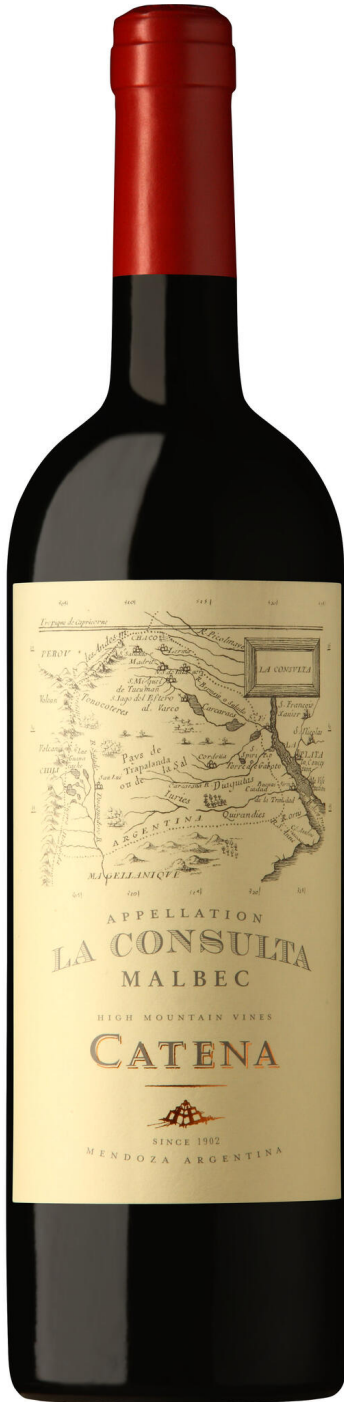


BODEGA Y VIÑEDOS CATENA

Fundada en 1902

2015 Catena Appellation La Consulta Malbec

Alcohol label %: 13.0 | pH: 3.7 | Acidity (TA): 5.7



Growing Conditions

La Consulta Vineyard (1095m/3592ft). Alluvial origin. Loamy soil, with rounded rocks on the bottom (80% Sand - 10% Clay - 10% Silt)

Many in Mendoza have started calling 2015 "el año Bordelés," or "the Bordelais year," because of the cool summer, early harvest, autumn rains, and generally low alcohols and high acidities in the main red varieties.

The best Malbecs of 2015 have a refinement and elegance that only occur in very cool years. We predict that the Malbecs of Adrianna in Gualtallary and Angelica Sur in Eugenio Bustos, West and South in the Uco Valley will have alcohols in the 12.5-13 range and unusually high acidities with pH's in the 3,4-3,5 range. These characteristics were due to a warm winter followed by a perfectly cool summer and 10-50% more rain than usual in the early autumn harvest months. In the Adrianna and Angelica Sur vineyards, the sloped stony soils and phenomenal drainage allowed the rains to have a mostly de-stressing effect on the vines, resulting in incredible balance of flavors. We expect that the wines of 2015 will be somewhat similar to those of 2001, when rains provoked a great deal of fear in us farmers, but which ended up being particularly age-worthy.

What was key in the 2014-2015 season was parcelization and low-yields farming. Our Adrianna Vineyard is divided into more than 200 parcels and this was particularly important this season. The areas with deeper sandy soils which usually give excellent quality, did not perform well.

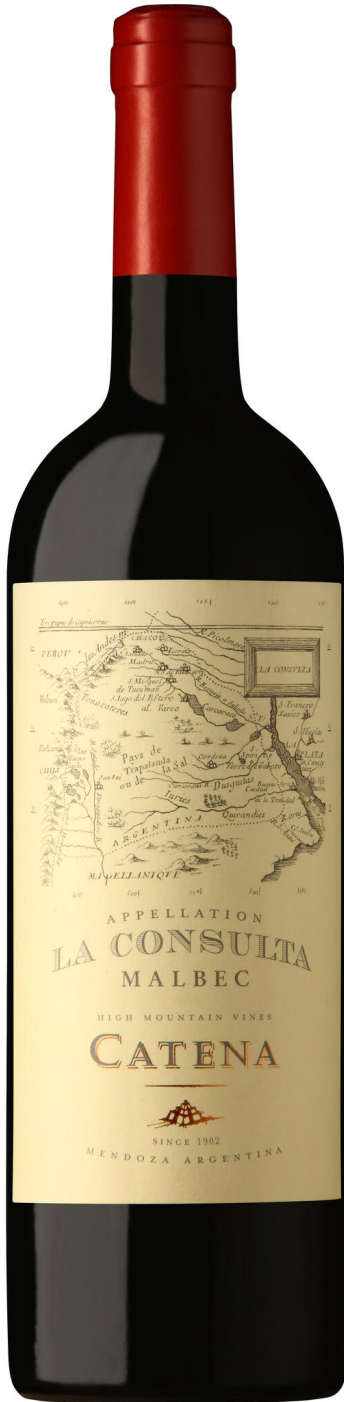
The Malbec in parcels with stony and limestone soils were undisputed super-stars. Because of the warm winter, the harvest was between 10 and 15 days earlier than usual and the early harvest varieties such as Chardonnay and Pinot Noir performed beautifully. Also, there was no significant hail (therefore no damaged clusters allowing rot to form easily), which was fortunate because in well-drained areas, botrytis was rare despite the heavy rains.

The most complicated variety this year was Cabernet Sauvignon which suffered a certain degree of botrytis throughout the region. Again, in well-drained soils and sectors pruned for low yields, the Cabernet Sauvignon is elegant and well balanced.

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But in the predominantly clay soils of Lujan de Cuyo and Maipú, there were significant problems with rot.

Harvest

Achieving ripeness and being able to harvest before the 10th of April was key this year. At Catena Zapata we certainly benefited from having our own harvest crews and equipment because it allowed us to harvest at the optimal moment.

Winemaking

This wine goes through cold maceration for 5 days under 50°F (10°C). The juice is then fermented for 23 days with a post-fermentation maceration of 10 days.

Aging

12 months in barrel (35% new). Barrel selection varies depending on vineyard and vintage. 100% French oak.

Appearance

Dark violet color with deep purple tones

Nose

The nose offers red fruit flavors and ripe, concentrated dark berries with floral notes like violets, some hints of vanilla and tobacco.

Palate

The mouthfeel is rich, with raspberries and blueberries, and a touch of mocca. The finish presents soft and well structured tannins with bright, crisp acidity that gives the wine exceptional length.