



THE SPECIALIST:

Cherri Briggs, Explore; Steamboat Springs, Colorado

FIRST TRIP TO CAMEROON: 2004

Even with its recent troubles, Cameroon is special—it has such a rich cultural heritage, and it produces some of Africa's finest art. In the highlands village of **Bafut**, you can visit the Palace of the Fon, the seat of an 800-year-old sub-Saharan dynasty. This is the last of Africa's great

Don't miss the giant drum that called people to war—beaten not by living hands but with the severed arms of the enemy

Cameroon

chiefdoms that once ruled much of the continent. Today the king still has tremendous power. One of the many queens will guide you around the royal compound, including a museum full of artifacts on a par with those in the British Museum. Don't miss the giant drum that called people to war—beaten not by living hands but with

ROYALTY IN BAFUT

the severed arms of the enemy. While in the highlands, you can also visit the town of **Foumban**, the artisan center for that region of Africa and home to the Bamum people—whose chief, at last count, had 77 wives and 506 kids [\$1,875 for two]!"

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WINE IN MENDOZA, PHOTOS IN BUENOS AIRES

Argentina

You'll bring home some wine you made. How's that for a souvenir?



THE SPECIALIST: Vanessa Guibert-Heitner, Limitless Argentina; Buenos Aires

FIRST TRIP TO ARGENTINA:

"I grew up here, but my husband's first trip to Mendoza was in 2004. We went winetasting, and our kids ate grapes straight from the field."

The Catena family owns the most prestigious winery in the country, in the famed Mendoza region. Nicholás Catena-Zapata transformed the Argentine wine industry from a mass-production model to one that makes high-quality, low-production wine. His daughter Laura allows a select group of people to attend a 'Malbec Camp' to work in the fields (you'll prune, test ripeness, or harvest, depending on the season) and create their own personal wines. The Catenas maintain their privacy, but you'll be able to spend several days at their private estancia, which has never been opened to the public. In between working with an oenologist in the lab to add the proper amounts of petit verdot and syrah to give depth and spice to the malbec, you'll enjoy traditional meals, cooking classes, and horseback rides. And at the end, you'll get to bring home some of the wine you helped make. How's that for a souvenir? [Three-day Malbec Camp, \$5,900 for two, including lodgings, meals, and activities.

"Then, while you're in our cosmopolitan capital of Buenos Aires, we can try to set up an appointment with Virginia del Giudice, an internationally recognized photographer whose works have appeared in Elle and Forbes. Assuming she's in town, you'll sit for a portrait shot by her, perhaps at a polo estancia or in a famous tango hall. If Del Giudice isn't available or you'd like to spend a bit less, I have connections to plenty of other extraordinary photographers who live here portrait session, \$2,850 for up to four people, including one mounted 12- by 16-inch print]."

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