

Cheval des Andes

A Grand Cru of the Andes, this wine is a seamless fusion of Bordeaux expertise from Château Cheval Blanc and the unique high-altitude terroir of Mendoza.

CHEVAL des ANDES
CHEVAL BLANC & TERRAZAS DE LOS ANDES

98



Cheval des Andes 2019

Mendoza, Argentina

Region and Vineyards

Cheval des Andes is crafted from two exceptional vineyard sites in Mendoza, Argentina: **Las Compuertas in Luján de Cuyo** and **Paraje Altamira in the Uco Valley** . These vineyards, located at the foothills of the Andes Mountains, benefit from high-altitude conditions that shape the wine's structure and elegance.

The vineyards experience warm days and cool nights, allowing for slow ripening, preserving acidity, and enhancing aromatic complexity. The well-drained, alluvial soils, rich in sand, silt, and limestone, naturally limit vine vigor, leading to concentrated and expressive fruit. The 2019 vintage saw a mix of spring rains and summer heat waves, requiring careful water management. However, the season ended with dry weather and significant diurnal shifts, ensuring a harvest of exceptional quality.

Winemaking

Cheval des Andes follows a **"one plot, one tank"** approach, vinifying each parcel separately to preserve its unique character. The grapes were manually sorted and transported under temperature-controlled conditions to maintain freshness and purity.

The wine was aged in a mix of oak formats, including 225-liter barrels (40%), 400-liter barrels (40%), and 2,500-liter foudres (20%). The oak selection included 80% French and 20% Austrian, Slovenian, and German oak, with 50% new barrels. This aging process enhances the wine's texture while allowing the fruit and terroir to remain at the forefront.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Brilliant ruby red with garnet reflections.
- **Aroma:** A vibrant bouquet of **cherries, currants, and plums**, intertwined with **violets, lavender, and fresh herbs**. Subtle notes of **spice, vanilla, cedar, and licorice** emerge with air, reflecting the refined oak integration.
- **Palate:** Smooth and refreshing, with **silky tannins, balanced acidity, and a long, elegant finish**. The youthful complexity suggests great aging potential.

Alcohol :14,20 %

Composition: 69% Malbec, 26% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Petit Verdot

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Did You Know?

Cheval des Andes is a collaboration between Château Cheval Blanc and Terrazas de los Andes, merging Bordeaux tradition with Argentine high-altitude viticulture. Often referred to as the "Grand Cru of the Andes," it is one of Argentina's most refined and structured wines.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled beef tenderloin with rosemary and black pepper** – The wine's structure and acidity complement the richness of the meat.
- **Duck breast with cherry reduction** – The red fruit aromas and velvety tannins enhance the dish's depth.
- **Aged Comté or Gruyère** – The balance of fruit and oak pairs well with the nutty complexity of these cheeses.
- **Porcini mushroom risotto** – The wine's earthiness and acidity elevate the umami flavors of the dish.

98

Robert Parker (RP) : 98 Points (2019)

The 2019 Cheval des Andes had a more reductive vinification and élevage, making the wine a bit shy and in need of time to open up, as one of their objectives was to make it more age-worthy. Another objective is to get to a 50/50 blend of Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon, which they achieved in this vintage for the first time, going back to the initial character of the wine that was the idea of Argentinean winemaker Roberto de la Mota; so, they are closing the circle and going back to the initial idea, with more implication from the Cheval Blanc team. This is the first vintage fully under the charge of the new French winemaker, Gerald Gabillet,....The wine is young and tender and a bit oaky, which Gerald attributed to the reductiveness; it's ripe without excess, with around 14.2% alcohol, mellow acidity and velvety tannins. There's more Cabernet here, so the aromatic expression can be something between 2017 and 2018, but Cabernet marks the palate a lot and makes the wine more age-worthy, as it provides the structure and length that the Malbec lacks. So, the wine might be less accessible when young and should develop slowly in bottle. It's tasty and supple and has the ingredients and the balance for what they are aiming for. ....The way they want to describe the wine is the Argentinean expression of Cheval Blanc. And I can only agree. (LG) (8/2022)

97 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 97 Points (2019)

A refined but spicy Cheval, showing charcoal, blueberries, wild herbs, lavender and hints of bacon and cedar. Medium to full body with extremely fine tannins that get dialed into the fruit with violet, spices and sweet blue fruit at the end. Long and subtle. (4/2022)

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Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 97 Points (2019)

The 2019 Cheval des Andes is a 50/50 blend of Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon from Las Compuertas and Paraje Altamira, Mendoza. The 2019 was 40% aged in 225-liter barrels, 40% in 500-liter barrels and 20% in foudres. It's red with violet flecks in the glass. It has a fresh nose of plum and blackcurrant accompanied by hints of white pepper, mint and violets over a bed of cedar and sandalwood. On the palate, the feel is finely grained with a leaner, more agile flow than in previous years, while the freshness brings plenty of energy before the lengthy finish of fruit and country herb aromas. (JH) (11/2022)

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