Lapostolle

Clos Apalta by Lapostolle is a legendary Bordeaux-style blend , crafted from Carmenère, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Petit Verdot, representing the pinnacle of winemaking in Chile's Apalta Valley.

Lapostolle
French in Essence, Chilean by Birth

99 James Suckling

Alcohol :15,00 %

Composition: 70% Carménère, 18% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Petit Verdot

Clos Apalta 2019

Rapel Valley, Chile

Region and Vineyards

Clos Apalta originates from the **Apalta Valley**, part of Chile's Colchagua region near Santa Cruz. This amphitheatre-shaped valley is framed by the Coastal Cordillera on three sides and the Tinguiririca River on the fourth, creating a natural cradle with a north-to-south exposure, rare in Chile. This orientation allows the sun's rays to be moderated at dawn and dusk by the surrounding hills, while the river provides cooling influences.

The soils are ancient, formed mainly in the **Cretaceous period**, and vary from decomposed granite with angular stones on the slopes to sandy and sandy-loam colluvial deposits with quartz and gravel on the flatter areas. These conditions ensure excellent drainage and vine balance. The 48 hectares dedicated to Clos Apalta include **century-old vines (planted between 1915 and 1940)** alongside younger vineyards replanted in 2005-2006. Certified **organic and biodynamic**, these vineyards consistently produce fruit of exceptional quality.

Winemaking

The 2019 vintage is a **Bordeaux blend** composed of **70% Carmenère, 18% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 4% Petit Verdot**. The harvest extended from mid-March to mid-May under dry, warm conditions that demanded precise irrigation and canopy management. Yields were carefully limited to around 40 hL/ha, ensuring concentration and intensity.

Fermentation took place in a mix of French oak vats (68%) and new French oak barrels (33%), with malolactic fermentation completed in new barrels. The wine underwent **4-5 weeks of maceration with manual punch-downs**, maximizing extraction while preserving elegance. Ageing lasted **24 months in French oak barrels (90% new, 10% second use)**. Bottled without fining or filtration, Clos Apalta 2019 retains purity and textural depth. Alcohol reached **15% vol.**, reflecting the richness of the vintage.

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep, intense purple with vivid violet-blue edges.
- **Aroma**: Expressive notes of ripe plum and dried fig, evolving into clove, sweet spice, and subtle herbal undertones.
- **Palate**: Concentrated and powerful at the attack, followed by a lively, expansive mid-palate. Tannins are structured yet polished, carrying into a remarkably long and layered finish.

Did you know?

Clos Apalta is the **only South American wine to have been named Wine of the Year by Wine Spectator** (2005 vintage). It has also achieved **multiple perfect 100-point scores** from international critics, cementing its status as one of the **"Legends of Chile."** The 2019 vintage was awarded **99 points by James Suckling** and **95 points by Robert Parker's Wine Advocate**.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Rack of lamb with rosemary** - the herbal notes of Carmenère and Petit Verdot enhance the dish's aromatic character.
- **Braised short ribs** - the wine's tannic backbone and dark fruit match the richness of slow-cooked beef.
- **Duck breast with plum sauce** - the ripe fruit intensity mirrors the sweet-savory glaze.
- **Dark chocolate tart with spices** - echoes the clove and sweet spice nuances of the wine.

99 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 99 Points (2019)

A generous array of ripe black and blue fruit with pink peppercorns, green olives, dried flowers, toffee and chocolate orange. It's full-bodied with firm, creamy and velvety tannins. Long and polished. Lovely salted caramel and olives at the end. Keeps going. Unfolds on the finish. 70% carmenere, 18% merlot, 8% cabernet sauvignon and 4% petit verdot. Drink or hold.

96 JEB DUNNUCK

Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 96 Points (2019)

Coming from the Colchagua Valley region of Chile, the 2019 Clos Apalta is based on 70% Carménère, 18% Merlot, and 4% Petit Verdot that saw an extended maceration and aging in 90% new French oak. It's a legit brilliant wine, sporting a dense purple hue as well as complex notes of ripe black fruits, ripe herbs, graphite, spice box, and perfectly integrated oak. It has a solid herbal edge and is medium to full-bodied on the palate, with silky tannins, flawless balance, and a great finish.

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

The 2019 Clos Apalta from Apalta, Colchagua, was aged for 24 months in 90% new French barrels. Dark purple in the glass. The complex, nuanced nose offers mild notes of mint, pyrazines, ash and ripe dark fruit such as blackberry and blueberry with hints of undergrowth and tobacco, cedar and other aromas from the aging process. In the mouth, it's indulgent and compact initially with refined, slightly reactive, young tannins, an expansive flow and a rich palate that delivers herbal flavors before the sustained, fruity finish. The good year has helped to enhance the depth of an already accomplished red with a well-proven ripe style. (JH) (6/2022)