



# Your Guide to Chile's Cultural Capital



Photo by Ian Ortiz, courtesy of Valparaíso City Hall

## Welcome to Valparaíso

by Todd Temkin

On behalf of the Valparaíso Foundation, the Port of Valparaíso, and City Hall, it is my pleasure to welcome cruise ship passengers to historic Valparaíso: Chile's cultural capital.

We hope you will spend time strolling through our hilltop promenades, exploring the sinuous charm of our cobblestone streets, and riding our 19<sup>th</sup> century funicular elevators—the largest and oldest system of pedestrian funicular lifts in the world!

Discovered by Juan de Saveedra in early 16th century, Valparaíso was a quiet fisherman's wharf until the California gold rush of the 1840's. Overnight, maritime traffic from Europe to western America mushroomed around Cape Horn. Valparaíso quickly blossomed into a powerful commercial and banking center, forcing many European countries to open their first ever Latin American consulates in the city.

Valparaíso's citizens worked hand-in-hand with enterprising European immigrants seeking economic fortune. Together they pushed the city passed its natural urban limits. Huge sections of Valparaíso Bay were landfilled to house the exploding port, warehouses, and financial district. When more space was needed, residents tackled the 43 steep hillsides. Hybrid styles of European architecture adorned the city's homes. Ingenious structural solutions permitted construction along steep slopes and palisades.

Valparaíso was home to Latin America's first stock exchange, first community fire department (founded by 6 colonies of immigrants), and the oldest Spanish language newspaper in continuous publication in the world. Other landmarks included Chile's first commercial banks, libraries, soccer teams, and universities.

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## Chile's Garden City

Viña del Mar

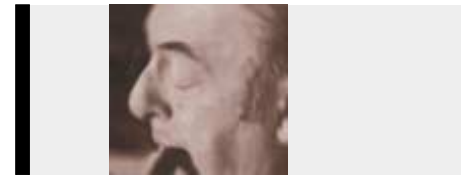


Viña del Mar, four miles north of Valparaíso, is one of Latin America's most celebrated resorts. Like its sister city, Sausalito, California, Viña enjoys a pleasant climate, ideal for cultivating a bountiful garden paradise.

Viña started out as a residential community for the wealthy merchants of Valparaíso. In 1874, aristocrat Jose Francisco Vergara decided to transform the sleepy seaside town into a major tourist destination.

The city's growth skyrocketed with the Santiago to Valparaíso railroad line. This route no longer is in service, though the section between Viña del Mar and Valparaíso does function and serves as a convenient link between the cities.

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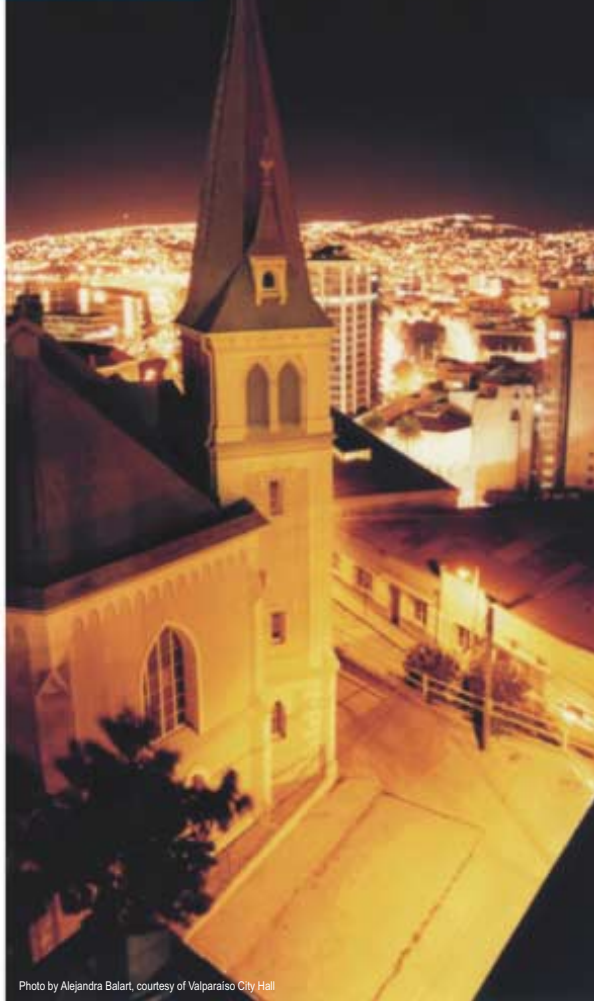


Photo by Alejandra Balart, courtesy of Valparaiso City Hall

Illustrious visitors to Valparaiso include Charles Darwin, Sara Bernhard, English writer Mary Graham, American painter John Whistler, and Nicaraguan poet Ruben Dario, hailed as one of the Spanish language's greatest poets. Chilean Nobel laureates Pablo Neruda and Gabriela Mistral spent time in the city, contributing to the city's reputation as a poet's maven.

International sailors called Valparaiso "Pancho," a Spanish nickname suggesting "Little San Francisco." Meanwhile, folk songs gave birth to the moniker "Valparaiso, The Jewel of the Pacific."

Such was the economic power of the city that the 1906 earthquake, one of the most devastating the world had ever seen, was a mere hiccup in the city's sprawling progress. Within 3 years the city was virtually rebuilt. The future of Valparaiso seemed bright as ever.

## Or did it?

Around 1910, the on-again/off-again pipe dream of a navigation canal through the isthmus of Central America resurfaced with new vigor. When the Panama Canal was finally completed in 1914, the world celebrated the greatest man-made achievement of human history.

But the canal was a death sentence to Valparaiso. Finally liberated from the ills of navigating the treacherous Straights of Magellan, international ship traffic diminished consistently in years to come. As a secondary blow, the discovery of artificial gunpowder crippled the saltpeter industry, one of Valparaiso's principal exports.

The second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw Chilean economic and political power consolidate in Santiago. Valparaiso lost hundreds of companies, its charming hilltop neighborhoods degentrified, and



Photo by Felix Miranda

pessimism reigned. For many, the city seemed on the verge of oblivion.

Then, in the late 1990's, the Jewel of the Pacific began to stir.

Entrepid entrepreneurs began to restore hilltop homes and the first restaurants and cafés began to appear. Later, young bohemians restored numerous warehouses into pubs & nightclubs. In 1996, Valparaiso's unique network of funicular elevators was named one of the world's 100 most endangered historical treasures. Buoyed by growing international interest, the Chilean government and local leaders began the arduous application process for UNESCO world heritage status. This process continues today.

On the economic front, private investment was brought into the port for the first time in 2000, bringing with it an important boom to exports.

In the meantime, many Chileans who had given up on Valparaiso are beginning to rediscover its unique urban amphitheater. Valparaiso's rich and varied history, together with a unique hybrid of urban and architectural styles, make the city an ideal place to begin (or finish) your trip to the Patagonian wilderness.

We hope this guide is helpful to you. You are among friends in Valparaiso.



