



# 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 particularly 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 Vino Versatile - Travelling for Wine.

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 2020

### 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 2019

### 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 2019

## 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 2019

## 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 2018

## 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 Durkheim, a town know for it mineral spring and healthy air. Time your visit right and you can be here for the largest wine festival in the world.

SEPT 2018

## 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 worlds 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. From cooperage visits to underground cave tours, there is wine everywhere waiting for you.

SEPT 2013

## 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 brought again (you won't). Undo your belt buckle, there are going to be a few holiday kilos added in this region.