Zuccardi

José Zuccardi Malbec is an elegant and robust Malbec from high-altitude vineyards in Paraje Altamira and Gualtallary, capturing the complexity and minerality of Mendoza's alluvial soils.

ZUCCARDI
VALLE DE UCO

96
James Suckling

Jose Zuccardi Malbec 2018

Mendoza, Argentina

Region and Vineyards

The grapes for José Zuccardi Malbec come from two distinguished regions in Mendoza's Valle de Uco: **Paraje Altamira** and **Gualtallary**. **Paraje Altamira**, located at **1,100 meters (3,609 feet)**, sits on an alluvial fan south of the Tunuyán River. This high-altitude area features a **cool temperate climate** and a significant thermal amplitude, enhancing acidity and structure. The soils here contain a mixture of granite gravel and large stones coated with calcium carbonate, contributing a unique minerality to the wine.

The **Gualtallary** vineyards, situated at **1,360 meters (4,462 feet)**, lie at the foot of the Frontal Mountain Range. This arid, high-altitude desert is characterized by rugged terrain and diverse soils rich in calcareous material, with layers of sand, caliche, and stones. The extreme climate and varied soils in Gualtallary lend structure, minerality, and complexity to the wine.

Winemaking

This vintage offered ideal conditions with a **fresh and dry climate** and below-average temperatures, which preserved the wine's natural acidity and tannin structure. José Zuccardi Malbec is crafted with careful **cluster selection** to ensure quality. Fermentation occurs in **concrete vessels with native yeasts**, which preserves the pure expression of the terroir. The wine is then aged for **24 months in large 2,500-liter foudres**, softening the tannins and adding layers of complexity without overshadowing the fruit.

This **blend of 95% Malbec and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon** has an alcohol content of **14.5%**, with **5.5 g/L of acidity and a pH of 3.64**, resulting in a balanced, powerful wine that showcases both depth and finesse.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 95% Malbec, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Intense deep purple, highlighting its concentration and richness.
- **Aroma**: A bouquet of **ripe black fruits, violets**, and earthy minerals, with subtle hints of spice and a touch of herbal freshness.
- **Palate**: Full-bodied with structured tannins, lively acidity, and a long, mineral finish. The palate reveals layers of dark fruit, floral notes, and a refined texture that captures the complexity of high-altitude Mendoza.

Did you know?

The **José Zuccardi Malbec** is a tribute to Sebastián Zuccardi's father and reflects the family's commitment to quality and innovation. Originally released as "Zeta" in 2002, this wine was reimagined in 2013 to emphasize Malbec's Argentine heritage, with the addition of Cabernet Sauvignon to enhance structure and depth, resulting in a wine that embodies the vision and legacy of the Zuccardi family.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Beef Wellington with Mushroom Duxelles**: The rich flavors of beef and earthy mushrooms match the wine's robust structure and dark fruit profile, while its acidity cuts through the pastry's richness.
- **Lamb Chops with Rosemary and Garlic**: The wine's tannins and mineral backbone complement the savory, herbaceous notes of lamb, creating a harmonious pairing.
- **Wild Boar Ragout with Polenta**: The intense fruit and mineral notes of the wine enhance the depth and richness of wild boar, balanced by creamy polenta.
- **Aged Pecorino Cheese**: The wine's acidity and structured tannins balance the nutty, salty flavors of Pecorino, creating a refined yet powerful pairing.

96 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 96 Points (2018)

Blackberries, graphite, black pepper and crushed berries on the nose. Full-bodied, very tight and focused with bolted-down tannins that give it fantastic potential for aging. A little cabernet sauvignon here, too. Try after 2023.

94 Wine Spectator

Wine Spectator (WS) : 94 Points (2018)

Balances muscle with grace, showing notes of molasses, ripe black cherry and black plum that offer nice richness, while a thread of plumeria picks up the trail midpalate. Reveals stony tannins, peppery elements and notes of espresso and orange peel on the lengthy finish. Drink now.

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Jose Zuccardi Malbec 2018

Robert Parker (RP) : 94 Points (2018)

The 2018 José Zuccardi mixes Malbec from different regions in the Valle de Uco (today, Altamira and Gualtallary) all with limestone soils. It always has a touch of Cabernet Sauvignon (only 5% to 10%), which is not mentioned on the label, and is now matured in foudre for two years. I tasted this next to the 2019, where there are no differences other than the nuances from the year, with similar alcohol and acidity, but the sensation is of a little wider and powerful in the 2018. The wine feels very stable and harmonious after the long élevage, but there are no traces of oak.