

Catena Zapata

Catena's icon Malbec from a 1.4-hectare plot: concentrated yet lifted, offering violets, black cherry and subtle spice over a cool, chalky core–Andean altitude translated into finesse and structure.

CATENA ZAPATA
SINCE 1902

99
James Suckling



Mundus Bacillus Terrae Malbec 2021

Mendoza, Argentina

Region and Vineyards

The **Adrianna Vineyard** lies in Gualtallary, Tupungato (Uco Valley, Mendoza) at roughly **4,900 feet (≈1,490 m)**. The extreme altitude brings intense sun and wide diurnal swings that slow ripening, preserve acidity and heighten aromatic complexity. Mundus Bacillus Terrae comes from a tiny **1.4-hectare** parcel planted in 1992 and trained to VSP on a north-western exposure. Soils are calcareous with silty-loam, strewn with limestone and ancient marine deposits that drain rapidly and naturally limit vigour, concentrating colour, aroma and tannin.

Much of Gualtallary's reputation rests on these high, cold, limestone-influenced terraces that yield reds combining mountain brightness with a subtly **saline**, chalk-derived texture. The Catena Institute's decades of research into microclimates, soils and vineyard ecology has mapped Adrianna in detail, illustrating how carbonate-rich horizons and microbial life shape wine style: lifted florals, vivid acidity and a firm, fine-boned tannic frame.

Winemaking

Mundus Bacillus Terrae 2021 is **100% Malbec**, harvested in the first week of April. After a brief cold settling, alcoholic fermentation lasts about **16 days** at **25-30 °C**, with gentle pumpovers. Maceration spans **8-13 days**, followed by full malolactic fermentation. The aim is clarity of fruit and site rather than extraction for its own sake, capturing Gualtallary's purity and tension.

Élevage totals **24 months** in French oak using a thoughtful mix of **225 L barriques, 500 L barrels and 2,200 L foudres**, largely seasoned to avoid overt wood imprint. The wine then rests **24 months in bottle** before release. Analytical figures for 2021 underline the style: **13.9% vol.**, **pH 3.55**, **TA 7.3 g/L**, **RS 1.8 g/L**—a profile that explains the interplay of concentration, brightness and chalky precision that defines this cuvée.

Alcohol :13,90 %

Composition: 100% Malbec

VOYAGEURS DU VIN

DISTRIBUTED BY

WWW.VOYAGEURSDUVIN.COM

CATENA ZAPATA
SINCE 1902

Mundus Bacillus Terrae Malbec 2021

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep violet-purple with inky highlights; youthful rim.
- **Aroma:** Black cherry, blackberry and blueberry layered with violet, lavender and crushed rock; hints of graphite, black tea and subtle spice.
- **Palate:** Sleek and concentrated yet buoyant; vibrant acidity and fine, powdery tannins carry dark fruits over a distinct limestone grip, finishing long, saline and beautifully composed.

Did you know?

"Mundus Bacillus Terrae"—Latin for "microbes of the earth"—pays homage to the **rhizobacteria** thriving in Adrianna's limestone layers. These microorganisms help vine roots withstand stress and absorb nutrients in this cold, arid, high-altitude environment. The Adrianna Vineyard is certified organic and is one of the world's most intensively studied vineyards, with ongoing research into soils, flora and fauna.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Chargrilled ribeye with chimichurri:** The wine's acidity and mineral line cut through richness while herbal notes echo the sauce's green lift.
- **Lamb shoulder with rosemary and black olives:** Dark fruit and savoury spice complement slow-cooked depth; firm tannins match the protein.
- **Mushroom risotto with aged Parmigiano Reggiano:** Umami and creamy textures meet the wine's chalky tannins and graphite nuance.
- **Cocoa-rubbed venison loin:** Bitter cocoa accents resonate with Malbec's dark-fruit core and refined structure.

99 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 99 Points (2021)

A complex yet super discreet nose with hints of wet stone, wet earth, peppercorn and graphite to the red and blue fruits. An elegant expression but this has an intense mid-palate with tight but silky tannins. Long, complex and soft-spoken. Nothing conspicuous here. Impeccable interplay between concentration and purity. Will age really well. Drinkable now but better from 2025.

CATENA ZAPATA
SINCE 1902

Mundus Bacillus Terrae Malbec 2021

Robert Parker (RP) : 98 Points (2021)

The 2021 Adrianna Vineyard Mundus Bacillus Terrae comes from 1.4 hectares within the Adrianna vineyard in Gualtallary, planted in 1992 at 1,390 meters above sea level. It's from a cooler year in Mendoza with some frost that delivered low yields and wines of good concentration and ripeness. It has 13.9% alcohol and notable acidity (7.3 grams of tartaric acid per liter of wine). Seventy-five percent of the volume started fermenting in concrete with 50% full clusters and the rest without stems or skins, only juice, in oak foudres and aged in oak barrels for 15 to 18 months. This is very straight, elegant and balanced, following the path toward elegance that started in 2019. The wine closed down in the glass and slowly unfurled layers of complexity. It's textured, with very fine-grained tannins and great balance, a very subtle note of spices and a very elegant mouthfeel. This wine has been getting better and better in the last few years, getting closer to the more austere profile of the River bottling from Adrianna vineyard (which is still a little more austere than this in the great 2021 vintage). Rating: 98+