

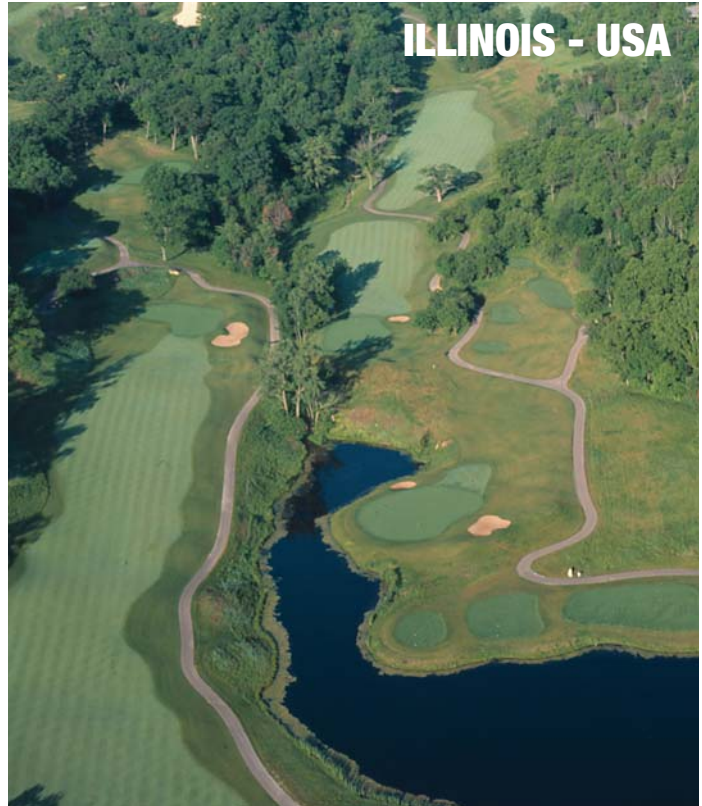


RIOJA - SPAIN

Rioja wines are well-known in the fashion industry, not only for their stunning flavors but also because they're the official wines of Mercedes Benz Fashion Week in New York. Plus, the hot Spanish wine region generously sponsors numerous fashion events year round. But La Rioja, as the Spanish affectionately refer to the region, is so much more than beautiful wines, it's a thriving destination for travelers to soak in world renowned architecture, rest in sumptuous hotels, dine in gorgeous restaurants and pamper themselves at a luxury spa. And, of course, taste the famously smooth wines that have long been enjoyed by the fashion forward. Not only is Spain's La Rioja a region of jaw-dropping beauty, it's also home to one of the country's best wine production areas. A short distance from Bilbao, Rioja is roughly the size of Delaware; nestled between two mountain ranges and influenced by both the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, the region harbors chalky soils and warm sunshine at a variety of altitudes. The countryside is dotted with rows of perfectly cultivated vineyards, interspersed by the occasional medieval village.

Rioja is not your stereotypical quaint wine country, a palpable under-current of regeneration and excitement defines the region and visitors' experiences there. Rioja and the wines produced in the region are about embracing a lifestyle and a culture, not just swirling wine around in a glass. In Rioja, wine-tasting requires each of the senses to gain the full lifestyle experience. With a natural European appreciation for the arts, many of the region's almost 600 bodegas (wineries) consciously choose to work with vanguard, internationally renowned architects to rebuild aging wineries and construct new edifices. Rioja is a beautiful merger of past, present and future occurring at once - the rich Spanish past, framed by a future of modernism, and surrounded by a present of well-being and luxury. This is a combination that's timelessly en vogue.

-Kari Skaflen



ILLINOIS - USA



EAGLE RIDGE RESORT & SPA

Just three short hours outside of Chicago lies the Midwest gem that is Galena, Illinois. With rolling hills, farms that go on for miles, and a picturesque downtown, you'll find the home to one of the most amazing resorts at the Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa. Not all resorts are created equal and this one boasts over 6,800 acres of beautiful hills and valleys, 63-holes of award-winning golf and the Stonedrift spa. The idea is to get back to nature, and that same mindset goes hand in hand with the spa. Over 10 treatment rooms offer guests an array of treatments of facials, massages and holistic wellness treatments. Factio loved the Ray of Sunshine Ritual which was a true pick me up. The treatment began with the essences of dried lavender (for relaxation) and lemon verbena (a cheerful mood lifter), and sunshine in a bottle (blend of bergamot, petit' grain, and rose geranium) that combined massage with hot stones for a treatment that melted all of the stresses away.

444 Eagle Ridge Drive, Galena, IL, www.eagleridgesortonline.com

-M.M.



MySpa at the Fairmont Hotel

If a short getaway is out of the question, head to MySpa for all of the rest and relaxation you can get without leaving the city at all. Located at the Fairmont Hotel in downtown Chicago, MySpa is an 11,000 sq. ft. healing oasis boasting eight treatment rooms, offering luxe treatments for any city dweller. Factio highly recommends the deep sleep treatment, an anytime ritual that combines a very relaxing massage with blends of lavender, ylang ylang, and geranium.

MySpa at the Fairmont Hotel, 200 North Columbus Drive, at South Water Street, www.myspachicago.com

-M.M.



The Spa at KeyLime Cove

With kids, even the most chicest of fashionistas may have to toss their manolos and switch to comfy flats and make their way to a waterpark. But not to fret, KeyLime Cove has recently opened their spa and offers an array of treatments that will have you relaxing while your family is enjoying one water slide after the other. The Paradise Mist Spa located inside the resort opened this past April and offers lots of tropical options that will mentally take you miles away from Chicago and the waterpark nearby. Favorite island-esque treatments include the Island Paradise Massage, the Margarita Manicure and Pedicure, and Pairs in Paradise that allows time for your mini chicettes (if you can sway them to leave the park for perfectly pedicured toes). Try the island breeze manicure and tropical toes pedicure, mirabella make-up for mom and princess style for your mini (for ages 4-8). There's also a tween and teen package.

1700 Nations Drive, Gurnee, IL, www.keylimecove.com

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