



Catena Zapata

Catena Zapata Adrianna Vineyard Mundus Bacillus Terrae is a powerful, high-altitude Malbec sourced from the iconic Adrianna Vineyard, renowned for its mineral complexity and structured elegance.



Mundus Bacillus Terrae Malbec 2020

Mendoza, Argentina

Region and Vineyards

The **Adrianna Vineyard** is situated in the Gualtallary district of the Uco Valley, Mendoza, at an altitude of **1,500 meters (4,900 feet)**, making it one of the world's highest vineyard sites. Nicolás Catena pioneered this high-altitude viticulture, discovering that cooler temperatures at this elevation preserved natural acidity and enhanced polyphenols, while intense mountain sunlight strengthened tannins, creating wines with extraordinary complexity and ageability.

The soils of Adrianna are predominantly **calcareous and silty-loam**, scattered with ancient limestone and marine deposits. These limestone-rich layers are well-drained and support rhizobacteria that help vine roots endure the vineyard's cold, arid conditions, enabling them to absorb essential nutrients. The Adrianna Vineyard is extensively studied, with significant efforts by the Catena Institute to monitor biodiversity, soil health, and climate patterns, making it one of the most scientifically documented vineyards in the world.

Winemaking

Mundus Bacillus Terrae is produced from a **1.4-hectare parcel** within the Adrianna Vineyard. Grapes are harvested in the **first week of April**. The wine undergoes **16 days of alcoholic fermentation** with **pumpover maceration** for an extended period of **8 to 13 days**, followed by full malolactic fermentation to soften acidity. The wine is then aged for **24 months in a combination of 225-liter and 500-liter French oak barrels**, followed by an additional **24 months of bottle aging** to enhance complexity and integration.

This **100% Malbec** has an alcohol content of **14%**, characterized by its great concentration, vibrant acidity, and refined tannins.

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 100% Malbec



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep purple with ruby highlights, reflecting its concentration and intensity.
- **Aroma:** Aromas of **black and red fruits**, with layers of lavender, wood, and minerals, adding depth and complexity.
- **Palate:** Full-bodied with high acidity and structured tannins. Flavors of ripe blackberry, plum, and mineral notes are complemented by hints of spice and floral undertones, finishing long with remarkable freshness and ageability.

Did you know?

The name **Mundus Bacillus Terrae** pays homage to the unique bacteria in the Adrianna Vineyard's limestone-rich soils. These microorganisms, or "microbes of the earth," help the vine roots adapt to the vineyard's challenging conditions, enabling the production of intensely concentrated, mineral-driven wines. Catena Zapata has committed extensive research to understanding the vineyard's biodiversity, making the Adrianna Vineyard the most studied vineyard in the world, with findings published in several prestigious scientific journals.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Argentinian Ribeye Steak with Chimichurri:** The wine's structured tannins and rich fruit complement the robust flavors of grilled steak, while its acidity cuts through the herbaceous chimichurri.
- **Wild Boar Ragout with Rosemary and Thyme:** The earthy and spicy flavors of the ragout resonate with the wine's depth and mineral complexity.
- **Aged Comté Cheese:** The wine's acidity and tannins pair beautifully with the nutty, intense flavors of Comté, enhancing the richness of both.
- **Porcini Mushroom Risotto:** The wine's minerality and earthy notes harmonize with the mushrooms, while its freshness balances the creamy risotto.



Robert Parker (RP) : 97 Points (2020)

Tasting the 2020 Adrianna Vineyard Mundus Bacillus Terrae next to the 2019 showed a different aromatic profile of darker fruit, denoting ripeness and sun. The wine was still very young with a luxurious, creamy texture and mouthfeel. 2020 was an extremely dry year (70% lower than the average with just 282 liters!), and the grapes were picked two to three weeks earlier. It has a bright, saturated color and a heady nose with ripe berries and a spicy, smoky twist from 19 months in oak vats. It's medium to full bodied, with a soft texture and velvety tannins, sleek and seamless. 5,700 bottles produced. It was bottled in November 2021.



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James Suckling (JS) : 97 Points (2020)

Fascinating nose of blue flowers, blueberries, sea shells, moss and lemon grass. It's medium-bodied with ultra-fine, silky tannins. So fresh and elegant with bright, saline character. Still a little reserved. Try after 2024.



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