

TOP 100 WINES OF ARGENTINA 2019

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The quality of the best wines in Argentina has been on such a steep improvement curve over the past several years, we always look forward to our visits here. Yes, there are always bad wines from those producers who pump out low-quality, low-priced product in order to sell. We get it – this is a business after all. But it results in wines that do very little to raise the reputation of the country as a whole. This year we tasted some wines that were undrinkable.

But at the other end of the spectrum, Argentina's best wines are stupendous. That's what makes this country such an exciting place to explore. We tasted 1,800 wines over two weeks in Mendoza in early 2019, and we scored more than 700 of them 92 points or above. More than 1,300 scored 90 points or above, our benchmark score for outstanding wines, showing that while the gap between the best and worst is growing, some of that winemaking know-how is starting to trickle down from the major names to smaller wineries too.



CHARDONNAY AND TERROIR

Places four, five and six are all taken by chardonnay wines, which proved to be another highlight this year. The Catena Zapata Chardonnay Mendoza Adrianna Vineyard White Bones 2017 (99 points) is full-bodied yet vivid; the Bodega Chacra Chardonnay Patagonia 2018 (98 points) is dense but agile; and the El Enemigo Chardonnay Mendoza 2017 (98 points) is tight, layered and refined. They are great examples of chardonnay's unique energy here, with mineral and salty undertones that remind us of white Burgundy, but with a bolder and brighter fruitiness.

As you scroll down our Top 100 Wines of Argentina list, you will see wines that express Argentina's new mission for place-driven winemaking as well as new and original wines that interpret and communicate locations and micro-climates.

This capability to produce exciting, world-class wines seems limitless. We already look forward to next year's tastings.

5. CHACRA CHARDONNAY 2018

Score 98 This is a dense and integrated chardonnay with a solid core of fruit that is stratified and solid. Full-bodied yet agile and polished. Lots of honey, vanilla and cream, yet delivered in a subtle and refined way. Complex and satisfying. A great new chardonnay from here. Collaboration with Roulot of Burgundy. 4,000 bottles made.

10. CHACRA TREINTA Y DOS PINOT NOIR 2017

Score 98 A standout pinot with such purity, complexity and fragrance on the nose. Beautifully ripe cherries and berries abound. Plenty of blue fruit. Very aromatic. The palate has a beautifully detailed thread of fine, gently assertive tannins. Great expression of pinot noir here. Long life ahead of it.

24. CHACRA CINCUENTA Y CINCO PINOT NOIR 2018

Score 97 Very attractive, complex pinot that has plenty of rich red and dark cherries on offer and a palate that carries striking purity, freshness and detail. Superb pinot that's long and seamless. Finishes so fresh. Drink or hold.

32. CHACRA CHARDONNAY PATAGONIA MAINQUÉ 2018

Score 97 I love the beautiful aromas of sliced apples, pears and pear blossom. Cookies. Honey. Straw. Full-bodied yet very sleek and polished. Extremely smooth and refined. Hints of cream and lightly toasted nuts and praline. Very, very long and persistent. Fantastic wine made with Burgundy's famous winemaker, Roulot. Drink now.

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