BODEGA Y VIÑEDOS CATENA

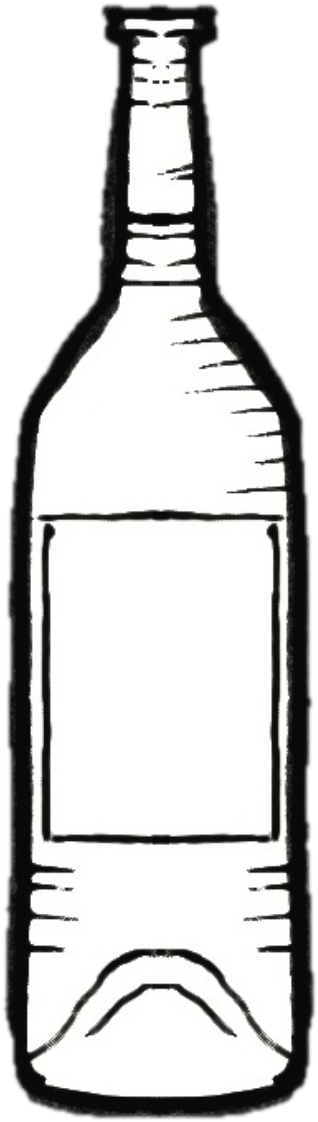
Fundada en 1902

Bodega y Viñedos Catena

Mendoza, Mendoza

1999 Catena Alta Cabernet Sauvignon

CABERNET SAUVIGNON, MALBEC



SCAN TO VIEW ONLINE

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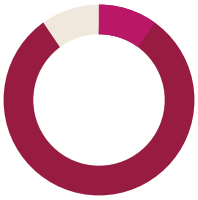
VARIETIES



- **90%** Cabernet Sauvignon
- **10%** Malbec

ABOUT THIS WINE

Before the world recognized Catena's Argentina as "malbec country", the winery was known for its old-world style Cabernet Sauvignon born in the clay-soils of Agrelo. The family cherishes its historic Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards in Agrelo and Tupungato, particularly for their ageability and classic flavors. Catena Alta Cabernet Sauvignon is sourced from Lot 3 of the La Pirámide vineyard, Lot 2 of the Domingo vineyard and Lot 2 of the Nicasia Vineyard.

Catena Alta is an assemblage of historic rows within the Catena family Estate vineyards. The blend of these historic rows, like the marriage of sounds that create a symphony, yields a highly aromatic and elegant wine that speaks for the earth and the vines that have been tended by the Catenas for four generations. The Catena Alta wines can usually be drunk starting at three years after harvest and into the following one to two decades.

TASTING NOTES

APPEARANCE

The 1999 Catena Alta Cabernet Sauvignon has a deep ruby red color with marked violet tones.

NOSE

The nose is concentrated with blackberry and cassis aromas with nuances of toast and vanilla from oak aging.

PALATE

It has a soft mouthfeel, a full-bodied middle and a ripe, lingering finish filled with balanced acidity and mature tannins. Catena Alta Cabernet will only be made in exceptional vintage years.

BODEGA Y VIÑEDOS CATENA

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TECHNICAL

ABV	PH
14.5%	**3.43**

WINEMAKING

VINEYARD

The grapes for Catena Alta Cabernet Sauvignon come from a select block of La Pirámide vineyard, Catena's premier Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard. At more than 940 m (3,100'), the La Pirámide vineyard enjoys a continental climate of sunny days and cool nights, allowing for prolonged hang-time and crisp acidity in the grapes. The Catena Alta block has historically provided the most balanced and uniform yields. The carefully chosen vines undergo a detailed thinning process to leave only select, isolated clusters on the vines to ripen fully.

90% Cabernet Sauvignon sourced from the lime, clay soil of Lot 3 in the La Pirámide vineyard and 10% Malbec sourced from the sandy, clay soil of Lot 18 in the 70 year old Angélica vineyard. The 1999 growing season was characterized by even cooler than usual conditions, with average temperatures only reaching 17.6° C in La Pirámide. The hang time was extended, ensuring ripe sweet tannins and excellent aromatics. This vintage can be enjoyed now and will continue to improve over the next 8 to 9 years.

The winter of 1998, after a rather rainy autumn, was dry and temperate. There were not many frosts and so Spring arrived in a dry and moderate atmosphere, with some large temperature variations. Despite the dry conditions, there were some late frost dangers due to the wide thermal amplitude between daytime highs and nighttime lows. In the Catena vineyards, any potential damage to the vines was avoided through the use of heaters in the vineyards.

Summer began with warm and dry weather conditions, demanding the use of irrigation from the underground aquifers. The rest of the summer season offered ideal conditions for the grapes to mature gradually and completely.

The large difference between daytime highs and nighttime lows in the high altitude vineyards of the Andean foothills give the grapes the opportunity to fully develop all elements of color and aroma, as well as ensuring the maturity of ripe sweet tannins in the reds and an excellent sugar/acid balance in the whites. The harvest began in mid-March and lasted through the second week of April. Dry and moderate conditions allowed for Catena's vineyard management team to select the exact moment of optimum ripeness for the harvest of all the fruit.

WINEMAKING

The grapes are destemmed before undergoing fermentation and a long and thorough maceration.

Total Acidity: 6.18 grams/liter

Unfined and unfiltered

AGING

The new wine is then aged for a total of 18 months in 100% new Taransaud French oak. The result is an extremely concentrated Cabernet, with integrated tannins that will allow the wine to age well into the new Millennium.

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