



Matias Riccitelli

From 50-year-old vines in Rio Negro, this wine revives the nearly forgotten Bastardo grape with vibrant red fruit, savoury depth, and a refreshingly light frame.

MATIAS **RICCITELLI**



Old Vines from Patagonia Bastardo 2023

Patagonia, Argentina

Region and Vineyards

This wine hails from the **Alto Valle de Río Negro**, one of Argentina's southernmost and coolest wine regions. Located in **northern Patagonia**, this high-latitude zone benefits from a **semi-desert climate**, with strong sun exposure, low humidity, and **dramatic day-night temperature shifts**, which are ideal for preserving natural acidity and developing elegant aromatics.

The grapes come from a **single, old parcel of 50-year-old Bastardo vines**—locally called **Bastardeau**—planted on **alluvial soils rich in clay and limestone**. These deep-rooted vines are **dry-farmed** and grow in a region defined by the convergence of riverbeds and wind-swept plains, imparting an unmistakable sense of place. The vineyard is farmed sustainably, without irrigation, and harvested by hand at optimal phenolic ripeness, preserving freshness and energy.

Winemaking

Matías Riccitelli employs a **minimalist, non-interventionist approach**. The grapes are **hand-harvested**, 100% **destemmed**, and fermented using **indigenous yeasts** in **small concrete vats**. Maceration lasts for **25 days at controlled temperatures (24–26 °C)**, allowing for gentle extraction of colour, aromatics, and tannins without overworking the must.

Following fermentation, the wine is **aged for 8 months in used French oak barrels**, which impart structure and oxygenation without masking the variety's delicate character. The wine is then **bottled unfiltered and unfined**, showcasing Riccitelli's commitment to transparency and terroir expression. Alcohol is naturally moderate at **12.5%**, further reinforcing its light, agile frame.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Pale ruby with bright garnet hues, hinting at a delicate extraction.
- **Aroma:** A lifted bouquet of wild strawberry, sour cherry, rose petal, and subtle spice, alongside hints of forest floor and crushed herbs.
- **Palate:** Light to medium-bodied, with vibrant acidity and fine tannins. Notes of red currant, pomegranate, white pepper, and a gentle mineral streak lead into a long, savoury finish.

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Bastardo



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Did you know?

Bastardeau is the Argentine name for **Bastardo**, also known as **Trousseau** in Jura or **Merenzao** in Galicia. Rarely seen in South America, Riccitelli's revival of this variety in **Patagonia** offers a distinctly Atlantic, Old World-style red, bridging Argentine terroir with European elegance. This bottling is part of Riccitelli's Old Vines From Patagonia project, which celebrates forgotten varieties from historic vineyards.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled duck breast with cranberry jus** – the wine's acidity and red fruit play beautifully with the game and berry notes.
- **Porcini mushroom risotto** – earthy and umami-driven, this dish complements the wine's savoury layers.
- **Charcuterie and aged Comté** – delicate tannins and acidity cut through fat while echoing the wine's spice and finesse.
- **Herb-roasted quail or partridge** – light meats allow the wine's aromatic profile to shine without being overpowered.



Robert Parker (RP) : 95 Points (2021)

The light, ethereal and pale red 2021 Old Vines of Patagonia Bastardo comes from 50-year-old vines in a two-hectare plot they work, and year after year they improve the varietal and elegant-rustic profile with present tannins, depth and energy, power and finesse. It has 13% alcohol, a pH of 3.3 and 6.9 grams of acidity. It fermented with 30% full clusters that were foot-trodden and very light extraction and matured in used 225-liter barrels for eight months where it's treated like a white. 4,000 bottles were filled in October 2021.

