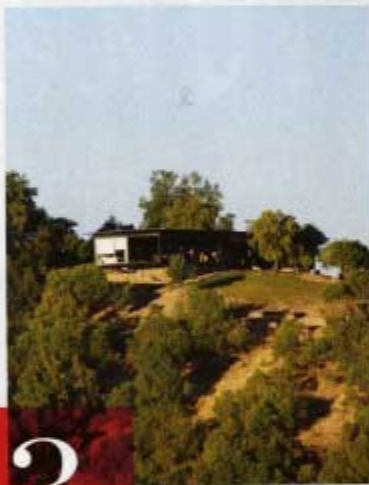




★ CHILE WINE LODGES ★

GRAPE EXPECTATIONS

Until recently, the trail through Chile's fabulous vineyards ran bone dry with nowhere to stay the night. But now gorgeous rustic cabins and magical guesthouses are changing all that, says Colin Barraclough



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VINA VIK DESIGNER GLAMPING

NEW
THIS
SEASON

Norwegian-born financier and hotelier Alexander Vik has been hailed for his attention to detail at his celebrated hotels in Uruguay. He and his wife Carrie have applied the same Nordic precision when creating Viña Vik, one of Chile's most ambitious wineries, from 4,400 hectares of scrub-covered hillside in the Cachapoal Valley. Star winemaker Patrick Valette, who learnt the trade at his family's Château Pavie in France, established the vineyard from scratch, planting 303 hectares of high-density, drip-fed Cabernet and Carmenère vines that yielded the first ultra-premium blend in March. A 22-cabin hotel will open at Viña Vik at the end of 2013. Until then, overnight stays are informal glamping affairs: guests sleep in a four-room cabin built for Vik's own pleasure, designed by Chilean architect Smiljan Radic, where the views take in a forest-fringed lake and serried sierras. Guests can hike, bike or canter along valley trails, returning at dusk to a candlelit barbecue with a Vik wine served among the vines that bore it. *Millahue, San Vicente de Tagua Tagua (0056 995349437; www.vik.cl). Doubles from US\$800, full board, including wine and activities*