

Wine Spectator

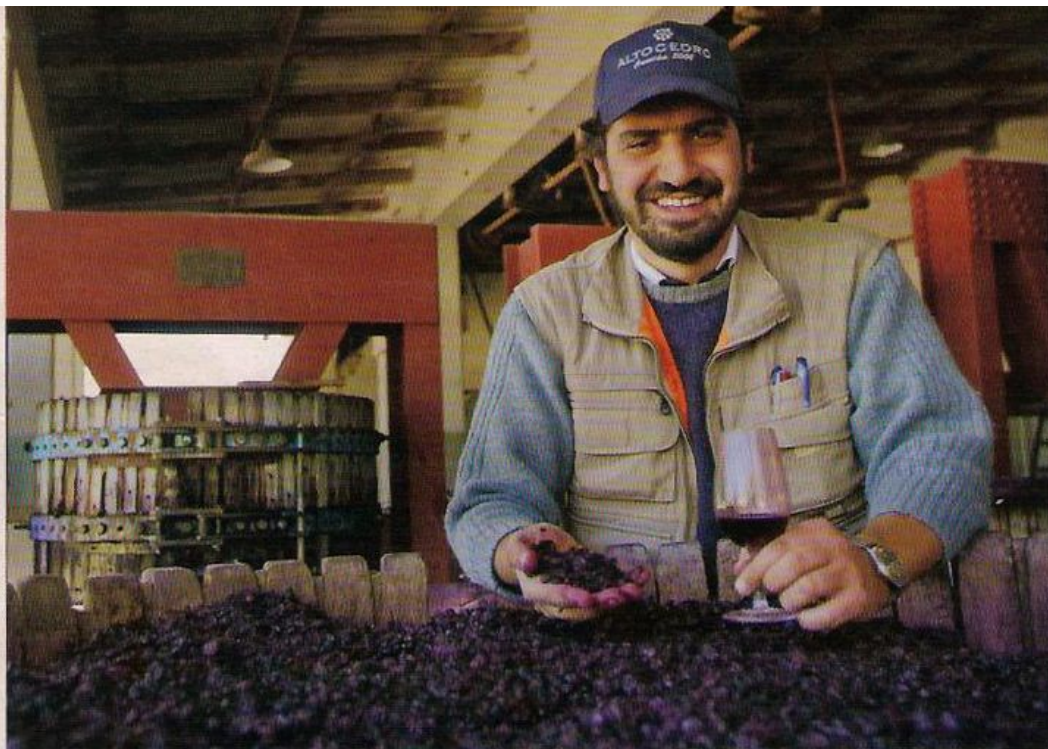
raves about ALTOCEDRO and its LA CONSULTA terroir:
(Wine Spectator, Dec. 15, 2008, p. 108)

Argentine vintners, who have historically based themselves in central Mendoza, are only now plumbing the Uco Valley, homing in on spots like La Consulta, where some forgotten old-vine vineyards can still be found. Karim Mussi, a third-generation immigrant of Lebanese descent, decided to follow in his father's footsteps and enter the wine business. When he told his father of his plans, the older Mussi asked him where he wanted to grow vines.

"I told [my father] the best wines were made in Luján and Maipú," says Mussi, referring to the historical center of Mendoza wine production. "And then he gave me a nice hit upside the head before saying 'La Consulta.'"

Now, after working in the area for a few years, Mussi admits his father was right. "I like La Consulta because it's an old *terroir*, with history," he says. "But no one knows it, so at the same time, it's also new."

Mussi's Altocedro Malbec La Consulta Reserva 2006 (92, \$30), which is sourced from a single 2.47-acre plot of 100-year-old Malbec vines, is one of the most exciting wines I tasted this past year. This pure fruit- and mineral-driven expression of Malbec was fashioned in a decrepit winery that Mussi is currently renovating by hand, with only one assistant. Other wineries in the area worth seeking out include Bodegas y Viñedos O. Fournier and Bodegas Salentein.



Karim Mussi of Altocedro has found success exploring the historic *terroir* of the La Consulta area of Uco Valley.

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