

MALBEC SINGLE VINEYARD 2005



VITICULTURE

Vineyard: Harvested from blocks 4 & 5 of our San Carlos Estate vineyard, located near the town of Cunaco in the Colchagua Valley. Sourced from Malbec blocks with an average age of 60 to 80 years

Soil: Free draining loam/clay of medium fertility.

Climate: Yearly average rainfall of 600 mm, concentrated in the winter months. Summers are dry with warm days and cool nights. Temperatures are moderated alternately by sea breezes from the Pacific Ocean and inland winds from the Andes mountain range.

Vineyard Management: Planting density of 4,464 vines/hectare, trained to vertical shoot positioned canopy and spur pruned. Canopy trimming was carried out once in early spring and again at the beginning summer. Leaf plucking was carried out by hand at the beginning of March in order to increase bunch exposure.

WINEMAKING

Grape variety: 85% Malbec/15% Cabernet Sauvignon

Harvest: All fruit was hand harvested between the 12th and 21st of April, 2005.

Winemaking Techniques: A first selection was carried out in the vineyard where only bunches in optimum condition were harvested. Following this all bunches were hand-sorted in the winery

with unevenly ripe berries being removed. Following this the bunches of grapes were destemmed and once again passed over the sorting table in order to remove any pieces of stem which had made it through the destemmer. The grapes were then crushed to tank where 15% of the juice was 'bled-off' in order to increase the skin:juice ratio. This was followed by a 7 day cold soak (at 10-12°C) after which the must was heated and inoculated with selected yeasts. During fermentation the must was pumped over twice daily with temperatures peaking at between 28 and 30°C. After 27 days of total maceration time the wine was run to barrel to undergo a natural malolactic fermentation. The wine was then barrel aged for 14 months before being racked to tank, and bottled with minimal filtration.

Oak: The blend was matured for 14 months in new French (93%) and American (7%) oak barrels.

LABORATORY ANALYSIS

14.6	%vol
3.43	
5.5	g/L
2.7	g/L
0.55	g/L
	3.43 5.5 2.7

TASTING NOTES

So intensely coloured it appears black in the glass this wine delivers an opulent nose of boysenberry, plum, fig and tar. In the mouth wilder more exotic flavours of moist earth, bitter chocolate and mocha lead to big, sweet, voluptuous tannins resulting in a long, lingering finish.

CELLARING POTENTIAL

Ready to drink now or cellar until for up to 7 years.

OUR SOMMELIER RECOMMENDS

Great with roast lamb chops tossed in mint pesto, grilled Portobello mushrooms, fried eggplants or creamy blue cheeses such as Roquefort. Serving temperature: 17 to 18°C.