

8-Night China Discovery: Xi'an & Ningxia Wine Region
Destinations: Xi'an • Ningxia (Wuzhong • Zhongwei • Yinchuan)

Accommodation: 5-star hotels and premium winery stays

Duration: 8 Nights / 9 Days

Travel Style: Cultural Heritage • Fine Dining • Wine & Nature Experience

CITY	Morning	Lunch	Afternoon	Dinner	Hotel	Day
Xi'an	On arrival at Xi'an Xianyang Airport	×	Transfer to The Ritz Carlton	西安饭庄	The Ritz Carlton	1
Xi'an	City Wall , Muslim Quarter	大秦礼宴	Museum of the Terracotta Warriors Night show- Song of Everlasting Sorrow	骊山臻宴	The Ritz Carlton	2
Yinchuan	Big Wild Goose PagodaAncient	西市盛景	train to Wuzhong	马老四	Xige winery hotel	3
Yinchuan	Xige estate	西鸽大厅	Huahao winery, Xiban winery	西鸽包间	Xige winery hotel	4
Zhongwei	The Yellow River & 108 Stupa	惠丰楼	Transfer to Zhongwei Desert	大漠星河	The GalxeY Desert Hotel	5
Yinchuan	Zhongwei transfer to Yinchuan	玺来嘉	Chandon winery & Helanqingcue Goqi maner		Amnor Hotel Yinchuan	6
Yinchuan	Western Xia Imperial Tombs	山上人家	Kanaan Winery and Domaine Des Aromes	安漠酒店	Amnor Hotel Yinchuan	7
Yinchuan	Rock Painting of Helan Mountain	岩画古村	Silver Height, Mihope winery , Yinong winery	亦浓酒庄	Amnor Hotel Yinchuan	8
Yinchuan	Check out from Amnor	×	Transfer to airport	×		9

Day 1: Arrival – Kuala Lumpur to Xi'an

Flight: Depart from Kuala Lumpur International Airport on your scheduled flight to Xi'an, the ancient capital of thirteen dynasties and the eastern terminus of the Silk Road.

Arrival in Xi'an: Upon arrival at Xi'an Xianyang International Airport, you'll be greeted by your local English-speaking guide and escorted to your private coach.

Transfer: Enjoy a comfortable transfer to The Ritz-Carlton, Xi'an, a five-star property blending modern sophistication with Chinese cultural elegance.

Check-in & Rest: Take time to unwind and refresh in your luxurious room. You may choose to enjoy the hotel's spa, indoor pool, or simply relax with a cup of Chinese tea as you take in views of the city skyline.

Dinner: In the evening, gather for a welcome dinner at Xi'an Fan Zhuang (西安饭庄) or a similar fine dining venue, one of the city's most renowned restaurants specializing in authentic Shaanxi cuisine. Indulge in signature dishes such as biáng biáng noodles, Yangrou Paomo (crumbled flatbread in lamb soup), and dumplings with delicate artistic shapes.



Day 2: Ancient Xi'an Highlights

Breakfast: Enjoy a lavish buffet breakfast at the hotel, featuring both Western and traditional Chinese selections.

Morning:

Begin your day with a visit to the Xi'an City Wall, one of the oldest and best-preserved city walls in China, originally built during the Ming Dynasty. Walk atop the wall's broad ramparts for panoramic views of the old and new city—a wonderful way to appreciate Xi'an's unique blend of history and modernity.

Late Morning:

Head to the Muslim Quarter, a lively area filled with bustling market stalls, traditional craft shops, and the mouthwatering aroma of street food. Try local snacks such as roujiamo (Chinese burger) or fried persimmon cakes as you explore the narrow lanes and vibrant culture of the Hui ethnic community.

Lunch

Enjoy a flavorful lunch at a local restaurant in the Muslim Quarter, where you'll sample regional specialties in a charming traditional setting.

Afternoon:

Journey to the Museum of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of the 20th century.

Marvel at the thousands of life-sized clay soldiers, horses, and chariots that guard the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huang, China's first emperor. Your expert guide will bring the site's fascinating history and craftsmanship to life.

Evening:

Enjoy a local dinner in typical local restaurant near the area. After dinner head to Huaqing Palace to witness the mesmerizing "Song of Everlasting Sorrow" show. This open-air performance tells the tragic love story of Emperor Xuanzong and Lady Yang through graceful dance, powerful music, and stunning visual effects, all set against the palace's illuminated backdrop.



