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flavors OF
summer

TEXAS' MOST DELICIOUS FOOD BUZZ—FROM BOOZY
MILKSHAKES TO GOURMET HAUTE DOGS

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The Perfect Pairing: Wine and Activities

Story | HALEY SHAPLEY

Ready to take your wine tasting up a notch? Add an active excursion to your sipping to create a bucket-list experience that's certainly worth a cheers.

CYCLE UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN IN ITALY

Tuscany's countryside is known for its stunning landscapes and distinctive food and wine—what better way to explore it all than from atop a bicycle? Getaway Adventures has teamed up with La Dolce Vigna to create a wine-and-bike tour with a killer itinerary covering Tuscany, home to Chianti Classico, Brunello and other notable wines.

The first stop after gathering at a historic villa in Fiesole is Panzano, where you'll be

fitted for your bike before taking off past vineyards to Volpaia for an alfresco lunch, followed by more pedaling to a wine tasting. The rest of the seven-day tour is similar, with 15 to 25 miles of biking each day, all accompanied by generous amounts of food and wine. Wander through a monastery, dip in thermal springs, go on a guided tour in the medieval city of Siena, spend time shopping and take a cooking class at your farmhouse—this is the stuff dream vacations are made of.

Each tour has a maximum of 10

participants and a sommelier along for the ride, so you're guaranteed plenty of time to ask all your wine-related questions while you live la dolce vita.

WORTH A TASTE

From Brolio Castle's Barone Ricasoli, the oldest winery in Italy, the Castello di Brolio is a mix of sangiovese, cabernet sauvignon and petit verdot grapes. The result is a palate that's full and rich, with a nose that's floral and fruity.



SKYDIVE INTO A VINEYARD IN WASHINGTON STATE

With Skydive Chelan, you can combine the serene sensation of sipping wine with the heart-pumping, adrenaline-packed activity of skydiving. Their Tandem Winery Skydive package is the only one of its kind in the country, and for anyone with a touch of fearlessness, the experience is not to be missed.

It all starts at Tsillan Cellars, overlooking the deep-blue Lake Chelan in north-central Washington. The Tuscan-themed winery sits regally atop a hill, with landscaped gardens, an indoor/outdoor pavilion and views you can't tear your eyes from. After sampling to your taste buds' content, choose a favorite and buy a bottle—this will come in handy later.

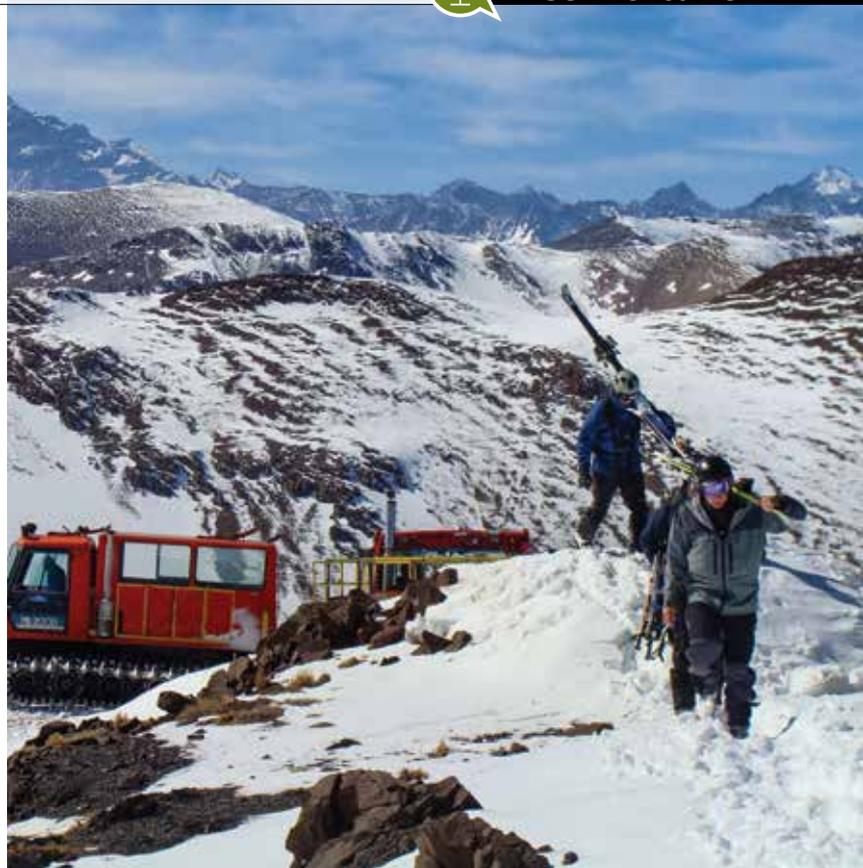
Next, hop in a van and head to Skydive Chelan's facility, where you'll suit up and get trained. The ride up in the Cessna 182 is scenic, but when that door opens and you're perched on the edge ready to freefall, that's when the views really begin.

As you fall through the sky, you'll spot Mount Rainier, Mount Baker and the Columbia River. Once you've touched your feet on terra firma, you'll recognize the terrain. You're back at Tsillan Cellars, where you'll immediately be welcomed with the wine you chose earlier in the day. Take a good, long sip—you and your daring spirit have earned it.

WORTH A TASTE

The Dry Riesling at Tsillan Cellars smells of apricots, green apple and lime and tastes just as fruity, with touches of stone fruits like peaches, pears and nectarines. With a high acidity, it pairs well with tacos and pork loin.

SKYDIVE CHELAN | UPSCAPE TRAVEL



SIP AND SKI IN THE CHILEAN ANDES

Finding the perfect wine pairing is unforgettable—that sweet white with a soft cheese or that bold red with a juicy slab of steak... But when it comes to pairings, there's not much that matches wine and skiing. Do just that in the Chilean Andes on the Ski-In/Wine-Out trip from active-travel experts Upscape.

This eight-day adventure is hosted by Derek Mossman, founder of the Movement of Independent Vintners and a former ski instructor. Along the way, you'll go cat skiing at Ski Arpa, cruise the wide-open slopes of Ski Portillo and explore the terrain at La Parva, where few international visitors journey. Your powder time will be punctuated by tastings and trips to vineyards for an inside look at winemaking in this South American country, where vino was introduced by Spanish conquistadors in the 1500s.

When you're not skiing or sipping, you'll be soaking in the sights and sounds of seaport city Valparaíso, a UNESCO World Heritage site; strolling the winding paths of picturesque Zapallar; and sleeping in a 1929 mansion in Santiago that's been transformed into a quirky boutique hotel. Fuel up for your adventures with cuisine ranging from traditional and home-cooked to trendy and avant-garde—and don't worry, wine is always an option. ✦

WORTH A TASTE

The Orzada Carignan from Santiago's Odfjell, a winery founded by a Norwegian ship owner, is a deep red/purplish color with the aroma of licorice, cherry liqueur and white fruits like peaches and pears. Try it with beef or pork.