



**For Immediate Release  
April 26, 2011**

**USTOA Offers Taste Adventures  
To World's Top Culinary & Wine Areas  
from San Francisco to South Africa**

**Book by May through August**

Food and wine enthusiasts will find a growing world of vacation experiences catering to their passion, says the U.S. Tour Operators Association. "Our members have responded to a heightened appreciation of fine food and wine by developing programs and itineraries to some of the world's top culinary and wine-producing destinations," says Terry Dale, USTOA president.

Travelers can enjoy a private winery visit and dinner in the Sonoma Valley, take a cooking class using locally-sourced ingredients in South Africa, or wine and dine their way through Provence. Below are samples from three USTOA members.

**Book by May 20**

**San Francisco and Wine Country Delights Tour, 8 days/7 nights**

Oenophiles can enjoy a private winery tour and dinner at Nicholson Ranch in the Sonoma Valley on Trafalgar Tours' "San Francisco and Wine Country Delights" 8 day, 7 night tour. Also featured are a private cooking class in Sonoma, wine tastings, and sightseeing in San Francisco. Three nights are spent in San Francisco, with four nights in Napa. Daily excursions from Napa visit the wine-growing centers of Glen Ellen, Kenwood, Calistoga, St. Helena, Yountville, and Sonoma. The tour, which costs from \$1,750 per person, also includes seven full breakfasts and four dinners. According to Trafalgar, the tour price represents a savings of up to 30% over making the same arrangements independently. Travel must be booked by **May 20 and is available through September 23, 2011**. For reservations and more information, phone 1-866-544-4434 or visit [www.trafalgartours.com](http://www.trafalgartours.com).

**Travel through July 31, book anytime**

**South Africa's Finest: A Culinary Adventure custom itinerary, 10 days/9 nights**

Prepare lunch with locally sourced ingredients during a Cape Malay cooking class on "South Africa's Finest: A Culinary Adventure" 10 day, 9 night custom-planned vacation from African Travel Inc. Other culinary activities include a private dining experience in Cape Town at Catherina's under the guidance of Chef Garth Almazan, a winelands tasting tour, a private bush dinner, and a chef's table experience at The Saxon in Johannesburg with Chef Werner Snoek. This custom itinerary provides accommodations for three nights in Cape Town at Steenberg Hotel and Winery, two nights in Kruger-Sabi Sands at Sabi Bush Lodge, two nights in Kruger-Timbavati at Camp Jabuani, and two nights in Johannesburg at the Saxon Boutique Hotel and Villas. Also featured are two days of private sightseeing in Cape Town, four days of wildlife

viewing by day and night from vehicles and atop elephants, a full day of private sightseeing in Johannesburg, and all transfers. Price starts at \$7,995 per person, plus \$827 per person for intra-Africa flights, which African Travel estimates as a savings of 15% over booking independently. Meals include nine breakfasts, five lunches, and six dinners. Book anytime for **travel valid until July 31, 2011**. For reservations and more information, phone 1-800-421-8907 or visit [www.africantravelinc.com](http://www.africantravelinc.com).

### **Book by August 31**

#### **Chateau Wine and Cooking in Provence independent vacation, 6 days/5 nights**

Avanti Destinations' "Chateau Wine and Cooking in Provence" independent self-drive package allows travelers to discover the epicurean side of Provence by pairing local food and wine. Experience three nights at Chateau de Berne in Southern Provence, then travel north to the Chateauf-neuf-de-Pape wine region for two nights at Chateau de Fines Roches with wine-tasting at three local cellars. Offered are a morning cooking class with lunch, wine tour and tasting in the Var wine region, a visit to Thoronet Abbey, and a welcome bottle of wine. The 6 day, 5 night independent package, priced from \$2,655 per person, also includes a six day compact manual car rental, daily breakfast, and three dinners. Several choices for car pick-up are available, and optional extensions include Paris, Italy, or the French Mediterranean shore. **Book by August 31 for travel available through October 31, 2011**. For reservations and more information, phone 1-800-422-5053 or visit [www.avantidestinations.com](http://www.avantidestinations.com).

### **More Information**

All prices are based on double occupancy. International airfare is additional. Restrictions and additional security fees, departure and local taxes and fees may apply. Prices may vary based on departure date.

For more information on domestic or international vacation arrangements with culinary or wine interest visit: [www.USTOA.com](http://www.USTOA.com), or [www.USTOA.travel](http://www.USTOA.travel). USTOA member companies have met the travel industry's highest standards, including participation in the association's Travelers Assistance Program, which among other things protects consumer payments up to \$1 million in case the company goes out of business.

USTOA is the premier association of companies providing vacation packages, tours, and custom travel itineraries for more than 11 million people yearly.

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Editor Note: Information was provided by individual companies and was correct at time of writing. International prices may vary from time of writing, based on currency fluctuations.

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