Day 3: Xi'an – Ningxia (Wuzhong)

Breakfast:

Begin your morning with a delightful breakfast at The Ritz-Carlton, Xi'an. Choose from a wide selection of Western and Chinese dishes — freshly baked pastries, dim sum, made-to-order omelets, or traditional congee — before setting out to explore one of Xi'an's most treasured landmarks.

Morning:

Visit the Giant Wild Goose Pagoda (Dayan Pagoda), an iconic Buddhist monument originally built in 652 AD during the Tang Dynasty. Walk through the Da Ci'en Temple complex, a serene haven filled with ancient halls, peaceful courtyards, and incense-scented air. Learn about the great monk Xuanzang, whose legendary pilgrimage to India inspired the pagoda's construction and the classic tale *Journey to the West*. Enjoy a moment of reflection or admire panoramic views from the upper levels (optional climb).

Lunch:

Savor a regional lunch at a local restaurant in Xi'an, featuring Shaanxi favorites such as biángbiáng noodles, dumplings in chili oil, and steamed lamb with cumin and garlic.

Afternoon:

After lunch, transfer to Xi'an North Railway Station for your first-class high-speed train to Wuzhong, Ningxia (approx. 3–4 hours). Travel comfortably as the landscape unfolds — leaving behind Xi'an's historical skyline for the vast open plains and arid beauty of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, known as China's premier wine country.

Evening:

Arrival in Ningxia. Upon arrival at Wuzhong Railway Station, you'll be warmly greeted by your local guide and escorted to your private vehicle for a scenic transfer to Xige Estate Winery, one of China's most acclaimed vineyards. Arrive at Xige Estate, a luxurious winery resort nestled among rolling vineyards at the foot of the Helan Mountains. Check in and refresh for dinner. Or you may also stroll through the beautifully landscaped grounds, enjoy the vineyard views, or relax in the estate's refined tasting lounge with a glass of wine. Dinner at a typical local restaurant, tasting famous boil lamb dish.



Day 4: Ningxia Wine Country Experience

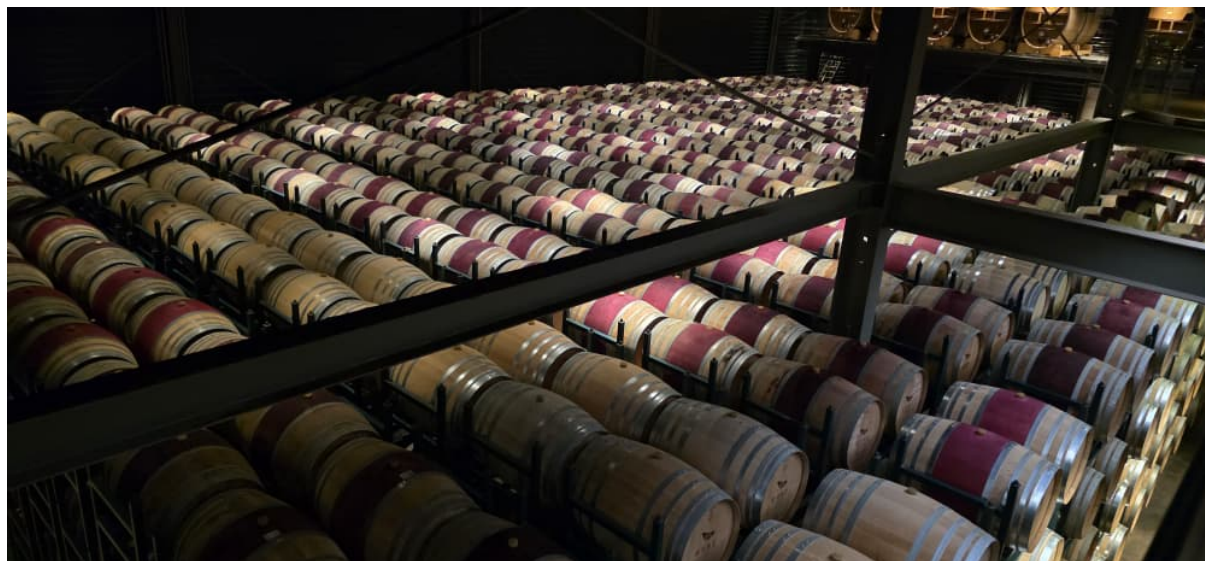
Breakfast:

Begin your day with a relaxed breakfast at Xige Estate Winery, surrounded by panoramic views of endless vineyards. Enjoy freshly baked bread, farm-fresh produce, and local specialties as soft morning light filters through the vines — the perfect start to a day dedicated to fine wine and natural beauty.

