

Catena Zapata

The Catena Alta Malbec is a testament to the Catena family's dedication to producing world-class wines, featuring rich, layered flavors and elegant tannins from meticulously selected vineyard lots.

CATENA ZAPATA
SINCE 1902

95 vinous



Catena Alta Malbec 2022

Mendoza, Argentina

Region and Vineyards

The **Catena Zapata estate** is located in the prestigious Mendoza region of Argentina. This wine is crafted from grapes sourced from four of the Catena family's top vineyards: **Angélica**, **La Pirámide**, **Nicasia**, and **Adrianna**. These vineyards are situated at elevations ranging from **920 to 1450 meters** above sea level, which ensures cooler temperatures and significant diurnal temperature variations essential for developing complex flavors and maintaining acidity in the grapes.

The soil composition across these vineyards varies, including **sand, loam, clay, calcareous deposits, limestone, and surface stones**. This diversity in soil types contributes to the unique characteristics and depth of the wine. 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 **1.2 tons per acre**, the focus is on producing high-quality fruit that translates into a concentrated and expressive wine.

Winemaking

The **Catena Alta Malbec** is composed of **100% Malbec**. The grapes are hand-harvested between March and April to ensure optimal ripeness. Fermentation occurs in small format containers, including French oak barrels and stainless steel tanks, at a controlled temperature of **28°C** for about **10-18 days**. Manual punching down during the **25-35 day** maceration period enhances flavor extraction.

Malolactic fermentation takes place in barriques, 70% of which are new French oak, adding to the wine's complexity and aging potential. The wine is aged for **18 months** in these barrels, followed by an additional **24 months** of bottle aging before release. The final product is unfiltered and unfined, preserving its natural character.

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 100% Malbec

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep violet with blue reflections.
- **Aroma**: The nose is elegant and complex, featuring ripe red and black berry fruits, notes of violets and lavender, and touches of leather, spice, and vanilla.
- **Palate**: The palate is full and rich with soft, sweet tannins and a silky, smooth structure. Layers of rich cassis, black currant, and blackberries are interwoven with hints of licorice and black pepper. The finish is long, marked by wonderful minerality, finely grained tannins, and lively acidity.

Did you know?

During the 1990s, **Bodega Catena Zapata** set new standards for Argentine wine by conducting in-depth investigations into the yields from specially selected, high-altitude vineyards. These efforts identified the individual lots that produce the best fruit, leading to the creation of the **Catena Alta** series. This wine is crafted using natural techniques and is unfiltered and unfined, ensuring that each bottle reflects the purest expression of its terroir.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Braised Duck with Apples**: The wine's rich fruit flavors and elegant structure complement the savory and slightly sweet profile of the dish.
- **Grilled Beef Filet**: The robust tannins and layered complexity of the wine enhance the flavors of the beef, creating a harmonious pairing.
- **Roasted Lamb with Rosemary**: The wine's spice notes and acidity balance the rich, earthy flavors of the lamb, while the rosemary adds a complementary herbal note.
- **Dark Chocolate Fondant**: The wine's dark berry and spice flavors pair wonderfully with the intense, bittersweet chocolate, creating a luxurious dessert experience.

95 vinous

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 95 Points (2022)

The 2022 Malbec Catena Alta brings together historic vineyards from Luján de Cuyo and Uco Valley to capture the best of both regions: Luján's generous, supple tannins and Uco's juicy, fresh fruit. Aged for up to 18 months in barrel, this wine is the essence of Mendoza Malbec. Intense aromas of fresh plum and delicate balsamic notes float over oak and a floral hint in the background. With indulgent depth and a juicy flow, the 2022 balances plush tannins with refined texture to produce a long and sapid palate with a touch of intensity and subtle concentration. This is a rich wine that raises the bar for Mendoza Malbec.

93 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 93 Points (2022)

Racy berries, cherries and touches of white pepper and tamarind. Very juicy and fluid, with fine-grained tannins and a mouthwatering finish. Long, succulent and very poised. Drink or hold.

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Catena Alta Malbec 2022

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 95 Points (2021)

The 2021 Malbec Catena Alta comprises 70% sourced from Gualtallary in the Uco Valley and the remaining portion from Luján and Maipú. Aged for up to 18 months in French oak barrels, both new and used, this purple wine reveals aromas of plums and cherries alongside hints of lavender and violets, all atop a subtle cedar layer. Dry and juicy, the supple and velvety tannins are complemented by a nimble flow, resulting in a mildly structured red with a flavorful, lasting finish. If there is a key in Mendoza Malbec, meaning piecing together terroirs to enhance complexity, this bottle might be the example.