

# VINEPAIR

## 11 CRUSHWORTHY FALL HARVEST EXPERIENCES FROM SONOMA TO SLOVENIA

Blane Bachelor



Fall harvest is a busy time in the vineyard, as winemakers rush to get the fruit off the vine at just the right moment, when the grapes are at optimal ripeness and before wet weather arrives. But nowadays, more wineries are letting guests get in on the action with hands-on experiences like grape picking and stomping — giving them a real taste of the age-old traditions and effort that go into the process. Several festivals throughout the fall also celebrate the bounty of the harvest, as well as the hard work that goes into it.

Here, 11 fall harvest events worthy of a visit, whether you're a newbie or hardcore oenophile. You just might leave with purple feet or raw fingers — but, most certainly, a newfound appreciation for what's in your glass.

## HARVEST GRAPES BY MOONLIGHT IN CHILE

Those looking for a South American splurge won't be disappointed by a three-day, hands-on immersion in the harvest at VIK Vineyard, located in Chile's stunning Millahue Valley. By day, guests can choose from horseback riding, hiking the vineyard, and in-depth tastings, but the real fun starts when the sun sets. Guests can join the VIK team to pluck grapes from the vine by moonlight, and taste the newly pressed juice in the early stages of maceration. For the perfect souvenir, add an imperial bottle of wine from the vintage year in which you participated, which will be delivered upon release about four years later.



*VIK Vineyard in Chile invites guests to pluck grapes from the vine by moonlight, and taste the newly pressed juice in the early stages of maceration.*