Terminal Pacifico Sur welcomes cruise ship passengers  
and wishes you a pleasant stay in our historic city

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## Prominent Ethnic Heritage Sites

# The Melting Pot of Valparaiso's Unique Ethnic Heritage

**W**orld travelers who have wandered a bit around Latin America are in for a surprise in Valparaiso.

The majority of the continent's cultural heritage sites fall into two broad categories: pre-Colombian archeological relics or colonial cities (Spanish or Portuguese). What makes Valparaiso different?

The Jewel of the Pacific is actually a melting pot of diverse immigrant communities. Most came over from northern Europe, attracted by the rich commercial potential of a city poised to become the hub of all Europe-to-America ship traffic via Cape Horn.

Although the handsome estates and cobbled lanes of the Pleasant Hill (Cerro Alegre) National Historic District are generally associated with British, Irish, and Scots, don't be surprised to look up and find yourself on the Yugoslavian Promenade!

Credit Germans for the unique labyrinth of alleys that give the Concepción Historic District its trademark character. While many Italians, mostly from the Liguria Region around Genoa, settled in Polanco Hill.

The old Jewish neighborhood no longer exists in the Alemendral, but a small taste of its history reverberates in the Jewish

Cultural Museum on Calle General Cruz. Visits are by appointment only.

Six immigrant communities banded together to form Latin America's first volunteer fire department. Renegade British Noble Lord Cochrane exiled himself to Chile and left an indelible impact on the Chilean national navy.

Prominent North Americans include Bostonian William Wheelwright, a legendary entrepreneur who created the saltpeter railroads and gave birth to the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, once the largest steamship fleet in the world. Legendary North American painter John Whistler spent six months in Valparaiso, where he evolved a developing landscape technique credited by some art historians as a source for early French impressionism. Whistler's paintings of Valparaiso can be seen at the Smithsonian and the Tate Gallery in London.

It has been said that the greatest testament of immigrants in Valparaiso is the organic urban sprawl of the hill neighborhoods. While the streets, parks and plazas of most Chilean cities were constructed via government decree, the streets, stairways, alleys, and

promenades of Valparaiso were actually edified by the citizens themselves, converting the urban amphitheater into a living cultural museum.



Photo by Carlos Cecoco M.



Photo by Gustavo Araya M.

### The Dissident's Cemetery

Chile's first non-Catholic cemetery bears silent testimony to thousands of Anglo-Saxon European immigrants who edified Valparaiso in its golden age. This cemetery is often visited in tandem with the striking Catholic Cemetery across the street. Perched on Pantheon Hill, these two jewels offer stunning ocean views and awesome contrasts with the spectacular old buildings of the Concepción Historic District visible in the background behind the tombs.

### St. Paul's Cathedral

Commissioned by Queen Victoria, this national monument was the centerpiece of the budding Anglican community in Valparaiso. The pipe organ, brought over from Vienna in 1907, is the best in Chile. Sunday morning concerts are open to the public.

### Swiss Gardens

The Pumpin family is the 4th generation of Swiss immigrants to run this spectacular nursery, nestled away in the back hills of the upper city. Once a mainstay on the old road to Santiago, the nursery was condemned to obscurity when the new road was routed through the Santa Ossa Canyon. A bit hard to find, but worth the effort. Closed on Sundays.

### The Old English Bar, Turri Clock, and Bank of London

These three icons form a unique British trilogy in the heart of the Valparaiso business district. The quaint bar/restaurant is located 3 blocks from Prat Pier and is a Valparaiso original. Across the street is the emblematic Turri Clock, a spectacular piece of corner architecture that is often referred to as Valparaiso's Big Ben. Directly across from the clock tower you will find the old Bank of London, today the Banco Santiago, exemplifying some of the city's most spectacular interior architecture. Be sure to look for the touching monument to British citizens of Valparaiso who repatriated and died in WWI.

### Jewish Cultural Museum

Open by appointment only. This tiny cultural museum attempts to rescue the legacy of different strands of Judaism that migrated in Chile through the port of Valparaiso. Call for appointment: 09-4322767.

### Wanderers and Everton

Wanderers, Valparaiso's legendary soccer club, is Chile's first and constitutes one of the first professional club teams in Latin America. Members of Valparaiso's burgeoning British community founded the team, borrowing the name from Bolton Wanderers in Great Britain. English immigrants also founded Valparaiso's second team, Everton, in Cerro Alegre (Pleasant Hill). Everton has since relocated to Viña del Mar. The two teams are natural rivals. GO WANDERERS!

### The German Club

Once home to the powerful Ross Family, this national monument now houses an active German cultural institute and restaurant. 100 meters away, the Hamburg restaurant greets visitors with huge portions of German food in an authentic maritime atmosphere.

## BRIGHTON B&B

HOTEL - RESTAURANT - PUB



Perched on one of Valparaiso's most picturesque, historic hills, this classically Victorian Brighton Bed & Breakfast, stands apart for its excellent service, outstanding view and exquisite cuisine.

Paseo Atkinson 151  
Cerro Concepcion  
Phone/Fax: 56-32-223513  
Valparaiso - Chile

E-mail: brighton-valpo@entelchile.net



# Service Guide

## Restaurants

### **Brighton B & B**

Valparaíso's quintessential Victorian bed & breakfast clings spectacularly to the edge of the Concepción Hill National Historic District. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, lodging and unforgettable views. Live music on weekends. Paseo Atkinson 151-3, Cerro Concepción. 229545

### **La Colombina**

In the heart of the Pleasant Hill National Historic District, this elegantly restored restaurant and artist's hangout evokes images of the city's golden age while surprising patrons with a dazzlingly fresh international cuisine. Pasaje Apolo 15-91, Cerro Alegre, a short walk from the Peral Funicular. 236254

### **Gato Tuerto**

Valparaíso's best restored 19<sup>th</sup> century home features excellent Indian, Thai, Mediterranean, & Middle Eastern influenced dishes in the context of Valparaíso's funky Open Air Museum neighborhood. A large outdoor terrace offers outstanding views. Calle Hector Calvo 205, Bellavista Hill, 2 blocks from the Espiritu Santo Funicular. 220867

### **Casino**

The centerpiece of Viña del Mar's elegant & bustling beach district, Viña's casino offers fine dining, gaming, Polynesian dance, Chilean folklore shows, concerts, and plenty of other fine entertainment alternatives.

### **Café Turri**

Valparaíso's first hillside restaurant, the elegant Café Turri is a classic eatery situated just outside the station house of the Concepción Hill Funicular. Most tables offer fine views of the port and the menu boasts a variety of seafood, shellfish, and other staples. Gervasoni Promenade s/n. 259198

### **Hamburg**

Valparaíso's premier German restaurant is famous for huge portions in an authentic maritime atmosphere, Plaza Bellavista, Valparaíso.

