

Errazuriz

A benchmark of Chilean excellence, Don Maximiano 2020 blends power, finesse, and heritage , delivering a structured yet vibrant expression from the Aconcagua Valley.

ERRAZURIZ

94



Don Maximiano Founder's Reserve 2020

Aconcagua Valley, Chile

Region and Vineyards

Don Maximiano Founder's Reserve 2020 is sourced from the **historic Max I, II, and V blocks** of the estate's namesake vineyard in the **Aconcagua Valley**, north of Santiago. Nestled between the Andes and the Pacific Ocean, the region enjoys a **long dry season** with **moderate summer heat**, softened by **cool maritime breezes** that descend through the valley in the evening.

The vineyard blocks are planted on **north and northeast-facing hillsides**, between 5° and 25° slopes, with soils of **volcanic, colluvial, and alluvial origin**. Max I, with its mica-rich clay-silt soils, and Max II, with deep sandy-loam volcanic substrates, contribute density and aromatic lift, while Max V's **gravelly alluvial soils**—containing up to **50% stone content**—add tension and minerality. Planted between 1978 and 1999, the vines here yield fruit of **low vigour and high concentration**, ideal for crafting long-lived reds.

Winemaking

The grapes were **hand-harvested in the cool morning hours**, sorted meticulously on **double selection tables**, and fermented in **small stainless steel tanks** for precision and control. Extraction was tailored with up to **three pump-overs per day**, and **maceration times ranged from 8 to 30 days** depending on plot and development.

The wine was then aged for **22 months in French oak barrels (65% new)**, undergoing malolactic fermentation, natural clarification, and stabilization within the same vessel. The final blend combines **67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Malbec, 9% Carmenere, and 4% Petit Verdot**, selected for complementary textures and aromatic complexity. This restrained and elegant vintage reflects both **meticulous winemaking and climatic resilience** in a season marked by Chile's **driest winter in 50 years**.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Malbec, 9% Carménère, 4% Petit Verdot

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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep garnet with purple hues and excellent clarity.
- **Aroma:** Lifted notes of cherries, raspberries, cassis, cocoa, clove, and hints of violet and dry earth.
- **Palate:** Medium to full-bodied with refined tannins, bright acidity, and layered flavours of red and black fruit, sweet spice, and graphite. Great tension and length, built for aging.

Did you know?

The **Don Maximiano vineyard was founded in 1870**, and this wine pays homage to Errazuriz's visionary founder. It has since become one of Chile's **flagship Bordeaux-style reds**, consistently representing the **evolution of fine wine in the Aconcagua Valley**. Max I block remains one of the **oldest Cabernet Sauvignon plantings** in the region still in production.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Dry-aged ribeye with rosemary potatoes** - The wine's structure and depth match beautifully with charred, marbled meats.
- **Grilled portobello mushrooms with balsamic glaze** - Earthiness and umami meet the wine's graphite and floral notes.
- **Duck breast with cherry reduction** - A sublime match for the wine's red fruit and spice-driven complexity.
- **Lamb tagine with prunes and almonds** - Aromatic spices and slow-cooked textures highlight the blend's warmth and layered profile.

94

Robert Parker (RP) : 94 Points (2020)

Cropped from a warmer year, the 2020 Don Maximiano Founder's Reserve kept the contained alcohol to 13.5% through an early harvest. The blend was 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Malbec, 9% Carmenere and 4% Petit Verdot, one of the lowest amount of Cabernet in years, trying to polish the tannins with more Malbec. The truth is that they managed nicely; the wine is a little more austere, but there's no rusticity or dryness. This wine changed and they lowered the new oak to 60%, and 10% of the volume matured in foudre. 12,500 bottles produced. It was bottled in February 2022.