



Middle Chile

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Best Places to Eat

- » Café Vinilo (p98)
- » Vino Bello (p115)
- » La Casa de las Empanadas (p117)
- » Restaurante Miguel Torres (p122)
- » La Cocó (p98)

Best Places to Stay

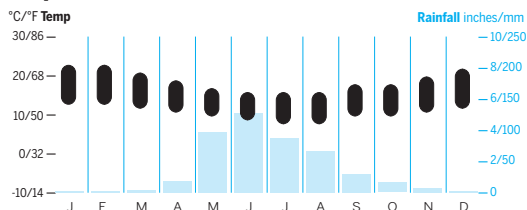
- » La Joya del Mar (p128)
- » Yellow House (p96)
- » Cabañas Guzmán Lyon (p116)
- » Hotel Santa Cruz Plaza (p115)
- » Ecobox Andino (p127)

Why Go?

There's no avoiding the sad truth: Middle Chile was at the epicenter of the February 2010 earthquake. Towns and cities like Concepción, Talca and Curicó, having suffered the hardest hit, were still recovering at the time of writing. But despite some crumbled churches, roped-off plazas and reduced lodging and dining options, things are up and running – and tourists are more than welcome; they're actually vital to continued development throughout this area of Chile. Happily, most of the main attractions here – from the picturesque port city of Valparaíso and the surf mecca of Pichilemu to lovely national parks, ski slopes, and the rolling hills of Chile's principal wine-producing region – have rebounded well from the natural disaster. Yes, some neighborhoods are still rebuilding and vineyards lost thousands of bottles from their cellars' collections, but why cry over spilled wine? After all, Middle Chile still has world-class surf breaks, excellent skiing and killer Cabernet Sauvignon.

When to Go

Valparaíso



Jun–Sep

Frequent snowfall brings skiers and snowboarders to the slopes in full force.

Oct–Dec

Before the summertime rush, the beach towns are calm and hotel rates are cheaper.

Jan–May

Wine lovers migrate to the vineyards for the grape harvest and the festivals surrounding it.

Middle Chile Highlights

- 1 Get lost in the steep maze of streets that wind around the hills of **Valparaíso** (p90)
- 2 Survey the vines then savor the wines in the **Colchagua Valley** (p113)
- 3 Catch a wave at the famous surf breaks of **Pichilemu** (p116)
- 4 Thrill at the 360-degree views from atop **El Enladrillado** in the **Reserva Nacional Altos de Lircay** (p120)
- 5 Take a sunset picnic of seafood-stuffed empanadas to the quiet sands of **Buchupureo** (p128)

