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Hotels for wine lovers

EMPIRE RETREAT, Margaret River, Western Australia

The emphasis is on “retreat” on this lovely, tucked-away estate that has more than a hint of Balinese style, with teak daybeds, marble mosaics and a wonderful “bush spa” offering eastern-style therapies, Pilates and yoga. Surrounded by the famous vineyards of the Margaret River region, including Voyager Estate and McLeod Creek, it has tranquil gardens. Guests can taste the wines with supper in the spectacular atrium-style dining room.

empireretreat.com

BALGOWNIE ESTATE, Yarra Glen, Victoria

In the heart of the Yarra Valley, Balgownie has been producing wines since 1969, and all guests are entitled to a free tasting, with more structured classes and courses available. Alongside the pleasures du vin, there are walking trails, an indoor pool and Natskin Spa, and the concierge can organise trips to surrounding wineries. Rooms are modern and pared-down, without being unnecessarily minimalist.

balgownieestate.com.au

TAKATU LODGE, New Zealand

The contemporary-designed lodge at Takatu makes the most of the sunshine that floods across the vineyards, with glass walls and vaulted ceilings that create a sense of space and tranquillity. The vineyard runs on sustainable, organic principles and guests are welcome to explore and experience how the wine is produced, as well as taste the sumptuous Merlot and Malbec at a tasting session or on your private balcony as the sun sets.

takatulodge.co.nz

CHATEAU DE BAGNOLS, Beaujolais, France

If you're after a hit of glorious opulence and giddy indulgence, de Bagnols will hit the spot — a spectacular 13th century chateau, complete with moat, drawbridge and fairytale towers. At the heart of Beaujolais country, the hotel is surrounded by working wineries, and the concierge can organise escorted tours and tastings. The hotel's wine list is said to be one of the best in the whole of France.

chateaubagnols.com

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