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Orbitz Insider Index Reveals Fastest-Growing Destinations for Wine and Culinary Enthu

Website

CHICAGO, Sept. 19 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- With great wine producers located throughout the country, there is a growing number of vineyards for a fall grape getaway -- and food and wine enthusiasts appear to be growing in number along with wine destinations. Focusing on the fastest-growing(1) wine regions in the U.S., the 2007 Orbitz Food & Wine Index shows California's Napa Valley is still king, almost doubling its overall growth in Orbitz bookings since 2005, other regions in the country are coming on strong. From the pinots of the Pacific Northwest to cabernets of Kalamazoo, the Orbitz (<http://www.orbitz.com>) Insider Index is redefining "wine country."

"No matter where you live in the U.S., you're probably not more than a few hours away from a great vacation that includes a hotel with a local vineyard," said Heather Leisman, senior director of merchandising for Orbitz. "Fall is a great time for wine lovers to enjoy the many harvest festivals and winery tours, which often combine fine cuisine with the best in wine country."

Which Regions Toast The Most?

Distinctive wines combined with southern hospitality have vaulted the Texas Hill and Arkansas Wine Countries to the top spots respectively on the Orbitz Insider Index fastest-growing list. And the Pacific Northwest is gaining on California as the place to be when it comes to wine excursions. Three of the top ten fastest-growing regions in the U.S. hail from the Pacific Northwest, with interest in Washington and Oregon. And before snow starts to fall in the Midwest, there are a number of growing regions that have given destinations in Ohio, Indiana, Tennessee and Michigan four of the top 10 spots.

The top 10 fastest-growing wine regions in the U.S., based on hotel and package (flight + hotel) bookings on Orbitz from 2005-2007 are as follows:

The Orbitz Food & Wine Index	
Fastest Growing Wine Regions from 2005-2007	
RANK	DESTINATION*
1	Napa Valley, California
2	Texas Hill Country (Fredericksburg, Dripping Springs, Marble Falls)
3	Arkansas Wine Country (Paris, Altus)
4	Puget Sound, Washington
5	Columbia Cascades and North Central Washington
6	Grand River Valley, Ohio
7	Nashville (TN)/Bloomington Area, Indiana
8	Applegate/Rogue Valley, Oregon
9	Lake Erie Region, Ohio
10	Kalamazoo, Michigan

*Based on hotel and package bookings on Orbitz.com 6/1-11/1, from 2005-2007.

**Bookings made for each year by 9/5.

***Minimum 200 bookings required

Wine and Dine Across America

While the beaches of Baja and Falls of Niagara may be known for unparalleled natural beauty, they are also bas delicious food and wine. The Insiders at Orbitz have highlighted these and some of their other favorite selections and Central America for exciting food and wine, keeping travelers "A Step Ahead(TM)" by showcasing some pos destinations and drive-to regions both north and south of the U.S. border.

United States

San Diego Region

Although northern California tends to be more famous for wine, southern California offers some quality local wine its scenic beaches. The San Diego Wine & Culinary Center is conveniently located in downtown San Diego and urban winery where visitors can enjoy a tour and wine tasting. Travelers looking to enjoy the very best in what th offer should attend the San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival (November 14-17) which will feature 160 world-clas food from 60 fine dining restaurants! Vacationers looking to spend some quality time at a vineyard can rent a car of San Diego to San Pasqual Valley where several vineyards offer tours and tasting throughout the year. With sc options, plus proximity to seaside excitement, the San Diego region is an ideal place to visit.

Philadelphia Countryside

Known primarily for its importance in early U.S. history, Philadelphia offers much more than monuments and mu is actually in the vicinity of 18 wineries, six of which make up the Brandywine Valley wine trail, located just 25 mi The vineyards come together on September 29th and 30th to celebrate HarvestFest, which features concerts, pi special activities; tours and tastings are also available throughout the year. When it comes to cuisine, Philadelph with places to eat. For a variety of foods in one location, travelers should be sure to visit Reading Terminal Mark since the 1860's, the market is home to over 80 merchants featuring a wide variety of both local and ethnic selec so much to see and try at the market that there are even daily tours. Of course no trip to the City of Brotherly Lov taking unless you take the time to enjoy a Philly Cheese Steak. Be sure to ask a local for his or her favorite chee

Mexico

Baja Region

While traditionally recognized for its expertise in all things tequila, in recent years Mexico has garnered great pra passion and dedication to the art of producing the perfect glass of wine. Be sure to check out the city of Ensenac coastal city that has not lost its small town charm. In addition to striking vistas of the Pacific Coast and Gulf of Cæ is within a day's trip from the country's three most prized wine-producing areas -- San Antonio de las Minas, the Valley and the Santo Tomas Valley. While enjoying one of Baja's best vintages, travelers can take advantage of beloved cuisine, offering fine seafood dishes including shrimp tacos and ceviche. In September, the city is host t Seafood, Lobster and Tequila Festival, a delicious time for visitors looking to experience the regions very best in

Sonora Region

Another area not to be overlooked is Mexico's Sonora region. Although not as popular as the Baja region, Sonor over half of Mexico's vineyards, offering a picturesque destination for wine enthusiasts. Many of the wine grapes shipped to the Baja region or even Arizona. As a result most wine is produced by local boutique wineries which c intimate look into the region's long and storied history with viticulture. Visitors looking to relax should visit Guayrn both the mountains and the sea. Here vacationers can enjoy the beach, as well as local Yaqui tribe villages. In a

wine, visitors looking for another local drink should be sure to try Bacanora. This drink is produced from agave P named after the city from which it originated.

Canada

Okanagan

Tucked between two mountain ranges and running north through British Columbia, the Okanagan region feature Canada's best scenery and wine. The region begins in the town of Osoyoos in the southernmost part of the Valle the Washington border. Osoyoos offers quaint lodging and dining options, including several bed and breakfasts, leisure traveler to begin a tour of the region well-rested and well-fed. From Osoyoos, visitors can continue north wine country, stopping at wineries along the way for tours and tastings of some of the area's premiere reds and must see city is Penticton. Nestled between two lakes, visitors to this city can enjoy numerous fall festivals celeb area's wine. Vacationers should be sure to try Joy Road Catering's famous "food of the earth," served every Sun October. This combination of great food, local wine and panoramic views of Skaha Lake is not to be missed!

Niagara Region

The Niagara region of Ontario offers visitors a beautiful backdrop for touring the region's 68 wineries. Chock full tours and tastings, concerts, excellent cuisine, artisan shows and family entertainment, the area has something Quaint Niagara-on-the-Lake is nestled within the Niagara Region and is perfectly situated among the wine count tourists with its water adventures, golf courses, fine dining and close proximity to wineries. The scenery extends many vineyards, however, as the region is just a short drive from the breathtaking Niagara Falls. For travelers lo major national hub, Toronto is only an hour drive from the region and boasts more than 7,000 restaurants that re and cuisines from around the world.

About Orbitz Worldwide:

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(1) Based on hotel and package bookings growth on Orbitz.com from

2005-2007

Website: <http://www.orbitz.com/>



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