Morning:

Embark on an exclusive guided tour and wine tasting at Xige Winery, a flagship estate at the heart of China's modern wine renaissance. Explore the state-of-the-art winemaking facilities, where traditional craftsmanship meets advanced technology.

Learn about the region's unique terroir — its high altitude, mineral-rich soils, and dramatic temperature shifts between day and night — all of which contribute to the depth and elegance of Ningxia wines. Finally, a private tasting of Xige's signature vintages, such as their Jinshan Chardonnay, Cabernet Gernischt, and Cabernet Loong, each reflecting the distinct character of the Helan foothills.



Lunch:

Enjoy a wine-paired lunch at Xige's organic Dove restaurant, where each dish is thoughtfully designed to complement the estate's premium wines. Savor dishes such as slow-roasted Ningxia lamb, local organic vegetables, and artisanal cheeses paired with selected reds and whites — an indulgent sensory experience that captures the spirit of the region.

Afternoon:

Continue your exploration of Ningxia's acclaimed wine country, visiting two boutique estates that exemplify the diversity and innovation of this fast-rising region:

Hua Hau Winery: A picturesque, family-run estate celebrated for its artisanal approach to winemaking. Most award winning in the region for it's Masalan. Walk through its intimate vineyards, learn about small-batch fermentation, and enjoy a tasting that showcases the winery's elegant, fruit-forward style. The tranquil setting and personalized experience make it a hidden gem of Ningxia. Visit and wine tasting.

Xiban Winery: Nestled at the base of the Helan Mountains, Xiban offers a deeper understanding of the area's distinct terroir. Here, you'll meet passionate vintners dedicated to expressing the region's natural richness through meticulous grape selection and minimal-intervention techniques. Savor another curated tasting session, featuring complex reds and refreshing whites that reveal the essence of the Helan slopes. Visit and wine tasting.



Evening:

Return to Xige Estate in the late afternoon. Relax and unwind at leisure — perhaps take a sunset walk through the vineyards, enjoy a quiet glass of your favorite wine from the day's tastings, or simply soak in the serene atmosphere of the estate.



Dinner:

End your day with a refined dining experience at Xige Winery's Private Room where a menu inspired by Ningxia's culinary traditions is elevated with modern flair. Highlights may include herb-crusted lamb, roasted river fish, and delicate desserts infused with local fruits — all paired with Xige's finest reserve wines.



Day 5: Ningxia – Zhongwei Desert Adventure

Breakfast:

Start your day with a hearty breakfast at Xige Estate Organic Dove Restaurent. enjoying your final morning amid the tranquil vineyards. The rising sun over the Helan Mountains provides a beautiful farewell to Ningxia's wine country.

Morning:

After check-out, set off on a scenic journey along the Yellow River, known in Chinese as Huang He — the “Mother River” of China. This storied river has nourished civilizations for thousands of years and remains a powerful symbol of endurance and vitality.

Yellow River Cruise: Board a comfortable vessel for a leisurely cruise along the Yellow River, passing through dramatic landscapes of rugged cliffs, fertile plains, and shimmering waters. As you glide downstream, your guide will share fascinating stories of the river's role in shaping ancient Chinese culture and trade along the Silk Road.

108 Stupas: Disembark to visit the 108 Buddhist Stupas, an extraordinary hillside monument overlooking the river. Dating back to the Western Xia Dynasty, this symmetrical array of white stupas forms a striking geometric pattern and represents prayers for peace and enlightenment. Take time to walk the site, absorb the serenity, and capture breathtaking photos of the Yellow River winding below.



Lunch:

Enjoy lunch at a local riverside restaurant, where you can taste Yellow River carp, Ningxia-style lamb stew, and other regional specialties prepared with local ingredients and warm hospitality.

Afternoon:

Following lunch, continue by private coach toward the Zhongwei Desert, one of China's most spectacular natural landscapes. As you approach the Tengger Desert, the scenery transforms — rolling dunes stretch endlessly toward the horizon, and the golden sands

shimmer under the afternoon sun. Arrive in Zhongwei and check in at The Galaxy Desert Hotel, a luxury resort harmoniously blending modern design with the vast beauty of the desert. Each suite offers panoramic views of the dunes, creating an atmosphere of calm and wonder. Settle into your elegant accommodations, take a short rest, or stroll onto the terrace to witness the colors of sunset over the desert — a truly magical moment. Professional photographer taking pictures do bring your nice outfits!



