

2012 ARGENTINE HARVEST REPORT

SUMMARY

2012 was another good harvest in Argentina. Yields were lower than normal and this improved quality. Red wines are showing good color and concentration. It was an average year for whites. According to Tapiz & Zolo winemaker Fabian Valenzuela, the 2012 harvest is similar in quality to 2010.

MENDOZA

Most winemakers agree 2012 was a very good year for reds. In November the infamous Zonda winds swept down from the Andes. Carlos Correas, vineyard manager of Tapiz & Zolo, explains that these very strong, warm and dry winds affected flowering and caused some dehydration, which reduced the yield per plant. The reduced yield created more concentrated grapes. There was no frost problem this spring. January was very warm and dry followed by a cooler February, April and May, which allowed good ripeness.

Héctor Durigutti, winemaker of Lamadrid (Agrelo), told us that it will be a great year for Cabernet and Bonarda because they had the right amount of time to ripen. Durigutti said it was a more complicated year for Malbec: it will only be a great year if the wineries waited to harvest later for the correct polyphenolic ripeness.

Alejandro "Colo" Sejanovich, winemaker and vineyard manager of Manos Negras and TeHo & ZaHa, was very pleased with the harvest in Altamira, Valle de Uco. The region had a very cool March and April so grapes finished ripening in ideal conditions. These cool temperatures allowed the grapes to retain high levels of natural acidity; the fruit is very fresh and balanced. Production was lower than normal and the fruit has excellent concentration.

Altocedro's winemaker and owner Karim Mussi Saffie told us yields in La Consulta, Valle de Uco were down 20%. Tannins and phenols were lower than normal. The weather allowed long ripening: Karim did not harvest Cabernet Sauvignon until the middle of May! Karim considers the harvest similar to 2009.

SALTA

Cafayate experienced a year with more rain than normal. In Estancia Los Cardones where Anko is produced, Sejanovich explained that it was not as humid as in Cafayate. The weather was dry with cold nights and sunny days. The Malbecs are showing great structure, spice, mineral, and flower characteristics.

PATAGONIA

Patagonia experienced an excellent harvest for reds, particularly for Malbec and Cabernet Franc. It was an average year for whites. According to Verum winemaker Mariano Vignoni, it was an extremely dry year, with only 6 inches of rain. Verum's vineyard manager Marcelo Casazza noted that unlike Mendoza, production levels were average. Luckily there were no frost issues and vine health was excellent.