



Catena Zapata

The Catena Zapata Catena Alta Malbec 2018 is an elegant, high-altitude expression of Malbec, offering a sophisticated depth that reflects Argentina's most historic vineyards.



Catena Alta Malbec 2018

Mendoza, Argentina

Region and Vineyards

The **Catena Alta Malbec 2018** is sourced from distinct vineyard parcels, each chosen for its unique altitude and soil composition across **Mendoza's premium terroirs**. These include:

- **Lot 18, Angelica Vineyard** in Maipú, Luján de Cuyo (920m/3018ft): Characterized by loamy clay topsoil with rounded rocks below, providing a balanced profile with smooth tannins.
- **Lot 4, La Pirámide Vineyard** in Agrelo, Luján de Cuyo (950m/3116ft): With clay-rich soils, this plot offers structure and mineral nuances.
- **Lot 1, Nicasia Vineyard** in Altamira, Valle de Uco (1095m/3592ft): Loamy soils and rocky subsoils contribute elegance and finesse to the wine.
- **Lot 9, Adrianna Vineyard** in Tupungato, Valle de Uco (1450m/4757ft): This high-altitude vineyard, with gravel and limestone, imparts vibrant acidity and complex minerality.
- **Lot 6, Angélica Sur** in San Carlos, Valle de Uco (1090m/3576ft): Sandy loam with gravel and limestone, enhancing depth and structure in the final blend.

The varying elevations, ranging from 920 to 1450 meters, allow the vineyards to benefit from **cooling effects**, which preserve the grapes' natural acidity and enhance aromatic complexity.

Winemaking

The **Catena Alta Malbec 2018** vinification involves careful harvesting from each lot at optimal ripeness to balance acidity and moderate alcohol. **Whole berries** are hand-loaded into small fermentation bins and larger barrels, where they undergo a **cold maceration** and a **wild yeast fermentation** lasting 20 to 30 days. The wine is then aged in **French oak barrels for 18 months**, with a mix of barrel sizes (225-500L) to refine its texture.

Both **alcoholic and malolactic fermentations** take place in the barrel, with active batonnage reducing the need for SO₂. This technique enhances the wine's roundness and integration of flavors, resulting in a **13.8% alcohol** level that complements the wine's acidity and tannic structure.

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 100% Malbec



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep, intense purple with violet reflections.
- **Aroma:** Vibrant, with notes of **dark fruit** like blackberry and plum, complemented by hints of **spice, violets**, and subtle oak influences.
- **Palate:** Medium-bodied with a harmonious blend of fine tannins and fresh acidity. The flavors of dark fruit, minerality, and spice are balanced by a long, lingering finish that showcases the wine's elegance and age-worthy potential.

Did you know?

The term "**Alta**" in Catena Alta Malbec reflects both the high-altitude vineyards that the grapes are sourced from and the **premium quality** associated with the Catena Zapata family's high-end wines. This historic collection draws on **Catena family's proprietary Malbec selection**, known as the Catena Cuttings, cultivated for their resilience and unique flavor profile.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Argentinian Ribeye Steak:** The wine's tannins and acidity complement the richness of a ribeye, while its fruity and spicy notes add depth to each bite.
- **Lamb Tagine with Prunes and Almonds:** The dark fruit and spice elements in the wine resonate with the flavors in the dish, enhancing the wine's elegant structure.
- **Wild Mushroom Risotto:** The earthy flavors of mushrooms highlight the wine's mineral notes, making for a refined pairing.
- **Aged Manchego Cheese:** The wine's acidity and depth cut through the cheese's nutty richness, creating a harmonious balance.



Robert Parker (RP) : 93 Points (2018)

The 2018 Catena Alta Malbec shows more evolution and ripeness than the 2019. It's varietal and floral with a mixture of red and black fruit, sweet spices and aromatic herbs. It has moderate ripeness—in fact, it's a little lower in alcohol than the 2019—a medium body and fine-grained tannins, with good grip.



Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 93 Points (2018)

This well-crafted red is made with grapes from the winery's estates in Luján de Cuyo, Maipu and Uco Valley. The nose opens with aromas of plums followed by light notes of black olive and Jarilla. A velvety palate shows Malbec-typical black-fruit flavors of plum and blackberry. A herbaceous character and hints of smoke add to its complexity. The lasting, pleasant finish reveals notes of dried herbs. Vibrant acidity and firm tannins suggest good aging potential. Drink now through 2028. Editors' Choice



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Wine Spectator (WS) : 91 Points (2018)

Well-structured and juicy, with dark cherry and plum tart flavors that feature firm tannins and acidity. The spicy finish offers baker's chocolate notes and peppery hints.



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