



Cycle-Basque Country

Food & Wine Cycling Tours Newsletter



The 2012 Brunello Vintage is a Return to Finesse

If you love elegant, age-worthy Sangiovese, then stock your wine cellar with 2012 Brunello di Montalcino.

BY KERIN O'KEEFE



Hi Everyone,

Lisa and I hope all of you are having a wonderful summer with some great fall riding, eating and wine drinking on the schedule! As Lisa gets ready to leave for Tuscany again and we are looking forward to seeing many of you in Nantucket in October, we wanted to tell you all about some great wines, fun recipes and future cycling trips we are planning for 2018, 2019 and beyond.

2012 & 2015 Brunello

The 2012 and 2015 Brunello vintages are definitely worth snaring a couple bottles and stashing them in the cellar. Lisa's Tuscany trip will be trying the 2012's as they are released in Montalcino during her visit. We'll be stocking up on the likes of Ciacci Piccolomini, Siro Pacenti and Casanova di Neri. I've heard mention that some 2012's will be finding their way to Nantucket.

A Favorite New Recipe

With all the zucchini and yellow squash in your garden and local farmer's markets, here's a great new recipe we have been making with all the bounty:



This recipe comes from Food & Wine:

<http://www.foodandwine.com/recipes/summer-squash-gratin>

- We loved this, made a couple additions by adding pine nuts and panko at the end and broiling it for a few minutes
- Also, since there will be leftovers, we made a couple small (5") baking dishes of it and had it with sunny side up eggs the next morning. It reheated great and with eggs was wonderful

Basque Country 2018 Trip

After taking off 2017, we'll again be riding in Basque Country for 2018. This is one of our favorite trips due to the incredible food, mountains and ocean scenery and just how cool San Sebastian and the northern Spain coast are.

- Food & Wine's September issue is all about Spain: why it is the hottest place to go now
- Think about joining us next year when we go to Basque Country. Ask Greg Doane or Laura Wolfe and they'll tell you it was the best vacation they've ever had. Don't worry Food and Wine did not give away all the hot spots!



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Hokkaido Japan 2018

As many of you know, we have been skiing in Japan the last 3 winters and are loving it, especially the island of Hokkaido. Lisa is heading there in July with a group from the AMC when the Lavender is in full bloom (see the pic above). The trip filled quickly, and so we will be heading back in 2019 to this unique destination. We'd love to have you join us!

Trips in the works for 2019 & Beyond

The Maremma

- is a food and wine destination on the path less traveled in southern Tuscany. The region is known for its Super Tuscan wines, historic villages with pre roman ruins and breathtaking coastline!
- It is also where Elba Island is which is rumored to have wonderful cycling combined with great beaches and lovely seafood.
- We'll be cycling through this region before Basque Country in 2018 as we prepare for our 2019 trip

Rioja:

- For a while Al has wanted to ride Rioja. Partly because of a love for red wine and the incredible San Vicente Rioja we were drinking last year in Basque Country (Laura Wolfe remembers this well & we just bought a case because it was so good!)
- Rioja is Spain's oldest and most famous wine region with 3 types of Reds: Tempranillo, Ribera del Duero and Priorat
- The region is south of Basque Country and full of key wine villages like Logrono (think Montalcino)
- We'll be exploring here in 2018 & 2019 as we get ready to offer this trip. Come check it out with us.

We look forward to cycling, eating☺, laughing and learning with all of you again soon.

Lisa and Al

www.foodandwinecyclingtours.com