



Catena Zapata

Sourced from the River sector of Adrianna Vineyard, at an elevation of 1,372 meters (4,500 feet), this wine captures Mendoza's vibrant acidity, minerality, and concentrated aromas, making it a hallmark of high-altitude winemaking.



River Malbec 2020

Mendoza, Argentina

Region and Vineyards

The **Adrianna Vineyard** is situated in the Gualtallary district within Mendoza's Uco Valley, known for its extreme altitudes and stony, well-drained soils. The River sector of Adrianna, specifically planted in the path of a former river, is distinguished by soils rich in **limestone-covered stones**, providing exceptional drainage and moderating temperature fluctuations. This unique soil composition amplifies the Malbec's aromatics and concentration, resulting in a wine that is both lush and mineral-driven.

Founded in **1992**, the Adrianna Vineyard sits at **4,500 feet** and represents Nicol's Catena's vision of high-altitude viticulture. The cool temperatures at this elevation maintain the wine's natural acidity and polyphenol levels, while intense sunlight strengthens the tannins, creating wines with remarkable complexity and aging potential. The Catena Institute of Wine has extensively studied this vineyard, establishing it as one of the most documented vineyards in the world.

Winemaking

Catena Zapata Adrianna Vineyard River Malbec is produced through a careful process emphasizing the wine's natural fruit character and terroir expression. **Harvested in the third week of April**, the grapes undergo **cold maceration** before a **17-day fermentation in barrels** with gentle punchdowns. The wine undergoes **full malolactic fermentation** to soften its acidity and is then aged in **500-liter French oak barriques and barrels** for **two years**, followed by an additional two years of bottle aging to enhance integration and complexity.

The wine has an **alcohol content of 14%**, a **pH level of 3.6**, and an acidity of **6.9 g/L**, balancing freshness with depth and structure.

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 100% Malbec



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep purple with garnet hues, reflecting its intensity and concentration.
- **Aroma:** Highly aromatic, with notes of **floral, dark berry fruits** and underlying mineral tones that reflect its limestone-rich terroir.
- **Palate:** Rich and luxurious, with smooth tannins, flavors of blackberry, plum, and a touch of spice. The finish is lengthy, with a remarkable freshness that promises both immediate pleasure and potential for aging.

Did you know?

The River sector of Adrianna Vineyard is located on what was once the path of a riverbed, which left behind stony, limestone-covered soils. This unique terroir is not only optimal for drainage but also contributes to the wine's **mineral intensity and aromatic complexity**. Each Adrianna Vineyard wine is crafted to express the specific attributes of its parcel, making the **River Malbec** a pure reflection of Mendoza's terroir and Catena's dedication to high-altitude viticulture.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled Argentinian Lamb with Rosemary:** The wine's richness and minerality pair beautifully with the earthy flavors of grilled lamb, while its tannins enhance the savory notes.
- **Wild Mushroom and Herb Risotto:** The earthy mushrooms complement the wine's mineral notes, while its acidity balances the creaminess of the risotto.
- **Roasted Quail with Figs:** The wine's dark fruit flavors and length harmonize with the sweetness of figs, enhancing the quail's delicate meat.
- **Aged Manchego Cheese:** The nutty, intense flavors of Manchego match the wine's depth and structure, creating a balanced and complex pairing.



James Suckling (JS) : 98 Points (2020)

Wild blackberries, pine cones, bark, chili chocolate, cracked pepper, cloves, iodine and crushed stones on the nose. Full-bodied with firm, creamy tannins. Lovely coolness and minerality to the dark fruit. Powerful, too. Try in 2026.



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Robert Parker (RP) : 97 Points (2020)

The 2019 was a hard act to follow, but the 2020 Adrianna Vineyard River kept its poise, though it showed a little riper and with grainier tannins that gave it some faint rusticity and earthiness. This is one of three Malbecs from the Adrianna Vineyard in Gualtallary, from a stony part of the vineyard, hence its name. The wine matured in large oak foudres, and the oak is still perceptible and might need a little more time to get integrated. This tends to be the most austere of the three bottlings, even in the warmer years like 2020, and it shows a little more fruit. It's juicy but beautifully textured with a spicy twist of curry that reminded me of some bottlings from El Enemigo in El Cepillo. It seems to open up slowly in the glass—the violet and berry aromas get complicated by some spice (curry?)—and the palate feels more layered. This is a superb expression of the austere wildness of Gualtallary. Rating: 97+



Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 95 Points (2020)

This vintage exhibits a ripe character, but preserves its elegant attributes. A peppery nose shows light aromas of berries and herbs in the background. After a few minutes in the glass, savory notes give way to fruity flavors of sour cherry, red plum and cranberry. Oak spices softly mark the finish of this velvety Malbec.

