



Tara Atacama's producer, Ventisquero Wine Estates, was named 2024 New World Winery of the Year. Here is their Tara Chardonnay.



A flower arrangement at Matetic Winery.



Scenic grounds at Matetic Winery.

The Wines That Stay with You

Unforgettable wines, remarkable meals, and spectacular landscapes from Chile's vineyards to Cape Horn

WE CONTINUED our adventure in Chile and Argentina, as noted in the July/August issue of QB, where we visited the Adrianna Vineyards and more. The next morning, we flew over the Andes to Santiago, Chile, and had a city tour and a delightful lunch at the Parque Bicentenario with beautiful views of the park. That evening we had dinner in a restaurant specializing in Chilean wines and food.

All in all, it was a successful capping of a busy day. For my wife and I, as well as the others, we had a chardonnay from Tara Winery which is made in the world's driest desert. It was very good but quite expensive, although it was made by the winery with our daughter Tara's name. The next day we left for our cruise but stopped for lunch in one of the most beautiful settings for a winery at Matetic. Floral arrangements were widely used at this winery and were among the best I've seen anywhere.

We ate inside due to the high temperature, but the floor-to-ceiling windows allowed for fantastic views of the property. All the food and wine were

among the best offered anywhere so with the view of the grounds and flower arrangements it was a rare experience.

BACK ON BOARD

The ship adventure was a 16-day cruise down the coast of Chile, around Cape Horn (appropriately named the trip to the end of the world) and up the Argentina coast to Montevideo, Uruguay, and ending up at Buenos Aires. The scenery was beautiful but there were few places to visit.

The most memorable excursion was on a catamaran from Ushuaia to Isla Martillo (Penguin Island) where we spent almost an hour watching 2,000 beautiful penguins in the wild. What a performance they put on, and we all really enjoyed it.

The other most impressive visits were at the Museo Colonial Alemán in Frutillar, Chile, where we saw gardens with the most magnificent displays of fuchsia I've ever seen, as well as other beautiful flowers in abundance. We stopped in Argentina at Puerto Madryn and motored an hour away to the town of Ty Gwyn, which is an ancient settlement of Welsh immigrants. We had a homemade



Hydrangeas at Museo Colonial Aleman.

catered lunch served in a nice restaurant with the 'local' Welsh choir singing for the whole time. Afterwards, we had a casual half hour stroll through the town and park at Plaza Julio Argentino.

REGENT CRUISE LINE HOSPITALITY

We had two private wine tastings and food pairings



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For more information, please contact Marie Hodges at (847) 519-4781 or marieh@travelexinternational.com.



Picturesque irrigation canals run through Ty Gwyn.



The Fuchsia magellanica at Museo Colonial Aleman is native to Patagonia.



Emperor penguins rest with seals on a rocky shore.

for our group. In addition, Regent is the only cruise line to offer a vertical tasting of Opus One, the famous joint project of Robert Mondavi and Mouton Rothschild. We had vintages of 2012, 2019, and 2021 as well as the second label, named Overture 2021. We also had tasty hors d'oeuvres and the event was fantastic. All of us agreed that 2012 won the show, but the second label showed extremely well and that the 2021 would eventually be best but after at least another decade of aging. One generous member of our group donated a bottle of 2018 Opus One which was incredible also.

Our last overnight port of call was at Montevideo, Uruguay. Most of us revisited a place from our last trip, Colonia del Sacramento. This small town on the Rio de la Plata separating Uruguay from Argentina was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995 and is truly one of the most beautiful places to visit. We strolled through the small town for about 45 minutes and were lucky enough to have lunch in the same beautiful restaurant that we visited the last time. In fact, we were in the same room and at the same table as before. In addition, the food and the great wines evoked the same memories, and we could not have wished for more.

We arrived back where we started in Buenos Aires where we had purchased a 'day room' for each party due to the 12-hour time before departure. Coincidentally, due to our delayed departure from Miami three weeks before, I was seated next to a

couple from Buenos Aires at the airport who gave me the name of their favorite restaurant in Buenos Aires which is located only three blocks from our hotel. Most of us went to this restaurant, La Strada, and our experience could not have been better.

La Strada is Italian (my favorite) and I can honestly say with a two-year background of experiencing the best meals in Italy, I had one of the two best risottos and absolutely the best pasta with brown truffles and prosciutto that I have ever had. We enjoyed some of Argentina's greatest wines and left the country with a great mindset.

À Votre Santé! 🍷

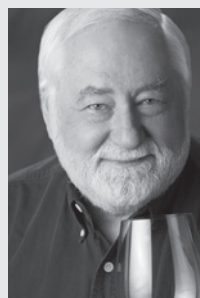


PHOTO: THOMAS BALSAMO

Barrington resident Jim Bryant is pursuing his passion and love of wine as an international wine consultant. This follows a 30-year career in senior financial and general management positions at two Fortune 100 companies. He is the owner of James R. Bryant L.L.C.; contact him at profwino@comcast.net.



An Opus One vertical explores how the winery's flagship blends evolve across multiple vintages.



A beautiful street in Colonia Del Sacramento.