

Wine Advocate's Robert Parker Review

October 31st, 2012

The Wine Advocate
Tasting History



2011 Mendel Lunta

A Malbec Dry Red Table wine from
Lunlunta, Mendoza, Argentina



Source

Reviewer

Rating

Maturity

Wine Advocate #203
Oct 2012

Neil Martin

88

Drink: 2012 -
2019

The 2011 Lunta Malbec, from Mayor Drummond in Lujan de Cuyo, comes from 82-year-old un-grafted vines that are picked by hand and raised for 12 months in new, second and third year oak barrels (65%), with 35% in stainless steel. Roberto de la Mota told me that he seeks more fruit on the Lunta vis-a-vis his other labels. It has a natural, elegant bouquet of blackberry, black plum, cassis and a touch of dried herbs on the nose that is not powerful, but elegant. The palate is medium-bodied with a crisp entry. It has fine tannins and a precise, understated finish of raspberry leaf, bergamot and wild strawberry. This is delicate and refined, yet still long in the mouth. Drink now-2019.

Alongside Nicolas Catena, the late Raul de la Mota was considered the forefather of modern Argentinean viticulture and his son, Roberto de la Mota, has himself become one of the country's most respected vignerons. It was Roberto's knowledge and expertise that Mendel's proprietor, Anabelle Sielecki, whose father immigrated to Argentina, sought when looking for a partner, and it was a pleasure to meet both at this small winery. The first thing to catch my eye was a sign indicating the age of the vines in Lujan de Cuyo. Mendel is a bijou winery that does not rely on modern technology to conjure impressive wines. They come from the small, specially selected ancient parcels that are combined with a simple, intuitive approach to winemaking courtesy of Roberto and vineyard manager, Santiago Mayorga. These are splendid, intellectual Mendoza wines. The highlight for this writer was the fabulous Mendel Malbec rather than the premium Unus and Finca Remota. But I begin with the solitary white, one well worth seeking out.