

Vina Almaviva

Vina Almaviva Puente Alto 2020 is a wine of great concentration and balance, crafted from one of the driest and most challenging vintages in the estate's history.

Puente Alto 2020

Maipo, Chile

98 James Suckling



Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Carménère, 2% Petit Verdot

Region and Vineyards

The **Puente Alto** region, nestled at the base of the Andes in the Maipo Valley, is one of Chile's finest wine-growing areas, known for producing high-quality **Cabernet Sauvignon**. The 2020 growing season was notably dry, with only **64 mm of rainfall** recorded from May to September 2019—approximately **75% below the historical average** of 256 mm. This drought, coupled with alternating cold and warm temperatures, delayed the budbreak and caused a unique set of challenges for the vineyard team.

The warm temperatures that dominated **spring and summer** accelerated the ripening process, resulting in an early harvest under tight conditions due to the pandemic. Despite these difficulties, the dry and hot climate concentrated the flavors in the berries, leading to a **vintage rich in fruit, density, and tension**.

Winemaking

The **2020 Almaviva** is a precise blend of **Cabernet Sauvignon (68%)**, **Carmenère (24%)**, **Cabernet Franc (6%)**, and **Petit Verdot (2%)**. The wine was aged for **20 months in new French oak barrels**, which contributes to its complexity and depth. The exceptional dryness of the year led to early and rapid harvesting, completed between **March 13th and April 17th**, roughly 3-4 weeks ahead of the usual schedule.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Dark and vibrant ruby red, indicative of its youthful intensity.
- **Aroma**: The nose is pure and layered, offering a **generous bouquet of blackberry, ripe cassis**, and **wild strawberry**, intertwined with subtle mineral hints and delicate notes of **violet, ink, vanilla**, and **dark chocolate**.
- **Palate**: On the palate, this wine is **full of life**, displaying remarkable balance, structure, and roundness. The **tannins are refined, ripe**, and well-integrated, giving the wine a **voluptuous texture**. Its **great acidity** enhances the freshness and tension, while the finish leaves a lasting impression of **plenitude, length, and harmony**.

Puente Alto 2020

Did you know?

The **2020 vintage** will be remembered as one of the most challenging in Almaviva's history due to extreme drought and the pressures of the **global pandemic**. Despite these obstacles, the vineyard team delivered a wine of exceptional quality and balance, a true testament to their dedication and expertise.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled ribeye steak**: The robust tannins and fruit concentration of the wine complement the rich, savory flavors of a well-marbled steak.
- **Roast duck with cherry sauce**: The acidity and fruit in the wine pair beautifully with the sweetness and slight tartness of the cherry sauce, while the tender duck enhances the wine's silky tannins.
- **Lamb chops with rosemary**: The earthy and herbal notes of rosemary bring out the complexity of the wine's flavors, especially its dark fruit and subtle hints of spice.
- **Dark chocolate tart**: The wine's dark chocolate and vanilla notes align perfectly with the richness of a chocolate dessert, while the acidity provides balance to the sweetness.

98 James Suckling

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)

96

Robert Parker (RP) : 96 Points (2020)

2020 was exceptionally dry, with 75% less rain than usual in the period between May and September, which resulted in an earlier harvest to produce a 2020 Almaviva with 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Carmenère (from Peumo), 6% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, so with no Merlot this time. The process was as careful as possible, without using any bombs, doing manual and optical sorting of the grapes, pressing in small vertical presses and aging of 20 months in French oak barrels, 73% of them new and the rest second use. The wine reached good ripeness with 14.9% alcohol. It still shows the effect of the élevage a bit, with abundant notes of sweet spices, a creamy touch and some smoke. I tasted it next to the 2019, and the wines have a very similar aromatic palette with a clear note of baked peppers. What was amazing in 2020 was that they harvested the Carmenere almost five weeks earlier than they normally would, and the result is not a green wine at all. As in all dry years, the wines show a little more tannic, a little in the style of the 2017—but the 2020 has more tension than the 2017, and the 2017 was more powerful and with a bigger tannic structure. The 2019 had more volume than the 2018, and the 2020 is closer to the 2019 than the 2018. (LG) (8/2022)