route we found some amazing wine regions and chicken schnitzel to satisfy the greatest hunger. Budapest is alive with bars and cafes, history and art. Tokaj is remote, secluded and the towns are all closed on picking days. Everyone from the villages is out helping in the vineyards, it's a real team effort. With little English being spoken, we had a fun time hunting for the 5 and 6 puttonyos Tokaj's on tasting. There's a wonderful castle to stay in and the whole region is challenging and invigorating for so many reasons.

OCT 18

PFALZ, GERMANY

From trocken to trockenbeerenauslese, you can spend weeks sampling the varying levels of sweetness of the Rieslings from Pfalz. There are health benefits to visiting Bad Dürkheim, a town known for its mineral spring and healthy air. Time your visit right and you can be here for the largest wine festival in the world.

SEPT 18

BORDEAUX, FRANCE

If you don't know the difference between right and left bank Bordeaux, you need to start 'researching'. They have a saying – if you don't know the varieties in the bottle, you don't deserve to drink it. I think anything worth knowing is worth researching and Bordeaux is a grand region, plenty of kilometers to travel and country roads to traverse to find your way to some of the world's more expensive wines. The city is bustling with a wine information center at its heart. It's a great starting point, but then you must go regional. Some travellers spend too much time darting right and left, there needs to be a plan to maximise your visits and minimise your driving.

SEPT 13

PROVENCE, FRANCE

Rosé all day, yes please. Hill top villages, fields of lavender, every second person is an artist and the region is full of rosé. Carafes of rosé are brought to your restaurant table without question or ordering. It's cheaper than water and who am I to go against local traditions. With so many varieties of grapes growing in this region, spending time to get to know a few of them personally is great fun. There is not a bad view in any direction and the village markets will have you question how you'll ever enjoy store-bought again (you won't). Undo your belt buckle, there are going to be a few holiday kilos added in this region.

NOV 07

STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA

Every extravagant estate has spectacular views over manicured vineyards, with beautiful gardens to explore and restaurants to keep you feasting on the joys of South Africa. This region is well situated for anyone travelling for game parks and the jewel of Cape Town. All African safaris should end in this region for a refreshing Chenin Blanc.

JAN 06

MENDOZA, ARGENTINA

A desert region, high in the Andes, irrigated by melting snow, there is nowhere else in the world to produce Malbec like Mendoza. It's a long way to travel for a glass of wine, but there is so much more to explore and all restaurants in Argentina serve local Malbec with your Steak!