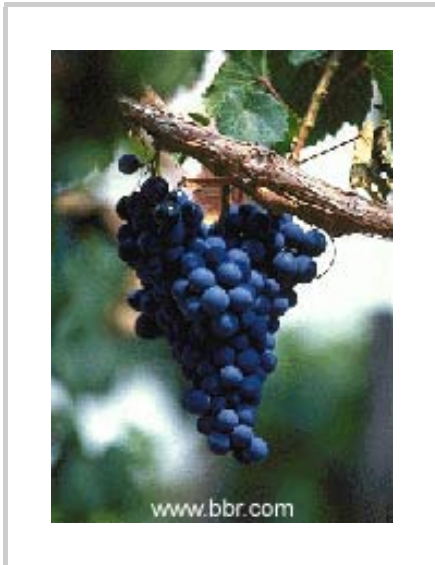


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Malbec

[See below for the wines](#)

Known as **Auxerrois** in Cahors, **Cot** in the Loire and **Malbeck** in Argentina, this grape has undergone a mini renaissance in the last decade, largely fuelled by its success in South America. It used to be a staple component of the [Bordeaux Blend](#), but it never recovered fully from the 1956 frosts and its plantings there have fallen by 75% as growers have replaced it with more fashionable, and crucially, more durable grapes.

It is still grown successfully in [South West France](#) where its most famous wine is **Cahors**. This wine used to be black as coal and tough as leather but improvements in viticultural and vinification techniques have led to riper, softer, more approachable wines that are now amongst the best of the region.

In [Argentina](#) it is widely grown and produces deep coloured wines with generous black fruit characteristics, balanced acidity and smooth tannins. It is either bottled on its own or as part of a Bordeaux blend. In [Chile](#) it is the 3rd most widely planted grape after Pais and [Cabernet Sauvignon](#) and tends to produce firmer, more tannic wines than its Argentinian neighbours. In Chile it is often blended with [Merlot](#) and Petit Verdot.

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Malbec



Wine Facts

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Geography
Grown in France, Argentina, Brazil, Italy, Madeira, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and the USA.

Flavour & Character
Good colour depth. Juicy, fruity and plummy flavours.

Body, Dry/Sweet
Soft, yet robust, intense and full bodied.

Viticulture
Thrives well in the well irrigated sandy soils and warm climate of Trapiche in Argentina.

Vinification
Modern vinification techniques, introduced in recent years, into the wineries of South America are responsible for producing some excellent quality rich, earthy wines.

Varietal/Blend
Famous for quality and its use in some Bordeaux clarets.

Style
Smooth rich and elegant.

Notes
Malbec is probably Argentina's best grape variety.



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The Winery: An Overview

Bodegas Balbi was founded in 1930 by Juan Balbi, and has become one of Argentina's leading wineries. The winery and Estate vineyards are nestled in the shadows of the Andes, in the Province of Mendoza, the center of Argentine winemaking. This pristine winemaking region brings forth unique varietal expression, particularly with the area's signature varietal, Malbec.

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Features

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Malbec

Malbec is the predominant red grape variety planted in Argentina, and with good reason. Argentina, especially Mendoza, has become "the" region for world-class Malbec. The soils and climate bring forth an expression of varietal fruit found nowhere else. It is a thin-skinned grape that creates a wine full of fruity components. Its tannins are soft and sweet. It is also a grape of low acids. The flavor of well-ripened Malbec is reminiscent of blueberries with hints of currants and spicy white pepper.

Spotlighting the region's signature varietal, this Malbec has a ripe nose of blackberry and cherry. Lush and rich mouthfeel with layered flavors of blueberry and spice. Enjoy it with grilled lamb or beef, or any pasta dish with a hearty tomato sauce. Smooth and ready to drink.

1998 Malbec

SPIRIT JOURNAL

JUNE 2001, Paul Pacult

Rating: Four Stars "Oooo, I love a great bargain and here's a beaut. Big, tannic, but friendly, aromatic, and flavorful. BBQ worth? Absolutely."

