

Decanter

The world's best wine magazine

July 2015



The world's greatest winemakers As judged by their peers

Why and when
you should
lay down
Champagne

Argentina's best
Malbec blends
Snap them up,
say our tasters

Proseccos the
experts love

Travel: Venice and
the vineyards

Côte-Rôtie 2012
'A purist's vintage with
a real sense of place'

Dirceu Vianna Jr MW



Originally from Brazil, Vianna Jr (known as Junior) joined the wine trade in 1990 after moving to London. In 2008, he became the first South American male Master of Wine and is currently the wine director for Coe Group in the UK. Vianna Jr is also a wine educator, technical consultant, writer and judge who also appears on South American radio and television.

Vianna Jr's verdict

'Malbec blends can reach levels of quality and depth seldom seen in single-varietal wines. The most creative winemakers are using varieties like Touriga Nacional, Tempranillo, Ancellota and Raboso as opposed to the more traditional blending partners of Cabernet Sauvignon or Merlot. Styles varied from fragrant, light and refreshing to powerful, rich and opulent.'

'There was some excess use of oak and over-ripeness, but generally the wines were very well made and there were few cases of tannin over-extraction. Many appeared ready to be enjoyed young and older vintages did not show sufficient improvement to suggest they should be kept for the long term.'

'Winemakers must have the courage to do less and allow the terroir to express itself through the purity of fruit and elegance that Argentina is capable of achieving. This very good tasting clearly demonstrates Argentina's development over recent years.'

Highly Recommended (continued)



El Esteco, Ciclos Icono, Calchaqui Valley 2012 17.25 (90+) PC 17 PT 17 DVJ 17.5

£16.99 Hallgarten Druitt, Novum

Lifted notes of tangerine and black fruits. Ripe, juicy and generous and also shows a tight-knit structure and a mineral edge that will allow it to become more complex with time. **Drink 2016-2020 Alc 14.5%**



Ocaso Winery, Axel, Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon, Tupungato 2011 17.25 (90+) PC 16.5 PT 18 DVJ 17

£15.99 Naked Wines

Lots of inky graphite on the nose, with the Cabernet dominating this refreshing blend. This wine shows the wind of the Andes with its excellent concentration and bright acidity. So pure and clean. **Drink 2015-2020 Alc 13.5%**



Mapema, Malbec-Tempranillo, Mendoza 2013 17.25 (90+) PC 18 PT 17 DVJ 16.5

N/A UK www.rutiniwines.com

Youthful, vibrant and fruit-forward with notes of kirsch, blackberries and violets. A great blend executed very well with tense tannins, fresh acidity and a pure finish that is bright and long. **Drink 2015-2018 Alc 13.9%**



O Fournier, Alfa Crux, Altamira, San Carlos 2012 17.25 (90+) PC 18 PT 18 DVJ 16

£30 Camuthers & Kent, Seckford Agencies

Lots of medicinal character, with red fruits and a touch of herbs. This is a fine example of San Carlos, with violet and mineral flavours, rich cherry notes and soft texture, but at the same time solid tannins. **Drink 2015-2022 Alc 15%**

'Malbec is the guy who starts off the dancing but other grapes bring something missing to the party: structure'

Patricio Tapia



Zuccardi, Brazos de los Andes, Uco Valley 2013 17.25 (90+) PC 17 PT 18 DVJ 16.5

N/A UK www.familiazuccardi.com

Discreet and elegant yet expressive with notes of kirsch, violet and dark chocolate. Great structure on the palate backed by cherry flavours and solid tannins. Very nice texture with good length. **Drink 2015-2020 Alc 14%**



Bodegas El Esteco, Altimus, Michel Torino Estate, Cafayate Valley 2011 17 (90) PC 17.5 PT 17.25 DVJ 16.5

N/A UK www.elesteco.com

Smoky character with dried fruit, dried flowers and intense spices. A rich, full body that is well structured with refined tannins and fresh acidity. Lovely purity of fruit; complex and deep with a long finish. **Drink 2015-2020 Alc 15%**



Ca'de Calle, Gran Reserva, Luján de Cuyo 2013 17 (90) PC 17.5 PT 16.75 DVJ 16.5

N/A UK www.bodegacalle.com

Dark plums, bruised sage and black olives on the nose. This feels rustic and impressive with its super ripeness and firm tannins. Quite a seductive mouthfeel, finishing with bitter chocolate. **Drink 2015-2019 Alc 14.5%**