### **Restaurant Haiku**

Price-winning Japanese cuisine, including sushi and local seafood innovations. Haiku continues to conquer new admirers with their exotic, aphrodisiac dining experience. Located near Viña del Mar's Casino at 6 Norte, 96 between Avenida Peru and San Martin. 993438

### **Portofino**

Breathtaking hillside views enhanced by one of the city's most significant culinary achievements. Bellamar 301, Cerro Esperanza, Valparaíso. 629939

### **Old English Bar**

Steak, seafood, and plenty of 19<sup>th</sup> century charm. A Valparaíso historic landmark 3 blocks from the Prat Pier. Cochrane 851, Valparaíso

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Email: andekat@terra.cl

## Souvenirs and Art

### **GEA Arts & Crafts**

Unique ceramics, glistening glasswork, and charming Valparaíso memorabilia are among the many fine offerings of this lovely boutique, located in Cerro Bellavista below the Valparaíso Foundation. 205 Hector Calvo.

### **Mall Marina Arauco**

More than 150 shops, restaurants, and services in air-conditioned comfort. High grade lapizlazuli, boutique wines, jewelry, and other tourist services. Avenida Libertad 1348, Viña del Mar. 383000



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# Wine of the Times

## Vineyards in Greater Valparaíso

Often called the oldest wine producer in the "New World," Chile has been cultivating wine grapes since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Today Chile is recognized for producing some of the most reasonably priced, quality vintages in the world. Many Chilean wines (especially Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot) have garnered critical acclaim and wine exports boast a continually growing share of the international market.

Chile's vineyards stretch over 875 miles, from just north of Santiago to the city of Concepción in the south. The impervious Andes Mountains create a natural boundary and regular water supply. The Coastal Mountain Range to the west provides shelter from cold Pacific winds and assures an ideal frost-free microclimate.

Some say muscatel grapes grew wild along the Andean foothills even before Europeans set foot in the Americas. But grape cultivation really got started with the arrival of the Spanish, who considered wine as essential as bread.

Chile's contemporary viticulture success roots back to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century when vine cuttings arrived from Bordeaux, France. Talented French winemakers soon followed, lured by the consistently favorable weather and rich soil of Chile's Central Valley.

During the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, a phylloxera outbreak infested many of the world's most renowned vineyards. Chile was not touched, and from its rich soils thrive the only remaining pre-phylloxera vines grown on original European rootstock.

Modern viticulture technology did not make it to Chile until 1979, when Catalan



## Until the relatively recent discovery of the Casablanca Valley, Chilean whites lagged behind the country's lauded Cabernets and Merlots

Miguel Torres arrived with temperature-sensitive stainless steel tanks to replace traditional concrete vats and wooden barrels. From the 1980s on, international investment in Chilean wine has increased and provided support for industry growth. Large scale production has replaced many traditional family-run vineyards and exports have boomed.

In 2000, wine exports registered sales of US\$573 million. Approximately 80 percent of Chilean wine is sent abroad.

Most wine exports end up in the United States, followed by the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, and Japan.

Until recently, Chilean vineyards pushed production, earning their wines the reputation of good quality at low prices. But new international business partnerships increasingly strive to position Chilean wines in the upper echelons of the global market with high-end boutique wines.

Just beyond the hills of Valparaíso and Viña del Mar lie the valleys of the Aconcagua wine region. The fertile terrain produces several excellent wines. The Errazuriz and San Esteban wineries offer informative tours and wine tasting in a gorgeous setting.

The Casablanca Valley, 40 minutes east of Valparaíso on the route to Santiago, has fast become Chile's premier producer of white wines. Until the discovery of the Casablanca Valley in the mid-1990's, Chilean whites lagged behind the country's lauded Cabernets and Merlots. Amazingly, wine growers ignored this spectacular microclimate.

Today, Chilean Chardonnays are recovering lost ground in international contests.

Vineyard Veramonte, Villard, Mumm Champagne, and Viña Casablanca are the largest vineyards in the area, although multinational giants Concha y Toro and San Pedro have bought up large tracts that are now under development. Vineyard Veramonte and Mumm Champagne offer nice tours on a boutique scale. Casablanca's wine growers have bonded together to form a wine route that will coordinate tasting visits in years to come.

### Veramonte Vineyard

Monday through Saturday:  
9:30 am - 6:30 pm  
Free tours, including the distilling and bottling processes as well as a brief commentary on the vineyard's history, last approximately 30 minutes and are available in both English and Spanish  
Tasting: 500 pesos includes two wine samples, 1000 pesos for a premium sampling.

### Mumm Champagne

Monday through Friday: tours every 2 hours from 9 am - 5 pm  
Saturdays: tours at 9 am and 10:30 am  
Tours last approximately 45 minutes and include a brief video in English or Spanish about the history and production of champagne and a winery visit.  
Tour and tasting are free.



Miguel Angel Arias

Enrique Barra

Sebastián Navarrete





# A Silver Sea Gull for Song

Each southern summer, crowds of locals and tourists descend upon the International Song Festival of Viña del Mar. They flock to the Quinta Vergara Amphitheater from Santiago, Argentina, Europe and beyond, nearly doubling the city's usual population of approximately 350,000.

The song festival is held at the Quinta Vergara, an ex-hacienda belonging to one of the wealthy patricians who founded Vina del Mar as a country retreat for the Valparaiso elite around 1874. In addition to its impressive amphitheater, the "Quinta" boasts the city's fine arts museum and spectacular wooded paths that wind amongst towering eucalyptus trees. Such attractions make the Quinta Vergara a worthwhile attraction all yearlong.

The song festival features a varied line-up of star performers, multiple stages, and brilliant lighting. Each evening, some 15,000 concert-goers sway to the rhythms of singers like hearthrob Enrique Iglesias, crooner Ricardo Arjona, a wide spectrum of local and national groups, and perhaps a token band from North America or Europe.

This February will mark the 43<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Song Festival, which combines an international song competition with entertainment acts to flesh out the show. Competitors from the public are welcome to compete, as are internationally famous composers, lyricists, and invited performers. In the past, the show has included visits from superstars like The Police, Donna Summer, Enrique Iglesias, Duran Duran, The Black Crowes, Ace of Base

and The Village People just to name a few.

Songs intended for competition must be unreleased at the July entry deadline, a rule intended to ensure that the program is filled with songs new to both the judges and public.

A jury panel is selected to meet the criteria of "outstanding and renowned personalities in the international artistic, musical and show business world," according to the festival's official rules. The judges award the equivalent of US\$30,000 to the winning song, as well as the Silver Sea Gull trophy.

Originally, the award granted to the Festival winner was a statuette of a golden lyre and harp. In 1970 the harp was replaced by a silver sea gull, symbolizing the beauty and freedom of music. Additional trophies are bestowed upon crowd favorites, their popularity measured by the volume of shrieks and cheers each artist garners from the masses in attendance.

The Song Festival started in February of 1960. Its aim was to promote the city, stimulate local composers, and offer an entertaining show for locals and summer visitors. For a grand prize of \$500 participants composed and presented songs dedicated to the city of Viña del Mar.

