



2021 Harvest Report

WINES THAT FULLY EXPRESS TERROIR

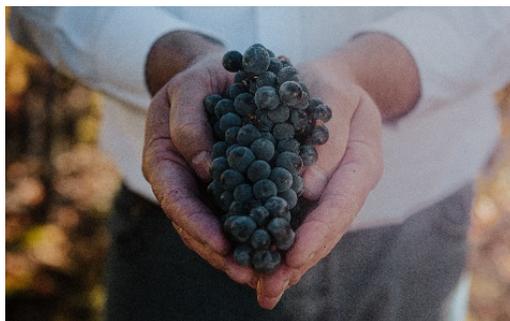
The 2021 harvest was unusual. Despite the impediments caused by Coronavirus, the results were excellent: red wines of superior quality, color, fruit and structure; white wines with good acidity and excellent aromatic potential.

The 2021 harvest presented us with new challenges in our two terroirs – San Rafael and Los Chacayes in Uco Valley. Our teamwork carried the day in a year that will surely be memorable – not just because of the issues of the pandemic, but also because nature herself presented us with challenges. We endured hail, cold, rain, and also water scarcity for irrigation. We were alert in analyzing climate change, as well as grape health and ripening. More than ever, we were able to witness the intimate connections that exist between nature, the vineyard, the climate, the region, witness the intimate connections that exist between nature, the vineyard, the climate, the region, the harvest, the winery and the people. This vintage defines the concept of terroir like no other.

White grapes from San Rafael, destined for sparkling wines, exhibited excellent health with slower maturity. Thus, the base wines displayed very good acidity with balanced alcohol and great fruitiness, while those used for still white wines presented a perfect balance between acidity, fruit, pH and concentration. It's been a long time since this combination of factors came together to achieve very fresh, rich, floral and fruity white wines. San Rafael represented the culmination of the dream shared by all winemakers in arid regions: to have polyphenolic maturation progressing proportionally with sugar content.

The 2021 harvest took nearly 30 days longer than the year prior, resulting in very good ripening, most noticeable in the aromas, but also in the color and tannins. It has a perfect balance of acidity, low pH and residual sugar, thus achieving something of a rarity for mid-range wines – low alcohol with noticeable acidity.

Highly characteristic of this vintage is the vivacity of its color, as well as very soft and elegant tannins, exceptionally well-balanced fruit, and lower alcohol content. Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon continue to stand out, with their great varietal typicity and expression, as well as their palate-friendly concentration of flavors that will surely come to be identified with this 2021 vintage.



Quintessential Wines



2021 Harvest Report

The harvest in Los Chacayes (Uco Valley) offered up some surprises. In the case of Viognier, the grapes ripened very well, with the resulting wine noticeable for its freshness, marked acidity and lower alcohol compared to previous vintages. There is a great concentration of white flowers, peaches and apricots.

The Estate has a particularly good terroir for Merlot, Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Tannat. The harvest time of these varieties is determined by tasting the fruit to find great concentration and good polyphenolic maturity, so the alcohol content in these wines are somewhat higher than the wines from San Rafael. The reds of this vintage achieved ideal maturation, replete with the aromatics of fresh fruit. They are expressive wines, with very good structure and mouth-feel.

Unlike past years, the Los Chacayes harvest began with Petit Verdot and Tannat. The Tannat has great acid balance, with friendly tannins and expressive aromas. The Petit Verdot and Merlot showed great color intensity, spice notes and very good fullness in the mouth.

Malbec was the star of the harvest, with each section of the vineyard delivering greater than expected quality. Beyond its intense and lively color and great acidity, this varietal presents great tannic structure. Its complex aromas, freshness and elegance have been surprising, portending great aging potential.

But the Malbec is not alone. The Cabernet Sauvignon will also come to be regarded as a great example of 2021 fruit – a wine with unequalled varietal expression, prominent notes of red bell pepper, hints of green bell pepper and white pepper. It has a complex nose that is typical of the vintage, and a mouth full of elegant tannins. It is full-bodied, with very good acidity and a long, lingering finish. Oak-aging will surely enhance the fine qualities of this Cabernet Sauvignon.

Cabernet Franc 2021 was also surprising, with cold maceration revealing its spicy notes, especially with sweet paprika that typifies this variety, resulting in a superb wine with very good structure, freshness and balance.

The quality for both the white and red wines of this vintage are very high, with the wines exhibiting great aromatic complexity, outstanding color, tannic structure, freshness, a luscious mouthfeel and unique elegance. The 2021 vintage will certainly be one to remember.

