

Chile Top Ten Facts

1. Chile is in the middle of a wine revolution. While Chile is the world's eighth largest producer of wine, this is a country that is focusing on small producers hunting for the most unique terroirs.
2. More than 20 grape varieties are grown in Chile, mostly from French or Spanish origin. The most commonly planted grape is Cabernet Sauvignon.
3. A wide range of varieties grow well under the sunny Chilean skies. The most important wine varieties are Cabernet Sauvignon, Carmenere, Pedro Ximenez, Merlot, Syrah, Chardonnay, Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc, Viognier, and Sémillon.
4. Chile is divided into five main grape-growing regions, each with multiple sub-regions within. The main growing regions are Atacama, Coquimbo, Aconcagua, the Central Valley and Southern Chile.
5. Most Chilean vineyards rely on the plentiful snowmelt from the Andes for irrigation. In the southern coastal regions, vineyards receive adequate rainfall.
6. Soils vary greatly by region from clay to loam, limestone, and sand.
7. The Pacific Ocean to the west and the Andes mountains to the east have long provided isolation from grape diseases like phylloxera.
8. Chile has little vintage variation due to the reliability of favorable weather with little risk of summer time frost or harvest time rains.
9. Harvest typically begins at the end of February for varieties like Chardonnay with some red wine varieties like Cabernet Sauvignon being picked in April and Carmenere sometimes staying on the vine into May.
10. Vine Connections imports the leading portfolio of boutique wines from Chile and offers one of the best selections from Chile's top winemakers and wineries.

