



PORTFOLIO BOOK



Table of Contents

Wine Regions Of Argentina	5
Argentine Grape Varieties	7
Argentine Producers	9
Bodega Catena Zapata.....	10
Bodega Renacer.....	18
El Enemigo - Bodega Aleanna.....	20
Tilia.....	22
High Note	24
Wine Regions of Chile	25
Chilean Grape Varieties.....	26
Chilean Producers.....	27
Root: 1.....	28
Cousiño-Macul.....	30
Viña Leyda	34
Terranoble.....	38
Wine Regions of Spain.....	41
Spanish Grape Varieties	46
Spanish Producers.....	49
La Guita	50
Emilio Hidalgo	51
Ànima Negra	54
Convento San Francisco	56
Vinos Valtuille	58
Finca Montepedroso	60
Viña Somoza	61
Finca Antigua	62

Marqués De Griñon	64
Juvé & Camps.....	67
Vins Del Massis	71
Licia & Finca de Arantei.....	72
Castillo de Monjardín	73
Bodega Contador.....	75
Finca Valpiedra	79
Viña Bujanda.....	80
Bodegas Enrique Mendoza	82
Los Dos.....	84
ibuenas!	85
Wine Regions of Portugal	87
Portuguese Grape Varieties	89
Portuguese Producers.....	92
Portugal Ramos Vinhos Alentejo	93
Portugal Ramos Vinhos Vinho Verde.....	96
Duorum.....	97
Quinta de Foz de Arouce	99
Quinta de Chocapalha	101
Wine & Soul.....	103
Quinta do Passadouro	106
Quinta do Monte d'Oiro	109
M.O.B.....	111
João Nicolau de Alm-eida & Filhos	112
Brazilian Producers.....	113
Lidio Carraro	113
German Producers	115
Clean Slate.....	115
Wine Publication Key and Lead Writer by Country	116

Argentina



Wine Regions Of Argentina

The Argentine Provincial Appellations currently approved by the INV—Instituto Nacional de Vitivinicultura—for use on a label, include:

Mendoza Province

San Juan Province

La Rioja Province

Rio Negro Province

Salta Province

Catamarca Province

Neuquén Province

Córdoba Province

Tucumán Province

Jujuy Province

Mendoza Province

This is Argentina's most well-known and prestigious winemaking region. The vineyards, located at high altitudes, enjoy abundant sunshine, natural irrigation from the Andes, a low incidence of vine disease, and an unpolluted natural environment. About 80 percent of Argentina's wine is produced in Mendoza, on approximately 414,405 acres of vineyards. To put this number into perspective, Mendoza contains more vineyard acreage than the regions of Bordeaux, Burgundy and Napa Valley combined. Mendoza Province is divided into five main appellations: Maipú, Luján de Cuyo, Tupungato, Tunuyán, and San Carlos. Within these appellations there are distinct sub-appellations that are legally recognized as Inicaciones Geograficas (IGs) and contain vast differences in soil quality, altitude and climate; the IGs are essential in defining the *terroir* of Argentine wine.

Maipú

Lunlunta /*Loon-loon-tah*/
Barrancas

Luján de Cuyo

Vistalba /*Vee-stahl-ba*/
La Compuertas
Perdriel /*Per-dree-el*/
Agrelo
Ugarteche

Tupungato

(Uco Valley)
Villa Bastías
Gualtallary /*Gwal-tah-yaree*/
Cordón del Plata

Tunuyán

(Uco Valley)
Los Arboles Colonia las Rosas
Vista Flores

San Carlos

(Uco Valley)
La Consulta
Paraje Altamira
Eugenio Bustos
El Cepillo /*L - Sepee-yoo*/

San Juan Province

The second-largest producer of wine with over 116,000 acres. The climate of this region is considerably hotter and drier than Mendoza, with rainfall averaging six inches (150 millimeters) a year and summer time temperatures regularly hitting 107 °F (42 °C). Premium wine production is centered on the Calingasta, Ullum and Zonda departments as well as the Tulum Valley. In addition to producing premium red varietals made from Syrah and Bonarda, the San Juan region has a long history of producing sherry-style wines, brandies and vermouth. The high-yielding Cereza (a cross of Moscatel de Alexandria and Listan Negro) vine is also prominent here; it is used for blending and grape concentrate as well as for raisin and table-grape consumption.

La Rioja Province

The La Rioja region was one of the first areas to be planted by Spanish missionaries and has the longest continued history of wine production in Argentina. Though a relatively small region, with only 20,000 acres planted as of 2003, the region is known for aromatic Moscatel de Alexandrias and Torrontés made from a local sub-variety known as Torrontés Riojano. Lack of water has curtailed vineyard expansion here.

Rio Negro and Neuquén Provinces

The southern Patagonia region includes the fruit-producing regions of Río Negro and Neuquén and has a considerably cooler climate than the major regions to the north, which provides a long, drawn-out growing season in the chalky soils of the area. In the early twentieth century, Humberto Canale imported vine cuttings from Bordeaux and established the first commercial winery in the region. While 9,300 acres were planted as of 2003, the region is growing as more producers plant cool-climate varietals like Chardonnay and Pinot noir as well as Malbec, Semillon and Torrontés Riojano. Many of the grapes for the Argentine sparkling wine industry are sourced from this area.

Catamarca, Jujuy and Salta Provinces

The vineyards of the northwestern provinces of Catamarca, Jujuy and Salta are located between the 24th parallel and 26th parallel south. They include some of the highest elevation vineyards in the world, with many vineyard planted more than 4,900 feet (1,500 meters) above sea level. Two vineyards planted by Donald Hess in Salta are at elevations of 7,500 feet (2,250 meters) and 9,900 feet (3,000 meters). In contrast, most European vineyards are rarely planted above 1,600 feet (900 meters). The soils and climate of the regions are similar to Mendoza, but the unique microclimate and high elevation of the vineyards typically produces grapes with higher levels of total acidity which contribute to the wines balance and depth. Of the three regions, Catamarca is the most widely planted, with more than 5,800 acres under vine. In recent years the Salta region, and particularly its sub-region of Cafayate, has been gaining the most worldwide attention the quality of its full-bodied whites made from Torrontés Riojano as well as its fruity reds made from Cabernet Sauvignon and Tannat.

Most of Cafayate region in Salta is located at 5,446 feet (1,660 meters) above sea level in the river delta between the Rio Calchaqui and the Rio Santa Maria. The climate of the area experiences a Foehn effect, which traps rain-producing cloud cover in the mountains and leaves the area dry and sunny. Despite its high altitude, daytime temperatures in the summertime can reach 100 °F (38 °C), but at night the area experiences a wide diurnal temperature variation, with night temperatures dropping as low as 54 °F (12 °C). There is some threat of frost during the winter when temperatures can drop as low as 21 °F (-6 °C). Despite accounting for less than 2 percent of Argentina's yearly wine production, the Cafayate region is increasingly gaining in prestige and appearance on wine labels, as well as foreign investment from worldwide wine producers.

Argentine Grape Varieties

White Grape Varieties

Torrontés: The only wine variety considered 100 percent Argentine, Torrontés is cultivated in all the wine regions of the country, from Salta to Rio Negro. Its origin has been an issue of broad-ranging discussion among many wine experts, but its relationship to the Europe Mediterranean Muscat is undeniable. A proof of this bond is its fragrant and unmistakable aroma, resembling roses, jasmine and geranium, with occasional spicy essences. The first cultivation of Torrontés dates back to the Spanish Conquerors, and ever since it has become one of the most cultivated grape varieties in the country.

Chardonnay: This international varietal is characterized by tropical notes when it comes from warm regions, and by aromas of minerals and fresh vegetables when it comes from cooler regions. It is light yellow in color with green hues, and its aromas are reminiscent of green apples, lemons and grapefruit, among others.

Semillon: Planted in Argentina since the end of the nineteenth century, this variety requires cool and mild weather, and there are only two places in the country where it grows well: the Uco Valley (Mendoza) and the Rio Negro Valley. It is a dry, balanced wine, with good body and tropical fruit notes. In the Luján de Cuyo region, Semillon acquires aromatic white fruit tones and interesting honey hints, while in the Patagonia Region, it offers apple and earthy tones.

Red Grape Varieties

Malbec: Originally from the southwest of France, Malbec has risen to the height of fame in Argentina. Initially used in Cahors as a blending grape, the varietal flourishes in Argentina. While it was almost completely wiped out in France by phylloxera, it survived and flourished in Argentina. Argentina's climate is conducive to growing Malbec; its spring is characterized by dry, temperate conditions that result in an excellent initiation of the vegetative cycle and an even, balanced, fruit set. The warm, sunny days and cool mountain nights throughout the summer months allow the grapes to experience a slow, gradual maturation process, helping to ensure more complete ripeness levels. Mild temperatures and dry weather conditions in the

harvest months of March and April allow the grapes to enjoy a long, extended hang time in order to achieve maximum maturity. These idyllic conditions allow Malbec to reach its full potential. It has become the country's signature grape, with many premier 100-percent bottlings now available.

Bonarda: The second most cultivated red variety in Argentina, Bonarda, is characterized by the depth of its color. It's often used as a blending grape, adding chromatic intensity and fruit notes. Bonarda produces frank and honest wines, with good body and color, fruity raspberry aroma, and subtle aniseed flavor. Its sound structure provides good oak-aging potential.

Cabernet Sauvignon: In northwest Argentina, Cabernet Sauvignon shows intense color and aromas of blackberries and green pepper. Within Luján de Cuyo in the Mendoza region, Cabernet is fruitier with ripe cherry hints. In the south of the country, the aromas get more intense with mineral and earthy aromas. Barrel and bottle aging lends noticeable tobacco, leather and spice aromas.

Cabernet Franc: Normally used in blends, Cabernet Franc enhances Malbec with a fresh herbaceous aroma, floral elegance and a distinctive spice. Mendoza has experienced a surge in Cabernet Franc; production of single variety Cabernet Franc has tripled from 1.2 million liters in 2006 to 3.4 million liters in 2012. Like Malbec, this varietal benefits from the long vegetative cycle offered by the climate of Mendoza, where the sun's radiation and dry climate allow for the tannins to reach full maturity.

Merlot: Merlot is one of the red varieties that has recently shown great potential in Argentina. It adapts best to the high altitude and cool Argentine *terroirs*, especially the Uco Valley and Patagonia. With low production and good vineyard management, Merlot translates into a delicate wine with an intense, yet not overpowering palate. Its typical aromas include sweet pepper, cedar, black currant, and spices.



Argentine Producers

Bodega Catena Zapata

Agrelo, Luján de Cuyo, Mendoza Province



BODEGA CATENA ZAPATA

In 1902, Nicola Catena, an Italian immigrant, planted his first Malbec vineyard in Mendoza, Argentina. Nicola's son, Domingo, continued his father's dream. He passionately believed that Argentine Malbec could stand with the best wines in the world. Now in its third generation, the winery is one of the few family-owned wine companies in Argentina that remains in Argentine hands. Owned today by Nicolás Catena Zapata and his daughter, Dr. Laura Catena, a Harvard and Stanford-educated physician, Bodega Catena Zapata is known as the pioneer of fine wine from Argentina, and Nicolás is recognized as the vintner who revolutionized wine quality in Argentina.

A trained economist, Nicolás Catena Zapata is recognized for changing the history of Argentine wine when he dared to believe that a wine could be made in Mendoza that would stand with the best in the world. In the 1980s, Nicolás was the first to recognize the potential of Mendoza's high-altitude Malbec. In search of concentration and ageability, he explored the rocky soils of the cooler Andean foothills and planted vines at almost 5,000 feet above sea level, where no one thought they would ripen. Today the Catena family still maintains the highest-elevation Malbec vineyard in Mendoza: the Adrianna Vineyard in Gualtallary.

Nicolás' passion and perseverance has resulted in Argentina's first internationally renowned Malbec and has garnered acclaim for the quiet revolutionary spirit he embodies. Nicolás was the first South American man to be awarded Decanter magazine's Man of the Year award in 2009 and he received the Wine Spectator Distinguished Service award in 2012, in recognition of his pioneering work in modernizing viticulture and winemaking in Argentina. Nicolás' vision led to Catena being the first Argentine wine to receive over 90 points from Wine Spectator (1994) and 98+ points from Robert Parker (2006). Today, Catena Zapata wines consistently receive high acclaim and are thus sought after by collectors and connoisseurs from around the globe.

Nicolás is joined by his daughter, Laura, who continues the family's tradition and relentless pursuit of world-class quality from the family's high-altitude vineyards: Angélica, Adrianna, Nicasia, Domingo and La Pirámide. Laura combines her strong science background with a passion for understanding the characteristics of each row and each plant. As head of Bodega Catena Zapata's research department, now formally known as the Catena Institute of Wine, Laura has led extensive studies on soil and climate, sustainable viticulture and high-altitude winemaking. Laura has traveled the globe to lecture on Argentine wines and viticulture, and authored the first book about Argentine wine by a U.S. publisher: "Vino Argentino: An Insider's Guide to the Wines and Wine Country of Argentina" (Chronicle Books, 2010).

Constantly pushing the viticulture envelope, Nicolás and Laura have identified Mendoza's best microclimates, selected the highest-quality Malbec vines and pioneered viticulture in undiscovered regions. Nicolás and Laura have a deep commitment to the welfare of their native Argentina, which is why they have invested in the Catena Institute of Wine. The Catena Institute has led an effort in Argentina to define the Appellations of Mendoza and create a sustainability certification for the region. Catena has collaborated with the Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, University of California-Davis, and Université de Montpellier in research aimed at improving the quality of Argentine wine.

The Catena Zapata family's mission is to make profound and unforgettable wines; wines that reflect the special character of each vine within the family's historic vineyards. Head winemaker Alejandro Vigil has been at Catena Zapata since 2002 and works with Nicolás and Laura to make wines that retain the style and expressivity of the family's vineyards and palate.

Catena Classic

Catena Classic wines are a special assemblage of the Catena Zapata family High Mountain Estate Vineyards made by Laura Catena and Alejandro Vigil. Although most Catena wines are consumed shortly after release, they age beautifully for ten to twenty years. Through decades of study and exploration within Mendoza's high-altitude mountain terroirs, the Catena family has identified special locations for its estate vineyards. From of these historic vineyards emerge wines of unique character that have natural balance, concentration, and distinct varietal identity.

Catena Chardonnay

Catena Chardonnay is sourced from three of the family's vineyards in Luján de Cuyo and Tupungato. In the Agrelo District of Luján de Cuyo, the La Pirámide Vineyard grapes lend the wine ripe citrus and stone fruit aromas and flavors. Fruit from the Domingo Vineyard in the Villa Bastías district of Tupungato emphasizes those stone fruit flavors and gives the wine its rich texture and mouthfeel. The high-altitude Adrianna Vineyard in the Gualtallary district of Tupungato produces grapes with lively floral notes, a pronounced minerality, and a crisp, cool-climate acidity. From the marriage of these historic parcels emerges a wine of a unique character that has natural balance, concentration, and a distinct varietal identity. This wine is whole-cluster pressed and fermented in third use barrels and stainless steel. The juice then undergoes partial malolactic fermentation and is aged for ten months in French oak before bottling. The wine is aged in the bottle for twelve months before it is released.

2014: 92 WA | **2013:** 90 WA | **2012:** 91 WA | **2011:** 90 WA, 90 V | **2010:** 90 WA | **2009:** 90 WA | **2008:** 91 WA

Catena Malbec

The Catena Malbec is sourced and blended from the family's high-altitude vineyards in Maipú, Luján de Cuyo, Tupungato, and San Carlos. Each vineyard is divided into lots that are harvested at different times and specifically farmed in preparation for their role in the final blend. The old vines in the Angélica Vineyard in the Lunlunta district in Maipú produce grapes that lend a soft, sweet texture. The lauded Catena cuttings in the La Pirámide Vineyard in the Agrelo district of Luján de Cuyo add spicy notes to the wine. The cold nights in the Altamira district of San Carlos, where Catena's Nicasia Vineyard is located, help to grow grapes with bright, crisp acidity. And the intense sunshine in the Adrianna Vineyard in the Gualtallary district of Tupungato helps give the grapes explosive floral aromatics and firm, but silky soft tannins. This combination of different vineyard components results in a wine with heightened complexities and unique character that is full-bodied yet balanced, concentrated, and complex, while retaining true varietal character. This wine goes through an extensive cold maceration for five days at 48°F to extract aromas. The juice is then fermented for twenty-six days and aged for twelve to fourteen months in a combination of French and American oak barrels. The wine is aged in the bottle for ten months prior to release.

2013: 91 WA | **2012:** 91 WE | **2011:** 91 WA, 91 WS - Smart Buy, 91 V | **2010:** 91 WA | **2009:** 91 WA, 91 WS - Top 100, 91 V | **2008:** 91 WA, 91 W&S

Catena Cabernet Sauvignon

The Cabernet Sauvignon is a blend of four vineyards. Each vineyard is divided into lots that are harvested at different times. From the La Pirámide Vineyard in the Agrelo district of Luján de Cuyo come grapes with classic aromas and flavors of black currant and cassis with ripe, sweet tannins. The Domingo Vineyard in the Villa Bastías District of Tupungato contributes grapes with spicy aromatics and peppery notes on the palate. The grapes grown in the Nicasia Vineyard located in Altamira in the La Consulta district of San Carlos provide finely grained and sweet tannins to the wine. And the very high-altitude Adrianna Vineyard in the Gualtallary district of Tupungato produces grapes with notes of eucalyptus, a pronounced minerality, and firm tannins. Catena Cabernet Sauvignon undergoes cold maceration for five days and is then fermented in stainless steel tanks for fourteen days. It undergoes post-fermentation maceration for twenty-seven to thirty-two days before it is aged between twelve and fourteen months in a combination of French and American oak barrels. The wine is aged in the bottle for twelve months before it is released.

2013: 90+ V, 90 WA | **2012:** 91 V | **2011:** 90 WA | **2010:** 92 WA | **2009:** 91 V | **2008:** 90 WS

Catena Alta

Catena Alta wines are an assemblage of historic rows, identified and selected after years of viticultural research, within the Catena family estate vineyards. The blend of these historic rows yields a highly aromatic and elegant wine that speaks for the earth and the vines that have been tended by the Catena Family for four generations. The Catena Alta wines can usually be consumed three years after harvest and into the following one to two decades.

Catena Alta Chardonnay

The Catena Alta Chardonnay is produced from two of the Catena family vineyards—the Adrianna Vineyard at almost 5,000 feet and the Domingo Vineyard at 3,700 feet. The Adrianna Vineyard's calcareous soils and cool climate are ideal for growing Chardonnay. The fruit from Adrianna has a purity of flavors and a minerality that is particular to this vineyard and cannot be found anywhere else in Mendoza. The nearby gravel-covered Domingo Vineyard makes up 20 percent of the blend. Catena Alta Chardonnay shows an intense green yellow color with golden highlights. The nose offers ripe white fruit aromas such as pears and peaches that are interwoven with delicate citrus and floral notes, such as jasmine. The palate shows rich and concentrated ripe pear, apple and apricot flavors with a light note of minerality. The wine finishes long and complex with crisp, mineral acidity. Whole clusters are pressed, and fermented in French oak barrels with natural yeasts at low temperatures. The wine is aged for twelve to sixteen months in French oak and a little over two-thirds of it undergoes malolactic fermentation.

2014: 94 JS | **2013:** 92 WA | **2012:** 91 WA | **2011:** 92 WA | **2010:** 93 WA | **2009:** 92 WA | **2008:** 93 V

Catena Alta Malbec

The historic Catena Zapata vineyards are planted with the Catena family's proprietary selection of Malbec plants: the Catena Cuttings. Catena Alta Malbec is sourced from Block 18 of the Angélica vineyard, Block 4 of the La Pirámide vineyard, Block 1 of the Nicasia vineyard and Blocks 3 and 9 of the Adrianna vineyard. Catena Alta Malbec is deep violet in color with indigo highlights. The nose has aromas of ripe red and blackberry fruits with notes of violets and lavender, and hints of leather and a touch of spices. The wine is full-bodied and rich, with sweet tannins and a smooth structure, offering multiple layers of blackberries and black currant with hints of licorice, vanilla, and black pepper. This wine's lengthy finish shows beautiful minerality with fine tannins and lively acidity. Vineyard rows are harvested at different times to ensure optimal natural acidity and moderate alcohol levels. Whole berries are hand-loaded into small-format fermentation bins and French oak barrels. Rows from each vineyard are treated individually; fermentation and maceration vary by row. Thirty percent of the berries undergo cold maceration and then alcoholic and malolactic fermentation take place in-barrel. The wine is aged for eighteen months in French oak.

2013: 94 JS | **2012:** 94+ WA | **2011:** 94 W&S | **2010:** 94 WA | **2009:** 94 WA | **2008:** 92 WA | **2007:** 93 WS

Catena Alta Cabernet Sauvignon

Before the world recognized Argentina as “Malbec Country,” Catena was known for its old-world style Cabernet Sauvignon born in the clay soils of Agrelo. The family cherishes its historic Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards in Agrelo and Tupungato, particularly for their ageability and classic flavors. Catena Alta Cabernet Sauvignon is sourced from Block 3 of the La Pirámide vineyard, Block 2 of the Domingo vineyard, and Block 2 of the Nicasia Vineyard. Catena Alta Cabernet Sauvignon shows a dark ruby color with violet tones. On the nose, it offers intense aromas of ripe raspberries, and cassis with notes of pepper and clove. On the palate, it is full-bodied and rich and displays layers of black currant and black raspberry with notes of cedar, tobacco and leather. This Cabernet Sauvignon is an elegant wine with silky tannins that provide structure and a long and persistent finish. Vineyard rows are harvested at different times to ensure optimal natural acidity and moderate alcohol levels. Whole berries are hand-loaded into small-format fermentation bins and French oak barrels. Fermentation and maceration time varies by row. Alcoholic and malolactic fermentation takes place in French oak barrels. The wine is aged in French oak barrels for eighteen months.

2013: 94 JS | **2012:** 94 JS | **2011:** 92+ V | **2010:** 92+ WA | **2009:** 92 WA | **2008:** 92 V | **2007:** 92 WE

Catena Zapata

The Catena Zapata family's mission is to make profound and unforgettable wines; wines that reflect the special character of each vine within the family's historic vineyards. Constantly pushing the viticultural envelope, Nicolás and Laura Catena have identified Mendoza's best microclimates, selected the highest-quality Malbec vines, and pioneered viticulture in undiscovered regions, such as the Adrianna Vineyard at 4,757 feet in the Andean foothills. Nicolás Catena made a selection of 145 different plants (known as the Catena Cuttings) from Lot 18 of the Angélica Vineyard and planted them one per row in the La Pirámide Vineyard. Then he selected the five cuttings with the smallest berries, most even sets and smallest bunches that were naturally low-yielding. He planted the five cuttings 5, 75, 99, 100 and 115, in every one of the Catena Family vineyards. Their vision has been to uncover those magical places in each of the family's vineyards that offer the purest expression of the land. Farming these special rows manually and hand-tending each of the vines has led to the identification of individual plants that consistently produce the most exceptional fruit. These Zapata Vines have been physically marked with a red sash, ensuring the utmost attention and care. Harvested separately in multiple passes through the vineyard, the Zapata Vines form the foundation of the Catena Zapata wines.

Nicolás Catena Zapata

The inaugural 1997 vintage of this Cabernet Sauvignon (95 percent) and Malbec (5 percent) blend set a new standard of quality for wines from South America when it won a series of blind tastings against first growths and other prestigious cuvées from around the world. Nicolás Catena Zapata is made from a plant-by-plant selection of historic rows in the Catena Zapata vineyards, the blend changes with each vintage but is predominately Cabernet Sauvignon with Malbec. Nicolás Catena Zapata has an intense dark violet color with blue-black tones. A complex wine with delicate aromas of black cherry and licorice, it is enlivened by minerals, violet, spice, and herbs. The palate is sharply delineated and impressively concentrated, with a serious backbone supporting its fresh currant and mineral flavors. The wine is made from over two hundred separate row microvinifications representing different rows, altitudes and harvest times. The fermentation temperature is kept low, extracting intense aromas, and the cap management is done by hand to ensure soft, gentle flavors and tannin extraction. Alcoholic and malolactic fermentation in barrel leaves considerable lees and sediment. The wine is aged in French oak barrels for twenty-four months, and spends an additional twenty-four months in bottle before release.

2012: 97 JS | **2011:** 96 TA | **2010:** 95 WA | **2009:** 95 WA | **2008:** 98 WA | **2007:** 98 WA | **2006:** 97 WA | **2005:** 98 WA | **2004:** 98+ WA | **2002:** 93+ V | **2001:** 94 WA | **1999:** 94 WA | **1997:** 95 WA

Catena Malbec Argentino

This wine represents more than a single vintage. It reflects a family's century-long journey to produce an Argentine Malbec that can stand with the great wines of the world. Malbec Argentino is a blend of Catena Zapata's historic Malbec vineyards, Adrianna and Nicasia. This wine is made from a meticulous vine selection within the best, historic rows of these family estate vineyards. Zapata vines are carefully hand-tended and produce extremely low yields. The wine is aged in French oak barrels for twenty-four months. The Adrianna Malbec component is co-fermented with Viognier and the Nicasia Malbec component is co-fermented with Cabernet Franc. Catena Zapata Malbec Argentino shows a saturated dark violet color. The nose offers cassis, mocha, and clove. It combines density and sweetness with the gripping clean flavors of tobacco, dark berries, spice, and mineral. The palate-staining finish is dominated by sweet black fruit and blueberries.

2012: 98 JS | **2011:** 95 WA | **2010:** 95 IWR | **2009:** 95 WA | **2008:** 97 WA | **2007:** 97 WA | **2006:** 96 WA | **2005:** 97+ WA

Catena Zapata Adrianna Vineyard Mundus Bacillus Terrae Malbec

Named after Nicolás Catena Zapata's youngest daughter, the Adrianna Vineyard is located at 4,757 feet elevation in the Tupungato region. The soils in this 1.4 hectare parcel are filled with scattered limestone and marine deposits that covered the region millions of years ago. The limestone layers are well-drained and particularly rich in rhizobacteria, the microorganisms help vine roots withstand stress and absorb nutrients. Thus, the name "mundus bacillus terrae" or "elegant bacteria of the earth." The wine is aged in French oak barrels for eighteen to twenty-four months followed by twenty-four months of aging in the bottle before release. Barrel age varies depending on vineyard row soil. This wine defines high-altitude Malbec, with exceptional concentration and structure that will last for at least twenty to thirty years. Catena Zapata Adrianna Mundus Bacillus Terrae Malbec is violet with deep black tones in color. It offers aromas of ripe red fruits, lavender, violets, and tobacco. The wine is powerful and dense, with a grip and flavors of cassis, dark chocolate, and minerals. Remarkable concentration and well-structured tannins lead to a long, lengthy finish.

2013: 96 TA, 94+ V | **2012:** 98 JS

Catena Zapata Nicasia Vineyard Malbec

Located in the far southerly growing region of Altamira in La Consulta at 3,593 feet, the Nicasia vineyard is the only planting of the special Catena Selection of Malbec cuttings in this traditional area for Malbec. La Consulta was Nicolás Catena's father Domingo's preferred Malbec location. Catena Zapata Nicasia Vineyard Malbec is made from a meticulous vine selection in the best, historic rows of the wine's namesake vineyard, named for Nicolás Catena Zapata's grandmother. The Zapata vines are carefully hand-tended and produce extremely low yields. The wine is aged in French oak barrels for eighteen months, followed by twenty-four months of aging in bottle before release. Catena Zapata Nicasia is a dark red violet Malbec. Ripe black fruits, sweet spice and thyme aromas are present. This wine has a very complex and expressive palate with lovely violet flavors, dark berries, licorice, bitter chocolate, and spice cake flavors.