Dinner:

As night falls, enjoy a traditional Chinese hot pot dinner under the stars, surrounded by the stillness of the desert. Savor tender meats, fresh vegetables, and fragrant broths in a convivial setting illuminated by soft lantern light and the vast night sky.

After Dinner:

Celebrate the evening with fireworks and stargazing — a spectacular finale to your desert adventure. With little light pollution, the Tengger Desert offers some of the clearest skies in China, where constellations and the Milky Way shimmer in breathtaking clarity.

Day 6: Zhongwei – Yinchuan Wine & Culture Journey

Breakfast:

Wake up to a serene desert sunrise and enjoy breakfast at The Galaxy Desert Hotel, surrounded by the golden dunes of the Tengger Desert. Relish a selection of freshly prepared dishes, local fruits, and aromatic coffee as you take in the morning calm of this extraordinary landscape.

Morning:

After breakfast, check out and begin your journey northward toward Yinchuan, the capital city of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region (approx. 3–4 hours by road).



The scenic drive follows the edge of the Helan Mountains, offering breathtaking views of rolling vineyards, rugged peaks, and the ever-changing desert terrain.

En route, your guide will share insights into Ningxia's unique geography — where mountains, desert, and river plains converge to create the ideal conditions for both winemaking and traditional agriculture.

Lunch:

Arrive in Yinchuan and enjoy a leisurely lunch at a local restaurant, sampling the region's signature dishes such as hand-pulled noodles with lamb, grilled beef skewers, and Yellow River fish in chili sauce.

Afternoon:

Your afternoon is dedicated to exploring Ningxia's thriving wine culture and its growing reputation as one of the world's most promising viticultural regions:

Chandon Ningxia:

Begin at Chandon Ningxia, the Chinese estate of the world-renowned Moët Hennessy Chandon LVMH. Enjoy a guided tour of the vineyard and cellars, where French heritage meets Chinese terroir. Learn how Chandon produces its elegant sparkling wines using the *méthode traditionnelle*, and sample a selection of crisp and refreshing vintages — each reflecting the purity and finesse of Ningxia's cool-climate grapes.



Helan Qingxue Winery:

Continue to Helan Qingxue Winery, an award-winning boutique estate that gained international acclaim for its Jia Bei Lan wine, the first Chinese red to win a Decanter World Wine Award in London 2011. Tour the charming vineyards at the foot of the Helan Mountains and learn about their small-batch winemaking philosophy. Enjoy an exclusive tasting led by the estate's experts, sampling bold reds and refined blends that showcase Ningxia's distinctive terroir.

Evening:

Goji Berry Farm Visit (Seasonal for harvesting):

End the afternoon with a visit to a local goji berry farm, one of Ningxia's most iconic agricultural attractions. Depending on the season, witness or participate in the goji berry harvest, and discover how these nutrient-rich berries — known as "red diamonds" — have become a symbol of Ningxia's natural vitality and global export success. Dinner at their restaurant a 8 course exquisite Goji berry feast inspired by journey of the silk road.



Night:

After dinner, check in at the Amnor Hotel, Yinchuan, a stylish modern hotel offering comfort, contemporary design, and a warm welcome. Relax in your elegantly appointed room or enjoy a nightcap at the hotel's bar, reflecting on the beauty and diversity of your Ningxia adventure.



Day 7: Yinchuan – Imperial Heritage & Helan Mountain Wineries

Breakfast: Begin your day with a sumptuous breakfast at Amnor Hotel, Yinchuan, served in an elegant setting with panoramic views of the Helan Mountain. Enjoy freshly baked pastries, seasonal fruits, both local and western items perfectly prepared to start your day in comfort and style.

Morning – Western Xia Imperial Tombs:

Step into history with a private guided visit to the Western Xia Imperial Tombs, often called the “Pyramids of China.” This UNESCO-aspiring site houses the final resting places of emperors from the enigmatic Western Xia Dynasty. With your personal guide, wander among the grand tomb mounds and meticulously preserved artifacts, uncovering stories of imperial grandeur, ancient rituals, and the dynasty's cultural legacy. Capture breathtaking photos of the tombs framed by the sweeping plains and distant Helan Mountains.



Lunch: Delight in a refined dining experience at a carefully selected local restaurant, where traditional Ningxia cuisine is elevated to gourmet artistry.

