

# Argentina 2014 Special Report

by Tim Atkin MW

## Tasting Notes Scoring Mendel Wines

95

### 2011 Mendel Unus

14.5%, Mendoza

This is slightly superior to the 2010 Unus in my view, both of which are on the market at the moment, and so reviewed here. A blend of Malbec with a 25% Cabernet and 10% Petit Verdot, it's a dense, focused wine that needs time in the bottle. Sweet oak, good structure, ginger spice, fresh acidity and a peppery flourish from the cooler climate Malbec make this an outstanding red blend.

Drink: 2016-22

94

### 2011 Mendel Finca Remota Malbec

14.4%, Altamira

The grapes for this impressive Malbec all came from a 65-year-old parcel in Altamira. The result is a suitably fresh, aromatic and vibrant, with a delicious interplay between fruit, oak and acidity, a very mineral finish and effortless balance. The 2010 and 2012 release are equally good.

Drink: 2014-20

94

### 2010 Mendel Unus

14.5%, Mendoza

The Malbec in this vintage fo Unus is combined with 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Petit Verdot. Another wine that needs time, it's a little lighter than the 2011 with more acidity and floral perfume. That's not to say that it lacks intensity, however, as this is minerally, fresh and well balanced with oak woven into the wine and a long, satisfying finish.

Drink: 2015-20

93

### 2013 Mendel Semillon

13.3%, Mendoza

Why don't more people make varietal Semillon in Argentina? This wine should surely be an inspiration to them, as it's the best release yet from Mendel. Fresh and almost saline on the palate, with some waxy, leesy notes, a hint of gunflint and delicate oak integration.

Drink: 2014-17

92

### 2010 Mendel Cabernet Sauvignon

14.5%, Mendoza

Made using the French 337 clon from youngish vineyards in Perdriel, this demonstrates Roberto de la Mota's skill with Cabernet, honed in France and at Terrazas de los Andes. Fine, elegant and well balanced, it's frangant and silky with notes of mint and black-currant leaf.

The 2012 is worth waiting for, too.

Drink: 2014-18

91

### 2011 Mendel Malbec

14.3%, Mendoza

I'm more of a fan of the two vintages no other side of this one (the 2012 Malbec, which is still in barrel, is superb) but this is still a good wine: muscular, dense and quite firm with tannins that are a little chewy and rustic. There's plenty of ripe, figgy fruit, too, but make sure you decant this before you serve it.

Drink: 2014-17