

89

2012 Mendel Semillon Mendoza

Very pale yellow. Complex, subtle aromas of citrus zest, ginger, pungent dried herbs and musky oak. Broad more than filled in on the palate, with very dry ginger and quinine flavors dominating. Seems a bit less intense than the best vintages of this bottling. Finishes with lingering notes of orange peel and spices.

90+

2011 Mendel Malbec Mendoza

(aged in 40% new French oak): Bright medium ruby. Musky cassis, plum and dark chocolate on the nose, lifted by minty and mineral nuances. Fine-grained and firm in the mouth, with a restrained sweetness to its black raspberry and smoky mineral flavors; conveys an impression of strong extract. Nicely integrated acidity extends the finish, which features chewy, ripe tannins and excellent lift.

90+

2010 Mendel Malbec Mendoza

Good bright, full ruby. Aromas of plum, licorice, spicecake and nutty oak. Mellow, lush and sweet, with insidious plum and spice flavors spreading out to coat the palate. More open-knit and resolved than the 2011 version but less fruity. Finishes long and ripe, with broad, serious tannins and an invitingly suave texture.

90

2011 Mendel Cabernet Sauvignon Mendoza

(all French oak, one-third new): Good dark ruby-red. Cassis, licorice, black cherry, dark chocolate and fresh herbs on the slightly porty nose. Then sweet, dense and concentrated, with dark fruit, spice and mineral flavors nicely framed by harmonious acidity. Hints at dried fruits with time in the glass. Finishes with serious but sweet tannins and lingering spice character. This reminded me of a very ripe Bordeaux.

91

2010 Mendel Unus Mendoza

(a 70/30 blend of malbec and cabernet sauvignon): Bright, full ruby. Sexy but reticent aromas of blackcurrant, black cherry, mocha and smoke. Lush, smooth, generous and concentrated, showing a slightly porty ripeness to the flavors of cassis, blackberry and licorice. There's something primary about this blend, which really fills the mouth without coming off as heavy. Finishes with fine-grained tannins, sweet dark fruits and a distinctly creamy quality.

92

2010 Mendel Malbec Finca Remota Mendoza

(from 60+-year-old vines): Bright red-ruby. Aromas of blackberry, blueberry and licorice smell concentrated! Lush and sweet but nicely delineated too, with dark berry and violet flavors joined by complementary oak. Lovely fruit intensity and energy here (this is entirely from vines in the cooler Altamira area). Finishes very long and aromatic, with fine-grained tannins and strong, mouth-saturating extract.