

GOURMET TRAVELLER

VOTED WORLD'S BEST DRINK MAGAZINE

WINE

TOP 50
WINE
EXPERIENCES

CHAMPAGNE
& SPARKLING

ROME WINE BARS

INSIDE JURA

Israeli Wine

SUMMER
OF SPORT

Where to eat & drink
after the game



AN 2016 AUST \$8.95 NZ \$10.20

www.gourmettravellerwine.com



250+ WINES REVIEWED – PICNIC FOOD & DRINKS

TOP 50 WINE EXPERIENCES

From luxury hotels selling small parcels of vines to tree-top Champagne bars and secret cellars in the hills of Cyprus, our intrepid wine writers have travelled the vinous globe to come up with 50 incredible wine experiences to add to your bucket list.



The Victory Hotel

1 The Victory Hotel MCLAREN VALE

A tightly packed field contests the race to be declared Australia's best wine region publican, but nobody has been able to pluck the crown from the curly head of the great DOUGIE GOVAN. THE VICTORY does the South Australian pub staples – a perfectly poured pint of Coopers and a plate of whiting and chips – impeccably well but it's in the cellar that true joy lies. A definitive collection of regional benchmarks, back-vintage Wendouree at give-away prices and a Burgundy list that could've only been compiled by a true obsessive. A bottle of Raveneau, some freshly caught squid and a Victory Hotel sunset is a day-trip to heaven without the inconvenience of dying. NICK RYAN
Old Sellicks Hill Rd, Sellicks Hill, SA, (08) 8556 3083,
victoryhotel.com.au

2 The Green Hotel MYSORE, INDIA

The adage, "there is no such thing as good wine but only good bottles", resonates most in INDIA. While not the finest wines, each bottle brought effusive joy the moment it was opened by the sabre-brandishing Sikh-cum-sommelier at MYSORE'S GREEN HOTEL. The Hotel is an exemplary piece of colonial architecture reminiscent of a white wedding cake carved from stone. Here, hot days ebb and flow into long, languid evenings. The Maharajah's palace is lit up high; a testament to time. NED GOODWIN MW
2270 Vinoba Rd, Jayalakshimpuram, Mysuru, Karnataka, India, +91 821 425 5000, greenhotelindia.com

3 Saxum Vineyards & the Clift Hotel PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA

I reminisced at the scene of a blowout. My '69 Mustang took a turn for the worse in Paso Robles' wine country. The shriek that punctuated my mind's slow-mo rewind belonged to an ex. She never returned. She was sick of wine; sick of me. This time, SAXUM'S (2810 Willow Creek Rd, Paso Robles, California, +1 805 610 0363, saxumvineyards.com) lauded Rhône-inspired wines filled my trunk. Saxum massages ample tannin and spice across its svelte expressions. All of which are blessed with a Californian cool from altitude, coastal fog and a free spirit. Back on the road, Ian Schrager's CLIFT HOTEL (495 Geary St, San Francisco, California, +1 415 775 4700, clifhotel.com), a neo-Gothic palace designed by Philippe Starck, always awaits in San Fran. NED GOODWIN MW



28 Cellar Treasures Weekend

LANGHORNE CREEK

LANGHORNE CREEK is one of this country's liveliest wine regions and their CELLAR TREASURES WEEKEND, held in August each year, is remarkable. Pretty much all the region's wineries take part and they offer a selection of museum wines for tasting and (amazingly) for sale. Lake Breeze, for example, offered their 1998 Winemaker's Selection Shiraz, 2002 and 2004 Bernoota Shiraz Cabernet and the 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon. Bleasdale were celebrating the 200th birthday of founder, Frank Potts, with seven vintages of their Frank Potts Cabernet (1991, 1992, 2000, 2002, 2011, 2012 and 2013). A rare opportunity to sample and buy mature reds from an underrated region. PETER FORRESTAL

27 Right Bank

BORDEAUX,
FRANCE

There's been an explosion of activity on Bordeaux's Right Bank as producers take advantage of the outstanding success of recent vintages by investing in infrastructure. CHEVAL BLANC's (*Saint-Émilion*, +33 5 5755 5555, chateau-cheval-blanc.com) stunning new cellar is both an inspired architectural masterpiece and a superb state-of-the-art winery. Their neighbours at La Dominique have opened an impressive modern cellar door as well as the splendid LA TERRASSE ROUGE (*7 Place Saint-Pierre, Bordeaux*, +33 5 5785 8917, laterrassesaintpierre.com) restaurant. The latter offers six vintages of La Dominique as well as a decent selection of local whites, rosés and stickies. The menu is extensive with highlights including the fish and meats done on the grill. It's an elegant yet relaxed space. PETER FORRESTAL



Cheval Blanc



Freddy's Wine Bar



Riesling Trail

30 Riesling Trail

CLARE VALLEY

For a quintessential Australian experience, every wine lover should meander along the CLARE VALLEY RIESLING TRAIL. The 32-kilometre path follows an old railway line between Auburn and Barinia, and provides a peerless combination of towering eucalypts, vast blue skies, rolling vineyards, and cool, crisp riesling. With the soul of the Clare percolating through your veins, you can navigate the trail's gentle gradient on foot or by bicycle, resting periodically for any number of stunning rieslings from cellar doors or the historic pubs and fine restaurants of the small townships along the way. TONI PATERSON MW

29 Parisian wine bars

PARIS, FRANCE

The great thing about Parisian wine bars owned by ex-pats is that your limited French is no barrier to your enjoyment. In the first arrondissement, enjoy Tim Johnston's laconic wit at JUVENILES WINE BAR (*47 Rue de Richelieu, Paris*, +33 1 4297 4649) while his daughter, Margaux, does the hard work with panache. Her gifted partner, chef Romain Roudeau, has lifted the quality of the food to go with the excellent wines, especially from the Rhone and Loire. Over in the sixth, Rue de Seine is abuzz with the latest offering from American Juan Sanchez and Kiwi Drew Harré, FREDDY'S WINE BAR (*54 Rue de Seine, Paris*). It's a compact space, smartly decked out and serving a small yet thoughtful range of quality wines as well as a comprehensive tapas menu. PETER FORRESTAL

31 American Bar

LONDON, ENGLAND

The Savoy is an iconic London hotel and you'll feel that you have

stepped back in time the moment you cross the threshold of its AMERICAN BAR. Its sublime Art Deco interior has been recently refurbished so it now looks as slick and polished as the dapper waiters in their white tailored jackets. Order a glass of top-notch Champagne on arrival and sip slowly, soaking up the ambience of a glamorous bygone era. Peruse the sophisticated cocktail menu and watch the bartenders work their magic with VINTAGE COCKTAILS and long forgotten flavours. TONI PATERSON MW

The Strand, London WC2R 0EU, United Kingdom, +44 20 7836 4343, fairmont.com/savoy-london



American Bar