

From: Debbie debbie@santiamwine.com
Subject: Malbec tasting Friday June 9th
Date: June 8, 2017 at 9:45 PM
To: bwelsh@mind-over-media.com



We are excited for this tasting! Malbec from Argentina, France and Washington!

Where: Santiam Wine & Bistro

Time: 4-8 PM

Cost: Full pour \$26 Half Pour: \$15

Dinner Special: Asian Chicken Thighs

The Wines:

2015 Noemía de Patagonia A Lisa Malbec Patagonia, Argentina \$19.50

The 2015 A Lisa is mostly Malbec with some 9% Merlot and a 1% pinch of Petit Verdot, a wine that shows the potential of Río Negro in Patagonia and the style of Noemía at a very attractive price and at the same time is easy to drink. 2015 seems to be an excellent vintage in the region, and this wine, which only saw 30% of its volume in neutral, well-seasoned oak barrels while the rest was kept in stainless steel for some nine months, shows a balance and freshness that can compete with the fines vintages produced. In his search towards elegance, finesse and drinkability, this vintage shows a profile that would be somewhere between Burgundy and southern Rhône, with a mixture of flowers and red cherries, insinuating, whispering, with a polished palate. It's sapid, tasty, almost salty, with ultra-elegant tannins and superb balancing acidity that makes it extremely harmonious; this is only 13.5% alcohol, one of the lowest--if not the lowest ever--but the thing is the balance, not the alcohol, which is unnoticeable in all the wines. This may very well be the best A Lisa ever, but from what I hear, 2016 could be the best harvest for Noemía as a whole, so I'm dying to taste the wines in bottle... One to buy by the truck load! 90,000 bottles were filled in early 2016. He's going to change the bottle to a Burgundian one from 2017, as he thinks it would better represent the character of the wine. **93 Points Robert Parker**

2015 Catena Zapata La Consulta Malbec Mendoza \$27

For now the whole appellation range comes from single vineyards, and the 2015 Appellation La Consulta Malbec is sourced from an old 25-hectare vineyard in the banks of the Tunuyán river in the higher part of La Consulta, very close to Altamira, where the soils have clay and boulders from the river. This part of the Valle de Uco in a cool vintage like 2015 produced a serious, cold Malbec, less expressive in the nose but with a mineral sensation and a palate where the tannins are extremely fine. It developed a note of graphite with time in the glass. 12,000 bottles produced. **91 Robert Parker**

2012 Jean-Luc Baldès Malbec Du Clos Cahors-France \$15

This wine recreates the medieval technique used to cook the fermenting must to make it more stable. In this case, it also produces a wine that is almost black in color, dark in appearance and in flavor. There is also some elegance here, with fine tannins that are well integrated into the juicy black fruits and ripe character. It's a wine to age, although it is juicy enough to drink now. Best, though, from 2018. **94 Points Wine Enthusiast**

2012 Latta Wahluke Slope, Washington \$50

A wine that showed beautifully from barrel, and didn't disappoint from bottle, the 2012 Malbec Northridge Vineyard (100% Malbec) comes from gravelly, loam soils and saw a 40-day maceration followed by aging in 40% new French oak. This big, hedonistic, layered beauty offers up tons of jammy black raspberry, plum, crushed violets and licorice to go with full-bodied richness and depth, a seamless texture and a terrific finish. It will be better in another year or two and keep for a decade. **94 Points Robert Parker**

...to be better in another year or two and keep for a decade or two. Cheers Robert!

2015 Corazon Del Sol Uco Valley Argentina \$22 (This wine belongs to Oregon's Alexana)

Corazon del sol crafts captivating Malbec and Grenache- bases wines that capture the best of Argentina's unique, high altitude terroir. Cultivated in the Uco Valley, which is situated in Mendoza on the eastern side of the Andes Mountains (More Tomorrow)

2013 Don Miguel Gascón Malbec Reserva \$22

The 2013 Don Miguel Gascón Malbec has a very floral nose dominated by aromas of violets, the textbook descriptor for Argentinian Malbec. The grapes are sourced and purchased from 30 vineyards from different growers in different zones of Mendoza, Luján de Cuyo and the Uco Valley. There are also small red berries and spices on the silky, soft palate that has polished tannins, good acidity and freshness. This is very easy to drink.

Thank you,

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