



Catena Zapata

The Catena Chardonnay is a finely crafted wine that showcases the unique terroirs of Mendoza's high-altitude vineyards, delivering a harmonious blend of rich textures and vibrant acidity.



Catena Chardonnay 2021

Mendoza, Argentina

Region and Vineyards

The **Catena Zapata estate** sources its Chardonnay grapes from three distinguished vineyards in the Mendoza region: **Domingo, La Pirámide, and Adrianna**. These vineyards are located at elevations ranging from **950 to 1450 meters** above sea level, benefiting from the cooler temperatures and greater diurnal temperature variations essential for developing complex flavors and maintaining acidity in the grapes.

The soils in these vineyards are predominantly **gravel and stony**, providing excellent drainage and contributing to the wine's mineral character. The vines are trained using the **Vertical Shoot Positioning (VSP)** system, optimizing sunlight exposure and air circulation. With a vine density of **2,200 vines per acre** and a yield of **2.5-3 tons per acre**, the focus is on quality over quantity, ensuring each grape contributes to the wine's concentrated flavors.

Winemaking

The **Catena Chardonnay** is composed of **100% Chardonnay**. The grapes are hand-harvested between March and April to ensure optimal ripeness. Fermentation occurs in a combination of **barrels and stainless steel tanks**, with the temperature carefully controlled to preserve the wine's aromatic complexity. **Batonnage** is employed to enhance texture, and partial malolactic fermentation adds a layer of richness.

The wine is aged for **10 months** in **225-liter barriques**, with **new to two-year-old French oak** contributing subtle vanilla notes and structure. After aging in barrels, the wine undergoes an additional **12 months** of bottle aging to achieve perfect balance and integration of flavors.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Intense greenish with yellow notes.
- **Aroma:** The nose reveals a bouquet of honey and tropical fruit flavors, complemented by notes of citrus, pears, peaches, and white flowers, all underscored by strong minerality and a delicate hint of vanilla.
- **Palate:** The mouthfeel is clean and vibrant, with fresh acidity providing a crisp and refreshing finish. Layers of tropical fruits and stone fruits are interwoven with a subtle mineral undertone, creating a well-balanced and complex wine.

Alcohol :14,20 %

Composition: 100% Chardonnay



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Did you know?

The Catena family has been cultivating vines in Mendoza's foothills for over four generations. The **Adrianna Vineyard**, often referred to as the "Grand Cru" of South America, produces grapes with lively floral notes and pronounced minerality, contributing significantly to the unique character of the **Catena Chardonnay**.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roast Chicken with Herbs:** The wine's fresh acidity and rich texture complement the savory flavors of the roasted chicken, enhancing the dish's overall profile.
- **Lobster with Nantua Sauce:** The wine's minerality and tropical fruit flavors balance the richness of the lobster and the creamy sauce.
- **Shrimp and Herb Risotto:** The vibrant acidity and delicate notes of vanilla in the wine pair wonderfully with the creamy risotto and the herbal accents.
- **Seared Scallops with Citrus Butter:** The wine's citrus notes and fresh acidity complement the buttery scallops, creating a harmonious and luxurious pairing.



Wines & Spirits (W&S) : 94 Points (2021)

With complexity in spades, this chardonnay instantly caught our panel's attention with its deeply savory dried-tobacco aromas—one taster went to hand-rolled cigarettes, another to pipe tobacco. A blend from four of Catena's vineyards, its fruit operates on two levels—heady, clean honeyed Anjou pear over a green -papaya-salad textural chew.



James Suckling (JS) : 92 Points (2021)

Peaches, baked apples, apricot pie and lemon curd on the nose. Medium-bodied with fresh acidity and a creamy, succulent palate. Clean and fresh.



Robert Parker (RP) : 92 Points (2021)

The 2021 Catena Chardonnay is vibrant and harmonious, with great balance and freshness, varietal with elegant and shy aromas of white flowers and a long, dry finish with purity of flavors, unnoticeable oak and very good overall balance.



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