Matias Riccitelli

A masterfully blended red of depth and harmony , Riccitelli & Father unites generations of winemaking talent in a wine of elegance, personality, and length.

Riccitelli & Father Malbec - Cabernet Franc 2023

Mendoza, Argentina

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 70% Malbec, 30% Cabernet Franc

Region and Vineyards

This wine is crafted from two distinct terroirs within **Mendoza**, each contributing unique elements to the final blend. The **Malbec (70%)** comes from **Las Compuertas**, in **Luján de Cuyo**, planted in **1927** on loamy clay over alluvial soils. These ancient, low-yielding vines produce grapes of exceptional concentration and texture, located at **1,000 metres** above sea level.

The **Cabernet Franc (30%)** is sourced from **Los Chacayes** in the **Uco Valley**, a high-altitude zone renowned for its freshness and structure. Planted on boulder-strewn, mineral-rich mountain soils, the vines benefit from cooler conditions that ensure slow ripening, aromatic lift, and balancing acidity. Both vineyards are farmed sustainably, without herbicides, and are in conversion to organic status. Grapes are **hand-harvested in 20 kg crates** to preserve fruit integrity.

Winemaking

The wine was co-created by **Matías Riccitelli and his father Jorge**, symbolising two generations of expertise. Grapes are **hand-selected**, with **20% fermented as whole clusters** to bring additional structure and complexity. The remainder is destemmed, and fermentation takes place in small French oak vats using **indigenous yeasts**, at 26–28 °C.

Cap management is gentle, with **manual submersion** to ensure a **slow and precise extraction** of tannins, colour, and aromatics. The wine is aged for **16 months** in 2,000-litre French oak foudres, which offer integration without overt oakiness. It is **bottled unfined and unfiltered**, preserving purity and texture.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep ruby with garnet edges.
- **Aroma**: High aromatic intensity with blackberry, cassis, liquorice, red pepper, and floral spice.
- **Palate**: Smooth yet structured, with velvety tannins, a core of ripe black fruit, and notes of graphite, spice, and violets. Exceptionally balanced with a long, expressive finish.

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Did you know?

This wine is a collaborative creation between Matías Riccitelli and his father Jorge, **one of Argentina's most celebrated winemakers**. It represents a meeting of old-vine heritage and contemporary vision, showcasing the great aging potential and nuanced expression of Argentina's top red varieties—Malbec and Cabernet Franc.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roasted rack of lamb with rosemary and garlic** – enhances the wine's herbal and spice elements.
- **Dry-aged ribeye with peppercorn sauce** – richness mirrors the wine's depth and velvety texture.
- **Stuffed portobello mushrooms with lentils and herbs** – earthy and savoury layers echo the wine's complexity.
- **Semi-hard cheeses (e.g., aged Mahón or Gruyère)** – nutty and umami tones match beautifully.

Robert Parker (RP) : 96 Points (2019)

The very serious, austere and somewhat traditional 2019 Riccitelli & Father is a collaboration between Matías Riccitelli and his father, Jorge, who for many years was the winemaker at Norton (among other things). It's aromatic and floral, with very integrated oak, lower alcohol than in the past (now 14%) and very good acidity. There's ripeness and freshness and also complexity and depth. It's a blend of 70% Malbec with 30% Cabernet Franc that matured in 2,000-liter oak foudres for 16 months. 5,000 bottles were filled in November 2020.