2012: 95 WA | **2011:** 96 V | **2010:** 95 IWR | **2009:** 95+ V | **2008:** 95 WA | **2007:** 96 WS | **2006:** 97 WE | **2005:** 96 WA

Adrianna Vineyard White Stones Chardonnay

Adrianna Vineyard White Stones Chardonnay takes its name from the twenty-seven row section of the Adrianna Vineyard where it originates. This section was the site of an ancient riverbed, therefore today it is completely covered with oval white stones. This extreme high altitude provides the ideal cool climate to ripen Chardonnay with delicate floral and white fruit aromas and pure minerality. The rocky soil allows for ideal drainage conditions. These are poor soils where the vines are constantly in conditions of stress. The cool nights allow for very slow ripening, optimal acid retention, and low yields. The fruit is whole-cluster pressed and 100 percent fermented in French oak barrels. The wine is aged in-barrel for twelve to sixteen months with limited batonnage. This wine can be enjoyed young or aged for decades. Catena Zapata Adrianna White Stones Chardonnay has a pale greenish-yellow color. Aromas of delicate white flowers and white fruits combined with mineral notes on the nose. The mouthfeel is elegant and fresh, showing jasmine, ripe white peach and pear flavors interwoven with mineral notes. The finish is bright with clean acidity and wonderful length.

2013: 95 JS | **2012:** 95 JS | **2011:** 96 WA | **2010:** 94 WA | **2009:** 95 WA

Adrianna Vineyard White Bones Chardonnay

Adrianna Vineyard White Bones Chardonnay comes from select rows within Adrianna Vineyard, located at 4,757 feet in the Gualtallary sub-district of the Tupungato region. The name refers to the soil underneath these rows, which is layered with calcareous deposits and limestone as well as fossilized bones—the remnants of a river that used to pass through the region. Extreme high altitude and cool climate impart a distinctive minerality to this wine. The fruit is whole-cluster pressed and 100 percent fermented in French oak barrels. The wine is aged in-barrel for twelve to sixteen months with limited batonnage. This wine can be enjoyed young or aged for decades. Catena Zapata Adrianna White Bones Chardonnay has a bright greenish-yellowish color. The nose shows an excellent mixture of citrus fruit interwoven with white fruit notes and vanilla flavors. The mouth feel is rich and concentrated showing ripe pear, apple and apricot flavors with salty notes. The finish shows bright, clean acidity and wonderful length.

2013: 98 JS | **2012:** 98 JS | **2011:** 97 WA | **2010:** 96 WA | **2009:** 96 WA

Bodega Renacer

Perdriel, Luján de Cuyo, Mendoza Province

Founded by in 2003 by Patricio Reich, with the collaboration of world-renowned winemaker Alberto Antonini, Bodega Renacer prides itself in bringing consumers the very best wines from Mendoza's unique terroirs. The winery structure itself is quite impressive, featuring a medieval tower built of rocks, Tuscan-style walls and state-of-the-art winemaking equipment.

The Renacer and Los Patos vineyards are located in Perdriel, known locally as Primeira Zona—the home to Mendoza's original vineyards, where the soil, altitude, climate and water come together to create the perfect growing environment for Malbec. In addition to Renacer's 85+ acres of Malbec vines, the winery also purchases grapes from local producers in order to take advantage of the region's many terroirs—those in the Uco Valley, Lujan de Cuyo and Medrano. Vineyards used for Renacer's bottlings are more than fifty years old and have very low yields. Renacer Punto Final, meaning "final period" or "full stop," symbolizes the point at which the Bodega Renacer winemaking team has accomplished their common goal: a truly outstanding wine.

From the beginning, Renacer has had a firm commitment to the environment by managing the full impact of winemaking. This has included everything from utilizing the water that runs down from the Andes Mountains to offsetting the carbon footprint of delivering bottles to store shelves. Renacer is proud to be the first Argentine winery to have its logistics certified CarbonNeutral®.

Renacer Punto Final Malbec Clásico

Malbec Clásico expresses the vast potential of Mendoza's *terroir* and represents a blend of Malbec grapes from different regions, altitudes and climates. Sourced from vineyards within Perdriel, the resulting wine incorporates the best of each unique *terroir*. The wine is fermented in stainless steel to preserve the wonderful fruit aromas and flavors, but aged with just a touch of French oak to add structure and complexity. Dark ruby red in color with violet tones, this Malbec has aromas of red currants, blackberries, and plums, with notes of pepper and clove. Flavors of black cherries, red and black currants, and juicy plums fill the mouth with hints of wood spice and vanilla on the finish.

2014: 89 WA | **2013:** 89 WA | **2012:** 89 WE | **2010:** Best Buy WE | **2008:** 90 WA | **2006:** 90 WE Best Buy | **2005:** 91 WE Best Buy

Renacer Punto Final Cabernet Sauvignon

Handcrafted with grapes from Renacer's low-yielding estate vineyard in Perdriel, a sub-region of Luján de Cuyo. The wine (90 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 10 percent Cabernet Franc) is fermented in stainless steel and is aged one year in French oak. This Cabernet is a bright ruby red in color and has aromas of blackberries and cassis with spicy notes of green peppercorns and eucalyptus. On the palate, notes of vanilla and sweet spice from the oak aging underscore flavors of juicy black cherries and plums. Overall, the wine is elegant with a lingering finish and a bright acidity.

Renacer Punto Final Malbec Reserva

The grapes for the Reserva Malbec are sourced from the Los Patos Vineyard in Perdriel, where the average age of the vines is eighty years. Following fermentation in stainless steel tanks, the wine is aged for one year in French oak barrels and then six months in bottle before release. The wine has a deep ruby-red color with violet highlights, exhibiting red and black fruit aromas mingled with earthy mineral and floral notes highlighted by sweet spice and vanilla from the French oak. Black raspberry and plum flavors dominate the palate along with more subtle flavors of tangy cherries, vanilla, and mocha. The sweet tannins carry through to the long, robust finish.

2013: 90 JS | **2011:** 92 WE Best Buy | **2010:** 90 WS | **2008:** 91 WE | **2007:** 91 WA | **2006:** 92 WA | **2005:** 91 WE, 91 W&S Best Argentine Wine of the Year

Renacer “R”

“R” is Renacer’s icon wine and represents the finest and boldest expression of the Malbec grape in Argentina. Incredibly rich and complex, “R” results from the talent and dedication of two great winemakers, Alberto Antonini and Pablo Sanchez, who blend grapes (98 percent Malbec and 2 percent Cabernet Franc) from select parcels in the old vines of Los Patos Vineyard. This limited-edition wine is aged for twenty-four months in French oak barrels and an additional ten months in-bottle before release. This wine is a deep purple in color with intense violet highlights. Aromas of wild blueberries, black raspberries, blackberries, and black cherries combine with floral notes of violets and roses and hints of vanilla, coffee, and baking spices. “R” is rich and dense, bursting with flavors of ripe black raspberries, Bing cherries, and tart cranberries are complemented by more subtle notes of vanilla, mocha, licorice, and tobacco. This lush wine is round and expansive in the mouth, and the firm tannic structure leads to a lengthy finish of great depth.

2009: 91 WS | **2008:** 92 WA, 92 WE | **2007:** 91 WE Top 100 Wines, 92 WA, 90 WS | **2006:** 94+ WA, 93 WS, 92 WE

Punto Final Gran Cabernet Franc Edicion Limitada

With a limited production of only 2,000 bottles, Gran Cabernet Franc is a rarity by its own nature, composed of 100 percent Cabernet Franc in a region that is all but devoted to Malbec production and you have a rare gem—composed of 100 percent Cabernet Franc in a region that is devoted to Malbec production. A seamless balance between ripeness and freshness, fruit and wood, the deep-ruby Gran Cabernet Franc provides another way to appreciate the spectacular *terroir* of Mendoza, Argentina. On the nose, the wine displays inviting aromas of cassis, raspberry, and blackcurrant. On the palate, ripe and juicy red fruit combines with peppery spice and subtle oak tones over a hardy structure of soft, velvety tannins.

2011: 93 WE Editor’s Choice, 91 WA

El Enemigo – Bodega Aleanna

Uco Valley and Luján de Cuyo, Mendoza Province

EL ENEMIGO

El Enemigo translates as the enemy. Nodding to the fact that at the end of any journey, most remember only one battle—the one fought within (the original enemy). This is the battle that defines us. The wines of El Enemigo are a tribute to those internal battles that make us who we are, brought to fruition by winemaker Alejandro Vigil, and historian Adrianna Catena, who share a love of wine and reach back in time to capture the era when European immigrants first settled in Argentina. These settlers sought to make wines as fine, and finer, than those of their old homeland.

El Enemigo was created to embrace fresh and fruity New World-style wines as well as classic Old World-style wines. Between the collective experiences of Alejandro and Adrianna, they have an unsurpassed knowledge of the Mendoza region and were able to select sites that would yield grapes in exactly the style they wanted.

Alejandro, the former head of the soil division of Argentina's Wine Institute and the head winemaker at Bodega Catena Zapata, combines his expertise in terroir and his passion for experimentation in creating El Enemigo. Using his in-depth knowledge of the land, Alejandro is visionary in working with smaller varietals in Mendoza and crafting them to generate their best expressions in the wines.

Adrianna Catena is an Oxford-educated historian specializing in Early Modern Atlantic History. She is the daughter of Nicolás Catena, the pioneer of Argentine winemaking.

El Enemigo Malbec

El Enemigo Malbec is 89 percent Malbec, 6 percent Cabernet Franc and 5 percent Petit Verdot. It is a rich and concentrated wine with aromas of black fruit, cherry and dark berry fruit on the nose followed in the palate by a full-bodied wine with flavors of spice, blackberry, black cherry, pepper and a slight floral character. The finish is elegant and lengthy.

2013: 95 TA | **2012:** 93 WE - Top 100 | **2011:** 93 WE | **2008:** 91 WA

El Enemigo Bonarda

A tribute to old Bonarda of the Eastern Mendoza, a wine made in a traditional Mendoza style, El Enemigo Bonarda shows a deep violet color with bluish reflections. The nose is intense and complex. Intense aromas of ripe black fruit, blackberries, raspberries, black cherries, chocolate and liquor, with some spicy notes of fresh herbs provided by the Cabernet Franc appear. The taste has a sweet impact with silky tannins and aromas of ripe black and red fruits with notes of licorice and vanilla. Its natural acidity is refreshing. By its concentration and complexity, the finish is long and persistent.

2013: 93 TA | **2012:** 92 W&S | **2011:** 93 JS | **2010:** 90 WA | **2009:** 90 WA

El Enemigo Cabernet Franc

Made from 92 percent Cabernet Franc and 8 percent Malbec from Gualtallary, El Enemigo Cabernet Franc is ruby red in color with soft violet tones. The nose has intense aromas and concentrated notes of cassis, ripe currants, and sweet spices, including black pepper and cloves. Oak notes of cedar and vanilla are also integrated throughout the wine. Fresh impact and excellent structure on the palate, reminiscent of ripe red fruits with hints of eucalyptus and tagged black pepper. This wine has an excellent balance and elegance with a well-structured, persistent finish. The limestone soils, round rocks and extreme high altitude are ideal for making a wine of elegance and ageability. Alejandro Vigil brought 100-year-old Alsatian barrels from France and had them re-toasted and reassembled in Mendoza. The gentleness of this wood brings out the true character of cool climate Cabernet Franc.

2013: 94 TA | **2012:** 91 WE | **2011:** 93 JS

El Gran Enemigo

El Gran Enemigo is an assemblage of four grapes—Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot, and Malbec. It is crafted in honor of the old Pomerol style, in which Cabernet Franc was blended with the other Bordeaux varieties. Alejandro uses cement tanks and 225-liter French barriques for fermentation and then ages the wine in 3,000-liter barrels. These barrels are a recreation of the old barrels used in Mendoza a century ago. Alejandro uses of Alsatian barrels and re-toasts and reassembles in Mendoza. The nose presents sweet aromas of black ripened fruits with hints of vanilla and chocolate, which appear after the oak aging. The mouthfeel is sweet with structured, persistent tannins due to the natural acidity of this wine, leading into an excellent long finish.

2012: 97 JS | **2011:** 95 WA | **2010:** 98 JS | **2009:** 96 WA | **2008:** 94 WA

El Gran Enemigo Single Vineyard Gualtallary Cabernet Franc

Made from 85 percent Cabernet Franc and 15 percent Malbec, El Gran Enemigo SV Gualtallary shows a deep purple color with red highlights. Its aromas are intense and elegant. Cabernet Franc brings sweet spices, black pepper and light notes of eucalyptus and thyme. Malbec brings notes of ripe black fruits, blackberries and black cherries. The oak aging gives a touch of chocolate and vanilla to blend. The taste is complex and sweet, with structured tannins and a long and persistent finish.

2012: 98 JS | **2011:** 98 WA

El Gran Enemigo Single Vineyard Agrelo Cabernet Franc

Made from 85 percent Cabernet Franc and 15 percent Malbec from the Agrelo Vineyard, El Gran Enemigo SV Agrelo is deep purple with red highlights. Its aromas are intense and elegant. Cabernet Franc brings light notes of eucalyptus and thyme. Malbec brings notes of ripe black fruits, blackberries and black cherries. The oak aging gives a touch of chocolate and vanilla to blend. Excellent balance.

2012: 97 JS | **2011:** 94 WA | **2010:** 95 WA

Tilia

Mendoza Province

TILIA

Made at Bodegas Esmeralda, Tilia has been handcrafted to demonstrate true varietal character. The brand is named after the Tilia (Linden) tree commonly found throughout Argentina's wine country. Vineyard workers often make tea from the flowers of this tree and enjoy time sitting in the shade after a hard day's work. These wines are a tribute to those workers and to the Argentinean way of living life to the fullest, enjoying every moment and relaxing in the natural environment the land provides. These inviting selections are approachable, affordable, and filled with layers of flavor.

Tilia Torrontés

Torrontés is indigenous to Argentina and has a unique profile that has quickly made it the country's signature white grape. The high-altitude vineyard in the Salta Province, where the 100 percent Tilia Torrontés grapes are sourced sits at an incredibly high 5,500 feet above sea level. The nose offers aromatic notes white flower and citrus fruits. On the palate, fresh flavors of white peach and lemon give way to grapefruit, Mirabelle plum, and fennel. It finishes with a refreshingly bright acidity.

2014: 89 WA | **2013:** 88 WA | **2012:** 89 WA | **2011:** 90 WA

Tilia Chardonnay

The grapes for this Chardonnay were sourced from vineyards sites in the Eastern and Southern regions, with elevations ranging from 1,500 to 3,000 feet. Golden yellow in color, the Tilia Chardonnay has aromas of ripe citrus fruits with subtle floral notes and a touch of vanilla, a contribution made by the oak barrels in which this wine is briefly aged. On the palate, the wine has flavors of pear and tropical fruits with hints of vanilla and spice on the finish. The finish is clean and bright.

Tilia Bonarda

The Bonarda grapes in Argentina are not the same as the Bonarda grapes in Italy. They are in fact the same grapes known as Douce Noire in France and Charbono in California. Bonarda has become, along with Malbec, one of the signature reds of Argentina. The grapes for this wine come from the El Mirador vineyard in the Eastern region of Mendoza. The soil and climate there offer a perfect atmosphere for growing Bonarda. Ripe dark fruit aromas with hints of violet and anise give way to a juicy wine with black raspberry and black plum flavors, along with notes of black pepper. The finish is soft with velvety tannins.

2014: 88 WA, WE Best Buy | **2013:** 90 W&S Best Buy, 89 WA | **2012:** 89 WA

Tilia Merlot

The grapes for this Merlot were sourced from vineyards sites in the Eastern and Southern regions with elevations ranging from 2,600 to 3,900 feet. The wine is aged in oak for nine months. The nose offers aromas of juicy black cherries and black plums with hints of sweet spice and vanilla. On the palate, the wine is soft and elegant with black cherry and plum flavors, and fine, supple tannins.

2013: 88 WA

Tilia Cabernet Sauvignon

The grapes for this 100 percent Cabernet Sauvignon are sourced from vineyards in the Eastern and Southern regions of Mendoza with elevation ranging from 1,968 to 3,937 feet. The nose is full of ripe black fruits with subtle notes of clove, black pepper, and sweet tobacco. On the palate, flavors of black raspberries and cassis yield to more subtle notes of cedar, vanilla, and sweet spice. The fine-grained tannins lend structure to the wine, which has a soft, lingering finish.

2014: WE Best Buy | **2013:** 90 WA, 89 W&S Best Buy | **2011:** 90 WA

Tilia Malbec Syrah

As Argentina's signature Malbec continues to rise in popularity, so does the quality of the wines being produced. Additionally, many winemakers are creating some exciting blends using Malbec, such as this 55 percent Malbec and 45 percent Syrah blend. The grapes for this wine are sourced from vineyards in the Eastern and Southern regions of Mendoza with elevations ranging from 2,600 to 4,300 feet. This wine is dark purple in color with violet tones. It has aromas of black cherries and blueberries with hints of coffee, vanilla, pepper, and smoke. Full-bodied on the palate, the wine has rich flavors of concentrated cassis, black raspberries, and cranberries with notes of dark chocolate, vanilla, and spice on the long, silky finish.

2014: 88 WA | **2013:** 89 WA, W&S Best Buy | **2012:** 88 WA | **2011:** 89 WA

Tilia Malbec

This 100 percent Malbec exemplifies the true varietal character of Malbec from Mendoza. The grapes are sourced from vineyard sites in the Eastern and Southern regions of Mendoza that range in elevation from 2,600 to 4,300 feet. Aromas of black cherries and plums are accompanied by notes of violets and vanilla. On the palate, the wine is rich and full-bodied with flavors of juicy blackberries, cranberries, and black currants abound, followed by notes of vanilla and sweet spice.

2014: 90 WA | **2013:** 90 WA | **2012:** 90 WA | **2011:** 90 WA

High Note

Uco Valley

HIGH NOTE

Altitude is everything. High Note hails from the foothills of the Andes Mountain range, where altitude is essential in providing vineyards with the perfect combination of intense sunlight and cool temperatures. Crafted in the Vista del Sur winery by winemaker Leopoldo Kuschnaroff, High Note offers high altitude and high-quality wines at an exceptional value.

High Note Malbec

Grapes for this Malbec are sourced from five vineyards with sandy loam soils, ranging in elevation from 3,300 to 4,500 feet. Vista Flores vineyard has flavors of spice, red fruits and minerality. La Consulta adds black fruit and mid-palate weight while Altamira's fruit has notes of violets. Eugenio Bustos vineyard offers racy acidity and floral notes while adding to the violet color. Gualtallary vineyard, at the highest altitude, brings deep purple color and additional floral and black fruit notes balanced with acidity. Aromas of violet, jasmine, and ripe red fruits complement the palate, which opens with notes of plums and toffee and gives way to hints of almonds and cinnamon. Round tannins lead into a ripe fruit finish.

2014: 88 WA

High Note Andes 1,100 Meter Red Blend

Grapes for this red blend (70 percent Malbec, 20 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 10 percent Syrah) are sourced from five high-altitude vineyards with sandy loam soils, ranging in elevation from 3,300 to 4,500 feet. Vista Flores vineyard has flavors of spice, red fruits and minerality. La Consulta adds black fruit and mid-palate weight while Altamira's fruit has notes of violets. Eugenio Bustos vineyard offers racy acidity and floral notes while adding to the violet color. Gualtallary vineyard, at the highest altitude, brings deep purple color and additional floral and black fruit notes balanced with acidity. This blend has an intense nose with Malbec traces of ripe, sweet plum and blackberry, laced with Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah spice fragrances. Barrel aging provides further complexity with delicate oak and vanilla flavors.

2014: 90 WA | **2012:** 89 WA



Chile

Wine Regions Of Chile

Colchagua Valley

Cole-Chag-Wa

Located between the massive Andes Mountains and the Chilean Coastal Range of the Pacific Ocean, the warm and dry vineyards of the Colchagua Valley are world-renowned for producing outstanding red wines with rich color, full body and true varietal character. In this central region, just one hundred miles south of Santiago, the steep and rocky soil maintains moisture for the vines during the intense summer heat, while the Coastal Range mountains temper the cool maritime influences of the Pacific. There are nearly 60,000 acres of vineyards throughout this valley, 87 percent of which are planted to red varieties.

Casablanca Valley

Cass-Ah-Blan-Cah

Located along the Pacific coast, the Casablanca Valley is widely recognized as one of the best spots in the world for growing Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Of nearly 14,000 acres under vine, 78 percent are planted to white varieties. Maritime breezes keep temperatures cool, while bright daytime sun encourages a lengthy growing season. Sandy clay loam soils allow the naturally low-vigor vines to produce bright fruit flavors, while slow ripening ensures the development of natural sugars to balance the fruit's characteristic acidity.

Maipo Valley

My-Poe

The vineyards of the Maipo valley extend from the city of Santiago to the west where it meets the cool coast. This valley is comprised of three different zones: Alto Maipo, Central Maipo, and Pacific Maipo. All three areas are known for their distinctive renditions of well-balanced reds, which account for 86 percent of 28,513 acres of vineyards. The Alto Maipo benefits from elevation; the warmth of the sun and oscillating winds from the Andes provides ideal conditions for Cabernet Sauvignon. The Central Maipo is prized for its alluvial soils, while the Pacific Maipo, a newcomer, is known for its crisp, maritime influence.

Leyda Valley

Lay-Duh

Nestled in the rolling hills of the Chilean Coastal Range, just a few miles from the Pacific Ocean, the Leyda Valley has a distinctly cool, maritime climate with moderate, rainy winters, dry summers and a unique influence from the sea. Sea breezes and ocean mist carried by the Humboldt Current have a tempering effect on the otherwise hot summers of this latitude. Evening fog moves into the vineyards and dissipates in the early morning, with clear days, lots of sunlight and low relative humidity. These climate characteristics, similar to Sonoma Coast, allow grape ripening to take place at a slower pace, prompting a balanced development of aromas, fruit flavors, and the perfect equilibrium of sugar, acidity and pH in the wines. Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir make up 80 percent of the 4,269 acres of vineyards in this valley.

Maule Valley

MOW-Lay

Situated 155 miles south of Santiago, this valley is the largest and amongst the oldest in all of Chile. The alluvial, clay and sandy soils of this valley mingle with the Mediterranean climate to create an excellent environment for the growth of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Carmenere. Nearly 36,000 acres of this predominately red growing region are planted for Cabernet Sauvignon.

Chilean Grape Varieties

Carmenere /Car-Men-Yare/: The signature grape of Chile, this red varietal disappeared from European vineyards in the mid-nineteenth century and was miraculously rediscovered in Chile one hundred years later where it has blossomed. There are currently 21,811 acres of Carmenere planted throughout Chile. This varietal benefits from a long growing season and produces berries that are deep and dark in color. Rich flavors of berry fruits and peppery spice combine with silky tannins to create a unique, quintessential Chilean wine.

Cabernet Sauvignon: Grown in the warmer Chilean climates, Cabernet Sauvignon thrives in the Aconcagua, Maipo, and Colchagua valleys. This late-ripening varietal is well suited to the warm, dry climate which lends aromatic notes of eucalyptus, tobacco, black olive, and rich, red fruit flavors to the wine. There are more than 100,000 acres of Cabernet Sauvignon planted throughout Chile.

Merlot: This varietal made its way from Bordeaux to Chile in the mid-nineteenth century, but was not popular amongst the people until the early 1990s. It was originally referred to as “Chilean Merlot,” due to a spicy, green pepper nuance that was eventually attributed to a stash of Carmenere hidden amongst the vines. Since then, vineyards have been correctly separated, and today, Merlot from Chile appears in nearly every valley and is crafted in approachable, fruit-forward styles.

Pinot Noir: A relative newcomer to the Chilean vine scene, this varietal does well in the cooler climate vineyards; particularly those in the Leyda valley. These vineyards, supported by a coastal climate, provide optimal conditions for this often finicky varietal. There are 7,100 acres of vineyards planted to Pinot Noir throughout Chile, most notably in the Casablanca, San Antonio and Bío Bío valleys.

Sauvignon Blanc: Sauvignon Blanc is often grown in the cool climate areas throughout Chile such as the Leyda, Casablanca, San Antonio, and Coastal Aconcagua valleys. This varietal, currently planted to nearly 30,000 acres, is highly aromatic with a zesty character that proves to be wonderfully refreshing any time of the year.

Chardonnay: This well-known varietal is well suited to the cool climate areas of Chile. Smooth and well-rounded with pleasant acidity, Chardonnay from Chile boasts a tropical character that takes kindly to oak aging and barrel fermentation for added complexity.



Chilean Producers

Root: 1

Casablanca, Colchagua, & Maipo Valleys, Chile

Root: 1
[THE ORIGINAL UNGRAFTED]

Chile's unique geography makes it one of very few grape-growing regions in the world where original European rootstock has been unaffected by phylloxera. While most vineyards around the world are planted on grafted rootstock, Root: 1 grapes are grown on pure, ungrafted roots, producing wines of outstanding quality, with pure fruit flavors and authentic varietal character.

Root: 1 Sauvignon Blanc

The long growing season in the Casablanca Valley allows for the Sauvignon Blanc grape to develop natural sugars that balance its characteristic acidity. Root: 1 Sauvignon Blanc is noted for its intense flavor and fresh citrus style. Pale green edges with a bright citrus bouquet and juicy tropical aromas. Lime, grapefruit, pineapple and pear flavors are vibrant and fresh. Smooth mineral notes and a hint of herbs creates complexity for this crisp and delightful wine, followed by an elegant finish.

2012: 88 V | **2011:** 88 WE

Root: 1 Pinot Noir

The coastal breezes, intense sun and cooling fog of the Tapihue area in the Casablanca Valley provide the perfect microclimate for producing fresh, ripe and expressive Pinot Noir. The resulting wines are ruby red with violet edges and rich aromas of wild strawberries, raspberries and a hint of cherry. Soft spice notes and vanilla add complexity. Medium-bodied and bright, the fresh acidity combines with ripe fruit flavors and smooth tannins for a well-rounded palate and lengthy finish.

Root: 1 Carmenere

After years of being thought extinct, Carmenere was rediscovered in Chile in 1994. The lush flavors and soft tannins of Root: 1 Carmenere are proof that the “lost grape of Bordeaux” has finally found its perfect home. The grapes for this wine are very ripe with concentrated flavor and excellent sugar and phenol levels. Intense violet in color with ripe aromas of blackberries and warm spice, they are full-bodied and fruit-forward with plum, cherry and a hint of smoke. Smooth tannins and good structure create perfect balance and a powerful finish with notes of vanilla.

Root: 1 Cabernet Sauvignon

The hot, dry climate of the Colchagua Valley is perfect for producing concentrated Cabernet Sauvignon of exceptional quality. Root: 1 is known for its elegant and ripe fruit flavors. Deep garnet in color with bright reflections, it showcases aromas of ripe berries, cassis, plum and dark cherry, followed by light toast notes. Juicy red berry and mocha flavors with a full-bodied structure are balanced by smooth tannins and a lengthy finish.

