

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

Wine bloggers love to travel, taste and share their experiences and we're fortunate to be talking with some of the best. Hilarie Larson of [Northwinds Wine Consulting](#) continues the discussion to her friends, the intrepid wine travellers who are ready to continue the conversation we started last time in [part one](#) of our Wine Blogger's Roundtable.

Again, our contributors are:

Jo Diaz of [Wine-Blog.org](#), Dave "Levart" of [Dave's Travel Corner](#), David White, editor of [Terroirist.com](#), Debra Meiburg MW at [Meiburg Wine Media](#), and Madeline Puckette from [WineFolly](#).



Question: All of you have travelled extensively and explored vineyards around the globe. Is there a region you would re-visit in a heartbeat?

Madeline:The Douro in [Portugal](#) is one of the most breathtaking regions in the world. It's easy to rent a water taxi and go up the river. For the industrious few who venture out there in a car the roads are twisty and even frightening, but when you get to a high view-point, it's all worth it.

Jo:Portugal, in a heartbeat! I left my heart there. It's all about the experience and my hosts made sure that my adventures exceeded my expectations. I grew up on Lisbon Street in Maine. When I landed in Lisbon, Portugal, I understood why. It's all about the people who make the wine..... the humility, the cordiality, and hospitality are part of their terroir and dedication.

Madeline:As a UNESCO heritage site, you can see how a millennia of human interaction on the earth has affected life in the Douro.

Debra: I adore Barolo in Italy! The wines are superb, the history, geography, hospitality and yes, the food is enthralling.

David W:I visited South Africa in September 2011 and I was floored by the nation's beauty. The scenery was spectacular, everyone I met was charming, and the wines are world class.

Debra:South Africa is my other favorite destination. More? Margaret River in Australia, Burgundy, The Mosel Valley, Alsace, Chile's new boutique sites, Mendoza, The Yarra Valley, Central Otago and of course, my beloved Sonoma County. The list goes on and on! Three of the most striking wine regions in the world, though, have to be South Africa, The Douro Valley of Portugal and Piemonte in north western Italy.

Dave:It would have to be Mendoza in Argentina. This is a wine region that combines both terroir driven wines with one of my other passions, beautiful mountains. The snow covered Andes tower in the distance above the vineyards. Stop at one of the premium wine producers of the region, then a delicious lunch and then head for the mountains for some hiking. Or reverse the order!

There are several hundred wineries within a fairly short drive from city of Mendoza. Not only are there great wines at value in this wine growing region but it is an area know for its prized quality of beef and there a number of excellent restaurants in Mendoza.

Debra:What wine region isn't beautiful?

Time for the last question.

Question: Which wine region haven't you visited that you'd love to explore and why?

Dave: I am looking forward to visiting the Barossa Valley in Southern Australia in February of 2014. I've been to Australia several times but have not yet done a "wine tasting and exploration trip" there. I've heard so much about this wine region from winemaker friends in the Napa Valley – that it has an 'elevated-must see' status in my mind. I am hoping to interview some of the long time wine pioneers including Margaret Lehmann – both to learn more about the area's wine history as well as what is being done to preserve the integrity of the region.

David W.:My favorite wine region in the world is probably Champagne and I've never been. I'm obsessed with grower-producers like Agapart & Fils, Chartogne-Taillet, Egly-Ouriet, Pierre Peters and Vilmart and I'm continually impressed with the wines from producers like Ruinart and Moet. So without question, Champagne is at the top of my list.

Jo:Burgundy. Who wouldn't want to go to Burgundy? I'd like to interview the vigneron, get to understand their culture and practices. My grandparents were French. I was raised with them talking to me in French. My Grand-mere didn't speak a word of English, as a matter of fact. I'd like to research my roots and the roots of Pinot Noir. It 's a grape that most describes my own characteristics, I believe.

Debra:Though I've been to Spain as a tourist, I've not yet truly spent time in its wine regions. Spain's quality and geographic designations have changed dramatically during the past decade and I would like to update my impressions of the country's wines.

I've always hoped to visit Madeira and feel ashamed that I haven't yet made it to Sicily!

Madeline:I'm most fascinated by the Mosel River valley in Germany. The region is famous for its Riesling wines and very steep hills. The vines struggle as they grow straight out of piles of slate rocks. Since the wines are typically lower alcohol (around 9% ABV) I hope to try a lot of the wines from the region when I go!

So, there you have it, straight from the writers, the people who know!

Hopefully, you too, will feel inspired to venture out into one of the many glorious wine-growing regions of the world. Perhaps you'll run into one of our bloggers!