

Worried About The Wine Shortage? Leading Wine Bloggers Tell You Where To Find It. Part One

If anyone has the inside scoop on travelling to the wine regions of the world, it has to be wine bloggers. We invited Hilarie Larson of [Northwinds Wine Consulting](#) to speak to her friends in the industry to get the inside track!

For this 2 Part Series, we tracked down several of the world's best to see what recommendations and hints they had to offer. Before we see what they have to say let's meet them:



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Jo Diaz has brought her background in broadcasting, sales and marketing to the wine industry. She's worked with many prestigious wine companies, and, as a wine writer, her work has appeared in such publications as Wine Business Monthly, Tasting Panel, Vine Times and Appellation America among others. Find her at wine-blog.org.

Dave "Levart" is the founder of [Dave's Travel Corner](#). Although his main focus is California's Napa Valley, he is a true believer in "experiential travel, valuing experience far above 'things'".

David White is the editor of Terroirist.com (2013 Best Overall Wine Blog) and has been called one of America's nine most important bloggers. His work also appears in Palate Press, The New York Times, Washington Post and other publications.

Debra Meiburg is a Master of Wine based in Hong Kong. Her company, [Meiburg Wine Media](#), produces “Taste the Wine” a wine/travel show, and founded the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong International Wine & Spirits Competition. In 2012, the drinks business named her the 7th Most Powerful Woman in Wine.

Madeline Puckette is the Seattle Washington based creator of [Wine Folly](#) a website dedicated to connecting readers to the world of wine. She describes herself as “a certified wine geek with a passion for meeting people, travel, and delicious food.”

Question: What’s your favorite time of the year to visit wine regions?

David W:In the northern hemisphere, I love visiting wineries in late February/early March. It’s the quietest time of the year for winemakers. That’s when they’re most willing to spend a full day showing you around the cellar and telling you about themselves.

Dave:My favorite time is in early spring during the middle of the week: everything is green, bud break has occurred, the grapes are leafing out and the summer crowds have not yet hit. As a result there is less traffic and the weather is decent!

Madeline: I like the spring when the leaves are just budding and of course: harvest! During harvest you can see the grape bunches and taste them. If you ever taste Zinfandel, Muscat or Cabernet Franc grapes you will soon discover how they closely resemble the wine they become.

Jo:Fall is my favorite time. Its harvest; grapes are gorgeous to photograph and you can eat them right off the vine to taste what a winemaker tastes...the future.

Debra:I like to visit immediately before harvest. The winemakers and viticultural teams are full of hope and excitement, the vineyards are stunning, the fruit plump and voluptuous.

Dave:There is an air of excitement that you can only have during harvest: loaded trucks with bins of grapes are flying down the roads to winery facilities, walk into a wine lab and smell the unmistakable odor of yeast and around the wineries, you can smell the tantalizingly sweet smell of grapes and fermenting juice.

Debra:My favorite time is actually during the harvest, but it is the worst possible time for the busy winemaking teams! Not only are they working around the clock but there’s always the danger of visitors bumping into a forklift, tripping over a hose or slipping on skins.

I grew up in a wine region and given that I’ve lived the past 25 years in a fine wine market (Hong Kong), it is important to me to reconnect with the dirt and the juice, so I arrange to work at wineries around the world almost every year.

Question: We all have preconceived ideas about certain parts of the winegrowing world. Which region did you find surprisingly different from what you expected and in what way?



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Debra: Two regions this year! I just returned from Alto-Adige (north eastern Italy) and I was astonished by its dramatic scenery, steep hillside vineyards and superb wine quality. The other is Greece.

Jo:North Carolina was surprisingly different. It taught me that the United States has a lot more wine regions than we imagine, outside of the West Coast. California, Oregon and Washington all made sense to me – North Carolina was a huge surprise. I could have been on the West Coast and not known it!

David W:Right now, I think northern California is one of the most exciting wine regions in the world. For good reason, everyone still thinks of Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir and Chardonnay when Northern California is discussed. But today, winemakers in California and Sonoma are working with all sorts of interesting grapes– so if you visit the right places and meet with the right people, California will really surprise you.

Debra:I had always envisioned Greece as a dry arid terrain and earlier this year was stunned to realize many parts of Greece, such as Eastern Macedonia, are hilly, green and even entertain skiing in the winter! Greece’s industry has undergone so much change these past few years.

Dave:I was in Sweden again this summer and I was surprised to discover a fairly new and still ‘under the radar’ wine region in the Skane part of the country - which is in the far southern part of Sweden. With

a northerly climate and shorter growing season it is important to be true to terroir – focusing on what this land will best produce. In this case, it is grapes that are higher in acidity – with both red and white varietals that are adapted to life in these northern latitudes.

I was impressed by both the sparkling wine from this region as well as the still wine. Several winemakers told me that they have gained a few extra weeks in the growing season compared to when they were children.

Madeline: I was really impressed by the Sierra Foothills and particularly El Dorado County in California. The area is deeply wooded in rolling hills. The first time I went out there, I arrived in the middle of winter and everything was covered with snow!

People who blog about wine and travel are really passionate about the topics and full of amazing insights.

Join us for Part 2 of this Wine Blogger’s Roundtable and find out about the regions they’d love to visit again and which are on their wish lists.

Where would you most like to go? Tell us on [Twitter](#), [Google+](#) and [Facebook](#).

You can also follow Hilarie on Twitter at [@NorthwindsWine](#) and Facebook [Northwinds Wine](#)

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Ayngelina

12/10/2013 2:27:40 PM <#>

I have just started learning about wine and visited the La Rioja and Costa Brava regions of Spain, both are fantastic for drinking wine as well.



Jasmine

12/11/2013 8:05:29 PM <#>

I've always wanted to go to Greece, but I had no idea they had such interesting wine regions. This fact definitely bumps it up my list! I haven't visited a winery yet either, but that's another one of my goals for 2014.



Marina

12/17/2013 10:45:29 PM <#>

I'm a huge vineyard fan. We visit wineries everywhere we visit and have been to Napa several times. Central America even has a couple worth visiting.