2012: 95 Beverage Dynamics | **2008:** WE Best Buy

Heritage Red Blend

The Root: 1 Heritage Red is an expressive, original blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Carmenere, Syrah and Petit Verdot. Deep ruby red in color, complemented by aromas of cherries, blackberries, black pepper and delicate notes of cassis, toffee and dark chocolate, the palate opens with abundant fruit-filled flavors. Its silky tannins and solid structure create a perfectly balanced framework for this full-bodied wine.

2013: 90 W&S Best Buy

Cousiño-Macul

[Coo-Zeen-Yo Mah-Cool]

Maipo Valley, Chile

COUSIÑO-MACUL

In 1856, Matias Cousiño established the original family estate, located in the Macul district of Santiago, with the sole purpose of producing the ultimate Chilean wine. Home to vinifera vines first planted by the Spanish in the sixteenth century, the Macul Estate offered the family a perfect platform to express its growing passion for winemaking. In 1860, second-generation family member Luis Cousiño traveled to Bordeaux with his wife, Isidora Goyenechea, in an effort to study the world's best winemaking techniques. They immersed themselves in the regional culture and acquired world-class winemaking expertise. When the couple returned to Santiago, they not only brought with them some of Bordeaux's best Cabernet plantings, but also several of the region's top experts to help establish what became a truly unique style of Chilean wine—an exquisite blend of Old World finesse and New World richness. Today the sixth generation of the Cousiño family tends to the descendants of the original vines brought from France and preserved by Massal selection. These truly unique vines, which have never been cross-bred or sold, continue to produce the family's high-end red wines, which are carefully handcrafted and aged at the original Macul Estate.

Widely recognized as the nursery from which all French varieties originated in Chile, Cousiño-Macul is the only nineteenth-century winery in the country that remains in the hands of the original founding family. All Cousiño-Macul reserva wines are estate grown, vinified and bottled. After seven generations and over 150 years of winemaking experience, Cousiño-Macul's mission rings clear—to produce world-class wines that are unmistakably Chilean and carry the distinctive character of the Maipo Valley.

A graduate of the University of Bordeaux in agricultural engineering and oenology, Pascal Marty has held several esteemed positions at renowned wineries around the world. Early in his career he worked in Pauillac, at Baron Philippe de Rothschild in oenological research, viticulture and quality control. While there, he worked on several iconic wines, including the Mouton-Cadet, Chateau Mouton Rothschild, Chateau d'Armialhac and Chateau Clerc Milon. His work later took him to several U.S. wineries and eventually his tremendous talents were sought in Chile, where he worked as oenologist for Almaviva and Baron Philippe de Rothschild. In 2003, Pascal joined Cousiño-Macul as their leading oenologist, ensuring adherence to the utmost quality standards established by the family over numerous generations.

Classic Chardonnay

This unoaked Chardonnay is reminiscent of the classic French style with a rich fruit character achievable only in the New World. Characterized by healthy fruit with excellent flavor and maturity, the harvest for the 2013 Chardonnay began in early March when grapes were hand-selected before being crushed. The must was fermented in stainless steel tanks at 55°F for a period of thirty days. To add complexity, two different varieties of yeast were used that work slowly in cool conditions to bring out different fruit characteristics. To retain the fresh fruit flavors, the wine did not undergo malolactic fermentation. Light gold in color with pale straw edges, this wine is delightfully youthful and bright. Its bouquet reveals distinct floral notes to accompany aromas of pineapple, peach and ripe apple.

Antiguas Reservas Chardonnay

First made in 1969, Antiguas Reservas Chardonnay is handcrafted from the finest selections, starting with the vineyards and continuing all the way through the winemaking process. In this traditional Burgundian style, carefully measured oak is used to enhance the flavors of pineapple, pear and melon with a hint of toast. A very small percentage undergoes malolactic fermentation to achieve a soft, creamy texture with excellent length and depth. Sourced 100 percent from the Alto-Maipo appellation, 35 percent from the Macul Estate, 65 percent from the Buin Estate, it is aged six months in French oak barrels. With a brilliant and clear golden color, this wine has an intense and delicate bouquet. The dominating fruits are pineapple and melon, with faint touches of vanilla. The elegant oak combines perfectly with the fruit and the acidity.

2015: 91 JS | **2013:** 92 JS, 90 Descorchados

Isidora Sauvignon Gris

Produced from vines that were originally transported from the Graves region of Bordeaux and named for the family matriarch, this 100 percent Sauvignon Gris is fresh and savory, with intense fruit bouquets typical of the variety—peach, pineapple, and white flowers. Grapes were pressed to accentuate the natural freshness of the wine, followed by 30-day fermentation in stainless steel. The wine was then aged for an additional five months in stainless steel tanks before bottling in October. Clear, soft yellow with bright edges, this wine has a delicate freshness and zest on the nose. Fruit aromas of ripe peach, juicy pineapple and French lemon are balanced with a fresh, balanced and delightful profile on the palate.

2014: 89 V

Classic Merlot

This elegant 100 percent Merlot is a refreshing reminder of why this grape is one of the world's favorites. Fermented exclusively in stainless steel tanks, this wine is a pure expression of Merlot's unique blend of red and black fruit, supported by a soft and sensual structure. Ruby red with purple edges, this wine wears its character on its sleeve. Aromas of ripe raspberries, cherries and plum are followed by an equal combination of red and black fruits on the palate. Fruit flavors are carried through the finish on a bed of ripe silky tannins.

Antiguas Reservas Merlot

The designation Antiguas Reservas is given to the Cousiño-Macul wines that have reached a standard of perfection and ageing potential. Antiguas Reservas Merlot is one such wine with exclusively limited production. Selected from the best Merlot grapes of the harvest and matured in French oak barrels for twelve months. An elegant red cherry color with violet touches, with aromas of black fruits such as blueberries and mulberries. It shows a perfect balance, with a silky and fresh texture, highlighted by medium acidity and velvety tannins. It is voluminous with a long and elegant finish.

Classic Cabernet Sauvignon

This Cabernet Sauvignon displays the rich fruit quality offered by Maipo Valley wines. Fermentation in stainless steel tanks preserves its fruit-forward profile. Deep violet in color with garnet edges, this wine immediately shows its vibrancy. Aromas of ripe plum and blueberry are followed by a rich palate of plum, currant, and blackberry. Bright acidity allows this wine to pair exquisitely with food. Firm, round tannins allow for a long silky finish.

Antiguas Reservas Cabernet Sauvignon

First bottled in 1927, Antiguas Reservas Cabernet Sauvignon is the oldest continuously produced wine in Chile. The family's signature wine is widely viewed as the benchmark for Chilean Cabernet. Sourced from the Alto-Maipo appellation (20 percent from the Macul Estate, 80 percent from the Buin Estate), it is aged twelve months in French oak barrels. Showcasing a dark ruby red color, this wine offers intense fruity aromas of blackberries with fresh spice notes followed on the palate by harmonious flavors of red and black fruit. Medium-bodied, this wine has a persistent and complex finish with a structure that allows it to be enjoyed now, or left to age for up to a decade.

2012: 91 JS, 90 D, 90 Descorchados, 89 V | **2010:** 90 JS | **2008:** 91+ WA

Finis Terrae

A reflection of the best of the Upper Maipo *terroir*, Finis Terrae is handcrafted by sampling hundreds of blends until the ideal balance of fruit, acid, tannin, alcohol and oak are achieved. Sourced 100 percent from the Maipo Valley appellation (Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah), 50 percent from the Macul Estate, 50 percent from the Buin Estate, it is aged fifteen months in French oak barrels. With a deep cherry color, the Finis Terrae showcases an intense nose of red fruit with subtle eucalyptus and spice. It also offers very elegant and discrete wood notes with clove. In the mouth it is very tasty and elegant, medium-bodied and succulent. Cherries stand out on the very long ending. Perfect for enjoying now, but can be cellared for over a decade.

2012: 92 JS | **2011:** 92 JS, 90 V, 91 WA | **2009:** 90 WA | **2008:** 91 WA

Lota

First released to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Cousiño-Macul, Lota is a rich, intricate, and deeply layered icon wine with outstanding quality and intensity. Named for the first Cousiño family business, a coal mine in a small village called Lota, this wine celebrates the family's origins, combining tradition and history with distinctive elegance. Sourced 100 percent from the Maipo Valley appellation (85 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 15 percent Merlot), 65 percent from the Macul Estate, 35 percent from the Buin Estate, it is aged fifteen months in French oak barrels. A deep dark red color with violet tints, it showcases complex aromas of dark fruit with cassis, hints of cedar and spice. It is full-bodied and elegant with luscious flavors of blackberry, currant, cocoa, soft oak and warm spices. A core of concentrated and delicious black fruits is framed by light toasty oak and ripe tannins, which continue into a long, ultra-smooth finish.

2011: 92 JS, 90 V | **2010:** 92 JS | **2009:** 90 WA | **2008:** 91 WA

Viña Leyda

/Veen-Ya Lay-Duh/

Leyda Valley, Chile

L E Y D A

Viña Leyda is an innovative winery that discovered and developed a new viticultural region of Chile: The Leyda Valley. Pioneers in cool, coastal viticulture, Leyda is amongst the most awarded wineries in Chile, internationally recognized for its outstanding Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc among other varieties. Dedicated to using the latest technology to analyze every detail of the region, their ongoing research ensures that each variety performs to its maximum potential. State-of-the-art equipment combined with a diverse selection of barrel types ensures that Leyda consistently produces some of Chile's most expressive, highest-quality wines.

The most distinguishing characteristic of Leyda is its location. Nestled in the rolling hills of Chile's coastal mountain range, in its namesake Leyda Valley just eight miles from the Pacific Ocean, the area has a distinctly cool, maritime climate with moderate, rainy winters, dry summers and a unique influence from the sea—an optimal area for the production of Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir. Planted on rolling hills with low-nutrient, loamy-clay soils, the Leyda vineyards are ideal for producing small yields of concentrated grapes. Within the vineyard, the architecture, density and irrigation levels are constantly adjusted to attain the perfect ripening conditions for each variety. There are three main vineyards that contribute to the character of the Leyda classic line: La Arboleda (planted in 1998), El Maiten (planted in 2008), and El Granito (planted in 2010). In addition to those three key vineyards, Viña Leyda crafts wine from a number of unique, single vineyards as well (Garuma and Las Brisas), which are planted to grow quintessential expressions of the Leyda Valley's most beloved varieties.

Viviana Navarrete is the exceptionally talented winemaker behind Leyda. She graduated at the top of her class with a degree in oenology from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Viviana's vision is to harness the potential of the vineyards in Leyda Valley to demonstrate the ability of this area to produce extraordinary and expressive cool-climate wines.

Leyda Sauvignon Blanc

Made from 100 percent Sauvignon Blanc from estate vineyards in the Leyda Valley, the grapes were macerated at low temperatures to enhance aromas and flavors. Afterward, the wine was cooled to controlled temperatures before being clarified and aged in stainless steel tanks for eighteen days. The wine was aged on its lees for five months to round it out and improve the texture on the palate. Mineral and elegant, this wine displays the maritime character of Leyda, together with an even complexity of herbs and citrus notes. On the palate, it features fresh, herbal hints, crisp acidity and a juicy finish.

2014: 88 V | **2013:** Top 100 Best Buys of 2014 WE

Leyda Chardonnay

100 percent Chardonnay from estate vineyards in the Leyda Valley, the grapes were harvested by hand and fermented entirely in stainless steel tanks in order to retain the fresh character of the wine. Aged on its lees for six months with frequent batonnage to enhance the roundness and volume on the palate, this wine showcases fresh and fruit driven aromas of ripe citrus and tropical hints of kiwi. On the palate it has a bright, concentrated texture with orchard fruit, honeysuckle and a crisp clean structure followed by a juicy, lingering finish..

2014: 88 V

Leyda Pinot Noir

100 percent Pinot Noir from estate grown vineyards planted in 1998 and 2004 with massal selections at different exposures (north, west and south). The grapes were meticulously hand harvested and brought to the cellar, where the clusters were destemmed, softly crushed and then placed in stainless steel tanks. Upon drying, the wine was immediately racked from the skins into stainless steel tanks. Ninety percent of the wine underwent malolactic fermentation in stainless steel and 10 percent in French oak barrels. The wine aged for six months before bottling. Bright ruby red in color, this Pinot Noir is clean and fresh with ripe fruit on the nose; strawberries, hints of red cherries and subtle herb notes, delicate smokiness and tobacco. Refined on the palate, it shows juicy ripe flavors of berries, soft mineral notes and a lively bright acidity.

2015: 92 JS | **2014:** 90 W&S | **2013:** 91 WS | **2010:** 90 WA | **2008:** 90 WA

Single Vineyard Garuma Sauvignon Blanc

This 100 percent Sauvignon Blanc is crafted from selected grapes from two parcels known as Garuma, named for a typical bird from the Chilean coast. The Garuma parcels enjoy southern exposure, giving the grapes a cooler microclimate. After harvest, the wine is fermented in stainless steel tanks at low temperatures for twenty days to increase the natural dryness, and then aged on fine lees for six months to add roundness and improve the texture on the palate. This Sauvignon Blanc Garuma is an outstanding example of Leyda *terroir*, with its cool climate character showcasing the results of the maritime influence. It displays an elegant minerality with herbal and green chili notes, as well as citric aromas of grapefruit and lime. On the palate it has a sweet, creamy texture, with herbal nuances, crisp and firm acidity, juiciness and a persistent finish.

2015: 88 JS | **2014:** 90 V, 94 Descorchados | **2013:** 93 W&S “Best 100 Wines of the Year,” 91 WA, 90 WE | **2012:** 92 W&S, 91 D | **2011:** 93 W&S

Single Vineyard Las Brisas Pinot Noir

Planted in 1998, the Las Brisas vineyard is located on a southwest slope within the Leyda Estate, benefitting from lower sun intensity and greater cooling influences from the ocean breeze. As a result, the 100 percent Pinot Noir grapes of this vineyard are allowed to ripen at an extremely relaxing pace, naturally developing intense aromas of strawberries, cherries and herbs. Harvested by hand before a berry-by-berry selection and gentle crushing of the selected fruit, 30 percent of the wine was racked into first-, second-, and third-use French oak barrels for malolactic fermentation and aged there for ten months. Seventy percent of the wine was aged in stainless steel tanks in order to enhance the fruit character of the final blend. Bright, with a strong Pinot character, this wine displays spicy, subtle wild herb and earthy notes, a good minerality, and a red fruit profile of raspberries, cherries and blueberries. It is delicate, refined, and juicy on the palate, offering a lasting finish with lively acidity.

2014: 91 JS | **2013:** 92 JS, 91 WS | **2010:** 90 WA

Lot 21 Pinot Noir

The grapes in this varietal are handpicked, vine by vine, from select parcels in Vina Leyda's prized vineyards, where maritime influence and summer breezes create an extraordinary environment for Burgundian varieties. Clusters are carefully picked to keep yields extremely low, less than 1.75 pounds of fruit per plant, followed by a berry-by-berry selection and gentle crushing of the selected fruit. After fermenting to dryness, 30 percent of the wine was racked into first-, second-, and third-use French oak barrels for malolactic fermentation and aged there for ten months. Seventy percent of the wine was aged in stainless steel tanks to enhance the fruit character of the final blend. Complex and elegant, this delicate Pinot Noir reflects Leyda's devotion to the varietal with fine aromas of strawberry, cherry, orange peel and herbs perfectly combined with oak. Fresh red berries are the first flavors in the palate, followed by cherries and soft tannins lingering in a long and persistent finish.

2013: 92 JS, 91 WA, 90 Descorchados | **2012:** 91 WA, 90 WS | **2011:** 90 W&S

Lot 5 Chardonnay

This 100 percent Chardonnay comes from select rows in Block N°5, the coolest parcel of the Leyda vineyards, located only seven miles from the Pacific Ocean. Hand-harvested using just two plants per plant to ensure rich concentration of flavor, the grapes are carefully moved to the winery and selected on sorting tables. They are then gently pressed and fermented in 100 percent French oak barrels. Batonnage is carried out twice a week during the first months of aging and then decreases to once a week. This wine did not undergo malolactic fermentation, in order to enhance the freshness and minerality of the Leyda *terroir*. Aged in (25 percent new) French oak barrels for ten months, the resulting wine has a strong character and identity. On the nose, it displays semitropical fruit with ripe citrus, earthy, almond and honey notes. On the palate, it is round and creamy, boasting excellent minerality, lively acidity and a lengthy finish.

2014: 92 JS | **2013:** 90 WS, 92 Descorchados | **2012:** 90 WA | **2011:** 90 WA | **2010:** 91 WA | **2009:** 91 WA | **2008:** 91 WA

Lot 4 Sauvignon Blanc

Lot 4 Sauvignon Blanc is grown in a four-acre parcel with northeast exposure from clone 317 vines; an unusual clone that originated in Sancerre. Hand-harvested and selected on a vibrating sorting table in order to ensure quality, the grapes for this Sauvignon Blanc are then gently pressed, at low pressure. Lot 4 is crafted exclusively from free-run juice that ferments in both stainless steel (85 percent) and French oak barrels (15 percent), aging on its fine lees for six months to obtain a creamy, yet structured palate. With great elegance and mineral character, this Sauvignon Blanc is perfumed and floral, with notes of grapefruit and lime as well as subtle herbaceous nuances. On the palate, it has great strength and a rich creaminess with sharp and vibrant acidity throughout the lasting finish.

2014: 92 JS, 96 Descorchados | **2013:** 92 WA

Terranoble

/Ter-Rah No-Blay/

Maule, Colchagua and Casablanca valleys, Chile

TERRANOBLE

Founded in 1993, TerraNoble has consistently produced high-quality wines that represent a rich expression of the unique terroir of Chile. TerraNoble has more than 880 acres under vine in prime vineyard locations in the Maule, Colchagua and Casablanca valleys. Each property was specially selected to elicit the best attributes of each grape variety. Driven by a passion for viticulture and dedicated to producing top-rated wines from premier appellations, the wines of TerraNoble represent the ultimate in varietal expression. The philosophy of TerraNoble is to produce modern, high-quality wines with an incredible precision of style, elegant flavors, and aromas that exemplify the unique characteristics of each varietal.

Classic Sauvignon Blanc

Harvested in the Central Valley, this wine is fermented and aged in stainless steel tanks for two months prior to release from the winery. Pale yellow with greenish tones, it has attractive fruity aromas with a touch of peach notes. It's a fresh wine, with a balanced natural acidity, medium structure and long finish.

Classic Chardonnay

Sourced from select vineyards in the Central Valley at the foot of the Andes Mountains. Fermented in stainless steel at a low temperature to retain freshness and acidity, this wine is aged for three months in stainless steel before its release from the winery. The Classic Chardonnay offers an attractive color and interesting aromas, such as fine ripe pear and pineapple, mixed with butter and vanilla notes. It represents a fresh style of white wine, with medium permanence in the mouth.

Classic Merlot

This varietal is sourced from select vineyards in the Maule Valley, and fermented and aged in stainless steel for six months with an additional three months in-bottle for further refinement. A rich red-purple color, this Merlot has fruity aromas and flavors of strawberry, plum, tobacco and raspberry. Medium structure with ripe fruit and smooth tannins. It is a well-balanced wine with a long aftertaste.

Classic Cabernet Sauvignon

Sourced from the Maule and Colchagua valleys. The Maule Valley gives structure and color to the wine while the Colchagua Valley adds soft tannins and red fruits. This blend is the blending of grapes from a hot valley (Colchagua) and fresh valley (Maule) to create a soft, easy-drinking Cabernet Sauvignon. Fermented and aged in stainless steel for 12 months, it offers an intense and deep color. This wine displays nice aromas, such red fruit, pepper and tobacco. It has smooth tannins, and is very fresh and fruity, which gives the wine a good balance.

Single Vineyard La Higuera Carmenere

Made from 95 percent Carmenere, complemented by 5 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine is aged for ten months in a combination of stainless steel and French and American oak barrels, followed by an additional eight months of aging in bottle for further refinement. Red-violet with blue tones, bursting with aromas of ripe fig, black and red berries mixed with chocolate. On the palate, an intense fruity sensation is accompanied by coffee notes. It is well structured, with smooth and silky tannins.

2010: 88 WA

Single Vineyard Los Lingues Cabernet Sauvignon

Sourced from the 35-acre Los Lingues vineyard, 80 percent of this wine was aged in-barrel for eight months. There is a wonderful richness, complexity and concentration in this wine. Red berries, smoke, chocolate and pure fruit dominate the nose. It is an intense and exquisite wine with dark ruby color of remarkable depth.

2009: 88 WA

Gran Reserva Carmenere

This Gran Reserva is 96 percent Carmenere with 4 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, sourced from the La Higuera Vineyard in the Maule Valley located at the foot of the Andes Mountains. This Gran Reserva Carmenere is a true expression of the *terroir*. The wine was aged in oak barrels and stainless steel tanks for twelve months. Deep purple in color, this wine shows ripe aromas of blackberry, plum, fig and dates. On the palate, it has a rich and velvety mouthfeel and notes of voluptuous dark fruit—a wine of superb balance!

2011: 91 WS

Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon

This Gran Reserva is 90 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 10 percent Carmenere, sourced from the Los Lingues and Los Cactus vineyards in the Colchagua Valley. This combination gives a full-body character to the wine. Fermented in stainless steel tanks and then aged in both barriques and stainless steel tanks for twelve months. On the nose, red berries, black berries, smoke and toasted aromas come through. Juicy on the palate, with cherry and chocolate notes in combination with toasted oak, this wine is well structured and full-bodied with smooth tannins and a long finish.

2013: 92 JS | **2012:** 90 WS “Smart Buy,” 91 JS | **2010:** 90 WA

CA1 Andes Carmenere

Grown in the warm Andes foothills of the Colchagua valley, CA1 is a Carmenere of great character and power. The grape selection for CA1 is sourced from the same block each year, which is pruned down to one bunch per shoot. The shoot is hand-manipulated to a 90-degree vertical position, resulting in a plant that shows the highest typicity of the Carmenere varietal with soft tannins, balanced acidity and rich fruit flavors. This is a rich wine, with intense aromas of ripe red fruit. The round tannins, together with the lush concentration of fruit on the palate, reveals the best expression of Carmenere grown at the foot of the Andes Mountains. This Carmenere is sourced from vineyards located on the warm Andes Foothills of the Colchagua Valley, in Los Lingues. The micro-*terroir* of Los Lingues gives this Carmenere unique characteristics in terms of red fruits. Grapes were picked at its maximum of maturity to keep and maintain all its aromatics potential. Aged for twelve months in French and American oak barrels.

2013: 91 V | **2011:** 91 WS | **2010:** 91 WS

CA2 Costa Carmenere

This Carmenere is sourced from Los Cactus vineyard located on the coastal mountain range of the Colchagua Valley. This is a unique Carmenere that benefits from a strong maritime influence, and offers refreshing elegance and character. The constant breezes off the Pacific Ocean cool the grapes, slowly maturing the intense aromas of dark fruit and spice. Much like the grapes from CA1 Andes Carmenere, the CA2 Costa grapes are also selected from the same block every year and picked at maximum maturity to maintain its full aromatic potential. With its soft texture and intense flavors on the palate, this wine is a perfect expression of Carmenere from the coast of Chile.

2013: 91 V, 91 JS | **2012:** 91 JS | **2011:** 91 WS, 90 W&S | **2010:** 90 WA



Spain

Wine Regions of Spain

DO Alicante

Bodegas Enrique Mendoza

DO Campo de Borja

Los Dos

DO Catalonia

Vins del Massis

DO Cava/ Penedés

Juvé & Camps

DO Bierzo

Vinos Valtuille

DO Jerez-Manzanilla

La Guita

Emilio Hidalgo

DO La Mancha

Finca Antigua

DO Navarra

Castillo de Monjardín

DO Rías Baixas

Licia

Finca de Arantei

DO Ribera del Duero

Convento San Francisco

DO Rueda

Finca Montepedroso

DO Valdeorras

Viña Somoza

DOCa Rioja

Bodega Contador

Finca Valpiedra

Viña Bujanda

VdIT Mallorca

Ànima Negra

VP Dominio de Valdepusa

Marqués de Griñón

Vino de Espana

ibuenas!

Spanish Wine Quality Ladder

Vino de Pago Dominio de Valdepusa

Independent Classification

DOCa

“Denominación de Origen Calificada” Qualified Denomination of Origin

DO

“Denominación de Origen” Denomination of Origin

VdIT/VE

“Vino de la Tierra” and “Vino de Espana” Country and Table Wine

Andalucía

/ An-Da-Loo-See-Ya /

DO Jerez-Manzanilla / Herr-Ez - Man-Za-Nee-Ya / — This designation is located in the southern tip of Spain and was established in 1933, although its history dates back to 1587. The area's light, reflective Albariza soils are rich in chalk, limestone, clay and sand. Ideal for the growth of the Palomino grape, which accounts for more than 95 percent of the grapes grown in this area. Wine here is based on the solera system, a method of aging and fractional blending using a series of oak barrels. Jerez ranges in style from dry (e.g., Fino, Amontillado, Palo Cortado, and Oloroso) to sweet (e.g., Cream Sherry and Pedro Ximénez). Manzanilla, exclusive to Sanlúcar de Barrameda, develops under a thicker layer of flor protecting the wine even more from air contact resulting in a slightly lighter variety of Fino, containing virtually no glycerol and combining dry, saline notes with a fresh, zesty liveliness—displaying coastal aromas like sea spray, salt or even iodine.

Aragón

/ Ara-Gohn /

DO Campo de Borja / Kam-Poh Deh Bore-Hah / — Winemaking in this area dates back to Roman times. Although located in Aragón, Campo de Borja is geographically an extension of southern Navarra. Vineyards here climb the slopes of the Sierra del Moncayo where red wines dominate and are often produced from Garnacha.

Balearic Islands

VdIT Mallorca / My-Or-Kah / — Comprising the entire island of Mallorca, this region is located in the Balearic Island chain southeast of Barcelona. The land is rich in calcareous and red siliceous sandstone sediments, leading to brown or reddish soils. The climate is distinctly Mediterranean with moderate temperatures, creating a great atmosphere for the predominant native varieties: Callet, Manto Negro, and Fogoneau.

Castilla y León

/ Kast-Ee-Ya Ee Lee-Own /

DO Ribera del Duero / *Ree-Ber-Ah Dell Dwer-Oh* / — Known for its rich and powerful expression of the Tempranillo grape, called Tinto Fino or Tinta del País locally, Ribera del Duero now rivals Rioja for world-class status. Its high altitude and continental climate results in a thick-skinned fruit that is relatively low in acid.

DO Rueda / *Roo-Ay-Dah* / — This region is known for high-quality, medium-bodied white wines made from Verdejo, which are remarkably aromatic and fresh due to the region's altitude.

DO Bierzo / *Bee-Er-Zoh* / — A small region in northwest Spain, this area is sheltered from the climactic atmosphere of the Atlantic and the hot plateau of the Duero River. The region's soils, planted primarily with Mencía, are rich in slate and granite, creating wines of rich, balanced fruit and minerality.

Castilla-La Mancha

/ Kast-Ee-Ya La Man-Cha /

DO La Mancha / *La Man-Cha* / — The largest demarcated region in Europe, this area consists of an elevated plateau in the center of Spain that is hot and dry though cold in winter. Cencibel, the local strain of Tempranillo, is widely grown here, as is Airen—the most widely planted Spanish white variety—and the international varieties such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Chardonnay.

