Miguel Torres

Crafted from ungrafted, centenarian vines planted in 1902 , Manso de Velasco represents the epitome of Chilean Cabernet - powerful, refined, and built to age.

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Pioneer in Chile since 1979
Chile

Manso de Velasco Cabernet Sauvignon Viejas Vinas 2019

, Chile

Region and Vineyards

The Manso de Velasco vineyard lies in the northern part of the **Curicó Valley**, at the foot of the Andes. This inland area benefits from a **warm Mediterranean climate** tempered by cool Andean breezes, which aid in maintaining acidity and extending ripening times. The vineyard was planted in **1902** in the Molina sector, on the **Fundo San Francisco** estate. Remarkably, it consists of **ungrafted, dry-farmed Cabernet Sauvignon vines**, among the oldest of their kind in Chile.

The soil here is **deep and well-draining**, primarily alluvial in origin with a mixture of clay and sand, ideal for encouraging root penetration and vine longevity. The low-yielding old vines, combined with the effects of the **megadrought affecting central Chile**, resulted in **reduced production but heightened concentration**, especially in the 2019 vintage.

Winemaking

This wine is made exclusively from **100% Cabernet Sauvignon**, sourced entirely from the Manso de Velasco vineyard. The grapes were harvested starting on **April 16**, earlier than usual to preserve freshness due to a hot and dry growing season.

Vinification began with **alcoholic fermentation in stainless steel tanks**, followed by **100% malolactic fermentation in French oak barrels**. The maceration lasted **19 days**, allowing for full extraction of color, tannin, and flavor. Aging occurred over **18 months** in a mix of French oak barrels (13% new, 28% second use) and large German oak casks (59%), providing nuanced oak influence without overpowering the varietal character.

The final blend was bottled in **March 2022**, with a total production of just **13,000 bottles**.

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Intense dark ruby with youthful garnet reflections.
- **Aroma:** Vibrant and refined, marked by cassis, black cherry, and red currant layered with herbal notes of lemon verbena and bay leaf. Hints of graphite and sweet spice reveal the oak integration.
- **Palate:** Elegant yet structured, the palate opens with supple tannins and a core of ripe dark fruit. Notes of cedar, tobacco, and black pepper complement the fruit. The finish is long, textured, and persistent, showcasing both freshness and depth.

Did you know?

The vineyard used for Manso de Velasco is likely the **oldest Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard in Chile**, planted in 1902. These **ungrafted vines** are a rare legacy of pre-phylloxera viticulture, and Miguel Torres was among the first to recognize and protect their historic value when he acquired the site in 1984.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Dry-aged ribeye steak**: The wine's tannins and dark fruit perfectly complement the char and richness of a well-marbled steak.
- **Venison with berry reduction**: Gamey flavors find a perfect counterpart in the herbal and spicy character of the wine.
- **Wild mushroom risotto**: Earthy and umami-rich, this dish harmonizes with the subtle oak and tertiary notes in the wine.
- **Aged Manchego or Comté cheese**: Hard cheeses enhance the structure and spice in the wine while softening its tannic grip.

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Robert Parker (RP) : 93 Points (2019)

The 2019 Manso de Velasco comes from an old Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard planted approximately in 1902, ungrafted from a massale selection in the commune of Molina in Curicó that has survived though changes and different eras. The wine has 14% alcohol with good freshness (a much lower pH than in past years). It's balsamic, ripe and quite powerful, with abundant fine-grained tannins, the effect of an élevage in oak barrels and foudres; this is the first year they started using them (for maybe 60% of the volume), and in the following years, they used more. I saw it in the context of a mini vertical of 1995 and 2010, and I could see the stylistic changes through the years (decades!). They defined the different eras: until 1996 with lowish alcohol and less oak; between 2000 and 2014 with more ripeness, extraction and more oak; and then 2015, 2016 and 2017 when only 2017 was produced (and sold exclusively in China) and a transition year; and a new era that starts in 2018. This 2019 is paler, more elegant with spicy and meaty notes; they want to combine good ripeness and power with freshness, soft tannins and balance in general. They do not want to go from one extreme to the other, moving to too light wines. This was not bled; the wine is what it is, with a mixture of herbs and fruit, a balanced mouthfeel with fine-grained tannins and a clean and long finish. 13,000 bottles produced. It was bottled in March 2022. This should evolve and develop nuance and further complexity in bottle.