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2002 Malbec

Varietal content: 100% Malbec

Growing region: Mendoza Province, Argentina (79% San Rafael; 20% Tunuyán; 1% Tupungato)

Tasting Notes: Ripe nose of chocolate covered cherries with round vanilla spice are prevalent throughout this medium bodied wine. Pair with grilled meats at your next barbecue.

Acid/pH: 0.59/3.62 **Alcohol by Volume:** 12.5% **Residual Sugar:** 0.02% (Dry)

1999 Malbec

Appellation: Mendoza Province, Argentina

Composition: 100% Malbec (San Rafael district 23%, Tupungato district 37% and Lujan de Cuyo district 40 %)

Winemaking: Fermented in temperature controlled stainless steel at 82° F, pumped over twice daily. 100% malolactic fermentation. Aged in stainless steel.

Acid/pH: 0.562/3.50

Alcohol by Volume: 12.5%

Residual Sugar: 0.02%

1998 Malbec

Appellation: Mendoza province, Argentina (San Rafael, Tupungato and Lujan de Cuyo regions.)

Composition: 100% Malbec

Winemaking: Fermented in temperature controlled stainless steel at 82° F, pumped over twice daily. 100% malolactic fermentation. Aged in stainless steel.

Acid/pH: 0.57/3.75

Alcohol by Volume: 12.6%

Residual Sugar: 0.02%

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Trapiche Malbec Oak Cask

grape variety: [Malbec](#)
 style: [Full Bodied Red](#)
 winery: [Bodegas Trapiche](#)
 region: [Mendoza](#)
 country: [Argentina](#)
 vintage: 2001
 alcohol: 13.5%

£7.75 per bottle

bottle(s)

£93.00 per case

case(s)

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Tasting notes

This excellent Malbec is intense and beautiful in colour -dark with hints of violet- and is remarkable for its predominant sweet aromas of berries and plum jam. The light oak gives it an elegant smoky and vanilla touch.

Food matches

Casseroles, barbeques, Indian, red meat, blue cheese, hard cheese

Awards

Silver Medal
 Argentina Vinandino 2001 (Mendoza, November)

Silver Medal
 International Wine Challenge 2001

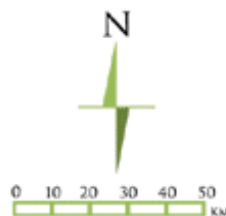
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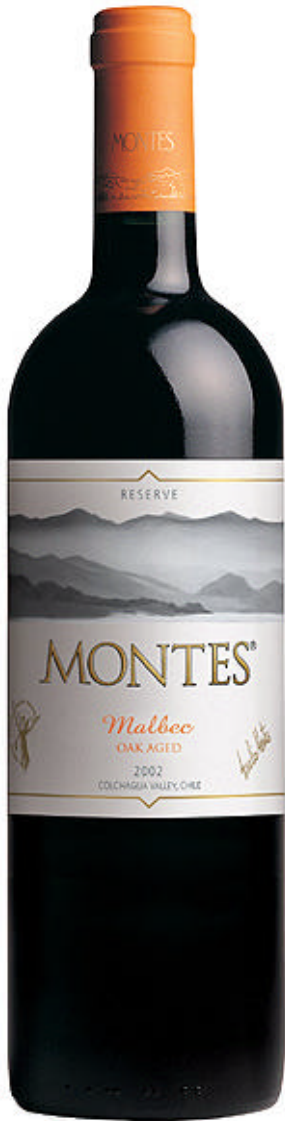
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MONTES Malbec

A full-bodied, round, soft and generous red wine with strong spicy character. Drink with red meat, game, pasta, rice and strongly sauced dishes. Denomination of Origin is Colchagua Valley and is shown as such in the label. The grapes come from Nancagua. D.O. Colchagua Valley.

