



# Catena Zapata

Catena Zapata Nicasia Malbec is a refined and elegant single-vineyard Malbec, produced from meticulously selected vines in one of the Catena family's historic vineyards.



## Nicasia Malbec 2020

Mendoza, Argentina

### Region and Vineyards

The **Nicasia Vineyard** is located in **Altamira**, within the renowned **La Consulta district** of the Uco Valley in Mendoza, Argentina. This region is celebrated for its unique terroir, which provides ideal growing conditions for Malbec.

- Situated at an impressive elevation of **1,095 meters (3,593 feet)** above sea level, the vineyard benefits from **cool mountain breezes** and significant **diurnal temperature variation**, which allow the grapes to ripen slowly, preserving their natural acidity and aromatic intensity.
- The **sandy soils** in this vineyard ensure excellent drainage, resulting in small, concentrated berries that produce wines of power, elegance, and purity.
- Planted in **1996**, the vines are trained using the **Vertical Shoot Positioning (VSP)** system. With yields of only **1.2 tons per acre**, the vineyard produces low-yield, high-quality fruit with exceptional concentration.

The vineyard's northwestern exposure allows for optimal sunlight during the ripening period, ensuring balanced development of flavor, tannin, and acidity.

### Winemaking

The **Catena Zapata Nicasia Malbec** is crafted using meticulous, small-scale winemaking techniques to capture the vineyard's unique character and preserve the integrity of the fruit.

The wine is made from **100% Malbec**. Grapes are hand-harvested and carefully sorted before undergoing **alcoholic fermentation** in a combination of **vertical open barriques** and **small stainless-steel tanks**. Fermentation lasts for **17 days** at temperatures ranging between **25°C and 30°C (77-86°F)**, with **manual punch-downs** ensuring gentle extraction of color, tannins, and flavors.

After fermentation, the wine undergoes an extended **26-day maceration** on the skins to enhance its structure and depth. The wine is then transferred to **100% new French oak barriques** (225L) for **18 months of aging**, allowing for seamless integration of oak, softening of tannins, and development of complex secondary flavors. A final period of **24 months of bottle aging** ensures that the wine is beautifully refined upon release.

Alcohol :14,80 %

Composition: 100% Malbec



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## Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Intense, deep violet with garnet reflections.
- **Aroma:** The nose is rich and expressive, offering ripe notes of **blackcurrant**, **red raspberries**, and subtle floral hints of **violet**. Delicate layers of **vanilla**, **spicecake**, and a touch of **elegant French oak** add further complexity.
- **Palate:** Full-bodied and harmonious, with velvety tannins and a luxurious texture. Flavors of **ripe blueberries**, **cassis**, and dark plums mingle with nuances of **vanilla** and a whisper of **baking spices**. The wine is **layered and structured**, leading to a **long, smooth finish** with lingering notes of dark fruit and subtle oak.

## Did You Know?

The **Nicasia Vineyard** was planted by the Catena family in **1996** as part of their vision to produce single-vineyard wines that reflect Mendoza's high-altitude terroir. The vineyard's precise location in **Altamira** is one of the most sought-after sub-regions of the Uco Valley due to its sandy soils and cool climate, which produce Malbec wines of finesse and longevity.

## Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Filet de bœuf rôti avec sauce aux champignons shiitake** : La richesse et la complexité du vin s'accordent magnifiquement avec les saveurs umami et la texture tendre du filet.
- **Côte de bœuf grillée aux herbes** : La structure tannique et les notes épicées du Malbec subliment la viande grillée.
- **Agneau rôti aux herbes provençales** : Les saveurs juteuses et les épices du vin équilibrent la tendreté de l'agneau.
- **Empanadas à la viande** : Les arômes de fruits noirs et l'élégance du chêne se marient parfaitement avec ce plat argentin classique.



### Robert Parker (RP) : 97 Points (2019)

*The 2019 Malbec Catena Zapata Nicasia Vineyard comes from a vineyard planted in Altamira in 1996 at 1,095 meters above sea level with an old massale selection. It has contained ripeness and 13.7% alcohol from a cooler year in a warmer place. It's a classical Malbec, balanced and elegant but also powerful with fine tannins. It finishes with violets and spice. It's a Malbec with spicy oak. Best after 2022.*



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**Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 96 Points (2019)**

*From Paraje Altamira, the 2019 Malbec Nicasia Vineyard was made with grapes from a selected set of rows in Parcel #1 of the Nicasia Vineyard and aged for 24 months in new and second use French barrels. Dense, bright purple in the glass. The fruitiness of the complex, attractive nose is down to the region. The nose delivers a mixture of fresh plum and blackberry with lavender and violet aromas, hints of country herb and notes from the aging process. Broad but delicate in the mouth with good energy. The palate is gently sculpted by chalky tannins made juicy by the freshness. The fruity intensity is enhanced by the texture. A superb Malbec. (JH) (11/2021)*



**James Suckling (JS) : 95 Points (2019)**

*Intense nose of blackberries, dark plums, stones, tar, tea leaves and licorice. Full-bodied with firm, focused tannins. Compact and precise. Mineral yet caressing finish. Give this time. A little viognier co-fermented with malbec.*

