Zuccardi

Cultivated at 1,400 meters (4,593 feet) in an alluvial zone just 600 meters from the Andes, this 100% Cabernet Franc captures the influence of the Andes Mountains in every aspect of its flavor profile.

ZUCCARDI
VALLE DE UCO

Poligonos San Pablo Cabernet Franc 2023

Mendoza, Argentina

Region and Vineyards

San Pablo lies in the Tunuyán district within the Valle de Uco, situated between **1,200 and 1,700 meters above sea level** and only 600 meters from the Andean foothills. This proximity to the mountains creates a **cold and extreme climate** with particularly low minimum temperatures, contributing to the grape's fresh acidity and strong tannin structure. The landscape is characterized by abundant trees and streams, forming a true oasis at high altitude. The soils in this area are alluvial, formed by the Las Tunas River, with a **layer of medium-sized gravel coated in calcareous material** about one meter below the surface, adding a distinctive minerality to the wine.

This harvest was exceptional, with cool, humid conditions that allowed the grape clusters to mature slowly, achieving an ideal balance of sugar and acidity. Zuccardi's meticulous approach to harvesting, based on plot and soil type separation, ensured that each corner of the vineyard contributed its unique qualities to the final wine.

Winemaking

This wine is crafted with an emphasis on preserving the purity of the fruit and terroir. **Fermentation occurs with native yeasts in concrete vessels**, allowing the wine to retain the natural characteristics of the San Pablo soil. The wine is then **aged in used, untoasted 500-liter French oak barrels and large 2,500-liter foudres**, which enhance structure without imparting additional flavors, maintaining the varietal expression of Cabernet Franc.

The final wine has **13% alcohol**, **6.22 g/L of total acidity**, and a **pH of 3.59**, resulting in a fresh, structured wine with balance and complexity.

Alcohol :13,00 %

Composition: 100% Cabernet Franc

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Bright ruby red, with intensity reflecting its high-altitude origins.
- **Aroma**: Aromas of **red and black fruits**, complemented by hints of bell pepper, spices, and a touch of minerality from the calcareous soils.
- **Palate**: Medium-bodied with firm tannins and refreshing acidity. The palate offers layers of fresh red berries, herbal notes, and a long, mineral-driven finish that captures the essence of San Pablo's terroir.

Did you know?

The **Polígonos series** explores the unique expressions of different villages within the Uco Valley, with each wine representing a specific "polygon" or mapped area within the vineyard. San Pablo's high-altitude conditions and extreme climate provide an exceptional environment for Cabernet Franc, allowing Zuccardi to showcase the refined minerality and structured character of this high-altitude terroir.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled Lamb Chops with Rosemary and Garlic**: The wine's tannins and herbal notes pair well with the flavors of lamb and rosemary, enhancing the savory profile.
- **Ratatouille with Fresh Herbs**: The earthy and herbal notes in the wine complement the flavors of vegetables, making for a balanced pairing.
- **Roasted Beet Salad with Goat Cheese and Walnuts**: The wine's acidity and freshness balance the richness of goat cheese and the sweetness of beets, creating a harmonious contrast.
- **Stuffed Bell Peppers with Quinoa and Herbs**: The mineral-driven profile of the wine complements the roasted pepper and herb flavors, creating an elegant pairing.

Robert Parker (RP) : 92 Points (2023)

The 2023 Polígonos San Pablo Cabernet Franc leads with a spice-driven, composed bouquet supplemented with pleasant accents of jalapeño and fennel. The palate is polished and lively, deftly balancing pleasant concentration with a bright, lifted focus before concluding with a sturdy, angular finish. This is a lovely, minimal counterpoint to the more textural Polígonos Gualtallary Cabernet Franc.