

El Esteco

El Esteco Old Vines 1946 Malbec is a celebration of history, crafted from vines planted over 70 years ago in the iconic Cafayate Valley , delivering exceptional intensity, complexity, and elegance.

VALLE DE CAFAYATE

EL ESTECO



Old Vine 1946 Malbec 2022

Salta, Argentina

Region and Vineyards

This wine is sourced from the **Las Mercedes Estate** in the **Cafayate Valley**, located in the **province of Salta, Argentina**, at an altitude of over **1,700 meters**. This high-altitude region is renowned for its extreme growing conditions, which result in intensely aromatic wines with vibrant acidity. The unique climate features intense sun exposure during the day and cool nights, fostering slow ripening and enhancing flavor concentration.

The vineyard was planted in **1946**, and the **pergola-trained, own-rooted vines** are over 70 years old. The soil is **sandy-loam with low fertility**, encouraging the vines to produce low yields of highly concentrated fruit. Irrigated by pure Andean meltwater through surface furrows, the vines produce an average yield of **8,500 kg/ha**, delivering fruit of remarkable character and intensity.

Winemaking

The crafting of **Old Vines 1946 Malbec** begins with meticulous care. Each vine is carefully monitored and hand-harvested at optimal ripeness in **March**, during the cool morning hours. The grapes are placed into **18 kg bins** to ensure their integrity and promptly transported to the winery.

Once there, the grapes undergo sorting and **pre-fermentation maceration** in **3,000-liter ovoid vats** for five days, allowing for gentle extraction of color and aromas. Fermentation follows immediately using **native yeasts**, emphasizing the wine's connection to its terroir. After devatting, the wine returns to the ovoid vats for **natural malolactic fermentation**, enhancing its texture and complexity. The wine is bottled **unfiltered** and aged for **6–8 months in bottle**, ensuring a pure and authentic expression.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 100% Malbec

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: A vibrant violet hue with excellent intensity. Its legs leave a vividly colored trail down the glass.
- **Aroma**: Delicate and fruity, with notes of **red berries**, **plums**, and **fresh herbs**, providing both brightness and complexity.
- **Palate**: Intense and powerful on the attack, with a fresh mid-palate showing prominent tannins and a long, balanced finish.

Did you know?

The **Las Mercedes Estate vines** date back to **1946**, making them some of the oldest Malbec vines in Argentina. The pergola training system, used traditionally, protects the fruit from intense high-altitude sunlight, preserving freshness and aromatic complexity.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled lamb chops with rosemary**: Enhances the wine's herbal notes and tannic structure.
- **Roasted duck with plum sauce**: Matches the fruit-forward character and smooth texture of the wine.
- **Mature cheeses like Pecorino or aged Manchego**: Balances the wine's intensity and freshness.
- **Mushroom risotto with thyme**: Highlights the wine's earthy and herbal undertones.

90

Robert Parker (RP) : 90 Points (2022)

The very young 2020 Old Vines Malbec feels very harmonious and approachable in a vintage that feels quite immediate. The palate is soft and reveals velvety tannins and moderate acidity. This matured exclusively in concrete egg. 10,000 bottles produced. It was bottled in October 2020.