Over time the Festival has been extended to include artists from all over the country and abroad rather than only the Valparaiso Region. Contestants have traveled from as far as Japan, Korea, Greece, Egypt, Israel, and Europe.



# Chile's Garden City

## Viña del Mar

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The decline of Valparaiso during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century coincided with a major boom for Viña. Many of the port's wealthy and professional families migrated up the coast, while other prominent Santiago families bought weekend and summer retreats. Today Viña del Mar is a bustling city of 350,000 people.

With a plethora of high quality restaurants, sandy beaches, a world

class casino, the presidential summer palace, modern shopping malls, picturesque hillside architecture, countless gardens, excellent schools & universities, and first rate hotels, Viña del Mar is one of Latin America's most modern and sophisticated cities. An excellent option for a late summer horse-drawn carriage ride or stroll!

# Nitrate Gardens

In the early-1900's, nitrate baron Pascual Baburizza sought out a place to try out new plant species he had gathered during travels around the world. In 1918, he asked French landscape artist George Dubois to design an immense personal garden. Once completed, its winding pathways and diverse ecosystems transformed a previously unheralded canyon into a natural paradise.

Immaculately preserved as the National Botanical Garden, the ex-Baburizza estate offers the perfect setting for a pleasant afternoon excursion.

The Botanical Garden is located 30 minutes from Valparaíso. The gardens stretch over 40 hectares and host more than 800 exotic plant species including the rare Toromiro tree, extinct in its natural habitat of Easter Island.

Its exotic groves, quaint duck pond, extensive cactus collection and picturesque rose garden create a tranquil spot to picnic, stroll, or curl up under a tree with a favorite book.

Over the span of 15 years Baburizza visited the garden weekly, setting out on horseback from Viña del Mar with pockets full of seeds. Many of the trees he planted continue to thrive today.

Baburizza was born in 1875 in Kolocep, today part of Croatia. He arrived in Chile in 1892 and settled in Iquique, attracted by the boom in the saltpeter industry and the concentration of fellow immigrants in the area.

In the beginning, Baburizza sold meat and fish in the nitrate fields. In time he came to control 30 percent of Chile's total saltpeter sales, establishing stakes in railroads, shipping, and various other emerging industries.

Before the depression of 1928, Baburizza sold his nitrate holdings to the North American Guggenheim Bros. Company. The Chilean government interpreted the North American giant's interest as a sign that the economic downturn would be temporary.

But before long, it became evident Baburizza had made a shrewd move. Soon, the discovery of artificial gunpowder had crippled an industry where Chile's vast deserts had previously offered a natural monopoly.

The industry would never really recover. But Baburizza was relatively unscathed, preserving his land and possessions. Having established his economic prowess, he transformed himself into a significant philanthropist. His impressive palace in Valparaíso, located in the Pleasant Hill National Historic District across from the Peral Funicular, is a national monument and houses the city's fine art museum.

Before his death, Baburizza specified that the extensive garden be designated a "field for agricultural experimentation." In 1999, the National Botanical Garden of Viña del Mar Foundation began administering the park and working to meet the following goals: to develop, exhibit and maintain well-documented collections of plant life for research, biological conservation, and public education.

**Address:** Camino El Olivar, Sector el Salto  
**Telephone:** (56 32) 672566  
**Winter Hours:** (May 1 - August 31) 10 am - 6 pm.  
**Summer Hours:** (September 1 - April 30) Monday - Friday: 10 am - 6 pm. Saturday, Sunday and Holidays: 10am - 7 pm.  
**Admission:** Adults 700 pesos; Children 200 pesos; Senior Citizens 350 pesos; Students 400 pesos (with valid Student ID)  
**How to get there:** Take the train to Station "El Salto" then walk just a few blocks to the gardens.



Photo by Lucia Solari P.

The Baburizza Palace in Valparaíso is another important example of the magnate's legacy in Chilean Culture



Photo courtesy of Viña del Mar City Hall



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# The Homes of Pablo Neruda

**P**ablo Neruda is universally acclaimed to be one of the greatest poets of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and one of the most influential writers the Spanish language has ever produced. Every year, thousands of writers from around the world pilgrimage to visit the poet's three homes, which capture the unique spirit of a man who transformed their lives.

But Neruda was not only a Nobel laureate, diplomat and political activist. He was also a joker who loved to entertain friends at home.

To step into one of Neruda's homes is to experience his unique way of appreciating the world. The flamboyant use of space and eclectic interior décor shed personal light on his literary legacy, even for the most well-read Neruda admirer. For those who know little about this 20th century literary giant, a visit to one of his homes offers an ideal introduction.

Valparaíso and the nearby coastal town of Isla Negra host two of Neruda's homes. (His third, "La Chascona," is in Santiago.) "La Sebastiana" (on Bellavista Hill in Valparaíso) and "Isla Negra" both sit in charming locations boasting ocean views that can't be beat.

True Neruda fanatics may be surprised to discover a little known 4th home in Valparaíso! While supposedly exiled from Chile in the 1950's, Neruda was actually hiding out in the basement of a house in Lecheros Hill. Today, a small plaque commemorates the spot where Neruda wrote several important sections of his epic, *Canto General*.

Neruda is most well known to English readers for *20 Love Poems and a Song of Despair* (published in 1924 at the age of 20), but he also wrote biting satire, deliciously sensual odes, works of sincere introspection, political

manifestos, and some of the most startling surrealist poetry every produced in Spanish or any other language.

Neruda held diplomatic posts in Rangoon, Buenos Aires, Barcelona, and Mexico. In Spain, he coordinated the transport and welcome of more than 2,000 Spanish Civil War refugees to Valparaíso aboard the ship "Winnipeg." As amazing as it seems, this tiny delegation later produced three painters who would go on to earn Chile's national painting prize, several noted writers, and other individuals who would contribute heavily to the culture of their adopted land.

During his 69 years, Neruda was a living legend who attracted huge crowds of literary elite in every country he visited. His lucid, biting humor could alleviate even the most tense situations.

His wife Matilde Urrutia once said, "I deeply admired the laughing and daring spirit that Pablo possessed, even in the most solemn moments. When he was dressing in preparation for the Nobel Prize acceptance ceremony he looked at the tails of his tuxedo and laughed. 'I feel the same sensation as when I get dressed in costume for our parties at Isla Negra. If only I could paint on my moustache, everything would be perfect,' he said.

"When Pablo got dressed in costume, which he loved to do, he would always paint on a moustache with a burned piece of cork. It was a small moustache and he had mastered the application with such dexterity that it always came out exactly the same, without even needing to look at himself in a mirror."

This ebullient spirit and the versatile interests of Neruda remain alive in the rooms and hallways of his homes.



## Isla Negra

**N**eruda bought Isla Negra in 1939 from a retired Spanish naval captain. At the time the house was only half-finished, but Neruda was immediately enchanted with its location and enticing aroma of native trees combined with salty sand and sea algae. Over the years Isla Negra was re-designed and re-decorated countless times to indulge Neruda's creative whims and fascination with maritime culture.

