

8 Wine Events Worth Traveling For

Summer is the perfect excuse to build a trip around what you actually enjoy...and for wine lovers, that means more than just another tasting room. Think vineyard dinners under the stars, jazz echoing through ancient wine caves, and yes, even a full-on wine battle in the Spanish countryside. My guide highlights 8 handpicked festivals across the U.S. and Europe that deliver not just great wine, but immersive travel experiences, vibrant local culture, and scenery that's absolutely worth the flight.

If one (or a few) of these catches your eye, I'm here to help you turn it into a full travel experience, designed around your taste, timing, and the kind of getaway you're craving.

Jazz & Wine Festival – Saint-Émilion, France (July)

Medieval charm, candlelit wine caves, and jazz echoing through 1,000-year-old walls...this isn't just a tasting event, it's a vibe. Held in the heart of Bordeaux's Right Bank, this festival pairs music with Merlot, and heritage with hedonism. You'll be sipping Grand Cru in ancient cloisters one minute, and swaying to live sax under the stars the next.

Pro Tip: Stay right in the village...walking to each venue with a glass in hand is half the fun.

Avoid: Trying to drive after tastings. Just... don't.

Website: [Click here](#)

Haro Wine Festival – La Rioja, Spain (June)

One part ancient tradition, one part giant wine fight, and all-around legendary. Haro's festival starts with Mass and ends with everyone drenched in purple. After the battle, the town keeps the party going with live music, open-air tastings, and enough Rioja to last a lifetime (or at least until next year).

Pro Tip: Bring clothes you never want to see again and a waterproof pouch for your phone.

Avoid: Overplanning. Let the day unfold—and expect it to get messy.

Website: [Click here](#)

Calici di Stelle – Across Italy (August)

Italy at its most romantic: villages glowing with candlelight, local wine flowing in piazzas, and the stars shining overhead. “Calici di Stelle” literally means “goblets of stars,” and that's exactly the energy. Each town curates its own version, from seaside strolls in Puglia to castle tastings in Tuscany.

Pro Tip: Check local calendars for hidden gems...some of the best events are off the beaten path.

Avoid: Sticking to one town. This is a festival best enjoyed on the move.

Website: [Click here](#)

International Pinot Noir Celebration (IPNC) – Willamette Valley, Oregon (July)

Not a wine festival. A wine pilgrimage. For three days, the Willamette Valley becomes the epicenter of pinot passion. Expect vineyard lunches, winemaker panels, and rare bottle tastings from Oregon and beyond. It's educational, delicious, and deeply immersive...but still laid-back enough to wear sandals.

Pro Tip: Book the full weekend package. The extra tastings and meals are absolutely worth it.

Avoid: Expecting a wine-and-go vibe. This one's for lingering, learning, and leveling up.

Website: [Click here](#)

Sonoma County Wine Auction – California (September)

Part tasting, part black-tie gala, part philanthropic powerhouse. This weekend blends small-lot wine releases, exclusive vineyard dinners, and high-stakes auctions into one luxurious swirl. You'll mingle with winemakers, sip from rare bottles, and maybe even bid on your dream case.

Pro Tip: Splurge on the full experience...it's not just wine, it's wine with purpose.

Avoid: Booking too late. Premium experiences and lodging go fast.

Website: [Click here](#)

Vinho Verde Wine Fest – Porto, Portugal (July)

Bright, refreshing, and just slightly fizzy, Vinho Verde is summer in a glass, and this riverside festival knows how to show it off. Set along the Douro with tastings, music, and food stalls, it's equal parts chill and celebratory. Bonus: you're in Porto, so you've got Port wine and pastéis de nata right around the corner.

Pro Tip: Hit the smaller producer tents...you'll find some standout wines not exported outside Portugal.

Avoid: Skipping the local food. Everything pairs better with a little Vinho Verde sparkle.

Website: [Click here](#)

Colorado Mountain Winefest – Palisade, Colorado (September)

Colorado may not be the first place that comes to mind for wine, but it should be. This fest showcases the state's small but mighty wine scene with the Rockies as your backdrop. Expect fresh air, farm stands, and bottles you can't find outside the state.

Pro Tip: Rent a cruiser bike and explore the Fruit & Wine Byway...it's a tasting trail with actual trail vibes.

Avoid: Forgetting the altitude. Hydrate and pace yourself.

Website: [Click here](#)

Wachau Wine Spring – Austria (May)

This two-day open-house event invites you to sip your way through the vineyards of Austria's Wachau Valley, definitely one of the prettiest wine regions in Europe. Terraced hillsides, white wine perfection, and ferry rides between riverside villages make this a spring celebration with real storybook energy.

Pro Tip: Try the Grüner Veltliner from each village, they're all slightly different and all worth sampling.

Avoid: Skipping dessert. Wachau is known for apricots, and the strudel is unreal.

Website: [Click here](#)

What to Pack

- Lightweight, wine-friendly outfits (consider fabrics that hide spills!)
- Comfortable shoes for vineyard walks and cobblestone towns
- A crossbody bag or backpack with hands-free access
- Reusable water bottle (stay hydrated!)
- Foldable tote or wine shipper if you plan to bring bottles home
- Optional: Wine stain remover wipes (trust me)

Next Steps:

Working with Extended Escapes

Ready to Start Planning Your Wine Adventure?

Wine travel isn't just about the tastings. It's about the regions, the people, and the culture that shape each bottle. Whether you're wandering through the sun-drenched hills of Tuscany, picnicking in Oregon vineyards, or raising a glass at a harvest celebration in Spain, these trips are as much about the setting as the sip.

No matter your wine style...bold reds, crisp whites, or something sparkling...there's a destination that fits. I'll help you find it. Whether you want to explore iconic regions or discover hidden gems, we'll craft a trip that's tailored to your tastes, timing, and travel goals.

Hi, I'm Stephanie Austin — founder of Extended Escapes and your go-to expert for wine-inspired travel.

I help busy professionals like you plan custom getaways that go beyond the typical vacation. Whether you're dreaming of tasting your way through Italy, exploring niche vintners in Spain, or chasing the best Pinot through Willamette, I'll handle the details so you can focus on the fun.

What You Can Expect From Me:

- ✓ Honest guidance (no sugarcoating or sales fluff)
- ✓ Custom-crafted itineraries that leave room for real enjoyment
- ✓ A partner who takes care of the hard stuff so you can actually *relax*



If this guide sparked ideas for your next escape, let's talk. My consults are complimentary... and they're the first step to a well-planned, well-poured adventure.

	Contact Me Today:		Visit My Socials:
	stephanie@extendedescapes.com		https://www.linkedin.com/in/stephanie-l-austin-pmp/
	www.extendedescapes.com		ExtendedEscapes
	760.385.3356		@extendedescapes