

La Residence
in Franschhoek,
South Africa



5 WAYS TO DO...

Wine Country

Been there, done Napa. Drink it all in at one of these unexpected destinations instead.

FIND BOLD REDS IN ...

South Africa

For a honeymoon that's equal parts adventure and luxury, head to South Africa's Franschhoek Valley, located an hour west of Cape Town. From there, you can embark on a half- or full-day safari at **Aquila Private Game Reserve**, then check into **La Residence**, an opulent 30-acre estate with serious royal-palace vibes. (Note the pride of peacocks roaming the grounds.)

Set against a stunning backdrop of the Hawequa Mountains in the Cape Winelands, the chandelier-and-antique-bedecked hotel is tucked among vineyards growing cabernet sauvignon and shiraz grapes, along with a plum orchard, an herb garden and olive groves. Though you could happily while away the days on the sun-soaked grounds (or in your suite's stand-alone tub), the hotel can arrange for a helicopter or Harley-Davidson tour of the nearby wineries.

SIP IN HIGH DESIGN IN ...

Chile

To go pseudo-off-the-grid post-wedding, head two hours south of Santiago to **Vik Chile**, an architecturally stunning hotel surrounded by 11,000 acres of vineyards in the verdant Millahue Valley. The remote spot makes for a perfectly romantic retreat, but there's also plenty to do off-property, including hiking, biking, and exploring neighboring vines via horseback. Spend an evening under the stars with the resort's midnight harvesting excursion; you'll snip your own grapes in a firsthand wine-making experience. Follow with a "vineyard recovery" treatment at the holistic spa, which uses grapeseed and other essential oils to soothe tired legs (from harvesting, but also works for

First Look

HONEYMOONS



Clockwise from top left: The pool at Vik Chile; Le Royal restaurant at Royal Champagne Hotel & Spa; Rowland House at the Inns of Aurora.



anyone still recovering from that wedding dance floor).

POP CORKS IN ... Champagne

Where better to honeymoon than the epicenter of bubbly? Make **Royal Champagne Hotel & Spa**—the region's first wellness destination—your jumping-off point to explore France's champagne houses. The property's sommelier can tailor-make your tour, or you can hop on the resort's electric bicycles for a jaunt to the nearby village of **Hautvillers** to see the **Abbey of St. Peter**, once

home to famed monk Dom Pérignon, and sip sparkling wine at the family-run **Champagne Charles Mignon**, where the cellars are built right into the hillside. Book dinner at **Le Royal**, the resort's Michelin-starred restaurant; then, after your couples' candle massage at the spa, take a restorative dip in the infinity pool overlooking lush green vineyards.

SOAK UP THE HISTORY OF ... Portugal

Two hours east of Porto, the country's largest northern city, Portugal's **Douro** region is home to centuries-old villages

and deliciously rustic food. By day, plan to sip fortified port wine at local vineyards and explore **Provesende**, a nearby town with winding alleys and a world-famous bakery, as well as the **Côa Valley**, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for engraved rock art that dates back 25,000 years. By night, wind down with sweeping views of the area's namesake Rio Douro—"River of Gold"—from one of the understated rooms at **Quinta Nova**, a 19th-century manor house with vines of its own—plus a romantic terrace for sunset dinners.

ROAD TRIP TO THE ... Finger Lakes

Mini-moon alert! In just a little over four hours' drive from Philly, you'll find more than 130 wineries situated around 11 picturesque bodies of water in this bucolic part of western New York. Overlooking Cayuga Lake, **Inns of Aurora** has a charming seaside vibe, and its Wine Country Getaway comes with a private six-hour tour of the area's vineyards. (Also included: a picnic lunch with local provisions that pair wonderfully with a bottle of dry riesling—the Finger Lakes specialize in aromatic whites.) Later, make a few new (furry) friends and sample award-winning cheeses at the nearby **Lively Run Goat Dairy**; then, after a cozy dinner at **Hazelnut Kitchen**, end the day waterside, roasting s'mores at the hotel's fire pit. —*Regan Fletcher Stephens*