



Cheval des Andes - 2023

The Grand Cru Wine of Argentina

Bordeaux X Mendoza

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How a Bordeaux château came to make wine in Mendoza, and what the 2023 vintage tells us.

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Two estates, one idea

Château Cheval Blanc, a Premier Grand Cru Classé estate in Saint-Émilion, does not usually produce wine outside Bordeaux. Cheval des Andes is the exception. Since 1999, the estate has worked with Terrazas de los Andes, one of the first producers of high-altitude wine in Mendoza, on a wine made together in Argentina.

Bordeaux wines are usually blends, and Cheval Blanc is known for how it blends them. The idea for Cheval des Andes was to use that same skill on Malbec, the grape Argentina is known for.

The 1929 vineyard

The project began with a vineyard. Las Compuertas sits at 1,070 meters in Luján de Cuyo, the highest vineyard on the right bank of the Mendoza river. Its Malbec vines have never been grafted; they have grown on their own roots since 1929, and remain there today.

Pierre Lurton of Château Cheval Blanc studied the vineyard together with Terrazas' Roberto de la Mota. Cheval des Andes was born in 1999, and the 1999 vintage was its first.

The Andes terroir

Las Compuertas covers 32 hectares of limestone, sand, and clay soils, in a dry climate that receives around 200mm of rain a year.

The second vineyard, Altamira, lies further south in the Uco Valley at 1,150 meters, in cooler conditions. It covers 14 hectares, planted mainly with Malbec in 1945. Together, these two vineyards make up Cheval des Andes.



Critical Review

Suckling's tasting note describes currants, tobacco and grilled herbs, with silky tannins. His conclusion, in his own words: "Already approachable, but can hold for a decade, if not more."

98
points

What this meas for your cellar

That is the essential question with any new release: open it now, or hold it for later. With the 2023, either choice is reasonable, and your advisor can help you decide which suits you better.

Your wine advisor can tell you more about pricing, formats, and availability

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