

Wine Spectator

Art Smart Museum Tours

By Owen Dugan

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A FOUNDING PRINCIPLE AT *WINE SPECTATOR* is that it's not wine alone that we love, but also all the fascinating characters, beautiful places and great food that tend to gather around it. A company called Art Smart is shining a light on another aspect: private tours of major Manhattan museums and galleries. Art Smart customizes tours (\$175 per hour, with a two-hour minimum, plus admission, for up to five people; \$35 per person otherwise) to fit guests' interests. Recent themes include "Symposia: The Food and Wine of Greece and Rome" and "Ostentatious Rituals of the Rich: Drinking Games and Treasures from Europe." The new "Feast Your Eyes" tour covers beer and grain in ancient Egypt, the role of absinthe in French Impressionist painting, and consumption the Jazz Age. You might follow your tour at the Met with an on-site tasting of flatbread, olives and salted cheese, consumed since Egypt's Old Kingdom, or have Art Smart book a special menu at a nearby restaurant. It's bespoke wine tourism.

