

Traverse the best wine countries in Africa



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For many, the mention of wine brings luxury, vineyards, dining and wining to the imagination. For other, fancies go all the way to romantic and exotic destinations, fondly sipping glasses of red or white wine with their inamorata(o)s. For wine lovers planning to turn their flight of fancy into reality, here are Africa's best wine countries to consider for your bucket list.

South Africa

South Africa leads in having some of the best wine destinations not just in Africa but also in the entire world, having been identified as a wine growing country since the late 17th century. Traversing the country's thousands of vineyards, some whose history dates back to 1659, will create a completely enticing world whose sheer beauty immerses you into an unforgettable adventure.



 $\hbox{\it Chris Snelling via $\underline{\it Wikimedia Commons}$ - Buitenverw achting and vineyards, Constantia}$

From the Constantia wine valley located at the foot of the Constantiaberg Mountain to the Stellenbosch Winelands which is the second oldest wine producing region, sample some of the best wines that SA has to offer. Traverse through the ancient settler's town of 'Paarl', not forgetting the Franschhoek Wine Valley and experience its homely atmosphere and lush scenery.

If you like, go on a binge and once in a while lose yourself to the wine world. The South African wine valleys are also child-friendly, offering great play fields for your little ones. Whether seeking a solo encounter, a romantic getaway or a family bonding wine-indulging experience, South Africa should top your list. Gourmet foods are available and accommodation to suit every style.

Algeria

Argued to be the second largest wine country in Africa, Algeria is a close rival of South Africa also seeking to claim its position as a top wine producing destination on the continent. The Hauts Plateaux region is a force to be reckoned with for remaining steady in the production of Algerian red and white wines including Algiers, Coteaux De Mascara, D'hara, Coteaux De Tlemcen Chlef and Béjaïa; all favorites of many wine connoisseurs. Take a tour of the wine cellars, sample the various tastes and get treated to alluring views of the country's dense vineyards.

Tunisia

Is Rosé Wine your favorite of them all? Tunisia is the best African country you can possibly experience this magical red wine, made from a variety of red grapes including Grenache, Clairette, Cinsaut Mourvèdre, Carignan, Syrah, Merlot and Alicante Bouschet.



Image Source: David Lebovitz - Tunisian Rosé

If red is not your thing, feel the white's touch of lost paradise from the Muscat of Alexandria, Pedro Ximenez, and Chardonnay grapes. The French flavor of Tunisia's wine is everything you would like to sample in the wine world.

Morocco

Morocco is yet another wine producing African country and while the industry is said to have a long way to go, it remains a major destination for wine lovers. Visit the Atlas Mountains that command quite a share of fame in producing renowned wines in the country. White is more common, while red is still grown in some parts of Morocco.



calflier001 via Wikimedia Commons - Atlas Mountains, Morocco

Cape Verde

It is not so popular with wine production, since only the Chã das Caldeiras, a small community in the Fogo Island produces wine. Yet, you can find some of the best red and white wines in Cape Verde that will activate your smell and taste glands with the brut.

Ethiopia

Few people know Ethiopia as a wine country, yet Ethiopian wine enthusiasts have since 1998 been enjoying locally produced wine from Ziway, a small region in the Horn of Africa. Visit the country's Rift Valley and have a chance to indulge in both red and white wine from Bordeaux, whose consumption goes well beyond the Ethiopian borders. Enjoy the scenic lakes enclosed by an impenetrable woodland with thrilling bird life for your adventure.

ABOUT JOSEPHINE WAWIRA

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