The house nestles in a peaceful, tree-lined setting about an hour south of Valparaíso. Its expansive windows, ship-like ambiance, multi-colored glass bottles, and seashell, key, insect, book, pipe, and miniature ship collections meld in an eccentric balance of land and sea inspiration.

Neruda's home at Isla Negra hosts a certain magic, magic which has been shared with more than 1,200,000 visitors since the Neruda Foundation opened its doors to the public in May of 1990.

"In my house I have brought together toys small and big, without which I could not live. The child that does not play is not a child; but the man that does not play has lost forever the child that lived in him and that he needs. I have built my house as if it were a toy and I play in it from morning to night," Neruda once said.

Indeed, as though testifying to the poet's youthful spirit, a plate with plastic fried eggs and sausage that Neruda often used to play tricks on his friends still sits on the dining room table.

Camino Vecinal s/n Isla Negra  
Phone/Fax: (56 35) 461284.  
Summer schedule: 10:00 am - 8:00 pm



Photos courtesy of Pablo Neruda Foundation

## La Sebastiana

Construction of La Sebastiana had been left incomplete for years for being so absurd, dangerous, and impractical. "The top floor was destined to be a bird house and the terrace a landing pad for helicopters and possible space explorers," joked Neruda.

In 1961 Neruda discovered La Sebastiana while looking for "a little house in Valparaíso to live and write in peace."

And he added a few more conditions: "It can't be either too high or too low. It should be solitary, but not too much so. Neighbors, hopefully invisible. They shouldn't be seen or heard. Original but not uncomfortable. Winged but firm. Neither too big nor too small. Far from everything but close to locomotion. Independent but with businesses close by. And of course, it has to be affordable." All these criteria were met by La Sebastiana.

The name "La Sebastiana" comes from the architect Sebastián Collau, who edified a number of important buildings in the neighborhood, including an interesting castle just down the slope from La Sebastiana.

After Neruda's death in 1973 his widow, Matilda Urrutia, decided to close the

house and not return. For 18 years La Sebastiana was as deserted as a haunted house.

Along with Chile's return to democracy years later, the Pablo Neruda Foundation began working to restore the home. In 1992 the doors again opened to the public. Later, the foundation opened an art gallery, plaza, bookstore, and a cultural space where Chile's most prominent writers, poets, and intellectuals gather to read their work. The foundation has also landscaped the ravine below the house, creating a lovely park that makes for a recommendable stroll upon touring the house.

La Sebastiana offers spectacular views of Valparaíso's colorful hillsides and glistening port. The Valparaíso Foundation, Gato Tuerto Restaurant, and Open Air Museum are only four blocks down the hill, making for a pleasant combined tour. Poetry readings and cultural events frequently occur on site and a visit to the home can easily be worked into a tour of Bellavista Hill or along Avenida Alemania.

**Ferrari 692, Cerro Bellavista - Valparaíso**  
**Telephone: (56 32) 256606**  
**Fax: (56 32) 233759**  
**Summer hours: 10:30 am - 2:30 pm and from 3:30 pm - 7:00 pm**



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gtuerto@bitoom.net

Hector Calvo Jofre # 205, Bellavista Hill



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Puerto **Valparaíso**

## Everything You Always Wanted To Know (and much that you didn't) About Valparaíso's Funicular Elevators



**A**t one time there were 29 funiculars in Valparaíso. Today, 15 remain.

**T**he Polanco Elevator was declared a national monument in 1975. The 14 surviving funiculars were added to the national monument list in 1998.

**T**he elevators were constructed between 1883 and 1925. The Concepción elevator is the oldest. (Las Cañas, now extinct, was the youngest.)

**A**t the Florida elevator, a charming pedestrian footbridge crosses over the funicular path. At the Lecheros Funicular, the footbridge passes below the funicular path.

**T**he elevators operate via a counterweight pulley system. If you are asked to wait a few minutes before starting, it could be that the machinist is waiting for a customer to weigh down the other side!



**B**uilt from a standard elevator shaft blasted out of the center of the hill and accessed through a 150-meter tunnel, the Polanco Elevator is one of 3 elevators in the world with its particular characteristics. (The others are in Lisbon and Stockholm.)

**T**he view from the top of the Queen Victoria Elevator is the most spectacular urban landscape in all of Chile.

**T**he Polanco Elevator is the only non-funicular elevator in Valparaíso.

**A**t one time 12 million passengers rode the funicular system every year. Today, 3.4 million ride the system.

**T**he Artillery Hill, Concepción, and Polanco Elevators are the most popular with tourists (in that order).

**A**t the Villaseca Funicular, a picturesque public street weaves to-and-fro beneath the funicular. At the Mariposa Funicular, the funicular passes beneath the street!

**I**n 1996, World Monument's Fund declared the Elevators of Valparaíso to be one of the world's 100 Most Endangered Historical Treasures.

**V**alparaíso's is the largest system of pedestrian funicular elevators in the world.



# World Heritage Walking Tour

The Prat Pier, your disembarkation point, is the perfect place to start a World Heritage Walking Tour. The following self-guided tour will take about one and a half hours, winding by historic hillside mansions and through some of the most picturesque cultural landscapes Chile has to offer.

As you leave the port area, you enter the Plaza Sotomayor. The handsome monument to the Heroes of Iquique celebrates the bravery of Chileans who died in a pivotal maritime battle in the War of the Pacific.

In the center of the plaza, a small archeological museum houses artifacts excavated from beneath the landfill. Construction crews found pieces of the original Prat Pier, evidence of shipwrecks, ballast, and rusted cannons.

Looking carefully at the stones in the Plaza, you may find some with dates inscribed on them. These are meant to inform passersby where the coastline was at different times in the city's history.

