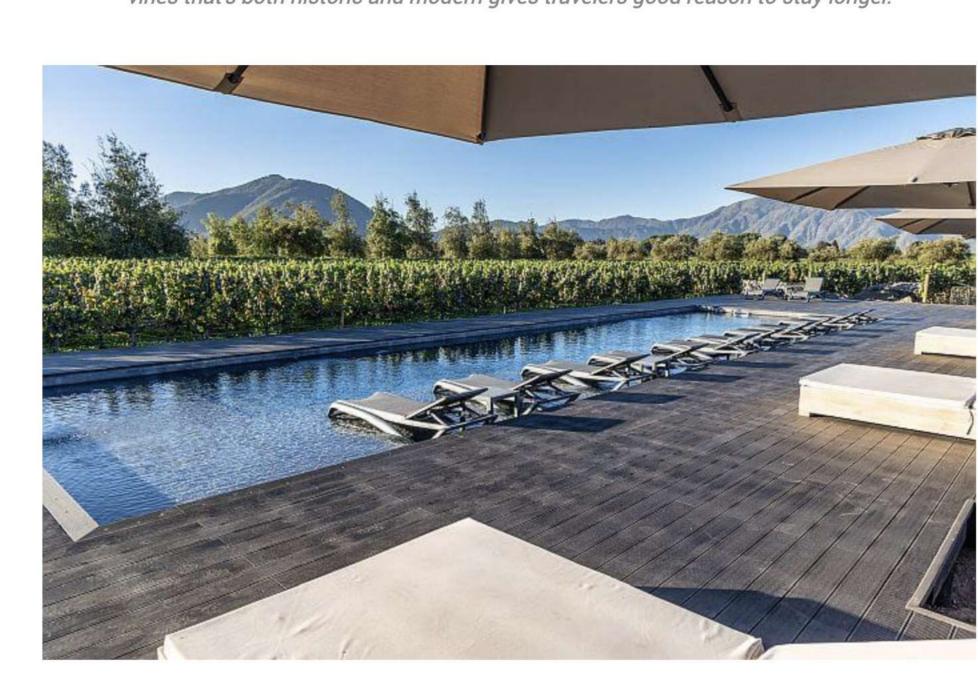


Vibo Wine Lodge — Colchagua Valley

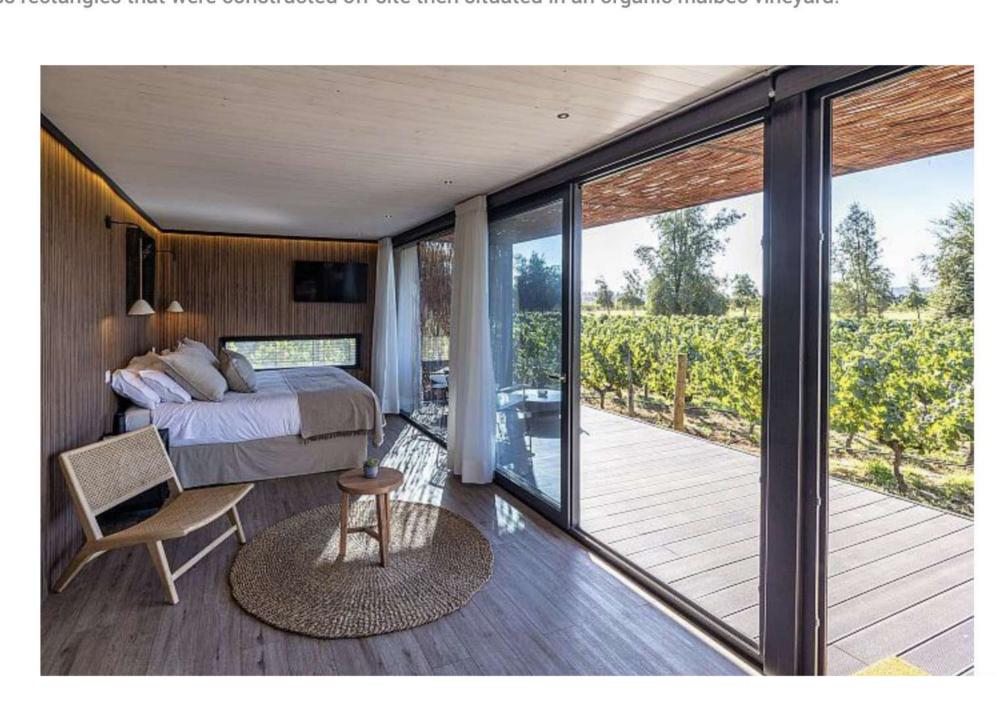
Carretera del vino km 37, Santa Cruz, Chile

