

MACCH

WINE COLLECTIVE

selected by Jacqueline Pirolo

AUGUST 2021: CHILE

Chilean wine is not like any other. The reasons range from their 200 million year old soil, to the varied topography and record breaking geography, and finally to their vines - which escaped phylloxera - and remain some of the oldest rootstock in the world.

This is a place that was considered the New World in the 16th century when Spanish Conquistadors brought Pais grapes with them to it. It was the only grape there for centuries, with an entirely natural approach. Eventually, Bordeaux varieties were brought from France in the 20th century, because the central valley grew reliable styles for market. However, in the last few decades, several family vineyards have gone back to growing styles that showcase Chile for its uniqueness in the wine world.

The wines in this box vary in style much like the country and it's 10 climatic regions, but each is creating a more commercially viable wine with a more artistic approach. We'll drink to that!

Remember, there is always more. Shoot me an email if you'd like to purchase another bottle (or case) of something that you loved.
jacqueline@macchialina.com. Thank you!
#macchinmyglass

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WINE 101

Chilean wine is unique because it's the only major wine-producing country that hasn't been hit by phylloxera, a mite that lives in and eats grapevine roots. That sets it apart from bottles from around the world in a major way because Chile's roots are original from the oldest cultivated vines.

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KITCHEN NOTE

Gigante Bean Salad
smoked pepper & black garlic vinaigrette

Red peppers are roasted and smoked, peeled, and puréed with black garlic, olive oil and vinegar. Diced carrots, celery, and onion are added for texture.

This dish will stand alone, pair with fish or meat, and disappear astonishingly fast.

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CACIQUE MARAVILLA
PIPEÑO 2020

Producer: Cacique Maravilla
Name: Pipeño
Variety: 100% Pais
Vintage: 2020
Location: Bío Bío Valley, Chile
Follow: @vinos_naturales

This one LITER of wine is made from hundred year old vines tended by Manuel Gutierrez, the fourth generation in his family to do so. Manuel's great, great, great, great grandfather, Francisco, arrived in 1750 from the Canary Islands looking for gold. He eventually amassed enough to acquire land in Yumbel, and earned the respect of the indigenous Mapuche people with the given nickname "Cacique Maravilla" which translates roughly to Magnificent Chief.

This valley sits in the country's southernmost wine-growing region, Bío Bío, between the Andes Mountains and the Coastal Range. The climate and terrain produce crisp, complex, aromatic styles that help to create wines that live up to the name and legend of this producer.

Serve chilled.

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JCV
SEMILLON 2019

Producer: Villard Estate
Name: JCV Charlie Villard
Variety: 100% Semillon
Vintage: 2019
Location: Casablanca Valley, Chile
Follow: @Villard_fine_wines

Only 20 miles from the Pacific Ocean, the Casablanca Valley grows cool-climate grapes due to the cooling effects of the Humboldt Current, which flows up the west coast of Chile from the Antarctic. Semillon grapes, underrated in much of the world, can produce interesting, subtle and long-lived dry white wines, especially in an area like the Casablanca Valley.

Established in 1989 by Thierry Villard, this estate prides itself on being a family company that uses the exceptional terroir and unique characteristics of the Casablanca Valley to create bright, acidic wines of superior structure and elegance.

The new generation of the Villard Estate has incorporated innovative new winemaking techniques that along with the oceanic influence are creating super premium wines.

Serve chilled.

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PÉREZ CRUZ
CABERNET SAUVIGNON RESERVA 2016

Producer: Pérez Cruz
Name: Cabernet Sauvignon Reserva
Variety: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Vintage: 2016
Location: Maipo Valley, Chile
Follow: @perezcruzwiners

Maipo Valley is home to some of the country's most prestigious wines, and is often described as the 'Bordeaux of South America.' The Perez Cruz family-owned winery is a Cabernet Sauvignon specialist from the Andes portion of Maipo Valley, aiming to create red wines reflecting the character and identity of the valley.

Perez Cruz wines are 100% single-estate origin. The resulting bottles are meticulously curated by French-trained winemaker German Lyon, and assisted occasionally by Álvaro Espinoza, one of the leading biodynamic experts in the country. There is a gentle and diligent approach to handling the fruit, which flows through the multi-level gravity-fed winery without pumps. This results in a subtle and elegant wine, expressing their estate's personality through its character.

Serve slightly chilled.

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VILLALOBOS
'LOBO' 2018

Producer: Venedos Villalobos
Name: Lobo
Variety: 100% Carménère
Vintage: 2018
Location: Colchagua Valley, Chile
Follow: @villaloboswine

The Villalobos mission is to produce a unique Chilean wine. They built their family business by cultivating the Carignan variety back from near extinction, and they have always grown their grapes free from any chemical processes. For sixty years they have tended these vines amongst the original flora of this terroir composed from native trees such as maitenes, rosehip, culenes, and mulberry trees.

Carménère is a dark-skinned grape originally from the vineyards of Bordeaux, which has found a particularly suitable home in Chile. These vines are grown on quartz-clay soil in the Colchagua Valley, considered one of South America's most promising wine regions because of its textbook wine-growing climate: warm, but cooled by ocean breezes and dry, but refreshed by rivers and occasional rainfall.

Serve slightly chilled.

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SCHWADERER
BRUT BLANC DE NOIR 2018

Producer: Schwaderer
Name: Brut Blanc De Noir
Variety: 100% Pais
Vintage: 2018
Location: Maule Valley, Chile
Follow: @ Schwadererwines

Pais is a native grape to Chile. The first vine variety exported from the Old World (Spain) to the New World (Mexico) in the 16th century, and later brought to Chile by the Spanish Conquistadores. For centuries this was the only grape grown in the region, until the commercial popularity of Bordeaux. Today, the people tending this grape do so with respect to the earth, its history, and its inhabitants, as stated here by Costanza Shwaderer:

We produce wines fused with the land and love for our grapes. Wines with personality and aroma of good times, that make time flow after a glass, and to be treasured with laughter and extraordinary memories, together with our family and friends.

Serve chilled.

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RAFAEL TIRADO
'VISTALAGO MEZCLA BLANCA' 2017

Producer: Rafael Tirado Wines
Name: Vistalago Mezcla Blanca
Variety: 55% Riesling, 30% Chardonnay, 15% Torrontel
Vintage: 2016
Vineyard: Laberinto
Location: Colbun, Maule Valley, Chile
Follow: @laberintowines

Rafael Tirado and his family purchased land in the Eastern Maule Valley by a lake in the front range of the Chilean Andes, and by 1993 he planted his first estate vines on a slope of volcanic ash. The multiple row orientations eventually became shaped as a labyrinth, or laberinto.

Maule Valley enjoys warm days followed by much colder nights, from the Maule River, which flows east-west through the region on its way from the Andes to the Pacific Ocean. This extends the growing season leading to a balance of ripeness and acidity in the grapes. This, combined with Tirado's minimalist and purist approach to winemaking results in some of the most expressive wines coming out of Chile today.

Serve chilled.