

El Esteco

El Esteco Don David Reserve Malbec is a vibrant expression of Argentina's high-altitude terroirs, offering rich aromas, concentrated flavors, and a silky structure, crafted as a tribute to the winery's pioneering founder.

VALLE DE CAFAYATE

EL ESTECO

91 James Suckling



Don David Reserve Malbec 2023

Salta, Argentina

Region and Vineyards

The **Calchaquí Valley**, located in the province of **Salta** in northern Argentina, is renowned for its breathtakingly high-altitude vineyards, situated at over **1,800 meters (6,000 feet)** above sea level. This region is characterized by its extreme conditions, including intense sunlight, low humidity, and significant day-night temperature variations, which enhance the grapes' aromatic intensity and acidity.

The soils of the **Calchaquí Valley** are poor and alluvial, composed of sandy and rocky substrates that naturally limit vine vigor, producing low yields of highly concentrated fruit. These conditions allow the Malbec grapes to develop exceptional depth and complexity. The valley's distinct terroir, combined with the dry climate and pure Andean meltwater irrigation, makes it one of the most unique wine-producing areas in the world.

Winemaking

Don David Reserve Malbec is crafted from **100% Malbec** grapes, hand-harvested to ensure only the finest fruit is used. After harvest, the grapes underwent a meticulous **pre-fermentation maceration at 8°C** to extract maximum color and aromas. The fermentation process utilized a combination of **native and selected yeasts**, carefully monitored to retain the wine's regional character.

Following fermentation, the wine underwent an extended **post-fermentation maceration of 30 days**, which enhanced the wine's texture and depth. The wine was then aged for **12 months**, with **70% of the wine maturing in American and French oak barrels** and the remaining **30% in stainless steel tanks and concrete pools**. This precise aging process balanced the wine's bold flavors with a polished structure, allowing the oak influence to integrate seamlessly into the fruit-driven profile.

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 100% Malbec

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep red with violet undertones, brilliant and vibrant.
- **Aromas**: Inviting notes of **plum jam**, **raisins**, **tobacco**, and **chocolate**, complemented by soft hints of oak and spice.
- **Palate**: Rich and full-bodied, with sweet, supple tannins and flavors of **dried fruits**, **chocolate**, and a subtle smokiness. The finish is long and persistent, leaving an elegant impression.

Did you know?

The **Don David range** is named after **David Michel**, one of the visionary founders of El Esteco, who pioneered winemaking in the Calchaquí Valley and helped establish the region as a premier wine destination.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Argentinean asado (grilled ribeye steak)**: The bold flavors of the beef match the wine's richness and complement its smoky notes.
- **Lamb stew with rosemary and root vegetables**: Enhances the wine's depth and soft tannins.
- **Hard cheeses like Manchego or aged Gouda**: Balances the wine's robust structure and enhances its fruity and chocolaty notes.
- **Dark chocolate tart with raspberry coulis**: Highlights the wine's subtle sweetness and dark fruit flavors.

91 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 91 Points (2023)

Blackcurrants, black beans, dried herbs and cumin on the nose. It's savory and medium- to full-bodied with well-integrated spice and herb notes to the dark fruit, accompanied by supple tannins. Why wait? Delicious now.