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Vintage Profile

Argentina Summing Up

December 23rd, 2011

This is my final report on Argentina for The Wine Advocate, as I have decided to wind down a little and return to a less demanding job of consulting and working at my old retail shop, Bin 604 Wine Sellers. Over the last 5+ years, the region has undergone dramatic changes. When I did my first review in 2007, I covered more wines from Argentina than had been reviewed in the first 28 years of this journal. Now Argentina, depending upon the latest statistics, is one of the top three importers to the USA market, along with Spain and Chile.

Based on what I have heard and observed, things are looking bright for Argentina. The USA market is not saturated. As the economy gradually improves, Argentina can reasonably expect that its more expensive wines (those over \$20) will gradually gain traction and sales of its value priced wines will continue unabated.

Qualitatively, this is how things stand from my perspective after extensive tastings in Argentina and stateside:

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The Top Producers (5*):

- Achaval-Ferrer
- Alta Vista
- Catena Zapata
- Vina Cobos
- Luca

Mendel

- O. Fournier
- San Pedro de Yacochuya

The Next Best (4*):

- Viña Alicia
- Altamira de los Andes
- Altocedro
- Susana Balbo
- BenMarco
- Luigi Bosca
- Bressia
- Bodegas Caro
- Colomé
- Cuvelier Los Andes
- Bodega F. DuPont (pending more vintages)
- El Enemigo
- Enrique Foster
- Finca La Luz
- Marchiori & Barraud
- Montviejo
- Bodega Poesia
- Pulenta Estate
- Riglos
- Finca Sopenia
- Bodegas Tacuile
- Tematico
- Terrazas
- Trapiche
- Vistalba
- Zuccardi

The Best Wines:

- Achaval Ferrer single vineyard cuvées
- Viña Alicia Malbec Brote Negro
- Alta Vista Alto
- Luigi Bosca Icono
- Catena Zapata single vineyard and Nicolas Catena cuvées
- Vina Cobos Unico
- Colomé Reserva Malbec
- Cuvelier Los Andes Grand Malbec
- Finca Flichman Parcela 26

Mendel Finca Remota

- Nieto Senetiner Bonarda Limited Edition
- Poesia
- Terrazas Cheval Des Andes
- Trapiche Single Vineyard Malbecs

The Best Value Wines:

- Altos Las Hormigas Malbec Clasico
- Clos de Los Siete
- Viña Cobos Felino cuvées
- Crios
- Don Miguel Gascon Malbec
- Lamadrid
- Felix Lavaque Felix Torrontes
- O. Fournier Urban Uco
- Rutini varietals
- Tikal Patriota

-Jay Miller