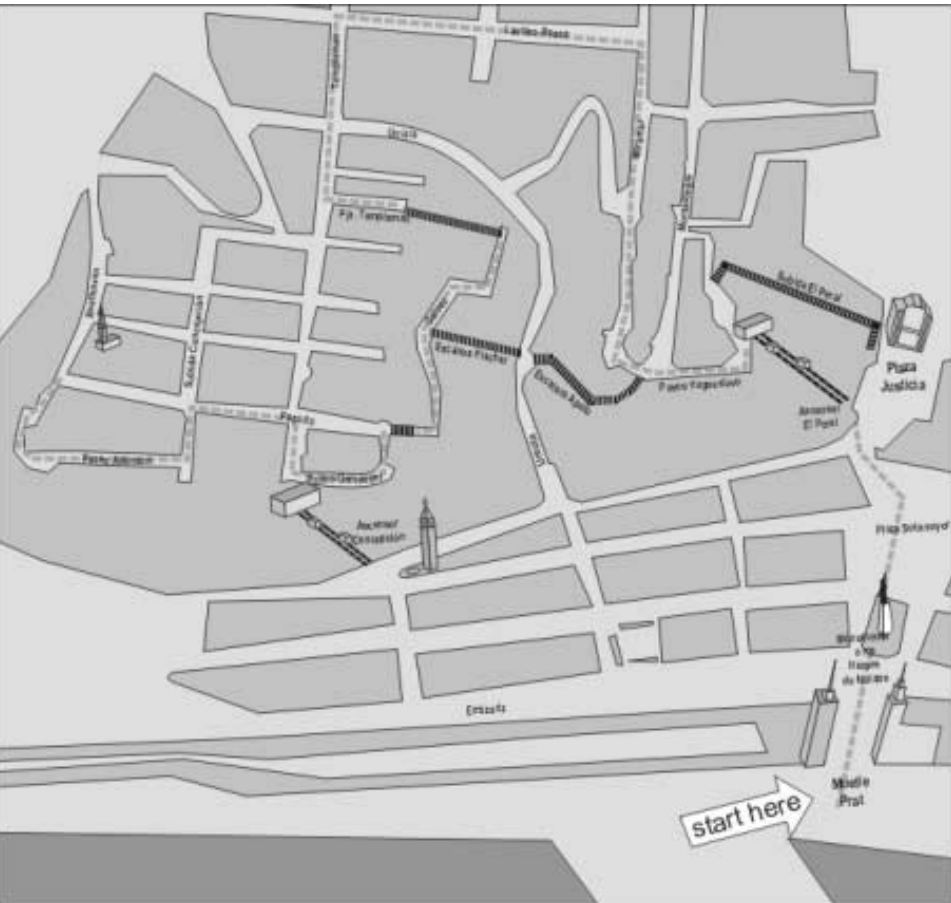
Once you've crossed the plaza and admired the handsome neoclassical naval headquarters, look for a small sign that says, "Ascensor El Peral." At the end of the hallway is a funicular elevator, one of 15 that still function in Valparaíso. The ride to the top costs less than a quarter (70 pesos.)

You are now in the **Pleasant Hill National Historic District**, a world inside of a world.

Pleasant Hill, or Cerro Alegre, was home to many British immigrants during the golden age of Valparaíso. Turn left outside the elevator to arrive at our first stop: the Baburiza Palace, Valparaíso's Fine Arts Museum. This gorgeous art nouveau masterpiece originally belonged to Chile's premier saltpeter baron. Across from the plaza you'll find a fine restaurant, "La Colombina," the Carroza antiques gallery, and the art school for Playa Ancha University, all situated in important homes constructed during the port's golden age.

Cross the plaza to a cobblestone alley called Miramar Street. (Between the art school and the antique gallery.) 100 meters up Miramar you will be surprised by a breathtaking array of trademark hilltop architecture.

Continue another block up Miramar to Lautaro Rosas Street. Turn left. More than any other, this charming street



Walking tour of Concepción and Pleasant Hill National Historic Districts

evokes the nobility of 19<sup>th</sup> century Valparaíso. Many of these stately homes have been restored into art galleries and restaurants.

Three blocks down Lautaro Rosas you arrive at a colorful stairway: Templeman Street. Head down. As you cross Urriola Street you leave Pleasant Hill and enter the **Concepción National Historic District**, famous for its outstanding network of promenades and intertwining cobblestone alleys.

Continuing about 100 meters past Urriola on Templeman, look closely for a small cobblestone alley to reveal itself on the left (Templeman Passage). Enter the passage. At the end of this pristine (and safe) alley, you will descend another stair. You are now on the Galvez Passage. Follow the winding labyrinth through the heart of another time. It is

gorgeous! Eventually, you will arrive at the Tomas Somerscales Hotel and Restaurant.

Past the restaurant you will turn left into a picturesque plaza and then you need to climb about 25 steps. After the final step, turn left immediately to enter the gorgeous Gervasoni Promenade: Home to the city's oldest funicular elevator, the Lukas Museum, and the Café Turri Restaurant.

The Turri is a great place to stop for a cool drink, or continue on up the hill. Turn left behind the Turri on Papudo Street and check out the funky Café Color to your right or continue on to Atkinson Promenade for a visit to the stunning Brighton Hotel. Continue right through the alleyway to Subida Concepción. Head left up the hill and take a moment to visit St. Paul's Anglican Church, exemplifying Britain's legacy in the port.



Turn right on Pilcomayo Street (often the site of outdoor concerts) and then head left up the hill along Almirante Montt. Hang a left at Dimalow Passage and meander past charming homes to the Reina (Queen) Victoria Funicular. The view from the funicular station is spectacular and the park setting is truly unique! Hop on the elevator and you'll find yourself once again in the port's bustling center.

# A Museum with a View

In picturesque Valparaíso--an ebullient collage naturally abash with color and texture-- the concept of public art might seem redundant.

In fact, the city's arching curves and narrow passageways create a perfect canvas for artistic expression.

Valparaíso's Open Air Museum emerged from the collective creativity of Chilean artists and the Art Department of the Catholic University of Valparaíso. The idea started as a dream back in 1969. In 1990 the dream became reality when the University recruited support from twenty well-known Chilean artists including national painting prize winners Nemesio Antúnez, Roberto Matta, José Bamés, and Mario Toral.

Brilliant murals, mostly abstract, now decorate the winding pathways of Cerro Bellavista. The murals transform concrete walls and typical tin siding into visual treats for both locals and tourists.

The Catholic University works continually to maintain the murals, and even offers an elective course in mural restoration. Student teams work each semester to repair murals that have been damaged by weather or graffiti.

A stroll through Valparaíso's Open Air Museum is a must during any visit to Bellavista Hill, home to Pablo Neruda's home "La Sebastiana" and the headquarters of the Valparaíso Foundation.

The colorful Valparaíso Foundation, with the Gato Tuerto Restaurant, art galleries, gift shop, and breathtaking terrace, make a pleasant stop for anyone strolling through the Museo a Cielo Abierto.

A walking tour meanders between Subida Pasteur behind Victoria Plaza to Subida Ferrari behind Calle Colon.

For those tourists who prefer not to climb the hill on foot, the Espiritu Santo Funicular is a good option. The Toral, Matta, and Antúnez murals are all within a short walk of the station house. The funicular takes you midway up the hill for a more abbreviated downhill walk.

The walking tour climbs gradually past several different murals before meandering onto Guimera and Rudolph Streets, offering ample views of the port and glistening Pacific bay.

