Vina Almaviva

Vina Almaviva Puente Alto 2021 is a striking example of Chile's exceptional terroir, showcasing remarkable freshness, elegance, and balance, with polished tannins and vibrant acidity.

Puente Alto 2021

Maipo, Chile

Region and Vineyards:

Puente Alto, located at the foothills of the Andes in the Maipo Valley, is one of Chile's premier wine-growing regions. The region benefits from the **Andean influence** with cold breezes moderating the warm climate, resulting in a slow and even ripening process. Soils here are **alluvial with a stony texture**, providing excellent drainage, which is ideal for **Cabernet Sauvignon**, the primary grape of the blend. The unique terroir imparts both **structure and finesse** to the wines, with distinct minerality and vibrancy.

The **2021 vintage** benefited from an exceptionally favorable growing season. After a period of drought, substantial rains fell during the winter, replenishing the soil and encouraging strong vine growth. The **cooler-than-average summer** allowed for a long ripening period, resulting in fruit with excellent acidity, freshness, and balance. The grapes were hand-harvested at optimal ripeness to preserve the integrity of the fruit.

Winemaking:

The **2021 Almaviva** is a blend dominated by **Cabernet Sauvignon (71%)**, accompanied by **Carmenère (22%)**, **Cabernet Franc (5%)**, and **Petit Verdot (2%)**. Each varietal was vinified separately, allowing for a precise expression of each grape's character before blending. The wine was aged for **20 months in new French oak barrels**, imparting a refined oak influence with subtle notes of vanilla and cocoa without overpowering the fruit's natural elegance.

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Carménère, 5% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot

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Tasting Notes:

- **Color**: Brilliant, deep ruby red, with a youthful vibrancy.
- **Aroma**: The nose reveals a harmonious blend of **ripe red fruits** (raspberry, blackcurrant), enhanced by subtle floral notes of **violet**, with underlying hints of **licorice, ink, and graphite**. There is an elegance in the aromatic complexity, with oak-derived nuances of **vanilla** and **cocoa**.
- **Palate**: On the palate, the wine is **juicy** with a well-balanced attack of ripe fruit flavors. The **fine-grained tannins** are smooth and polished, giving structure and texture, while the vibrant acidity adds **freshness** and **tension**, leading to a long, persistent finish. The **balance between fruit, tannin, and acidity** is a hallmark of this vintage, showcasing the cool climate influence and meticulous craftsmanship.

Did you know?

The name "Almaviva" is a tribute to the **Count Almaviva**, a central character in **Pierre Beaumarchais' play *The Marriage of Figaro***. The estate itself was founded in 1996 as a partnership between **Baron Philippe de Rothschild of Bordeaux** and **Concha y Toro of Chile**, creating a benchmark wine that blends French winemaking expertise with Chilean terroir.

Wine Pairing Ideas:

- **Roast lamb with rosemary and garlic**: The rich and savory flavors of lamb complement the bold fruit and polished tannins of the wine, while the herbal notes of rosemary highlight its earthy complexity.
- **Duck breast with cherry sauce**: The acidity of the cherry sauce plays off the wine's fresh fruit notes, and the richness of the duck matches the wine's texture.
- **Beef Wellington**: The combination of beef, pastry, and mushroom duxelles brings out the depth and complexity of the Almaviva, enhancing its balance of tannin and acidity.
- **Aged Manchego cheese**: The wine's structure and fruitiness are a perfect foil for the nutty and slightly sharp character of this Spanish cheese.

Puente Alto 2021

Robert Parker (RP) : 97 Points (2021)

2021 was an overall cooler year than 2020, with more elegant wines with more finesse and less angular tannins. The sleek 2021 Almaviva is a good example of that, still very young and still marked by the élevage in oak after spending 20 months in French oak barrels, 71% of them new and the rest only second use. The final blend was 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Carmenere (from Peumo), 5% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, a variety that might gain in percentage, as they have even planted some more with the idea to possibly replace Merlot in the medium or long term. It's not a shy wine, hitting the scale at 15% alcohol and with mellow acidity, 4.65 grams (tartaric) and a pH of 3.81 The fruit is dark, ripe and spicy, nothing green about it; it's a little shy, less expressive than the warmer years are early on and a little more discreet but with potential to develop in bottle. The tannins are still present, and it should benefit from some more time in bottle. The 2019 had more volume than the 2018, and the 2020 is closer to the 2019 than the 2018. 200,000 bottles produced. It was bottled between late January and early February 2023. I tasted it next to the 2020 and 2018, and it's closer to the latter; but this 2021 is more elegant, and 2018 is a little more austere and herbal.

James Suckling (JS) : 98 Points (2020)

Fresh and deep nose, full of blueberries, minty cassis, mussels, cigars, dark spice and roasted sesame oak, which will need a year or two to fully integrate. A medium-to full-bodied Almaviva with supple, silky tannins and a wealth of black and blue fruit that provides a lot of charm now. Voluptuous and flattering on the palate, hallmarked by its tension and taut texture. Very long. This is the 25th anniversary bottling. 68% cabernet sauvignon, 24% carmenere, 6% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot. (5/2022)

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