

Altocedro La Consulta Reserve Old Vine Malbec Uco Valley Mendoza Argentina 2022

Selected by: Master Sommelier Evan Goldstein, Master Sommelier Madeline Triffon, and Master Sommelier Tim Gaiser



Final Deductions

VINTAGE 2022

GRAPE Malbec/Blend

GEOGRAPHY Not Europe

COUNTRY Argentina

LARGER REGION Cuyo

SMALLER REGION Mendoza

SUB REGION Uco Valley

Rationale

Argentinian Malbec has fast become a modern-day benchmark wine that conveniently touches all that Americans love in their red wine: deep color, mouth volume and friendly tannins. This variety's name comes from its native home in France's southwest where the name often fits; Malbec loosely translates colloquially to 'bad mouth' and it can be, in its native home, a hard, sharp, tart, and often mean wine.

In Argentina, it finds its happy place with myriad styles existing based on where the wine is made and the grapes are picked. In northern Salta and Southern Patagonia, Malbec is somewhat more austere with deep dark fruit, peppery spice and sharper acidity. In Mendoza, those wines coming from the warmer (and lower) areas around Mendoza city in Lujan de Cuyo and Maipo are usually rounder, smoother, with darker red and black fruit, spice, often less floral notes, more supple "sweeter" tannins, balanced acidity, and ample mouth volume. The Uco Valley, Mendoza's uber-happening region, grows grapes that make wines with brighter/acidity, herbal notes, minerality, grittier tannins, aromatic, and blue florals (violet/lavender).

Today's new generation of ambitious, well-traveled wine producers – all of whom communicate with each other rather than maintaining the distance and competitiveness of the previous generation are making fresher styles of Malbec with less oak and generous density.

Altocedro was founded in 1999 by visionary Karim Mussi. Third-generation Lebanese immigrant, Karim and his family pioneered La Consulta, Uco Valley. Twenty years later, in 2019, Karim's crazy idea became conventional wisdom when La Consulta was classified as one of Argentina's few Geographic Indication (GI) Appellations. Altocedro is synonymous with outstanding La Consulta wine. Original old vine rootstocks, indigenous yeasts, hundred year-old concrete fermentation tanks, and Karim's minimalist winemaking style create true terroir-driven wines. The name Altocedro pays homage to Karim's roots. Cedar trees are considered sacred in the Lebanese culture, and they surround the Altocedro winery and estate vineyard.

Sight

BRIGHTNESS Day Bright

CLARITY Opaque

COLOR DEPTH Deep

COLOR Ruby

RIM VARIATION Purple
Stained Tears: High

Structure

RESIDUAL SUGAR Dry

ACID Med+

ALCOHOL High

TANNIN High

TEXTURE Round / Smooth

FINISH Long

COMPLEXITY High

Aroma & Taste

RED FRUIT Red Currant • Red Plum • Red Raspberry • Red / Sour Cherry *Condition: Ripe*

BLUE FRUIT Blueberry • Boysenberry *Condition: Ripe*

BLACK FRUIT Blackberry • Black Fig • Black Currant / Cassis • Mulberry • Black Plum *Condition: Ripe*

FLORAL Lavender • Violet *Condition: Fresh*

GREEN VEGETABLE Dark Leafy Greens

OTHER VEGETABLE Beet / Beet Root • Fennel / Anise • Mushrooms (Brown) • Cola Nut

HERBAL Basil • Thyme • Tea Leaf / Bergamot • Laurel / Bay Leaf

OTHER SPICES Star Anise • Chinese Five Spice • Licorice (Red) • Licorice (Black)

ORGANIC EARTH Turned Dirt / Potting Soil • Forest Floor

INORGANIC EARTH Mineral / Rock

OAK AGING Yes *Oak Intensity: Medium*

OAK INFLUENCE Baking Spice • Coffee / Bean • Toast • Cacao / Chocolate

OXIDATION/NUTTINESS Pistachio • Walnut • Chestnut