Matias Riccitelli

A bold and inky expression of Argentine Bonarda, this wine delivers deep fruit, spice, and smooth power from old vines in Mendoza.

The Apple Doesn't Fall Far From The Tree Bonarda 2021

Mendoza, Argentina

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 100% Bonarda

Region and Vineyards

This Bonarda is sourced from **Vistalba**, in the heart of **Luján de Cuyo**, Mendoza. Situated at an altitude of **1,050 metres**, the vineyard benefits from a **continental climate** marked by warm days and cold nights. These conditions allow for slow, even ripening, promoting **sugar concentration and acid retention**, critical for balancing Bonarda's naturally vigorous character.

The vines average **60 years** of age and are trained in espaldera (vertical shoot positioning) to control yields. The soils are clay-loam over rocky subsoil, offering good drainage while encouraging deep root development. Flood irrigation, still traditional in this part of Mendoza, is used judiciously. A green harvest and deleafing in December, followed by hand-picking in small 20 kg trays, ensure optimum grape quality.

Winemaking

After a careful manual harvest, the grapes are **hand-sorted** to ensure only pristine fruit is used. The vinification includes both **destemmed and whole-cluster fermentation**, encouraging aromatic lift and structure. Fermentation is conducted in **open, square concrete vats**, using **native yeasts** at controlled temperatures of 26–28 °C, lasting several weeks for slow, complete extraction.

The wine is aged for **12 months in seasoned French oak barrels**, which impart subtle integration and mouthfeel without masking the grape's varietal character. No additions or fining agents are used, and the wine is **suitable for vegans**.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep purple with vivid reflections.
- **Aroma**: Intense bouquet of dark berries, red fruit, mint, and layers of chocolate and licorice.
- **Palate**: Silky and concentrated, with ripe tannins, rich fruit core, and a long, smooth finish. A refreshing mineral edge adds elegance and balance.

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Did you know?

Bonarda—historically Argentina's second most planted grape after Malbec—was once overlooked for its productivity. But in the hands of producers like Riccitelli, especially from **old-vine sites at high altitude**, it's now being redefined as a source of **vibrant, structured, and age-worthy wines**. This cuvée reflects Riccitelli's belief in **elevating forgotten grapes through precision and respect for terroir**.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Lamb cutlets with rosemary and garlic** – bold fruit and herbaceous complexity match beautifully.
- **Grilled sausages with caramelized onions** – richness meets the wine's soft tannins and spice.
- **Roasted beet and goat cheese salad** – earthy-sweet contrast with the wine's vibrant freshness.
- **Dark chocolate and berry tart** – echoes the wine's fruit core and subtle bitterness.

Robert Parker (RP) : 90 Points (2015)

The 2015 The Apple Doesn't Fall From The Tree Bonarda was sourced from old vines in the Vistalba zone. It fermented with 20% full clusters in cement vats with neutral yeasts and matured in used French barriques for one year. The nose of the Bonarda jumped out of the glass with unusual minty notes, very balsamic, with hints of eucalyptus, cola, nut and spices. This is the first time I tasted this wine, but he tells me that from the first vintage, 2012, the wine has always had this profile, which he thinks is because of the high altitude. It's quite aromatic and showy, quite lush and juicy. He found this vineyard looking for Malbec in Vistalba. This is completely different. 10,000 bottles produced.