VP Dominio de Valdepusa / *Dom-Een-Ee-Oh Deh Val-Deh-Poo-Za* / — The first estate to receive the highest level in the Spanish classification system, *Vino de Pago* (VP), has been in Marqués de Griñón Carlos Falcó's family since 1292. Over 1700 acres large, Dominio de Valdepusa contains only 123 acres of vineyards, with the rest of the land covered by local almond, Arbequina and Picual olive trees and herbs that contribute to the complexity and personality of the wines. Falcó pioneered the plantings of international varieties Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Petit Verdot in Spain during the 1970s.

Catalonia

/ Kat-Ah-Lone-Ee-Yah /

DO Catalonia/Cataluña (or Catalunya in Catalán language) located in the northeastern corner of Spain comprises four provinces: The capitol Barcelona, Tarragona, Lérida and Gerona. This DO was established in 1999 and allows the greatest flexibility to winemakers hoping to blending commercial wines from throughout this corner of Spain. You might think of it as a smaller version of that giant Australian GI, Southeastern Australia. While most wineries seem to seek the more delineated names of Empordà, Montsant, and the others within the larger Catalonia area, names such as Clos d'Agon and Vins del Massis are helping to bring greater recognition to DO Catalonia (or Catalunya, in Catalan). Expect to see more wines with this DO designation in the next few years.

DO Cava / Kah-Vah /— Sant Sadurní d'Anoia, home to 95 percent of Spain's Cava production, is located in the heart of Catalonia. Cava is a sparkling wine made in the *Méthode Champenoise*, meaning it undergoes a secondary fermentation in-bottle prompted by the addition of yeast and sugar. It is most often composed of Parellada, Macabeo (Viura), and Xarel-lo grapes, also known as “the big three.”

DO Penedés / Pen-Eh-Dess / — Spanning from the Mediterranean coast to the Pyrenees, this region is located midway between Barcelona and Tarragona boasting a warm and mild Mediterranean climate with ample sunshine. The region produces wonderful still wines from both traditional and international grape varieties that are making a big splash in this predominately Cava-focused appellation.

DOCa Priorato / Pree-Or-Ah-Toe / — Located in eastern Spain, this region was named for the monks and priory who brought winemaking to the area; higher in elevation, they believed it would bring them closer to holiness. Priorat wine is typically comprised of Garnacha and Cariñena, two varieties that are well suited to the unique *terroir*; the soils of this DOCa, rich in slate and quartz (locally referred to as *llicorella*), encourage extremely low yields.

DO Montsant — With vineyards surrounding the neighboring Priorat, Montsant shares the same grapes (Garnacha, Cariñena) and similar styles as the DOCa. Once known as the Baix Priorat, Montsant's nearly 4,500 acres of vineyards lie mostly around 1,200 feet, lower than much of Priorat by nearly 2,000 feet. Soils are mostly sandy limestone, chalk, and clay, but granite and slate lie beneath these soils, and the landscape and climate match Priorat's extreme character.

Galicia

/ Gah-Lee-See-Yah /

DO Rías Baixas / *Ree-Ahs Bye-Shaz* / — The Atlantic climate of this region, consisting of wet winters and sea mists, creates a unique microclimate that produces crisp, clean, and flavorful white wines. “Rías biexas,” meaning low estuaries, refers to the many “rías” that flow through the area. The primary grape Albariño, grown in granite soils, features signature aromas of stone fruit, citrus, and mineral balanced with lively, pleasant acidity.

DO Valdeorras / *Val-Deh-Or-Ras* / — Valdeorras, which translates to Valley of Gold in Spanish, is the easternmost DO in the autonomía of Galicia. The region is known for its unique and complex Godello wines, which provide plenty of varietal character of pear and apple flavors, with a tangy earthy mineral character in the finish.

Navarra

/ Nah-Var-Rah /

DO Navarra — Located to the northeast of La Rioja, this region abuts the Pyrenees along its northern border. The Camino de Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage route passes through this hilly region. With a Continental climate and chalky soil with gravel, the region is best suited to Garnacha and Tempranillo with an additional emphasis on traditional French varieties.

La Rioja

/ La Ree-Oh-Ha /

DOCa Rioja — As the first Spanish wine region to obtain DO status in 1925, Rioja is now one of the best-known wine producing regions in the world. Rioja wines are traditionally understood to be earthy and elegant with varying years of oak contact, intended for long cellar aging. Today, however, a number of bodegas embrace a more modern, fruit-forward style and create reds meant to be enjoyed while young and fresh.

Valencia

/ Val-En-See-Ya /

DO Alicante / *Al-Ee Kahn-Teh* / — Once the winemaking center of Europe in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, this region benefits from a Mediterranean climate, with warm days and nights during summer months. Rainfall is very low and the sandy soils contain high limestone content. This, combined with high-altitude vineyard locations, result in low-yielding vines and the highest quality wines in the region. The signature grape is Monastrell (Mourvèdre), which creates medium-bodied reds with a zesty, red fruit character.

Spanish Grape Varieties

White Grape Varieties

Albariño / *Al-Bar-Een-Yo* / — This thick-skinned grape is Spain's most popular white grape, grown in the region of Galicia, with evidence of it being planted near the town of Cambados as far back as the twelfth century. The Albariño grape produces wines that are light and high in acid, with alcohol levels between 11 percent and 13 percent. It boasts a signature aroma of apricot and peach.

Garnacha Blanca / *Gar-Nah-Cha Blan-Kah* / — This wine is characterized by high alcohol and low acidity, with citrus and/or herbaceous notes. The wines can be textured and weighty. The grape is fairly flexible in winemaking and can be exposed to malolactic fermentation, extended skin maceration, lees stirring as well as oak aging.

Godello / *Go-Day-Yo* / — High-quality, very aromatic, and native to Galicia, this wine's cultivation has been considerably encouraged in the last few years, especially in the DO Valdeorras.

Macabeo/Viura / *Mach-Ah-Bey-Oh* / *Vee-Ou-Rah* / — This grape produces mildly acidic wines with a signature white flower aroma that are made to be consumed young. Under the name "Viura," it is used to make white Rioja. As "Macabeo," it is the main grape used in the sparkling wine Cava.

Malvasia / *Mal-vase-eeah* / — A Greek and likely pan-Mediterranean variety with vibrant aromatic qualities, whether vinified as a dry wine or as a sweet and exotic wine. Formerly more widely planted and used in Rioja, it has been eclipsed by Viura there, though it continues its work in Catalonia and the Canary Islands.

Moscatel / *Mos-Cah-Tell* / — Also known as Muscat of Alexandria, Spanish Moscatel is a white grape with a pronounced sweet, floral aroma. It is often used in blends across Spain, especially Navarra and Catalonia.

Palomino / *Pal-Oh-Me-No* / — This grape is mostly found in the region of Andalucía and is vinified varietally or blended with Moscatel to make dry Sherry. It can also be blended with juice from dried Pedro Ximénez grapes to make the sweet Cream Sherry.

Parellada / *Par-Ay-Yah-Da* / — Very productive and high-quality, it is one of the basic grapes used when making Cava. It thrives in Conca de Barberá, Costers del Segre, Penedés, and Tarragona.

Pedro Ximénez / Peh-Dro He-Meen-Ez / — With a high sugar content, it is often used as a sweetener in Cream Sherry or dried in the sun to make the rich Pedro Ximénez Sherry.

Prensal / PrEm-Sal / — Also known as Prensal or Moll, Prensal is the dominant white grape of Mallorca. Its wines are spicy and complex.

Verdejo / Ver-Day-Ho / — Grown in the region of Rueda, this grape is usually harvested at night and offers aromatic wines with plenty of fruit, low acidity and perfect balance.

Xarel-lo / Shah-Rel-Loh / — Together with Macabeo and Parellada, Xarel-lo completes the trilogy of Cava grapes. It produces aromatic wines and is considered a main variety in the DO Alella (where it is known as Pansá Blanca), Costers del Segre, Penedés and Tarragona.

Red Grape Varieties

Bobal / Bo-Bahl / — Ironically, this varietal is better known for its blending attributes (big, rich, and economical) than for its standalone characteristics, although there are delicious Bobals made in the Valencia region. It can deliver red and black fruit characteristics; however, old vines provide the greatness that young vines often cannot.

Callet / Kai-Ett / — Callet is one of the main red grapes of Mallorca. In the past, it was considered a rustic grape used only for making young rosés and reds, but in the right hands it makes nuanced, typically light-colored, low-alcohol wines. When blended with varieties such as Manto Negro, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Tempranillo, it adds complexity and spice.

Cariñena / Kar-Reen-Yen-Ah / — Known as Mazuelo elsewhere in Spain and as Carignan in France, Cariñena is a popular red grape in the Priorato region. In this stony and schistose soil, old, low-yielding Cariñena vines produce wines that are astringent with strong tannins, ideal for adding structure to blends of Garnacha and Syrah.

Garnacha / Gar-Nah-Cha / — One of the most widely planted grapes in the world, it originates in the region of Aragon and is used everywhere from the Rhone Valley (where it is called Grenache) to Australia. It grows well with hot days and cool nights, and can be used alone or in a blend. It's known for offering a dark color with high alcohol levels and flavors of red ripe fruit, coffee and leather on a long finish. In Spain, it is mainly used in the wine regions Navarra, Rioja, Priorato and Campo de Borja.

Graciano / Grah-See-Ahn-Oh / — This red grape is most popular in the Rioja region and is often used in blends. It produces a dark color and strong perfume, ages extremely well, and is usually harvested later than most grapes, in late October. It's often added to Gran Reserva Rioja to provide structure and allow for long aging.

Manto Negro / *Mahn-Toe-Neh-Groh* / — Indigenous to the Balearic Islands, this is the main grape variety in the DO Binissalem in Mallorca. It produces light, balanced wines after short aging in cask and bottle.

Mencia / *Men-See-A* / — A high-quality grape grown widely in northwest Spain, especially Bierzo, it makes perfumed, relatively light-bodied reds. Highly distinctive, it has been often confused for Cabernet Franc. It is known as Jaen in Portugal.

Monastrell / *Mon-Ah-Strell* / — Having originated in Spain, Monastrell is one of the most popular grapes in the world, used everywhere from the Rhone Valley (where it is called Mourvèdre) to Australia. The new wave of talented Spanish winemakers use old-vine Monastrell to create wines as dark as night, with relatively high alcohol levels, plenty of ripe fruit, and great concentration. Monastrell can also create elegant, herbal wines when grown at high altitudes.

Prieto Picudo / *Pree-ito - Pee-kudo* / — A black-skinned variety native of León, this relatively intense red wine is aromatic and usually gives an intense color. It possesses sufficient levels of tannins and acidity. It is versatile and is amenable to oak treatments during vinification. This increasingly popular grape is still under development.

Tempranillo / *Temp-Rah-Nee-Yo* / — Spain's most widely planted and famous grape, Tempranillo is known for making some of the best wines in Spain, especially coming from Rioja, Ribera del Duero and Toro. This grape grows well in high altitudes, with hot days and cool nights. It makes bold and complex red wines that offer red fruit, tobacco, leather, and vanilla and are usually made to last many years in cellar.



Spanish Producers

La Guita

/La Gee-Tah/

DO Jerez-Manzanilla (Andalucía), Spain

La Guita

The La Guita winery, nestled in the small town of Sanlúcar de Barrameda, was first established under Bodegas Hijos de Rainera Pérez Marín by founder Domingo Pérez Marín, in 1852. When curious patrons inquired about his top-of-the-line Manzanilla, he would simply reply, “Do you have the guita?” This term is derived from old Andalusian slang, meaning “cash,” though its more familiar definition translates to “string.” Today, a small piece of string adorns every bottle of this alluring Manzanilla as an homage to its humble beginnings.

La Guita is the only Manzanilla produced exclusively from the Pago Miraflores vineyards around Sanlúcar; an area known for its famed Albariza Superior soils (the highest soil-quality standard, according to the DO Sherry Regulatory Board) that lend the characteristic mineral quality that makes this Manzanilla so memorable. Aged inside the very same walls of what was once Sanlúcar’s main hospital in 1589, the stunning baroque-style winery fits beautifully inside of the city’s striking historic center.

La Guita saw tremendous success in its domestic market as the leading Sherry/Manzanilla brand in Spain, and so each bottle is prepared upon demand. La Guita was the first bodega to print the bottling date on its bottles, guaranteeing proper rotation and perpetuating its trademark reputation of being the freshest Manzanilla in the market.

Manzanilla

This wine is a captivating depiction of 100 percent Palomino Fino aged under flor in the traditional system of maturation called Solera aging. A dazzling lemon-gold in color, La Guita Manzanilla is clean and fresh on the nose displaying aromas of glazed fruit, wild herbs and toasted almonds. On the palate, it is light, yet persistent, mimicking the aromatic intensity of the nose onto the remarkable finish. Serve chilled, between 44-48 (°F).

N/V: 92 WS | 90 WA

Manzanilla La Guita en Rama

The En Rama Manzanilla is extracted directly from the barrels after about 5 to 6 years and bottled without going through the process of clarification and stabilization. The wine undergoes a light filtering, which results in the signature taste of La Guita Manzanilla. En Rama style sherry is bottled once a year, and this expression is from October 2015. On the nose, baked apple, hints of hazelnut and Chamomile with herbal notes of lemon thyme. On the palate, preserved lemon peel, subtle iodine, almond and green olive give way to tangy dried apricot and mandarin.

N/V: 93 WA | 92 WS | WE

Emilio Hidalgo

| Ehm-Eel-Yo EE-Dahl-Go |

DO Jerez-Manzanilla (Andalucía), Spain

EMILIO HIDALGO

Emilio Hidalgo was founded in 1874 and has developed an international reputation for producing elegant, refined Sherries. Today, the fifth generation of Hidalgos runs the winery. This new generation maintains the traditions that have been carefully preserved for more than one hundred and thirty years. Capataz Manuel Nieves has worked at Hidalgo since 1959, a lasting relationship that has spanned five generations; his son Manuel Jesus Nieves is slated to replace him upon his retirement.

Hidalgo Fino

The pale, clean color of this Sherry belies its beauty and complexity. Made from 100 percent Palomino, it is elegant and bone-dry on the palate, yet the finish lingers. The finesse of this wine comes from the fact that Hidalgo makes its Finos in aged soleras, sometimes six and seven years old, whereas many producers choose to bottle their Finos at two or three years.

N/V: 90 WS, 89 “Best Buy” WE

La Panesa Especial Fino

This “Especial” Sherry comes from a particular solera that was identified more than fifty years ago as having unique properties. Made from 100 percent Palomino, the extra aging on this wine shows in its brilliant gold color and exceptional depth of flavor.

N/V: 95 WA, 96 W&S, 95 D, 92 WS

About Finos: Fino Sherry is fortified to no more than 16 percent alcohol so that a layer of flor (ambient yeast) develops on the surface of the wine, protecting it from oxidizing. The resulting Sherry is light, delicate, and almond-toned with a salty tang and a final ABV of 15 to 18 percent.

El Tresillo Amontillado

This 100 percent Palomino undergoes 8 years of extended, biological, under-the-flor yeast aging as a Fino before an extra 4-5 years of oxidative maturation in American oak. The fractional blending process from the third criadera of the Amontillado solera is governed by Manuel Jesus Nieves, who took over for his father Manuel Nieves, the capataz (Master Blender) at Emilio Hidalgo for almost 50 years. The Bodega goes above and beyond the aging requirements for their elegant Sherries, creating unparalleled depth of flavor and complexity. The extra oxidative aging results in a concentration of hazelnuts, balsam wood, and tobacco flavors on palate.

Marqués de Rodil Especial Palo Cortado

Made from 100 percent Palomino, Marqués de Rodil is the result of a long and extraordinary selection process. Developed in an extra-special solera dating back to 1860, this rare Sherry is a jewel. Bottled only if and when the Capataz feels it is ready, this is a true expression of the *terroir* inside the bodega. Beautiful amber in color, it has delicate aromas of toasted nuts and caramel that continue to unfold on its dry, refined palate.

N/V: 91 WE, 93 W&S

About Palo Cortados: The rare Palo Cortado develops when a Fino suddenly loses its flor, exposing it to abrupt oxidation (as opposed to an Amontillado, which loses its flor gradually). When a cellar master notices this, he draws a hatch through the line originally marking the barrel as a Fino, hence the name “Palo Cortado,” or “Cut Stick.” The resulting wine combines the rich body and color of an Oloroso with the delicate bouquet of a Fino. These Sherries are greatly prized, and only one to two percent of Sherry naturally becomes a Palo Cortado.

Gobernador Oloroso

Made from 100 percent Palomino, this wine is mahogany in color with elegant aromas of walnut and toast resulting from a lengthy oak aging. On the palate it is generous yet dry, with lots of body and a lingering finish.

N/V: 92 WS, 94 W&S

Villapanés Especial Oloroso

This 100 percent Palomino Sherry is from a special old solera in the Hidalgo bodega. Its exceptional elegance results from very brief maturing under flor before it was exposed to oxidation. The final wine is dark mahogany in color with shades of red and fresh aromas of walnuts and spice. It's full-bodied on the palate with a complex finish.

N/V: 91 WA, WS, W&S

About Olorosos: Oloroso Sherry is fortified to around 18 percent ABV so that no flor can develop. Therefore the wine ages by oxidation, picking up notes of caramel, coffee, toffee, and almond. The darker Oloroso, which means “fragrant,” demonstrates spicy, walnut tones and a smooth mouthfeel. Final ABV ranges from 17 percent to 22 percent.

Morenita Cream Sherry

Morenita, which translates as “little brunette,” is also the local name for this sweet, amber-colored Sherry. It is made in the traditional method of adding juice from dried Pedro Ximénez grapes to an Oloroso, resulting in a sweet yet complex Sherry. Featuring intense notes of dried fruits and chocolate, this wine is full-bodied yet refreshing with a delicate sweetness. Serve chilled or over ice.

N/V: 91 WS, 90 “Best Buy” WE

Pedro Ximénez Sherry

Sweet and almost syrupy in texture, this wine is made from 100 percent Pedro Ximénez grapes that were sun-dried immediately after harvest to concentrate the sugar levels and obtain a high-quality must. The resulting Sherry is dark, almost opaque in color, with aromas of toast and dried fruit. On the palate, it is dense, velvety, and sweet, with notes of raisins, figs and honey.

N/V: 92 WS

Ànima Negra

| Ah-Nee-Ma Neh-Gra |

VdIT Mallorca (Illes Balears), Spain

Ànima negra

Ànima Negra was founded in 1994 when two self-taught friends—Pere Ignasi Obrador and Miquel Àngel Cerdà—decided that the wines of their native Mallorca weren't reaching their full potential. Taking advantage of some unused milk tanks at the dairy farm owned by Pere's family, they made two barriques of wine from Callet grapes (a native Mallorcan variety) they'd purchased from local farmers.

The initial results were so encouraging that the friends decided to form a partnership and continue pursuing their newly found passion for wine. Today, Ànima Negra sources its grapes from more than one hundred and thirty-five carefully selected parcels of land that the partners either own or control. Virtually all of these parcels are within a six-mile radius of the winery, and most of the vines are fifty to one hundred and five years old. All the vines are dry-farmed and are unfertilized, helping to ensure they produce small, concentrated fruit. The resulting unique, elegant wines have garnered worldwide praise, and earned a loyal following among fine wine enthusiasts throughout the world. In 2010, the Slow Food Movement honored Ànima Negra with induction into the Ark of Taste, an initiative created by the Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity. The recognition was for Ànima Negra's combined respect for traditional viticultural methods with belief in the indigenous grape varieties of Mallorca.

Quíbia

| Key-Bee-Ah |

Quíbia is a fantasy name conjured up by the Ànima Negra team. It refers to an imaginary place where there are no known limits or boundaries—a name that is perfectly appropriate for this white wine made in part from red grapes! The wine is made from the white Premsal and the red Callet grape fermented in stainless steel, followed by four months of aging on the lees. Enticing straw-lemon in color with greenish reflections, it offers pleasantly unusual notes of white peach, pear, sea brine, and jasmine. On the palate, the wine is weighty with creamy texture and concentrated flavors while at the same time fresh, delicate and well balanced.

2013: 90 WA

ÀN/2

This wine is 65 percent Callet, 20 percent a blend of Manto Negro and Fogoneu, and 15 percent Syrah from vines ranging from fifty to eighty-five years old. After the grapes are hand-harvested, they are fermented in stainless steel with native yeasts. ÀN/2 is aged for thirteen months in barrique (70 percent French and 30 percent American oak). The wine shows aromas of honeysuckle and jasmine and has ripe, round flavors on the palate. Extremely refreshing, with lovely, soft tannins, the raspberry-like finish is long and complex.

2012: 91 WE | **2010:** 92 WA | **2009:** 91 WA

ÀN

This wine is 95 percent Callet and 5 percent a blend of Mantonegre and Fogoneu sourced from vines between twenty-five and one hundred and five years old, half of which are pre-phylloxera. The grapes are hand harvested from Ànima Negra's beloved Son Negre vineyard; Less than 65 percent of the harvest is qualified to go into ÀN, which ferments for six to nine days in cement vats before refinement for sixteen to nineteen months in new French barriques that were custom-designed to ensure the proper maturation for Callet. Dark ruby-red in color, with a superb bouquet of lavender, cedar, violets, and red fruit, this wine is elegant and complex with silky tannins and a long finish.

2012: 91 WA, 90 WS | **2011:** 92 WE Editor's Choice | **2010:** 93 WA, 90 WE | **2009:** 92 WA | **2007:** 91 WA

Son Negre

Son Negre is the pinnacle of Ànima Negra's line. It is 95 percent Callet and a 5 percent blend of Manto Negro and Fogoneu. The vines are over one hundred years old, sourced from the oldest part of the winery's Son Negre vineyard. Son Negre translates as "Dark Place," so named because the intense sunlight in the central part of Mallorca bakes the soil black. This heat, combined with minimal rain, results in small, concentrated grapes. Son Negre is aged for nineteen months in new French barriques, resulting in a dark ruby wine with aromas of violets, tobacco, black cherry, and black raspberry. Extremely rich, layered, and long on the finish.

2010: 94 WA

Convento San Francisco

| Kon-Ven-Toh San Fran-Sis-Ko |

DO Ribera del Duero (Castilla y León), Spain

Convento San Francisco

Convento San Francisco was founded in 1998 and today is owned by the Pitarch Rodriguez family. The winery is a restored thirteenth-century monastery in the fortress town of Peñafiel; the building's fastidiously preserved historic walls and structural details make it an architectural treasure, one that belies the modern workings within. The wines are made by the talented Raquel Acebes, who has worked at the winery since 2003 and was elevated to head winemaker in 2013. Convento San Francisco's grapes are sourced from forty-six different plots in Ribera del Duero. These sites have been carefully selected to balance the region's three soil types. In Olivares del Duero and Quintanilla de Arriba, the soils are calcareous while in Peñafiel, the soils become sandier. Farther east, near Burgos (Gumiel de Mercado), the sites are at their highest elevations and the soils are sandy with alluvial and marlstone components. Each site is selected for its altitude, latitude, and soil composition. The vineyards contain old vines ranging from twenty to one hundred and two years of age, 50 percent of which predate phylloxera.

Roble

| Ro-Blay |

Roble is a pure expression of Tempranillo sourced from the old, gnarled vines of high-altitude vineyards in the Ribera del Duero. This area is celebrated for its rich cultural history—a component that contributes greatly to the essence of the final wine. Aged for twelve months in 300 L French and American oak barrels, this wine is a brilliant dark ruby in color. Roble exhibits a beautiful, perfumed nose of intense black cherry, violet, sweet spice, and leather. This wine has a full body with velvety tannins that develop into a long, persistent finish.

2012: 91 W&S | **2011:** 88 WS

Convento San Francisco

The flagship wine is a blend of 90 percent Tempranillo and 10 percent Merlot from old vines, 50 percent of which predate phylloxera. The wine is fermented in small stainless steel vats and punched down twice daily by hand. It is aged in French and American barrels, 75 percent new, for twelve months and aged in bottle for two to three years, giving it "Reserva" status. This wine is neither fined nor filtered. Very deep in color, it has a nose of black fruit, tobacco, anise, and clove, with excellent structure and a lingering finish.

2011: 90 WS | **2010:** 91 WA | **2009:** 90 WA, 90 WS, 90 D | **2008:** 90 WA | **2006:** 91 WA, 93 W&S | **2005:** 93 WA

Convento San Francisco Reserva Especial

A wonderful expression of Tempranillo (90 percent) and Cabernet Sauvignon (10 percent) that is only produced in years when the harvest is especially good. This wine is fermented in 90 percent new French oak and 10 percent American oak for sixteen months; each barrel is sampled but only those displaying the finest characteristics are selected for bottling. Vibrant ruby-red in color with a violet rim, this wine has supple aromas of ripe forest fruit and spice with excellent minerality. On the palate, the Convento San Francisco Reserva Especial delivers a solid structure with smooth and elegant tannins.

2005: 92 WA | 2004: 94 WA

Vinos Valtuille

DO Bierzo (Castilla y León), Spain

Vinos Valtuille

Vinos Valtuille is a small boutique winery owned by the García Alba family. It is located in the small village of Valtuille de Abajo, burrowed at the foot of an old Roman settlement in the province of Leon, in northern Spain. The land is dominated by nearly thirty acres of old, beautiful vineyards that extend from the village to the heart of the historic Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route. The reigning variety here is Mencia, planted in small plots on clay slopes, allowing for optimal ripening. However, the beauty of this unique landscape lies not only in the countryside but in the character of its people. Vinos Valtuille was founded in 1999, but the vine-growing and winemaking traditions of its ancestors date back to 1910. Today, the winemaking duties are in the self-taught hands of Marco García Alba, one of Bierzo's current crop of rising-star winemakers and growers. In early 2000, the family embarked on the challenge of producing high-quality wines and elevating the image of their region. They made numerous investments to update the facilities and successfully obtained the technical resources to achieve this dream. The attention to detail and the meticulous manner in which he cares for the vineyards ensures that each harvest yields rich fruit. The estate's philosophy is clear, placing care for the land at the very top of the ladder, guaranteeing quality from vine to bottle. This idea is an homage to founder Dimas Garcia's roots—especially his grandfather, Antonio.

Pago de Valdoneje Joven

The grapes for the Pago de Valdoneje Joven are manually harvested from the clay and sandy soils of the estate's Mencia vines that reach over eighty-five years of age. Fermentation and aging occur in stainless steel tanks to preserve the fruit-driven characteristics of the wine. An intense ruby red in color with violet reflections, the Joven shows beautifully, with a fresh nose of wild berries, mint, and earthy elements imparted by the Bierzo soils. Firmly structured on the palate, this wine is supported by fine tannins and remarkable balance.

2015: 91 WA | **2013:** 90 WA

Pago de Valdoneje Roble

The Pago de Valdoneje Roble is sourced from vineyards over eighty-five years of age that are rich in clay and sand. The grapes are manually harvested and pass through a strict bunch selection to ensure astounding quality. Fermented in stainless steel and aged for four to six months in French oak, the Roble has a smoke-driven nose, displaying aromas of red fruits and black pepper. On the palate, this wine has a rich body with nicely integrated tannins and lively acidity towards the lasting finish.