Technical Data

Description:

Ruby red color, leaning to very dark, intense red. Powerful but elegant flavors, with plummy and blackberry hints. A wonderful butterscotch and slight spicyness is totally integrated by the subtil notes of vainilla that comes from the oak aging. A full-bodied wine, with ripe tannins and voluptuous mid-palate and a long, very enjoyable, finish.

Denomination of Origin:

Colchagua Valley.

Oak Aging:

Six months in American oak.

Filtering:

One earth filtration and one pad filtration prior to bottling.

Yield of Vineyard:

9 tons per hectare (about 4.2 tons per acre).

Grape Variety:

Malbec 100%

Cellaring Recommendations:

Up to 5 years.

Recommended Serving Temperature:

17° to 18°C.

Decanting:

Recommended 30 minutes decanting before drinking.



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New State of the Art Winery



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NEW STATE OF THE ART WINERY

Agrelo, Mendoza

Winery Technical Sheet

Location

In the heart of Nicolás Catena's 18 year old Agrelo vineyard, located in the Agrelo district of Mendoza at an altitude of 940m (3,100') above sea level. The vineyard's 150 hectares (365 acres) are planted primarily with Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay.

Covered Surface Area: 9.500 square meters

Production Capacity: 150,000 9 liter cases

Barrels (225 liter): 5,000

Elaboration

This winery produces primarily Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Chardonnay from the best winegrowing areas of the high altitude Mendoza wine country, including Lunlunta, Agrelo, and Tupungato.

Wines

The wines for export produced and bottled at Catena Zapata include:

Nicolás Catena Zapata

Catena Alta (Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Chardonnay)

Catena (Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Chardonnay)

Alamos (Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Chardonnay)

History

Nicolás Catena is proud to announce the opening of his new state of the art winery in the



high altitude winegrowing district of Agrelo in Mendoza, Argentina. Located at 940 meters (3,100') above sea level, at the foot of the majestic Andes, this unique facility is equipped with customized, one of a kind winemaking technology. It is the latest reflection of Nicolás Catena's ongoing quest to place Argentine wines among the best of the world.

The winery was designed to provide the most gentle possible handling of the grapes in order to preserve the full spectrum of their natural flavors and aromas. Custom designed wide mouth tanks, mobile crushers and selection tables, as well as a robotic punching down and remontage machinery, allow for the maximum expression of varietal character.



When he was defining the architectural style of the new winery, Nicolás Catena wondered how he would manage to embody the uniqueness of Mendoza's wine country, nestled in the foothills of the Andes mountains. A Mayan-inspired pyramid was his final choice.

Following in the steps of his mother Angélica Zapata, the local school's headmistress, Nicolás has always been an avid history student. In Nicolás' mind, the monuments built by the Mayans are clearly the most grandiose examples of Pre-Columbian American architecture.

The Catena Zapata winery symbolizes a family's pride in its roots and a keen desire to show to the world the uniqueness of Mendoza as a wine-producing region.

[!\[\]\(17413706fd4997a1a4bdf85c6864eee1_img.jpg\) View pictures of Bodega Catena Zapata](#)

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2001 CATENA MALBEC



Vineyard:	Angelica vineyard, Lunlunta district, 2,850' elevation. Nicasia vineyard, La Consulta district, 3,000' elevation
Varietal Blend:	100% Malbec
Vintage:	2001
Harvest Date:	April 5-17, 2001
Fermentation:	Selected yeast, max temp. ferm. 30°C, for 12 days, 26 day maceration.
Aging:	12 months in 80% French oak, 25% new, and 20% new American oak.
Alcohol:	13.4% vol
Acidity/pH:	5.55/3.72
Clarification:	Unfined/Unfiltered

Tasting Notes:

The first super-premium Argentine Malbec introduced into the international market, Catena Malbec has become a benchmark for the exceptional price to quality ratio which this most Argentine of grapes can offer. The 2001 vintage continues this legacy. A blend of two unique vineyard sites and microclimates, the 2001 Catena Malbec offers the dark, violet color typical of Argentine Malbec. The Nicasia vineyard offers explosive floral aromatics while the Angelica vineyard provides rich, ripe blackberry fruit elements. The soft, sweet mouthfeel and ripe, velvety tannins are characteristic of the Angelica terroir. This wine shows the great potential of Argentine Malbec.

