

Zuccardi Paraje Altamira Poligonos del Valle de Uco Malbec Argentina 2022

Selected by: MTW Tasting Panel



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/acidic, 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.

Zuccardi is an iconic Argentinian winery and one that celebrates the traditional and the cutting edge. Within a short drive of the city of Mendoza and housing two award winning restaurants, its hospitality is gracious and warm to those who visit, emblematic of the passion of the namesake family behind the wines. Poligonos is a selection of varietals that reflect the people of the region they come from. The vineyards are named after the people– there is a rich and profound expression of the place through its geography and climate as well as its social, historical, and economic characteristics.

Sight

BRIGHTNESS Day Bright

CLARITY Opaque

COLOR DEPTH Medium

COLOR Ruby

RIM VARIATION Purple
Stained Tears: Medium

Structure

RESIDUAL SUGAR Dry

ACID Med+

ALCOHOL Med+

TANNIN Med+

TEXTURE Lean / Tart

FINISH Long

COMPLEXITY High

Aroma & Taste

RED FRUIT Red Currant • Cherry / Red Tomato • Red Plum • Strawberry *Condition: Ripe*

BLUE FRUIT Boysenberry • Blueberry *Condition: Ripe*

BLACK FRUIT Black Plum • Black Cherry • Blackberry • Mulberry *Condition: Ripe*

FLORAL Rose • Violet • Lavender *Condition: Fresh*

GREEN VEGETABLE Dark Leafy Greens • Arugula

OTHER VEGETABLE Fennel / Anise • Olive (Black) • Mushrooms (Brown)

HERBAL Rosemary • Tea Leaf / Bergamot • Oregano • Laurel / Bay Leaf • Tobacco Leaf

OTHER SPICES Chinese Five Spice • Mustard / Seed • Licorice (Black)

ORGANIC EARTH Turned Dirt / Potting Soil

INORGANIC EARTH Mineral / Rock

OAK AGING No