2014: 89 WA

Pago de Valdoneje Vinas Viejas

The grapes for Pago de Valdoneje Vinas Viejas are manually harvested from the estate's original vineyard plot that dates back to 1910; the vines here are more than a century old. After an intense sorting, only the best bunches are fermented in stainless steel tanks followed by refinement in new French oak barrels for eleven months. Unfiltered and unfined, this wine is intense cherry red and incredibly aromatic, exhibiting aromas of blackberry and violet with subtle nuances of sweet tar imparted by the age of the vine and the clay and sandy soils of the area. Perfectly balanced with silky fine tannins, the Vinas Viejas has incredible depth and a uniquely persistent finish.

2014: 91 WA | **2013:** 91 WE, 90 WS | **2006:** 91 WA

Finca Montepedroso

| Feen-Ka Mont-Eh-Ped-Rose-Oh |

DO Rueda (Castilla y León), Spain

FINCA MONTEPEDROSO

Finca Montepedroso was founded in 2008 by La Familia Martínez Bujanda, a family-owned collection of wineries that dates back to 1889. More than a century has passed since the family's patriarch, Joaquín Martínez-Bujanda, started making wine; now his great-grandchildren Carlos and Pilar carry on the family legacy. Traditionally Rioja producers, the Martínez-Bujanda family purchased the Montepedroso vineyard to realize their dream of making white wine from Rueda's famed Verdejo vineyards. Planted in 2002, Finca Montepedroso is an eighty-acre single-estate vineyard situated at 2,500 feet. This high altitude, combined with Rueda's gravelly, nutrient-poor soil provides an ideal environment for preserving acidity and producing fresh and complex whites. The family vinifies each Verdejo plot independently based on soil type and age of vine, in a small yet strikingly modern winery on the estate.

Finca Montepedroso Verdejo

This wine is made from 100 percent estate-grown Verdejo that is meticulously hand-harvested at night, keeping the grapes cool, as they would otherwise be affected by the region's typical daytime heat. Fermented at low temperatures in stainless steel tanks to preserve freshness, this Verdejo is then aged sur lie for five months with weekly batonnage to provide additional depth and complexity. Finca Montepedroso is a fresh yet intense wine, showcasing the true varietal character of the Verdejo grape. This wine features notes of apricot, peach, fennel, green almond shell, and anise, with hints of fresh-cut hay, smoke, and minerality. On the palate, it is velvety with excellent volume, structure, and acidity.

2014: 91 WA | **2013:** 89 WA

Viña Somoza

/ Veen-Ya Soh-Moh-Za /

DO Valdeorras (Galicia), Spain



Viña Somoza is situated in Galicia along the ancient Camino Real, where grape-growing dates back to the Romans. The soil is slate substratum irrigated by the river Sil, in a Mediterranean-Continental microclimate influenced by the Atlantic Ocean. Victor Fernández established the winery two generations ago with the philosophy of using the most advanced technical equipment and careful viticultural practices to fully express the characteristics of the Godello grape.

Godello Sobre Lias

/ Goh-Dey-Oh So-Brey-Lee-Ahs /

Called Spain's most interesting white grape by Wine Advocate, Godello is expressive and concentrated. This Godello is sourced from twenty-year-old vines grown in slate and granite soils at an elevation of 1,485 feet. Following fermentation in stainless steel, the wine is aged on the lees ("sobre lias" in Spanish) for three months. This excellent offering is straw-colored with a complex aromatic floral character. It offers rich aromas of fine lees, mineral, spices, citrus and melon. Harmonious and balanced, this vibrant wine is best for drinking within the next four years.

2014: 90 WS | 2012: 92 WS | 2010, 2008, 2007: 90 WA

Finca Antigua

| Feen-Ka An-Tee-Gwa |

DO La Mancha (Castilla-La Mancha), Spain



Finca Antigua sprang from the bosom of the Martínez Bujanda family, historic wine producers in DOCa Rioja for 125 years. After the success of the Finca Valpiedra project (also in La Rioja), the family began to look for a different region in which to continue their expansion. In 1998, they acquired an estate in the heart of DO La Mancha, between Albacete and Cuenca, where they could make wines with a more international style. This acquisition included 518 acres of vineyards made up of Merlot, Syrah, Tempranillo, Cabernet Sauvignon and Viura grapes, then another 518 acres on which they incorporated the varieties Garnacha, Moscatel Morisco, Petit Verdot and Chardonnay.

This 2,470 acre estate is located at 2,952 feet high on a plain surrounded by Mediterranean vegetation and covered in Kermes oaks. This singular characteristic is reflected in its wines, which almost always give off balsamic notes of rosemary, thyme and menthol. The altitude is also significant in that it hosts a broad range of temperatures, a factor that favors the grapes' proper ripening. The soil is poor in nutrients and primarily comprised of loam and limestone. It supports the modern vineyard, with its vines trained onto trellises to facilitate machine harvesting and getting the grapes to the winery in barely ten minutes' time.

Finca Antigua classifies its land as an estate divided into small plots. Each space is tended individually and by variety, and each plot and grape variety is made into wine and aged separately. The philosophy behind Finca Antigua's wines is clear: to obtain wines that are personal, but that have their own level of standardization, with the objective of wines that are recognizable from year to year. Opened in 2003, the modern winery's interior combines artisanal designs befitting a family with a history of more than one hundred years as winemakers, with the latest winemaking technology.

El Palomar Viura

This wine is 100 percent Viura, sourced from the El Palomar parcel of the Finca Antigua estate. The grapes are harvested in early September and fermented in stainless steel containers for twenty-four days. The wine is aged for four months sur lie, lending it a warmth and complexity. Medium-bodied, this wine has moderate acidity and rich notes of white flowers, apple, honeysuckle, and jasmine.

2011: 91 WA

Las Escalerillas Tempranillo

This wine is 100 percent Tempranillo sourced from the twenty-one-year-old vines of the Las Escalerillas plot in the Finca Antigua estate. At an altitude of 2,500 feet, cool nights and hot days create optimal ripening conditions. The wine is aged for eight months in American oak. On the nose, it is clean and bright with red fruit preserves, dried figs, and white chocolate. On the palate, it is full-bodied yet elegant with a persistent finish.

Las Mateas Cabernet Sauvignon

This wine is 100 percent Cabernet Sauvignon sourced from the bush-laden Las Mateas parcel of the Finca Antigua estate. Fermented in stainless steel and aged seven months in American oak, yielding a deep red color with a bluish hue. Intense aromas of balsam and spice show through on the nose, while the palate displays robust berry fruit, a solid structure, and a hint of oak on the finish.

2011: 88 WA

El Granero Garnacha

This wine is 100 percent Garnacha sourced from the El Granero parcel of the Finca Antigua estate. Aged for five months in American oak, this Garnacha is a heavyweight wine with moderate to high acidity levels. The nose shows notes of raspberries and spice while the palate has flavors of red berries.

2012: 88 WA | 2011: 88 WS

Crianza

Finca Antigua Crianza is composed of 50 percent Tempranillo, 20 percent Merlot, 20 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, and 10 percent Syrah. Grapes are harvested during the months of September and October, fermented in stainless steel tanks for nineteen days, and then aged in French and American oak barrels for fifteen months. Unique aromas of stewed fruits, leather, tobacco, and hints of blueberry are underscored by integrated alcohol, smooth, but present tannins and pleasing acidity.

2011: 89 WA, 88 WS | 2010: 89 WE | 2009: 90 WA

Marqués De Griñon

| Mark-Ez Deh Green-Yoan |

VP Dominio de Valdepusa (Castilla-La Mancha), Spain

MARQUES DE GRIÑON

Marqués de Griñón wines are sourced from the prized Dominio de Valdepusa vineyard in Castilla-La Mancha. Valdepusa stands apart from the rest of the region, as its 1,568-foot elevation is one of the highest in Spain, and its top layer of soil is similar to Burgundy's—almost pure limestone. Dominio de Valdepusa has been in the noble family of Carlos Falcó, the Marqués of Griñon, since 1292. Referred to as the father of Spanish wine, Falcó pioneered the modernization of vine growing and winemaking in Spain. Falco received his degree in Agronomy and Agricultural Engineering from the Katholieke Universiteit de Leuven, the oldest Catholic university still in existence in the world. In 1964, he received his Master's degree in Agricultural Economics from University of California-Davis. In 1991 and 1992, he was the first to plant the varietals of Syrah and Petit Verdot in Spain, and the first to employ drip irrigation in European vineyards.

*His experimentation with international varieties and modern technologies made him an internationally renowned expert on Spanish wine. In 1999, he published the eighteen-volume *Entender de Vino*, the quintessential guide to Spanish winemaking, now in its thirteenth edition. He also founded the esteemed *Grandes Pagos de España* association, with members that include twenty-five of the most prestigious estates in Spain. The group's mission is to defend and propagate the culture of pago wine, meaning wine produced in a specific terroir that reflects the distinct personality of the soil and climate.*

*In 2003, Dominio de Valdepusa became the first estate to receive the *Vino de Pago* designation, the highest level in the Spanish classification system. This level designates single estates of exceptional quality that exhibit the special characteristics of a pago wine. Today, winemaking at Valdepusa is in the hands of UC-Davis educated Julio Mourelle.*

Vino de Pago: This top tier in the Spanish classification system was introduced in 2003, and refers to wines from single vineyards with special characteristics. A “pago” is a land mass with indigenous vegetation determined by the area's soil type and microclimate that differentiates itself from the surrounding environment. The site must have historically produced wines of exceptional quality and the single-vineyard name should have been in use for at least five years. The single-vineyard site must be smaller than the communal or municipal boundary where it is located and there must be a quality-control system in place that complies at minimum with the regulations for a DOCa.

Caliza

Caliza means limestone in Spanish, which is an homage to the soil profile at Dominio de Valdepusa. A blend of Syrah Petit Verdot, and Graciano from fifteen-to-forty-year-old vines, aged for twelve months in French oak between one and two years old. Made in the “alta expresión,” or “high expression” style, Caliza is deep purple in color, bursting with powerful aromas of lush raspberry and cherry, balanced by a subtle minerality and notes of cinnamon. On the palate, it is full-bodied yet fresh with silky tannins and a long finish.

2012: 90 WA | **2011:** 91 JS | **2010:** 90 WS | **2007:** 90 WA, 91 WS

Svmma Varietalis

/ Sue-Ma Vah-Re-eh-Tal-Ees /

“Svmma” is a Latin word commonly used to mean “addition” or “compendium” of knowledge, as this wine captures the cumulative experience of two generations of the Falcó family. Svmma is 48 percent Syrah, 30 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, and 22 percent Petit Verdot from fifteen-to-forty-year-old vines, aged for fourteen months in French oak between one and two years old. The wine is deep ruby red in color with purple hues, with an elegant nose of pepper, clove, smoke, and dark berries. On the palate, it is rich with soft tannins with a long, fruit-filled finish.

2013: 90 WA | **2008:** 90 WA, 92 WE Editor’s Choice | **2007:** 90 WA, 90 WE | **2006:** 91 WA | **2005:** 90 WA, 90 WE

Cabernet Sauvignon

This wine is 100 percent Cabernet Sauvignon aged for twelve to fifteen months in new and second-passage French oak. Exhibiting a deep purple color, the wine bursts from the glass with intense aromas of black cherries, chocolate, and spices, with complex herbal and floral notes including lavender and rosemary. On the palate, it expands to reveal a full body with outstanding depth of fruit. It is well structured with round, soft tannins.

2013: 90 WA | **2011:** 92 WE, 90 WS | **2010:** 93 WS & Top 100 List 2014, 92 WE | **2008:** 91 WE | **2007:** 90 WE, 91 WS | **2006:** 91 WA

Syrah

This wine is 100 percent Syrah sourced from a pioneering single-variety vineyard planted in 1991. It is aged for fourteen months in new and second-passage French oak. A dark purple color, it reveals complex aromas of jammy blackberries, violets, cassis, and freshly ground white pepper. It has well-knit tannins and good underlying acidity that provides vibrancy and a spectacularly rich and prolonged finish.

2013: 91 WA | **2011:** 91 WE | **2006:** 92 WA | **2005:** 92 WA, 92 WS

Petit Verdot

This wine incredibly unique 100 percent Petit Verdot thought to be the first ever bottling of its kind, sourced from a pioneering single-variety vineyard planted in 1992. It is aged for eighteen months in new and second-passage French oak. This wine has a deep red color with complex aromas of flowers, ripe black fruit, vanilla, licorice, spice, and freshly ground pepper. The palate exhibits rich balanced tannins, excellent depth, and a beautifully concentrated and textured finish.

2012: 89 WA | **2011:** 93 WS, 92 WE | **2010:** 91 WE | **2007:** 90 WS | **2006:** 92 WA, 91 WS

Graciano

This low-yielding late harvest varietal is handpicked with a thoughtful vine-by-vine selection of only the best bunches, and this 100 percent Graciano aims to preserve the unique character of the single-estate *terroir* in which it is grown. Deep red in color with a velvety mouthfeel; the result of well-polished tannins, which are imparted by twenty months of refinement in gently toasted French oak Allier barrels. Delicate aromas of orange peel, cacao and graphite nuances support the palate with subtle persistency. This wine has a wonderful capacity for aging.

2012: 91 WA | 2010: 91 WE

El Rincón

This wine is produced from a blend of Syrah and Garnacha from the El Rincón estate vineyard in the Aldea del Fresno region of the DO Vinos de Madrid. The family strives to capture the unique *terroir* in the bottle of each wine they make, and El Rincón is no exception. Here, the vines are grown in decomposed granite, which they believe lends an unmistakable elegance and precision to the final wine. El Rincón is deep ruby red in color, and marked by expressive notes of ripe plums, violets, spice and a hint of caramel. On the palate, it shows outstanding balance of tannin and acidity with plenty of ripe fruit, backed up with firm but soft tannins.

2013: 89 WA | 2010: 88 WA | 2008: 90 WE | 2007: 91 WA

EMERITVS

| Eh-Mer-Reet-Us |

EMERITVS is the pinnacle of the Marqués de Griñon line. The wine is 63 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 32 percent Petit Verdot, and 5 percent Syrah from fifteen- to forty-year-old vines. Grapes are handpicked on a vine-by-vine basis. It is aged for twenty-four months, the first year of which the wine is aged unblended in new and one-year-old French oak with malolactic fermentation occurring in-barrel. It has an intense nose of boysenberry, black plum, and vanilla bean, and is powerful on the palate with an excellent tannic structure.

2011: 92 WE, 90 WS | 2010: 94 WE | 2008: 92 WA | 2007: 90 WS

AAA

AAA is a stunning blend of Petit Verdot and Graciano sourced from the Dominio de Valdepusa estate in Toledo. This wine is named for the Marques de Griñon's three daughters—Alejandra, Tamara and Aldara—each with triple As in their name, and is built upon the idea of excellence and singularity. Boasting a deep, garnet color with an elegant nose of rose petals, cocoa, and tobacco, AAA is accompanied by a rich, full-bodied palate with a stunningly complex finish.

2010: 95 WA, 93 WE | 2008: 90 WA

Juvé & Camps

| Zhoo-Vey E Kahmps |

DO Cava (Catalonia), Spain



Juvé & Camps is a family-owned Grower Cava located in Sant Sadurní d'Anoia, a small town in the northeastern region of Penedès, near Barcelona. The family's roots in the Cava business began more than two hundred years ago when Joan Juve Mir planted his vineyards in the eighteenth century, laying the groundwork for generations to come. The winery was founded in 1921 by Joan Juvé Baqués and his wife Teresa Camps Farré. Today, the family is one of the rare Cava and Penedes producers to use only estate vineyards, and owns 2,700 acres of certified organic vines. Since the winery was founded, its philosophy has been to use only traditional, high-quality practices when making its Cavas and still wines. For example, Juvé & Camps is one of the few wineries to hand-harvest all estate-grown fruit, use only free-run juice and hand-riddle all its Cavas. They are also a proponent of long lees-aging and are the biggest producer of Gran Reserva (accounting for more than 60 percent of production) and Qualified Single Estate Cava (QSEC) in Spain. It is thanks to this focus and attention to detail that Juvé & Camps has established itself as the most highly regarded Cava producer in Spain. Their wines are referred to as "The King's Cava," as they are frequently served at state and Spanish Royal banquets. As more than 80 percent of Juvé & Camps sales still occur domestically, they represent a truly authentic taste of Cava.

Reserva de la Familia Brut Nature Gran Reserva

This Cava is referred to as "The Family's Reserva" because the Juvé family originally made it for their own personal use. It eventually became so popular that they began making it more widely available, and it is now their flagship wine. The Reserva de la Familia is made from the free-run juice of the "Big Three" grapes of Cava—Macabeo, Parellada, and Xarel-lo. All the fruit is estate-grown, which is rare for DO Cava, where the négociant system reigns. A Gran Reserva, meaning it is aged on lees for at least thirty months (in this case, thirty-six months), which lends warm, autolytic flavors of toasted bread and a richer mouthfeel. This wine is also a Brut Nature, meaning no dosage is added, making this selection lower in calories and among the driest sparkling wines available. With a bright and attractive pale-golden color, it has small yet plentiful and persistent perlage. Profound and intense on the nose, initially evoking notes of mature white fruits. Gradually, its complexity grows and it is wonderfully reminiscent of toasted bread with background hints of citrus. On the palate, it is dry, soft, and round, with a long, exquisite finish.

2011: 92D, 89 WS | **2010:** 91 Best Buy W&S, 91 D | **2007:** 90 WA | **2005:** 90 WE

Pinot Noir Brut Rosé

This Rosé Cava is 100 percent Pinot Noir from the Feixa 1 vineyard at Juvé & Camps's Espiells estate. This outstanding Cava is characterized by a gentle but persistent perlage and beautiful pink color. The free-run juice is macerated for twelve to fourteen hours, followed by one year of aging on the lees, resulting in a pretty, deep pink color. On the nose, it is both delicate and intense, with clear notes of cherry and strawberry reinforced by aromas of flowers, honey and toasted bread. The mouthfeel is exuberant, creamy, and intense with a beautiful balance of fruit and acidity.

NV: 91 WA, 90 WA

Reserva Sweet

Reserva Sweet is a distinctive Cava with an expressive golden-yellow color and a persistent stream of fine bubbles. Patient aging gives way to the intense plum, cherry, and mango that unfold into subtle hints of caramel and honey on the nose. A creamy texture framed by balanced acidity and effervescence makes this Cava perfect for light desserts.

Essential Xarel-lo Reserva

Juvé & Camps has decided to pay homage to Xarel-lo, the grape that forms the backbone of most Catalan Cavas, by releasing a sparkling wine crafted exclusively from this variety. Essential Xarel-lo Reserva Brut was crafted using only the “free-run” juice coming from grapes grown in the Espiells and Can Rius estates, both located in Central Penedès and belonging to the Cava DO. Located at an altitude between 185 and 245 meters, the vines grow in soils composed of clay and limestone that are strategically protected from northern climatic influences by the neighboring Montserrat Mountain. Aged for fifteen months before its release, the Cava displays a nice yellow color with some greenish and steely tinges. It also has a textbook aromatic expression of the Xarel.lo grape—discrete notes of fennel, garrigue, rosemary and thyme along with touches of white fruit and dry fruit. On the other hand, the wine shows some bread-like, creamy notes coming from the yeasts. This Cava is fresh, gentle and creamy, with bitter notes of aromatic herbs, touches of dry fruit and a tense acidity. Nice little bubbles, long finish and a pleasant overall sensation.

2013: 91 Best Buy W&S

Cinta Púrpura Brut Reserva

/ Seen-Ta Purr-Poo-Rah /

“Cinta Púrpura” refers to the purple ribbon around the neck of the bottle. The wine is a blend of the “Big Three” Cava grapes: Parellada, Macabeo, and Xarel-lo, and spends fifteen months on the lees, lending ample complexity to the final wine. Golden yellow in color with ripe fruit aromas over a light floral background with hints of toasted bread. The crisp acidity of this wine is complemented by a gentle creaminess that leads into a long and satisfying finish.

Blanc de Noirs Brut Reserva

Blanc de Noirs refers to the typical Champagne vinification technique in which a white wine is made from black grapes. This wine is made from 90 percent Pinot Noir from the La Torre vineyard on the Espiells estate with 10 percent Xarel-lo. Bearing a wonderful golden color with light reddish hints that recall its varietal origin, this Cava has aromas of white fruits, cherries, honey, toast, and citrus. It is intense, suggestive, and gentle on the palate, with a long and persistent finish.

2012: 89 WE

Milesimé Reserva

| Mill-Ez-Ee-May |

Milesimé is made only in exceptional vintages. This single-vineyard Reserva Cava is made entirely from the free-run juice of Chardonnay grapes sourced from Juvé & Camps' oldest estate vineyard, Espiells. This vineyard is located in Sant Sadurní d'Anoia, the heart of Cava territory, and is considered one of the finest vineyard sites in the Penedès due to its higher elevation. Milesimé is a rich gold in color with a fine and persistent mousse and expressive aromas of pears, acacia blossom, and toast. On the palate, it is flavorful, creamy, silky and perfectly balanced.

2011: 89 WE | **2007:** 91 WA

Gran Juvé Brut Gran Reserva

The pinnacle of Juvé & Camps' line, this Gran Reserva Cava is a special blend of equal parts Macabeo, Xarel-lo, Parellada, and Chardonnay, all sourced from estate vineyards at higher elevations. This blend, along with five years' aging on the lees, creates an unforgettably layered sparkling wine. Brilliant gold in color, with lively aromas of white flowers, green apple, ripe tropical fruit, lightly toasted bread and orange-blossom honey.

2010: 91 WA | **2009:** 91 WA | **2007:** 92 WA | **2005:** 90 WA | **2004:** 91 WE

CAVA CLASSIFICATIONS

Cavas are aged sur lie for a minimum of nine months. Aging classifications are as follows:

Crianza: Nine months (required)

Reserva: Fifteen months

Gran Reserva: Thirty months.

Sweetness levels, which are identical to Champagne's, are as follows:

Brut Nature Very dry with no dosage (up to 3 g sugar/L)	Extra Seco Dry (2-20 g sugar/L)	Semi-Seco Semi-dry (33-50 g sugar/L)
Extra Brut Very dry (up to 6 g sugar/L)	Seco Dry (17-35 g sugar/L)	Dulce Sweet (more than 50 g/L)
Brut Very dry (up to 15 g sugar/L)		

Gregal d'Espiells

An alluring blend of 40 percent Gewürztraminer, 40 percent Malvasia and 20 percent Muscat, this wine comes from the renowned Espiells and Can Massana vineyards just outside of Barcelona. Named for the light wind that comes in from the Northeast, Gregal boasts aromas of white flowers, fresh herbs and citrus, while nuances of lime zest and lychee fruit appear on the palate. Elegant and floral, the Gregal d'Espiells is overtly pleasant with strong character, just like the Mediterranean wind for which it is named.

Vins Del Massis

/Vahns Del Mass-Ees/

DO Catalonia, Spain

VINS DEL MASSIS

The idea for the winery came in 2006 when Belén Sánchez took Benjamin Romeo and Patxi Fernández to see the potential of winemaking in her home region of Catalonia near the Massis del Garraf. Both men fell in love with the dry rugged landscape and the calcareous cliffs at the seashore village of Garraf just south of Barcelona. In 2008 after finding a location for the winery in an older building dating back to 1936, the project began in earnest. The winery focuses on local varieties of Xarel.lo and Garnacha blanca sourced from single-estate plots influenced by their individual soil types and the Catalan coastal mountain range, which rises to 2,156 feet at its highest point inland. The grapes are hand-harvested from head-trained 80-year-old vines and reach the winery within two hours of picking without the use of herbicides. It's exciting to see how Vins del Massis combines the voluminous body and aging potential of Garnacha blanca with the taught linear qualities of Xarel-lo and aromatics influenced by a pre-fermentation cold soak, lees aging, and the Mediterranean Sea.

Massis

46 percent Garnacha Blanco and 54 percent Xarello. The wine is from Olesa de Bonesvalls, Catalonia. From the El Badell and Mas Corp vineyards. It is made from head-trained vines with no irrigation that produce only 1.5 to 2 kg. The grapes are de-stemmed, macerated on the skin for twelve hours in stainless steel tanks then barrel-fermented and aged for eight months in 300 L and 225 L French oak barrels on the fine lees with 50 percent new and 50 percent once used. No malolactic conversion. This wine reflects its altitude by exhibiting flavors of Anjou pear, lemon thyme, and tangy honey crisp apple on the palate, which are rounded out with honeydew melon complemented by a hazelnut finish.

2013: 89 WA

Macizo

50 percent Garnacha and 50 percent Xarello from head-trained vines from the El Pou, Vinya Petita and La Font de Cinera vineyards carried in 16 kg boxes to keep the integrity of the fruit intact. The grapes were destemmed, crushed and macerated on the skins for eighteen hours in stainless steel to pull out maximum aromatic potential and then moved to barrels to finish fermentation. The wine was aged for eight months on the fine lees in new 300 L French oak. No malolactic conversion. Fined and filtered. The skin maceration results in pronounced aromatics of white peach and dried apricot and on the palate, manifests itself as passion fruit, grassy mango combined with the silky texture and spicy finish of cold-pressed EVOO.

2013: 90 WA

LICIA

Finca de
ARANTEI

Licia & Finca de Arantei

/ Lee-See-Ya | & /Feen-Ka deh Are-Ahn-Teh/

DO Rías Baixas (Galicia), Spain

Jose Limeres, a native of the Galician town of Pontevedra and owner of several successful restaurants in Madrid, entered the wine business in 1985 when he was searching for a reliable supplier of quality wines for his restaurants. He bought his first property in O Rosal and planted native varieties that flourished in the area's unique climate and soil. The resulting wines proved a hit, particularly his Albariño, which strikes just the right balance of sugar and acidity. His property, Bodegas La Val, is located in the DO of Rías Baixas, in Galicia. Limeres's first vineyard, in O Rosal, is nestled on the Minho River, close to the Atlantic coast—an optimal area for Albarino due to the drier climate and warmer growing season. In the years that followed, Limeres expanded with three more vineyards in the area, and today his property covers two hundred acres of land. Soil types in the vineyards range from alluvial and granitic to slate, allowing Limeres to produce both terroir-driven, single-estate wines as well as carefully constructed blends.

Licia Albariño

Licia, whose name pays tribute to the autonomy of Galicia, is made exclusively for MundoVino by Bodegas La Val. It contains 100 percent estate-grown Albariño from the southern sub-zones of O Rosal and Condado de Tea. The warmer vineyard locations, plus the absence of any filler grapes such as Treixadura, makes Licia an intensely aromatic and elegant expression of the Albariño grape and an excellent complement to fine cuisine. The nose bursts with minerality, and the palate is medium-bodied with excellent acidity and a long finish.

2014: 88 WE | **2013:** 89 WS | **2007:** 92 W&S

Finca de Arantei Single Vineyard Albariño

Finca Arantei is the pinnacle of Bodegas La Val's line. It is a single-estate-varietal Albariño, which is rare in Rías Baixas, where cooperatives dominate. The Arantei vineyard occupies 87.5 acres of rocky, sandy soil in the subzone of Condado de Tea, the heart of the Miño Valley, which gets some of the most ample sunshine in the DO. The wine is aged on its lees for three months before bottling, which creates elegant flavors and a creamy mouthfeel. Pale straw-yellow in color, with distinct floral and mineral aromas, this wine is among the most refined and elegant examples of this variety. It is medium-bodied with excellent acidity and a lengthy finish, lively and complex, with a racy character reminiscent of some of the best Alsatian Rieslings.

