

## Argentina's superstar reds

27 Jul 2009 by Jancis Robinson

We all know now that Argentina can produce some very fine wine, most of it red. I was certainly enthused by many of the wines I noted in [Great value from Argentina](#). Wines of Argentina's energetic representative in the UK, James Forbes, who is leaving to seek other challenges at the end of September, arranged the following tasting of some of Argentina's superstar wines in London in April at the Gaucho restaurant in Swallow Street that has become the unofficial Argentine Wine Embassy. The wines had been selected in Argentina, where a panel of tasters whittled 124 possible 'Super Reserve' candidates down to just over 40. Of course all of us could argue with their choice but there were many very good wines here and some that were truly excellent (search for 18 and 17.5 below).

The many British tasters were asked to vote for their top three wines and these are the results:

### **Bodega Chacra, Cincuenta y Cinco Pinot Noir 2008 Patagonia**

**Achaval Ferrer, Finca Bella Vista Malbec 2007 Mendoza**

**Andeluna Cellars, Grand Reserve Cabernet Franc 2005 Mendoza**

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I suspect that the Pinot Noir won so many votes partly because it was so novel and distinctive. I think it's a very good wine and look forward to continuing to monitor the progress of this estate with its connection to Sassicaia in Tuscany.

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### **Chacra, Cincuenta y Cinco Pinot Noir 2008 Rio Negro 16 Drink 2010-14**

Very rich, warm Pinot aromas. Sweet start and then notable bracken flavours and lots of acidity. Not sweet and mellifluous - a rather untamed version of Pinot, but certainly not too sweet or confectioned. Dry finish. Earthy and astringent.

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<http://www.jancisrobinson.com/articles/a200907264.html>