



September 2024

Catena Zapata releases the sibling label to Malbec Argentino, telling the story of the Birth of Cabernet



THE LOVE STORY

Once upon a time, a bee (or two) went from the flowers of a Cabernet Franc vine to the flowers of a Sauvignon Blanc vine, and a seedling child began to ripen inside the mother grapes. Then came war, and the vineyard was abandoned. Years later, the vintner returned to his land and found a new vine. He tasted the grapes and fell in love. It was Cabernet Sauvignon.

Our allegory of the vines as animals gives a whimsical rendering of the story. The fox—Cabernet Franc—has attributes of Cardinal Richelieu, the first famous lover of the said grape. The siren—part woman, part bird—represents Sauvignon Blanc in all her savage glory. On the right, their child—Cabernet Sauvignon—is depicted as a world traveller, adventuring from the French Pyrenees to the Catena Zapata pyramid, at the foothills of the Andes, in Argentina.



96 POINTS - JAMES SUCKLING

"Cigar box, tobacco and dark truffles with lots of ripe dark olives. Piles of dusty tannins grow on the palate in a crescendo, with great focus and freshness. The layered, lengthy finish goes on and on. Drink from 2026."



ABOUT CATENA ZAPATA

Four generations of the Catena family have farmed the vineyards of Mendoza, ever since Italian founder Nicola Catena planted his first Malbec vines in 1902. Robert Parker's 2005 book about the 100 "Greatest World Wine Estates" featured only one winery from South America: Catena Zapata. Parker wrote: "Argentina's greatest visionary is Nicolás Catena Zapata, and his crusade for high-altitude vineyards and conservative viticultural practices has resulted in one after another breakthrough wines that have pushed Argentina to the forefront of the modern winemaking revolution."

Joined by his daughter Dr. Laura Catena in 1995, the father-daughter team's vision is to elevate Argentine wine for another 100 years through the study of high-altitude terroir and the preservation of ungrafted Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon *massale* selections.

2021 HARVEST REPORT

What we appreciate about 2021 is how even the weather was throughout Mendoza - overall a bit cooler than average. The yields for white varieties were low due to the October frost. Yields for red varieties were normal, with good concentration, moderate sugars and optimal acidity. Fortunately, there were no important hail events.

VINIFICATION

The harvest is done by hand and the fermentation takes place in concrete eggs, small stainless-steel tanks and French oak roll-fermentors, at temperatures of 26-28°C for about 12-18 days. Total maceration of around 18-22 days. Aged in French oak for 18-24 months. First, second and third use barrels.

VINEYARDS

Angélica Sur Vineyard, Paraje El Cepillo, San Carlos, Valle de Uco, Mendoza. Elevation: 1.100m. Loamy alluvial with dense surface gravel.

La Pirámide Vineyard, Agrelo, Luján de Cuyo, Mendoza. Elevation: 950m. Alluvial origin. Clay topsoil with rounded rocks on the bottom.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Varietal: 90% Cab. Sauvignon (50% La Pirámide / 40% El Cepillo) | 10% Cab. Franc (El Cepillo)

Alcohol: 13.8 % | **Total Acidity:** 6.8 grams/litre | **pH:** 3.73 | **Winemaker:** Alejandro Vigil



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