## Travel Tips

- Estimated Taxi Fares  
From Prat Pier to:
- Cerro Alegre Historic District: 1,500 pesos
  - Colombina, Turri, or Brighton: 1,500 pesos
  - Naval Museum/21<sup>st</sup> of May park: 800 pesos
  - La Sebastiana Museum: 2,500 pesos
  - Open Air Museum: 2,000 pesos
  - Valparaíso Bus Station: 2,500 pesos
  - Casino: 6,000 pesos
  - Viña del Mar Beaches: 6,500 pesos
  - San Martín St. (Viña restaurants): 6,000 pesos
  - Reñaca Beaches: 8,000 pesos
  - Shopping Mall Marina Arauco: 7,000 pesos

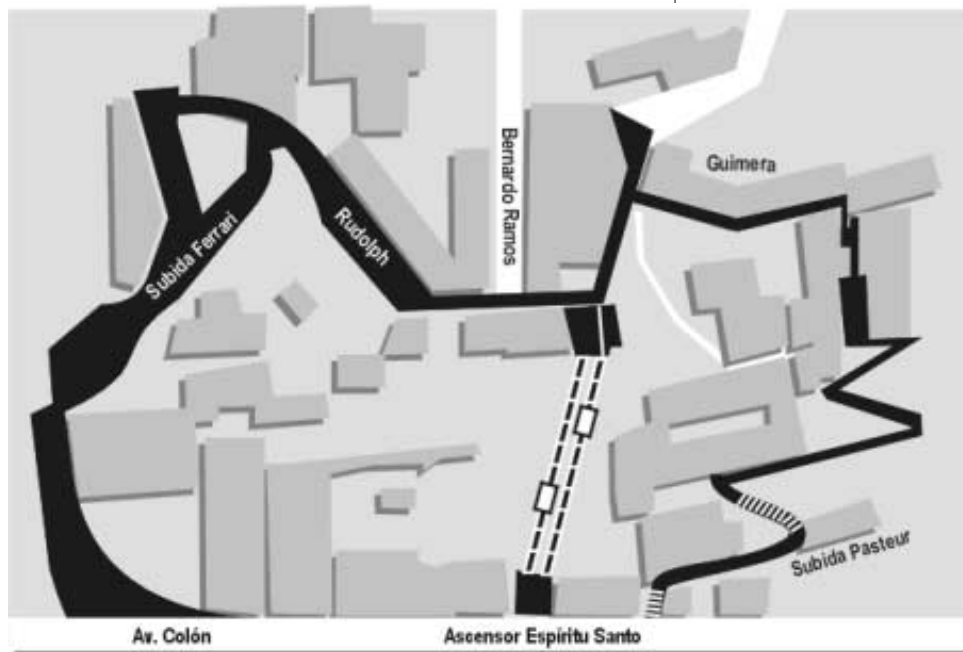
Always insist that your taxi driver use a meter. If you don't see the meter, say, "Con taxi metro, por favor"

Wear comfortable walking shoes for hillside tours. Summer temperatures range between 70-85 F (20-27 C). It does not rain in summer in Valparaíso!

Restaurant tipping is 10%. You are not expected to tip cab drivers. Banks attend the public until 2:00 pm. Most exchange houses are open until 6:00 pm

Drinking water is safe.

Although both Valparaíso & Viña del Mar are safe cities to visit, we recommend avoiding conspicuous signs of wealth, especially in the old port neighborhood to the right of the Plaza Sotomayor.



Walking tour of Bellavista Open air museum



This boat shaped house adorns the Cerro Alegre Historic District

# The Valparaíso Foundation

The Valparaíso Foundation, founded in 1998, is a non-profit institution dedicated to promoting the rebirth of Valparaíso as a cultural heritage and tourist city.

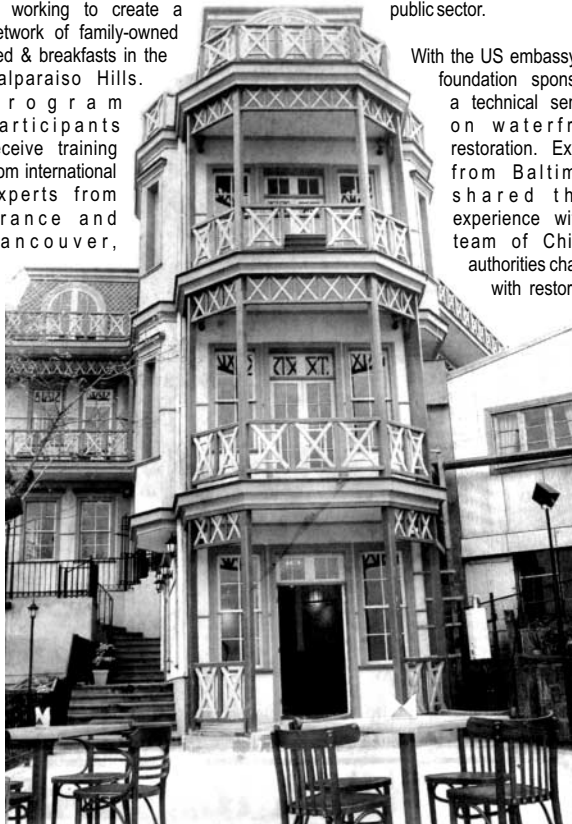
Founded by a North American poet who fell in love with the city while teaching at the Catholic University of Valparaíso, the Valparaíso Foundation currently administers a wide range of social, cultural, and economic programs.

The "An Elevator Is A Neighborhood" program, financed in part by the World Monuments Fund (New York) and several Chilean companies, offers subsidies to restore historic buildings and homes that surround the city's crestfallen funicular elevators. The most impressive examples of the program can be found by riding the "Espíritu Santo" funicular, and walking the three blocks to foundation headquarters through the Open Air Museum.

The program "Art and Culture in Public Spaces", financed through a grant by the America's Fund, seeks to transform several abandoned public spaces into colorful meeting places for neighborhood renewal. Special emphasis is placed on revitalizing the stairways and alleys of hillside neighborhoods.

In a joint venture with the Chile Foundation, the Valparaíso Foundation is working to create a network of family-owned bed & breakfasts in the Valparaíso Hills. Program participants receive training from international experts from France and Vancouver, Canada. Program funding comes from a competitive grant in the Chilean public sector.

With the US embassy, the foundation sponsored a technical seminar on waterfront restoration. Experts from Baltimore shared their experience with a team of Chilean authorities charged with restoring



the Valparaíso waterfront before the nation's bicentennial in 2010.

Now celebrating its fifth anniversary, the Valparaíso Film Festival (headquartered in the Valparaíso Foundation) has carved a niche as one of the world's most academically serious film festivals. Specializing in the restoration of forgotten film heritage, the VFF also has a growing documentary competition.

Less than a year after opening, the foundation's spectacular campus is becoming a major tourist attraction. In addition to foundation headquarters, the campus includes an art gallery, artisan's shop, book-café, restaurant, and a community center for fomenting civil society projects in the city. Foundation headquarters is an obligatory attraction for anyone visiting the Open Air Museum or Pablo Neruda's home, "La Sebastiana."

Foundation funding comes from private donations, international foundations, corporations, and occasional grants from the Chilean government.

Recently a sister foundation, "Friends of Valparaíso," was created in the United States. Anyone interested in participating should ask at foundation headquarters.

## Games and Glamor in Viña

Lights glitter and countless coins chink in a rhythmic whirl of cards, money and diversion. Surrounded by stretching sandy beaches and well-tended gardens, Viña del Mar's Casino offers a resplendent kaleidoscope of entertainment, art, and of course plenty of gambling.

