



FOR THE LOVE OF MALBEC

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The province, which produces two-thirds of Argentina's wine, holds three major areas of production. The central region is known for producing Malbec from recognizable sub regions such as Maipu and Lujan de Cuyo. Mendoza's eastern region holds some of Argentina's oldest vines, producing many of the country's white wines as well as Syrah and Bonarda. The Uco Valley, which sits at the base of the Andes Mountains, is known for its high-altitude vineyards, cool climate, and rocky soil irrigated by snow melt and the Tunuyán River.

Located just a 90-minute drive from the city of Mendoza, the Uco Valley delivers what winemakers consider to be some of the best terroir in Argentina. It also possesses stunning natural beauty and a diverse menu of recreational opportunities such as horseback riding, mountain biking, and trekking in the Andes. Interest in the Uco Valley as a vacation destination has also spurred a burgeoning culinary and boutique resort scene.

Blazing the path for winemakers and resort tourism in the Uco Valley is the Vines of Mendoza a luxury level collaboration of real estate, winery, and resort that caters to winemakers, vacation home owners, and vacationers.

The 1,500-acre development founded in 2004 by Argentinian winemaker Pablo Gimenez Riili and American entrepreneur Michael Evans, allows buyers to purchase vineyard estates to grow grapes and produce their own small batch wine.

"Drinking good wine is easy. Making good wine is hard, but succeeding is incredibly rewarding," says Barry Chaiken, a healthcare executive who resides in Boston. Chaiken, along with 120 other wine enthusiasts ranging from restaurant owners to hobbyists to investors, are already producing their own wines using 20 different varietals, including Mendoza's famous Malbec as well as other popular varietals such as Syrah and Torrontés.

While Chaiken sees winemaking as a challenge, at the Vines of Mendoza, the challenge is made easier with the help of the Vines expert team, which includes professionals such as internationally acclaimed consulting winemaker Santiago Achával, of Achával-Ferrer fame, to assist with the process. "Making wine with this team is a lifetime opportunity to work with the best to achieve the seemingly impossible," says Chaiken.

Those who want to immerse themselves in the process and produce their own small-batch wine can purchase lots from three to ten acres in size. Buyers who purchase six acres or more have the option of building a vacation home on their property.

THE PURCHASE PRICE INCLUDES:

- . land ownership
- . all vines
- . the installation of an irrigation system
- . consulting services
- . two years of farming and access to the winery for winemaking. (In the third year, owners begin paying an annual maintenance fee.)

The Vine's philosophy involves providing a hassle-free experience for owners, allowing them to choose how involved they want to become in the process of creating their own wine. The expert team at the Vines helps owners navigate the winemaking process, offering consultation on everything from choosing varietals to creating wine labels and guiding them through the logistics of importing and exporting if they choose to sell their wine.

Other perks for owners include wine classes, tastings, and discounted rates at the Vines of Resort and Spa, a luxury boutique hotel on the property comprised of 22 one- and two-bedroom private villas, a pool area, bar and lounge, and Siete Fuegos, a signature restaurant created by Argentine chef Francis Mallmann.

