

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Travel, D4

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## **Off the Beaten Track:**

### **"Mendoza"**

*Editor Andrea Petersen on touring around Mendoza, Argentina's major wine-producing region, and home of its famed Malbecs.*

#### **Where to taste:**

The desert land surrounding Mendoza is dotted with dozens of wineries. The best- and safest- way to see the vineyards and Mendoza's spectacular mountain scenery is to hire a car and driver for a day of tastings. (The price runs about \$50 to \$75 and any hotel can make the arrangements.) Viña el Cerno is an intimate winery that produces only about 8,000 bottles each year (The vintage and bottle number are handwritten on each label.) (Tel. 54-261-481-1567, [www.elcerano.com.ar](http://www.elcerano.com.ar)).

Bodega La Rural is home to the well-regarded Rutini line of wines and hosts a small museum that features wine-making artifacts from as far back as the 17<sup>th</sup> century ([www.bodegalarural.com.ar](http://www.bodegalarural.com.ar)).

#### **Where to eat:**

Argentina's top chef, Francis Mallmann, presides over 1884, an elegant dinner-spot set inside a winery. Ask for a table in the beautiful outdoor terrace and try one of the meats grilled in a clay oven (Belgrano 1188, Tel. 54-261-424-2698).

Almacén del Sur Delicatessen is both a producer of gourmet food items and a terrific venue for a leisurely outdoor lunch in the countryside. Meals begin with a sampling of the company's

products, such as olive tapenade and a sun-dried tomato spread (tel. 54-261-410-6597, [www.almacendelsur.com](http://www.almacendelsur.com)).

#### **Where to stay:**

For an up-close taste of wine country, head about 20 minutes outside Mendoza to Club Tapiz, a seven-room hotel that is set among rows of grape vines. There are nightly wine tastings, a small pool and stunning views of the Andes (Tel. 54-261-496-0131, [www.tapiz.com](http://www.tapiz.com)).