2014: 88 WA, 89 WE | **2013:** 90 WE | **2010:** 90 WA

Castillo de Monjardín

| Cast-EE-Yo Deh Moan-Har-Deen |

DO Navarra (Navarra), Spain

CASTILLO DE MONJARDIN

Castillo de Monjardín lies in the northwest corner of Navarra, in the foothills of the Pyrenées, not far from the French border. The estate is a way station along the famous Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route from Paris to Santiago de Compostella, and its proximity, as well as its historic cultural links to France, provides a winemaking tradition based on Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Merlot—distinct from the viticultural practices in the rest of Spain. Monjardín's 300-plus acres of vineyards lie on sunny slopes at an average altitude of 1,800 feet, which are cooled by the "Cierzo" wind from the mountains. This unique microclimate and the winemaking skills of proprietor-winemaker Victor Villar yield wines of singularly intense aroma, full flavor, and firm structure.

El Cerezo Unoaked Chardonnay

The estate's Chardonnay grapes are grown in the limestone and clay soils of the El Cerezo ("Cherry Tree") vineyard. Here they undergo a long, slow growing season and are picked at night to ensure freshness. The grapes are cold-soaked for eight hours, so despite the fact that it sees no oak, the resulting wine is richer than one might expect. El Cerezo is intense, crisp, and aromatic, with an elegant, fresh bouquet of pineapple and green apple. The wine is medium-bodied with a long finish.

Tempranillo Clasico

This wine is a bright, complex, well-structured and elegant wine produced from 100 percent Tempranillo grapes grown in the Las Cañas vineyard on the Monjardín estate, which is located in the mineral-rich foothills of northern Navarra. Its lively red fruit flavors and firm structure are preserved with three months aging in American oak.

2010: "Best Buy" WE

La Cantera Garnacha

A blend of 85 percent old-vine Garnacha and 15 percent Cabernet Sauvignon from Monjardín's seventy-five-year-old La Cantera ("Quarry") vineyard, so-named because of its dry, mineral-rich limestone soil. All grapes are manually harvested at peak ripeness, and the wine is aged for six months in French barriques. It is bright ruby-red with violet hues and features intense aromas of red berries with a hint of vanilla. On the palate, it is structured and balanced, with acidity and elegance that make it an excellent companion to most foods.

2011: 89 WS

Deyo Merlot

This wine is made from 100 percent Merlot sourced from the estate's "Deyo" vineyard, which consists of iron-rich loam over a calcium base. It is aged in French barriques for eight months, resulting in a deep ruby wine with intense aromas of blackberries and toasted undertones. This exceptionally unique Merlot is rich on the palate with flavors of chocolate and licorice.

2011: 88 WS

Bodega Contador

/Boh-Deg-Gah Con-Tah-Door/

DOCa Rioja (La Rioja), Spain

Bodega
contador

Bodega Contador began in 1995 when Benjamin Romeo, winemaker and grower, acquired a centuries-old cave carved into the rock beneath the Castle of San Vicente de la Sonsierra, located at the foot of the Sierra Cantabria mountain range in La Rioja Alta, west of Rioja Álava. In 1996, Benjamin made the first vintage of his “La Cueva del Contador” wine and started to buy vineyards for his plan to become a “bodeguero”—a wine producer. Benjamin was the winemaker at Aratadi from 1985 to 2000, where he was able to apply his skill and continue to hone his craft. In 1999, he made the first vintage of “Contador” from vineyards he acquired.

In 2000, after seeing these first wines favorably received by the market and press, Benjamin dedicated himself full time to his personal project. Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate awarded 100 points to the 2004 and 2005 vintages of Contador made in his parents’ garage.

In collaboration with the architect Hector Herrera, Benjamin designed and opened a new winery in June 2008, to coincide with the summer solstice. The three floors or terraces mirror the original slopes of the site where it is located, enabling both fruit and wine to be moved by gravity.

The wines are sourced from sixty-two different plots which are organically farmed. The winery carries out green harvesting in May and June, and harvest in September by hand with grapes carefully placed in 14-16 kilo bins. The maximum amount of time the fruit sits in the bins is half an hour. Fermentation is temperature controlled in 10,000-liter truncated conical French oak vessels, and racking of the wine is done during a waning moon when the gravitational pull keeps the heavier particles at the bottom of the barrel allowing for greater clarity in the wine.

There is a holistic approach to the vine, so the winery uses fertilizers only in certain years with organic material composed by Bodega Contador viticulturists themselves from sheep manure. They apply herbal treatments that create an ambient environment for the vines to thrive, and treat the vines with copper sulfate when needed.

Benjamin oversees every aspect from vine to wine, including traveling to France to select the best oak trees for barrels and choosing the best-quality Spanish corks from high altitude mountain regions in Castellon, Toledo, and Gerona. As the son, grandson and great-grandson of winemakers, Benjamin uses rigorous attention to detail to produce wines of great and noble character.

Predicador Blanco

Predicador, or “Preacher,” named after Clint Eastwood’s everyman character in the 1985 film Pale Rider, is a wine composed of 49 percent Viura, 40 percent Garnacha Blanca and 11 percent Malvasia. The grapes are sourced from ten different plots within San Vicente and Briones in Rioja Alta, which on average yield less than 3 lbs per vine: El Sauco, Burdarán, Ariasabal, La Nava, El Rayo, San Francisco, La Rad, La Canoca, Leza, San Juan, Revilla and Sisabal. The maceration lasted three days, and after barrel fermentation the wine was aged for eight months in 30 percent new and 70 percent conditioned barrels. The cold soak and short-oak contact yield floral notes of Acacia and dried orange peel. They commingle with melon in the aromatics and flavors of green apple, ripe pear, vanilla, honeycomb and hay on the palate.

2013: 90 WA, 91 V | **2010:** 90 WA | **2008:** 92 WA

Predicador Tinto

Predicador, or “Preacher,” named after Clint Eastwood’s everyman character in the 1985 film Pale Rider, is composed of 96 percent Tempranillo, 2 percent Garnacha, 1 percent Graciano and 1 percent Mazuelo. The grapes are sourced from 15 different plots within San Vicente and Briones in Rioja Alta which on average yield less than 2 kg per vine: La Canoca, La Liende, Sacramento, El Llano, Raicilla, San Pablo, Burdarán, Sauco, El Bombon, El Espino, Guiasol, Briones, San Francisco, El Hoyo and Vitarán. The wine is fermented in oak and stainless steel with a two-day cold maceration and aged for sixteen months in new French oak. The wine was filtered but not fined. This vintage some La Cueva del Contador, Contador and La Vina de Andres were added for concentration and balance. The aromatics open up with crushed red cherries, balsamic notes and the sweet baking spices of cinnamon and clove. The fruity and spicy characteristics found in the nose follow through on the palate, along with dried cranberry, black cherry and elegant fine-grained tannin supporting the tart red fruit and adding to its length and depth.

2013: 91 WA | **2011:** 92 WA | **2010:** 92 WA, 90 WA | **2008:** 92 WA, 90 WA | **2006:** 90 WA | **2005:** 93 WA, 90 WS, 91 V

La Cueva de Contador

Named after the centuries-old caves or “cuevas” carved out of the hillside below the castle of San Vicente in Sonsierra north of the Ebro, this wine is composed of 91 percent Tempranillo and 9 percent Garnacha. The fruit is sourced from eight different plots that yield about 2.6 lbs per vine: El Bombon, El Sauco, El Bardallo, San Pablo, La Liende, Aria Isabel, La Rad and La Raicilla. Fermentation began after a three-day cold maceration and the wine is aged for nineteen months in 100 percent new French oak and bottled without fining or filtration. Both red and black fruit are pronounced in the nose, but there are also mineral and herbal notes of gravel and lavender. The palate offers flavors of blackberry coulis, Damson plums, Rosemary and well-integrated tannins; this wine is well balanced and youthful with a long powerful finish.

2012: 95 WA | **2011:** 94 WA | **2010:** 95 WA | **2009:** 95 WA | **2008:** 94 WA | **2007:** 93 WA | **2006:** 94+ WA, 93 WE | **2005:** 97 WA

Contador

In 1999, Contador was created. The name pays homage to the those “counters” who scrupulously kept records of the wines of Benjamin’s father’s generation that were moved in and out of the caves for aging and bottling. The wine is comprised of 94 percent Tempranillo, 3 percent Graciano and 3 percent Mazuelo from the calcareous clay-based vineyards located in the municipalities of San Vicente de la Sonsierra, Briones, Ábalos and Labastida in Rioja Alta. Contador is sourced from nine different plots averaging a yield of 2.6 lbs per vine: El Hoyo Barbera, El Bardallo, El Bosque, Hoyo Ábalos, San Juan, Corrales, El Bombón, Murmurón and El Sauco. The wine is free-run juice, cold-macerated for three days on the skins and then barrel-fermented in a mix of large 2,000L, 900 L 500 L barrels and then aged eighteen months in 100 percent New French oak. Unfined and unfiltered. The 2011 vintage created a powerful wine with aromatic herbs (thyme, rosemary, lavender and fennel) in the nose and full-bodied concentrated black fruit on the palate. Contador illustrates Benjamin’s philosophy of “Lento y Fuerte”: measured and forceful.

2012: 97 WA | **2011:** 96 WA, 94 V | **2010:** 96 WA | **2009:** 95 WA | **2008:** 98 WA | **2007:** 98 WA | **2005:** 100 WA | **2004:** 100 WA

Carmen Gran Reserva

Carmen, named after and dedicated to Benjamin's mother, is a special wine created to unite the longstanding family tradition of winemaking with modernity. This wine is different from all other Contador wines in style and unrivaled elegance. Carmen is composed of 82 percent Tempranillo, 10 percent Garnacha, 4 percent Graciano and 4 percent Mazuelo sourced from six different plots yielding less than 1 lb per vine in from Calcer Atxalde, Valseca, Ariaisabel, Pangua, El Sauco and La Nava (2,000 feet) within San Vicente de la Sonsierra, Briones and Labastida. The wine is free-run juice fermented in conditioned 2,000- and 1,000-L barrels and then aged twenty-four months in new French oak and then aged for thirty-six months in bottle before release. The wine is fined, but not filtered. Stunning aromatics of sage, dried cranberry, cedar and vanilla unfold as the wine opens in your glass. The silky red fruit gives way to flavors of toffee and baked cherry pie with a Graham cracker crust on the palate, finishing with integrated silty tannin.

2009: 96 WA | **2008:** 95 WA | **2007:** 93 WS, 93 V

La Vina de Andres Romeo

La Vina de Andres, is a single-vineyard wine named after Benjamin's father and is dedicated to his family's roots in the wine industry. This wine is composed of 100 percent Tempranillo coming from the alluvial and Calcareous soil of the "La Liende," at 1,300 feet and vines yielding less than 1 kg (2.2 lbs per vine). The 8.6 acre estate has poor soil, which is clayey with a calcareous sub soil, drained by the numerous rounded pebbles deposited by the Ebro. The grapes undergo a three day cold maceration in 10,000 liter oak barrels, then only the free-run juice goes into new French oak barrels from twelve different cooperages ranging in size from 500 L, 300 L and traditional 225 L, for eighteen months. The wine is not fined or filtered. This is a wine of power and structure, made for posterity. The nose shows mineral notes of wet stone and gravel as well as cedar and vanilla. On the palate, notes of sweet tobacco and cured meat, leather and dried fruit are supported by structured tannins.

2012: 93 WA | **2011:** 93 WA | **2007:** 95 WA, 93 WS | **2006:** 96 WA, 94 WE | **2005:** 98 WA, 93 WS

Que Bonita Cacareaba

The wine's playful name comes from a combination of an homage to one of Benjamin Romeo's family names. It translates directly to "rooster" in Spanish, as well as the cocky assurance that tasting this wine will elicit the reaction similar to a raucous cry of a bird, aka, a "cockadoodledoo"—or in Spanish, "cacareaba."

This wine is composed of 50 percent Garnacha Blanca, 35 percent Malvasía, 15 percent Viura sourced from head-trained vines grown in a mix of alluvial and calcareous soil from the municipalities of San Vicente de la Sonsierra and Briones with Rioja Alta. The three different grape varieties, harvested at different dates according to ripeness, come from the following six plots: Leza, Ariasabal, Murmurón, El Sauco, El Bombón y Las and Tasugueras. The bunches are whole-cluster fermented, cold-soaked for over forty-eight hours, and then the free juice runs into 225 L New French oak barrels for fermentation before eight months of lees aging and battonage. The wine is fined, but not filtered. The blend of these three grape varieties create heady aromas of cinnamon and spice, orange marmalade and toasted sesame seeds. What you smell in the nose is similar to what you taste while adding dried pineapple, poached pear and almond biscotti. There is a concentration and weight to this wine as it permeates your palate that demands another sip with food. 5,800 btls.

2013: 94 WA | **2012:** 93 WA | **2010:** 92 WA

Finca Valpiedra

| Feen-Ka Val-Pee-Eh-Drah |

DOCa Rioja (La Rioja), Spain



Finca Valpiedra, which means “stone valley,” opened in 1999 and is owned by La Familia Martínez-Bujanda. It is a family-owned winery founded in 1889 by patriarch Joaquín Martínez-Bujanda and now run by the founder’s great-grandchildren, the brother-sister team of Carlos and Pilar Martínez-Bujanda Iribarria.

The single-vineyard Finca Valpiedra is nestled in a unique oxbow meander of the Ebro River in the revered sub-region of Rioja Alta. It is surrounded on three sides by water, which provides it with unusually mineral-rich limestone, and pebble-filled soil. The stones in the soil not only give Finca Valpiedra its name, but are responsible for trapping heat and enhancing grape ripening. The two hundred acres of vineyard are 1,200 feet above sea level and have an average vine age of thirty-five years. Each wine is specially crafted and bottle aged for two years at the estate, ensuring that the wines are ready to enjoy once they reach the consumer. As a unique single-estate Rioja producer with a rare geography, Finca Valpiedra is the only Rioja member of the prestigious Grandes Pagos de España organization.

Cantos de Valpiedra

Cantos de Valpiedra (which translates as “rounded stones of Valpiedra”) is made entirely of Tempranillo harvested in mid-September. The grapes are fermented in stainless steel tanks with a five-day maceration before aging for twelve months in French and American oak barriques followed by one year in-bottle, giving this wine a Crianza designation. An intense cherry red with bluish rim, aromas of black fruit and minerality blend with spice and vanilla from the oak. The palate is oily and rich with an immediate sweetness, well-balanced acidity and alcohol, and a long, cool, mineral finish.

2012: 90 V | **2011:** 89 V | **2010:** 90 WS | **2009:** 90 WS

Reserva

Finca Valpiedra Reserva is made up of 92 percent Tempranillo, 6 percent Graciano and 2 percent Maturana Tinta. Grapes are harvested the first week of October and fermented in stainless steel tanks before aging in French oak barriques for twenty-two months. Intense ruby in color, highlighted with subtle red and black fruit, and notes of spice from the French oak. The palate is smooth, rich, and balanced with a long finish.

2009: 95 D, 92 V, 89 WS | **2008:** 93 D, 90 WA, 91 V | **2006:** 90 WE, 92 W&S

Grandes Pagos de España: The group’s mission is to defend and propagate the culture of “Pago” wine, meaning wine produced in a specific *terroir* that reflects the distinct personality of the soil and climate. To become a member, a vineyard must surpass strict quality standards and also exhibit a degree of uniqueness in terms of soil, climate, or grape variety that sets it apart from the surrounding area. The association’s membership includes twenty-five estate wineries from all over Spain.

Viña Bujanda

| Veen-Ya Boo-Han-Da |

DOCa Rioja (La Rioja, País Vasco), Spain

VIÑA
BUJANDA

Viña Bujanda is owned by the brother-and-sister team of Carlos and Pilar Martínez-Bujanda Iribarria, whose family has been making wine since 1889. The estate was established in 2009 in the small village of Oyon near Logroño. The old vine-estate vineyards consist of fourteen small parcels that are between twenty and sixty years old and that are cultivated separately to take advantage of the various microclimates and soil types. These vineyards are located within the sub-regions of Rioja Alta and Rioja Alavesa. Both areas offer a balanced and structured soil composition of sand, lime, and clay, and are slightly alkaline, with moderate water in the summer.

Viura

This 100 percent Viura undergoes temperature-control fermentation in stainless steel tanks with fourteen days of maceration to enhance the ripe aromatics of the grape. Bright and clean, lemon-yellow color with greenish glints. Crystalline and glycerin. On the nose, medium-high intensity, with flowery aromas of pineapple, green apple, white-flower vegetables and fresh-cut hay. On the palate, it is voluminous, developing a silky and fresh mouthfeel and a lingering finish.

Tinto

Viña Bujanda Tempranillo is a Rioja Joven, which means “young” and refers to the fact that it sees no oak aging. It is made from 100 percent Tempranillo from estate vineyards in the Rioja Alta and Alavesa sub-regions. Fresh and fruity, this wine is a perfect sipper and refreshing even in warmer weather (try it with a slight chill!). The nose shows red berry, blue fruit, and spice, while the palate is medium-bodied with food-friendly acidity.

2014: 89 V

Crianza

Viña Bujanda Crianza is made from 100 percent Tempranillo from estate vineyards in the Alta and Alavesa sub-regions of Rioja. The grapes are harvested in the first week of October and fermented in stainless steel tanks, then aged in French and American oak for one year. The nose features notes of fresh strawberries, spice, and minerality. On the palate, the wine is well balanced with food-friendly acidity.

2012: 88 WS | **2011:** 90 WS, 89 WA | **2008, 2009, 2010:** 90 WA

Reserva

Viña Bujanda Reserva, made of 100 percent Tempranillo, comes from the Rioja Alta and Alavesa area. Grapes are grown in clay soil and harvested during the first week of October. The wine is then fermented in stainless steel tanks for sixteen days and aged in oak for twenty months before it is ready to enjoy. The wine shows a complex bouquet of tobacco, spice, and blackberry, and the palate is fresh and elegant with a pleasant, lingering finish.

2010: 89 WS | **2009:** 90 WE | **2006:** 92 WA

Gran Reserva

This 100 percent Tempranillo is from estate vineyards in the Alta and Alavesa sub-regions of Rioja. The grapes for this wine are harvested the first week of October and fermented in temperature-controlled stainless steel tanks. Maceration is for sixteen days and aged for twenty-six months in American (70 percent) and French (30 percent) oak barrels. This wine is cherry in color with a blue rim, bright and crystalline. It is elegant and complex with hints of woodwork, vanilla, cigar box, spices and with flavors of blackberry, and plums in liqueur.

2007: 90 V

Designations of Age for Rioja and Ribera del Duero

Wines from Rioja and Ribera del Duero are often assigned one of the following four designations based on the time they've spent aging in oak and bottle. Note that aging designations in these two DOs are stricter than those for Spanish wine in general.

Joven: No aging requirements. Joven wines are young, featuring fresh, primary fruit notes.

Reserva: At least three years aging, with one in oak. Whites must spend at least two years aging with six months in oak.

Gran Reserva: At least five years aging with two in oak. Whites must spend at least four years aging with one in oak.

Crianza: At least two years aging, with one year in oak for reds and six months for whites.

Bodegas Enrique Mendoza

DO Alicante (Valencia), Spain

ENRIQUE MENDOZA

Alicante native Enrique Mendoza founded Bodegas Enrique Mendoza in 1989; today it is run by his sons José (“Pepe”) and Julián. Pepe is responsible for vineyard management and winemaking, while Julián looks after the commercial side of the company. The winery is located near the town of Alfàs del Pi, about forty-five miles from the city of Alicante, where Monastrell has traditionally reigned as the area’s dominant.

Pepe seeks to attain grapes of the highest quality. He closely monitors the moisture content of his vineyards with the use of computerized sensors planted near the vines. This careful monitoring is part of his philosophy to put the vines under as much hydric stress as possible to ensure a small grape. By keeping the skin-to-flesh ratio very low, he can produce the highest-quality juice for his bottling. He ferments most of his wines in stainless steel and ages them in French oak. Owing to Enrique Mendoza’s acclaimed terroir-driven single-estate bottlings, the winery has been inducted into the Grandes Pagos de España organization for its dedication to “pago” winemaking.

La Tremenda Merseguera-Chardonnay

A stunning combination of the relatively obscure Spanish varietal, Merseguera and Chardonnay come together in this blend from Enrique Mendoza’s La Tremenda vineyard. Fermentation and aging are carried out in stainless steel tank to preserve the fruitful essence of both varietals, leading to a clean and bright wine with green reflections and notes of green apple, straw and chamomile that radiate on the nose. Spirited green-apple flavors with a subtle saline nuance continue on to the palate. Crisp and dry with a pleasurable finish.

La Tremenda Monastrell

This wine is 100 percent Monastrell from Enrique Mendoza’s twenty-five-year-old La Tremenda vineyard. The vineyard’s sand and limestone soil, minimal irrigation, and 2,000-foot altitude create a wine unmatched in elegance. It is aged for six months in French oak between two and three years old. The resulting wine features Mediterranean aromas of red fruit, rosemary, and balsam. On the palate, it is medium-bodied with silky tannins and a long, complex finish.

2014: 92 WA | **2012:** 91+ WA, 90 WE | **2011:** 91 Decanter | **2009:** The New York Times Best of Tasting & Best Value

Estrecho Monastrell

This flavorful red is named for the vineyard from which it is sourced, El Estrecho de Pipa (the Strait of the Pipe). The alluvial soils here have a reputation for creating red wines with a streak of slatey minerality. Made entirely from mature, hand-harvested Monastrell, the wine is fermented in stainless steel and aged for twelve months in French oak. Bright ruby-red, Estrecho shows attractive aromas of red cherry, plum, and wet slate. On the palate, it has refreshing acidity and bright fruit flavors.

2014: 94 WA | **2012:** 93 WA | **2011:** 92 WA, 90 WE | **2010:** 92 WA, 91 WE | **2007:** 91 WS | **2006:** 90 WA

Las Quebradas Monastrell

/ Las Keh-Bra-Das /

When the ground was “broken” (or “quebrada” in Spanish) at the Las Quebradas vineyard, this 100 percent Monastrell was born from the rocky and calcareous soils. Fermented in open-top wooden tanks and aged in 500 L Allier oak barrels for eighteen months followed by a year of refinement in the bottle. Las Quebradas is a remarkable expression of Monastrell. Full-bodied with an explosion of dark fruits, black pepper, and thyme that unfold into a long, impressive finish.

2011: 93 WA, 91 D | **2010:** 94 WA, 92 WE

Santa Rosa Reserva

The pinnacle of the Enrique Mendoza line, Santa Rosa Reserva is made from 70 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 15 percent Shiraz, and 15 percent Merlot sourced from the Chaconero-Hondo vineyard, which is located at an elevation of 1,485 feet. The wine is fermented in stainless steel and aged in French oak barrels for eighteen months. It is intensely ruby-red in color, with aromas of ripe red and black fruit and subtle floral undertones. Harmonious and well balanced, it has strong tannins and smoky, toasted notes on the finish.

2012: 91 WA | **2011:** 91 WA, 91 WE | **2010:** 90 WA, 91 WS, 90 WE

Moscatel de la Marina

This sumptuous dessert wine is named for the geographical area in which the grapes are grown. It's made entirely from Moscatel, which is fermented at cool temperatures in stainless steel to preserve its youthful fruity character. This sweet white wine offers notes of dried apricots, honey and crème brûlée. Perfectly balanced on the palate with mouth-filling, silky texture and a corpulent body, this wine unfolds into a long, fine finish.

2014: 90 WA

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Los Dos

DO Campo de Borja (Aragón), Spain



Los Dos is made for MundoVino by a prestigious grower co-operative called Bodegas Aragonesas from high-altitude estate vineyards in Campo de Borja. The name is Spanish for "the two," referring to the fact that each wine is a blend of two complementary varieties. The vineyards are located in the foothills of the Sistema Ibérico near the Ebro River, in the northern part of the province of Zaragoza. This is an optimal area for grape growing due to the quality of its climate, its soil and the protection afforded by the mountains.

Los Dos White

The enticing floral aromas of Muscat (75 percent) meet the crisp, bright acidity of Chardonnay (25 percent) in this fresh and friendly wine from the Campo de Borja DO in Northeastern Spain. The wine is fermented in stainless steel and sees no oak aging, so it is bright, fresh, and great for warm-weather gatherings. On the palate, notes of summer melon, pineapple, grapefruit and hints of flowers and light spice shine in this beautifully structured and balanced white blend. Pair with summer salads, grilled chicken and seafood and soft cheeses.

2013: Best Buy, WE

Los Dos Rosé

Grenache (85 percent) joins Cabernet Sauvignon (15 percent) in this crisp and lush Rosé from the Campo de Borja DO in northeastern Spain. Located between the Sierra de Moncayo mountain range and the Ebro River valley, this historic region has produced wine since the late twelfth century. Like its red and white companions, this rosé is fermented in stainless steel and sees no oak aging, preserving the vibrantly youthful characteristics of the fruit. A beautiful Los Dos Rosé is both elegant and lively on the palate with flavors of fresh raspberry, lychee fruit, and white flowers. Fresh with a silky mouthfeel and a long, lasting finish.

2015: Best Buy, WS

Los Dos Red

This wine is 85 percent Grenache and 15 percent Syrah from estate vineyards on the southern slopes of the Sierra Iberica Mountains, where the Garnacha vines range from thirty-five to fifty years old. Los Dos is fermented in stainless steel and sees no oak aging, so the wine is bright, fresh, and great for warm weather (especially chilled down a few degrees!). Bright cherry red with violet hues, Los Dos has pleasantly intense and complex aromas of red fruit and balsam, is structured on the palate, and has a lingering finish. It is an ideal cocktail party wine but is also extremely versatile when paired with food.

2013: WE Top 100 Best Buys of 2014 | **2011:** WS Best Value

¡buenas!

/BWay-Nass/

Vino de España, Spain

In Spain, the casual greeting of “buenas” signifies the start to an enjoyable gathering among friends and family. ¡buenas! is the perfect choice for these occasions, both large and small. Sourced from 100 percent estate-grown fruit from vineyards in La Mancha and Rioja by one of Spain’s leading wine-producing families, ¡buenas! is a wonderful introduction to the beauty of Spain and the traditional varieties of the area.

Viura

¡buenas! Viura offers alluring notes of ripe, red grapefruit that intermingle with flavors of pear and wild flower on the palate. This refreshing white has invigorating acidity with a crisp, clean finish.

Tempranillo

¡buenas! Tempranillo displays rich, black cherry aromas and lush flavors of plum and spice on the palate with subtle vanilla notes from three months of oak aging. Medium-bodied with balanced acidity, this traditional red boasts a smooth, lingering finish.



Portugal

Wine Regions of Portugal

DOC Douro

Duorum

Quinta do Passadouro

Wine & Soul

Joao Nicolau de Almeida
& Filhos

DOC Vinho Verde

Portugal Ramos Vinhos

DOC Alentejo/ VR Alentejano

Portugal Ramos Vinhos

VR Beira Atlântico

Quinta de Foz de Arouce

VR Lisboa

Quinta do Monte D'Oiro

Quinta de Chocapalha

DOC Dão

M.O.B.

