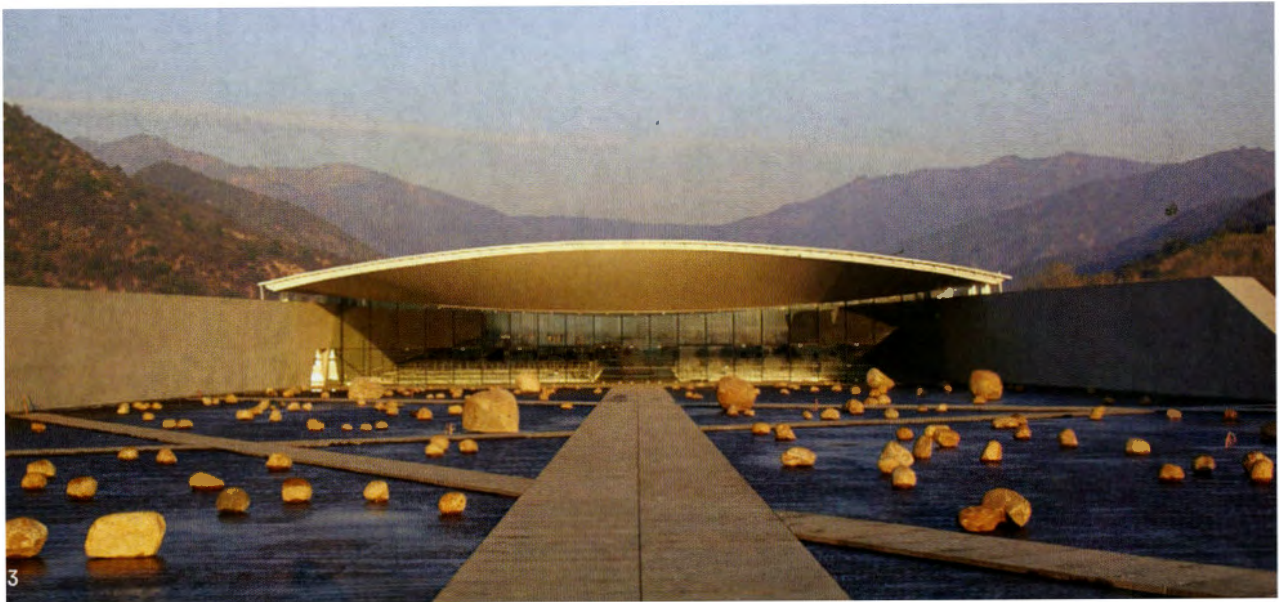


latin love affair

Five projects that prove why Latin America is the fastest growing market in the world



The Winery at VIK and Viña Vik hotel

The Winery at VIK and its neighboring soon-to-open Viña Vik hotel in Chile's Millahue Valley have been a 10 year labor of love for Carrie and Alex Vik, founders of Vik Retreats. "We wanted to find the ideal terroir to create an exceptional wine that was also in a location where we could achieve all of our design inspirations for both the winery and hotel," explains Carrie, adding the duo worked with Chilean and Uruguayan architects Smiljan Radic and Marcelo Daglio on the two properties, respectively. "It took a scientific team two years to find the ideal location and a year of study—more than 4,000 meticulous deep soil studies conducted across the property to ensure each block of land afforded the optimal growing conditions for each clonal variety of root stock and grape varietal."

Sustainability, like in all of their retreats, plays an integral role design-wise. The winery's stretched white fabric roof allows for natural light to permeate through, while the dramatic entrance is a two-degree sloping plaza surrounded by streaming water for a cooling effect. For the hotel, the transparent building is situated on a hilltop and features a "floating roof of bronzed titanium inspired by the surrounding mountains, the wind, and the work of Frank Gehry and Richard Serra," says Alex. Each of the 22 suites boasts an original design, site-specific artwork, and floor-to-ceiling windows. Past the intermingling public living areas and gardens is a cantilevered slate pool "extending out over the valleys and lake below, offering the sensation of swimming above it all," Carrie says.