

MANOS NEGRAS

Jeff Mausbach Proprietor, Manos Negras

Jeff discovered Argentina at the hand of his beautiful Argentine wife, Veronica. Both on solo backpacking trips through Europe in 1991, they met in a small *pensione* in front of the Vatican. An immediate spark led them on a whirlwind tour of the Greek isles together. Reality, unfortunately, eventually reared its ugly head. Jeff and Veronica were forced to return to their home cities – Chicago and Buenos Aires.

Jeff began a Master's program in International Relations at the University of Chicago. He started working in the restaurant business in Chicago in order to make ends meet. Jeff was quickly bit by the wine bug and became a sommelier in several Chicago restaurants over the next 5 years. Unable to forget his experience with Veronica, Jeff made his first visit to Argentina in 1992. Jeff was captivated by the culture, people and life style in the Paris of South America. Jeff and Veronica spent the next five years living between Buenos Aires and Chicago. In 1996 Jeff finished his Master's program and moved to Buenos Aires with Veronica. Jeff's love of wine led him to pursue a career in the nascent export sector of the Argentine wine industry. Argentine wine industry icon Nicolas Catena chose Jeff to integrate his new export department. Jeff spent the next 13 years working with the Catena family in all aspects of Bodega Catena Zapata's international activities. As Wine Education Director he traveled the globe preaching the gospel of Argentine wine.



In 2009 Jeff decided to pursue his dream of developing his own wine project. He met two New Zealand winemakers, Jason Mabbett and Duncan Killiner, who had moved to Mendoza for the same reason – wives and wine. Together they developed the concept of Manos Negras [Black Hands] – a tribute to the real winemakers throughout Argentina who roll up their sleeves up and get their hands dirty in making hand crafted wines. Manos Negras is the only premium Argentine wine project that embraces all of Argentina's diverse regional terroirs. Jeff, Jason & Duncan travel the highways and byways of Argentina looking for unique local expressions of different varietals. A special vineyard, a varietal uniquely adapted to its local terroir – these are the expressions they seek. The initial portfolio is made up of a Malbec from the Altamira district of Mendoza, a Pinot Noir from the Neuquén area of Patagonia, and a Torrontes from the high altitude valleys of San Juan. We hope you will join Jeff, Jason and Duncan on their adventure through the back roads of Argentine wine!

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