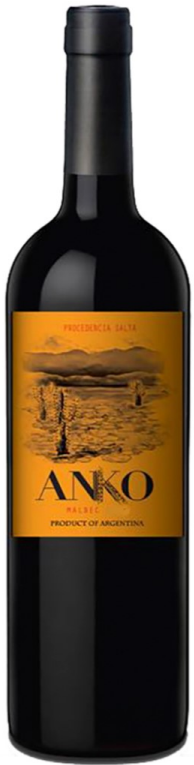


ESTANCIA LOS CARDONES ANKO MALBEC 2018/\$9.99



DESCRIPTION

Anko means "high water" in the native language of Salta, located in the northwest corner of Argentina. Wine Enthusiast quoted Anko winemaker Jeff Mausbach as follows: "Salta is a land of extremes—extreme beauty, extreme altitude, extreme sunlight. These extremes make for a singular expression of Malbec—powerful, structured wines with a savory minerality that is very different from other regions in Argentina." In this rugged, mountainous desert, an "Anko," or high altitude oasis, was treasured as a precious sanctuary, protection from the harsh elements of nature. Our estate vineyards in Estancia Los Cardones, named for the area's majestic cacti which can grow as tall as 30 feet, are indeed an oasis amid the surrounding jagged landscape. The winemakers and co-owners are Jeff Mausbach and Alejandro "Colo" Sejanovich; the other co-owners are the Saavedra Azcona family.

The Salta region in northern Argentina is home to world's highest vineyards. Near the town of Payogasta, the Colomé Altura Máxima vineyard is planted at 10,206 feet in elevation.

Salta is part of the Calchaquí Valley, which benefits from more than 300 days of sun per year, subjecting its vines to considerable ultraviolet radiation. The valley experiences strong high altitude winds, even in the "lower" vineyards, which are planted at 5,413 feet. Because of these elevations and resulting extreme conditions, vines produce lower yields and thicker-skinned grapes, resulting in concentrated, aromatic and well-structured wines.

In a truly unique region, the highly aromatic variety, Torrontes, thrives; intense sun exposure allows full ripening, while cooling winds maintain the grapes' acidity levels and phenolic balance.

Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon, Bonarda, Syrah, and, particularly, Tannat have the most potent-

tial among reds.

Upscale hotels, beautiful colonial architecture, a majestic Andean backdrop and impressive food and wine make the area attractive among tourists as well.

Salta is the fourth most important Argentine wine-producing region after Mendoza, San Juan, and La Rioja. Its oldest vineyards were planted in 1862.

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This Anko wine is 100% Malbec grapes from the Estancia Los Cardones estate vineyard in Salta, Argentina. The average vineyard altitude is 5,700 feet. The soil is very shallow and rocky. The vineyard is hand harvested, double manually sorted, fermented with indigenous yeast and a 5 day cold maceration, and 13 day fermentation. It spends 9 months in French oak to age.

Tasting Notes

Nose:

Aromas of dried earth, baking spice, wild berry and smoky plum are expansive on the nose.

Palate:

In Los Cardones, Malbec produces a very unique savory and saline expression. The very intense sunshine at 5,700' elevation produces concentrated dark fruit flavors. The cold Andean nights lend floral and sweet spice aromatics. The stony soil profile provides excellent structure. This Malbec is medium in weight on the palate. Baked black plum, oak spice, and tomato flavors bring all the elements of high-altitude grapes into play. The finish is tight and dry, with berry flavors aided by oak spice and pepper.

Pairing:

It pairs beautifully with dark meat poultry, roasted pork, lean red meats, blue cheese, herbs and spices.

Winery Website: [Vino del Sol - Estate Vineyards & Family-owned Wineries](#)

Fun Facts

Beautiful, crushed violet flowers and ripe cassis with dark-plum and earthy nuances, too. The palate has a very plush feel with ripe red plums in abundance. **–James Suckling 92 Points**



Salta I.G., Argentina

