



CATENA APPELLATION VISTA FLORES MALBEC

2019 | \$19.99



DESCRIPTION

For over four generations, the Catena family has grown vines in the foothills of the Andes Mountains in Mendoza, Argentina. In his pursuit to make wines that stand with the best in the world, Nicolás Catena identified the best lots, and rows, in the Catena family's estate vineyards.

Bodega Catena Zapata is a family-owned winery located in Mendoza, in the sub appellation of Agrelo, Argentina. The winery structure is distinguished by its pyramid-like design based on Mayan architecture.

The winery was founded in 1902 by Italian immigrant Nicola Catena and was passed to his son Domingo. Domingo's son, Nicolás Catena Zapata (A.K.A. Nicolás Catena), was a pioneer introducing European winemaking techniques to Argentina, including the introduction of Malbec and vine growing in high altitudes. Nicolás Catena's daughter, Dr. Laura Catena, and other members of the Zapata family have also been involved in the winery.

It was Nicolás who thrust Argentinian wine into the modern era. A widely travelled academic economist, he learned from his exposure in the 1970s both to great Bordeaux and the huge promise of Napa wines. In the early 1980s, Catena agreed the key was to plant the right varieties in the right location, specifically cooler, higher sites.

Family vintners for 121 years, the Catenas are recognized for their pioneering role in high-altitude viticulture and in leading Argentina's Malbec revolution. In the 1950's, Don Domingo

Catena began sourcing Malbec from the historic vineyards of Vista Flores. Domingo prized the region's Malbec for its dark colored and structured tannins. The Catena are oldest Argentine family winery still in family hands.

Catena Appellation Vista Flores Malbec 2019

The 2019 harvest happened earlier than usual, and the grapes were in pristine condition with not a drop of botrytis or downy mildew. The precipitation was 20-60% lower than usual and the growing season experienced cooler temperatures overall. The berries were smaller, and the yields were slightly smaller. This wine goes through cold maceration for 5 days at 50°F. The juice is then fermented for 16 days with a post-fermentation maceration of 10 days. It spends 12 months in barrels of which 35% is new. The barrel selection varies depending on vineyard and vintage. It is 100% Malbec.

Tasting Notes

NOSE:

The wine has a dark violet color with black reflections and offers ripe, concentrated dark and red fruit aromas with delicate floral notes of lavender, violet, and mocha.

PALATE:

An inky, medium-bodied, dry red wine with strong impressions of dark fruits on the nose and palate. This wine tends to have mellower tannins than its French counterpart (Malbec is indigenous to France). The mouthfeel is rich and full of notes of sweet spice and a touch of leather. The finish presents soft, well-integrated tannins with bright, crisp acidity that gives the wine exceptional length.

PAIRING:

Malbec is a medium to full-bodied red wine, and thus, it begs to be paired with more full-flavored foods. However, unlike Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec does not have a super long finish (or as aggressive tannins), which means it will pair extremely well with leaner red meats, and even lighter cuts like dark meat turkey or roasted pork. The pairing secret of Malbec is that it works well with pepper, sage, creamy mushroom sauces, melted cheese, and in particular, blue cheese.

Fun Facts

A solid malbec with quite a firm, linear flow to it, with blackberry, black-tea, and blueberry undertones. It is medium bodied with firm tannins and a fresh, racy finish. Delivers finesse at the end. Drink or hold. - **92 Points James Suckling**

WINERY WEBSITE:

Catena Wines - Bodega Catena Zapata

Luján de Cuyo D.O.C., Argentina

