



BODEGA PIEDRA NEGRA

Santa Celina Malbec

Region

One of Uco Valley's most desirable subregions, Los Chacayes is located in the centre of the Tunuyán region. An IG since 2017, it has only around 1,000 hectares of its alluvial soil under vine. Vineyards are planted at 1,100 - 1,500 m.a.s.l and experience day/night temperature variations of 10-15°C supporting development of aromatic compounds and phenolic maturation for good colour and tannin. Malbec here tends to show bright red fruit aromas and a robust tannic backbone. Mediterranean red varieties also perform well.

Producer

A pioneer in the Uco Valley, Bodega Piedra Negra was established in 1996. François Lurton was the first person to plant vines in the foothills of the Andes Cordillera (at an altitude of 1,100 m.a.s.l.) in semi-desert conditions in the middle of what would become the Geographical Indication of Los Chacayes. The poor, gravelly, alluvial soil reminded him of Pessac-Léognan in Bordeaux! Drawing on expertise acquired all over the world, he immediately introduced environmentally friendly growing methods. His 99 hectares of vines are managed organically and in adherence to biodynamic principles. In addition to Argentine selections of Malbec, the estate also grows French selections of the grape (known as Cot). In white grapes they offer a rare source of wines produced from Pinot Gris.

Viticulture

The estate is situated in the foothills of the Andes, at an altitude of 1,100m, on well-drained and infertile pebbly soils, mixed with volcanic moraines. It a continental semi-desert environment characterised by light frosts and high levels of sunshine. Average annual rainfall is 200mm, essentially concentrated in summer. It experiences a wide night/day temperature range (10°C at night - 40°C during the day in summer).

Vinification

After a cold maceration of 5 days at 10°C, the fermentation starts with indigenous yeasts, taking about 7 days. Once finished, the wine is separated from its skins and then goes to the press. A proportion of the wine is then aged for 2 years in French oak barrels.

Tasting Note

Violet inflected dark-berried fruits dominate, with slight touches of black pepper. Concentrated on the palate with notable depth of fruit giving volume. It is well structured, and the tannins are soft and harmonious. Long finish with notes of coffee.

Food Matching

Grilled red meats, carpaccio, paëlla, Iberico ham, red pepper stuffed with cheese.

Technical Information

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| Country | Argentina |
| Region | IG Los Chacayes, Uco Valley, Mendoza |
| Altitude | 1,100 m.a.s.l. |
| Blend | 100% Malbec |
| Winemaker | Thibault Lepoutre |
| Body | Full |
| Oak | 2 years used French oak |
| Residual Sugar | 3.5 g/l |
| Closure | Screw Cap |
| Vegan | Yes |
| Vegetarian | Yes |
| Organic | Yes |
| Biodynamic | Uncertified |
| Allergens | Sulphites |