Casarena, 505 Vineyards Esencia, Luján de Cuyo 2014 17 (90) PC 17 PT 17 DVJ 17

£7.99 Frederic Robinson

Be patient; the oak currently has a major role, but eventually the fruit will take control. Ripe, juicy, generous and well-structured with a lovely savoury note on the finish. Wait a few years to broach. **Drink 2017-2020 Alc 13.9%**



Gouguenheim, Flores del Valle Blend, Tupungato 2010 17 (90) PC 17 PT 17.75 DVJ 16.5

£15.99 Merchant Vintners

Opulent and ripe with notes of dark fruits, black olives and a delicate herbal touch. Another good wine from Tupungato that is profound in flavour and deep in texture with a floral finish. **Drink 2015-2020 Alc 14%**



Mythic, Mountain Blend, Mendoza 2014 17 (90) PC 15.5 PT 17.5 DVJ 18

N/A UK www.mythicestate.com

Blackberry, violet, cassis and ripe plum leap out of the glass. A refreshing style where oak plays a role but the fruit is pure with fresh and vibrant acidity. Sophisticated savoury notes lead to a complex finish. **Drink 2015-2020 Alc 13.9%**



Viñedos Casta del Sur, Vistalba, Luján de Cuyo 2013 17 (90) PC 17.5 PT 16.75 DVJ 17

N/A UK www.losmaiteles.net

Perfumed and vivacious, displaying notes of blackberry jam, violet and liquorice. Hibiscus flowers join crunchy red apple and black fruits on the palate. A super-ripe wine with a refined structure. **Drink 2015-2018 Alc 14.5%**

Argentinian Malbec blends

Highly Recommended (continued)



Trapiche, Islay, Malbec-Cabernet Franc, Mendoza 2010 17.75 (92) PC 19 PT 17 DVJ 17

£28.55-£35.86 (2008) The Drink Shop, Vintage Marque

Funky Cabernet Franc character with exotic spices, cloves and liquorice. Very poised, with a firm but subtle palate. Very stylish and elegant. Beautiful. **Drink 2015-2022 Alc 14.5%**



Viñedos Casta del Sur, Agrelo, Luján de Cuyo 2012 17.75 (92) PC 17.5 PT 17.5 DVJ 18.5

N/A UK www.losmaltenes.net

Very peppery on the nose with ripe, sweet, red fruit and warm spices. Sleek, fleshy and succulent flavours and strong tannins to go with meat. Seamless structure and refreshing finish. **Drink 2015-2020 Alc 15%**



Vulcano, Gran Reserva, Tupungato 2013 17.75 (92) PC 18.5 PT 18 DVJ 17

N/A UK www.bodegadetupun.com

Lemon sherbet with cherry blossom, tight tannins and lovely purity of fruit. On the palate it is refreshing, vibrant and pure; very focused. A little young but a wine with a wonderful future. **Drink 2015-2025 Alc 14.3%**



Achaval-Ferrer, Quimera, Luján de Cuyo 2012 17.5 (91) PC 18 PT 18.5 DVJ 16

£26.50 Corney & Barrow, Harrods, Vin Cognito

Nicely lifted fruit on the nose, with a touch of menthol; the Cabernet Franc works very well in this blend. Together with Merlot, this is filled with cherry and violets, supported by elegant tannins. **Drink 2015-2019 Alc 14.5%**

'Encouraging and very good for Malbec blends.'

We're seeing a really high consistency of quality' Phil Crozier



Amalaya, Tinto de Corte, Calchaqui Valley 2013 17.5 (91) PC 17 PT 17 DVJ 18.5

£9.99 widely available via UK agent Liberty Wines
Refined and sophisticated bouquet of bright blackberries, a hint of florals, and freshly ground black pepper, showing the Syrah in the blend. Honest with well-integrated oak and good length. **Drink 2015-2020 Alc 14%**



Monteclez, Alma de Luna, La Consulta, San Carlos 2011 17.5 (91) PC 17.5 PT 16.5 DVJ 18.5

£35 Seven Bottles

Lots of blueberry and hibiscus with buckets of fruit-infused leather and dark chocolate. Crunchy purple fruits on the palate combine with savoury notes and are underpinned by fresh acidity and velvety tannins. **Drink 2015-2020 Alc 14.5%**



