

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.

CATENA ZAPATA
SINCE 1902

98 Decanter



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.

98 Decanter

Decanter (DCT) : 98 Points (2020)

From the 1.4ha vineyard at almost 1,3900m elevation, this 100% Malbec is intensely fragrant and floral on the nose with milk chocolate and pink flowers. So lovely, smooth, silky and chalky, a subtle and satisfying balance between lively acidity, concentrated fruit and knitted tannin structure. Ripe but controlled, gorgeous salinity and spice throughout as well as pure blackcurrant and cherry fruit. Savoury aspects dominate the finish but this has a lot to like and feels well constructed with a juicy core. A gorgeous wine with serious ageing potential. The long finish makes you want another glass straight away. Ageing 18 months in French oak barrels. Winemaker Alejandro Vigil. (GH)

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Mundus Bacillus Terrae Malbec 2020

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 97 Points (2020)

The 2020 Malbec Adrianna Vineyard Mundus Bacillus Terrae hails from a small parcel of a vineyard in Gualtallary, Uco Valley and was barrel-aged for 18 months. Dark purple in the glass. The expressive, layered nose delivers notes of blackberry, plum, lavender and violet with a pinch of herbs. Intense and concentrated but agile in feel, the palate is taut, while the fine-grained, chalky tannins are enlivened by the acidity, which teases out the lovely ripe flavors toward the end. This is a substantial but juicy red, everything you'd want from a high altitude wine. (JH)

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.