The Colchagua Valley produces some of the best wines in Chile. This loft accommodation winery hotel in the vines that's both historic and modern gives travelers good reason to stay longer.



In the early 1900s, Miguel Viu and Dolores Manent, an immigrant couple from Catalonia, began what would become Vina Viu Manent in Chile's Colchagua Valley. Today, the winery produces award-winning wines that can be found around the world. After years of offering tours and tastings for vino-loving travelers, the current generation of the family decided to open a wine hotel and it's a welcome addition.

Vibo Wine Lodge, named for the initials of third generation family members and also meant to evoke the Spanish word for life (vida), opened in March of 2023 with eight modular open-plan lofts crafted inside metal, wood, and glass rectangles that were constructed off-site then situated in an organic malbec vineyard.

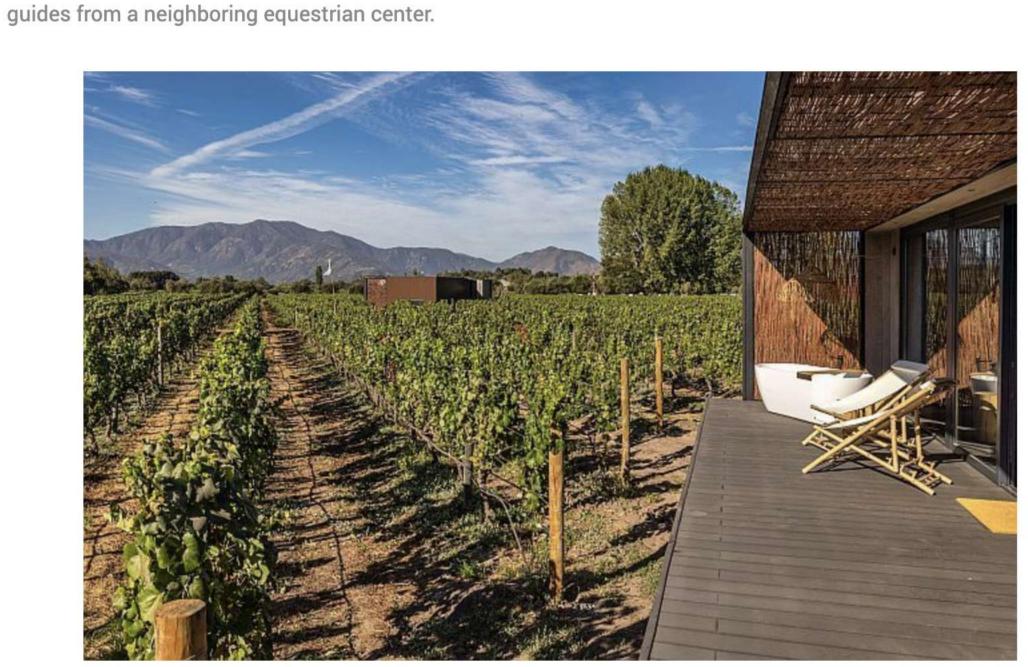


Each chic and organic loft (I loved the framed old vine cutting that hung above my bed) has a sitting area, TV (with a solar remote control), furnished patio, roomy shower with a rain showerhead, USB chargers everywhere, remote controlled blackout curtains, air-conditioning and heating, and a peaceful, polished ambiance.

The wine refrigerator is stocked, but bottles are not included in the rates. Robes are included, but not slippers.

