Chile

The Gardens and Wines of Chile
October 27 — November 4, 2009
Air, Hotel & Tour Package
From $2,995.00 per person
Price is based on double occupancy. Single supplement from $425 per person. Airfare from Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport is included. Fuel surcharges and departure taxes (estimated at $230) are extra. Non-members of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, add $100 to tour price.

Chile is squeezed between the Andes Mountains and the Pacific Ocean with a maximum width of 30 miles, and is a uniquely thin strip of land over 2,500 miles in length. It is the longest and narrowest country in South America.

The country lies in an area rich with natural beauty. The amazing gardens, vineyards and scenic landscapes are only complemented by the friendly inhabitants—making this country an attractive touring destination. Its natural wonders run from the driest desert of the world to abundant forests and fantastic glaciers and fjords.

There is a strong European influence in the country, as evidenced by the local culture in many towns taking on the characteristics of the original European settlers who came here to find a new life. With this rich tradition, Chile is one of the most highly developed countries of South America.

Don’t be left behind this fall on the Arboretum’s road to Chile.

Trip Highlights:
- Santiago
- Andes Mountains
- Natural Reserve Cascada de las Animas
- Los Dominicos Village
- Santa Cruz
- Colchagua Museum
- Viu Manent Vineyards
- Santa Cruz Vineyards
- Matetic Vineyards
- Swiss Garden Pumpin
- Pablo Neruda’s home & garden

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About the Wines of Chile

Approximately 100 miles south of Santiago is the Colchagua Valley. This fertile valley is home to Chile’s award-winning vineyards. The valley offers many different microclimates, soil types, steep hillsides ideal for vineyards, and a growing number of wineries able to make excellent Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah, as well as many good Carmenère and Malbec wines. From Santa Cruz, it is an easy and scenic tour and we will visit some of the most popular and innovative vineyards of the Colchagua and Casablanca valleys.

The region has a long history as a New World wine region dating from the 16th century, when the Spanish conquistadors brought Vitis vinifera vines with them as they colonized the region. The number of wineries in Chile has grown from 12 in 1995 to over 70 in 2005. Chile is now the fifth-largest exporter of wines to the United States. The climate has been described as midway between that of California and France. The most common grapes are the Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Carmenère.

About our Hotels:

Hotel Torremayor — Santiago

The hotel is located in the heart of Providencia, one of the quietest and most prestigious neighborhoods in Santiago. The hotel has 80 rooms, all with cable TV, air-conditioning, in-room safe, direct-dial telephones and mini-bar. There is a restaurant and bar, along with Wi-Fi internet and full laundry service.

Hotel Santa Cruz — Santa Cruz

The hotel's attractive colonial-style construction and architectural detail reflect the tradition and history of the region’s past. There is an antique car collection on the ground floor, with many beautiful frescoes and stained glass windows in the hotel itself. Located on the main square in Santa Cruz, the hotel has 114 rooms, all with in-room safe, hair dryer, minibar, air-conditioning, cable TV and free wireless internet. There is a restaurant, plus a bar and wine cellar in the hotel, along with a swimming pool and game room.

Hotel San Martin — Viña del Mar

The hotel is located a few minutes away from the beaches and the Casino of Viña del Mar, surrounded by the financial district and shopping areas. There are 160 newly renovated rooms, cable TV, in-room safes, wireless internet and mini-bar. There is a bar and restaurant in the hotel, as well as a gym and sauna.
Tuesday, October 27
Depart Minneapolis for overnight flight to Santiago, Chile. Change of planes enroute.

Wednesday, October 28
Santiago
Upon arrival in Santiago, we meet our guide to begin a city tour of Santiago. We’ll see the Plaza de Armas and the Cathedral, and visit the Pre-Colombian Art Museum, with its complete collections of ceramics, ancient textiles and relics of early South American culture. We’ll stop at the Central Market, the market for seafood, where we’ll enjoy lunch. After lunch we’ll continue our tour and finish at our hotel. The afternoon is at leisure, and this evening, dinner is at our hotel.

Thursday, October 29
Santiago
Today we head into the foothills of the Andes Mountains to visit the Natural Reserve Cascada de las Animas. Here we can have a leisurely stroll in the park before lunch. After lunch, we visit Los Dominicos handicraft village, a typical village of the Central Valley, where artisans and craftsmen from all over Chile work and sell their handicrafts. You’ll find a great variety of Chilean artistry in all kind of materials — clay, ceramics, stone, wool, copper, and leather - as well as lapis lazuli jewellery. Dinner is on your own tonight.