Portuguese Wine Quality Ladder

VR (IG or IGP)

Vinho Regional | Regional Wine

DOC (DOP)

Denominação de Origem Controlada |
Qualified Denomination of Origin

DOC Alentejo/VR Alentejano

/ Ah-Lan-Teh-Zhoo / Ah-Lan-Teh-Zha-New /

A vast region in the southeast of Portugal that covers about one-third of the country, Alentejo consists of mostly plains and hills, and has a hot and dry growing season. The region has long been responsible for producing wine that stimulates domestic consumption. Known for its rich and fruity red wines made from indigenous grapes, including Aragonez, Alicante Bouschet, Castelão, and Trincadeira, this region is also known to produce most of the world's cork!

VR Beira Atlântico

/ Bey-Rah At-Lan-Tee-Ko /

Beira Atlântico is a large appellation located in central Portugal, stretching from just south of the city of Oporto past golden surfing beaches, the rice fields and salt lagoons of Aveiro, encompassing the DOC vineyards of Bairrada. The southern part of the region bulges out to the east, taking in the university city of Coimbra and rising to the delightful Serra da Lousa, and then down again into the basin of the meandering Rio Zezere. In general, the climate in Beira Atlântico is Continental, hot and dry in the summer with long, cold winters. Soils vary, but the best vineyard sites often contain schist or quartz. This region is the birthplace of Baga, one of Portugal's most noble varieties.

DOC Dão

/ Dah-o(N) /

This cool-climate region, protected by three mountain ranges, is rich in granite soil that absorbs and reflects heat, helping to ripen grapes and add balanced, natural acidity. High-quality reds are based on Touriga Nacional, Alfrocheiro and Jaen; the key white grape is Encruzado, which makes wines that are zesty yet full-bodied enough to barrel-ferment. The supply of red and white wines is limited, putting this region in high demand.

DOC Douro

/ Doh-Roo /

Demarcated in 1756, the Douro became the world's first wine region to have formal boundaries. For most of its wine history this region has been known for producing Port. Over the last twenty years, however, unfortified table wines made from indigenous grapes such as Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca, Tinta Roriz, Tinta Barroca, and Tinta Cão are taking center stage.

VR Lisboa

/ Lease-Bow-Ah /

Formerly known as Estremadura, Lisboa is a historical wine-growing region that juts into the Atlantic Ocean. The traditional white varieties of the region include Arinto and Fernão Pires, while the key red varieties include Alicante Bouschet, Aragonez, and Castelão.

DOC Vinho Verde

/ Veen-You Vaird /

Originally defined on September 18, 1908, the demarcated Vinho Verde Region extends across the northwest of Portugal, in the area traditionally known as Entre-Douro-e-Minho. The Minho River is its northern border, forming part of the border with Spain; its southern border is formed by the Douro River and the Freita, Arada and Montemuro mountains. To the east, it's bordered by the mountains of Peneda, Gerês, Cabreira and Marão, and the western border is the Atlantic Ocean. In terms of geographical area, it is the largest Portuguese demarcated region, and one of the largest in Europe. The natural conditions of this region are ideal for the production of excellent white wines. Topographically, the region is a vast amphitheater which, starting at the coast, gradually climbs in elevation towards the interior, exposing the entire area to the influence of the Atlantic Ocean. It's a phenomenon reinforced by the orientation of the valleys of the main rivers, which run east to west and facilitate penetration of the sea winds. This Atlantic influence, mostly granitic soils, mild climate and high rainfall, are reflected in the freshness, lightness and elegance of the wines of this region.

Portuguese Grape Varieties

White Grape Varieties

Alvarinho / *Al-Var-Een-You* / — Most often seen in the sub-region of Monção and Melgaço in Vinho Verde, these grapes have thick skins and a low juice yield. They produce wines with a rich, intense, mineral base structure, overlaid with fruity notes of peaches, citrus, and sometimes tropical fruits and flowers. This is the same grape as Albariño in Spain. Compare to dry Riesling.

Arinto (a.k.a. Pederna) / *Ah-Rin-Too / Ped-Er-Na* / — Most often seen in Vinho Verde, VR Lisboa and other regions, Arinto is a late-ripening white grape with marked acidity even in hot conditions. It's usually blended with other grapes and makes lemony, mineral whites that gain complexity with age. Compare to dry Riesling, Pinot Blanc and dry Chenin Blanc.

Bical / *Bee-cahl* / — Important in the Beiras (Bairrada and Dão), a grape with fresh acidity and good peachy-floral flavors. The wines are good when young, but age well to exhibit increasingly toasty complexity.

Encruzado / *En-Kroo-Za-Doo* / — This is a main white grape of the Dão region that deserves to be more widely planted. It makes balanced, full-bodied, aromatic wines, both unoaked and oaked. Compare to white Burgundy.

Fernão Pires / *Fer-nah-o(N) Pee-resh* / — Also called Maria Gomes, Fernão Pires is Portugal's most cultivated white grape. It is grown more or less everywhere, especially down the western coast in Bairrada and Lisboa. Floral and fruity, it's at its best in sparkling and light, fragrant whites. Compare to Rousanne and Torrontés.

Gouveio / *Goo-Vey-Yoo* / — Grown across all of Portugal, Gouveio is particularly popular in the Douro. It produces fresh, lively wines with good acidity and body, citrus aromas, and notes of peach and anise. For years it was known as Verdelho in the Douro, which led to confusion as Gouveio is unrelated to the Verdelho grape of Madeira. Rather, Gouveio is the same grape as Godello.

Loureiro / *Loo-Ray-Roo* / — This is a seriously aromatic white grape from the sub-region of Lima in the Vinho Verde known for its citrus and floral aromas. It is vinified alone or used to add aroma to blends. It performs best in cooler climates, making wines of good acidity that are attractively low in alcohol.

Rabigato (a.k.a. Rabo de Ovelha) / *Rah-Bee-Gah-Too / Rah-Bow Deh Of-El-Ha* / — Planted throughout the Douro Superior, this thick-skinned grape is one of the Douro's best white

varieties, contributing bright, refreshing acidity to white blends. When vinified on its own, it features aromas of acacia and orange blossom with vegetal notes, a strong mineral character, a full body, and distinct acidity.

Viosinho / *Vyou-Seen-Yoo* / — An excellent white variety of the Douro, Viosinho makes fresh, fragrant wines with floral and apricot notes and good acidity, especially when planted at high altitudes. Compare to Pinot Blanc.

Côdega do Larinho / *Ko-Deh-Ga Do Lar-Een-You* / — Côdega do Larinho is typically found in the Douro and Trás-o-Montes regions of northeastern Portugal. This pale-skinned grape produces wines with concentrated aromas of tropical fruits and white flowers.

Roupeiro / *Roo-Pay-Roo* / — Also known as Síria and Codega, this wine is typically grown in the interior of Portugal. It has been the most planted white-grape variety in the Alentejo region, where it is known as Roupeiro. This grape variety is produced in the higher and cooler lands of Beiras, Douro (Síria) and Dão (Côdega). Roupeiro is a productive grape variety with small bunches and berries. Though it is resistant to powdery and downy mildew, it is sensitive to rot. Wines produced with this grape are delicate, fresh and elegant.

Red Grape Varieties

Alfrocheiro / *Al-Froo-Shay-Roo* / — A major red grape of the Dão but also planted in other regions, Alfrocheiro makes wines that are dark red and rich in tannins. It features notes of blackberry or strawberry with balanced acidity. Compare to red Burgundy.

Alicante Bouschet / *Al-ee-kant Boo-Shay* / — One of the few red fleshed grapes used in winemaking. Originating in the South of France, a hybrid of Petite Bouschet and Grenache, it has grown increasingly popular in Alentejo where it contributes color, volume, structure and aromas of forest berries, cocoa and olives. This is the same grape as Garnacha Tintorera in Spain.

Aragonez / *Tinta Roriz* / *Ar-Ah-Go-Nesh* / *Teen-Tah Ro-Reesh* / — Called Aragonez in the south and Tinta Roriz in the north, this grape makes fine, elegant red wines with aromas of red fruits, plums, and blackberries. It has firm tannins and good aging potential. This is the same grape as Tempranillo. Compare to Carignan and Sangiovese.

Baga / *Bah-Gah* / — Baga is a small, dark, thick-skinned grape mostly grown in Bairrada and in the Beiras region. It ripens late and can make lean, tannic reds that can be astringent in youth but prone to gain complexity with age. When more extracted, Baga can produce rich dense

reds with cherry and damson fruit, aging to complex flavors of herbs, malt, cedar and dried fruit. Compare to Nebbiolo and Xinomavro.

Castelão / *Kas-Tell-O(n)* / — The most planted red grape of the southern part of Portugal, Castelão produces medium-bodied concentrated, aromatic (raspberry and gooseberry) wines with food-friendly acidity that have good aging potential. Compare to Barbera and Cabernet Franc.

Tinta Barroca / *Teen-Ta Bah-Roh-Ka* / — The most productive and easiest to grow of the Port varieties in the Douro, Tinta Barroca has a thin, dark skin that softens the Port blend while imparting color, perfume, and a lengthened finish. This variety is also used to make fruit-forward and earthy non-fortified wines. If grown in cooler climates or at higher elevations, it can be elegant and aromatic, full of black cherries, black plums, and purple flowers. Compare to Grenache.

Touriga Franca / *Too-Ree-Gah Fran-Ka* / — One of the top Douro grapes and the region's most widely planted variety, Touriga Franca creates rich, aromatic wines known for their black-cherry character and velvety tannins. Compare to Malbec or softer styles of Primitivo.

Touriga Nacional / *Too-Ree-Gah Nass-Ee-Oh-Nal* / — Touriga Nacional is widely grown across Portugal, from the hottest parts of the Douro down to the Algarve. It creates dark, rich wines with strong tannins and blackberry and violet aromas. Compare to Cabernet Sauvignon.

Trincadeira / *Treen-Ka-Day-Rah* / — Best suited to the Alentejo and Ribatejo regions, this grape produces wine that is rich in color with vibrant acidity and moderate alcohol. Trincadeira boasts lush raspberry fruit tempered by subtle nuances of flowers and spice with wonderful complexity fit for aging. Compare to Carignan, Grenache and Dolcetto.



Portuguese Producers

Portugal Ramos Vinhos | Alentejo

/ Portugal Ra-Mo-Sh Vee-Noose /

DOC Vinho Verde, VR Alentejano, Portugal

PORTUGAL
RAMOS
VINHOS

João Portugal Ramos is one of Portugal's most famous pioneering winemakers, widely considered Portugal's version of Piero Antinori or Emile Peynaud. His many accolades include being named 2006 Producer of the Year and 2010 Personality of the Year by Portugal's leading wine publication, Essencia do Vinho. During his decades spent as a wine consultant, Ramos nearly singlehandedly influenced modern Portuguese winemaking with the benefits of technology and an emphasis on low yields, occasional oak aging, and the preservation of a grape's natural fruit flavors. In 1990, he chose to begin his own winery, planting vineyards around the walled city of Estremoz, Alentejo.

Ramos Reserva (VR Alentejano)

This handcrafted wine is a blend of native Alentejo grapes, Trincadeira and Aragonez, plus a touch of Syrah for added body. The fruit is sourced from 1,000-foot-high schist and limestone vineyards surrounding the Portugal Ramos Vila Santa winery. Unoaked, it is fresh and fruity while maintaining a plush mouthfeel. Ruby red in color, Ramos Reserva displays aromas of ripe red fruit and dried herbs. Soft and robust with complex tannins, the Ramos Reserva is spicy with a long finish.

2013: WE Best Buy | **2012:** 90 WS Top 100 List of 2014, Best Value

Vila Santa Loios Branco (VR Alentejano)

/ Loy-Oosh Brahn-Koo /

Loios is named for the order of monks that brought winemaking to the Alentejo in the fifteenth century. A blend of 50 percent Rabo de Ovelha and 50 percent Roupeiro, the wine is fermented in stainless steel tanks. Young and fresh, it is pale yellow in color with lime and mineral aromas showing through on the nose. The palate demonstrates great acidity with notes of apple and citrus.

Vila Santa Loios Tinto (VR Alentejano)

/ Loy-Oosh Teen-Too /

Loios is named for the order of monks that brought winemaking to the Alentejo in the fifteenth century. The wine is a blend of traditional red varieties from this region: 35 percent Aragonês, 35 percent Trincadeira and 30 percent Castelão. After a careful selection and pressing, the juice is fermented in stainless steel tanks to preserve the unique, fresh fruit character of each variety. This easy-drinking red has intensely fruity aromas and is jammy and meaty at once.

Received 8 Best Buys from WE & WS in 2008-2014 vintages

Vila Santa Reserva (VR Alentejano)

The flagship wine that launched João Portugal Ramos winery, the Vila Santa Reserva blend marries Aragonez, Touriga Nacional, Syrah, Alicante Bouschet, and Cabernet Sauvignon. After harvest, part of the yield is foot-trodden in marble troughs, known as lagares, and the remainder is fermented in stainless steel tanks. The blend is aged for twelve months in French oak barrels. With an intense garnet color in the glass, the aromas suggest ripe black fruits blending beautifully with the spicy character imparted by the barrels. On the palate, it is elegant and full-bodied, with soft tannins.

2013: 90 WA | **2012:** 90 WS | **2011:** 91 WA | **2010:** 90 WA | **2009:** 90 WE

Quinta da Viçosa (VR Alentejano)

/ Keen-Ta Dah Viss-Oh-Sa /

Quinta da Viçosa is one of João Portugal Ramos's biggest vineyards, with one hundred acres near Estremoz. A different blend is used every vintage of this wine, combining one indigenous grape with one foreign. For example, the 2009 vintage was made of 50 percent Trincadeira and 50 percent Syrah, and the 2011 vintage was 50 percent Touriga Nacional and 50 percent Cabernet Sauvignon. Part of the harvest is foot-trodden in marble troughs, known as lagares, and the remainder is fermented in temperature-controlled stainless steel tanks. The wine is aged for twelve months in new French barriques. The final product is intense garnet in color, with aromas of ripe red fruit, vanilla, and spice. Beautifully complex with velvety smooth tannins, the finish is long and persistent.

2012: 91 WE, 91 WA | **2011:** 91 WA | **2009:** 92 WA

Marques de Borba Tinto (DOC Alentejo)

This wine is a blend of Alicante Bouschet, Aragonez, Trincadeira and Touriga Nacional grown in limestone and schist soils. Fully de-stemmed bunches go through temperature-control fermentation, followed by six to eight months in second-year small French oak barrels. The wine has excellent aromatic concentration, with intense aromas of berries, cassis and preserves. Smooth tannins are balanced with acidity and ripe fruit.

Marques de Borba Reserva (DOC Alentejo)

Considered by top Portuguese wine critics to be the iconic Alentejo wine—the pinnacle of quality. It's a blend of Trincadeira, Aragonez, Alicante Bouschet and Cabernet Sauvignon grown in schist, then foot-trodden in marble lagares. Malolactic fermentation takes place in second-year barrels, followed by eighteen months of aging in small French barrels, new and second passage. Deep in color with notes of jammy red fruits and spice, the wine is potent and elegant on the palate. Solid throughout, vigorous, with compact and well-integrated tannins and spices complemented by a long and distinct finish. A wine for the ages.

2012: 92 WE, 92 WA | **2011:** 92 WA | **2009:** 92 WA

Portugal Ramos Vinhos | Vinho Verde

Unique and impressive wines are produced in Portugal. With this in mind, together with the usual spirit of adventure, João Portugal Ramos headed north. He elected the Monção and Melgaço sub-regions in Vinho Verde, to embrace his new project where the terroir makes it possible to produce distinctive wines with unique character. These impressive and captivating wines are creating an increasing demand not only in the Portuguese market, but abroad. Antonina Barbosa was selected to be the lead winemaker of these properties; with her expertise, dedication and roots in the region, she was the ideal selection. She began her career as an academic, researching volatile aromatic compounds in wines at the Biotechnology School at Catholic University in Porto, where she received an oenology masters and a biochemistry degree.

Portugal Ramos Loureiro Lima (DOC Vinho Verde)

This Vinho Verde is named for the legendary Lima River. Made by João, Lima is a serious expression of the Vinho Verde region. It is made entirely of the Loureiro grape, which is the most aromatic component of the classic Vinho Verde blend. It is not injected with a CO2 spritz so it does not distract from the signature citrus character of the grape. The resulting wine is more aromatic and fuller-bodied than many others from the region, making this the rare Vinho Verde that can stand up to cooler weather.

2014: WE Best Buy | **2013:** 90 WE | **2012:** WE Best Buy

Portugal Ramos Alvarinho (DOC Vinho Verde)

This wine is a pure expression of Alvarinho. Partially fermented in new French oak barrels and temperature-controlled stainless steel to ensure bright tropical fruit and floral aromas with good minerality. This wine is both elegant and engaging, with vivacious acidity and a lingering finish.

2014: 91 WE | **2013:** 91 WE | **2012:** 91 WE

Duorum

| Dwar-Room |

DOC Douro, Portugal

DUORUM

The name Duorum, Latin for “from two,” captures the spirit of this famed Portuguese winery. The winery is owned by two of Portugal’s most renowned oenologists, João Portugal Ramos and José Maria Soares Franco. Ramos, widely considered the “King of the Alentejo,” began his career as a groundbreaking wine consultant in the 1980s, and today runs successful projects in the Alentejo, Vinho Verde, Beira Atlantico, and Douro. Franco spent twenty-seven years as wine director for one of Portugal’s most renowned wines: the Douro’s Barca Velha. With more than three generations of winemaking history between their families, Ramos and Franco chose to combine their superior skills and passion for winemaking and founded Duorum in 2007.

Duorum is notable for its estate vineyards in two distinct regions with two diverse altitudes: Douro’s mountainous, schistose Cima Corga and its arid Douro Superior. Their use of native flora and the character it adds to their wine has placed them in high regard. Duorum is recognized internationally for having received the European Union’s Business & Biodiversity award for its outstanding achievements in halting biodiversity loss and supporting natural ecosystems. In 2015, Duorum received the prestigious Anders Wall Award, given each year to encourage and promote efforts made by creative entrepreneurs who have contributed to creating a positive rural environment: landscape preservation, biodiversity enhancement, cultural heritage conservation and contribution to the rural economy within the European Union. Duorum is proving to be the most ambitious winery venture in Portugal.

Tons de Duorum Branco

The word “Tons” translates as “shades of flavor” in Portuguese and implies strength in English. Both translations readily apply to this wine. Made from Viosinho, Rabigato, Verdelho, Arinto, and Moscatel, Tons de Duorum has a sunny lemon yellow color and an intense aroma dominated by tropical and citrus fruits. Good structure and well-integrated acidity yield to a fresh, long finish.

2015: WE Best Buy | **2014:** WE Best Buy | **2013:** WE Best Buy | **2011:** WE “Top 100 Best Buys of 2012”

Tons de Duorum Tinto

This wine is a delightful blend of 50 percent Touriga Franca, 30 percent Touriga Nacional, and 20 percent Tinta Roriz. The grapes are fermented in stainless steel tanks, and the resulting wine is aged in French and American oak for six months. The aroma is dominated by ripe black fruits, such as blackberries and prunes, which are well integrated as a result of the oak-barrel aging. Balanced acidity and soft tannins show on this elegant wine, which is appropriate for grilled steaks, roasts, and special occasions.

2014: WE Best Buy | **2013:** WS Top 100 Value

Colheita

/ Kohl-Ate-Ah /

A delicious blend of 40 percent Touriga Nacional, 40 percent Touriga Franca, and 20 percent Tinta Roriz, a pure reflection of the harvest from a single vintage. Aged in French and American oak barrels for approximately six months, the resulting wine boasts an intense red color and a bouquet dominated by ripe black fruits, such as blackberries, prunes, cassis, and sweet spices. This blend is full bodied, with well-balanced acidity and firm, ripe tannins with a long finish.

2013: 91 WS | **2012:** 90 Best Buy W&S, 90 WE | **2011:** 92 “Editor’s Choice” WE | **2010:** 91 WE

Reserva Vinhas Velhas

This wine is a succulent blend of one hundred-year-old estate-vine Touriga Nacional (45 percent), Touriga Franca (45 percent), Tinta Roriz (5 percent), and Sousão (5 percent). It is aged for eighteen months in French barrels. Deep red in color, the wine features intense aromas of ripe black fruit, violet, iodine, and exotic wood. Well-balanced acidity, a full body, and firm, well-integrated tannins give way to a long, persistent finish.

2012: 93 WE | **2011:** 93 Cellar Selection WE, 93 WA, 93 W&S | **2009:** 94 WA | **2008:** 93 WE | **2007:** 90 WA

Vintage Porto

Duorum Vintage Port is a field blend of Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca and Tinta Roriz. Deep red in color with dense violet tones, this wine has intense and elegant aromas dominated by ripe black fruits that develop into balsamic and cedar. A full body with great structure and well-balanced acidity make for a persistent, harmonious finish. Truly a wine with great aging potential.

2012: 93 WA | **2011:** 94 WA | **2010:** 93 WS | **2009:** 93 WE | **2008:** 94 WS | **2007:** 92 WS

Quinta de Foz de Arouce

| Keen-Ta Deh Foss Deh Ah-Roosh |

VR Beira Atlântico, Portugal



Quinta de
Foz de Arouce

Quinta de Foz de Arouce has a long and rich history of winemaking linked to the legend of the Arab King Arunce, who built a castle to protect his daughter, his treasures, and of course, his wine. The Manor House is currently the home of the fourth Count of Arouce, João Fillipe Osorio. The property is composed of fifteen acres of vineyards on schist soils, with some vines up to seventy years in age. When top Portuguese oenologist João Portugal Ramos married into the family, he grew interested in bottling the Quinta's wines, resulting in one of Portugal's finest offerings. The estate, south of Bairrada, is planted primarily with Baga as well as many other traditional Portuguese varieties with a limited annual production of around 10,000 bottles of red wine and 1,500 bottles of white wine.

Wine & Spirits Top 100 Wineries in the World 2013.

Branco

This wine is made from 100 percent Cerceal fermented in half barrels of French oak and then aged for five months in-barrel for additional refinement. Pale yellow in color, it has aromas of minerals, citrus fruits, and honey, while on the palate it is soft and creamy, beautifully balanced with a long finish.

2014: 91 WE | **2013:** 92 WE | **2012:** 90 WE, #3 in Top 10 Portuguese White Wines by The New York Times | **2009:** 90 WE

Tinto

Foz de Arouce Tinto is sourced from the schistous alluvial vineyard of Quinta de Foz de Arouce, which has been in the family of Count João Fillipe Osorio since the twelfth century. Made from 80 percent Baga and 20 percent Touriga Nacional, this wine spends two years in French barriques, displaying good aromatic concentration with notes of red fruits and resin. Its soft tannins are balanced, with a lingering finish.

2012: 91 W&S | **2011:** 94 W&S | **2010:** "Matt Kramer's Top Wines of 2013" WS, 91 Editor's Choice WE | **2009:** 93 W&S

Vinhas Velhas de Santa Maria

/ Veen-Yas Vel-Ahs /

The Quinta de Foz de Arouce Vinhas Velhas de Santa Maria is crafted from a small vineyard plot of Baga that was planted in 1940. This wine begins the fermentation process in stone troughs and stainless steel tanks, followed by malolactic fermentation in 100 percent new French oak barrels, where it then ages for twelve months. An incredibly age-worthy wine, it is deep red in color and has aromas of jam, prunes, and cherries. Complex and full-bodied, it has subtle notes of chocolate with balanced acidity and persistent finish, typical of this variety.

2011: 94 WA | **2009:** 93 WE | **2007:** 95 WA

Quinta de Chocapalha

| Keen-Ta Deh Show-Cah-Pahl-ya |

VR Lisboa, Portugal

QUINTA DE
CHOCAPALHA

Quinta de Chocapalha, a stunning wine estate owned and operated by the Tavares da Silva family, is nestled between the sun-bathed hills surrounding Alenquer, just northwest of Lisbon. Originally acquired in the 1980s, the one hundred and ten acres of nearly abandoned vineyards discovered on the estate dated back to the sixteenth century; the family immediately embarked on an investment program to replant and regraft the vines with the thriving varieties of the area, both indigenous and international. In 2000, the new plantings had reached optimal maturity when Sandra Tavares, their youngest daughter, made her first debut as a winemaker, passionate and eager to produce wine with only the best grapes found on the estate. Drawing from traditional and modern winemaking influences, Quinta de Chocapalha vinifies in traditional lagares yet employs the use of mechanical treaders during fermentation; this fine-tuned winemaking philosophy shines through in the wines, which boast both traditional minerality and elegance, while remaining fresh and fruit-forward in essence.

Quinta de Chocapalha Arinto

A pure expression of Arinto sourced from 23-year-old vineyards on the Chocapalha estate, this refreshing white is vinified in stainless steel vats and aged for six months on the lees before bottling. Bright lemon-yellow in color with a freshly aromatic nose of citrus and tropical fruits, Quinta de Chocapalha Arinto boasts lively acidity and a lingering finish.

2014: Best Buy WE | **2011:** 90 WA

Quinta de Chocapalha Branco

Quinta de Chocapalha Branco is a blend of indigenous Portuguese varieties sourced from sixteenth-century vineyards twenty-eight miles northwest of Lisbon. Intensely bright, Quinta de Chocapalha Branco is fermented in stainless steel and stays in contact with the lees for six months. Fresh citric, floral and tropical notes radiate on the nose, while the palate displays great balance and enticing acidity.

Quinta de Chocapalha Castelão

Castelão, one of Portugal's most famed and widely planted varieties, is known for its beautiful fruit character. Quinta de Chocapalha's interpretation of this varietal is a stunning example. Fermented in stainless steel and aged in French oak for twelve months, this Castelão retains its fresh fruit essence long after its six months of refinement in-bottle.

2013: Best Buy WE

Quinta de Chocapalha Tinto

Quinta de Chocapalha Tinto is a blend of Tinta Roriz, Touriga Nacional, Castelão, Syrah and Alicante Bouschet. Fermented in traditional granite lagares and stainless steel, the wine is then refined for eighteen months in French oak barriques. Deep violet in color with a powerful bouquet of ripe black fruit, spice and rose, this red is elegant on the palate, with soft tannins and vibrant acidity leading to a long and expressive finish.

2011: Editors' Choice 93 WE | **2010:** 92 WE

CH by Chocapalha

CH by Chocapalha is an homage to the Swiss origins of Alice Tavares da Silva, the family matriarch; CH, the European country code for Switzerland, graces each and every label of this outstanding tribute. This wine is a pure expression of old-vine Touriga Nacional fermented in traditional granite lagares and aged in French oak barriques for twenty-four months before bottling. Deeply expressive, CH by Chocapalha displays bold, dark fruit aromas on the nose with subtle nuances of leather and violet. The structured palate is supported by firm tannins and enticing flavors of black currant and raspberry, followed by a remarkable finish.

2012: 92 WA | **2011:** 93 WE | **2010:** 92 WS | **2009:** 90 WA

Chocapalha Vinha Mãe

Vinha Mãe translates to "The Mother Vine" in Portuguese and is the flagship red of the Chocapalha estate. Sourced from powerful, twenty-seven-year-old vines and fermented in traditional granite lagares with successive machine pressings, this wine is aged in French oak barriques for twenty months. Deep violet in color with deep concentration on the nose, this wine boasts a rich perfume of ripe black fruits and floral notes. Elegantly structured with rich tannins, Vinha Mãe has a wonderful capacity for aging.

