

Wine Spectator

MALBEC ON A ROLL IN

ARGENTINA

Altocedro

MENDOZA

This winery totals 59 acres of Malbec and Tempranillo vines. Owner and winemaker Karim Mussi Saffie, whose first vintage was 2001, produces both a regular and a reserve Malbec. The latter is from 49- and 67-year-old vines in La Consulta and also contains some Tempranillo. It shows an impressive core of fruit, with a dense, loamy finish. The regular Malbec bottling is an excellent value.

Bodega Melipal

MENDOZA

Owned by Ignacio Aristi, who manages the winery along with his daughter Clarisa and her husband, Santiago Santamaria. The winemakers are Héctor Durigutti and Alberto Antonini of Altos Las Hormigas. The family began with the purchase of 61 acres of an 80-year-old Malbec vineyard and then planted additional vines in 2002. The reserve Malbec bottling is outstanding, with a velvety texture and lovely spice notes.

James Molesworth's Top Values in Argentinean Malbec

ALTOCEDRO Malbec La Consulta Reserva 2003	90	\$16
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A core of blackberry and boysenberry fruit is shrouded for now in mocha- and cocoa-scented toast. Well-structured.