

# 5 Resorts For Mini-Wine Excursions

Sip and explore on these easy day trips in Spain, Japan and more

SHANA CLARKE—11 SEPTEMBER 2025



Courtesy of Hotel Peralada

For people who love wine, there's no better vacation than a week spent walking through vines, soil crunching underfoot as leaves brush against skin and inhaling aromas of fermenting grapes while standing in a cool cellar.

But a fully immersive wine country getaway isn't for everyone — can a compromise be found between the wine aficionado and those who just want a taste? Several hotels, aware of this push-pull, are taking advantage of their proximity to wine regions and offering experiences that leave everyone satiated.



Courtesy of Rancho La Puerta

## **Rancho La Puerta, Baja California, Mexico**

Eighty-five years ago, to avoid the horrors taking place in WWII Europe, Edmond and Deborah Szekely fled to Baja California, Mexico, and established what is now one of the world's preeminent health and wellness spas, Rancho La Puerta. While activities such as fitness classes, spa treatments and lectures remain mainstays, the resort just added a new offering: a day trip to visit wineries in the nearby region of Valle de Guadalupe.

In the past couple of decades, Valle de Guadalupe has emerged as one of the most dynamic regions for wine. International consultants and the establishment of an oenology school helped this boutique industry flourish. Today, there are roughly 150 wineries, where only a handful existed at the turn of the millennium. Many lean heavily into hospitality, with stylish accommodations and restaurants catering to international oenophiles.

“At Rancho La Puerta, we have always felt that true wellness comes from a deep connection with nature, community and culture,” says Eliezer Quiñones, general manager of Rancho La Puerta and an architect of the program. “By adding a new Valle de Guadalupe wine excursion for guests, we celebrate the rich history of the land, the artistry of its people and the joy of sharing food and wine together in one of the world’s most beautiful settings.”

The drive from Rancho is approximately 90 minutes and includes a visit to two wineries, plus lunch. Nascent industries like the Valle are rife with experimentation. At Vinos Pijoan, owner Pau Pijoan and his daughter, Silvana, work together, and Silvana also produces her own line of low-intervention wines. Taste and compare styles of Chenin Blanc, Zinfandel, Carignan and more, while nibbling on regional charcuterie and cheese. A short drive after brings you to Adobe Guadalupe. Tru Miller, a former Pan Am flight attendant, started the winery in 1997. As one of the earliest wineries in the region, she has deep insights into Valle’s evolution.