2012: 94 WE | **2011:** 92 WE

Wine & Soul

DOC Douro, DOC Porto, Portugal

WINE & SOUL

Located in the Cima Corgo's Pinhão Valley, the prestigious heart of the Douro Valley, Wine & Soul spans several picturesque vineyards, some of which consist of field blends up to one hundred years old. Founded a mere ten years ago by the husband-and-wife team of Jorge Seródio Borges and Sandra Tavares da Silva, this innovative yet rustic winery has already established a highly esteemed reputation. Today, the winery embraces environmentally friendly and artisanal practices such as manual foot-trodding in granite lagares, a gentler method that results in finer tannins. In addition to Wine & Soul, Jorge also manages Quinta do Passadouro, while Sandra gained her winemaking experience at Quinta do Vale D. Maria in the Douro and her family estate of Quinta da Chocapalha in Lisboa.

Guru Branco

Guru is equal parts Viosinho, Rabigato, Côdega do Larinho, and Gouveio, sourced from the estate's fifty-year-old Murça vineyard. Barrel-fermented and aged seven months in new French oak, the wine has excellent minerality and aromatic notes of grapefruit and other citrus. It has a full body while maintaining freshness, elegance, and complexity, with a fine balance and long finish.

2014: 92 WS | **2013:** "50 Star Buys of 2015" 96 D | **2012:** 91 WA | **2011:** 91 WA | **2010:** 90 WS

Pintas Character

/ Peen-Tajs Character /

Pintas Character is made from a nearly fifty-year-old field blend surrounding the Pintas vineyard. It consists of thirty different indigenous varieties, including Touriga Franca, Tinta Roriz, and Touriga Nacional. The wine is fermented in traditional granite lagares and aged for eighteen months in 50 percent new and 50 percent second-passage French oak barriques. Rich and powerful, the wine shows notes of raspberry, black cherry, and plums. On the palate, it is fresh and velvety with well-integrated tannins and a long, persistent finish.

2013: 94 W&S | **2012:** 93 WE | **2011:** 94 WS | **2010:** Matt Kramer's "Top 3 Wines of 2012" 92 WS

Pintas

/ Peen-Tajs /

This wine is made from the eighty-year-old field blend in the estate's Pintas vineyard. It consists of Touriga Franca, Touriga Nacional, Tinta Roriz, and more than twenty-five other indigenous Douro varieties. The grapes are foot-trodden in granite lagares during maceration, a gentle process that results in finer tannins. The wine is then aged for twenty months in 70 percent new French oak barriques. It features notes of spice, blackberry, dark chocolate, and floral accents. Ripe and round, this wine's excellent acidity and fine tannins lead to a lengthy finish.

2013: 96 WE | **2012:** Cellar Selection 95 WE | **2011:** 98 WS (Top Rated Portuguese Table Wine from WS) | **2010:** Cellar Selection 94 WE | **2009:** 94 WS | **2008:** 94 WA

Manoella

This wine is a blend of 60 percent Touriga Nacional, 25 percent Touriga Franca, 10 percent Tinta Roriz, and 5 percent Tinta Francisca from the Quinta da Manoella vineyard. The grapes are fermented for ten days at low temperatures and then foot-trodden in open granite lagares. The wine is aged for sixteen months in used French barriques, giving notes of spices along with raspberry and blackberry. On the palate, Manoella reveals round, velvety tannins, good concentration, and a long finish.

2013: Editors' Choice 92 WE | **2012:** 91 WE | **2011:** 90 WA | **2010:** 92 WE, Top 50 Portuguese Wines W&S

Quinta da Manoella Vinhas Velhas

This elegant red is sourced from a century-old field blend in Jorge Seródio Borges's ancestral family vineyard of Quinta de Manoella. It is composed largely of Touriga Nacional with a lesser percentage of Touriga Franca, Tinta Roriz, and other traditional Douro varieties. Grapes were hand-selected and foot-trodden in stone lagares, and then aged in 90 percent new French oak barriques for twenty months. The resulting wine is deeply concentrated with spicy and floral aromas and flavors of blackberry and dark chocolate. Ripe, round and balanced with a notable acidity, it possesses firm tannins and a long finish.

2013: 94 WE | **2012:** Cellar Selection 95 WE | **2011:** 95 WS | **2010:** 93 WE | **2009:** 93 WA, 93 WS

10-Year-Old Tawny Port

Made to mark the ten-year anniversary of Wine & Soul, this rich, golden tawny seems aged beyond its years. It is made from a field blend of thirty grape varieties from estate vineyards ranging from forty to sixty years old. With a deep golden-amber color, this complex Port features fresh aromas of nuts, honey, and figs. On the palate, it is rich with mellow fruit flavors with a long finish.

NV: 92 WS, 91 WE

Pintas Vintage Port

This Vintage Port is made from a field blend of more than thirty indigenous grape varieties sourced from the estate's eighty-year-old Pintas vineyard. All grapes were carefully selected and foot-trodden in lagares for five days until neutral brandy was added to stop the fermentation. The wine was then aged in an old Port tonel for nineteen months before bottling. Featuring flavors of dark plum and mint chocolate, this wine's full and ripe tannins show the aging capacity of this young Port.

2011: 96 WE | 2009: 95 WS

5G

This Tawny Port is the pinnacle of more than one hundred years of unwavering passion and patience. It is a creation so sacred that Five Generations of the Serôdio Borges family have guarded it for a century's time. A celestial blend of vintage tawnys dating from 1870 to 1900, with a limited production of just 1,200 bottles released to the public, 5G retains the same magnetism that flows through the veins of its keepers. Alluring notes of raw honey, roasted almond, and grilled fig intermingle with elegant viscosity and an extraordinary freshness deepened only by its ample maturity.

NV: 95 WA

Quinta do Passadouro

Quinta do Passadouro

| Keen-Tah Doh Pass-Ah-Doh-Roo |

DOC Douro, DOC Porto, Portugal

Quinta do Passadouro is located on the left bank of the Pinhão River in the Cima-Corgo sub-region of the prestigious Douro Valley. The estate is owned by the Bohrmann family and operated by Jorge Seródio Borges. Winemaking here is in the talented hands and palates of Jorge and Rita Mendes, both educated at Portugal's finest university for enological studies, Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (UTAD). Today, Jorge is wine director at Passadouro in addition to co-owning the successful winery Wine & Soul with his wife Sandra.

Passadouro consists of two different old-vine vineyards: Quinta do Passadouro and Quinta do Sibio. Both boast a variety of indigenous varieties native to the Douro, including Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca, Tinta Roriz, Sousão, and Tinta Barroca.

Passa Branco

This blend of Rabigato and Códaga do Larinho is fermented in stainless steel and spends four months on lees. The resulting wine is a medium-bodied white with excellent acidity and minerality. Floral and orange blossom notes lead to a lingering finish.

Passa Tinto

This gorgeous red is sourced from schistose vineyards and is composed of 45 percent Touriga Franca, 45 percent Tinta Roriz, and 10 percent Touriga Nacional, aged for eight months in second-year French oak barrels. Ruby red in color, it has intense notes of red berries and plum on the nose and palate, and is well balanced with pleasant acidity.

2013: Best Buy W&S | **2011:** Best Buy W&S

Passadouro Branco

Passadouro Branco is sourced from an estate vineyard near the village of Murça at an altitude of 1,650 feet. The high altitude, cool climate, and schist and granite soil provides ideal conditions for growing white grapes. The wine is a blend of Viosinho, Rabigato, and Códaga do Larinho with an average vine age of 30 years. Fermentation is conducted in stainless steel tanks over 15 days at low temperatures, which preserves the fresh flavors of the grapes. The ensuing five months of lees contact adds just enough texture to create a perfectly balanced wine. Pale gold in color, this fresh and fragrant wine displays notes of citrus, asparagus, and intense minerality.

2014: 90 WA | **2012:** 90 WA

Passadouro Tinto

The Passadouro Tinto is made from 40 percent Touriga Nacional, 30 percent Tinta Roriz, and 30 percent Touriga Franca, aged for eighteen months in French oak barrels. It has a beautiful purple-red color with intense aromas of ripe plum and blackberry on the nose. On the palate, this wine is well balanced, with flavors of sweet spice, mineral undertones, and soft tannins.

2013: Editors Choice 93 WE | **2012:** 92 WE, 92 W&S | **2011:** 90 WA | **2010:** "Top 100 Wines of 2013: 91 WS | **2009:** 92 WA | **2008:** 92 WS

Passadouro Touriga Nacional

This wine is 100 percent Touriga Nacional sourced from the thirty-year-old, schistose Quinta do Sibio vineyard. After a rigorous selection, the grapes ferment in a traditional granite lagar and are then aged seventeen months in 50 percent new and 50 percent one-year-old French oak barrels. This wine displays elegant notes of black fruits and violets, and well-integrated nuances of oak. On the palate, this Touriga Nacional shows its intense and fresh flavors with perfect balance.

2013: 91 WA | **2012:** 96 D | **2011:** 92 WA

Passadouro Touriga Franca

A pure expression of Touriga Franca from 30 year old vines planted at an altitude of 150 meters at Quinta do Sibio. After a rigorous selection, the foot trodden grapes ferment in a traditional granite lagars with temperature control for 10 days. Aged for 18 months in 30 percent new and 70 percent used French oak barrels. This wine is light in color, it is elegant on the nose with balsamic and white peppery notes combined with aromas of red fruit. On the palate, soft tannins balanced with pleasant acidity evoke refreshing sensations in the mouth. The finish is long with mineral notes. 3,000 bottles produced in only exceptional years.

Passadouro Reserva

Remarkably, seventy-year-old vines produce the more than thirty indigenous grape varieties that make up this field blend wine. Aged for eighteen months in French oak barrels, this wine is deep ruby red in color with concentrated aromas of black cherry, plum, and sweet spice on the nose and palate. Rich and impressive, it has well-integrated tannins, good acidity, and a long finish.

2013: 94 WE | **2012:** 94 WE | **2011:** 93 WA | **2010:** 92 WS, 92 WA | **2009:** 93 WS | **2008:** 93 WE | **2004:** 93 WA

Passadouro Ruby Reserva Porto

This wine has a longer aging time than typical for Ruby Ports—about five years—during which time it becomes rich and aromatic with a deep ruby color. It exhibits a youthful freshness and beautiful fruit, and is an everyday Port suitable for enjoying anytime.

Passadouro Vintage Porto

Quinta do Passadouro Vintage Port is meticulously crafted from a field blend of indigenous Portuguese varietals grown in the estate's vineyards. The grapes sourced from the seventy-year-old vines are foot-trodden in traditional granite lagars and aged in native Portuguese oak for nineteen months before bottling. A floral style, the wine displays an intense bouquet of rose petal, black cherry and cassis while the palate exhibits a medium body with solid structure and concentrated licorice and crushed blackberry flavors. It is a wine meant to age for twenty to fifty years in declared vintages.

2011: 95 WE | **2009:** 93 WS, 93 WE

Quinta do Monte d'Oiro

| Keen-Ta Doh Mon-Tey Doi-Roo |

VR Lisboa, Portugal



Quinta do Monte d'Oiro, which translates to "Hill of Gold" in Portuguese, is located in Alenquer, thirty miles north of Lisbon. The area has been praised in various documents from as far back as the seventeenth century as a privileged terroir for producing great wines. The one hundred and five-acre vineyard is dedicated to the red grapes Syrah, Cinsaut, Petit Verdot, Touriga Nacional and Tinta Roriz; Viognier is its only white grape. The climate is Mediterranean with Atlantic influence, and the soil composition is clay-limestone. The aim of the estate's owner and winemaker, José Bento dos Santos, is to develop top-quality wines in a European style while respecting the terroir of the estate's vineyard.

Lybra Branco

This wine is a unique blend of Viognier, Marsanne and Arinto that come together in a harmonious balance. Clean and bright, with a beautiful lemon-gold color with green glints. Intensely aromatic with elegant aromas of orange blossom and apricot. The palate highlights its freshness and minerality, with hints of lime and citrus with a long, lingering finish.

Lybra Syrah

Lybra symbolizes equilibrium, which is exemplified in the wine's perfect balance. Named for the zodiac sign during the time of harvest, the Lybra Syrah is crafted from 100 percent Syrah harvested in late September. The wine is fermented in stainless steel tanks and aged for twelve months in French barriques, lending a beautiful ruby-red color with aromas of ripe berry fruit, chocolate, and spices. On the palate, it has flavors of black fruit, chocolate, cassis, and mineral. It is full bodied, with silky tannins and a long, persistent finish.

2012: 90 WA

Madrigal Viognier

Made from 100 percent Viognier, this wine bears striking similarities to those of Condrieu. Fermentation occurs in a mixture of 60 percent stainless steel tanks and 40 percent French oak barrels, and the wine is then refined in French oak for six months. The nose and palate bear hallmark notes of peach and white flowers. Though seemingly delicate, this wine has a solid structure and a graceful, lingering finish.

2014: 92 WA | **2013:** 92 WA | **2012:** 90 WA | **2011:** 92 WA | **2010:** 90 WA | **2009:** 90 WA | **2008:** 90 WA

Reserva

This Reserva is the top of the estate's line and consistently a world-class wine, considered by international wine writers as the best Syrah in the Iberian Peninsula. A classic pairing of Syrah with Viognier, the grapes are co-fermented in stainless steel vats, followed by a long maceration. This yields a deep and vibrant wine. Further refinement for eighteen months in a combination of 30 percent new and 70 percent second-year French oak barrels adds structure and character. Enticing notes of crushed raspberry appear on the nose. The addition of Viognier adds beautiful floral and perfumed notes. On the palate, the wine shows its complexity with velvety tannins.

2011: 94 WA | **2010:** 93 WA | **2009:** 93 WA, 93 WE Cellar Selection | **2008:** 92 WA | **2007:** 92 WA | **2004:** 91 WA | **2000:** 90 WA

M.O.B.

DOC Dão, Portugal

M.O.B

M.O.B., located in the Serra d'Estrela district of eastern Dão, is not a name that should incite fear, but curiosity. This daring joint venture is named for the three talented winemakers behind it all: Jorge Moreira of Poeira, Francisco Olazabal from Quinta do Vale Meão, and Jorge Seródio Borges of Quinta do Passadouro and Wine & Soul. The close-knit trio may have deep roots in the neighboring Douro Valley, but they unite under one desire: to represent the Dão in the truest form. While some winemakers in this region are mimicking a bolder Douro style, M.O.B. aims to craft wines that are intense, yet elegant: a style emblematic of the land.

The leading vineyard, Quinta do Corujão, sits at an altitude of 1,640 feet beside Portugal's highest mountain range, Serra da Estrela. The vines in this area are planted in poor granitic soils, forcing their roots to dig deep in search of water and other nutrients. Cool, brisk air graces the vineyards at nightfall, encouraging elevated levels of natural acidity, while the soils impart a refined mineral character to the final wines: a combination that is unmistakably Dão. The trio aims to utilize an organic approach in the vineyards and hone their skills together, as a team, to create wines with true varietal character, unassailable elegance, and a compelling presence that would be difficult to refuse.

M.O.B. Branco

A blend of Encruzado and Bical from 25 year old vines fermented in 30 percent new and 70 percent used French oak barrels. Aged for 8 months on the lees with slight batonnage, the wine displays a beautiful golden color. The nose is mysterious, with notes of flint and minerality, arising among white fruit and flowery aromas. Very elegant on the palate, with fine texture and lively acidity. A wine with unique character that will continue to evolve over years in the bottle.

M.O.B. Tinto

A blend of Touriga Nacional, Alfrocheiro, Jaen and Baga from the granite soils of Quinta do Corujão. The Touriga Nacional is foot trodden in lagar, while the Alfrocheiro, Jaen and Baga are fermented in stainless steel tank at low temperatures with little extraction. Aged for 12 months 30 percent new and 70 percent used French oak barrels. This is a wine with a beautiful violet color, very intense aromas of cassis, bergamot orange, and wild flowers. On the palate, it is fresh with soft tannins and pleasant acidity complimented by its velvety texture. A complex wine full of character that will evolve beautifully in the bottle over the coming years.



João Nicolau de Almeida & Filhos

/Zhu-wow Nee-Koh-Lao de All-May-Dah & Feel-yos/

DOC Douro, Portugal

In 1993, respected and accomplished Portuguese winemaker, João Nicolau de Almeida, along with his two sons, Mateus and João, discovered an extraordinary vineyard site with multiple exposures and elevations—a circular mount of schist in the upper Douro Valley. Planting on this mount seemed nearly impossible but the family was driven; they were firm believers in the land and after a long, arduous investigation, they were able to track down the individual owners and began to acquire small parcels for their family project, Quinta do Monte Xisto. Each layer of schist that was uncovered on that hill presented new challenges and opportunities to discover the unique characteristics of the land.

In 2005, the father and sons began to plant the vineyard located in Vila Nova de Foz Côa on the left bank of the Douro River, in the cooler high altitude sub-region of Douro Superior. The Quinta covers nearly 100 acres, with only 25 reserved for vines which are planted at various levels of altitude and varying degrees of exposure allowing the blending of warmer and cooler zones. The plots are farmed organically following the principles of biodynamic agriculture while the resulting wines are foot-trodden in granite lagares followed by 18 months of aging in 600 liter barrels. The differentiating factor of this winery is the uniting of technological knowledge spanning now three generations, the diversity afforded by the land, respect for the Douro culture, and for the terroir of Douro Superior. The production of benchmark still wines from the Douro runs through the veins of this family; Nicolau's father, Fernando, was the enologist who created Ferreria's legendary Barca Velha, while Nicolau pioneered vertical planting and aided in the production of Ramos Pinto's sought-after Duas Quintas. Every member of the family is involved in the business—including Nicolau's wife, Graça Eça de Queiroz Cabral, the link that binds the family together, helps with the archiving, while Nicolau's daughter, Mafalda, heads hospitality. Nicolau's first son, Mateus, studied winemaking in Bordeaux under professor Dennis Dubourdieu, followed by training in in South America and the creation of Muxagat wines. He is Quinta do Monte Xisto's managing director and winemaker alongside his father. The younger, João, who helped develop the project from inception, is responsible for the viticulture and is currently the winemaker at Quinta do Pessegueiro. Truly a family affair, João Nicolau de Almeida & Sons is inspiring new generations of winemakers to innovate while carrying on a centuries-old presence and value of family and diligence in the still wines of the Douro region.

Quinta do Monte Xisto

João Nicolau de Almeida once said, “we believe that the simpler the process of making wine, the more easily one can reveal the origins of the wine, of its *terroir*. With less interference, the final product will be more faithful to the land.” That is how Nicolau de Almeida & Filhos makes the Quinta do Monte Xisto, vinified in granite lagares with foot treading followed by eighteen months of aging in 600-liter barrels. A blend of Touriga Nacional, Touriga Francesa and Souz, displaying a glowing and brilliant appearance, it's a wine with a nose that reveals its authenticity and transports us directly into the world of the Quinta. When we allow ourselves to be engaged by the wine, new aromas of fruit and forest appear, supported by an elegant and balanced structure. Full of personality, it is both expressive and reflective of the land where it is grown.

2012: 92 WA



Brazil



Brazilian Producers

Lidio Carraro

/Lid-E-Oh Car-Rar-O/

Serra do Sudeste, Brazil

Before the Carraro family arrived in Brazil in 1875, they had been grape growers in the Veneto region of Breganze. Several generations later, the patriarch of the family, Lidio Carraro, was joined by his sons Giovanni and Juliano Carraro in the winery. In this family operation, Giovanni and Juliano oversee the winemaking process while Lidio Carraro still maintains the same vineyards that his family planted so many years ago. Those vineyards are located in two privileged locations in Southern Brazil: Vale dos Vinhedos and Encruzilhada do Sul. Combining respect for the land, sustainability, and modern vinification technology, it produced its first fine wines in 2002.

Lidio Carraro was the first Brazilian winery to be internationally recognized as a top-quality boutique winery producing Icon status wines, so much so that it was named the official wine of the 2014 World Cup. The winery is recognized as a pioneer in the country for introducing an integrated sustainable grape production and enological practices. Starting with meticulous clonal study, soil mapping, production balance, use of Thermo Pest Control (TPC) technology, manual harvesting, strict production control from receiving the grapes through gravity to the finished product, Lidio Carraro makes great wines without resorting to the traditional use of wood. Attention to every winemaking detail allows for creating distinct wines, rich in complexity, structure and balance.

Agnus Merlot

Representing the lamb, a symbol of purity, joy, and passion, this wine was born from Lidio Carraro's purist philosophy and a tribute to the *terroir* of Encruzilhada do Sul. Made with 100 percent Merlot grapes, harvested in March from the Agnus vineyards, this is a unique wine with nice varietal expression. It has an exquisite ruby-red color and a delicate, complex aroma with classic Merlot characteristics in its bouquet, including red, ripe fruits such as strawberry, raspberry, and black mulberry. The palate is balanced, mature tannins, a smooth and harmonious wine which unveils a pleasant fruit taste, and a long finish.

Dádivas Chardonnay

This wine is made from 100 percent Chardonnay from two different clones, and harvested from two parcels of the Dádivas vineyard. It is fermented for fifteen to twenty days and then aged for eight months in temperature-controlled stainless steel tanks. It has a bright, straw color with shining golden reflections and high viscosity, along with intense, elegant aromas of white flowers, such as daisies and acacia, and tropical notes of pineapples, melons, pears, grapefruit, apples and crisp minerality. It contains a fascinating palate of viscosity and balanced acidity, and a long finish.

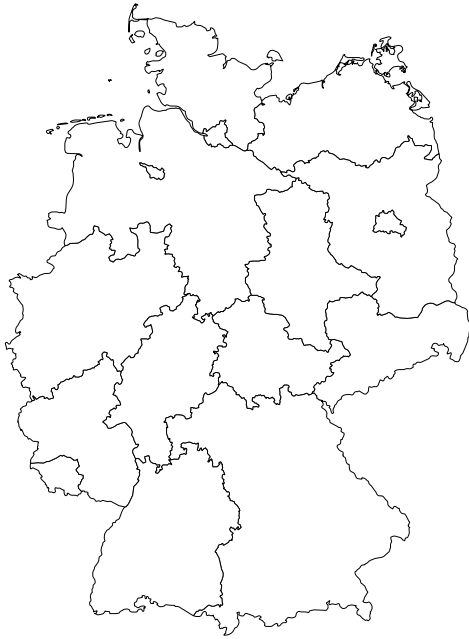
Grande Vindima Quorum

Quorum is produced only in exceptional vintages. The grapes are hand-harvested at the point of maturation and transported in plastic boxes to the winery for manual selection. Fermentation occurs in

stainless steel tanks. Maceration ranges from fourteen to eighteen days, depending on the varietal. For the extraction of the compounds present in the skins, an automatic reassembling system has been used to improve the dissolution of those compounds and to prevent from tearing the husks. After malolactic fermentation and racking, the wines are blended after defining the percentage of each of the six lots of wines and aged for twelve months in tank until bottling. The wine is bottled unfiltered in an aim to maintain the true character of the wine. "Quorum" exists only when all the grape varietals have achieved excellence in their expression. The wine is intense ruby in color and shows violet reflections. On the nose, it unveils aromas of cherry, raspberry, currant and pomegranate, developing to coffee, chocolate and spice. It has great character and balance, elegant and ripe.

An aerial photograph of a German town and vineyards at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm golden glow over the scene. The town, with its dense residential buildings and a central square, is situated on a hillside overlooking a river. The foreground is dominated by terraced vineyards with rows of grapevines, interspersed with dirt paths and a small circular structure. The sky is a clear, pale blue, and the overall atmosphere is peaceful and scenic.

Germany



German Producers

Clean Slate

Mosel, Germany

CLEAN SLATE

Clean Slate is the product of a longstanding partnership between Moselland of Bernkastel-Kues, Germany and MundoVino, a business unit of The Winebow Group. Moselland is the largest vineyard owner in the Mosel and one of Germany's top exporters of Riesling.

Clean Slate is made of 100 percent Riesling grapes sourced from selected vineyards throughout the Mosel region. Known for its steep slopes, the region's exceptional climate and mineral-rich slate soil create the perfect growing conditions for this grape. The thin slate stones of vineyards in the Mosel River Valley are a critical factor in crafting Riesling of exquisite balance. The slate's ability to reflect and retain heat is essential to ripening grapes in this cool climate, and it is what develops the fresh peach, crisp lime, and subtle mineral flavors of these wines.

The cool climate of Mosel's northerly location allows grapes to ripen very slowly, while the slopes give the vines ideal sun exposure. Further protection comes with the Mosel River's tendency to hold heat, which keeps vines protected from getting too cold and creating a special microclimate for ideal ripeness levels. The thin, stony topsoil forces the vines to root deep through the rocks for water and nutrients, resulting in wines of excellent minerality and complexity.

In the course of harvest, the winemaker, Peter Meurer, makes daily decisions regarding which grapes to pick, based on ripeness and maturation in the different areas of the region. After gentle handling of the grapes, they are then fermented and stored in stainless steel tanks under temperature-controlled conditions. All of this is critical to the development of Clean Slate's ideal flavor profile.

Peter Meurer was born and raised in the small village of Burg, which is located in the Mosel valley and comes from a long lineage of winegrowers. He started his career at the Dr. Loosen Estate in Bernkastel-Kues, followed by studies of viticulture and enology at the world-famous University of Geisenheim. After graduation, he took over his family winery and became a member of the jury at the Chamber of Agriculture. Clean Slate is evidence of Peter's passion of the Mosel region and the Riesling grape.

Riesling

This über-fresh German offering is a pure expression of Riesling and a wonderful introduction to the Mosel region. The fresh, balanced taste of Clean Slate is achieved by carefully selecting grapes from vineyards throughout the Mosel. The steep blue slate slopes of the Lower Mosel give the wine its minerality while the Middle Mosel provides a hint of spice to complement the characteristic fresh peach flavors of the Upper Mosel. Fermented in stainless steel tanks and aged four months prior to bottling, Clean Slate's distinctive white-peach flavors are complemented by lively acidity and characteristic slate-driven minerality that culminate to form the lengthy, flavorful finish.

Wine Publication Key and Lead Writer by Country

Wine Spectator

Wine Spectator (WS)

Kim Marcus – *Argentina, Chile, and Portugal*
Thomas Matthews – *Spain*



Wine Advocate (WA)

Luis Gutierrez – *Argentina, Chile and Spain*
Mark Squires – *Portugal*

WINEENTHUSIAST

Wine Enthusiast (WE)

Michael Schachner – *Argentina, Chile and Spain*
Roger Voss – *Portugal*

Wine & Spirits

Wine & Spirits (W&S)

Joshua Greene – *Portugal and Spain*
Patricio Tapia – *Argentina and Chile*



Vinous (formerly International Wine Cellar)(V)

Stephen Tanzer – *Argentina*
Josh Reynolds – *Chile and Spain*

The New York Times

The New York Times

Eric Asimov

WALL STREET JOURNAL

The Wall Street Journal

Lettie Teague and Will Lyons

Decanter

Decanter (D)

Sarah Ahmed – *Portugal*
Sarah Jane Evans – *Spain*
Patricio Tapia – *Argentina and Chile*



The Financial Times and The Purple Pages

Jancis Robinson

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DESCORCHADOS

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Patricio Tapia

MUNDOVINOIMPORTS.COM