Riglos, Gran Corte, Gualtallary, Tupungato 2012 17.5 (91) PC 17.5 PT 18.25 DVJ 16.5

£32.99 GoodWine Online, Oxford Wine Co, Selfridges, South Downs Cellars, The Secret Cellar, A seductive, refined approach to Tupungato, filled with cherry and strawberry flavours. Well put together and harmonious with lovely focus and purity. A beautiful expression of a place. **Drink 2015-2020 Alc 14.5%**



55 Malbec, Zaha, Toko Vineyard Red Blend, La Consulta, San Carlos 2012 17.25 (90+) PC 17.5 PT 16.75 DVJ 17.5

£20 (2011) The Wine Society

Violets and dried flowers on the nose, with a touch of green tea. A vibrant and inviting, beautifully structured palate is followed by a persistent, complex finish that is both savoury and succulent. **Drink 2015-2020 Alc 14%**



Bodega Norton, Privada, Mendoza 2012 17.25 (90+) PC 17 PT 17.5 DVJ 17

£17.99 Abasto, Bin 21, Dulwich Vintners, Eton Vintners, Portland Wine, Waitrose Cellar, Winedirect. Youthful with attractive notes of blackberry, cassis and dried herbs. Very dense palate but with nice purity of fruit. Nice soft texture - a classic example of a very good Malbec blend. **Drink 2015-2018 Alc 14.5%**



Bressia, Conjuro, Uco Valley 2010 17.25 (90+) PC 17.5 PT 18 DVJ 16.5

£62.99 All About Wine, Peter Graham Wines, Village Wines Welwyn
This is a beautiful take on a Bordeaux blend. Notes of cherries, blackberries and a leafy, herbal twist. An easy-drinking kind of wine with a touch of complexity and a vibrant finish. **Drink 2015-2020 Alc 15%**



Doña Paula, 1100, San Carlos 2013 17.25 (90+) PC 17.5 PT 17.5 DVJ 16.5

£16.99 Hallgarten Drift

Lots of stony graphite aromas with cassis and blackberry. Very fresh and mineral, with firm tannins and very focused fruit. Ripe, juicy and seductive with a pleasant, long finish where acidity plays a major role. **Drink 2015-2020 Alc 14.5% >**

DECANTER RECOMMENDED ARGENTINIAN MALBEC



Decanter
Magazine
HIGHLY
RECOMMENDED



Decanter
Magazine
HIGHLY
RECOMMENDED

Viñedos Casta del Sur SRL
Mob: +54 9 2614 150921
Tel: +54 261 4398596
Address: Barcala 1969 -
Lujan de cuyo, Mendoza, 5501,
Argentina
E: info@castadelsur.com

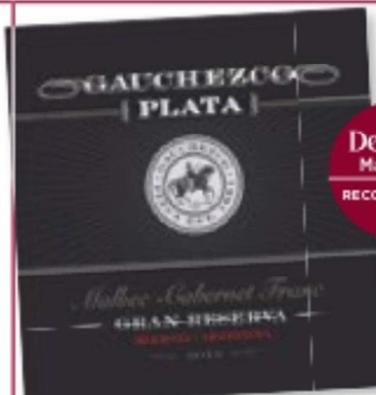
Looking for UK Importer



Decanter
Magazine
HIGHLY
RECOMMENDED

Bodega Norton
Web: www.norton.com.ar

UK Importer:
Berkmann Wine Cellar
Contact: Louise Bull
E: Louise.bull@berkmann.co.uk



Decanter
Magazine
RECOMMENDED

Gauchezco Vineyard & Winery
Web: www.gauchezco.com
E: info@gauchezco.com
UK Importer:
Connoisseur Estates Ltd
Web: www.connoisseurestates.co.uk
E: AndrewS@connoisseurestates.co.uk



Decanter
Magazine
HIGHLY
RECOMMENDED

Finca Sophenia S.A.
E: consultas@sophenia.com.ar
Tel: +54 11 4 781 9840

UK Distributor:
Ellis of Richmond
Web: www.ellisofrichmond.co.uk

Ireland Distributor:
James Nicholson
www.jnwine.com



Decanter
Magazine
HIGHLY
RECOMMENDED

Ocaso Winery
UK Importer:
Naked Wines
www.nakedwines.com