



Catena Zapata

A distinguished Chardonnay from Mendoza's high-altitude vineyards, this wine combines purity, minerality, and elegant fruit expression, reflecting Catena Zapata's pioneering spirit in Argentine fine wine.



Catena Alta Chardonnay 2022

Mendoza, Argentina

Region and Vineyards

The **Mendoza region** in Argentina is globally recognized for its high-altitude vineyards, which play a defining role in shaping the distinctive style of Catena wines. The Catena Alta Chardonnay 2022 is sourced from two estate vineyards: **Adrianna Vineyard** (planted in 1992 at 1,500 meters) and **Domingo Vineyard** (planted in 1992 at 1,120 meters). These plots represent the pinnacle of Catena's vineyard mapping, where only the finest rows are selected.

The Adrianna Vineyard, situated at nearly 5,000 feet, is covered with surface stones and layered with calcareous deposits. This site provides exceptional drainage and a cool microclimate, lending a **pure, mineral-driven intensity** to the fruit. The Domingo Vineyard, slightly lower in altitude, is characterized by sandy loam soils that bring notes of white stone fruit and contribute to **balanced acidity**. Together, these terroirs provide the structural backbone and aromatic complexity that define the Catena Alta style.

Winemaking

The Catena Alta Chardonnay 2022 is composed of **100% Chardonnay**, sourced from Dijon clonal selections. After hand-harvesting, the grapes were fermented in **French oak barrels** over a long period of 50 days, encouraging layered development. To enhance texture, the wine underwent **aggressive bâtonnage** (lees stirring), giving depth and a creamy mouthfeel.

Full **malolactic fermentation** was carried out, softening acidity and integrating complexity. The wine matured for **14 months in French oak barriques** (45% new), allowing subtle vanilla, toast, and spice notes to frame the bright fruit. Unfined and unfiltered, it preserves both authenticity and concentration, with the capacity to age gracefully for **10-20 years**.

Alcohol :13,60 %

Composition: 100% Chardonnay



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Bright straw-yellow with golden highlights.
- **Aroma:** Expressive aromas of ripe peach, pear, and apple, interlaced with citrus blossom, jasmine, and subtle oak-derived spice.
- **Palate:** Concentrated flavors of pear, apple, and apricot unfold with creamy texture and vibrant mineral tension. Crisp acidity and a long, layered finish reveal saline freshness and refined oak integration.

Did you know?

Catena Zapata was the **first Argentine winery to release Chardonnay of this caliber from high-altitude vineyards**, setting a new benchmark for South American white wines in the 1990s. The Alta range remains a symbol of precision viticulture, where vineyard mapping identifies individual rows—"sweet spots"—that deliver the purest expression of terroir.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled lobster with lemon butter:** The wine's richness and acidity complement the sweetness of lobster and cut through the butter.
- **Roast chicken with herbs:** The herbal notes harmonize with Chardonnay's subtle floral and citrus profile.
- **Mushroom risotto:** The creamy texture of risotto mirrors the wine's lees character, while earthy flavors enhance its mineral edge.
- **Comté or aged Manchego:** Nutty cheeses highlight the wine's oak complexity and persistent finish.



Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 94 Points (2022)

The 2022 Chardonnay Alta Historic Rows originates from Gualtallary and Villa Bastías, Uco Valley vineyards. It was aged up to 14 months in a combination of new and used barrels. Yellow in hue with a golden sheen. The floral nose presents appealing green apple, cedar, and nut aromas with hints of fennel and quince in the background. On the palate, it has a creamy, chalky texture and tart acidity resulting in a taut, refreshing mouthfeel. A well-crafted Chardonnay that sums up the advantages of high-altitude vineyards.



James Suckling (JS) : 94 Points (2022)

Pie crust, smoked pineapple, lemon curd and zesty citrus on the palate. Medium-bodied, showing fresh, creamy fruit and a lengthy finish. Drink or hold.



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Catena Alta Chardonnay 2022



Robert Parker (RP) : 92 Points (2021)

The 2021 Catena Alta Chardonnay is a textbook expression of a barrel-fermented Chardonnay. It fermented with indigenous yeasts in 500-liter barrels, where the wine matured for 14 months. It has good ripeness, 13.7% alcohol and full development of aromas and flavors, waxy apples, white flowers intermixed with smoke and spice, coming through as balanced, complete and seamless, fresh and with a low pH and notable acidity. Rating: 92+



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