José Galante, Winemaker

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Tikal Winery

Location: Mendoza, Argentina
Owner: Ernesto Catena



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Tikal is owned by Ernesto Catena and is named after his son. Ernesto spent his childhood in the vineyards of Mendoza among winegrowers and local pundits. Since then, he has experienced a kaleidoscope of cultures, living in New York, Buenos Aires, Berkeley, Cambridge (MA), Milan and London. But his heart remains in his homeland of Argentina (where he now lives), with its natural beauty of mountains, streams and vineyards, its wines, and its people who hold a special passion for living.

There are few wine brands that reflect the sensibilities of their owner more than Tikal. A skilled horseman, fashion designer, software developer, and book editor, Ernesto pursues all that gives pleasure in life. This hedonism (in the best sense of the word) shows through in the wines. It is a style meant to provide enormous pleasure rather than provoke contemplation; an expression of emotion rather than intellect. He has named his wines with passion in mind: Corazon (Heart), Amorio (Love Affair), Jubilo (Rejoice).

Tikal 2000 Amorio

Score: 91 points *Wine Spectator* May 15, 2002

Tikal 2000 Jubilo

Score: 90 points *Wine Spectator* May 15, 2002

Tikal 2000 Corazon

Score: 89 points *Wine Spectator* May 15, 2002





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Review by Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, July/August 2004 

2002 Tikal Amorio: 92 points. Sexy aromas of black raspberry, cola and violet. Deeply spicy, rich and dense, with penetrating flavors of dark berries, sassafras, violet and mocha. Pliant and sweet ... with terrific life in the mouth. Finishes very long, with classy, firm tannins.

Review by Wine Spectator Weekly Online (4/08/04) 

2002 Tikal Amorio: 92 points. This is a fruit-packed, glycerin-filled, ripe and driven red, with layers of dark plum, boysenberry and blackberry fruit, along with dark chocolate, brier and fig notes. It's big and powerful, but not at all heady or tiring to drink as the long, rich, velvety finish drapes the palate wonderfully. Drink now through 2007.

Review at the 2004 San Francisco International Wine Competition 

2002 Tikal Amorio: Gold Medal Winner

Review by The Washington Post "Where Malbec Does Best" by Michael Franz (9/8/04) 

2002 Tikal Amorio: A big, exotic, smoky wine with lots of oak but fine balance thanks to rich,



Wine Spectator

June 15, 2003

ARGENTINA

Smart Buys

90 Tikal “Corazon” 2001, Altos de Mendoza

Dark, juicy and lush, with blackberry and raspberry fruit, lots of dark toast, and hints of spice and chocolate on the fleshy, persistent finish. For fruit-bomb lovers. Bonarda and Malbec.

Chardonnay

90 Luca Chardonnay 2001, Altos de Mendoza

A bit tight now, but shows hints of fig, toast, pear, pineapple and hazelnut flavors, with a minerally note for balance. Juicy and dense, this picks up steam on the finish so cellar short term to let it open fully.

Malbec

90 BenMarco Malbec 2001, Mendoza

Brooding at first, with dark coffee, bramble and blackberry flavors, this turns decadent as it moves across the palate, offering lush fruit, ripe tannins and alluring spice and chocolate nuances. Powerful, but not heady, with an intriguing meaty note on the muscular finish.

89 Tikal Malbec “Amorio” 2001, Altos de Mendoza

Bright and elegant for a Malbec, with boysenberry and raspberry fruit, vanilla and toast notes and a creamy, easy texture. Stays light on its feet, despite its solid ripeness.