Afternoon – Helan Mountain Wineries:

Kanaan Winery: Travel in luxury to the foot of the Helan Mountains, where Kanaan Winery awaits. This award-winning vineyard is internationally recognized for its exceptional Cabernet Sauvignon and Riesling. Enjoy a private guided tour of the estate, including the modern cellar, oak barrel rooms, and vineyard terraces. Walk through the vineyards with a sommelier, learning about the unique terroir and the winemaking philosophy. Visit and wine tasting.

Domaine des Arômes: Continue your indulgent wine journey at Domaine des Arômes, a boutique winery celebrated for its elegant blends and French-inspired winemaking techniques. Wander through picturesque vineyards and manicured gardens, absorbing the mountain vistas and serene ambiance. Participate in a private tasting of their flagship wines, guided, as you learn about blending techniques, aging processes, and flavor notes.

Evening

Return to hotel. Dinner at Chinese restaurant in the hotel. Savor a multi-course gourmet meal highlighting Ningxia specialties, paired with carefully selected wines. Enjoy an elegant ambiance, attentive service, and a perfect conclusion to a day of history, culture, and world-class wine.

Overnight: Amnor Hotel

Day 8: Yinchuan – Helan Mountain Art & Boutique Wineries

Breakfast: Begin your day with a gourmet breakfast at Amnor Hotel

Morning – Helan Mountains Art Experience:

Embark on a private excursion to the Helan Mountains, one of China's most iconic landscapes, renowned for its dramatic peaks and pristine beauty. Visit the Helan Mountains Rock Painting & Exhibition Hall, a curated cultural experience showcasing ancient petroglyphs, contemporary interpretations, and artistic installations inspired by the region's history. Enjoy a guided tour with an art historian, offering insight into the symbolism, techniques, and heritage of the rock paintings.



Lunch: Savor a refined meal at a premium local restaurant near the Helan Mountain, featuring Ningxia-inspired gourmet dishes paired with carefully selected local wines. Dishes may include succulent lamb, seasonal vegetables, and signature regional specialties prepared with a modern, elegant presentation.

Afternoon – Boutique Wine Tastings:

Silver Height Winery, a boutique vineyard celebrated for its precision viticulture and award-winning reds. Enjoy a private tour of the vineyard and cellar, followed by an intimate tasting of their finest vintages, with guidance from the resident sommelier.



Continue to **Mi Hope Winery**, where you'll explore the estate's French-inspired winemaking philosophy. Experience a personalized tasting of their signature blends while taking in panoramic views of the Helan Mountain vineyards. Learn about the terroir, grape selection, and aging process in an interactive and exclusive session.



Evening – Gastronomic Celebration at Yinong Winery:

Return to Hotel for change and refresh. Head over to Yinong Winery for a sumptuous dinner under the open sky, featuring the signature roast whole lamb, prepared with traditional Ningxia techniques and elevated for a fine dining experience. The evening is further enhanced by live music performances curated for your group, creating a sophisticated yet festive atmosphere. Conclude with a fireworks display over the vineyard, reflecting against the mountains and creating an unforgettable celebratory ambiance. Wine pairings throughout the dinner are selected to complement each course, ensuring a luxurious, multisensory culinary journey.

Day 9: Departure – Yinchuan to Kuala Lumpur

Breakfast: At Amnor Hotel, with optional final stroll or photo opportunity.

Check-Out & Transfer: Private luxury coach to Yinchuan Hedong International Airport. Depart Yinchuan for Kuala Lumpur, concluding your luxury journey through Xi'an's ancient wonders and Ningxia's wine and desert landscapes.

Thank you for joining us. Wishing you a comfortable flight home and lasting memories of a truly refined and indulgent travel experience.