Viña del Mar's Casino occupies a stately, three-story building that was inaugurated in 1930. It boasts a wide array of game rooms, event salons, exposition halls, auditoriums, restaurants, bars and its own souvenir and cigar boutique. For the

convenience of guests, the Casino also has a telephone call center and ATM machine.

Throughout the year the Casino's exposition hall highlights renowned national and international artists. Other offerings include cultural events, Polynesian dance, Chilean folklore shows, tango nights, cabaret, theater, concerts and film.

Currently the casino is in full-fledged expansion, adding a five-star hotel to its already impressive tourist offering. The hotel is expected to be operational within a few short months.

Game-lovers enjoy trying their luck in the Casino's six game rooms. More than 500 slot machines (both traditional and video) and numerous tables humming with black jack, poker, craps, roulette, and more are a gambler's delight.

The casino's legacy in Viña dates back to late 1920's, when Viña was still a rather sleepy residential town. The Casino was constructed in less than 9 months, melding Greek, Roman and Assyrian styles into a single elegant expression. The success of the Casino propelled the town's image as an international tourist destination. Its

pleasant setting and numerous entertainment options continue to attract vacationers from Santiago and far beyond.

The Casino of Viña del Mar is located at Avenida San Martín 199.

**Traditional Salon, Bingo, Slot Machines, Madeira and American Casino**  
Sunday - Thursday: 7 pm - 4am  
Friday, Saturday, and Holidays: 7 pm - 5 am

**Picadilly Salon (formal attire required)**  
Sunday - Thursday: 11 pm - 6 am  
Friday, Saturday and Holidays: 11 pm - 7 am

# What, No Starbucks?

By Amanda Miller

North American Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar, Amanda Miller, offers her personal perspective on life in the hills of Valparaíso

I stop to ask for directions while meandering near my home on Cerro Alegre, Pleasant Hill. The person I ask not only points me in the right direction but accompanies me to my destination. As we walk, melodies from the Catholic University's Music Conservatory drift through the ocean air. An architecture student crouches to sketch unusual structural contrasts.

We follow his gaze to walls covered in weathered wood, rusted tin, and aluminum. A spattering of homes forms brightly colored corridors--splashes of turquoise blue, yellow, orange, red and even violet. Our feet tread along unkempt stone walkways and our eyes revel in the spectacular views of the bay and its surrounding hills.

The hills of Valparaíso were developed at random: no urban planning, no strip malls, no traffic engineers, and certainly no Home Depot or Starbucks. The bakery and the neighborhood cafés close on Sundays. In the hills, just about everything closes on Sunday. As people cross paths they actually say hello, often exchanging an embrace or a kiss on the cheek.

This is no utopia, of course. Gangs of street dogs boldly claim the sidewalks as their own. Many streets are speckled with garbage (garbage collection is a complex enterprise in this labyrinth of alleys, pedestrian promenades, and back stairways). And, as in most Chile cities, graffiti abounds.

Still, I feel like I am living a moment of the past, glimpsing an intricately preserved cultural landscape that has somehow escaped unscathed from the fast-paced homogeneity of the modern world.

In a few minutes I have navigated a steep stairway and descended into the heart of the hustling, bustling, congested commercial center of Valparaíso.

I sidestep the buses and taxis, arriving, within minutes, at Prat Pier. Shipments of stereos are hoisted in on cranes. Wine is stacked on pallets. Grapes, apples and copper pile up on platforms. Tiny passenger boats whisk giddy tourists around the bay while imposing naval ships protect the breakwater. Further along, three McDonald's provide fast, efficient service, even on Sunday. Telecom companies push

impressive deals on ubiquitous cell phones.

Chilean president Ricardo Lagos boasts of advances in a free trade agreement with the United States. Today at the University, Soledad Alvear, Chile's Minister of External Affairs, emphasized Chile's desire to attract foreign investment, open itself to the global market, and flourish in trade and technology.

But for the fish vendor on the sidewalk, the man selling hot salted peanuts from his "God Loves You" cart, the organ grinder of Concepción Hill, the bearded fellow trading his poems for half a buck, and for my friend Don Nicolas, Valparaíso remains a world of its own.

Now in his 70's, Don Nicolas is an Italian immigrant who arrived in Valparaíso when he was eight. His Italian heritage oozes in every gesture, his impeccable dress (always a coat, tie, and hat), and the passionate sparkle in his eyes.

Don Nicolas had a room for rent in Cerro Alegre. I needed a place to live. And so a

local café owner introduced us to each other.

It took Don Nicolas no more than a few seconds to forget the reason for our acquaintance, and he proceeded to lead me on a rambling stroll through every nook and cranny of the hill. He held my forearm tightly and stopped again and again to admire some new angle or color, rotating me gently by the elbow to be sure I took in the complete 360-degree view.

"See that chimney there, that crooked aluminum one that pokes out to form the highest peak?"

I did see the funny copper chimney stretching up above the rest of Cerro Alegre's brilliant chaos.

"I ordered that chimney," he said. His grin widened. "The perfect final touch, no?"

I have to agree.



Photo by Fabiola Oyarzun P. courtesy of Valparaíso's City Hall



## Café Turri

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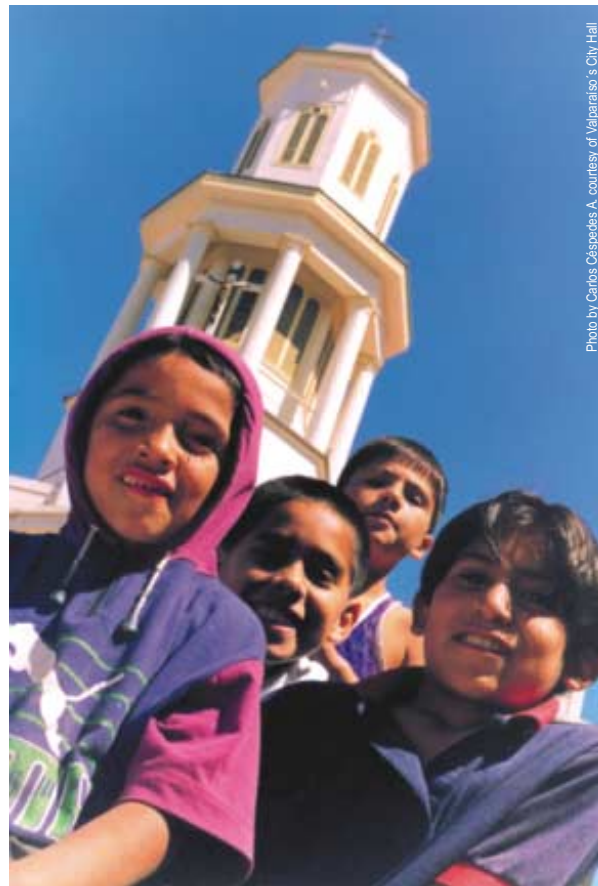


Photo by Carlos Casapedes A. courtesy of Valparaíso's City Hall





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