88 Susana Balbo Malbec 2001, Mendoza

With a tasty mix of red and blackberry fruit, this medium-weight Malbec also offers chocolate and sweet spice notes. Nice, mouthfilling texture and a juicy finish.

Cabernet & Blends

91 Tikal “Jubilo” 2001, Altos de Mendoza

Alluring nose of ganache and black tea, with a palate crammed full of cassis, currant and boysenberry fruit. The bass gets turned up on the finish, with coffee and dark chocolate taking over. A hedonist’s delight. Cabernet blend.

88 mapema primera zona 2001, Mendoza

A solid attempt at a modern style, with raspberry and cassis fruit and lots of vanilla-scented toast, It’s concentrated, with good focus, but just a bit trim in the end, without the lushness of the top wines. Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec and Merlot.



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Luca

Mendoza, Argentina

Laura Catena has a vision of creating a new breed of Argentine wines: small quantities, artisan quality, and true to their individual terroirs. She starts with some of Argentina's best fruit from low-yield, high elevation vineyards. State-of-the-art winemaking and oak aging (primarily French) elevate the wines to a quality level demanded by true wine connoisseurs. The final varietal blends deliver power along with complexity and finesse. They are the ultimate expression of rigorous vineyard management, viticultural experimentation, strict irrigation controls, skilled winemaking, and a quest for quality at any cost. Her current releases include Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Pinot Noir, and Chardonnay.



Luca is named after Laura Catena's son. The family crest (the McDermott family) that appears in the label's background is that of Laura's husband, Dan. Laura is continually inspired by the synthesis of cultures in her own family, and this international inspiration infuses the style and quality of her wines.



Alejandro Sejanovich is the winemaker at Luca Winery. Alejandro got his enology and viticulture degree at the University of Mendoza and a Master's degree at the University of Montpellier in France. His true passion for viticulture shows up in the grapes and in his wines. He is the head winemaker for both Luca and Tikal, and he is considered one of the new voices and a rising star of Argentine winemaking.

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e.g. : beef, steak, seafood, fish, pasta, lobster, cheese





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Review by Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, July/August 2004

2001 Luca Malbec: 89 points. Raspberry and cinnamon aromas...juicy, intensely flavored and elegant in the mouth, with a silky texture and ripe acidity that reminded me of red Burgundy. Fresh red berry, spice and floral flavors.

Review by Wine Spectator Magazine (5/15/04)

2001 Luca Malbec: 89 points. Plenty of toast here, but there's also quite a bit of raspberry and boysenberry fruit, spice, mocha and vanilla notes. Not a powerhouse, but with fine balance and harmony now. Fine effort for the vintage.

Review by The Washington Post "Where Malbec Does Best" by Michael Franz (9/8/04)

2001 Luca Malbec: A very serious wine that will benefit from further aging, this features lovely dark cherry fruit, strong, spicy oak, and enough acidity to remain fresh in the future.

Review by Wine Enthusiast Magazine, December 2003

2001 Luca Malbec: 90 points. Raspberry jam aromas greet you as the bouquet exudes power: There's bursting fruit, campfire, earth and chocolate rolled into one. The palate is healthy

but not overdone; oak is present but not overwhelming. Quite healthy and spunky, and can age. Luca is the label of Laura Catena .

Review by Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate (2/28/03)

2000 Luca Malbec: 89 Points. ..bursting with aromas of creamed black fruits and spices, the 2000 Malbec is a medium-bodied, expansive wine. Juicy, well-balanced, and extremely spicy...outstanding fruit in its attack and lengthy finish.

Review by Wine Spectator Magazine (10/15/02)

2000 Luca Malbec: 89 Points. Lovely aromas of chocolate, cinnamon and pudding, with vivid raspberry confiture flavor that drips through the long, juicy finish. Has density, but stays elegant, almost racy. Easy to like this.

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