Price	SGD 5200 per person (twin sharing) Single room surcharge SGD150 per night. Included in the package price :-
Hotel	The Ritz Carlton (Xi an). 2 nights
	Xige winery hotel. 2 nights
	The GalxeY Desert Hotel. 1 night
	Amnor Hotel Yinchuan. 3 nights
Ticket	City Wall
	Terracotta Warriors
	Big Wild Goose Pagoda
	Night show- Song of Everlasting Sorrow
	Xi'an earphones
	Western Xia Imperial Tombs
	Rock Painting of Helan Mountain
	The Yellow River & 108 Stupa
Wineries visit	Xige estate, Huahao, Xiban, Chandon by LVMB, Helanqingxue, Kanaan,
	Domaine Des Aromes, Silver Height, Mihope and YiNong
Meals	Day 1 Dinner 西安饭庄
	Day 2 Lunch 大秦礼宴 Dinner 骊山臻宴
	Day 3 Lunch 西市盛景 Dinner 马老四晚餐
	Day 4 Lunch 西鸽大厅 Dinner 西鸽包间
	Day 5 Lunch 惠丰楼 Dinner 大漠星河
	Day 6 Lunch 玺来嘉 Dinner 枸杞素宴
	Day 7 Lunch 山上人家 Dinner 安漠酒店
	Day 8 Lunch 岩画古村 Dinner 亦浓酒庄
Transportation	Xi'an and Yichuan (26 seater coach)
Guide	English tour guide
Other	The Desert Travel Photography (Professional)
	High-speed rail ticket (First Class)
Wines during meals	(1)Special curated blind tasting (guided). Wines brought in from Bordeaux, Napa Valley, Italy etc served blind against the top China wine (2) wineries from Ningxia that we are not visiting and from other growing regions in China
Not included	Entry visa & flights to Xian and return to KL
	Meals other than specified as included.
	Expenses of a personal nature (minibar, phone call, laundry, etc.)
	Tips or gratuities to porters / hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc
	Drinks or personal expenses or entrance fees for any extra sightseeing or optional activities
	Self arranged timing for transport or restaurant by own preference without the group
	Travel insurance, medical fees during the trip and travelling Visa
Important note	Itinerary subject to change due to weather, availability of hotels, restaurants and winery changes. We will replace it with equal or better choices available at the time. Full payment in Singapore dollar (preferred) required upon booking. No refund but you can find another person to take over the tour.

Wine tour with Amy Leese

This article was first published in The Peak Malaysia's April 2025 issue.

In 1999, wine culture in Southeast Asia was still in its infancy and the idea of making a career in the industry was practically unheard of. But for Amy Leese, a bold career switch at 29 set her on a path to becoming one of the region's most respected figures in wine.

Coming from an insurance background, Amy was offered a marketing role at Excaliber Fine Wines, a Hong Kong wine distributor newly established in Singapore. "I was the first batch of staff hired. I only asked one question – can we drink? When they said yes, I told them to count me in," she laughs.

Without today's wealth of online resources, she relied on brochures and a fearless curiosity. "It was daunting meeting F&B directors and clients, but I stayed honest and humble. I asked questions. That's how I survived."

In 2000, Sopexa – now part of Hopscotch – launched a satellite training program in the Lion City to promote French food and wine. Experts visited annually to teach the fundamentals of French wine, drawing thousands of eager learners, including Amy. After two years, she was among the few to become a certified professional.

With newfound confidence, she travelled to vineyards to deepen her knowledge, learning about wine from the soil up. "Every day is a learning curve. Even now, I spend two hours daily reading wine reports, tracking weather patterns, wineries and winemakers. That's what keeps me going." Her passion led her to Tung Lok Group as a sommelier, where she refined her expertise. In 2005, she became the first female nominee for the Scott Swiesel Sommelier of the Year at the World Gourmet Summit, earning a spot among the top three – validation of years of dedication.

From sommelier, she transitioned into entrepreneurship in 2009, founding her own wine import-export company and taking on her biggest challenge by opening a wine bar at Robertson Quay. "I worked 12-hour days managing people, curating wine lists and crafting promotions for Incontro Wine Bar & Ristorante to stand out from the competition. It was no longer just about drinking wine and being happy; I had to ensure everything ran smoothly."

In 2013, Amy moved to Kuala Lumpur with her British husband and took on consultancy roles for top restaurants. "I was behind Soleil's relocation to DC Mall, overseeing everything from interior design to hiring. In Singapore, I worked with Mandarin-speaking staff, but in Malaysia, I trained the workforce consisting of folks from Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan and the Philippines." One of her proudest moments came while mentoring an Italian restaurant's owner in Petaling Jaya, Selangor. During a wine training session, she invited a Pakistani staff who was washing dishes to join in. "My classes are always fun, interactive. He was inquisitive, paid attention and even managed to sell the most expensive bottle based on my pointers. Within a year, he became a beverage manager at a top bar. That's when I realised my job is more than just wines, I'm changing lives."

Now, Amy embraces a slower pace, guiding connoisseurs in discovering exceptional wine pairings and curating wine tours through her company, Seraph Wine. "For years, my life was all late nights and endless events. Now, I embrace *la dolce far niente* – the sweetness of doing nothing. Just as wine is all about balance." But her passion for wine and people remains as strong as ever.

