



Catena Zapata

Catena Alta Chardonnay is a premium Argentine Chardonnay that beautifully combines elegance, complexity, and minerality, reflecting the unique terroirs of high-altitude vineyards in Mendoza.



Catena Alta Chardonnay 2020

Mendoza, Argentina

Region and Vineyards

The **Catena Alta Chardonnay** hails from the renowned region of **Mendoza, Argentina**, where the high-altitude vineyards produce some of the country's finest wines. The vineyards for this Chardonnay are located in two distinct sites:

- **Adrianna Vineyard**: Situated at almost **5,000 feet elevation**, this vineyard is one of the highest in Mendoza. The cool climate and **pebble-covered soils** provide ideal growing conditions for Chardonnay, imparting exceptional **purity of flavors** and a distinct **minerality** unique to this site.
- **Domingo Vineyard**: Located at **3,700 feet elevation**, this vineyard features **sandy loam soils** that contribute ripe **white stone fruit flavors** and a **balanced acidity** to the wine.

The extreme elevations of these vineyards allow for **slow ripening**, preserving the grapes' natural acidity while enhancing concentration and complexity. These conditions are perfect for producing a Chardonnay with vibrant freshness and nuanced flavors.

Winemaking

The **Catena Alta Chardonnay** is made using a combination of traditional and modern techniques to highlight the vineyard's expression and the grape's natural elegance.

The wine is made from **100% Chardonnay**, exclusively sourced from the Adrianna and Domingo vineyards. The grapes undergo a meticulous **barrel fermentation** in **French oak barriques**, with **45% new oak**. To enhance texture and richness, the wine undergoes an extended fermentation process lasting **50 days**, followed by **batonnage** (stirring of the lees). This technique imparts creaminess and complexity while preserving the wine's freshness.

The wine is aged for **14 months in French oak barrels** (225L), ensuring the oak influence is well integrated and never overpowering. A full **malolactic fermentation** softens the acidity, lending a round, balanced mouthfeel while enhancing the fruit profile.

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 100% Chardonnay



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** A bright greenish-yellow hue with brilliant clarity.
- **Aroma:** The nose is complex and layered, revealing ripe aromas of **pear**, **peach**, and **apple**, intertwined with delicate **citrus notes** and hints of **jasmine**.
- **Palate:** The palate is rich and concentrated, offering flavors of **ripe pear**, **apricot**, and **baked apple**, balanced by a touch of **minerality**. The creamy texture, a result of lees stirring, is complemented by crisp, mineral-driven acidity, leading to a **long, elegant finish** with lingering freshness.

Did You Know?

The **Adrianna Vineyard**, one of the sources for this wine, is often referred to as the "Grand Cru" of South America due to its exceptional terroir and its role in producing some of Argentina's most iconic wines.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Poulet mariné au citron vert** : L'acidité vive et la texture crémeuse du vin équilibrent parfaitement les saveurs fraîches et citronnées du plat.
- **Risotto aux fruits de mer** : Les notes minérales et la richesse du Chardonnay se marient harmonieusement avec la douceur des fruits de mer.
- **Saumon grillé avec sauce beurre blanc** : La structure du vin complète les saveurs riches et beurrées du saumon tout en conservant une belle fraîcheur.
- **Fromage Comté affiné** : La texture crémeuse et les arômes fruités du vin subliment les saveurs salées et complexes du fromage.

James Suckling (JS) : 94 Points (2020)



This has aromas of grilled pineapple, ripe nectarine, mango stone, coconut and praline. Full-bodied, layered and creamy with delicious tropical-fruit and buttery notes. Excellent length. Sustainable.

Robert Parker (RP) : 92 Points (2020)



The creamy and mellow 2020 Catena Alta Chardonnay comes from a warmer year, and the wine shows it. It still has moderate alcohol (13.6%) and ripeness and keeps the balance and poise, but the oak is a little more noticeable than in the 2021 I tasted next to it.

Wine Spectator (WS) : 92 Points (2018)



The excellent, subtle and elegant 2018 Catena Alta Chardonnay had a shy nose that took some time in the glass to take off. It's more subtle than in-your-face, and the palate is super elegant, with much better integrated oak than previous vintages. There is great freshness and very good acidity that comes through as pure, crystalline and focused, with a mineral mouthfeel. Rating: 92+

