



PRESS RELEASE
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Discover the World's Most Inviting Wine Tourism Experiences

The world's top wine tourism experiences were honoured at a gala dinner on November 13 at Vergelegen Winery in the South African Cape, when the Great Wine Capitals announced the winners of its annual Best Of Wine Tourism Awards for 2009.

The Best Of Wine Tourism awards, which this year saw a record 385 entrants from four continents, is organised with the support of wine industry stakeholders in each of its member cities of Cape Town (South Africa), Bilbao-Rioja (Spain), Bordeaux (France), Florence (Italy), Mainz (Germany), Mendoza (Argentina), Porto (Portugal) and San Francisco-Napa Valley (United States).

Now in its sixth successful year, the international renown of the competition reflects the growing stature of wine tourism, as travellers seek niche, tailored vacations instead of the traditional package trips to the beach.

The 2009 International Best Of Wine Tourism Winners were:

Bilbao-Rioja (Spain)

Fundación Dinastía Vivanco of Briones, for its Wine Documentation Centre: located at the Dinastía Vivanco Museum of Wine Culture, it maintains its vocation since 2004: to gather the largest documentary collection -8,000 monographs- on wine and its culture in the world and make it available to scholars, scientists and all those who are curious about this millenarian drink with its unimaginable legacy.

www.dinastiavivanco.com

Bordeaux (France)

Château de Carbonneau, on the slopes of Pessac sur Dordogne in Bordeaux, France, for its stylish five-bedroom chateau accommodation, built in the 19th century and surrounded by 15 hectares of vineyards.

www.chateau-carbonneau.com

Firenze (Italy)

Villa Petriolo in the Tuscan hills, selected for its support of local artists, whose works are exhibited at the winery.

www.villapetriolo.com

Mainz (Germany)

The **wine-growers of the Rheinhessen** in Mainz, Germany, for their collective offerings of innovative wine tourism experiences.

www.rheinhessen.de

Mendoza (Argentina)

Bodega Salentein in Mendoza for its cultural centre Killka that combines murals, sculpture and art and includes an 80-seat restaurant. The famous winery is housed in an imposing stone building in the shape of a cross, and has been dubbed the “Cathedral of Wine”.

www.bodegasalentein.com

Porto (Portugal)

Portugal’s **Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo**, an estate owned by cork producers Amorim, for its Wine House. Dating back to 1764, the estate runs along the banks of the Douro River near the waterside villages of Ferrão and Pinhão.

www.quintanova.com

Napa Valley (USA)

Domaine Chandon for its Etoile restaurant, considered the foremost fine dining winery-based restaurant in California’s Napa Valley.

www.chandon.com

Cape Town (South Africa)

Mont Rochelle Hotel & Mountain Vineyards in Franschoek, Cape Town, received its 2008 local award on this occasion; the property won in both the restaurant and accommodation category.

www.montrochelle.co.za

NOTES FOR EDITORS

2008 saw the entry of Mainz into the Great Wine Capitals for the first time.

All winners are available for interview. For further contacts, or photographs, please contact Catherine Leparmentier on cleparmentier@bordeaux.cci.fr

For more information: www.greatwinecapitals.com