Friday, October 30
Santa Cruz
Today we travel to Santa Cruz. Enroute we visit the picturesque village of Pomaire, typical of Central Chile, known for its ceramic handicrafts. Lunch is at a restaurant with local music and entertainment. We then visit a well-known greenhouse nearby, with more than 400 varieties of Chilean plant life. We check-in at our hotel in Santa Cruz. Dinner is on your own tonight.

Saturday, October 31
Santa Cruz
Today we visit the Colchagua Museum, with ceramics and metal handwork of the Pre-Colombian cultures of South America, particularly of the local area. After the visit, we stop at several nearby wineries in the Colchagua Valley, at the Vineyard Viu Manent and the Vineyard Santa Cruz for lunch and to enjoy a tasting of the local wines. Return to hotel in the afternoon. Dinner tonight is on your own.

Sunday, November 1
Viña del Mar
Today we travel across the scenic Central Coastal Valley from Santa Cruz to Viña del Mar. This region contains many orchards and vegetable farms. We’ll check into our seaside hotel in the afternoon and have the evening at leisure. Lunch is included today. Dinner is on your own this evening.

Monday, November 2
Viña del Mar
Today we visit the Swiss Garden Pümpin, which is one of the three largest gardens in Chile. We then continue to Quinta Vergara, known as the most beautiful park in Chile. In the park you’ll see Vergara Palace, constructed in 1910, and now the Museum of Fine Arts. From here we travel along a beautiful coastal road surrounded by summer resorts to reach the seaside village of Isla Negra. This small town was the home of the great Chilean Nobel Prize-winning poet Pablo Neruda. His collection of treasures from his numerous voyages can be seen here. He is buried in the garden on the estate. Lunch is included during our tour today. In the afternoon, we return to our hotel for dinner on own.

Tuesday, November 3
Santiago
Today we have a short city tour of Valparaiso, passing by the main square of the town, with its monument remembering a naval battle fought in 1879. Driving towards the southern side of the city and seeing the old funiculars, you will drive up a hillside for a spectacular view of the bay. From the top, you’ll have a great view of Valparaiso’s downtown district and its adjoining hills. You will proceed to the lower level of the city through the commercial heart of the port. Leaving Valparaiso, we continue on towards the Casablanca Valley and into the Rosario Valley, stopping at the Matetic Vineyards for lunch, with a tasting of their fine wines. We then drive to the Curacaví Valley, where we’ll stop to visit several of the tropical fruit and avocado plantations.

We continue on towards our departure city and the Santiago Airport. Before we arrive at the airport we’ll stop for an early dinner at a great restaurant nearby. After dinner we will arrive to the airport for our check-in that evening and our overnight return flights home.
Not a Member?  You can still come along!  
Non-members will need to add $100 per person to the tour price. To qualify for the Arboretum member’s price, each traveler must be a member of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Please contact the Arboretum at 952-443-1440 for information on membership.

What’s Included:

- Roundtrip airfare between Minneapolis-St. Paul and Santiago, Chile
- Six nights hotel accommodation
- Breakfast daily
- Seven lunches and two dinners
- Sightseeing and transfers as indicated in itinerary
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- A contribution to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Not included in the tour:

- Airline fuel surcharges and departure taxes
- Optional sightseeing activities
- Gratuities to drivers and guides
- Meals not included in itinerary
- Travel insurance
- Arrival fee (currently $131) payable upon arrival in Santiago
- Any other items not specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary

How to Book Your Trip:
Contact Jim Glad at Macy’s Travel

800-533-0324 toll free
612-375-3631 direct

Monday – Friday 8:30 AM — 5:00 PM

Single Supplement $425 additional

Deposit: $500 per person at the time of booking. Upon deposit, travelers will be provided with a deposit and payment schedule.

Presented by Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

In 2009, the Arboretum will offer a wide variety of destination tours. We will visit countries we have not visited in awhile, explore more of the world’s fabulous gardens and meet some of the people who created those gardens. Come along and explore!

Key West  February 26 - March 1
Amsterdam  April 22 - 28
Puerto Rico  December 3 - 7