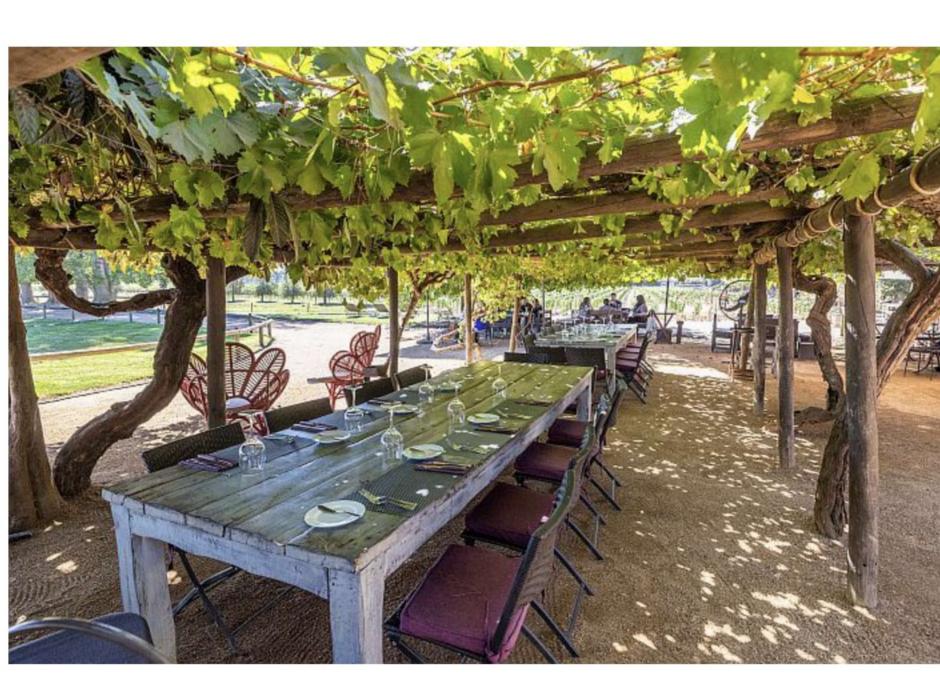
An unheated lap pool and two outdoor Jacuzzis beckon or you can make use of the outdoor soaking tub on each patio.

Vibo Wine Lodge is located across the road from Viu Manent's historic winery where informative tours and tastings are offered, including in English. Also available is horseback riding through the vines with horses and



The best guest amenity, however, comes at meal times. Breakfast, included in the rates, is served in the charming Café de la Vina located in a building that was constructed in the early 1900s to house winery employees. Black and white tile, whitewashed wooden furniture, exposed beams, and vine views set a relaxed and rustic tone. Enjoy very good coffee made to order, freshly squeezed orange juice, and house-made treats including hearty cookies, scones, and toasted grainy bread plus sliced cheese, sliced meat, avocado, butter and jam. Guest name cards on each table add to the charm.

For lunch or dinner, the Viu Manent restaurant, Rayuela, is a top choice, serving some of the best food in the entire valley. Open since 2010, the casual space offers indoor seating and outdoor tables shaded by fig trees near a large open-fire cooking area.



Chilean seafood features prominently on the menu including oysters, but there's a wide range of choices to please different palates and the knowledgeable sommelier is on hand to help pair your choices with the perfect Viu Manent wine.

My appetizer of grilled tender oyster mushrooms with bracing pickled shitakes over a rich chestnut and cashew cream dusted with crunchy toasted quinoa was hearty, satisfying, and unexpected. My main dish of homemade bowtie pasta in a simple but stunning sauce showcasing sweet local seasonal tomatoes bolstered by sliced and crunchy garlic was the kind of dish I could eat every day.



Dessert of a walnut cookie topped with light and fragrant fig leaf ice cream, sliced fresh figs, and young fresh basil for pop and spice was the perfect finale and enough reason to dream of an additional night at Vibo Wine Lodge.

Web Address: www.outscape.cl/vibowinelodge Total Number of Rooms: 8

Published rates: \$239 to \$290 per night double occupancy including breakfast (2 night minimum on weekends)

Review by Karen Catchpole, photos by Eric Mohl.

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