

Domaine Nico

With low-yielding vines planted in 1993 at high altitude, Grand Mère showcases the depth and finesse of old-vine Pinot Noir from Mendoza's premium high-altitude terroir.

DOMAINE NICO
Sœur et frères



Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

Grand Mère Pinot Noir 2023

Mendoza, Argentina

Region and Vineyards

The **Villa Bastias** vineyard in Tupungato, Uco Valley, is known for its high-altitude conditions, sitting at **3,675 feet (1,120 meters)** above sea level. Planted in **1993** with Dijon clones, the vineyard spans 5 hectares and features **gravel and clay-loam soils**, which provide excellent drainage and add mineral complexity to the wine. The **Grand Mère parcel** receives more direct sunlight than the adjacent Grand Père block, resulting in a Pinot Noir with silky tannins and a fuller body.

The region's high elevation contributes to cool nights and intense sunlight, ideal for producing wines with vibrant acidity and aromatic intensity, which are distinctive characteristics of this Pinot Noir.

Winemaking

Grand Mère is crafted with a gentle, traditional approach to highlight the delicate nature of the Pinot Noir grape. Fermentation includes **20% whole clusters** and is carried out using **indigenous yeast** in **small 800L vats** to ensure precise temperature control. Hand punch-downs are used for gentle extraction, with the fermentation temperature kept at **25°C** and a maceration period of 7 to 10 days.

After fermentation, the wine undergoes malolactic fermentation in **second-use French oak barrels** and is aged for **14 months**. This choice of oak imparts a subtle influence, allowing the pure fruit and mineral notes to shine while adding complexity to the wine's structure.

Tasting Notes

- **Aroma**: Bright red cherry and strawberry with subtle notes of black fruit. As it opens, hints of black pepper and cinnamon emerge, adding a touch of spice.
- **Palate**: Medium acidity and a balanced, "horizontal" mouthfeel with silky tannins and a delicate structure. The wine displays a harmonious mix of fruit and spice, with a refreshing vibrancy.
- **Finish**: Long, smooth, and well-integrated, with a touch of minerality that enhances the wine's elegance and depth.

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Did you know?

Grand Mère is named in honor of the nurturing role and timeless wisdom of grandmothers, reflecting winemaker Laura Catena's respect for family values and heritage. The vineyard's low yields, due to the age of the vines, enhance the concentration of flavors, creating a Pinot Noir that is both refined and expressive.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Duck Breast with Cherry Reduction**: The rich, gamey flavor of duck pairs beautifully with the wine's cherry notes and delicate tannins.
- **Roasted Cauliflower Steaks with Za'atar and Tahini**: The earthy, nutty flavor of roasted cauliflower complements the wine's subtle spiciness, while za'atar brings out the peppery notes.
- **Truffled Wild Mushroom Risotto**: The creamy, earthy flavors of mushroom and truffle highlight the wine's minerality and finesse.
- **Beetroot and Goat Cheese Salad**: The acidity and minerality of the wine contrast elegantly with the earthy beets and creamy tang of goat cheese.

94 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 94 Points (2021)

Ethereal with mossy forest berries. Some damp earth and wet leaves, too. Really juicy and expressive on the palate, full of nuance. Medium-bodied, long and Burgundy-like.

92

Robert Parker (RP) : 92 Points (2021)

I tasted the 2021 Grand Mère Pinot Noir next to the 2020, and it showed more contained ripeness (13% alcohol) and even better integration of the oak. It fermented with some clusters, less than the rest of the range here, and matured in French oak that was selected very carefully to not mark the wines. It's floral, clean and elegant, with a medium-bodied palate and refined tannins with a long finish where the flowers and red berries are intermixed with some spices and a dry, stony sensation.Rating:92+

94 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 94 Points (2020)

Sliced mushrooms, cranberries, sour cherries, lemons, dried flowers and oyster shells on the nose. Medium-bodied, fresh and vibrant with tight, seamless tannins. Salty, mineral undertones. Serious pinot. Best after 2024.